

The CPAS logo is located in the top left corner, featuring the lowercase letters 'cpas' in white on a blue circular background. The background of the entire page is a photograph of two children at a fair. The child on the left is a boy wearing a blue jacket and a black beanie with a red 'PRIDE' patch. The child on the right is a girl wearing glasses, a red jacket, and a white shirt with a colorful leopard print. Both children are holding sticks with yellow and orange popcorn. The background is a blurred fair scene with other people and lights.

cpas

The CPAS Supporters' Update

# CONNECTED

WINTER  
2025



# Reasons to be Cheerful

In this season of long dark nights and wintry days, many of us are seeking reasons to be cheerful. At times like this, I find it helpful to practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude.

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church, he exhorted them to:

**'GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.'**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:18**

Cultivating an attitude of gratitude transforms our outlook. Sometimes it's about savouring the little things in life – warming up after a cold Sunday morning when the church heating has failed; putting fun things in the diary; celebrating the promise of spring in emerging snowdrops.

I take constant encouragement from the work of CPAS. In 2024, we celebrated 100 years of CPAS holidays, culminating in a very special Campfire in the Cathedral service. I have the privilege of working with great staff and trustees, for fantastic vicars appointed to parishes across the UK, for PCCs and church wardens serving steadfastly through vacancies, for Venture and Falcon leaders already planning their summer programmes, for supporters who give and pray so faithfully for the work of CPAS.

While reflecting on 2024, we felt that so much happens in the life of CPAS which we want you to know about. This is why we're excited to share stories of how God is working in and through CPAS every three months in our new Connected update.

What might you give thanks for during these winter months? One of my New Year's resolutions is to say something positive every day. Is there someone you could encourage with something positive this week?

CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency enabling churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

Jon Scamman,  
Chief Executive Officer





# Staff Update

As we look back over 2024, we are so thankful for God's provision in all areas of our work. He is always faithful.

We are particularly excited by how our CPAS staff team has grown in recent months with several exciting appointments:

The Leadership Development team grew as The Rev Simon Taylor joined as Leadership Enabler. His previous role was Rector of Godalming Minster, a CPAS Patronage church.

The Patronage team gained two new additions in The Rev Rob Miles, previously Team Rector in The Cornerstone Team Benefice, and The Ven Andy Wooding Jones, previously Archdeacon of Rochester.

In the Ventures and Falcons team, Frankie Verrechia joined as Holiday Ministry Coordinator.

Two existing staff members stepped into new roles in the Communications and Fundraising team: Kirsty Macdonald as Marketing and Design Officer, and Fiona Henshaw as Fundraising Administrator.

We also said farewell to two long-serving staff members, Catherine Jackson (CPAS Graphic Designer) and Karen Parker (Senior Finance Assistant). We are so thankful for their years of service and wish them both well in this new season.

Please join us in praying for God's blessings and provision for everyone in the coming months as they step into their new roles.

A selection of CPAS staff on our recent Staff Day.



# Leadership

The autumn term was packed for the Leadership Development team. During this time James Lawrence was on sabbatical, but he has now returned. Some highlights from the autumn term were:

- Our team delivered around 50 training events, both online and in person.
- We particularly focused on two new initiatives: The Guide and Thrive projects. The Guide is an online learning platform for lay leaders, supported by a series of online events which we'll be reviewing in the Spring term.
- Thrive is a suite of resources which helps leaders and churches in multi-parish benefices. We will be investing in further support for leaders as they grow in confidence in facilitating this resource.

**THIS JANUARY WE WILL HOLD OUR ARROW RELOADED BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, WHERE WE'LL CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME IN THE UK.**

## PRAYER POINTS

- Prayers are appreciated as we pursue our 2025 Vision. Please join us in seeking clarity on God's direction and continued opportunities for impactful training.
- Pray for Simon as he joins the team and starts this new season.
- Pray for the team as they travel across the country that they would encourage and bless the leaders they meet.



The Arrow President from North America will join us for this milestone event. The impact of this ministry over a quarter of a century has been transformational for so many and we're excited to celebrate, give thanks and share stories of how God is at work throughout our country.

Lastly, it is great to welcome Simon Taylor to the team. Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers,

**Jo McKee,**  
Head of Leadership Development





# Patronage

It was great to welcome Rob Miles in September, strengthening the team with the first of our two Patronage Development Officers. Rob has been getting up to speed well and, with the arrival of Andy Wooding Jones at the beginning of January, we now have our full team.

**WHILE THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FACES CHALLENGES AROUND CLERGY RECRUITMENT AND VACANCIES, WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AS WE REFLECT ON THE SEVERAL APPOINTMENTS WE HAVE HELPED FACILITATE ACROSS CPAS PATRONAGE CHURCHES.**

These churches and parishes have been appointed since September:

- Bath St Saviour.
- East Widness Team.
- Finchley St Paul.
- Frinton-On-Sea.

