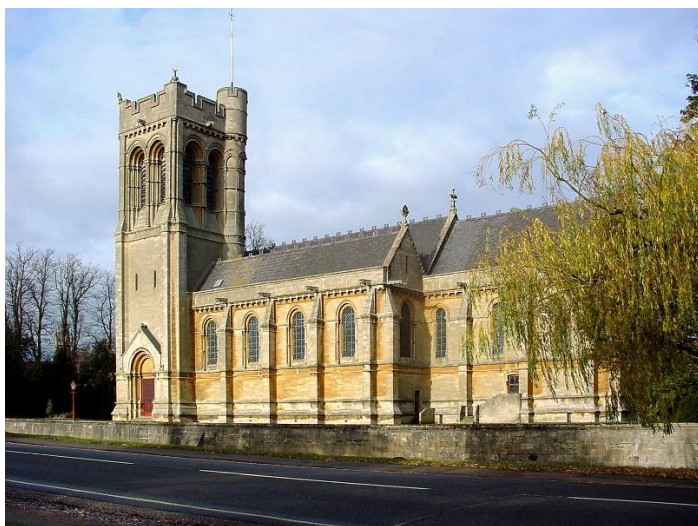


**CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF ST MARY'S
CHURCH, WOBURN
IN 2024**



CELEBRATING OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAMS

It isn't until you set out all of the teams involved in our services, and all the people who serve on them, that you realise what a wonderful and complex organisation we are. We are blessed to have so many people who give their different gifts, time, effort and love to serve God here at St Mary's in Woburn.

Paul writes to the Corinthians,

12⁴ There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given to believers by the same Spirit. **5** There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord.

As we bring our diverse gifts together, all of this allows St Mary's to be a living, thriving church offering a weekly, welcoming worship service, as well as services for important life events.

We want to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone involved.

The churchwarden, PCC and other roles behind the scenes have been mentioned in David's report, but we would also like to mention and thank everyone who served at our services in 2024 in the different teams below.

Sideperson

STEVE APTE	DEREK SNOW	PAUL SCHMITZ
GEORGE ATKINSON-CLARK		CHRISTIAN SAWERS

Sound Team

IAN WAYMENT	DEREK SNOW
CLAUDIA WILKINSON	PIPPA WILKINSON

Bible Readers (*PCC appointment*)

FRAN BROWN	LINDA CUDJOE
MICHELLE CUDJOE	BOB FRANKLIN
DEBBIE GALLIFORD	JUNE VYSE
IAN WAYMENT	ANDY KIRTLAND
DAVID KNAPMAN	JUDY KNAPMAN
JUDITH RELF	JACKIE STACEY
GEORGE ATKINSON-CLARK	ANNE TURNER

Intercessors (*Clergy Appointment*)

CHRISTINE GAGE	LINDA CUDJOE
MICHELLE CUDJOE	IAN WAYMENT

MARCEL EVERITT
GEORGE ATKINSON-CLARK

JUDY RELF

Service Leaders (*Clergy Appointment*)

CHRISTINE GAGE (LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP)
DEREK SNOW (DISCIPLESHIP ENABLER)

Prayer Ministry Team (*Clergy Appointment*)

JEAN WAYMENT
DEREK SNOW
CHRISTINE GAGE
ANNE TURNER

YVONNE MILLS
JANE WHEELER
LINDA CUDJOE

Welcomers

FRAN BROWN
YVONNE MILLS
SARAH ATKINSON-CLARK

ANDY KIRTLAND
PAULA SAWERS
ANNE TURNER

Chalice bearers (*PCC Appointment*)

DEREK SNOW
JUDY KNAPMAN
JUDITH RELF
DEBBIE GALLIFORD
GEORGE ATKINSON-CLARK

DAVID KNAPMAN
LINDA CUDJOE
IAN WAYMENT
PETER GALLIFORD

Refreshment Team

SIAN FRANCIS
JACKIE STACEY
DEBBIE GALLIFORD
JUDITH RELF
SARAH ATKINSON-CLARK

PETER TISMA
DAVE ROBINSON
PETER GALLIFORD
GEORGE ATKINSON-CLARK

Verger for Life Events (*Clergy Appointment*)

IAN WAYMENT
PIPPA WILKINSON

CLAUDIA WILKINSON

We are delighted to have set up a new team of sacristy servers in 2025, who are responsible for setting up and clearing away the communion table, reducing the workload of the sidespeople.

