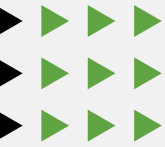
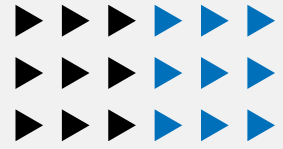




St Michael's Church

Worship • Community • Mission



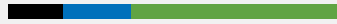
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024



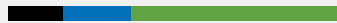
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INTRODUCTION

REPORT



St Michael's Church is part of the Diocese of Coventry and is in Warwick and Leamington Deanery.

The correspondence address is: St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Budbrooke, CV35 8QL.

Email: office@stmbb.church

Website: www.stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk

PCC members who have served from APCM 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Rev'd David Brown (Chair), Rev'd Martin Davies (ex-officio), Andrew Cowie (Treasurer), Margaret Gayler (Safeguarding Officer), Ruth Grinbergs (Churchwarden), Clare Watson (Churchwarden), Alex Davis, Ben Davis, Val Roy, Luke Thomas, Mike Wood

Rose Rebeiro joined in November 2024.

PCC Secretary: Alex Davis

There were two Deanery Synod representatives.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Since APCM 2023 the PCC has met six times (May, June, Uuly, November, January and March.

The electoral roll has been renewed this year:

There are 90 members on the new roll,, of which 53 are resident in the parish and 37 are non-resident.

VICAR'S REPORT



David Brown
Vicar

2024 has seen a number of important changes. I was appointed part-time to a Strategic role in the Diocese for 18 months, which has impacted my availability in the parish. If there were concerns of what this might mean, the good news is that with so many gifted and committed leaders amongst us, this hasn't impacted the ministry significantly.

We've also been helped by the resources rebated to the parish from the Church of England's Vision and Strategy Team, in lieu of my time. Amongst other things, we've used the funds to host meals at The Open Door for people involved in different layers of leadership in the church, in order to provide space for connection and to thank people for their service to God.

We have also been able to use some of this funding to pay for administrative support in the form of a Vicar's PA and, of course, we had the joy of seeing Luke ordained last Summer and begin to serve as Curate.

So, rather than hold us back, the church has continued to grow (insert figures)

Some great work has been done to help us express and share our vision more straightforwardly - which we can sum up in one word: Multiplication. There has been a positive response from the church family in general to this, especially the expression our mission in such a simple clear terms:

VICAR'S REPORT




- Our vision is to see multiplication growth like the Early Church did.
- Our Mission is to be a community that helps people of all ages walk with Jesus day by day.

We have continued to strengthen our prayer life. In early September, we held a very significant Half Night of Prayer, ahead of the new Alpha course. This was brilliantly supported by our worship leaders, who each took a slot during the evening to help us to focus on God. We spent time listening, praying in different, creative ways and feeding back.

Our regular Sunday evening Weekly Prayer routine has continued to be the engine room for all missional activities of the church. It is no coincidence that the Autumn's Alpha course was both well-attended, supported by prayer from those in the Networks Community and others. We again had the joy of seeing many people of all ages come to faith in Jesus and seek to grow in their faith through being nurtured in small groups.

Having previously highlighted that work needed to be done to strengthen our pastoral care, as 2024 progressed, we have been able to take a more structured approach. We now have a Pastoral Team, comprising members of the clergy, staff and others who are co-ordinated by Rosie in her new role as Pastoral Lead.



VICAR'S REPORT



Our multiplication vision has seen significant developments this year. In November, I was licensed as Associate Vicar at St Paul's, Warwick. Wonderfully, we have been able to welcome back Amy Vogel after many years. Amy, who grew up in Hampton Magna and married Marvin at St Michael's 15 years ago, has been appointed as Revitalisation Plant Leader at St Paul's and has already begun to work with her characteristic energy and enthusiasm. The Light Party in October Half Term was hugely popular and successful and we look forward to all that God will be doing at St Paul's.


All of this has seen us begin to express what God is doing in the language of a Network of Churches. We are exploring with the Diocese the covering name for our various gatherings of Warwick Network Church. We hope to be able to update on this in the near future, but in terms of "branding", we would have:

Warwick Network Church: Budbrooke

Warwick Network Church: Chase Meadow

Warwick Network Church: St Paul's

There is much strength to be found in the sharing of resources across our different communities and congregations..



VICAR'S REPORT



Things feel poised for new season of growth across our locations, but we must be careful not to over-stretch or over-reach. We also need to take care to ensure we maintain a critical mass of young people across our locations, so that we can build further from there.

Finally, but perhaps above all, I would like to express a big Thank You to everyone who supports and serves the ministry at St Michael's, St Paul's and on Chase Meadow. Rosie and I are grateful for all you do and bring as members of the body of Christ here.



WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown

In a moment, I'll highlight (and thank) the various ministry teams that play their part in making our corporate worship what it is. We can celebrate signs of growth, but the real measure is what all this points towards. Do we meet with the Lord as we gather? Are we comforted by his presence, inspired by his Word, compelled by outward by his Spirit?

This is what we work towards whenever we gather, and, in God's mercy, there is a sense of God's hand upon us as we do.

This year we spent some time reflecting on how to maximise the benefits of the Community structure while minimising the negative aspects. The positive effects of Communities have been that more people have the opportunity to serve and lead. However, the disadvantages have been that the pattern has discouraged some of our children and young people from coming along and newcomers can sometimes find it hard to come into a format in which they may feel expected to contribute.

The result of this has seen some changes in our Communities' meeting pattern, three of them beginning to meet monthly, with the Chase Meadow group starting a new 4pm service twice a month. This represents both a tremendous opportunity and a risk.

There is a tension between multiplying and overstretching. The inevitable consequence of more regular worship on Chase Meadow is that whilst our overall attendance might increase across the congregations, it will feel quieter on those weeks in some places. There is then the potential to feel discouraged or dissatisfied because things

WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown

T 'aren't what they were.' These are the times to trust that the Lord who has helped us grow in the past, will continue to help us grow today. It also highlights the part each one of us has to play in helping the congregation we are part of to flourish.

If we look ahead though, we can begin to glimpse the emergence of a network, something larger than we could have ever imagined if we had stood still. The creator Spirit is always doing a new thing.

Indeed, when it comes to creativity, a real joy has been seeing the emergence of an ad hoc Creative group under Rosie's and Liz Thompson's guidance. They have invited anyone who wishes to join them for a creative time exploring the verses which will be preached on in the forthcoming services. This has been a fruitful time, not only for the creatives themselves, who have to prayerfully go deeper into the scriptures and find the idea which is highlighted to them. It has also been helpful for the congregations, who have benefited from the additional visual element which is brought into the services from the artwork, adding layers of meaning and interest.

Our two gathered Sunday congregations (9:00am and 10:45am) are gradually growing, with the 10:45 gathering younger members, bucking the trend of the wider ageing seen in many Anglican parishes. Children's and Youth work remains important. The Kids and Youth team have such an important and strategic role, and it has been good to see more young

WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown

People contribute to our services, a serving pattern we hope will continue to grow and flourish.

Our two gathered Sunday congregations (9:00am and 10:45am) are gradually growing, with the 10:45 gathering younger members, bucking the trend of the wider ageing seen in many Anglican parishes. Children's and Youth work remains important. The Kids and Youth team have such an important and strategic role, and it has been good to see more young people contribute to our services, a serving pattern we hope will continue to grow and flourish.

We are so grateful for our talented Worship team, who consistently lead us into the presence of God. Our leaders and preachers and our dedicated Prayer team lovingly offer prayer week by week and are often able to feed in words from God to encourage people to receive. Our Welcome team are valuable in providing a friendly face as people come to services. Each of these team members work and serve together brilliantly to the glory of God and are much loved members of our church family.

WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown

We give thanks too for our Tech team, who have enabled us to continue to stream our services, which have a consistent and even surprising reach, offering a 'shop-window' to newcomers, as well as being a life line to some of our members, who for different reasons, may for a season be unable to join us in person.

So, we thank God for signs of his presence as we meet for worship. Let us never take that, or each other, for granted but also let us not be satisfied with where we are, but working and praying together, ask the Lord for more of his life to fill our gatherings.

DISCIPLESHIP

REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

At Budbrooke, we have sought to be strategic and intentional about discipleship because experience shows it doesn't happen by accident. Prioritising discipleship in this way is also strategic and at the heart of Jesus' commission because: If we can multiply discipleship patterns, we can multiply discipleship. If we can multiply discipleship, we can multiply disciples. If we can multiply disciples, we can multiply groups, [missional] communities and even congregations.

In 2024 we have tried to simplify this, by translating our CROWN framework into a set of practices. This is a further step towards clarity and simplicity, with each area offering tools and resources to help us put our faith into practice. Perhaps it suffices to summarise our progress in the language of the values themselves:

- We prioritise meeting together in God's presence through the Practice of Worship.
- We invest in community and relationship through the Practice of Hospitality.
- We pursue re-creation through the Practice of Sabbath.
- We give our all to Heaven's work through the Practice of Service.
- We draw close to God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - through the Practice of Prayer.
- We are inspired by God's Word through the Practice of Scripture.
- We share life and faith with others through the Practice of Witness.

DISCIPLESHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

Going forwards, our resources will focus on helping each other grow in each of these areas as we seek to lead people from their first contact with St Mike's through to multiplying that faith. This 'discipleship journey' is at the heart of all we do as we welcome people in to church, help them find their place in the family and get more involved as they start to grow and serve.

