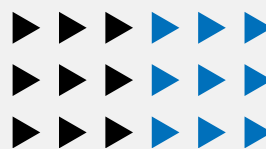




*St Paul's Church*

Part of West Warwick Network  
Friars Street, Warwick, CV34 6HA  
Tel: 01926 499533



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



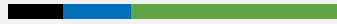
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

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# INTRODUCTION

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

The correspondence address is: St Paul's Church, Friars St, Warwick CV34 6HA

Email: [stpauls.warwick@outlook.com](mailto:stpauls.warwick@outlook.com)

Website: [www.stpaulswarwick.co.uk/](http://www.stpaulswarwick.co.uk/)

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's Warwick is a registered charity, registration number 1127224. Members of the PCC are also trustees of the charity. As a registered charity we are required to file an annual report and accounts with the Charity Commission as well as with the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance under the Church Representation Rules.

From 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the following persons served as members of the PCC:

Team Vicar: Reverend Jonathan Hearn (until 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024)

Associate Minister: Rev David Brown (from 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024)

Wardens: (appointed annually)

Mrs Hazel Phillips (& PCC Secretary)

Mrs Sheila Pink (& Treasurer)

Elected Members:

Mrs Audrey Akers (2024 elected for 3 yrs)

Mr Richard Akers (2022 re-elected for 3 yrs)

Mrs Pat Kibbler (2023 re-elected for 3 yrs)

Mrs Suzanne Wilkinson (2023 elected for 3 yrs)

Miss Stephanie Burdett (2022 elected for 3 yrs)

The electoral roll has been renewed this year:

There are 25 members on the new roll, of which 11 are resident in the parish and 14 are non-resident.

# INTRODUCTION



Bank:  
Lloyds TSB  
12 Swan Street  
Warwick CV34 4BJ

Independent Examiner:  
Edwards, Pearson & White.  
8 Jury Street  
Warwick  
CV34 4EW

# ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT



David Brown  
Associate Minister

2024 has seen a number of important changes both for St Paul's and myself. As September arrived, we were able to celebrate Jonathan Hearn's many years of faithful ministry and honour him with a special final service and lunch.

In what is highly unusual for the Church of England, eighteen months of hard-work in the background enabled us to seamlessly welcome Amy Vogel as the Revitalisation Plant Leader. Whilst I have overall oversight of the church, Amy is responsible for the day to day running of the parish.

It has been a joy, even in those latter months of 2024 to see signs of life and growth again at St Paul's which can give us every hope for the future.

Personally, 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 for St Michael's and St Paul's, the good news is that with so many gifted and committed leaders amongst us, this hasn't impacted the ministry significantly. Indeed, for St Paul's, we have seen members of this wider team lead, preach and contribute in other ways to the life and ministry of the parish.

# ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT

Overall, rather than hold us back, both churches have shown signs of growth.

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. This simplicity was well timed given all this is still quite new for St Paul's - and can be summed up in two sentences:

- 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.

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: St Paul's

Warwick Network Church: Budbrooke

Warwick Network Church: Chase Meadow

There is much strength to be found in the sharing of resources across our different communities and congregations. Even if we express things a little differently from location to location, by holding a common language, adopting shared values, and teaching simple faith practices we are laying crucial foundations for the future.

# ASSOCIATE MINISTER'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 Paul's, St Michael's, and on Chase Meadow. Rosie and I are grateful for all you do and bring as members of the body of Christ here.

# MESSAGE FROM THE REVITALISATION PLANT LEADER

Amy Vogel

Firstly, my family and I would like to thank everybody at St. Paul's Church for the warm welcome we have received, as I started my role as Church Plant Revitalisation Leader back in September 2024. The support of the leaders and congregation has been greatly felt. The sense of church family and community at St. Paul's is very evident and makes it a truly welcoming place to worship. It is this sense of family and care that makes it a place newcomers feel at ease and easily find their church home here. Over the past eight months we have seen new individuals and families make St. Paul's their home of worship.