If you are interested in joining any of the Sunday serving teams, Rachel would love to hear from you!

Reports from other teams and areas of life at St Mary's

Fabric Report 2024

The church is an imposing building that is admired and appreciated by many. Like all properties of its age and size, it must be maintained and enhanced so that it can be used by current and future generations as a place of worship with a historical interest and significance. We are extremely grateful to Bedford Estate who maintain the external fabric of the building and mow the grass to the south of it.

The overall fabric of St Mary's Church is in good order due to a programme of ongoing maintenance carried out by both Bedford Estates, Contractors paid for by the church, and church members.

Over the past twelve months we have endeavoured to ensure that repairs where necessary have been made and that ideas and suggestions for improvements have been considered and carried out where finances have allowed.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ITEMS OF WORK THAT HAPPENED IN 2024

- **Monthly cleaning of church**

A group of volunteers meet on the first Saturday of every month to clean the main church building. This means the church is always clean and tidy. Visitors frequently comment on how well the church is maintained which is a tribute to everyone who gives their time to achieve this level of cleanliness.

- **Utilities**

Our 18 month fixed price deal for gas and electricity came to an end in September 2024.

Whilst it was a good deal at the time, utility price have reduced considerably. This meant,

with the help and advice of Steve Apted and Maurice Campbell, a new lower priced deal for has been procured. This will result in considerable savings.

- **Annual inspections and maintenance**

Each year there is an inspection of the fire extinguishers and lightning protector. Additionally, the gas boiler receives an annual service.

- **Plumbing**

A new hot water still was fitted in the servery, replacing the old one that finally stopped working. The new still has a higher tap which now allows our hot water flasks to sit comfortably underneath and makes filling them a lot easier.

A new mixer tap was fitted in the kitchen.

New drainage extractor pump fitted in the kitchen

The extractor fan servicing the three toilets failed and had to be replaced. This was a complicated job but thankfully Rob Breeden was able to source a fan and make bespoke fittings to connect it up to the trunking.

- **Lighting**

In February 2024 the lighting units in the crypt were all replaced with latest technology LED units which use a quarter of the power. The old units were gradually breaking down so it was decided to replace them all. Rob Breeden, a member of the church, is a professionally qualified electrician. He very kindly assisted and managed this replacement project at no charge. This meant the total cost of the work was limited to just the cost of the units - £500. If this had been carried out by an external contractor the cost would have been at least another £1000.

The overall effect of the new lights is to give a much brighter effect in the crypt and has definitely made it a brighter space.

- **AV Equipment**

The light output of the digital projector had greatly reduced. This made it very ineffective when used in the church. Rather than purchase another projector it was decided to buy a 65" screen and sound system. This was delivered and installed in November 2024 and is located in the crypt.

It has already proved a great success when used to show the videos associated with the Wedding Course and Alpha course.

- **Heating**

The main body of the church is heated by 9 heating units which each have 3 blower fans. 6 of these fans had stopped working reducing the overall heat output into the church. Rob Breeden did an amazing job of

sourcing replacement units and then physically modifying them to fit the existing housings.

The facility to control the system remotely via an app means it is much easier to manage the heating and no longer requires visits to the church to adjust the thermostat.

- **Sound & WiFi systems**

A lot of work has been done on the sound & WiFi systems. This includes:

- Repair work to the sound system so that all speakers now work
- Addition of speakers to rear light columns
- Re-tuning the whole sound system so that a much improved and audible sound effect is achieved
- Control of the system via an app on an iPad. This allows constant management of the system whilst in use.
- The WiFi system has been upgraded so that a strong signal is available anywhere in the church.
- The Bluetooth system has also been upgraded which now allows music to be played via a wireless link from an iPad. This feature is often used at Weddings and funerals.

