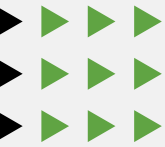
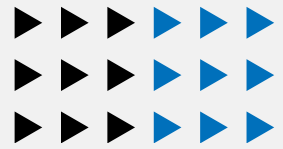




St Michael's Church

Worship • Community • Mission

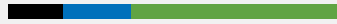


2025 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Introduction	03
Vicar's Report	04
Worship Report	08
Discipleship Report	11
Presence & Prayer	13
Communities Introduction	16
Hampton Magna	17
Chase Meadow	20
Network	22
9am Community	24
Youth Ministry	26
Children & Families Ministry	29
Schools Outreach and Families	36
The Open Door	38
Make Lunch	47
Midweek Group	49



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Wider Church Links	53
Mission Links & Charitable Giving	57
PCC: Governance	60
PCC: Safeguarding	62
PCC: Fabric & Maintenance	64
Financial Review	66



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 2025 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, James Tranter and Gary Dagnall.

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 2025 the PCC has met six times (May, June, July, November, January and March. It also met for a joint PCC meeting with St Paul's, Warwick in July.

Electoral Roll

There are 91 members on the roll, of which 56 are resident in the parish and 35 are non-resident.

VICAR'S REPORT



David Brown
Vicar

2025 has been a year of further simplification and transition, as we continue to respond to what God is doing amongst us and prepare for the next season of life when, with St Paul's, we will become Warwick Network Church.

We have continued to see God at work across the life of our churches, both in the growth of ministry and in the strengthening of our shared vision. A key shift this year has been the continued work of simplifying and clarifying who we are, not only in our language, but also in our structures and patterns of worship.

Alongside our simplified vision, we have taken further steps to ensure that the way we gather as a church is more straightforward, more accessible, and more sustainable for the long term. This return to consistent weekly Sunday patterns isn't the end of our endeavours with Missional Communities, instead we recognise the need to launch such communities out from a consistent base.

This has not been change for its own sake, but part of our desire to reach more people in our parish, recognising that clarity and simplicity help us better communicate to newcomers and to put our energy where it matters most: prayer, worship, teaching, pastoral care and mission.

Our multiplication vision has continued to shape our priorities, and our partnership between St Michael's and St Paul's has deepened further as we take practical steps towards becoming Warwick Network Church.

VICAR'S REPORT




Collaboration between congregations and leadership teams has increased, and we have also formalised our working relationship with St Paul's by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. This has been an important moment, not simply administratively, but as a tangible sign of our shared intent to move forward together in unity, mission and mutual support.

At the same time, we have continued to look beyond our own church family, exploring how we might serve the wider town of Warwick more intentionally – being briefed to develop plans for raising leaders, develop internships and lead on youth ministry in the town. We recognise the importance of this partnership with the wider team of Warwick Anglican Churches, as we play our part in advancing the gospel across the town.

This year has also seen the continuing development of the Pais team, who have played a key role in the life of both St Michael's and St Paul's. Through their presence across the two churches they have supported youth work, schools ministry and wider community engagement. We were also pleased to welcome Ana onto the staff team this year, joining from Pais to take on the children's work at St Paul's.

There have been encouraging developments in wider leadership too. One significant milestone this year was Luke being ordained as a Priest in the Church of England. This marks an important step in his curacy as he continues to serve the church and the wider parish through preaching, pastoral care and the sacramental life of the church.



VICAR'S REPORT




Both Rosie and Amy have begun studying for ordination in Oxford, which is an exciting step as they continue to discern and prepare for future ministry within the Church of England.

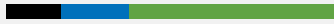
Across the year we have shared many moments of community life together. The summer church weekend was a real highlight, with many people joining the fun day on the Saturday and enjoying time together as a church family. We also hosted an Alpha course, creating space for people to explore the Christian faith and ask important questions. It has been particularly encouraging to see people of different ages taking steps to publicly affirm their faith in both our shared May Baptism service on King's Meadow, and during our joint service of baptism and confirmation.

Alongside this, plans for the reordering of the church building continue to progress, as we explore how the space might better serve our worship, our mission and our community life in the future.

Much of this year has also been about preparation. We are thankful for the progress made in strengthening partnership, clarifying structures, and putting foundations in place. In particular, we are now actively preparing for our launch as a Network in May 2026. There is a growing sense that God is leading us into a new season, and we want to step into it with faith, humility, and a clear focus on making disciples.



VICAR'S REPORT



Finally, but perhaps above all, I would like to express a big thank you to everyone who supports and serves the life of the church across St Michael's, St Paul's and Chase Meadow. We are grateful for all you do and bring as members of the body of Christ here.



WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

Our gathered Sunday congregations continue to develop in encouraging ways. The 9:00am service remains steady, providing a consistent space for those who value a more traditional and reflective style of worship. The 10:45am service has seen new people connect from Alpha and through baptisms, bringing fresh life into the church community. The transition to a weekly 10:45am gathering towards the end of 2025 will help create greater momentum and continuity.

It has also been encouraging to see the development of the Chase Meadow 4:00pm service, which now meets twice a month. This has become a valuable point of connection, particularly for a number of Make Lunch families, helping to widen the reach of our worshipping community and offering a more accessible space for those engaging with church in different ways.

Across all our services, there has been a growing sense of shared life between our churches, with worship, themes, and direction increasingly aligned. Our network connections have also strengthened this sense of being part of something bigger, while still remaining rooted in our local context. As we look ahead, we want to honour what has been, giving thanks for the foundations laid, while continuing to look forward with faith and expectation.

Highlights of the year have included our shared baptism services, which have been moments of real joy and celebration. These occasions have not only marked significant steps of faith, but have also reflected the importance of those who serve behind the scenes

WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

In particular, we are hugely grateful to Eddie, who went above and beyond, arriving early to fix a broken heater on the baptism pool and working to heat a building that otherwise had no heating at all. His quiet, practical service helped make these moments possible and ensured a warm and welcoming environment for all who gathered.

Similarly - whether through our worship, tech or welcome teams, service leaders, preachers, intercessors or wardens – so many people are involved to make our Sunday services what they are. THANK YOU!

We also recognise that transitioning back to consistent Sundays in church (whilst retaining a vision to plant out), we are keen to continue encouraging those who have grown in confidence and faith in leading gatherings in Missional Communities to take on responsibility and help shape the life of our ongoing patterns of worship.