We have now established a monthly pattern of worship for Sunday mornings at 10am: the first Sunday being Morning Worship, second - 'Love Sunday' our new fresh expression, third - Morning Worship & Holy Communion, fourth - 'Love Sunday', and fifth (when it occurs)- Morning celebration/gathering with the wider network. This pattern in the last few months has become embedded as St. Paul's rhythm. It is wonderful that the existing congregation has fully engaged in this new pattern and we've enjoyed welcoming new people to all the services. The new welcome and hospitality area that was put in early in the new year has been a real asset to welcoming people well. Serving a simple breakfast and refreshments at the start from this area on 'Love Sunday' weeks has meant fellowship and welcome can be seen as a priority in St. Paul's worship. The hospitality and welcome area has also aided our worship in reaching out during the week; welcoming in people on a Monday (when the church is open), at Youth Café, and more recently the Council partnership youth group & Little Stars coffee morning and toddler & baby group.

# MESSAGE FROM THE REVITALISATION PLANT LEADER

Amy Vogel

Currently, we are only able to offer communion once a month, but the hope is that in the near future this will increase to at least twice a month, as more of the network staff team will be able to preside.

There is a lot to celebrate and give thanks for. Every Sunday we welcome 30-40 people to worship with us. We often have up to 12 under sixteens. The children and teenagers are beginning to serve in church, supporting with tech, leading prayers and being part of the music team. A big thank you to Pat who has adapted so well to the increased number of children at Sunday club, and for her long faithfulness to this ministry.

Likewise, the number of adults has increased and we are seeing more people involved at the front and taking on new roles. We have enjoyed live music more often in St. Paul's. Being in partnership with St. Michael's means we have seen musicians, preachers and leaders from across the network. This has really helped us get to know each other and feel more connected as a network. It also means there is becoming more of an ease about people moving across the network to worship at different locations. It is wonderful to have so many servant-hearted people. But, like all churches, as we grow we pray for more people to get involved.

# CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

## Buildings and Grounds

### Buildings

#### Boiler

- The boiler had its annual service in November.
- A Hive system is to be installed, enabling the heating to be remotely controlled via an app.

### Cleaning

- Theresa Young, our cleaner for 9 years, decided to retire at the end of January 2025. We were very pleased that Eddie Fowler, caretaker at St Michael's, has been able to take over Theresa's cleaning duties, coming in twice a week to clean the church and the hall.

### Drains

- Investigation into the noxious problem in the lobby area is ongoing.

### Kitchen

- The fire shutter was repaired by Syston Doors at a cost of £1,098.00.

### Large Screen Monitor System

- Following diocesan approval, the new screen system was installed in the summer of 2024 at a cost of £10,074. The system has greatly enhanced our worship experience.

# CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

## Lighting Installation

·The new LED lighting system was installed in the church and hall in October, at a cost of £51,277. This has significantly improved the lighting levels in the building; it is also eco friendly, as LED technology has the potential to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. LEDs are also energy efficient, have a longer life span, give instant light and have a lower heat output than traditional lamps.

## PAT Testing

·The testing of all electrical equipment, by a local company, took place in March.

## Plumbing

·Leaking pipework under the sink in the ladies toilet was repaired and the damaged waste pipe under the sink in the kitchen was replaced.

## Quinquennial Inspection

·The 5-yearly inspection, which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, raised several issues that we were already aware of, such as the repair or replacement of the front doors and decoration of the church. Although no major works are needed, items that need attention in the next 12 months include repointing of stonework, plant growth removal at both high and low levels and improved access to the trap door in the hall ceiling. Work needed on the windows can be left as a project for 5 years time. Eg. remove Perspex and replace with powder coated iron mesh, replace mortar, repointing and cleaning the glass.

# CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

## Churchyard

·The general maintenance of the churchyard continues to be the responsibility of Warwick Town Council whose contractors mow the grass and keep the boundary walls clear of vegetation. Thanks must go to Paul Darlington, who tidies the borders, and to Edward Kibbler who tackles weeding, pruning and many other jobs that need doing.

The town council also looks after the trees, many of which are named on a tree preservation order. The three new trees, a Scots Pine, a Hornbeam and an Austrian Pine that were planted in 2023, are thriving.



## Rose Garden

·Edward has continued to work hard in the Rose Garden, planting and tending new bare root rose bushes. Spring bulbs and lavender have also been planted which add to the colour in the flower beds.

## Remembrance Garden

·Pat & Edward Kibbler have arranged for two stone plaques to be inscribed in memory of Sue Brown and Sue Parnell, past members of the congregation, whose ashes are interred in the Remembrance Garden.