- **Card Readers**

Two new card readers were purchased in 2024. Initially they did not work very well due to poor WiFi reception around the church. However, the upgrade of the WiFi system now means they work very effectively and provide an alternative option for giving.

- **Organ**

The organ continues to be tuned twice a year, which is organised by Tim Gage

- **Church Surrounds & Grass cutting and path cleaning**

The maintenance contract for grass cutting and path cleaning has been renewed. This ensures that those parts of the church grounds not looked after by Bedford Estates continue to be kept in a respectable condition

During 2024 Bedford Estates:

- painted the main front doors and the three lamp posts.
- Painted the metal grills around the church.
- Refreshed the gravel on the main drive.

All of this work has resulted in a brighter and fresher appearance to the outside of the church.

- **Graveyard**

Woburn PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the Graveyard behind the Heritage Centre in the High Street. The graveyard is maintained to a high standard by three dedicated volunteers. We are extremely thankful to Roland Perry and Rob & Carol Edmunds for all their service. Without them the church would have to pay a contractor to carry out this work.

During 2024 a pre-used ride on mower was purchased as the existing one had reached the end of its life.

- **Disabled Access**

Following comments from wheelchair users, it has become apparent that the current portable ramp used to access the front door of the church is no longer suitable as the angle of approach is too steep for battery operated wheelchairs and hair-raising for manual wheelchair users. Steve Apted has carried out extensive research and a possible solution has been proposed by a specialist company. This will represent a major Capital Expenditure and will necessitate the approval of all the necessary authorities (incl St Albans Diocese, Historic England, Mid Beds Council, The Bedford Estate). If agreed, it is likely to take some months to complete and will need to be budgeted. In the current economic environment and considering the increased cost of utilities external funding will need to be obtained.

In summary, we thank God for a wonderful building that brings glory to Him and for the financial support of our congregation that allows so much of this work to happen.

Ian Wayment

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2025

Introduction

Safeguarding is in place to ensure the protection and care of children, young adults and vulnerable people in our church. As part of the Diocese of St.Albans and led by the Church of England, we have adopted the Safer Church policy which enables all those visiting our services to feel safe in the knowledge that they can be included in our activities. And in accordance with Diocese guidelines our safeguarding policy is prominently displayed on our church website as well as on the church noticeboard.

How do we do it?

- Awareness – By adopting the Safer Churches policy, we have displayed this policy clearly at the back of church, complete with contact details for our Safeguarding officer, should any problems arise
- Obligation – Safeguarding is a statutory component of the monthly Standing Committee and PCC meetings where it can be reviewed and discussed. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Training – In accordance with Diocese's Training newsletter we have launched required training courses for all those working or involved with children, young adults and vulnerable people. Those training course are assigned individually and completed online in accordance with the requirements of the Safeguarding Policy Including all PCC members, Church wardens, sidemen and any role where needed.
- DBS Checks, DBS checks have also been carried out on all required individuals.

Performance

We have a good completion rate of required training courses and everyone in a position of trust has valid DBS. This process is ongoing as anyone who is new to a role will require to do a DBS check if required and appropriate training.

I would like to thank everyone who have completed the trainings/ DBS for relevant roles.

Actions

- Follow up on Parish Safeguarding Action Plan to ensure that all required steps are completed.
- The Diocese of St. Albans have issued an updated newsletters and we are using the Parish Safeguarding dashboard (Hub) which helps

to ensure that all safeguarding requirements are met and up to date. It is a tool in that is also used to keep a record of DBS and Training courses completed.

- Safeguarding officer joins the monthly drop-in sessions. This is a good way to keep up to date and ask any questions that arise.
- This year we welcomed Jo Perris - Diocesan Safeguarding Training Co-ordinator from the Diocese of St Albans who came and gave us a Safeguarding Training session. It was attended with about 20 people and very helpful.

Paula Sawers, Safeguarding Officer, St Mary's Woburn

Health & Safety Report 2024

Health & Safety (H&S) continues to become more and more important in the life of all organisations. St Mary's welcomes this as it ensures our church is a safe space for all members and visitors.