The weekly prayer time for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit continues to take place in the church and on Zoom from 7pm to 7.30pm. This expression of our longing for revival is a key rhythm in the life of St Michael's. It has been encouraging to hear testimony of answered prayers – often in unexpected ways.

WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

One young adult made contact with us after starting to read the bible, describing God's conviction weighing on them to seek and find him. Others have shared dreams of Jesus or promptings from God - these are things we can't manipulate or force ourselves.

Praying like this reminds us it is his ministry not ours, and we invite more to join us to call on God in this way.

As we move forward, the ongoing challenge remains to continue seeking the Lord with hunger and expectancy, both personally and corporately, so that our gatherings are not only well attended, but places where people encounter God deeply and are formed more into the likeness of Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP

REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

The vision at St Michael's remains the same, to see multiplication growth like the early church did. We believe that 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, communities and congregations.

So, what progress have we made this year?

We were really encouraged to welcome Ceri and Simon Harris from 5Q, who came to equip and train us in the fivefold ministry. This has helped broaden and deepen our understanding of how different gifts function within the church, and how we might better release people into the fullness of how God has shaped them.

We have also made good progress on shaping a clear discipleship pathway. This is being developed with a view to launching alongside the wider network later in the year. The aim is to create a simple and accessible way for people to grow in their walk with Jesus, helping them to take intentional next steps wherever they are starting from.

Small groups continue to be an important place of discipleship in the life of the church. These have been spaces where people are able to go deeper in scripture, form healthy practices and habits, and share life together.

DISCIPLESHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

Retreat to Advance continues to provide a focus at the start of the year to help ground people in the practice of Scripture, encouraging daily prayer and engagement with the Bible. Likewise, our nurture material has been used by triplets to help those new to church get established in, and grow in, faith. We are continuing to consolidate our CROWN, nurture and other discipling material into a simpler set of resources for our groups and triplets to use. Retreat to Advance 2026 will be an important marker in this journey.

It has also been encouraging to see the growth of our young adults, led by Gabi. This has created space for young adults to gather, build community, have fun and encourage one another in their faith. It is a significant step in strengthening this area of church life and creating a sense of belonging and momentum.

As we look ahead, the focus remains on simplicity, clarity and multiplication. Our desire is to develop pathways and practices that are easy to engage with, easy to share, and that genuinely help people encounter Jesus and grow as his disciples.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER

Mary Lodge

Resting Space

We have continued to offer this hour on a Saturday morning every month from 10am to 11am in the Church Centre. This is an opportunity to accept Jesus' invitation to draw apart from the busyness and demands of our lives and stop for a while to just rest in God's presence. We share together a time of stillness, a guided meditation, restful images and gentle music on particular themes. More and more people are finding this special time helpful and restorative and in particular, during this past year, we have been pleased to welcome people from St Paul's.

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

Matthew 11:28

Prayer at The Open Door

Every Monday morning from 9.15am to 10am, a small group continues to meet in The Open Door to pray for all the activities that take place here, for the people who use it, for its links with Budbrooke Medical Centre and its ongoing and developing ministry in the community. We also pray for organisations and groups within the surrounding communities including the local school. There is a prayer box here where people can put 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.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER



Ruth Stephens

Prayer Team Report

The Prayer Team is pleased to offer prayer at the 9am and 10.45am services at St. Michael's. 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.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

PRESENCE & PRAYER



We have recently been pleased to add two new members to our prayer team. If you feel that The Lord is drawing you to this ministry, please get in touch with Mary, Rae or Ruth.

The members of the Prayer Team are Ellen Drain, Sue Filby, Jane Franks, Cathy Hall, Suzanne Hotten, Linda Jones, Rae Poole, Rebecca Poole, Rose Rebeiro, Ruth Stephens, Susanne Wood.

COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

David Brown - Vicar

2025 saw a transition in our community worship patterns away from Sunday worship. This evolution took place over the Autumn and was not an easy choice to make.

There have been many gains from meeting on Sundays in the community format, more people have taken on leadership roles and have grown in faith as they've preached or led gatherings. Close connections have been built within groups and there has been a creativity in how worship has been expressed.

At the same time, we have had to face the reality that our patterns were confusing to newcomers and hard to communicate. Post Covid, the result was that visitors rarely returned and people struggled to settle in the church.

Going forward, we are seeking the best of both worlds. To begin with, we are regathering at weekly 9am and 10:45am services, a clear and consistent rhythm for those both inside and outside the church.

As that settles and, we trust, begins to grow we aim to release those who feel called to plant some form of missional community expression of worship to do just that. However, rather than operating instead of regular services, if held on Sunday at all, these new worshipping communities will take place alongside our regular worship patterns.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Stephen Poole

Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

Throughout 2025 HMMC has been involved in 3 main activities.

Coffee and Catch Up.

This is on the 1st Saturday of each month (in term time). We open up the Open Door Café for anyone to drop in and chat. Pastries, hot drinks and a warm welcome are available. Over the year we have seen a good number of regulars and newcomers. This is a chance to build relationships and invite people to other St Mike's activities.

Café Church.

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, we have run a relaxed service in the Open Door. There is theme such as 'prayer' or 'God the creator'. After a brief introduction we split into 2 groups. One group will do an all-age craft based on the theme. These have been very creative times as you can see from the photographs.



COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Stephen Poole

Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

A big thank you to all the team, who enable these events to take place, run smoothly and engage with the Hampton Magna community.



COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

Over the past year Chase Meadow has continued in a steady and encouraging way. We have remained committed to gathering twice a month for worship, creating a consistent space where people can meet, pray, and grow in faith together. The rhythm of these regular services has helped maintain a strong sense of community and belonging.

In January 2025 we had the privilege of hosting the Churches Together prayer and worship gathering. It was a meaningful evening that brought different churches from the area together, giving us the opportunity to pray, worship, and stand alongside one another in unity. It was encouraging to see the wider Christian community gathered in one place.

Across the year many people have continued to serve faithfully in different areas of church life. From those helping with practical aspects of the service to those supporting behind the scenes, their willingness to serve has played an important role in sustaining the life of the congregation.

It has also been encouraging to see young people beginning to take a more active role in our services. Several of the youth have stepped forward to help in different ways, which has been a positive step in involving the next generation in the life and leadership of the church.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

We aim over the next year to focus on how we can start reaching out more to the community around us, looking at additional opportunities to engage with the community in a consistent way.

Overall this past year has been marked by consistency, faithful service, and growing participation across different parts of the church community.



COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Clare Watson

Network/Connect

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

In 2025 we changed our name from the 'Network Community' to 'Connect' to avoid confusion with the newly established Warwick Network Church. Until December 2025, Connect met on the third Sunday of the month at 10.45am in the Church Centre and our meetings were usually followed by lunch. The services were led by members of the leadership team and several people gave talks. The lunches were prepared by different members of the group each time and were 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 every Tuesday evening 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. During our Sunday meetings we shared news and stories and often broke into small groups of 4 or 5, providing the chance to discuss the talk for that week and to pray for each other. We became aware that our services were too 'intense' for visitors and we worked on changing things to be more missional.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Clare Watson

Network

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

We looked at changing the format of our Sunday morning service, but with the move for Hampton Magna and Connect to meet in church on the third Sunday, we decided to launch a mid-week meal instead. This allowed us to keep the fellowship that we valued from our 3rd Sunday meals and provided the opportunity to invite other people to come and join in with us. The meal is held weekly on a Wednesday evening and is a relaxed time where people can chat and build relationships. Typically, we've catered for 15 – 20 people, taking it in turns to prepare food and tidy up afterwards. We've enjoyed having guests each week, some from Alpha, some friends and some who have been baptised or confirmed recently.

COMMUNITIES

REPORTS



9am Community

9am

at St Michael's Church

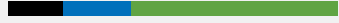
Martin Davies

The 9.00am Community met, as the other communities do, every third Sunday to celebrate Holy Communion. On the other weeks members of the 9.00am Community gather alongside members of other communities. This gives us a valuable opportunity not only to receive Communion together, but also to meet and build relationships with others in our wider Church family. It also allows members of the other communities to take an active role in the service by reading the Bible passage and leading the intercessions.

Over the past twelve months, the Community has grown a little as new members have joined us, including those who have recently moved into the parish, but we are also saddened to lose some other members who are no longer able to come because of health concerns. It has been a joy to see the Community grow stronger, supporting one another especially when life is not as easy as it once was.

When we established this Community, we were clear that we wanted it to have its own distinct identity. We did not want it to be simply a continuation of the old 8.00am service, the midweek Communion, or the former 10.30am Communion service. We wanted it to feel like a true community — relational, welcoming, and rooted in faith — and I believe we have achieved that.

COMMUNITIES REPORTS



9am Community

9am

at St Michael's Church

Martin Davies

Visitors frequently comment on how friendly and welcoming we are, which is a testament to our community spirit. We also have our own Community Collect, which we pray together each Community Sunday. This affirms our commitment to one another, to God, and to the work of the Holy Spirit among us.



YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

The past year of youth ministry across the network has been an exciting time of growth and breakthrough as we've continued to pursue the vision we believe God has called us to - '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 continuing 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.



Our existing youth ministry activities have continued to develop and bear fruit as we've sought to surround them in prayer and respond to the many Gospel opportunities which unfold each week. The number of young people we engage with on a weekly basis continues to grow, and we are intentionally seeking to further their discipleship to Jesus by creating spaces for young people to encounter God through scripture, prayer, worship, and community. As a by-product of these ongoing encounters with God, our young people have grown in their leadership and missional confidence, boldly inviting their friends and peers into these spaces that they too may encounter God.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

One of the standout moments of youth mission in Warwick over the last year has been the townwide Youth Alpha course, led by a number of the Warwick Church youth ministries. This growing unity and collaboration feels like an important step forward in the Warwick churches positioning themselves for growth, and we're excited to see what other ideas and initiatives emerge as these youth ministries seek to work more closely in the future.

We now regularly connect with a new group of young people through our weekly youth gathering at St. Paul's Church, and it's been wonderful to see how they've responded as we open the Bible with them each week. They are very open to faith, and at the time of writing this, we are just about to start a new Youth Alpha course with them, praying and trusting that the Lord would convince them that following Him is the best decision they could ever make.

Other new ministry openings include our new outreach to young people in Hampton Magna through the Thrive Bus, the launching of our Youth Worship Team, our new wellbeing project with students at Aylesford Secondary School, and our new partnership with St. Mark's Academy – a discipleship year aimed primarily at young people who have grown up in the diocese of Coventry and are exploring a call to ministry.



YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT



Tim Williams

As we continue to sow seeds of faith amongst this generation in the year to come, we are expecting an abundant harvest, and would so greatly appreciate if you could help usher this in by continuing to pray for us. This ministry wouldn't be possible without the incredible commitment of our Youth Team and Pais Team, who give themselves each week to love and serve our young people. If you feel stirred to join in with what God is doing amongst the next generation, we would love to invite you to join our team. Please get in touch with me (Tim Williams – youthmdl@stmbb.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

2025 was an action-packed year with lots going on, including new activities and lots of building of relationships.

There are so many opportunities open to us - there is always more that can be done! It can be challenging at times to know what to invest time and effort into and what to leave for now. Please do pray, as I do, that God will guide us as a church to direct our efforts according to his will.

Over 2025, I have formed aims which I will continue to pray into and work towards during 2026 including:

- Providing more children with the opportunity to hear the good news.
- Enabling parents to continue faith conversations at home.
- Encouraging children and their families to take the next step in exploring faith.
- Building relationships between the church family and those families who are beginning to explore.

As God's family we all hope, I'm sure, to see growth and make people of all ages feel welcome and loved. We have wonderful people involved in our teams but sadly, as Pais have become more focused on youth activities, the gaps where volunteers are needed have become more obvious, particularly for Pebbles, Mini Meadows and occasional events.

As you read on, please do be praying about whether you might help, and in what way. Thank you.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY REPORT

Kate Booth

Mini Meadows

At Mini Meadows, since September we have begun repeating a two-year programme of themes, stories and crafts, which cuts down on some of the planning time. Every session includes free time to play and chat, while the children can have a go at the colouring, complete with the verse of the session, and to make the craft which fits with the story.

Towards the end of the session, we gather together to give out stickers for kids that helped tidy away (very popular!) and then read the secular book. The leader shares a Christian thought and prayer based on the book before we have a song or two to finish. Their absolute favourite at the moment is the Hokey Cokey!

The programme enables us to make adjustments based on what worked and didn't work before, and do something special for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day.

We now give out Christian books in July to those children starting school in September, as well as those given out at Christmas. This Christmas, we also sent home invitations to Christmas services with the children who come with childminders to help families feel more connected.