## Refuse and Recycling

·Thank you to Edward Kibbler who puts out the refuse and recycling each week and to Richard Akers who also helps with this when needed.

·The green bin permit has been renewed for another year.

# FINANCE REPORT



Sheila Pink

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Finance Team didn't meet as often during 2024 as usual.

**Charitable Giving** for 2024 is a 1/10 of our giving received in 2023 which comes from general funds and Henry money. As usual the congregation were asked for their nominations, and we were not disappointed. Every year there are some different charities that we may not have heard of and some that are very familiar. To help us decide which charities could benefit, the finance team met and Amy joined us to help with our deliberations. The following charities were nominated and approved by the PCC at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

Mission Aviation Fellowship	£200	Christians Against Poverty	£440
The Leprosy Mission	£200	International Justice Mission	£300
Way Ahead Support Services	£400	Open Doors	£100
Water Aid	£300	Alzheimer's Society	£300
Embrace the Middle East	£200	UCB	£100
Mikey's Wish Foundation	£300	Share	£300
<b>TOTAL out of General Funds</b>		<b>£3,140</b>	
Newburgh School	£1,500	Westgate School	£1,500
Aylesford School	£1,500	Myton Hospice	£690
<b>TOTAL FROM HENRY FUNDS</b>		<b>£5,190</b>	

# FINANCE REPORT



Sheila Pink

The "thank you" letters received from the above charities are heart-warming, and they always say how grateful they are to receive donations from us to help with their work.

During the year we have purchased two new screens, which has enhanced our worship. The lighting project was completed. There were the usual maintenance and admin costs.

The annual accounts will show you the way that the money has been spent during 2024 and I encourage you to look at them.

A thank you to all who regularly give to the church, either by standing order or by envelopes. We will hopefully be holding a Stewardship Campaign during 2025 to encourage people to look at their giving.

Finally I would like to thank Alan Rylett (treasurer at All Saints) for the support, expertise, and patience he gives to me and St Paul's in finalising the accounts.

# MAKE LUNCH & BOXES OF HOPE FOOD PARCELS REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers  
and the team

A year of change and of opportunity. We are continually looking at making sure Make Lunch St Paul's remains sustainable and so early in 2024 we saw a need for new members of the core team, ideally younger than most of our current team. We invited both Sam Sims and Marie Cyphus to consider joining us and both said yes without hesitation (how blessed are we). Both Sam and Marie have been with us as participants since our early days with their older children and now come with their younger ones. They undertook the required TLG training, Sam also completed Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety certificate.

Jonathan retired in September 2024, our grateful thanks to him being open to the initiative when I approached him 8 years ago and for his continual support over these years. Amy came with a freshness and enthusiasm, she even came to our Family Fun Day in August before she took up her post (once again how blessed are we). Then at the end of December Sheila felt it right to step down after 3 years from Activity Lead so Marie had to step up and she has done so amazingly.

In 2024 we held 11 Make Lunch Clubs on Fridays during the school holidays. These were attended by 54 different children and 38 different parents / carers. We provided 198 children's meals, 113 parent / carer meals, making a total of 311 meals. We are supported by a great team of volunteers.

Once again we had a wide range of activities with a different topic each time, most were in-house but one week during the summer holidays we did have a visit from the Magical World of Stories.

# MAKE LUNCH & BOXES OF HOPE FOOD PARCELS REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers  
and the team

For the 2nd year, on our last session of the school summer holidays, we held our own Family Fun Day with Bouncy Castle, BBQ, Candy Floss machine and lots of games and activities. The weather was good that day and we had several visitors too. There will be a repeat in 2025. Thanks to the whole team for the time and energy they put into making these sessions the success they are.

Boxes of Hope Food Parcels continued to support between 18 and 24 families each week but in June 2024 we decided, after much prayer and with a heavy heart, that the delivery of food parcels needed to finish, it was no longer viable and involved a great amount of manpower. We took a break over the summer and then began the process of setting up a Food Pantry, on the same lines as the food parcels but whereby people come to St Paul's to collect donated food items which we get from Lidl, Tesco Express Chase Meadow and individual donations. We continue to develop this ministry.