Having a simple, shared language for making disciples will help us create a culture which will, in turn, help to build a network across St Michael's, St Paul's and Chase Meadow, and beyond.

These resources are available at:

<https://www.stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk/resources>

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER

Mary Lodge & Ruth Stephens

Resting Space

We have continued to offer this hour on a Saturday morning every month from 10 to 11 in the Church Centre when people can enjoy a time of stillness together through a guided meditation, gentle music and restful images on particular themes. This is an opportunity to draw apart from the busyness and the demands of our lives, to stop for a while and to experience just resting in God's Presence. We are pleased that more people are finding this special time helpful and restorative.



Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Staff Retreat Day

In September last year, the staff team spent a quiet day together at The House of Bread near Shipston-upon-Stour in which they had the opportunity to enjoy the 'unforced rhythms of grace' that Jesus invites us to experience when we take time to 'be still' and rest and reflect and receive from him.



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER

Mary Lodge & Ruth Stephens

Prayer at The Open Door

Since last Autumn, a small group (but more are welcome) has been meeting at 9.15am on Monday mornings at The Open Door to pray for all the activities that take place at the café and for the people that use it, for its links with the Budbrooke Medical Centre and its developing ministry in the community. We also pray for key organisations and groups within the community of Hampton Magna including the school. There is a prayer box in the café where people can post personal requests for prayer and these are prayed for at the Monday meeting too. We would like to encourage more people to seek prayer in this way.

Sunday Night Prayer:

This weekly prayer time for a movement of the Holy Spirit to bring revival continues to take place in the church and on Zoom from 7pm to 7.30pm with an extended time of worship and prayer on every third Sunday in the month. More people are now attending this key time of prayer in the life of St Michael's but more are welcome. We have been greatly encouraged that since committing to these prayer sessions we have seen more people coming to know Jesus through the Alpha courses and many in other ways but we continue to cry out for more! .



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER



Prayer Team Report

The Prayer Team is pleased to pray at non-community services at 9am and 10.45am. We meet before the services, listen to what God wants to say to us for the service and pray for the whole service. In addition to continuing to pray during the service, we are available during communion and at the end of each service to pray with anyone who would like it. Prayer can be for others as well as yourself and can be thanksgiving, a response to the service, for a blessing, for difficult situations and to commit things of the coming week to the Lord. Besides praying in the Prayer Space, we can use the vestry, the room above the vestry and the Prayer Room in the Church Centre if needed. We can also provide prayer at other times in the week if that is requested. Prayer is not limited to the Prayer Team as we always encourage individuals in the congregation to pray for each other.

In the year we provided a Prayer Team to support the New Wine Weekend and we updated the prayer table with more encouraging Scriptures, decorated stones and butterflies. We hope everyone will make use of the Prayer Space in church for a time of private prayer or to look for a Scripture, stone or butterfly as an encouragement and help at any time. We are grateful to those who lovingly decorate the stones and wait on the Lord for what He wants them to illustrate. As a team we have met on two occasions for fellowship, teaching and to pray for each other. We have also made use of training provided at The Well to use the expertise there to enhance our gifts and knowledge. Sadly, Sheila and Paul Reading have left the team but we are in the process of recruiting others to join us. If you feel that The Lord is drawing you to this ministry, please get in touch with Mary, Rae or Ruth.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER



A small group of Ruth Stephens, Rae Poole, Linda Jones and Mary Lodge, which oversees the prayer ministry continues to meet every Monday morning to watch and pray, to listen to God, to call on the Holy Spirit and to pray over the the life of the church, its leaders, ministries and communities as well individuals in need of healing, encouragement, blessing and protection. We have been pleased that groups and individuals have asked us to pray for specific situations challenges or issues and we would welcome more of these requests.

The current members of the Prayer Team are Ellen Drain, Sue Filby, Suzanne Hotten, Linda Jones, Rae Poole, Rebecca Poole, Ruth Stephens, Susanne Wood but others are being recruited and trained for this coming year.

COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION



David Brown - Vicar

We believe that faith is not just about attending services but also about forming meaningful connections, growing together and reaching out. Our Community meeting patterns provide a number warm and intimate settings where you can share, pray, and hear and apply the Word of God with fellow members of our church family. Each community has a mission emphasis - a focus for outreach - that the members share and work on together.

Communities meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month, with Chase Meadow Community having an additional meeting on the 1st Sunday. They provide an ideal setting to deepen your faith, find support, discover and use your gifts, build lasting friendships and grow in sharing God's love with others.

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

Starting something is, in my experience, often the hardest part. Be that cleaning the house, marking books, writing an annual report, or starting a new initiative in the village. But once you've started, you begin to realise that you just need to keep going to see the fruit.

I ended last year's report reflecting on words given at a prayer meeting about starting 'a new thing'. We meet in a café and there was a sense that God was calling us to use that café as a place of hospitality and meeting – bigger than a venue for locals to meet on a Sunday. It is with great joy I can report, that leaning into that word from God has led to our key things to be thankful for in 2024.

After a couple of 'trial runs', we began 'Coffee and Catch Up' in earnest. Opening the Open Door on the first Saturday in the month for anyone who wants to come in for drinks, pastries and a chat or to simply just be. We are beginning to see growth in numbers, with more 'regulars' and connections being made. As a team, we look for ways in which we can naturally talk about what God is doing in our lives, and it has become a friendly place for people to come and get to know others. We often have a little craft and the play area at the front of the café is a welcoming place for young families. As yet, we haven't included a 'pause for the thought' aspect or verse, but there is Christian music playing and we are not hiding our light under a bushel!

This Saturday event has replaced our Sunday morning meeting at the Open Door, and we are valuing the opportunity to meet with others in Church on the first Sunday in the month.

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

Our 'third Sunday' also needed somewhat of a 'revamp' or 'rethink' in order to provide that stepping stone to church as well as meeting the needs of the church family in Hampton Magna. One of our difficulties with the Sunday mornings, was the provision for children. We had already rearranged the furniture which worked for the pre-schoolers, but not for those who required something more of a Sunday morning. So, with the help of Caroline Mara and Kate Booth, we looked at Sundays from a different angle.

Our third Sunday meeting has a 'café church' type feel with a 'soft start' and then a very short introduction to a few bible verses or picking up on the previous week's theme from the whole church service. After this input we divide into two groups: one who use a craft type activity to discuss and reflect on the passage and one that is more of a group discussion and sharing of ideas and thoughts.

We are grateful for the creativity of Rebecca Poole and Debbie Wilson in particular for generating ideas and crafts for us to use. We have seen a variety of ages and stages taking part in both the crafts and the discussions. This way, we aren't separating out the children and the youth and we are also catering for those who would prefer to share and discuss ideas while doing something crafty.

We are beginning to see some of the fruit of these changes to our weekend patterns as those who engage with the Open Door activities during the week are coming to these sessions. The 25th Anniversary celebration for The Open Door held in December provided a wonderful turnout, proving that if we are intentional with our invitation, people will come!

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

During the school holidays, craft activities have been more regularly provided thanks to the funding from "The Cost of Living Fund" from WDC and healthy snacks have been offered to those who attend. This has been a natural development from the Easter and Christmas crafts that we have offered in previous years and all events have been well received by both parents and children.

Thanks to persistent prayer and seeking of God's way in, we were delighted that children from Budbrooke School were involved with the Lantern Walk in 2024. The children completed the walk and then performed some beautiful songs to a packed audience. Feedback from our guests being that - they would love to hear more from the children.

As for 2025 our prayer is for 'more Lord'! Keeping the door open into the school will enable us to make closer links with the families in Hampton Magna. Inviting them for coffee on a Saturday, inviting them to chat through what the Bible says today on a Sunday and ultimately leading them to Christ has to be the aim of the Community in Hampton Magna. But families are more than the school and those with children; our Sunday mornings have seen the coming together of ages for the benefit of ages. God made us in relationship with one another and as we travel through 2025 we seek ways to gather that family for His purposes. One very specific way He has called us to gather family is through prayer walking the village. This became clear as I prepared for a follow on talk about the Practice of Prayer. Will you join us in praying for the streets of Hampton Magna to know the Lord?

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

Over the past year, we have experienced continued growth and deepening connections within our church community. One of the most significant changes we made was shifting our service to a 4:00 PM start time. This adjustment has been well received, leading to consistent attendance and providing a welcoming space for people to gather, worship, and grow in faith together.

It has been particularly encouraging to see a noticeable increase in the number of under-18s attending our services. Alongside this, we have welcomed a number of new people who have connected with us, bringing fresh energy and diversity to our congregation. It has been a joy to see these individuals integrate into our community, forming relationships and becoming part of the life of the church.

Another key development this year has been the expansion of our small group ministry, we launched a new small group that was formed out of the existing Chase Meadow small group. This new group provides an additional space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and deeper discipleship, allowing more people to connect and support one another in their faith journey.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

As we reflect on the past year, we are incredibly grateful for the ways God has been at work in our church. The growth in attendance, the increasing engagement of younger people, and the strengthening of our small group network all point to His faithfulness. We look forward to the coming year with expectation, believing that there are even greater things ahead for our church community.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather in Chase Meadow as a community, unashamed and grateful for the foundations that bind us. Help us embrace new things and walk in a missional spirit, with everyone using their gifts. Grant us the humility to be people who don't take ourselves seriously but take You seriously. May this light-hearted spirit strengthen our bonds and deepen our connection with You.

Amen.



COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Clare Watson

Network

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

The Networks Community decided to change from meeting twice a month to once a month in 2024. We meet on the third Sunday of the month at 10.45am in the Church Centre and our meeting is usually followed by lunch. The services are led by members of the leadership team and several people have prepared and given talks. The lunches are prepared by different members of the group each time and have been very popular, giving us the opportunity to have conversations and get to know each other better whilst enjoying the food. There are also two small groups which meet during the week – one on Tuesday evenings and another on alternate Wednesday evenings.

As the community is made up of people who come from further afield than Chase Meadow and Hampton Magna it does not have a geographical centre for its mission. Our missional focus has continued to be to encourage and equip each other to “work the nets” – to reach out to non-Christians and share the good news of Jesus in the places that we each live.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Clare Watson

Network

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

In 2024, we have also engaged with the church's missional activities, and we supported the 'Talking Jesus' event, the Alpha course and the Carol Service. For the 'Talking Jesus' event, we supported with prayer, and with hospitality for the evening. For the Alpha course, some members of the community attended the course, while others led a prayer group which met every week to pray for the course, its leaders and participants. For the Carol service, we supported with prayer, welcoming, readings, and hospitality after the service.

During our Sunday meetings we share news and stories and often break into small groups of 4 or 5, which provides the chance to discuss the talk for that week and to pray for each other. Although our numbers have decreased considerably this year, we have continued to grow in fellowship with each other, and the 'family' feel of the group is important to the members.

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



9am Community

9am

at St Michael's Church

Martin Davies

The 9.00 am Community meet as the other communities do every third Sunday for Communion, when there is a fifth Sunday we meet as community for a Service of the Word. On the first, second and fourth Sunday there is a 9.00 AM Holy Communion Service where the 9.00 AM community also meet along with members of the other communities which gives others to opportunity to have communion but also to take part in the service by reading the bible passage and leading the intercessions.

The Community has grown a little over the last twelve months with new members joining as new people come to live within the parish. It has been lovely to see the community grow stronger together by supporting each other when life may not be as easy as it once was.

When we set up this community we wanted to make it different, we didn't want it to be the old 8.00am service, neither did we want it to be the Mid Week Communion service or the old 10.30 Communion service. We wanted it to have its own identity and be community, I think we have achieved that. Visitors often comment on how friendly and welcoming we are, which is a testament on how community orientated we are. We have our own community Collect which we pray together every community Sunday which confirms our commitment to each other and to God, and also the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

The past year in the youth ministry at St. Michael's has been a journey of intentionally going after the vision we believe God has called us to pursue, 'To establish a youth-led missional movement, who will carry the Gospel to their generation and the next.' As we are pursuing this vision, we are beginning to witness a generation awakened to the good news of Jesus, and the emergence of the next generation of Christian leaders who are living as Jesus' ambassadors in their schools, social circles, families, and churches.



In the pursuit of our vision, we recognise the importance of deep, ongoing, transformational discipleship as a prerequisite for releasing our young people into mission. One of the key ways we approach discipleship in youth ministry is through '1-1 Mentoring'. We want to see every young person realise their full potential in all areas of life and faith, and believe that 1-1 mentoring is a particularly important and strategic part of achieving this vision. We define a mentor as an older Christian with more experience of life and faith, who is committed to meeting regularly to listen to the young person, help them navigate what's going on in their life, facilitate opportunities for them to engage with God's Word, empower them to identify areas of life and faith they want to pursue growth in, and pray for them in whatever they're facing.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

There is a noticeable difference in the depth of discipleship and leadership confidence amongst the 10 young people who are currently being mentored prior to being given this opportunity. We hope to double the number of young people being mentored in the next 12 months, but to do so we need to grow the size of our mentoring team. If you have a spare hour every few weeks, are a good listener, and can read the Bible with and pray for one of our young people, then 1-1 mentoring/discipleship is one of the most significant ways you can invest in and disciple this generation.

The Rock – our Friday night youth ministry gathering – is continuing to develop, both in maturity of faith as well as in numbers. We now have around 25-30 young people who attend The Rock each week, and they are a mix of Christians and their non-Christian friends who they have invited. The key theme we have been exploring over the last year is what it looks like to respond to Jesus. We have been calling our young people to step away from any tendency to be passive spectators in God’s plans for their lives, and instead to choose to be active participants who walk in in step with Jesus, responding to him moment by moment in a wide variety of ways. It’s been incredible to witness how eager our young people have been to say yes to God’s agenda for their lives, and to hear stories of how they are seeking to live this out in different areas of their lives.



YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

One of the biggest breakthroughs we have seen over the last year is the increased influence that our young people have had in their schools. We firmly believe that our young people are best positioned to reach their friends and peers with the Gospel, therefore, we try to help them view and approach their schools as their mission field. Our youth have done an incredible job of setting up and leading Christian Unions, inviting non-Christian friends to their churches, and boldly stepping out in their own personal witness amongst friends and peers. Over the coming year, we're excited to see what new missional opportunities may arise as our young people continue to act as Jesus' ambassadors in their schools.

One of the ways we have also seen youth-led mission expressed is through our Youth Alpha course which we started at the end of January 2025. Back in September 2024, a number of our young people expressed their desire to give their non-Christian friends the opportunity to explore the Gospel by hosting a Youth Alpha course for them. Over the subsequent months we met to reflect, plan, and pray, before then setting a launch date and getting the word out. Our youth did a wonderful job at inviting their non-Christian friends to Youth Alpha – 15 guests came and began a journey of exploring the Gospel together. At the time of writing this, we are approaching the half-way point and there is huge potential for what God may do in the lives of our guests over the coming months. We are asking for God to far exceed any expectations we may have and for every single one of our guests to come to faith.

Our annual youth weekend away, 'Basecamp', was one of the highlights of the past year as we took 13 of our young people away for a weekend of worship, Bible teaching, and precious fellowship together.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

It was a great joy to witness our young people engage with the Lord in the main sessions, breakout groups, and late-night worship. We were also greatly encouraged by a number of our young people who led talks and workshops over the weekend – seeing them grow in confidence and unashamedly leading their generation towards Jesus is an inspiring reminder of how rewarding it is when you journey with and disciple young people over a number of years, and get to witness how this investment is not in vain.

As we continue to sow seeds of faith in our young people in the year to come, we are expecting an abundant harvest, and would so greatly appreciate if you could help to usher this in by continuing to pray for us. Also, if you feel stirred to serve in the youth ministry in any capacity, please get in touch with me (Tim Williams – youthmdl@stmabb.church), and I'd love to take you out for coffee to talk more about how we can make this happen – thank you!

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY REPORT

Kate Booth

There were a few significant changes to the Children and Families Ministry in 2024. Most notably, the fabulous Lou Thomas stepped back from her role as the ministry leader. Many, many thanks to Lou for her hard work and for the passion she brought to the role.

I led in Lou's absence and was officially employed as the ministry leader in June.

In February, St Michael's and St Paul's employed Caroline Mara, to be based at St Paul's but to oversee all the youth, schools, children's and families work across the churches. She comes with a huge wealth of knowledge and experience in this field and has a long relationship with both the churches.

We have been blessed with some wonderful interns from Pais to support our youth, schools, children's and families ministries. We are heavily reliant on our Pais interns for much of our children and families ministry and they work exceedingly hard. I am very grateful to them for all that they do.

All the evidence shows that contact with the church when children are young is key in growing the kingdom of God. We have seen the evidence of this in St Michael's in the number of people connecting with the church from the Children and Families Ministry in 2024 and before.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

There is a great need to have more of the church family involved in all aspects of the ministry. This is important as it shows children and families that the whole church cares for them and they are welcome. It also provides more long-term consistency and discipleship, which is great for our children and families and great for the teams serving them. There is no age, gender or experience barrier to being involved – just a heart for sharing the gospel with others. Please do get in touch if you could give some time to this ministry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are already involved. For the lovely team of people helping with Kids' Church, for Lou and her commitment to Mini Meadows which still continues, and to the Pais team past and present. And to those who have stepped in to help in emergencies – you know who you are! I'm blessed to have you alongside me. Thank you.

Mini Meadows

Mini Meadows is a fantastic missionary field for God. Outside of the set up and packing away, it is great to be able to come alongside Mums, Dads, Grandparents and child minders and to listen and care for them. Parenting little ones can be exhausting and lonely so we aim to make all those who come along feel welcome and cared for.

We have continued to use familiar secular books to share a message about God at the end of each session. We always finish with a short prayer. Although some people do leave before this, usually because of tired and grumpy children, most people do stay for this.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

We have introduced giving out birthday cards and singing Happy Birthday to make families feel precious.

Numbers at Mini Meadows vary greatly and it is not always clear why! Some weeks we are very busy, and on others very quiet. Numbers have been affected by several outside factors as well. Firstly, many local toddler groups have closed down due to lack of volunteers – this is a great opportunity for us to step in to fill the gap and share about Jesus. Secondly, the government have brought forward the age from which children obtain funding to go to Preschool, meaning that little ones stay with us for less time.

Research shows that an amazing 62% of parents with children aged 0-4 have contact with churches through toddler groups. Wouldn't it be amazing if all those families came along to church! What a huge mission field! Please prayerfully consider joining us.

Pebbles

The numbers of families connecting with Pebbles is slowly increasing. Just in the autumn term, we had 10 new children come and join us. This is mostly by word of mouth, and through connections with The Open Door. Gradually the word is spreading!

