

# **Annual Report -Abbey Church Jan-Dec 2025**

## **GENERAL**

The Abbey church has been continuing to evolve under the guidance of Rev Ruth's management. We have continued to maintain our existing congregation with some added new faces. There are regularly two, sometimes three, children attending services and more when there are special Sunday services.

Special services for 2025 started with The Mariners Service in February. As always this was well attended and a good supper provided by The Abbey Church caterers. In March the Commissioners Civic service was attended by a full congregation in the Abbey Church. We were treated again to the wonderful sound of the Glenfaba Chorale and then with a buffet provided in the Village Hall by the Commissioners.

Our Easter services in April commenced with, Maundy Thursday in the evening, remembering the Lords last supper. On Good Friday morning, in the Abbey Church Hall, there were Children's activities and in the afternoon was a vigil service. Our Easter Sunday service was also well attended with an Easter egg hunt for the children in the church grounds afterwards.

In October there was a beautiful Harvest service with the Church filled with harvest flowers, fruit and veg. Ballasalla school came along mid-week and provided us with a delightful day of singing and joy.

In November, the Remembrance service, as always, was well attended including the addition of the Guides, Brownies, Scouts and the British Legion. Also in November was the All-Souls service remembering those who died throughout the year and all those who have passed before. A very quiet and reflective service with the congregation having the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

December commenced with a Christingle service, held during the Sunday morning service, the collection of which goes to The Children's Society. The annual Carol Service was held on a Sunday evening followed by tea and coffee in the hall. The Church was full again, and featured the parish music group AMPP and Tony Connell, our guest organist, with special local singers invited to come and sing. On Christmas Eve afternoon the Nativity play was performed which always takes on a life of its own as children and adults are asked to join in on an impromptu basis with much fun. Afterwards there were refreshments in the hall (including mince pies). At 11:30 was our Midnight service with a large congregation. On Christmas Day there was a peaceful morning service at 10:30.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Our fundraising for the year; Beetle Drives ran throughout the year. Pancake Tuesday, Lent Lunches (5no.), The Spring Fayre, TT Café (on 4 days this year), Helens Harvest Tea, Harvest Supper, Christmas Fayre and Bridge club Christmas Lunch. In February AMPP help a music and supper evening on the theme of "Love is all around." In April the Island folk group "Mines a Shanty" also fulfilled a promise to Ellen by holding an evening of music and supper and donated their normal fee to the church. All events were very well received and raised money for the Church. We thank all those involved who made all these events a success.

## **CHURCH HALL**

The Church Hall continues to be used extensively by the Church for fundraising and by other members/ groups in the wider community.

During the year we have regular users, such as the Bridge Club every Wednesday afternoon, The Youth Club every Wednesday evening, yoga Tuesday evening, The Beetle Drive once a month on a Friday evening a great family event. Mums & Tots on a Thursday morning followed by the Brownies/Rainbows late afternoon. Coffee morning every Friday morning.

### **ABBEY CHURCH GROUNDS**

Many thanks to those who have tended and looked after the gardens in the Church Grounds which are always very attractive. In addition, thanks especially to Phil Burnett for cutting the grass.

### **CHURCH AND HALL BUILDINGS**

Thank you to those who behind the scenes have cleaned the Church and Hall.