In October we undertook a new venture hosting Riding Lights Theatre Company with their new production 'Cups on a String'. Stacey Bains project managed it for us and we were supported by Make Lunch St Michael's and Chase Meadow Community Centre who provided the venue. It was a full house and well received.

# MAKE LUNCH & BOXES OF HOPE FOOD PARCELS REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers  
and the team

In December we again held our Christmas pop-up shop for 2 days in Chase Meadow Community Centre where we gave away donated new and good quality toys to any needy family. There was absolutely no charge to any family registered with us and a donation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any one else. Once again we had toys left over so they are being stored ready for this coming Christmas.

God is so good, his faithfulness in this project has been never ending. We have so many stories of how people have supported us. This year we had support from local families in providing a plentiful Christmas food hamper for each of our families. Neighbours who have donated previously are ready to sign up again.

So although 2024 was a little different, we'll continue doing what we can, with your help and support.

Thank you from Audrey, Richard and the team



# OVER 50'S SENIORS CLUB

## REPORT



Pat & Edward Kibbler

Once again, we enjoyed a varied programme of events including a trip to the Adriatic presented by Richard Akers, a visit from Liz England and the children from Fit2Dance. Nicky Enticknap showed us how to use flags in worship and we were also fortunate to have members of the Plucky Breakaways who entertained us with their ukuleles. This group are all members of a larger group called the Spa Strummers who are known locally for raising money for various charities.

We try and give a donation to all those who give up their time to entertain us, usually to their favourite charity. During the year these events were interspersed with in-house items eg The Paris Olympics and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fairtrade Week.

Seniors are a small group of older people who still enjoy an evening out once a month where they can enjoy fellowship with friends. This would not be possible however without the support of Audrey who provides our buffet supper and Karen, Kate, Sue, Richard and Edward who provide lifts for those who need them.

If you or anyone you know would enjoy a social evening out once a month, or are able to give a couple of hours of your time in any capacity, please get in touch with me on 01926 496552 or email me on [kibblere@aol.com](mailto:kibblere@aol.com). You would be made very welcome.

# SUNDAY CLUB REPORT



Pat Kibbler

I must admit that I found it very difficult to write this report this year. As many of you already know my co-worker, sister in love and dear friend Sally died in June 2024 leaving a long legacy of nurturing young children in their journey of faith. Sally had been a member of St Paul's Church for over 60 years and a large part of that was leading the children's work at the church. She has left a big hole in my life and in many others too.

During the early part of 2024 Sally and I were privileged to be asked to prepare one of our younger members for confirmation and on the 16<sup>th</sup> June Ania Uchwat was confirmed by Bishop David Evans in St James Church Southam. Ania was the youngest candidate at the confirmation service and it was my privilege to be asked to present Ania to the Bishop.

In September it was a pleasure to welcome Amy and her family Marvin, Pearl, Mathew and Asher into the family of St Paul's. During the Autumn term our pattern of worship changed slightly and we now have Sunday Club on the first and third Sundays of the month. This also enabled our programme to follow the set readings for those Sundays. I continued to use various online resources including Trueway Kids and others. With the introduction of Love Sunday on the second and fourth Sundays, more children are coming to Sunday Club and this has enabled more interactive stories and games to be enjoyed by the children.

In order to operate safely we need to have at least two adults with the children during Sunday Club and I am grateful for Nic and one or two parents who come in with their children to help me. All of these people are DBS checked. If you feel called to work with children please speak to Amy or myself.

# CHRISTMAS CHARITY

# COFFEE MORNING 2024

## REPORT



Hazel Phillips

Our ever-popular Christmas Charity Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Marvin did a great job putting up the Christmas lights beforehand and wonderful teamwork on the preceding Friday afternoon ensured we were ready for the 10 o'clock start.

The event was again well supported and raised a respectable £387.70 which was shared equally between the British Heart Foundation, the Disaster Emergency Committee and St Paul's. The traditional raffle, with prizes donated by Warwick Castle, Warwick Books, the British Motor Museum, the Co-Op and Torrys to name but a few; the tombola, cards, decorations, flower arrangements and, of course, hot chocolate all contributed to a lovely festive atmosphere.

We were especially pleased that Kate Booth from St Michael's, in the spirit of joint working, was happy to come and be responsible for adorning folks with colourful, glittery tattoos - both adults and children were seen sporting these during the event and in the days following!