We used a great resource from Faith in Kids in the summer term designed for children who aren't connected with church.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

Now we are working our way through The Jesus Storybook Bible which is a great book - it shows how all the parts of the Bible are connected and, ultimately, why we needed Jesus to die for us. Some of new children, without any other contact with church, have already got the idea that Jesus is the answer to everything! Our crafts and games are planned around the story for that session, with free time for us to chat to the children and get to know them. The session always seems to fly by!

Unfortunately, despite the numbers growing, most of the children who come along do not yet come to church. The main reason for this seems to be confusion about our patterns of worship so I am hoping to make this clearer for them and to share more with them about what is happening in church.

As with Mini Meadows, we do really need to get more adult helpers from the church involved, to make that connection between Pebbles and the rest of the church family. Please prayerfully consider whether you could help.

Please do pray that we can encourage families to connect with church.

Kids Church

The numbers of children attending church and Kids' Church has dropped in 2023-2024. We have a small core of families who regularly attend but my heart is to see this ministry grow to God's glory. I believe God is drawing more families to him through St Michael's and we need to be ready for them. That includes having more church family involved in the important work of discipling the children.

The wonderful team of leaders has grown but it would be ideal to have more church family involved. Currently all the children from 4 years old to 11 years old are together for the whole session. It would be better for them to be able to split up for part of the session at least, to tailor the discussions to where they are on their journey with Jesus. Please prayerfully consider whether you might join this fantastic team.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

A usual Kids' Church session, whether at St Michael's or at Chase Meadow, includes an opportunity to share our news, a fun introduction to the topic, a Bible story, a craft, a prayer time and sometimes an action song or a game. We try to keep the sessions as interactive as possible and focus on the difference Christ makes in our lives away from church.

Kids' Church isn't just about a short time together on a Sunday but about enabling families to journey with Jesus together so there is usually some follow up information for parents to incorporate into family life in a simple way.

Where it is appropriate, we are following what is talked about in church so that families can share together what they are learning. Sometimes it is more appropriate to focus on the foundations of faith however. God's in charge of the topics!

It would be great to see more integration of our children within the church family, confident that they belong and are precious. God has much to say to us through them, whilst the whole church helps to disciple them.

Other

Hampton Magna Community have moved away from separating children out during services. Instead, the community aims to provide an all-age session with craft activities. I attend to support them in this – they have done a great job and it is a really enjoyable get-together. Attendance of children is low, but they are ready for when this changes!

By helping at the wonderful school holiday craft sessions at The Open Door, I have been able to meet and get to know more families in the area. I am looking forward to the fruit of this investment in 2025.

As a church we are working hard to develop links to the local community, through the school and uniformed organisations. Please do keep praying that we can reach more families and show them Jesus' love.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

Summary

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for growth, renewed energy, and the dedication of our leaders, helpers, and volunteers.

Celebrations

Leadership & Growth:

At St. Paul's, Jonathan and his team strengthened relationships, and Amy's arrival has brought fresh ideas, attracting new families. St. Michael's has also welcomed more families through services, kids' and youth groups, and events like Mini Meadows and HMMC craft mornings.

Youth Revival:

A highlight has been the passion of our youth, who are leading friends to Jesus through school Christian Unions and Youth Alpha. Our mentoring scheme has expanded, helping young people deepen their faith. Year 6 children transitioning from Make Lunch to a pop-up youth club at St. Paul's has been another milestone.

Community & Schools:

Events like the Summer Outdoor Party, Glow Party, and Year 6 celebrations have been well-attended. Clubs like Lego, Pebbles, and The Rock continue to grow. In schools, we've run assemblies and events at Westgate and Newburgh, while our new Fresh Expression, "Love Sunday" service at St. Paul's has fostered intergenerational connections.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

Challenges

Leadership changes have required team restructuring, and several groups need more leaders and helpers, especially when the PAIS team isn't available. Bridging events, social spaces, and worship services remains a challenge. Practical issues, like furniture rearrangement at St. Paul's, have also arisen.

Building deeper relationships with infrequent attendees and recruiting for the Thrive Bus remain priorities. The TLG Early Intervention program is on pause despite the continued need.

What We Believe God Is Saying

Isaiah 35: "Water will gush" has given us a sense of coming revival. This verse, particularly for St. Paul's, wonderfully echoes Deuteronomy 8:17, which speaks of "deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills" a passage important for St Michael's around the image of the "river of life."

Looking Ahead

Plans for the coming year include expanding school outreach with pop-up lunch clubs at Aylesford Primary and Westgate, along with assemblies at Budbrooke. We're also exploring well-being sessions.

For our groups, we aim to grow Pebbles and strengthen family connections in Hampton Magna. A discipleship pathway for Years 6-9 is in development, along with further cultivating a stronger culture of hospitality.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

Our church continues to be a place where children and youth are equipped to participate fully in worship and ministry. We remain committed to creating spaces where people can belong, grow, and deepen their faith.

In all, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and excited for what lies ahead as we continue to serve the next generation in our community.

More Detail

Things to celebrate and be thankful for:

- Passionate key Leaders and Helpers
- The set up at St Paul's and involvement in schools and communities under Jonathan's leadership and with a very committed and faithful team have laid a great foundation of trust and good relationships which are now developing very positively.
- Amy's arrival has brought fresh ideas and energy to the St Paul's and we have seen several new families coming to St Paul's Church
- We are also seeing new families at St Michael's church services and kids and Youth groups. New families at Mini Meadows, HMMC craft mornings, one or two bridging to Missional Communities.
- Evident revival amongst our Youth as they lead friends to Jesus in school CUs and in their Youth Alpha
- Working with a passionate Youth, children, PAIS teams as well as our partnerships
- Great discipleship happening through the Mentoring Scheme

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

- Seeing some year 6 cross over from Make Lunch to a pop-up Youth club at St Paul's
- Fantastic family or young people's or community events at St P's: Summer Outdoor party, Glow Party, Celebrate Your Move for Year 6s. Christmas fairs and school concerts. All these very well attended.
- Clubs: Lego, Pebbles, The Rock, all enjoying new and increased membership
- Openness in Schools: Increased access at Westgate, assemblies at Newburgh, new openings coming in Aylesford Primary and in Budbrooke.
- New Intergenerational service at St P's: Love Sunday

Challenges we have been working with:

- Re-formation of teams and goals because of several key changes in staffing, leadership has been a challenge.
- Several teams are asking for more leaders and helpers, there's a particular challenge where PAIS are not around to help
- Creating easy and natural bridges between events, social spaces and worship services.
- The physicality of furniture rearrangement with older helpers at St Paul's.
- Building relationships of significance with those we see infrequently
- Recruiting more team for the Thrive Bus
- **TLG Early Intervention.** We have been less successful in getting TLG going again and have had to suspend membership for now (though the need is great).

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

What is God saying to you about this area of ministry:

- A clear word: 'Water will gush' last May/June from Isaiah 35 concerning revival at St Paul's
- The importance of relationship building, discerning People of Peace and following up. Getting clearer bridge points between worship, social and discipling communities particularly for those on the fringes. Encouraging a hospitality culture (essential to relationship building) with those who are on our fringes
- John 10 – the Gate-keeper helps the sheep in giving access to Jesus' voice and learning to recognise it. How do we help people personally recognise Jesus' voice? Is training involved?
- How do we host so that Jesus is recognised in our community more clearly? Hired hand – how committed (or equipped) are we, or how can we get better, to bridge between community/events and coming to faith rather than offer transactional or consumer .
- The importance of being one flock.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

Specific Data:

Schools:

- Present in 2 Primary schools giving assemblies and receiving access to 4 after half-term.
- Present in Aylesford secondary for year 7 Alpha course (June 24)
- CUs begun/ sustained by our Youth in Myton, KES and North Leam. One session attracting around 35 at Myton pupils
- Thrive bus well attended – usually between 17-27 on average
- 320 attending School Christmas Carol concerts at St Paul's – many parents. 3 schools at St P's, and Budbrooke at St M.

Events/ Clubs/ Small groups:

- Pebbles - continues to attract 8-10 children regularly, 10 of whom are new this Autumn term.
- Lego Club - Average attendees 15-25. One week 35.
- Pop up Dance activity at Lego Club brought 7 families to see them perform in church
- The Rock – grown to 25 in the last 12 months
- Mentoring – 11 Youth and growing
- Youth Alpha run by Youth with 15 non-Christian guests
- Grub Club – at St Paul's 9 Youth attending and leading an event for families – 35 attendees at their Cream Tea - £90 raised for their chosen charities.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

- Glow party 300 in attendance
- Summer Fete at St P's around 100 from community in attendance
- Kids Team – new members, attending training/ social evenings
- Youth Team – well resources
- Thrive Bus - just about finds team each time, but not always enough to use the whole bus and all that it could be

-

Services:

- St Ms Kids Club – 7 or 8 children
- Youth SMYLE – no numbers. 12 in attendance in January at CMMC (no youth provision!)
- St P's Kids Club (5-11s) has gone from 1 regular attendee and 1 irregular attendee to as many as 10 one week and 6-7 on average
- Both Youth and Children involved in services alongside adults in worship, in hospitality, in leading prayer nights, in speaking and Bible readings.
- 2 Youth from Grub Club have served in St P's service on Sound system, 1 has led worship on one Sunday
- 1 Make Lunch Family attends St M's services
- No numbers, but both St M's and St P's and HMMC have seen new families appear.