We meet our commitment to creating a safe and caring environment by:

- Adopting all guidance and directive from the House of Bishops and the Diocese.
- Complying with all relevant legislation.
- Taking advice from expert sources such as Ecclesiastical Insurance, Fire Risk advisers and professional Asbestos surveyors.
- Having policies and procedures in place to ensure we are meeting all these requirements, reviewed by the PCC.
- Having a dedicated Health & Safety Officer – Judith Relf – who has overall responsibility for H&S. We also have a member of the PCC who works closely with Judith on H&S.

In 2024 our concentration centred on Safeguarding requirements – see Paula's report. We also replaced and added new first aid boxes, with clearer signage to their locations, as well as replacing the accident log books. If you do have an accident in the church or grounds, please do report this to a churchwarden or Judith Relf so it can be logged.

In November 2024 there was a meeting with the Insurance Surveyor from our insurers, Ecclesiastical Insurers. In addition to updating the valuation of the contents they also provided us with a Risk Assessment.

The Risk Assessment covered all areas of H&S. It is proving very helpful in identifying areas where we have no policies or where they need updating. Going forward it will act as the overarching H&S policy document and will list all necessary policies to be in place.

We have regular inspections of church property and the grounds by the Fabric Committee members and Bedford Estates. Repairs are carried out where necessary as a priority.

2024 has seen much activity in the area of H&S. The PCC has strengthened and updated existing policies, as well as identifying further areas of improvement which are already being acted upon in 2025.

Deanery Synod report

On 17th July 2024 there was an evening with Antoinette Mutabazi, Deputy Lead Chaplain at the University of Bedfordshire. A talk regarding her personal experiences surviving the Rwanda Genocide. The event took place in Silsoe Church. The event was very well attended and the engagement informative and positive given the very challenging context.

1. Bishop Alan is due to retire this year, bishop Richard will take on his responsibilities until a new bishop of St Albans is appointed. Time was given for a presentation of what would happen next and how the new bishop would be selected. We were all encouraged to keep Jesus at the centre of all we do as we enter a period of prayerful discernment. It was suggested that discernment is not our personal preference, rather something we start without and look to reach. The Vacancy in See Committee is a standing committee within the diocese who are responsible in planning for just such a time as this. The task of the committee is to be part of a two-stage process. Internally they will come up with a statement of need which will need to be finalised by 7 May 25. Six diocesan reps would then be appointed to be members of the crown nominations committee. Stage two involves selecting potential candidates with a two third majority of votes, who would then go forward for selection. This process will likely end around March 26, with a new Bishop being in place sometime towards summer/winter 2026.
2. On the 19 March 2025 meeting, Simon Moore, with his other hat as a Diocesan Growing Vocations and Lay Ministry Officer, spoke about “Me! Are you sure? I think there may have been a mistake!” Considering all member ministry in God’s church day by day and how you can be encouraged to feel equipped. In 1987, as he and Louise were about to go to Kenya, he was asked why he hadn’t considered being ordained. 13

Years later he was. Things do not always happen overnight but all have a role to play in God's church and considering his call in our lives. What does God want of me, and where to do it, are questions that we all should consider, in addition to, as well as, in what we already do. God uses us, we are the body of Christ. We all have gifts and abilities, are we using them to the best in his work? We are being asked to suggest what skills, background and experience we expect to see in a new Bishop to be appointed in the Diocese and we need God to say yes to whoever is appointed. Are what we are doing the right and best things for God, we should see people and ourselves as Jesus sees them. • It is a Team game – at Local, Deanery, Diocesan and National levels, Ministry happens all over the world and God will give out the medals at the end of our race.

3. The Rural Dean spoke briefly at a recent meeting about Safeguarding, and confirmed that discussions were continuing into how this should be, nationally, progressed, but that action was being taken to amend the governance. We will see changes being rolled out shortly. She asked all to celebrate the work of the Parish Safeguarding Officers, who gave up time and made great efforts to help us all keep our parishes safe and are due all of our support. Although the church may be struggling at a national level, locally much work is being done by our local representatives and we should show our appreciation of that work which is helping to make sure that we keep on the right track

4. As well as a new Treasurer being needed, David Young was to stand down as Lay Chair in the summer and we must find a replacement. David advised that he had enjoyed his 8 years as Lay chairman and suggested the time commitment was as much as you can give but that the job involved:
 - Co-chair of the Synod meetings,
 - Standing Committee meetings,
 - Offering support to Parishes,
 - Helping with the Archdeacons visitation visits,
 - Taking part in Deanery events, such as the licensing services for new vicars.