We have noticed a reduction in parents coming along to the group sadly, since the funding provided by the government for mums returning to work was brought forward. We recognise that we now need to make the group especially welcoming to parents of babies, and reach those parents as early as possible. We are still working on how to do this.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

We have still welcomed parents though, and grandparents as they often provide childcare.

We are also there to be missional towards the hardworking childminders and nannies that come along and often those relationships have the opportunity of going on for longer.

We have a small number of team members who help out on a rota basis once or twice a month. Helping includes setting up before the session, welcoming and chatting to guests and putting things away at the end. We would love to add more people from the church family to the team so do get in touch if you think you could help one morning a month or more.

I have bumped into a few past parents from Mini Meadows who still speak fondly about the group. That and the research reminds me how vital the baby and toddler group ministry is. What a privilege to be a part of it! And what a joy to watch the little ones grow.

Pebbles

Pebbles grew well over the first half of the year and was very busy in the run up to the school summer holidays. We even had to close to new children due to the required ratios of adults to children!

We lost a few attendees over the summer due to them moving away or changing circumstances so it would be great to invite new families to engage with us, particularly when we are going into Budbrooke School for assemblies.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

Unfortunately, the number of adult leaders has also reduced so we are being held back by this presently. We had been able to use the upstairs rooms as well to entertain the kids but have also had to stop this now we have fewer leaders.

We are highly dependent on Pais and the Youth Intern to help run the sessions. We do have parents help us sometimes but it would be amazing to have helpers from our church family to support this ministry area and build relationships which would support families trying out church. If you think you could be involved, do let me know!

During 2025 we continued to look at the stories from The Jesus Storybook Bible with the children. They loved the videos and were really engaged by them. It was a race to read out the end credits every week!

The children clearly were thinking about what they heard at Pebbles during the week as they would often come back with questions for us to answer the next week. A very welcome challenge! And that means that parents are hearing about the stories from their children directly as well as hearing what they have been looking at from me on the weekly WhatsApp messages. Thank you God!

Three families who connected with us through Pebbles came along to church during 2025 which was great! We are hoping to build on those relationships going forward but this shows how important the ministry of Pebbles is in drawing in families.

When we go into the schools the Pebbles children always seem pleased to see us and proud that they know us which is definitely encouraging!

There is an opportunity to fill in the gap between Pebbles and The Rock for those who are not quite there yet with their faith.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

Kids Church

There have been a few changes to Kids Church in 2025. There have been some changes in the team and the format of the sessions has changed too. The sessions are now more active and interactive to help engage the children and to provide activities where the children can choose to go into more depth as all ages remain all in one group.

We begin with a song, and Bible verse before introducing the week's message. Then there is a short teaching session and prayer time. The remainder of the session is split into different activities which they can choose between: a physical activity, a prayer activity, a craft activity and then a colouring sheet or activity sheet. This means the children get to choose the type of activity which suits them best and there is more time for leaders to build relationships with them.

There have been changes in the children coming along too, with some children moving away or moving up to youth, whilst three Pebbles families have tried out Kids Church for themselves. We continue to wait on God and pray for more families to try out church for themselves and have tried a number of activities to help them feel more connected and less anxious about coming along.

Where it has been possible, we have matched the teaching themes being looked at by the adults so that families can discuss and compare what they have learnt at home. Each week's activities are shared with the families in the WhatsApp group to facilitate conversations, with a handy challenge for incorporating learning into everyday life.

In Advent, weekly activities were provided to our families to enjoy the season together and prepare for Christmas. There was a Bible passage and a few questions to look at together, along with fun things to do, such as planting bulbs, making cards for neighbours, and making gingerbread angels.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

REPORT

Kate Booth

Kids Church

We have a wonderful team of people who care about the kids and sharing their faith. However, it is very noticeable that they are all female! It would be great to get a couple of men involved in the team as it is so important for the kids, especially the boys, to see faith isn't just for the women. If you think you could join us once or twice a term, please do let me know.

Other

In April, I ran a family fun session on a Saturday afternoon for all families connected with us. It was centred around a Christian book about Easter, with all kinds of fun activities. We had an Easter egg hunt, face painted each other as rabbits, had a quiz, ate snacks and played games. We had a good uptake for a new endeavour and saw relationships between families grow. As a result we also saw one of the families begin coming along to church! This is definitely a repeatable idea so look out for more in 2026!

Sadly, numbers of families attending the New Wine Weekend were down on previous years, so we had fewer children for the sessions. However, we all had a great time exploring different gardens mentioned in the Bible. We did all kinds of crafts, games and activities to connect with God's creation, thinking about the garden of Eden, the broken world, the garden of Gethsemane and the garden of Heaven to come. Saturday afternoon did see more families previously unconnected with St Michael's come along to join in the activities. Perhaps you were able to welcome our visitors yourself? If so, thank you! There was a wonderful atmosphere and a few kids did stay on for that evening's session.

The team members have gathered together for training session towards the end of the year which has been lovely. It is so good to meet together and socialise as well as grow in knowledge. I am hoping we will be able to do this again over the coming months.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY REPORT

Kate Booth

There have been more opportunities to engage with Budbrooke School in 2025. The church has had stalls providing craft activities at both the summer fair and the Christmas fair, on top of beginning assemblies in the school, which really does help to make people more aware of the church.

We were able to connect with the Brownie and Rainbows groups earlier in the year, providing a session based on Palm Sunday. It was great fun to be a part of and lovely to see the Brownies come along to church twice in 2025.

There have been craft activities in each school holiday other than Christmas, provided by a very able team at The Open Door. I have been along to almost all the sessions which is definitely helping to grow relationships with the community.

Moving into 2026, there will now be something for families to come along to at St Michael's every Sunday morning during the month. We hope that this will make it easier for families to connect with God and us going forward. Please do be praying that we can encourage our Pebbles families in particular to come along and find out more about God.

Please do pray that the people we meet and talk to will be moved by the Spirit to take the next step towards knowing God and that we would be ready to help them in that.



SCHOOLS OUTREACH AND FAMILIES REPORT

Caroline Mara

The new role of Schools Outreach and Families has had a very positive beginning, and it has been of great benefit to bring more focus in this area.

My aim has been to build upon trusting and supportive relationships and extend the existing pathways we have provided between church and school. I have wanted to bring an inclusive but invitational experience of who Jesus is and who his people are. We provide weekly assemblies for Westgate and Newburgh and are so pleased to also now provide fortnightly assemblies for Budbrooke. We have made adjustments in our assembly delivery, so that the team now includes our Children's Workers, Ana and Kate, as well as David, Luke and myself.