WEST WARWICK PROJECT REPORT

Caroline Mara

Hopes / Aspirations for the year to come:

Schools:

- To deliver Pop-up lunchclubs in Aylesford Primary through PAIS. Also at Westgate (they're invited to help in the Gardening Club)
- To begin running assemblies at Budbrooke
- To deliver well-being sessions....
- To make full access to 'Experience Easter' – whether held in church, or offer a smaller Prayer Space at School (eg Newburgh garden area)

Groups:

- To grow Pebbles – especially to create greater links with Hampton Magna children and parents
- To develop discipleship pathway for years 6-9 ministry (we are currently exploring two possibilities)
- Grow hospitality culture family to family, or person to person to develop bridges of belonging to Jesus, to his people and to church services
- Grow our numbers of mentors and mentees

Communities:

- Continue to work on the three spaces needed to encourage belonging and sticky faith: social space, gathered worship space and small group/individual space

Church:

- To continue to equip and to give opportunity for children and youth to fully participate in the delivery of church services, assemblies and small groups

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

We are truly grateful to all our customers that use The Open Door. This space has become a wonderful setting for friendships to flourish as they engage in the many activities we now offer. Here's a glimpse of what's been happening throughout the year.

Our Dementia Café Memory Lane meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month, and it's always a delightful time filled with activities, tea, cake, and invaluable advice from our amazing support teams, including Tracey Bugg, our social prescriber from Budbrooke Medical Centre. We are thankful to our visiting guests who bring entertainment and to our dedicated volunteers —Debbie, Penny, Siobhan, and Gemma—who put together activities that everyone loves! This year, we concluded the season with a delightful Christmas Lunch in early December, and we are thankful for the generous funding provided by The Councillors Grant. It was an incredible way to celebrate together, sharing delicious food and wonderful company. We're also grateful for funding from The Pam Britton Trust, which helps make these sessions possible.

Our afternoon teas, held on the first Monday of each month, continue to be a favorite among attendees. We want to extend our thanks to musicians Diarmuid and Jim for their delightful performances each month, and to Penny Bedford for providing the delicious sandwiches and cakes. The successful organisation of this event relies heavily on the devoted efforts of our volunteers, Debbie Wilson, Siobhan Titley and Gemma Stanton.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

The coffee morning, taking place every Monday from 10 AM to 12 PM for parents, babies, and toddlers, has faced some challenges in its mission to foster connections among families. The Open Door has always aimed to be a welcoming space for young children to play, a tradition that began with Twirling Toddlers. On a positive note, families have been benefiting from monthly deliveries by Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop, which has been providing hampers for over a year now. These hampers are invaluable to families' facing difficulties with the rising cost of living, containing essential ingredients for preparing balanced meals. This initiative is funded by The Anglican Churches of Warwick and Budbrooke, as well as the King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, and is implemented in partnership with Your UK Farmer and Transforming Communities Together Warwick.

Additionally, support from organisations like Act On Energy, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), and Warwickshire Health Watch has been instrumental. We are excited to share that plans are underway to enhance these sessions with more frequent visits from these support groups.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

The Entrust Care Partnership team, along with their dedicated students, bring such wonderful energy to The Open Door every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Our loyal customers love their delicious baked goods, especially the cheese scones! We are truly thankful for our partnership with Entrust and for the amazing work they do. It means so much to us that they have chosen The Open Door as a place for training their students on the path to permanent employment.

Spin a Yarn is a community knit and natter group that meets regularly on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. They have significantly contributed to the local area by creating post box toppers, hosting crafting sales, and raising essential funds for various local charities. This year, the group has chosen to support Myton Hospice, along with providing knitted items for Baby Basics and Warwick Hospital. The group is known for its welcoming atmosphere, encouraging both social interaction and the sharing of knitting and crocheting skills. New members are warmly invited to join in, whether for conversation or to learn a new craft.

The Open Door maintains a collaborative relationship with Budbrooke Medical Centre, focusing on community needs and enhancing the services we provide. In January 2024, Dr. Holt initiated the first Lifestyle Clinic, which consists of four weekly sessions addressing health and well-being, fostering sustainable healthy habits, focusing on Food and Nutrition, and promoting physical activity. Due to its popularity, Dr. Holt facilitated an additional five courses throughout the year. This effort complements the existing menopause support group, led by Nurse Sally Bell.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks have maintained their popularity, with three walks scheduled every Wednesday. These walks begin and conclude at The Open Door, where participants gather for coffee. The group, supported by our dedicated walk leaders, strengthens community connections and serves as a pathway to additional activities. During the walks, photographs of the beautiful countryside are captured and later showcased on the screen at The Open Door during our community Church sessions.

In March, we launched Budbrooke Community Singers, wonderfully led by the talented Sally Greenmont! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, and we welcome anyone aged 10 and up who has a passion for singing—no experience required! This exciting new group has added yet another fun activity to our ever-growing list at The Open Door, and we can't thank Sally enough for leading these joyful sessions. The highlight of the year so far was when the choir was invited to participate in the beautiful Carols by Candlelight service in December. It truly was a magical evening!

The Fun Toast Friday events organised by the PTA ended as we approached the summer holidays. These enjoyable sessions, primarily hosted by the dedicated parents of Year 6 students, played a vital role in raising funds for the PTA. We remain hopeful that, with some new volunteers stepping forward, we might see these wonderful gatherings return in the future.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

'Fun Fit Friday,' a chair-based exercise class led by Nicola Burroughs, has truly flourished. With thanks to the funding from 'Think Active,' this class consistently attracts 15-20 attendees, bringing vibrancy and joy to what was once a quiet morning. We are so grateful for this wonderful addition to our community!



The Hampton Magna Lego Club meets on the second Saturday of each month, and we are truly grateful to Ed Guise for hosting these engaging sessions. Each month brings a new theme, resulting in some truly fabulous builds that inspire creativity and fun. We're also thankful for the opportunity to have an adult Lego Club that occasionally runs alongside the 'Spin a Yarn' crafting group on Tuesday evenings!



'The Men's Breakfast, held on the last Saturday of each month, has been well attended and is achieving everything we hoped for this group. Eddie treats us to a fabulous feast, and now the ladies are eager to know when they can enjoy a regular breakfast too! We are still on the lookout for volunteers to help run the 'Men Walking & Talking' group which will complement the men's group developing further. It would be wonderful to have two or three people to share this role.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Our family craft events have truly been a joy to host, and we are incredibly thankful for the support that makes them possible. Thanks to the generous funding from the WCC Cost of Living Fund and Tesco's Activity For All, we've been able to offer these delightful activities each Tuesday throughout the school holidays in 2024. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to gather, share in creative arts and crafts, and enjoy a healthy snack—all without the burden of costs. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Alex Davis, Debbie Wilson, Penny Bedford, Adam Thomas, Linda Rogers, Kate Booth, and the HMMC team for all their assistance in making these events happen.

In May, we launched 'Coffee and Catch Up' run by the HMCC team and held at The Open Door. This gathering is all about building connections and warmly inviting friends and neighbours to join us for coffee, pastries, and a fun craft activity. Taking place on the first Saturday of each month, we have seen a steady increase in attendance, and we sincerely hope this trend continues.

In June, we were thrilled to host our very first Repair Cafe and Jumble Trail. With 45 stalls spread throughout the village the event brought a delightful sense of connection amongst our community, even the weather was on our side. It was a bustling day for all our dedicated repairers at The Open Door. We are incredibly thankful to our stallholders for raising £400 for the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Our repairers are eager to continue this initiative, and we would love to make the Repair Cafe a monthly event. We just need a few more volunteers to join us and help on the day. Your support means the world to us!

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

In September we held a slow cooker course, generously funded by Cadent and supported by WRCC. Our incredible tutor, Ann Marie, guided participants through creating a delightful starter, main dish, and dessert, all using the slow cooker. At the end of the course participants were able to take a slow cooker and ingredients home with them. The course received wonderful attendance, and we're excited about the possibility of offering a similar experience in 2025. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to its success!

The Macmillan fundraising event held in October successfully raised £550. Due to its growing popularity, we will be relocating the event to Budbrooke Community Centre in 2025, as The Open Door cannot accommodate the growing numbers year on year. What a wonderful position to be in.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

On December 7th, we celebrated an incredible milestone—25 years of The Open Door! The day kicked off with delightful coffee and pastries, followed by a fun-filled afternoon of Christmas Crafts. In the evening, we enjoyed drinks and tasty nibbles while reminiscing and sharing heartfelt stories and photos from the past quarter-century. A special thank you to Councillor Jan Matecki for the generous funding from the Councillor's grant, which made this wonderful celebration possible. Here's to many more years of making a difference together!

The window at The Open Door has been beautifully decorated by the Brownies and Rainbows for various occasions throughout the year, including Easter, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas. Additionally, during other times, the window showcases artistic paintings created during children's craft events.

Looking ahead to 2025, we would love to encourage more guest speakers to join us. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming local author Neville Armstrong, whose historic talk about Guy of Warwick captivated us. The response was good, and we can't wait to arrange even more events like this!

We would love to recruit more volunteers to work alongside us in our activities. Our groups work best when we have a good support team. It's good fun too, so please get in touch if you would like to join us!

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

We are truly grateful for the invaluable support we've received. A special thanks to Fiona Spiers from WCAVA for her insightful guidance on funding opportunities. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Graham Leeming for his collaborative efforts on our funding applications. Our thanks also go to Jacqueline Holcroft, Wendy Leach, Mary Lee from WRCC, Stacey Bains from Transforming Communities Together Warwick, as well as Lindsey Kemp and Joanna Dagg from Warwick District Council, and the entire Warwick Community Network Team. We are also indebted to Budbrooke Parish Council for their generous funding support this year.