David has enjoyed visiting the parishes around the Deanery and found his chats with the Parish Officers very rewarding both for himself and them.

Maurice Campbell

Holy Dusters! (Church Cleaning Team)

The church is as sparkling as it's ever going to be thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of the Cleaning Team. During 2024 there has been a thorough reorganisation and cleaning of the vestry, reorganisation of the body of the church, moving the large table to help the flow and tidying up the bookshelves and children's area. The Cleaning Team are: Judith Relf, Dave Robinson, Ian Wayment, Jean Wayment, Steve Apted, Christine Gage, Catherine Savage, Marcel Everitt, Rachel Snow, Matthew Relf and Stella Atkins. Thank you.

Judith Relf



Bell Ringers

We continue to practice on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 7:30pm – 9pm and have a good attendance of ringers from local towers.

Every endeavour is made to raise a team of ringers for at least one Sunday morning Service a month. A special effort is made to ring the bells for the various Carol Services over the Christmas period and for other notable events the most recent being the visit by Bishop Richard for the Confirmation Service. The bells were rung for three Weddings.

Notable ringing over the last 12 months :-

2nd August 2024 A Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples rung in thanksgiving for the life of Ruth Betts a ringer at Woburn for 20 years whose life was tragically cut short whilst hill walking in Scotland.

14th September 2024 A Peal of 5088 Jackbury Surprise Major in memory of Ruth Betts

31st October 2024 A Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Minor in celebration of the life of Raymond Watkin former Tower Captain at Woburn of over 20 years.

28th December 2024 A Peal of 5134 Pudsey Surprise Major in celebration of the life of Raymond Watkin.

The 8 bells and associated fittings remain in good order. However the bell ropes are showing signs of wear and will need to be replaced in the short to medium term.

The cost of a new rope is in the order of £300 so a budget of some £2,500 will be needed.

I do not have any Health and Safety or Safeguarding issues to raise. One third of the band have now completed the C of E Safeguarding training.

We have around 20 ringers that support the ringing at Woburn. Those who generally ring for Services are:-

Peter George, Nick Burton and Matthew Hirst from Husborne Crawley.
Peter Boon from Toddington. Janice Nixon from Leighton Buzzard.
David Middleton, Gill Harris, Rosemary and Andy Howell from Great Brickhill.

Two others to mention Jan Robinson from Linslade and Anne McIntyre from Loughton MK who teach, encourage and support the more novice members of the band at the practice sessions.



Bob Tregillus. Tower Captain - Woburn

Flower Arranging Team

My heartfelt thanks to the ladies who have supported me on the flower team this past year. Judy, Catherine, Janice, Yvonne, Jeanette and Jenny. Four of the five were new recruits to the team and have served us magnificently as they honed their new skills. I am also delighted that June Vyse who headed the team for many years is still able to support us from time to time and has agreed to help with the Easter arrangements this year.

We held a delightful morning in church last September where we shared “Tips and Tricks” with guests from the Eversholt team, and further away from Leighton Buzzard and even from Hemel Hempstead.

At Christmas the church looked as magnificent as ever with thanks to Her Grace, the Duchess of Bedford and her team from the household of Woburn Abbey.

Sadly the local wholesalers Hillyards at Eversholt have now ceased trading and it has been very challenging to find a local supplier especially for occasions such as Easter.

As with all things the cost of flowers has risen considerably. If any one would like to sponsor a fortnight of flowers in memory of someone or in thanks for an anniversary or occasion please do let me know. Many thanks to David the church treasurer who makes sure there are pennies in the pot to cover our costs when required.