We've noticed a marked appreciation from the schools – growing engagement from pupils and staff, growing appreciation (spontaneous applause from Newburgh children!) and growing recognition from children we bump into outside of school. A new venture for next half term will be a 'pop-up' lunch club at Westgate, with the aim of some year 5s and 6s co-leading an assembly in May.

At Christmas at least 500 children and their parents from Westgate, Newburgh and Aylesford Primary Schools packed themselves in to St Paul's Church for either a school Christmas service, a Christingle or a concert, and were warmly welcomed by refreshments on arriving. Several took away free Bibles at the end. Budbrooke School also attended St Michael's for the Christmas Carol Service

SCHOOLS OUTREACH AND FAMILIES REPORT

Caroline Mara

90 KS1 children from Westgate School and accompanying staff attended our very first Lent Experience held at St Paul's where we received great feedback. The upcoming Easter Experience will invite the KS2 pupils from Westgate and also two classes that make up the year 5 year group from Newburgh. In term 3, in partnership with Thrive ministries, all four of our local Primary Schools will have support with their Year 6 transition to secondary school in the annual 'It's Your Move' day.

A special collaborative schools prayer event is organised for March 7th for Warwick congregations to join with children's, families and schools' workers at St Paul's Church, for which Headteachers have already begun to submit items for prayer. As the present demands on our schools are many, we sincerely hope to attract our congregations for this important gathering.

It has also been wonderful to take the opportunity to meet parents of families who attend our missional groups run by other teams. Make Lunch, and the Open Door have been venues that have provided great opportunities for significant conversations. We hope to increasingly integrate our community relationships with Church, Schools and Home and provide a trusted and living pathway for children and families to come to know Jesus for themselves.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made The Open Door their local venue to meet with friends. Your presence and warmth are what truly bring this place to life. Over the past year, The Open Door has grown into a vibrant, welcoming hub where friendships flourish and everyone is invited to join the fun. Whether you stop by for conversation, a cup of tea, or to participate in our variety of activities, you help foster an environment that feels like home for all. Let's take a look back at some of the fantastic events and activities we've shared this past year.

The Memory Lane Dementia Café meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, offering enjoyable activities, tea, and cake, with help from committed volunteers. These sessions provide a safe and welcoming environment for individuals living with dementia and their carers, where participants can relax and socialise in a supportive setting. The café offers structured activities designed to stimulate memory and encourage conversation, helping attendees to maintain cognitive skills and foster connections with others. Volunteers are on hand to offer companionship and assistance, ensuring everyone feels included and valued. Entertainment provided by special guests adds to the sense of occasion, making each meeting a joyful experience. The Councillors' Grant has enabled the café to host memorable events such as the festive Christmas Lunch, which brings togetherness and offers a sense of belonging. Thanks to this funding, the Dementia Café will continue to offer these vital opportunities for social engagement, emotional support, and respite for carers throughout 2026.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Afternoon Teas, held on the first Monday afternoon of each month, remain a highlight for our guests. We are deeply grateful to our talented musicians—Dermot, Jim, Janine, John, and Mike—for their wonderful monthly performances, and to Penny Bedford for preparing the scrumptious sandwiches and cakes. This popular event would not be possible without the dedicated support of our volunteers: Debbie Wilson, Siobhan Titley, Gemma Stanton, and Ben Bryan.

The Entrust Care Partnership team and their students bring great energy to The Open Door every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Customers love the work they do and enjoy their delicious baked goods. We appreciate our partnership with Entrust and their choice of The Open Door for student training toward permanent employment.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Spin a Yarn is a local knit and natter group meeting on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. Despite encountering a challenge this year due to the installation of solar panels on the post box, which temporarily halted the display of their decorative toppers, the members are actively developing new design concepts to ensure their creations can continue in the future. Their knitted fundraising event raised funds to support New Chapters in Leamington, an organisation offering affordable drug and alcohol recovery services for people in Leamington and nearby areas. They also donated knitted items to Baby Basics and Warwick Hospital. The group creates a welcoming atmosphere for socialising and sharing skills in knitting, crocheting, and other crafts. New members are invited to join, whether for conversation or crafting.

The Open Door maintains a collaborative relationship with Budbrooke Medical Centre to address community needs and enhance service provision. In September, Budbrooke Medical Centre, in partnership with Arden Primary Care Network and St Michael's Church, introduced the Penfold Lego Club. This club, held on the third Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, is intended to support children aged 4 to 15 who have additional needs. Additionally, Budbrooke Medical Centre and Arden PCN coordinate the Fun Fit Friday chair-based exercise sessions, referring patients to this weekly program at The Open Door.

Attendance at our Wednesday Ramblers Wellbeing Walks has decreased recently, with fewer people taking part. The walks begin and end at The Open Door, where everyone is invited to gather for coffee afterwards. Our dedicated walk leaders help maintain a sense of community and

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

introduce participants to other activities. During these walks, we take beautiful photos of the countryside, which are later shown on the screen at The Open Door during church community sessions. We are considering new ways to encourage more people to join our walks.

Budbrooke Community Singers, led by the talented Sally Greenmont, continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We welcome anyone aged 10 and upwards who has a passion for singing—no experience required! This year, the choir was invited to participate in the Lantern Walk and Christmas celebrations at Budbrooke Community Centre and the Carols by Candlelight service at St Michael's Church in December. They were truly special evenings!

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 the occasional adult Lego Club that runs alongside the 'Spin a Yarn' crafting group on Tuesday evenings!

The Men's Breakfast has been ongoing for more than three years and is held on the last Saturday of each month. The event continues to be well-attended and consistently meets the group's objectives by facilitating meaningful conversations. Appreciation is extended to Eddie for preparing the meals and to Janine for her valuable assistance in the kitchen.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

At this time, we are seeking volunteers to assist in launching and managing the 'Men Walking & Talking' group, which aims to provide additional support for men. Ideally, two or three volunteers would share this important responsibility.

Family craft events held during school holidays continue to be a favorite among participants. With generous support from the WCC Cost of Living Fund, we have been able to offer enjoyable activities for families. These sessions provide opportunities for creative arts and crafts as well as healthy snacks, all free of charge. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Debbie Wilson, Alex Davis, Penny Bedford, Kate Booth, Ruth Hamson, and Ruth and Lucy Watts for their invaluable contributions in making these gatherings possible.

