**Churchwardens' report: May 2026**

***'M&M's is an inclusive Anglican parish, with broad ecumenical participation, known for rich liturgy, engaging preaching, and friendly community. We aim to explore Christ's mission in pastoral care, spiritual formation, openness to questioning, vocational training, and warm hospitality.'***

*M&M's Mission statement.*

This year at M&M's has seen many firsts, notably the first confirmation service to take place within the chaplaincy at which we welcomed Bishop Andrew and celebrated the confirmation of Muxin, Xinyi, Zhunlin, Sarah, Laura and Jeffrey. It was a warm and joyful service in spite of the wintery weather.

We also shared in the marking of 150 years of the recognition of Anglicanism in Belgium with many M&Ms members attending the Royal Evensong service at Holy Trinity Brussels in the presence of King Philippe, at which one of our M&Ms young people, Herbert, served as crucifer.

Your Chaplaincy council enjoyed its first away day in October hosted by Het Rustpunt, a seventeenth century Carmelite monastery in Ghent. It was a welcome opportunity to connect and to discern together.

A further 'first' has been the setting up of the vzw (charity) "The Friends of St Martha & St Mary, Leuven" which will help us to steward more effectively our resources for mission and ministry in Leuven as well as our mission giving to good causes here and around the world. We are indebted to Sarah Jones (Chair), Andrew Wiersum (Treasurer) and Rebecca Breekveldt (Secretary) for making this possible.

Alongside these new experiences we continued to enjoy times of fellowship as a community in the form of homegroups hosted by Kayla and Brendan (Leuven) and Rebecca and Karen (Kessel-Lo), summer homegroup in the provincie domein, a successful newcomers' event in the autumn during which we were so expertly hosted by Jesu, and a pizza night at Andy and Kayle's where all those who make church happen joined to share ideas and thoughts about their different ministries.

2025 also saw several farewells as is so often the case in our Chaplaincy life. In the summer we bade farewell to Alan and Natalie who had been worshipping with us for several years as they returned to the UK. Alan, memorably, treated us to a re-telling of the Bible using Belgium's most famous export as a visual aid. The same evening we said farewell to Annie and Jacob who preached and presided at our evening service before their departure for Oslo.

In August we took our leave of our beloved Justus Lipsius College chapel that had been the home of M&M's since our inception as a community thirty years ago. Fr Reimund Bieringer who has been a most gracious supporter of M&M's over the years, preached, and Sarah Jones, our Lay Reader, led us in prayer as we gave thanks for 'this sacred place.' Sarah's beautiful prayers from that evening conclude this report.

Following the closure of the Justus Lipsius College we began evening services at the Leo XIII chapel. A highlight was the beautiful Christmas Carol service with the choir led by Jen and Ohin

in partnership with the KU Leuven faculty choir and Katechetika International. The chapel was full as we enjoyed their musical ministry. M&M's choir under the direction of Jen has grown from strength to strength with twice-monthly rehearsals in the Leo XIII chapel and we have enjoyed their ministry throughout the year, most recently on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Our church family came together several times this year to celebrate the baptisms of Xinyi, Zhunlin, Rose, Jan, Gommaar and Louisa. We give thanks for their presence in our community and rejoice in their faithfulness.

Our children's ministry team has grown and we have continued to be able to offer Sunday school twice-monthly at our morning services in the American College. This year during Holy Week for the first time the young people had their own service on Maundy Thursday followed by a meal at the Valas' home. We give thanks for the children in our community and their families and for the growth of this important ministry.

We continue to give thanks for all the blessings M&Ms has received this year and for all who make up this precious community. We close our report with an excerpt from Sarah's prayers spoken at the farewell to the JLC service on 31st August. May God continue to shape our "living hearts" in the year ahead.

*Gracious God, we give you thanks for this sacred place: its walls have sheltered generations of students and the faithful who worshipped here, its quiet corners have welcomed prayer, its light and warmth has drawn people in from the world outside. We are grateful for the worship offered, the faith formed, the friendships kindled, and the lives transformed within these walls. We pray for this building's restoration: May it be renewed not only in bricks and mortar, but as a space of vibrant witness and generous welcome to all who seek you.*

*Loving God, we give thanks for the communities that have grown here—diverse, faithful, and open-hearted. For students and folk far from home who have found here not just a church, but a family. We thank you for the wise and compassionate priests and leaders who have guided us with wisdom, stability, and grace and we thank you for those they have empowered and encouraged to step forward and discern their callings to serve you.*

*God of unity and peace, we praise you for the ecumenical relationships that have flourished here—for shared mission, mutual respect, and the common life of Christians across traditions. For churches that have stood together in prayer, witness, and service, we thank you. In the coming season, may we continue witnessing to the love of Christ in a divided world.*

*Faithful God, we entrust this church building into your hands. may your Spirit dwell richly among those working on the restoration. we remember that your Church is not made of stone alone, but of our living hearts shaped by you and those who have gone before us who helped us to know more of you. Prepare us, renew us, and send us, so that when we return, we may come not just to a restored space, but to a renewed calling. Amen.*