New members and novices are always welcome to come and “have a go” with a team member. Flowers in church remind us all of God’s good gifts to us and are a part of all our worship.

Christine Gage (team leader)



Music at St Mary's

My thanks to all who have supported the music at St Mary's throughout the year. We are fortunate to have a group of talented and dedicated people to help lead the music. We presently have a small mixed choir who sing at the Formal Communion services twice a month and rehearse on one Friday evening each month. A particular thank you to Roger Stares for his support both as a singer and organist.

The choir at our monthly Evensong service is comprised of local singers from churches across the deanery and we have been delighted to be able to sing both accompanied and unaccompanied anthems throughout the year.

Reviewing the Year

We had the privilege of welcoming the Choir of St. Alban's Abbey to St. Mary's during Spring 2024 under their retiring director Andrew Lucas. This concert was made possible with the support of the Cathedral Music Trust. Over 100 people enjoyed a delightful evening of choral music of the highest order, as well as refreshments. Thanks go to Judy and Matt Relf who organised tea for the men and boys of the choir.

Another highlight this past year was the third visit of the Choir of St. Saviours Church also from St. Alban's, under their director Carol Crook, who came to sing with the regular members of our Evensong Choir for the service in October. The music included the wonderful anthems, "Thou Visitest the Earth" by M Greene and "Look at the World" by John Rutter which both celebrate harvest. A huge thank you to everyone who provided a wonderful afternoon tea for our visitors. (Music and food go so well together!)

Christmas was as busy as ever and saw both the Estate Carol service and our own Church Carol Service providing plenty of challenge to our singers. We thank all the volunteer singers who join the choir to make these services possible. Both services were well attended, and we welcomed many people into our beautiful building beyond our usual congregation to enjoy the music.

Informal Service Music

Christine is very grateful to the small group of singers and musicians who loyally join her to provide the music at the Informal Services with a mixture of some more modern songs and well known "big sing hymns". A particular mention to Jane Wheeler who has taken the reins on several occasions.

We are always pleased to welcome new members into any of our musical groups, please do spread the word, there is plenty of room in the choir stalls!



Tim Gage - Organist

Some statistics

Average weekly attendance:	36 adults	2 children
Attendance on Easter day:	96	
Attendance at All Age Harvest:	100	
Attendance at Remembrance Service:	176	
Attendance at the pre-Christmas services:	1062	
Attendance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:	221	
Weddings & Wedding Blessings:	5	
Funerals and Interment of Ashes:	3	

Electoral Roll - At 31st December 2024, there were 67 people on the Church electoral roll (16 resident in the Parish and 51 non-resident). During the year there were 2 deletions (1 resident and 1 non-resident). There were 5 additions (all 5 non-resident). In 2025 the Electoral Roll will be completely renewed and the new Roll will be presented at the APCM.

Paying our Parish Share

We were grateful in 2024 to be able to pay our full Parish Share to the Diocese.

Thank you

to the people of the Parish of

Woburn

for your ongoing support of the cost of ministry
in your Parish and across the Diocese.
Maintaining this ministry would not be possible
without your continuing generosity.

The amount of Parish Share paid in 2024 was:

£43,315



+ Alan

Bishop of St Albans



[Handwritten signature]

Diocesan Secretary



**DIocese of
ST ALBANS**
Living the Gospel

Generosity shown by St Mary's

In 2024 we committed to giving 10% of our income to other carefully chosen charities. In addition, we collected toys for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal and donated to the Foodbank.

Here are some thank you letters from these charities:



Re: donation from St Mary's to Jack Pelling and Modern Slavery Department of the Salvation Army

Dear Jack/MS/SL, It would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your extremely generous donation of £1,000.00. We are truly honoured to have been chosen by St. Mary's as the recipient for 2024. Your kindness and support means so much to us and the thousands in our service who, because of your donation will truly make a difference in their lives.