Story Corner is a new event that began in May this year with funding from the WRCC grant. The sessions led by Fin O'Sullivan take place every third Monday of the month. The programme invites participants to either listen or share their own stories and encourages open conversations. Fin guides the group with his own narratives, highlighting important experiences, sharing memories, and offering insightful reflections. When Fin is unavailable, Neville Armstrong, a local author, steps in and shares his tales of Guy of Warwick.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Our second Repair Cafe and Jumble Trail was held in July, with 24 stalls set up throughout the village—fewer than last year. Nevertheless, the event brought everyone together, helped by the lovely weather. The Open Door buzzed with activity as our talented repairers worked hard throughout the session. We deeply appreciate the contributions from our stallholders, the repair team, and St Michael's Church, whose combined efforts raised £300 for Budbrooke School PTA. We look forward to making the repair café a regular event.

In September, Chatty Café transitioned to our Warm Hub sessions, which are conducted on Mondays from 10:00am to 12:00pm. These sessions provide customers with access to support and guidance from visiting advisors who engage with attendees. Regular participants include representatives from Citizens Advice, Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop, community police officers through Cuppa with a Copper, Parish and County councillors, as well as health and energy advisors.

Two four-week sessions of Grave Talk commenced at The Open Door in February, held on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings under the leadership of Martin Davies. Engaging in discussions about one's own funeral can be challenging, as topics related to death, dying, and funerals often bring forth significant questions that everyone must confront eventually. However, these conversations can be difficult to initiate with family and friends. Grave Talk provides a supportive environment where participants are encouraged to openly discuss such important matters.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Anne Marie Lambert led an energy-efficient cooking course in September, with funding kindly provided by WRCC. The event attracted excellent participation, and we look forward to offering a similar program next year.

The HMMC team, which organises the 'Coffee and Catch Up' event on the first Saturday of each month, offers an inviting atmosphere that fosters community engagement among friends and neighbours. While attendance levels have remained steady, participants appreciate these gatherings, which feature crafts, coffee, and pastries.

Additionally, the HMMC team has maintained relaxed Sunday church meetings at The Open Door on the third Sunday of every month throughout the year. Moving forward, HMMC will partner with the Connect group at St Michael's Church to relaunch these sessions early next year, continuing on the third Sunday but relocating to the church to provide greater capacity for future growth.

The window at The Open Door has displayed delightful paintings created by children at the craft events, and also work from the Brownies and Rainbows activities held throughout the year for different occasions.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

Challenges we face: After reopening The Open Door post-COVID, we adopted a 'pay what you can' model, which successfully broadened access to our space for people from all financial backgrounds. This approach was meant to remove financial barriers to facility use. Unfortunately, revenue from this system has declined over the past year, making it unsustainable for the future.

To meet this challenge and continue prioritising accessibility, we are exploring a suggested donation in addition to the 'pay what you can' option. Beyond this, we aim to secure additional grants and local sponsorships to help with expenses, ensuring The Open Door remains inclusive. We also intend to organise special fundraisers and encourage ongoing community support through regular donations, strengthening the long-term prospects of our important community hub.

Volunteers play an important role in what we do at The Open Door. Their dedication and willingness to lend a hand are the backbone of our activities, helping us to foster a welcoming environment and to reach more people in our community. Volunteers not only make it possible for us to run events and provide services, but they also bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and a sense of togetherness to each gathering.

By joining our team, volunteers have the opportunity to connect with others, develop new skills, and experience the joy of making a positive difference. The camaraderie and sense of accomplishment that come from working together are truly rewarding. Whether it's helping at craft sessions,

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

The Open Door

supporting community events, or simply sharing a cup of coffee and conversation, volunteers often find a sense of purpose and belonging, and their contributions are deeply appreciated by everyone involved. It's good fun too, so please get in touch if you would like to join us!

We are grateful for the support that has advanced our initiatives. Thanks to Graham Leeming for his expertise with funding, Fiona Spiers (WCAVA) for guidance on funding opportunities, Wendy Leach and Mary Lee (WRCC) for outreach advice, Stacey Bains (Transforming Communities Together Warwick) for community engagement ideas, Lindsey Kemp and Joanna Dagg (Warwick District Council) for encouragement, and the Warwick Community Network Team for fostering unity. We are also thankful to Budbrooke Parish Council and RUCIS, who provided funding for coffee and hot chocolate machines, which have become popular gathering spots at The Open Door.

Our achievements reflect the dedication of our team, including Alex Davis, Eddie Fowler, Ellie Coysh, and David Brown of The Open Door Working Group. We look forward to further enhancing activities and support through The Open Door.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

Make Lunch



Make Lunch in 2025

“Community, Belonging, and Meals that Matter” is the new strapline introduced by Transforming Lives for Good, which is very much in step with how our Make Lunch has evolved. Whilst food provision continues to help some families, it is the relationships with our team members and within the group of families who gather in school holidays that are increasingly valued by all. We have also seen God answer our prayers for challenging situations, which in turn emboldens us to pray unceasingly and whole-heartedly with and for certain families.

Our loyal team from St Michael’s comprises Suzanne Hotten, Sue Nicholson, Sue & Ray Filby, Rae Poole (who all help cover fortnightly Wednesday mornings in term-time), and Margaret Gayler and Sam, Raine Hiscox, the PAIS girls Ellie and Karina, and Caroline Mara, who are all invaluable in our holiday sessions when available. Kate Booth has taken on the provision of our craft activities, where a fresh pair of eyes has been a delight. We are also grateful to Mark Durrant who collects from Foodbank, and to Renay & Jason Swartz who mind our food bags for later collection.

Things we have been thankful for include:

- Over our 11 holiday sessions we have met with 40 unique children and 22 parents, serving 165 child meals and 106 adult meals. A total of 19 volunteers spread across the year is not enough!
- Collaboration with CMCC has strengthened: several of our families benefitted from the revised toy distribution; they provided the party food for our joint Sunday session before Christmas; staff were blessed to be included in Say One for Me during the recent Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

Make Lunch

- In addition to receiving Christmas gifts from Lidl Toy collection, we also received a bag of gifts from The Factory Shop, and lots of Lego from the Gaydon Motor Museum, ensuring that birthday gifts can be available from our stock well into 2026.
- Welcome news was received that Govt has extended HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) funding, via WCC, for a further three years until March 2029.
- 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 remains 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 Lunch Club