We couldn't have achieved our milestones without each and every one of you. A huge thank you to Alex Davis, Eddie Fowler, Ellie Coysh, and David Brown - The Open Door Working Group, whose hard work has brought this project to fruition. We are excited to keep building on our existing activities and expand the support we provide through The Open Door, which truly is the heart of our community!

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

Make Lunch



The greatest blessing is working with our loyal team from St Michael's comprising Suzanne Hotten, Sue Nicholson, Sue & Ray Filby, Rae Poole (who all help cover Wednesday mornings), and Margaret Gayler and Sam, Raine Hiscox, Maureen Chapman (MU), Susanne Wood, Jess & Ant Bishop, the PAIS girls Ellie and Karina, Kate Booth and Caroline Mara, who are all invaluable in our holiday sessions when available. We are also grateful to Mark Durrant who collects from Foodbank, and to Renay & Jason Swartz who mind our food bags for later collection.

It is such a privilege to stand alongside families in their practical difficulties and, increasingly, to support their emotional and spiritual wellbeing, using 5 Coffees with Jesus and prayer.

Things we have been thankful for include:

- Some families have left us because they have moved or are now on a better financial footing, but we have gained others who need support, so our numbers remain about the same.
- Collaboration with CMCC has been good: 13 of our families benefitted from the Toy Fair, choosing toys donated by Chase Meadow residents. We took a stall making table decorations at the Christmas Extravaganza at CMCC; and along with Transforming Communities Together and Make Lunch at St Paul's, we jointly successfully hosted a Riding Lights performance of Cups on a String in October, which was well attended.
- Our best-attended session was our Christmas event at New Year 2025, a joint effort with CMCC who provided the bouncy castle. Our Easter sessions also proved popular, and the visit of an entertainer in summer was a hit, especially with the hula hoops.
- Hope Jewellery again provided delightful bracelets for our Mums at Easter.
- Welcome news was received that Govt has extended HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) funding, via WCC, for a further year until Easter 2026.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

Make Lunch

- Foodbank supplies for each school holiday augment our weekly collection of surplus food and customer donations from Lidl, and we are regularly invited to apply for funds from Neighbourly.com with some success.

Our big challenge is to discern how God wants our Make Lunch, and that at St Paul's, to thrive when Audrey and I step down as coordinators.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

As reported last year, many of the older people that the 'Midweek' Group traditionally has served in the past, now find their sense of community in other ways e.g. a worshipping community at the weekly 9am Communion Service in church (see separate report); a fortnightly bible study /prayer group led by Ruth Grinbergs which meets at The Open Door on Thursdays.

Caroline Edwards, who is a member of the 'Midweek' group, has been able to identify and set up many activities in her role as Community Outreach which reach out to older people e.g. like the monthly Afternoon Tea with Music and Memory Lane event on Monday afternoons at The Open Door, and so many find company and support in this way.

In many ways, therefore, the reason for this group has been superseded and our title is bit misleading but we can't think of another one!

So the Midweek Group continues to concentrate its energies on organising the monthly Lunch Club (see below) which meets at the Church Centre and seasonal Songs of Praise events with music provided by Keith Arnold. Over the past year, we have held an Easter Praise afternoon with hymns and readings with tea and cake in the Church Centre and a Hymns and Pimms afternoon in July with themed songs and music and appropriate refreshments! Both events were well attended and enjoyed



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

A The annual Carols and Cake Christmas celebration took place at Hampton-on-the-Hill Village Hall on December 19th with traditional carols poems and readings, poems, prayers and of course cake! This event is always very well attended not just by church members but by people from the village of Hampton-on-the-Hill and further afield. For some who come this is their main Christmas event so it has proved over the years to be an important outreach occasion. We are especially grateful this year to Ann and Keith Arnold, who in spite of their serious health issues, still provided the music and the centrepiece Christmas Cake. Members of the 9am Community also helped with the planning and delivery of the event this year and it was good to share all this with them.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

Lunch Club

Lunch Club is held on the second Friday of the month and continues to reach out to those who are 'young at heart' and enjoy meeting and sharing food together. We average 34 diners each month with 44 for the Christmas meal in 2024. The charge remains the same, £5, for a two-course meal and tea or coffee afterwards. Included in that charge is £1 which goes to support Fred, a young student in Uganda through Compassion UK. With the rising costs of food, the surplus which we had previously seen is now minimal and we may soon need to look at a small increase. Our guests appreciate this, and have been generous in their donations, especially at the Christmas Lunch Club where the price remains the same.

Sue Scurrah joined our team in March, providing much needed support in the kitchen with the preparation of meals alongside Ann and Caroline. Penny Bedord is also a valued member of our team along with Jo Lang, Glynis Welton, Keith Arnold (providing a challenging quiz for us each month) and Linda and Terry Jones. We are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers; without them we wouldn't have managed to keep going.

Looking toward to 2025, Sue will be leaving us in February to look after her Grandson and Allison Wiggin will be joining the team. This has been an answer to our prayers, for which we are thankful.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

We would appreciate your thoughts and prayers please as we are in need of a new cooker for the kitchen at the Church Centre. Eddie has fitted some new seals which has helped, but it is less effective than it once was, and it takes twice the time to cook everything. This is proving challenging for both the Church Centre and for Lunch Club.

Despite these challenges our 'Lunch Clubbers' value this place, and time spent together, insisting they 'would come every day if they could'. Now that would be a challenge!

Midweek Group: Ann and Keith Arnold, Caroline Edwards and Mary Lodge

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

2024

David Brown

Here's some of the family events of 2024...

January

in January, we said goodbye to Mary Thomas

Martin Davis was licenced as one of our associate ministers

June

We remembered David Brett with a short service and a BBQ on Kings Meadow

Luke Thomas was ordained as deacon on 30th June and we celebrated this with a party in July

July

In July, we came together as a church family to tune into the New Wine Conference online. This was a valuable time spent together with worship, talks, crafts, games and food and camping for those who wanted to!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

2024

David Brown

July

Daniel Bennett, who had been with us for part of his curacy, was licenced in his own church in Rugby

And we welcomed the newest member of our church family with the arrival of Ellie & Tim Coysh's baby, Ivy Rose

August

We said goodbye to Denis Saunders, husband of Barbara, one of long standing church members

September

We welcomed Amy Vogel back who has now taken up the role of Church Revitalisation Plant Leader at St Paul;s Church

December

We celebrated 25 years of the Open Door with a full day of activities

WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

David Brown

Warwick Team

Whilst St Michael's isn't formally part of the Warwick Team, our various connections mean we have significant shared interests. As we have also taken on the oversight at St Paul's, a parish within the Warwick Team, this link will only grow further.

With a new Team Rector (Rev'd Angus Aagard) in place, David has been able to step back from some of his wider responsibilities, including his role as a Henry Trustee. In this respect 2024 has been a year of transition, and with retirements and vacancies the Team has somewhat trod water as Angus has started to take up the reins.

Going forward, we are joining in a process of consultation and reflection on the right shape for the Team going forwards. We hope that what emerges gives clarity about shared priorities, releasing resources into the things the Lord is leading us to work on together. At the heart of this conversation is the question: what can we do better together? What is best done in our local parishes?

The priorities that emerge will become focus areas for investing the funds of the "Project Pool." In 2024 these exceeded £0.5M, with funding given to projects in Schools Outreach and Support; Youth Ministry (via Thrive); the Elderly; supporting those in financial hardship and Outreach to Priority Communities.

For Budbrooke, the "Project Pool" has funded the West Warwick Youth Project, a shared outreach project with St Paul's Warwick, with a vision to help the church grow younger through connection with schools, young people and families. In practical terms, the project lead, Caroline Mara and our PAIS team are funded by this grant.

WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

Churches Together in Warwick

The three Forum meetings have been well attended, and at the AGM in October, Rev'd Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist Church was re-elected Moderator; Mark Leonard (Castle Hill) continues as Secretary, supported by Liz Reid (Methodist) as Minutes Secretary, and Helen Granger (St Mary Immaculate) as Treasurer. Rae Poole and Val Brant continue to represent St Michael's, with Emma Pace continuing to manage the Facebook page. Helen Granger maintains the CTW website www.ctwarwick.org.uk but is looking to pass the task on.

Highlights of the year have included:

- "Walking Vespers", a new venture, took place in a chilly St Nicholas Park in early September, with continued focus on environmental issues.
- "Thy Kingdom Come" prayers were hosted on Zoom and led by Rev'd Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist, and such was the joy to share and pray together that Sally also led Seven Nights in Advent by Zoom. A similar week (25-28 Feb) is planned for Lent, based on Creation.
- Christmas gifts were collected for the 130 migrants living at the Delta Marriott hotel; some residents worship at St Paul's and others at St Mary Collegiate.
- The Big Local Night Out (BLNO) in February and May at Bridge House Theatre, with headline acts supported by local school choirs – a great opportunity for inviting community friends and fringe members to a joy-filled evening. Attendance was good on both dates, but October's was cancelled due to low bookings.
- Monthly Prayer Breakfasts continue to thrive for a half-hour of worship followed by continental-style breakfast and useful conversation. St Michael's hosted at the Church Centre in March and at Chase Meadow in December. In 2025 we will host on 5th July in Church Centre, at 8am. Everyone is welcome to attend all events.

WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

Churches Together in Warwick

- Good Friday Walks of Witness in Warwick were again organised by Claire Harris, and a good number gathered again between storms for the clergy-led service in Market Place. 2025 will be Claire's last year for organising the Walks; she is being 'shadowed' by Pastor Linz Alexander in liaising with WDC and others.
- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2025 – The well-attended United Service was hosted by St Michael's at Chase Meadow Community Centre, where we were joined by some members of the PAIS conference attendees to hear their CEO give the talk. During the week, people from a various churches gathered at the town Gates to pray for those within, and also the communities beyond.
- Messy Church continued at Woodloes School, and is much appreciated by those who attend.

During the year, Rev'd Angus Aagaard was installed as Rector at St Mary Collegiate, while Rev'ds Diane Thompson and Jonathan Hearn retired from All Saints Emscote and St Paul's respectively. Rev'd David Brown has been licensed as priest-in-charge of St Paul's, with whom we work closely, to support Amy Vogel.

It is encouraging that St Michael's is now more actively raising awareness of small steps towards environment/climate well-being, as both Castle Hill and Warwick Methodists are part of the Eco-Church movement, encouraging anyone interested from other churches to contact them to share experiences and learn together. Making small changes can have a big effect.

MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

St Michael's PCC aims to give 10% of our income to Christian mission and wider needs and causes. We do this through three streams:

- 1. Regular beneficiaries (listed below).**
- 2. A discretionary fund through which we can make one off gifts to wider Christian networks, and through which we seek to empower church members to identify needs we can support in the community.**
- 3. Offering the Church Centre on a donations only basis at particular times to other churches, wider Christian charities, community groups and church members.**

In 2024 our Discretionary Grants and donations totalled £4,488.

MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

Alongside this, we have continued to support regular beneficiaries and partners, as follows:

Name	Amount
Tear Fund	£600
Compassion	£402
The Well	£600
Thrive	£1,200
Kairos Connexion	£1,200
Carriers of Hope	£600
Transforming Lives for Good	£600
Warwick & Leamington Food Bank	£600
Total	£5,802

MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

In cash terms, the total we disbursed was £10,290, or 6.8% of our income, whilst Christian churches / groups were able to use the Church Centre on a donations only basis, subsidised to the value of £2,751.

In addition, we support Anglican parishes within our Diocese through the mechanism of the support fund which is a voluntary element of our overall Parish Share. In 2024 our contribution to the support fund was £20,148 or 13.3% of eligible income.

In total then, we gave 20.2% of our income to needs beyond ourselves plus the discounted or free Church Centre usage

The PCC continue to invite church members to make suggestions or recommendations of potential beneficiaries both on an ongoing basis and for one-off support.

PCC REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

David Brown

After feeling stuck for many years, a big achievement for the PCC was finding a way forward for the re-ordering scheme in 2024. The PCC has been awarded a £150,000 grant from the Project Pool and has begun work to ensure plans remain suitable for our needs (we expect some minor revisions) and to appoint the relevant professionals to help to deliver the scheme.

Early-mid way through the year, it became apparent that our financial backdrop was less healthy than we had thought. The PCC had to make series of adjustments and prepare contingencies to navigate the gradual building up of unrestricted reserves to the level our policies stipulate. These plans were successful, and as the year progressed, we were glad to see our position return to where we'd expect them to be.

The PCC was also a guinea pig for using some of the data and reporting generated by David's Diocesan work. Whilst the overall picture was good, there was a facing up to some uncomfortable trends, particularly in the post-Covid decline of attendance of children, which we have tried to address. We were grateful to have good information to help decisions from.

PCC REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

David Brown

Another milestone was the Strategy Day in September, leading to setting our priorities for the coming five years. These are confirmed as follows:

- 1: Establish the Network Framework:
- 2: Establish the Discipleship Pathway as a core concept
- 3: Prioritise strengthening of Mission & Welcome elements of pathway.
- 4: Model the Seven Discipleship Practices corporately.
- 5: Establish the Seven Discipleship Practices in people's lives.
- 6: Finalise and implement Communications Strategy
- 7: Confirm, resource and continue appropriate training rhythms
- 8: Develop a clearer strategy and rhythm for Stewardship.
- 9: Deliver the Re-ordering project at St Michael's.

The PCC has kept in touch with the General Synod conversations on Prayers of Love and Faith, and whilst we have no plans to use the Prayers of Love and Faith, we will begin to communicate more on this as the outcome of Synod conversations becomes clear.

In terms of wider governance, the PCC has overseen matters relating to HR and Safeguarding, the latter of which is reported on separately.

As we head into 2025, we are hopeful that the Action Plan will help us focus on leading the church into the areas that are the Lord's priorities for us and will strengthen and grow the church into the medium and long term.

PCC REPORTS

SAFEGUARDING

Margret Gayler

“*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*
Proverbs 31:8-9

Thank you to all the volunteers and ministry leaders who ensure we follow good practice as an expression of our Christian service. As a church we remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - making sure everyone is valued and looked after and creating a culture where unsafe behaviour cannot take root.

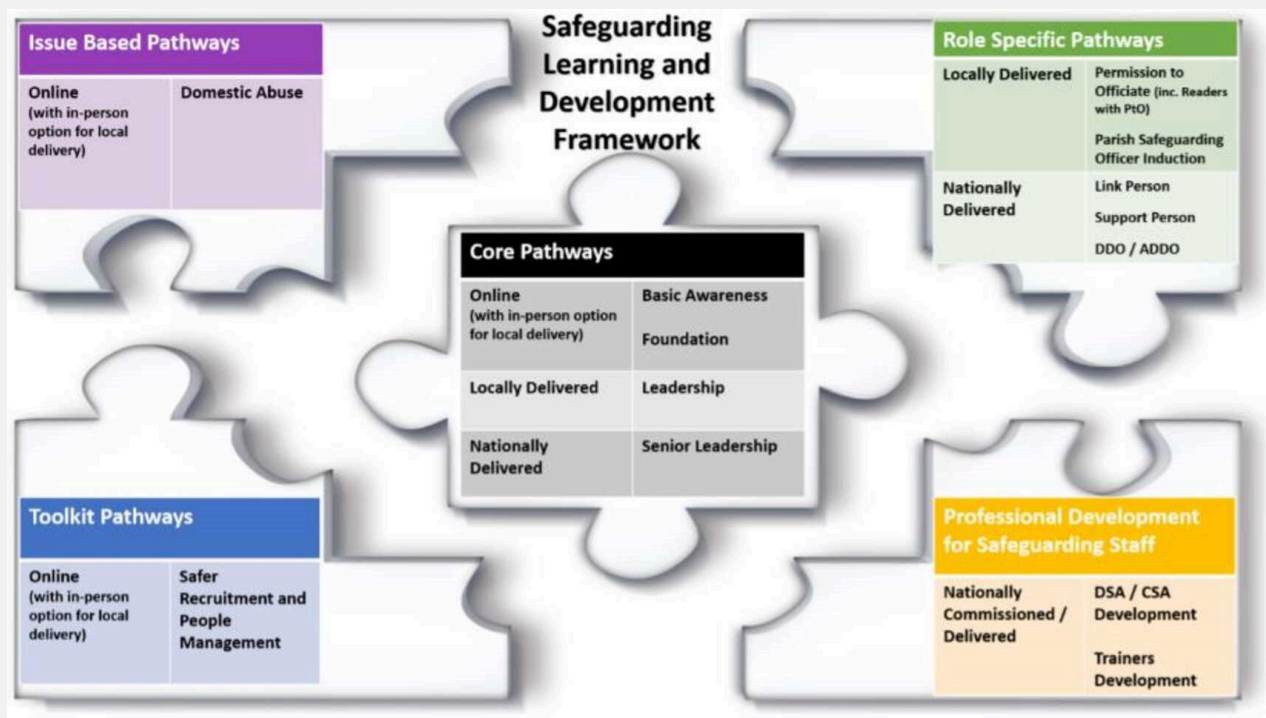
We continue to have due regard for the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. All those working with children and vulnerable adults are safely recruited. Safeguarding is a standing item at PCC meetings.

Most activities now have risk assessments in place. The Diocese has introduced an online Safeguarding Hub as part of the Parish Dashboard which keeps a record of all DBS checks, role descriptions and training and this is making keeping track of renewals much easier. As a church, we will be able to move on to the Diocese's 'Level 3' where we review and consider the culture around safeguarding in the church rather than just compliance with policies and checks.

PCC REPORTS SAFEGUARDING

Margret Gaylor

The C of E continues to update its requirements for training. Most people who now need Domestic Abuse training have completed that. This is the training offered:



Next steps

Ensure all activities requiring risk assessments have them.

PCC will review our 'safeguarding culture' – how healthy it is and where we can develop.

PCC REPORTS

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

Clare Watson & Ruth Grinbergs

Following the roof repair in 2023 no major work has been carried out this year. There have, however, been periodic problems with the heating system, which was diagnosed as terminal more than 20 years ago - we appreciate the efforts of those who have kept it going, but it is clear that this will need to be addressed in the not too distant future.

We held what is becoming our annual working party towards the end of November and we are grateful to all those who turned out on a wet and windy day to chase spiders around the church and leaves around the car park. We would also like to express our appreciation to those who continue to tend the churchyard through the year.

