

# Report of the spiritual leadership IWG for the 2026 APCM

Throughout 2025 services continued following the pattern which began at the start of the vacancy. The variety is still enjoyed and allows congregation members to worship God in ways which are comfortable, encouraging and challenging.

In Autumn 2025 it was a joy for the congregation and many additional friends to celebrate the ministry of Ken Scott. His service and dedication to St Chad's and to Reader Ministry in general is rightly praised and rejoiced over but it is now (after a long vacancy) right and good that he should enjoy some much deserved rest.

The Scarecrow Festival 2025 was a wonderful event enabling congregation members and villagers alike to join in our communal gratitude for the harvest. The harvest services (school, Sunday Morning and Evening) were well attended and enjoyed.

Remembrance Sunday was given extra poignancy through the beautiful singing of the choir to the 'Hymn to the Fallen' arranged for our choir and given words by John Fellows.

The Christmas services were very well received. Especially the new Santa at St Chad's out reach service which saw large numbers of non-regular churchgoers join in prayers, carols, crafts and reflection.

The Christingle, Nine Lessons and Carols etc were well received (with thanks to Chrissie Ringrose).

Christmas Eve and Day services went well with congregation members getting vocal for the 'amazing' pop up nativity during the crib service. This was particularly enjoyable due to the volunteers who took part and those who supported the process by organising the crib and facilitating the audio visual components.

2026 has seen a few notable initiatives - including the Lent Course, the Craft and Pancakes activity, the Walk of Witness, the outdoor service at the Village Hall etc. these are more correctly to be discussed next APCM.

Since Easter 2026 a new service has joined the schedule - All Age Communion - a mix of sung liturgy, child and all age friendly activities with lovely music. This has been warmly accepted and is encouraging many congregation members to lead aspects of the services.

Thinking back to 2025 - I want to say a huge thank you to all of the wonderful work conducted by the Wardens and PCC in keeping the services going and for developing such a fantastic range of services for me to walk into last August. It is always a joy to worship here with such a fabulous team.

Rev Merry Smith  
Vicar