



# **HTL Church Annual Report**

## **2025-2026**

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## 2. APCM Agenda

**Sunday 10 May 2026**

- 1) Welcome
- 2) APCM Honours Presentation
- 3) Apologies
- 4) Acceptance of minutes of 2025 APCM
- 5) Appointment of independent examiner
- 6) Who are HTL Church? | *David Blane, Operations Manager*
- 7) Vicar's report | *Elaine Sutherland, Vicar*
- 8) Safeguarding Report | *Alex Scott & Bridget Patel, HTL Safeguarding officers*
- 9) Finance Report | *Tim Dyke, Treasurer*
- 10) Churchwardens Thanks and Elections
- 11) PCC Members Thanks and Elections
- 12) Deanery Synod Thanks and Elections

## 3. Vicar's Report

Since our last APCM, our life here at HTL has continued to flourish in all areas of ministry. We have known and experienced the love of our heavenly father, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the presence of Jesus as we've sought to follow him together and make disciples.

Our Teams on Sundays here at church and midweek in our homes have been discipling people all ages, sharing the gospel to a host of different people in different ways and different places.

Thank you for playing your part in the HTL family!

Behind the scenes over the last year we have been seeking the Lord for His timing in setting the Vision for this next season in the life of HTL. This culminated in the launching of our Kingdom Communities at our vision weekend in April 2026. As we look to 2026-2027, we will be implementing this new vision, co-labouring with Christ as he builds his church here and we play our part in his wider church bringing transformation to the city.

I promise you this new season is going to be an adventure of spirit filled joy and grace. Can I hear a hallelujah?

We can be sure it will be a time of growth and challenge, requiring generous sacrifice and we adopt the BIO of Kingdom Disciples and Kingdom Communities. If those terms are unfamiliar to you head to our YouTube channel and listen to the vision weekend talks.

In a season of change it is important our vision is underpinned by the values we live by.

Here at HTL we are a people who are **pursuing** God's presence, Kingdom and glory, pressing on in faith, individually and together. It's not that we don't already experience his presence but there is always more of him to know. Our pursuit is for HIM first and

foremost! Any benefit to us follows from his generosity. This coming year we will be pursuing all that God has for us, going deeper in the word, deeper in prayer, deeper in the leading of the Spirit.

Ezekial 47 speaks of the flowing from the Temple going out into the world: God's life-giving presence, bringing his life and renewal, healing and restoration. This image of the river of God begins shallow, going deeper and deeper the farther it goes. *It's time to go deep!*

From this place of relationship, we are **empowered** to bring the good news of Jesus. We often use the term reaching the lost, and it's a good term to use, but this year I'd love us to talk bringing the orphans home, for we were once orphans, and we have been chosen adopted into the Kingdom and family of God. A quick warning, what I'm about to say might be triggering for some people; The loss of a child is profound, I believe it's the worst grief a human can experience. Our heavenly Father grieves for his lost children. These lost children are our lost siblings, and we get to be empowered and sent to bring them home. There is no greater joy. This year we expect to see the orphans return, we all get to play a part, in our Kingdom Communities, evangelism, Church plants and in partnership with our mission links and fellow Christians in the city. *It's time to be bold and courageous!*

Jesus said "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free". Truth here is twofold; Jesus is the **Truth**, and his word, the Bible, is God's truth. The latter reveals what it means for Jesus to be Lord of our lives. We are committed to reading the word, learning together and living it out authentically. Our Kingdom Communities will be places of openness and honesty. Sometimes it will be easy and sometimes it will be painful. *It's time to commit to the word and being real with each other!*

Which leads us to who we are - a **family** of nations, people from all kinds of backgrounds, of different ages and abilities. This year we expect to see cultural walls broken down, fear of those different to us in ethnicity, age, background, and abilities removed. This year will see growth, ownership and participation in our family life, where those who join us are welcomed and enabled to make home amongst us. *It's time to play together.*

I believe this next year will be significant here at HTL, the Lord is doing a new thing, it has begun.