I have copied Major Emily Bunting, District Director, and Major Heather Gland, Deputy Director, into this email for their information. Additionally, we will be sending a letter to you as a reminder of our team's next meeting at one of your [Future Trusts](#) meetings.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

Christine

Business Support Administrator

Operational & Administrative Support Unit

Supporting: Major Emily Bunting - District Jack Pelling and Modern Slavery Major Heather Gland - Deputy Director Jack Pelling and Modern Slavery Administrator for Child Trusts

I huge thank you to everyone who generously donated toys for this year's Salvation Army winter of toy collection. The toys were all taken for the Salvation Army Cops to [Dorchester](#) where they will be sent to families who could do with your kind thought for your presents to their children at Christmas. In addition to the toy collection the Salvation Army also [accepts](#) smaller odd items that would allow them to provide some additional Christmas food items to help make the day special. Your generosity has made Christmas special for many young children who otherwise may have faced a bleak Christmas and those parents who could have others to look after in providing this.





Dear Friends and Mary's Believers

Thank you for your kindness and generosity

We are deeply grateful for your kind and recent donation of \$1000.00. Thank you so much for helping people who are suffering for their beliefs, and for choosing to support them through CSW.

Your gift is available to us without discriminating against individuals and persecution and against those [in a similar manner in institutions such as the United Nations \(UN\) and the European Parliament](#). It's our mission to challenge these institutions of power to bring about change.

We have been working on Pastor Lorenzo Pajardo's case since 2021 when he was unfairly arrested after participating in peaceful protests that took place across Cuba in July of that year (he was fined and convicted of charges of "disrespect of 'morality', 'integrity, honorability' and 'public decorum'" in December 2021 and sentenced to two years in prison. Many of your own emails and letters to our usage Pastor Lorenzo and his family as well as write petitions for his release - thank you!

In February 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that his imprisonment met their definition of a arbitrary detention. In fact, they said it contravened *five* different Articles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. In a letter dated 02/22/2023 to the UN Foreign Secretary, David Loman, wrote to Pastor Lorenzo to express the UN government's continued commitment to advocating for his release. The recognition of the injustice against Pastor Lorenzo by the UN and the MEC were significant breakthroughs.

We are so pleased to tell you news that Pastor Lorenzo was released from prison on 07 Jan 2023! This was part of a case to amnesty following the State of Nature's announcement that it would remove Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. Pastor Lorenzo was one of 600 political prisoners chosen to be released as a gesture of goodwill. We give God thanks that Pastor Lorenzo is free and reunited with his family. Thank you so much for your partnership, which enables us to advocate for people like Pastor Lorenzo who are targeted for their beliefs.



Your sincerely

Bruce Wiling



10 March 2025

Ref: 6186560

St Mary's Parish Church
FAO Mr D Knapman Treasurer
Park Street
Woburn
Milton Keynes
MK17 9PG

Dear David

St Mary's Parish Church, Woburn - donation to UCB

Thank you for your generous gift of £1,338.00 received by UCB on 06/03/2025.

Through your partnership with UCB, together we are making a way for God's compassion and mercy to reach people daily, no matter what their background, or what part of the journey they are on in their walk with God.

It's inevitable that life will bring these moments of feeling at the bottom of the pit for everyone one of us. Sadly, it is not inevitable that everyone will find the hope in God's Word like Caroline did:

"A couple of years ago, I felt lost, became suicidal, and the only lifeline I got was to accidentally find a UCB Word For Today booklet, which I read through over and over, assimilated every word through the pages, and it changed my heart and brought healing to my soul and my thoughts. It made me know that Jesus loves me and that I am not an orphan, that I have a Father who loves me good, and for eternity. I pray as many people as possible lay hold of the UCB Word For Today booklet. God bless you richly for the relentless good work that you do. Only heaven knows the souls you have snatched from the fowlers snares, for Jesus."

This is why UCB exists and why your partnership is so vital. As we grow and are strengthened, your support ensures UCB can fulfil our mission in offering every person, in every place, every moment of the day, the opportunity to hear, watch or read the Word of God in a relevant and engaging way.

In response to your letter I would be delighted to set up a Zoom call or even organise a visit when we are in your area to convey our gratitude to the Church and share the impact your support is making. We will be in touch

Every Blessing



Richard Anson
Head of Strategic Partnerships
Phone: 07985 747470 / Email: ranson@ucb.co.uk