The very popular Christmas tombola



Raffle prizes are generously donated every year by local businesses and members of the congregation.

# LEGO CLUB

## REPORT



Amy Vogel

Lego club has been a real joy over the past months. We have seen new families attending, especially from Westgate and mostly from reception class. The children who have been attending Sunday worship have been great at bringing along their friends. This last term we saw 35 children attend and their adults in addition - it was pretty busy! The Pais team have been such a blessing, getting involved in leading the talk, song and bringing the fun. Before Christmas, Ellie led a four week dance workshop, which meant we saw 6 new families attend the carol service where it was performed. We are still working with Thrive; James has been very helpfully leading our coordinating group and helping us to reflect on this ministry and look to its future. The positive relationship we have with Westgate means that advertising into the school has been very easy. As we journey on with Lego club it would be good to consider how it might be adapted in the summer months and what else we might be able to offer for those children who aren't so into Lego. It has been wonderful getting to know all the parents and carers who come along.

# LITTLE STARS

## REPORT



Amy Vogel

Little stars is our very new coffee morning and baby & toddler group. It has only been running since after March. It meets every Friday in term time from 9:30-11am, in the church and hall. The team was not sure how many might come, but on the first week there were over 25 families and this has increased since. We have enjoyed receiving feed back from the parents, saying it is their 'favourite group' and others saying how 'welcoming and relaxed it feels'. At the end we always have a time of songs and a short story relating to a biblical theme. The families fully engage with this and the 'birthday socks' have been a big win! Already we have seen some cross over as some families attended the Good Friday activities and others came along to Make Lunch. Karina from Pais has been such a blessing to this ministry, and has really supported me with the set up and relationship building. One of the young people from the council youth group has also been involved in serving at this ministry. A big thank you to all the volunteers, but as always we would love a bit more help.

# COUNCIL YOUTH GROUP

## REPORT



Amy Vogel

Since January, we have partnered with the local council and a couple of their youth workers to run what would have been their detached youth work from St. Paul's. To begin with we would see five young people a week, but by the end there were up to fifteen. The young people have said how 'nice it is to be allowed to come into a special place' - given a hot chocolate, and get to talk to people who listen. It really is a case of if we open the doors the young people come. Unfortunately, the council youth workers now have to move to different area of Warwickshire to do detached work over the summer. The lead youth worker has asked us to consider continuing something for these young people that God has brought our way. Marvin has been a great support to this group and with the wider network we are looking to meet with the young people soon to talk about the way forward. Please pray for these young people.

# SAFEGUARDING REPORT



Pat Kibbler  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Coventry Diocesan Safeguarding Team continue to provide excellent support for parish safeguarding officers throughout the diocese and continue to give regular updates on the new safeguarding standards which were introduced in January 2024. The diocese has also appointed two new members of the Safeguarding Team to help support parishes to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding. The five new standards are broad statements of what the Church of England wants to achieve in the most important dimensions of its safeguarding work. All activities, at all levels across the church, will relate to at least one standard. These five standards were mentioned in my 2023 report and will enable the PCC to identify both their strengths and areas for development. There have also been some updates to the Parish Dashboard to reflect the National Safeguarding Standards. The Coventry Diocese will be due to receive a safeguarding audit in 2026.

Since the introduction of the Parish Dashboard, I have produced a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC each year to enable them to ensure all areas of safeguarding within the church are scrutinised and any actions taken. In April a new suite of tools was created called Safeguarding Hubs. This will help parishes keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training, create role descriptions and personal specifications and track the safer recruitment of new volunteers.

We held a Safeguarding Sunday in August on the theme of “Learning from Encounters with Jesus”. The bible provides us with a rich source of guidance about how to safeguard others and there are many passages that we can learn from and examples of God’s people acting in ways that we should recognize as safeguarding. We need to be a church that is safe, healthy and loving as a reflection of who God is. Jesus was sent to us to advocate for all these things.

# SAFEGUARDING

## REPORT



Pat Kibbler  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

In October, I updated my Leadership training and also continue to keep up to date through regular pso forums via zoom. DBS and training renewals are continually monitored together with the safer recruitment process for new staff and volunteers. If you have any queries or concerns connected with safeguarding please speak to Amy or myself.