Although no major work was carried out, we are in the process of revisiting our plans for the refurbishment of the church, including the replacement of the heating. We were, therefore, very pleased and excited to learn that the King Henry VIII Pool Fund has pledged £150,000 to kick start our funding for this project and you can expect to hear more about this over the coming months.

We were also delighted to receive the gift of a piece of land adjacent to the churchyard for the purpose of extending the space available. We will be developing plans for incorporating the new land into the churchyard and hope that this will also enable us to develop our role as an eco church, towards which we have been working for some time. (We actually became registered as a bronze eco church early in 2025.)

Although the quinquennial survey was due this year, it has been delayed following a change of architects, but is now scheduled to take place in February 2025.

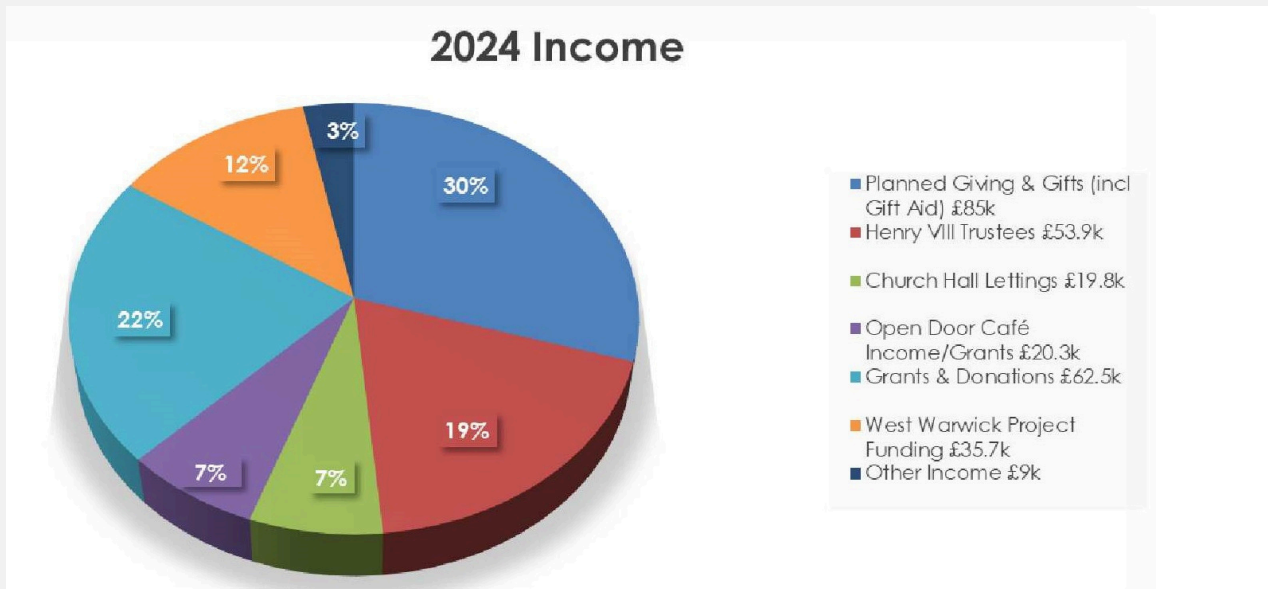
FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

Overall, regular giving by standing order, including Gift Aid, has increased by 11% from the 2023 level. We are especially grateful that such income from church family standing orders has remained steady and we recognise and value the sacrificial nature of such choices. The support received from the Trustees of King Henry VIII Trust is once again acknowledged in allowing our Church to continue with local community activities.

Income from Church Hall Lettings has increased compared to the 2023 level as clients & groups continue to return to regular meetings in the Church Centre.

The Open Door Café has remained a well-loved community meeting place, though income has fallen compared to 2023. We continue to be grateful for the support of Entrust Care Partnership in choosing to carry on using the Café facilities.



FINANCIAL REVIEW 202

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

The main sources of income in respect of percentage of total were Planned Giving (30%), income from King Henry VIII Trustees (19%), Income from Church Hall lettings (7%), Other Grants & Donations (22%) and West Warwick Project Funding (12%). Unrestricted income was £188,956 (£136,294 in 2023)

Regular Giving and Gifts

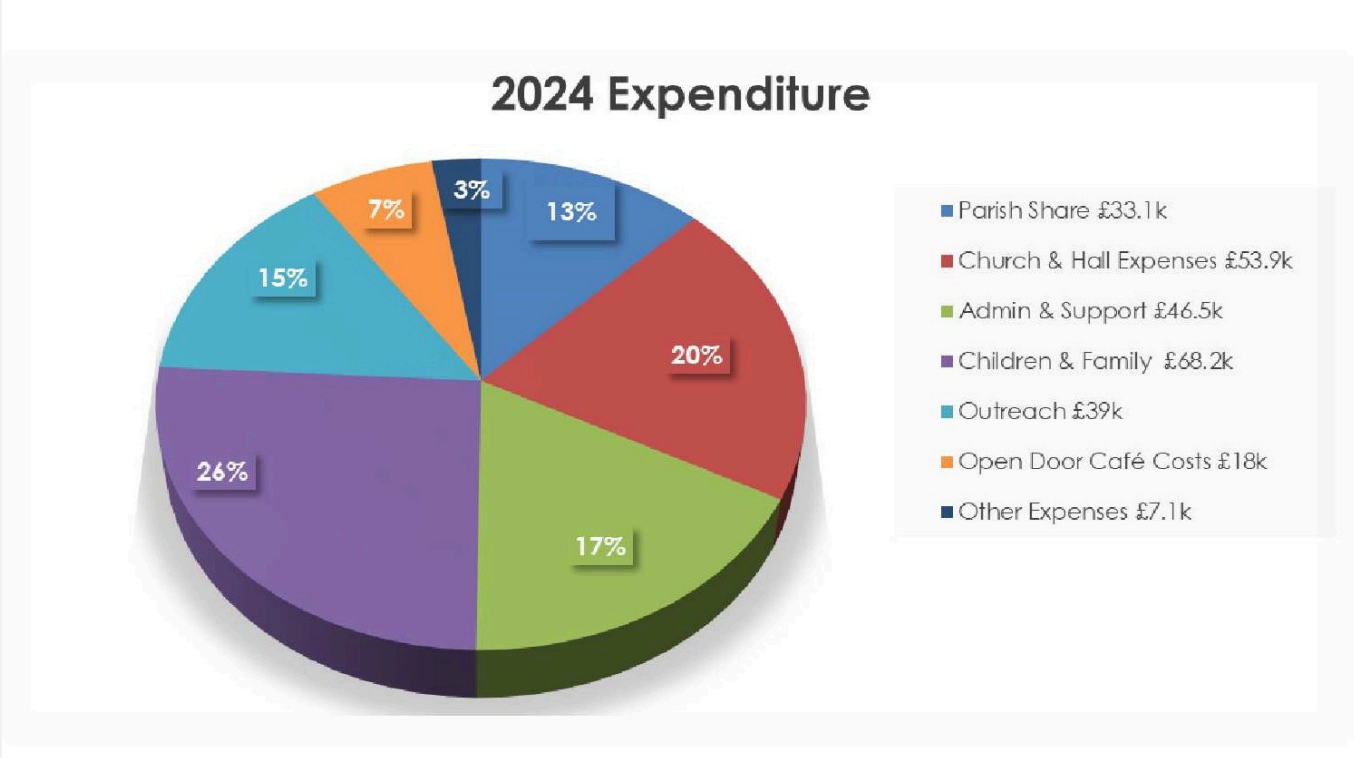
The majority of our Church family give regularly through monthly standing order and respond to specific appeals. The Gift Aid Scheme then enables us to add to this regular giving as well as being able to reclaim tax on smaller giving through the plate. Giving from our personal financial income is a fundamental principle of our Christian faith and commitment. This giving is unrestricted in its use which will be explained later within Expenditure with examples.

Henry VIII income

We are very fortunate and appreciative of the continued income from the Trust and St Michael's Church benefitted from an allocation of £53,934 (2023: £51,894) to be used for our mission in the Parish.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis



The Church and Church Centre have significant expenditures ranging from Administration, Youth and Families Workers, Parish Share, Mission Outreach, to running costs such as utilities and insurance. The total unrestricted expenditure amounted to £172,050 (2023: £138,956). Detailed information can be found in the Annual Accounts for 2024 which are also supplied to the Charity Commission.

Parish Share

We are required to pay the Parish Share from our resources which is used to support less well-off churches in the area in providing clergy, worship and mission in deprived areas such as Coventry. The Share also provides support services available to all churches such as training, legal advice, safeguarding and guidance. Expenditure in 2024 on Parish Share was £33,090 (2023: £33,365)

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

Mission Outreach

As a church we are focused on discipleship and mission in our local communities supporting both young and older people. Expenditure in 2024 on Outreach costs amounted to £39,028 (2023: £24,052).

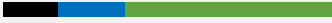
Youth Children's and Family Work

This work has remained steady in reaching children, young people and families, with spending increasing in 2024 at £68,209 (2023: £59,845).

We are extremely grateful for the regular giving from the church family and the support received from the Trustees of King Henry VIII Trust. These things, inspired by the goodness of God, has ensured that we are continuing to operate at a similar level to last year.

We give thanks for the areas of growth, especially with the work of The Open Door and the missional outreach.

Most of all with give thanks to God for his continued provision, Amen!



This Annual report was approved by St Michael's Parochial Church Council on *????????? 2024* and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd David Brown - Vicar



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