- It's time to go deep
- It's time to be bold and courageous
- It's time to commit to the word and being real with each other
- It's time to play together.

Isaiah 43:19: See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

**Elaine Sutherland**

Vicar

## 4. Safeguarding Report

HTL Church is committed to the safeguarding of all its members. We believe that Christ's call on his church is to love God and to love his people. As we aim to be diligent and attentive to the work of safeguarding, we are attending to the task of loving people well. Safeguarding is about more than policies and procedures; it's a culture of care and awareness.

As a church, we are dedicated to training, vigilance, and openness, ensuring that all our staff and volunteers are equipped to recognise and respond to any issues of concern. Over the past 12 months, we have worked hard to keep the profile of safeguarding high within the church as part of this we have 'raised the bar' on training at HTL. Improvements include

- Requesting that all volunteers sign up to the code of safer working practice and undertake Basic safeguarding training.
- Requiring all those who work with vulnerable adults and under 18's to undertake Domestic Abuse training as well as Foundation and Basic safeguarding training and introducing annual safeguarding reviews with all these volunteers.
- Ensuring that all groups with vulnerable adults or children in have a meaningful conversation around safeguarding

In the past year (May 2025 to April 2026) there has been a total of 20 new safeguarding concerns that have been reported (including Belgrave St Peters Church Plant). A number of these concerns have involved the Diocesan safeguarding team, who have been amazing at providing both support and advice. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each PCC, and a safeguarding report is submitted to the PCC ahead of each meeting and includes information relating to the number of new concerns. 3 times a year the PCC is advised on any missing safeguarding training undertaken by staff and volunteers, via the report produced by the Parish Dashboard, and any policy updates and information relating to the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard, which is used to ensure we are compliant with Church of England requirements.

The PCC has also this year discussed how they can better promote a healthy and safe church culture and how to better promote the welfare of vulnerable groups.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

**Alex Scott and Bridget Patel**  
Parish Safeguarding Officers

## 5. Staffing Report

As of 30 April 2026:

HTL Church has **3** clergy (one on secondment). Factoring in part time hours and secondment, this is the equivalent of **1.2** full-time clergy.

HTL Church has **15** members of paid staff. Factoring in part-time hours, this is the equivalent of **11.1** full-time staff.

In February 2026, Hannah Walkom finished her maternity cover for the assistant coffee shop manager role and Meaghan Blane returned to her position. The student worker position has been reduced from 40 to 30 hours at the post holder's request.

There have been no other significant changes to the staff team during the last year.

**David Blane**

Operations Manager

## 6. Fabric Report

We are pleased to report that the goods and ornaments of the church are in place and in general are in good repair.

Our 5-yearly Quinquennial Report was conducted in December 2025 and a Quinquennial Response Committee has been formed by the PCC to ensure that the recommendations are actioned over the next five years.

The Quinquennial Report highlighted that the 'Terrier' and "Logbook" were not in the format the diocese require. The necessary changes will be implemented in the coming months.

**Nik Watts and Helen Dyke**

Churchwardens

## 7. Risk Management and Policies Report

HTL Church takes its duties and responsibilities as an employer and organisation very seriously. The PCC has approved the below policies to govern our approach and behaviour. Unless stated otherwise each policy is reviewed every 3 years or if there is a significant change to our circumstances.

- Bullying and Harassment
- CCTV
- Complaints
- Data Protection
- Equality

- Health & Safety (reviewed annually)
- IT
- Safeguarding (reviewed annually)
- Social Media Usage
- Whistleblowing

These policies can be accessed at [htl.church/charity-information](http://htl.church/charity-information)

All of these policies are currently in date

All of our activities are governed by risk assessments approved annually by the PCC.

**David Blane**

Operations Manager

## **8. Deanery Synod Report**

We aim to have at least one of our clergy and/or lay deanery synod representatives at each of the three Leicester Deanery meetings held each year. This year the topics covered at Deanery Synod included pioneering and healing, with a presentation by our vicar Elaine Sutherland on prayer for healing.

**Alan Schwarzenberger**

Deanery Synod Representative