# WIDER CHURCH LINKS (WARWICK TEAM)

## REPORT



David Brown

St Paul's are represented on the Team Council by David Brown, Amy Vogel, Sheila Pink and Hazel Phillips.

With a new Team Rector (Rev'd Angus Agard) 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 forward. 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 St Paul's, the "Project Pool" has funded our new lighting scheme and the West Warwick Youth Project, a shared outreach project with Budbrooke, 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 (DEANERY SYNOD)

## REPORT



David Brown

St Paul's remains without an elected synod rep at present, so the clergy remain the bridge between the PCC and the synodical business.

Each meeting has included good news stories of God at work which have stirred and encouraged those present. We have had significant input on the Diocesan Net Zero Strategy, a clear and simple presentation on parish share and the significance of the contributions we make, alongside ongoing updates of wider issues like the appointment of our new bishop and General Synod conversations about Prayers of Love and Faith.

The deanery's vision to have a designated leader appointed to each parish has progressed well, with all our vacancies being filled during the year. The synod also approved the changes here at St Paul's, as well as the increase of the hours of clergy posts in Holy Trinity (Leamington), Bishop's Tachbrook and addition of a part-time post at St Paul's Leamington (Associate Minister), all covered through the deanery parish share.

# CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

Audrey Akers

Churches Together in Warwick (CTW) has continued to meet at 8.00am on the first Saturday of the month throughout 2024 for Prayer Breakfast, meeting at the various churches which make up CTW. There are on average around 20 people attending each month. All are very warmly welcome to join us; it is an opportunity for Christians across the town to come together in an example of unity, to hear what other churches are doing and to build links. We gather for about 30 minutes of reflection and prayer with each of the different churches taking the lead, followed by a simple breakfast. It is well worth the effort of getting up maybe a little earlier than is usual for one.

The AGM is held in October each year followed by a forum where the 'business' of CTW is discussed. There are two other forums in January and June attended by the church representatives. Rev Sally Jones from Warwick Methodist Church was elected as Moderator in October 2023 and re-elected in October 2024 for a second term; Mark Leonard from Castle Hill Baptist Church remains as Secretary with Liz Reid from Warwick Methodist church as Minute Secretary; Helen Grainger from St Mary Immaculate continues as Treasurer. Pat and Audrey remain as St Paul's representatives with regular attendance at meetings from Richard and Sheila. There are 11 full member churches and 1 affiliated. A CTW programme for the year is available. A CTW programme for the year is available.

18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The prayer walks were not well attended but it was felt that any opportunity to come together to pray for our churches and for the town of Warwick is worthwhile. The United Service was hosted by St Michael's Church at Chase Meadow Community Centre,

# CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers

In September CTW celebrated the 'The Season of Creation' with a Walking Vespers around St Nicholas Park. This was a simple way of reflecting on God's Creation and although quite a cold day it is hoped that it will be repeated in 2025. Sally also led quiet reflections during Lent and Advent via zoom and were appreciated by all.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness took place once again in the Market Place with processions from 3 points around the town centre and around 200 people attending. It is such a joy to witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus in a public place and to see and sometimes interact with those passing by, 2025 will be the last year when Claire Harris organises the walk but Linz Alexander will continue the good work in 2026.

We are all looking forward to a blessed and prosperous 2025 when we can work together to impact the town of Warwick for Jesus.



# 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.

## 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 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 Paul's: Summer Outdoor party, Glow Party, Celebrate Your Move for Year 6s, Christmas fairs and school concerts. All these were 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 Paul'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
- 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 Paul's, and Budbrooke at St Michael's.

### 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 Paul's with around 100 from the community in attendance
- Kids' Team - new members, attending training/ social evenings
- Youth Team - well resourced
- 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 Michael's Kids Club - 7 or 8 children
- Youth SMYLE; 12 in attendance in January at CMMC (no youth provision!)
- St Paul'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 Paul's service on the sound system, 1 has led worship on one Sunday
- 1 Make Lunch Family attends St Michael's services
- No numbers, but both St Michael's and St Paul'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 lunch clubs 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

This Annual report was approved by St Paul's Parochial Church Council  
on ?? May 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd David Brown - Vicar



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