- Hoddesdon.
- Locking with Hutton.
- North Hartismere.
- Paignton Christ Church.
- Peckham St Mary Magdalene.
- Southcourt Aylesbury.
- St Michael's Madeley.
- Tunbridge Wells St Luke.
- Upper Holloway.
- Walton and Trimley.
- Worksop with Shireoaks.

## THANK YOU, FATHER!

There are currently 142 vacancies across our Patronage churches which our team will be working to fill across the new year. Please join us in praying for these churches in vacancy and their interim leaders as they journey through this season.

**Mike Duff,**  
Patronage Secretary



## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Rob and his family as they look for a new house to move to in the next few months.
- Pray for Andy, to settle in well to the Patronage team after his ministry as an Archdeacon.
- Pray for Dagmer, administering a larger team.
- Pray for Mike, learning for the first time how to build a team where not everyone lives in the same geographic area!



# Ventures and Falcons

After our summer holidays finished in August, it was full steam ahead preparing for our fantastic autumn events and 2025 holidays. Here are a few highlights:

- In November, we celebrated 100 years of CPAS holidays at our special Campfire in the Cathedral service.
- We held our annual Overall Leader's Conference. Senior leaders from Venture and Falcon holidays gathered in Coventry for an excellent day of inspiration, encouragement, fellowship and practical equipping by a variety of speakers.
- 67 young people saw in the New Year on a Venture with the usual ingredients of fun, faith and friendship.

**LOOKING AHEAD, BOOKINGS HAVE OPENED FOR 2025. SEVERAL HOLIDAYS ARE ALREADY FULL AND OVER 350 VOLUNTEER LEADERS ARE EXCITED TO GET STARTED!**

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Overall Leaders of Venture and Falcon holidays as they prepare and promote the holidays to churches, families and individuals.
- Pray for the Ventures and Falcons staff team now holidays are open for booking.
- Pray for Broads Cruise Venture (5 April) and Ski Ventures (11 April) taking place soon, as well as School Ventures taking place in Hereford (7 March) and Winchester (19 March).

We hope to be in a position to recruit a strategic role to develop Falcon holidays, deepen our support of Falcon Overall Leaders, and consider how else CPAS may serve churches reaching out to young people in deprived areas. Additionally, our School Ministry team is piloting training to help church leaders and Church of England primary schools co-create pathways for pupils to explore life with Jesus.

**Tim Friend,**  
Ventures and Falcons Principal

*Ventures  
&  
Falcons*



# Celebrating 100 Years of CPAS Holidays

On Friday 15 November, Coventry Cathedral was transformed into a warm, cosy campfire scene. Over 250 guests comprised of past and present volunteers, participants and supporters gathered to give thanks for a century of CPAS holidays.

Tim Friend, Ventures and Falcons Principal, reflected on the roots of this ministry: in 1942, a group of leaders took twenty-four factory girls camping in the fields of Coldharbour, Surrey. Gathered around a campfire, they sang songs and heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

**ONE OF THE GIRLS WROTE HOME, 'MY BROTHER AND I HAVE GIVEN OUR WHOLE SELVES TO JESUS'.**

Much has changed since those humble beginnings but, whether called the Fresh Air Fund, CYFA, Pathfinders, Explorers, CYPECS, Ventures or Falcons, these holidays have always been a joyful celebration of friendship and faith, providing young people with an invitation to live life with Jesus.

The service included worship songs, videos of archived footage from across the decades, and stories from volunteers, supporters and children who had recently attended a Venture. Jon Scamman, CEO of CPAS, affirmed our commitment to carrying these residential holidays forward, as well as looking to strengthen work with churches.

None of this ministry would have been possible without the thousands who have sacrificially given their time, finances and energy, all so tens of thousands of young people would have the opportunity to explore Jesus.

As we look back with thanksgiving and forwards with expectation, we echo the refrain which was repeated throughout the service:

**HOW GOOD IS OUR GOD!**





# Supporting CPAS

## BIG GIVE, A BIG THANK YOU!

In December you helped us raise an incredible £138,427 (incl. gift aid) in our Big Give Christmas Challenge. We are so grateful to every person who was part of this fantastic week – none of what we do could happen without you!

Do you long for people across the UK to learn about Jesus through local church ministry? Here are some ways to pray, give and get involved with CPAS.

Christmas  
Challenge

BigGive



## PRAY WITH US

We are passionate about prayer. At CPAS, we pray for churches and leaders across the country every day – you can join us by downloading the prayer calendar.



## CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

We love to partner with churches to help them grow and thrive. Contact Clarissa Pato at [cpato@cpas.org.uk](mailto:cpato@cpas.org.uk) to find out how we can support you.

Scan to view our upcoming events. And our Venture holidays for 8-22 year-olds.

EVENTS



VENTURES



## LEAVE A LEGACY

From 10-14 February 2025, we'll be hosting a Legacy Week where you can book an appointment with our team to speak about leaving a legacy donation in your Will. There is no obligation, we simply hope that this week will help answer your questions.

Contact The Rev Martin Kavanagh at [mkavanagh@cpas.org.uk](mailto:mkavanagh@cpas.org.uk) to find out more.

### CPAS

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Unless otherwise stated all Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV).



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