Lunch Club gathers on the second Friday of each month and welcomes anyone who feels young at heart and enjoys sharing good company over a meal. Typically, around 32 people attend monthly, with numbers rising to 45 for the Christmas meal in 2025. For the two-course meal plus tea or coffee we ask for a donation of £5, which includes a donation supporting Fred, a student in Uganda, through Compassion UK. Due to rising food prices, this figure will increase to £6 starting in January 2026, while the special Christmas meal donation will be £10. Many guests value that the figure of £5 has been maintained for 18 years – an impressive accomplishment

Sue Scurrah, an important member of our team, left in March to care for her grandson. In April, we warmly welcomed Allison Wiggin, Ruth, and Roger Hamson, whose help has been invaluable to Caroline. Jo Lang and Glynis Welton provide valuable assistance with setup and clean-up, while Ann and Keith Arnold, despite significant health challenges, participate whenever possible. We greatly appreciate their support. We extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers; their commitment is vital to the continued operation of the Lunch Club.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group Lunch Club

As we look ahead to 2026, we're grateful for your prayers, which have led to a generous donation toward purchasing a replacement cooker. This gift will greatly improve our ability to prepare and serve meals efficiently at the Lunch Club. The kindness of our community and donors enables us to continue offering warm, nutritious meals to everyone. Donations not only fund necessary equipment like the cooker but also support ongoing work—from meal preparation to aiding students abroad through Compassion UK. With food costs rising, contributions are crucial for maintaining quality and affordability, allowing us to invest in improvements that benefit all members. Every gift, large or small, is deeply appreciated, and we encourage continued support as we look forward to another year of fellowship and service together.

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

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

As reported last year, many of the activities and events organised by the Midweek Group in the past are now offered in different ways through the outreach programme at The Open Door or through the 9am Worship Community.

So in 2025 the Midweek Group has continued to concentrate its energies on organising the monthly Lunch Club (see report by Caroline Edwards) and the occasional Praise events. Last year, we offered Easter Praise at the Church Centre on April 24th which was a time of songs, poems, readings and sharing of memories for the Easter season followed by afternoon tea and cakes. The event was well attended and was enjoyed by all who came. Unfortunately, we were not able to run a Summer Praise afternoon last year.

However, our well- established Carols and Cake Christmas celebration took place as usual at Budbrooke Village Hall in Hampton-on-the Hill on the afternoon of 18th December. We gathered to sing traditional carols, pray together and listen to seasonal readings and poems. We, of course, finished with refreshments and cakes provided by members of the team. Ann Arnold was able to make the wonderful centrepiece Christmas Cake again this time and Keith played the keyboard for us in spite of the serious health issues they continue to face. We are so grateful to them both for their willingness to share their gifts and minister to us even in such difficult circumstances.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

Midweek Group

In spite of the weather, the event was very well attended and continues to be an important outreach occasion as not just people from the church come but also people from the village of Hampton on the Hill and further afield. Some who attend say it is their main Christmas event. Like last year, members of the 9am Community helped with the planning and delivery of the programme and as always we are grateful to those who help with getting the room ready, lighting the fire and keeping it going and serving teas.

Mary Lodge on behalf of the Midweek Team Caroline Edwards, Ann and Keith Arnold.



WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

David Brown

Warwick Team (Ministry Partnership)

Whilst St Michael's isn't formally part of the Warwick Team, we have been working closely with the other local Anglican parishes for many years, not least through our shared interest as beneficiaries of the King Henry VIII trust. Given our oversight of St Paul's, this link continues to grow.

2025 saw a period of consultation around the future shape of the "Team", now reframed as the Warwick Ministry Partnership, an informal umbrella for the ministry that fully includes Budbrooke. There is a strong desire to use the "project pool" funding we share to maximum effect for God's Kingdom. Out of this, each parish will lead on an area of specialism or gifting, with St Mike's and St Paul's asked to lead on developing leaders and youth ministry.

As a result, we have been asked to shape plans for developing these areas of work which we expect to take more substance throughout 2025. These plans will be significant in shaping the ministry across both churches into the future. Watch this space!

In 2025, the "Project Pool" continued to help fund the West Warwick Youth & Schools 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 schools lead, Caroline Mara and our PAIS team are funded by this grant. The wider plans already mentioned won't replace this work, but we will ensure that they dovetail, so we use our resources effectively and make the most of the opportunities God has given us.

WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

Churches Together in Warwick

The three Forum meetings have been well attended, and at the AGM in October, the elected officers were Rev'd Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist Church, Moderator (now in the second year of her three-year term); Mark Leonard (Castle Hill) continued as Secretary, supported by Liz Reid (Methodist) as Minutes Secretary, and Richard Akers (St Paul's) Treasurer. Helen Granger stood down as Treasurer with thanks at the end of her term. Rae Poole and Val Brant continue to represent St Michael's, with Emma Pace continuing to manage the Facebook page. Helen Granger maintains the revamped CTW website www.ctwarwick.org.uk.

Highlights of the year have included:

- Building on last year's "Walking Vespers", a Walk took place in St Nicholas Park to mark The Season of Creation, with continued focus on environmental issues. During refreshments afterwards we heard about St Nicholas' Muddy Church.
- Lent prayers for a week, based on Creation, were hosted on Zoom and led by Rev'd Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist and Paul McCloskey of St Charles Borromeo. Sally also led Seven Nights in Advent by Zoom.
- Christmas gifts and other necessities were again collected for the migrants living at the Delta Marriott hotel; some residents worship at St Paul's and others at St Mary Collegiate.
- 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 our Church Centre in July. In 2026 we will host on 4th July at Chase Meadow 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 for the clergy-led service in Market Place. Rev'd Angus Aagaard of St Mary Collegiate gave the address, inviting attendees to place crosses and prayers at the foot of the central cross (see photo). 2025 was Claire's last year of organising the Walks, with Pastor Linz Alexander of New Life organising in 2026.
- Nativity Live! took place in Market Place, with valued contributions from several churches.
- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2026 – The well-attended United Service was hosted by New Life Church, building on the theme of unity. During the week, a small number of members had visited different churches' outreach events to invite people to take part in Say One for Me. This was continued in Market Place on Saturday morning. Prayer was offered for issues made known, and people were generally touched to have been shown care. It is planned to continue Say One for Me in Market Place after Prayer Breakfasts in summer months.
- Messy Church continued at Woodloes School, and is much appreciated by those who attend.

During the year, Rev'd Sharon Jones, former curate, returned to lead at All Saints Emscote. Amy Vogel (St Paul's) and Rosie Brown (St Michael's) began their ordination training in September.

WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

Churches Together in Warwick

Collaboration between five churches, facilitated by Thrive Youth Ministries, has enabled the Youth Alpha course in early 2026; this initiative recognises the interest in faith matters shown by young people across our local schools. Other spheres for joint working include the Eco Church movement championed by some CTW churches.

The next Forum will take place at Castle Hill Baptist Church on Thursday 18th June, and all are welcome to attend.



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 2025 our Discretionary Grants and donations totalled £ 1,337.

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	£434
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	£5,834

MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

In 2025, we gave 21.5% of our income in financial gifts or subsidised use of the church centre to needs beyond ourselves. This is a slight increase on 2024.

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 2025 our contribution to the support fund was £20,182 or 13.2% of eligible income.

In cash terms, the total we disbursed was £7,171, or 4.5% of our income, whilst Christian churches / groups were able to use the Church Centre on a donations only basis, subsidised to the value of £6,084, equivalent of 3.8% of income.

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

In 2025 the PCC focused on strengthening our shared life as a church, progressing our shared ministry with St Paul's, and continuing to develop our buildings and governance in ways that support mission and welcome.

A key strand of work through the year was the move towards a shared network structure with St Paul's and Chase Meadow. PCC discussions clarified that each parish remains legally separate, while policies, planning, communications, resourcing and ministry patterns are increasingly shared. The PCC adopted the proposed ministry shape and structure in July, and by the autumn agreed practical steps around shared administration, communications and technology with this and role clarity reflected in the memorandum of understanding, which has an inbuilt annual review process.

Alongside this, the PCC continued to progress the church re-ordering. During 2025 we appointed an architect, developed updated designs, and prepared for wider consultation with the church family. Plans have prioritised welcome, accessibility and flexibility, including a glazed porch, improved WC provision, and a revised tech/AV location. We are preparing to secure the relevant permissions with a view to starting the work in summer 2027.

The PCC also addressed operational and community-facing matters, with progression of the graveyard extension (we now own the land) continuing in parallel to practical upgrades to the church centre, and the installation of a new coffee machine at The Open Door.

PCC REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

David Brown

Financially, the PCC reviewed budgets and our reserves policy, while monitoring specific pressures, including Outreach Worker funding and The Open Door income. The PCC continues to seek to look after our staff responsibly, agreeing targeted adjustments and ensuring role descriptions and terms remain up to date, relevant and clear as the network develops.

In governance and safeguarding, the PCC maintained focus on key aspects of culture, including safer recruitment, risk assessments, role descriptions and training, and reviewed a range of policies across the year, including environmental policy (important to gaining our Eco Church award), GDPR-related items, and appropriate use of premises.

As we look ahead, the PCC's priorities are to embed the network launch well, maintain momentum on the re-ordering project, and continue to resource mission and discipleship in ways that serve our communities faithfully through the delivery of our action plan.

PCC REPORTS

SAFEGUARDING

Margaret Gayler

“ *Speak out on behalf of the voiceless* ”
Proverbs 31:8

Safeguarding continues to underpin all our ministry at St Michael's and the PCC takes seriously its role to oversee all areas and make our church as safe as possible for all the church family and those who are connected with it.

Safeguarding has become much more than DBS checks and volunteer forms! This year, the PCC has been working through the Church of England's questions on creating a safe culture and how to promote the welfare of vulnerable groups and will consider how we support survivors of abuse in the coming year.

Safeguarding is always a team effort, and the PCC is very grateful to everyone who has given up time to complete safeguarding training, including the Domestic Abuse training. I am also grateful to Alex, Ellie and David for their help sorting DBS checks and volunteer forms and the role descriptions. Coventry Diocese is currently undergoing an external safeguarding audit so it has been important that all our paperwork is up to date! Role descriptions and annual 'check-ins' with volunteers should be embedded over the coming year – we want everyone who volunteers to feel supported and valued in their roles.

PCC REPORTS

SAFEGUARDING

Margaret Gayler

Last August, the company that oversaw the DBS checks had a serious data breach which affected some of our volunteers. The PCC agreed to support them with any costs arising from that, and the Diocese agreed to pay for credit checks and replacement ID. We pray that this has not caused ongoing upset or problems. The Diocese has now moved to another DBS provider, Thirtyone:Eight

Safeguarding concerns raised during the year have been handled with advice from the Safeguarding Advisors at the Diocese. We try to deal with these carefully, confidentially, sensitively and lovingly. DBS checks are now up to date and training is being organised for those who require it – the increasing number is a wonderful testament to how far the church's ministry reaches!

The PCC is grateful for your support and understanding, and please, as always, do not hesitate to be in touch with me or David, in confidence, should you have any concerns.

Annual Safeguarding Statement

I can confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Margaret Gayler
PSO

PCC REPORTS

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

Clare Watson & Ruth Grinbergs

No major work has been carried out this year, and the heating has survived another winter.

We had our Quinquennial (five yearly) architect's survey in 2025. This picked out three Priority 1 items for attention. One was to get a structural survey of the tower, and in particular the spirelets which are leaning, the second was to get an inspection of the roof to assess the needs for repairs and replacements, and the third was to make safe any gravestones that were found to be dangerous. We are grateful to Gary Dagnell who has been able to do a drone survey of the roof and tower identifying where tiles are missing and other work may be needed. The photographs from this survey are being passed to a structural engineer for their assessment and the survey of the tower is being arranged. The loose gravestones have been made safe.

Project 'Warm Welcome', to make changes to the church is underway with a working group established and plans reviewed and agreed by the PCC. The project includes a new, larger porch which will include toilet facilities, the levelling of the church floor, and the installation of a new heating system. Any work that is required on the roof is likely to be incorporated into this programme of work. You may have noticed the sample chairs in church which we are evaluating for practicality and comfort. New chairs are needed for the Church Centre, and we intend to provide the same chairs in the church to complete the refurbishment.

PCC REPORTS


FABRIC & MAINTENANCE



Clare Watson & Ruth Grinbergs

Another aspect of the refurbishment project will be the development of the piece of land adjacent to the churchyard that we have been gifted for the purpose of extending the space available for interment of ashes. The area needs to be fenced off and decisions about its look and feel will be made following consultation with interested parties. We became registered as a bronze level eco church early in 2025, and we look forward to enhancing the churchyard to support wildlife as well as being a sanctuary for people.

We held our annual working party at the beginning of December and we are grateful to all those who turned out to clear the car park, polish brass, clean the church and take on the challenge of the Christmas tree! We would also like to express our appreciation to those who continue to tend the churchyard through the year.



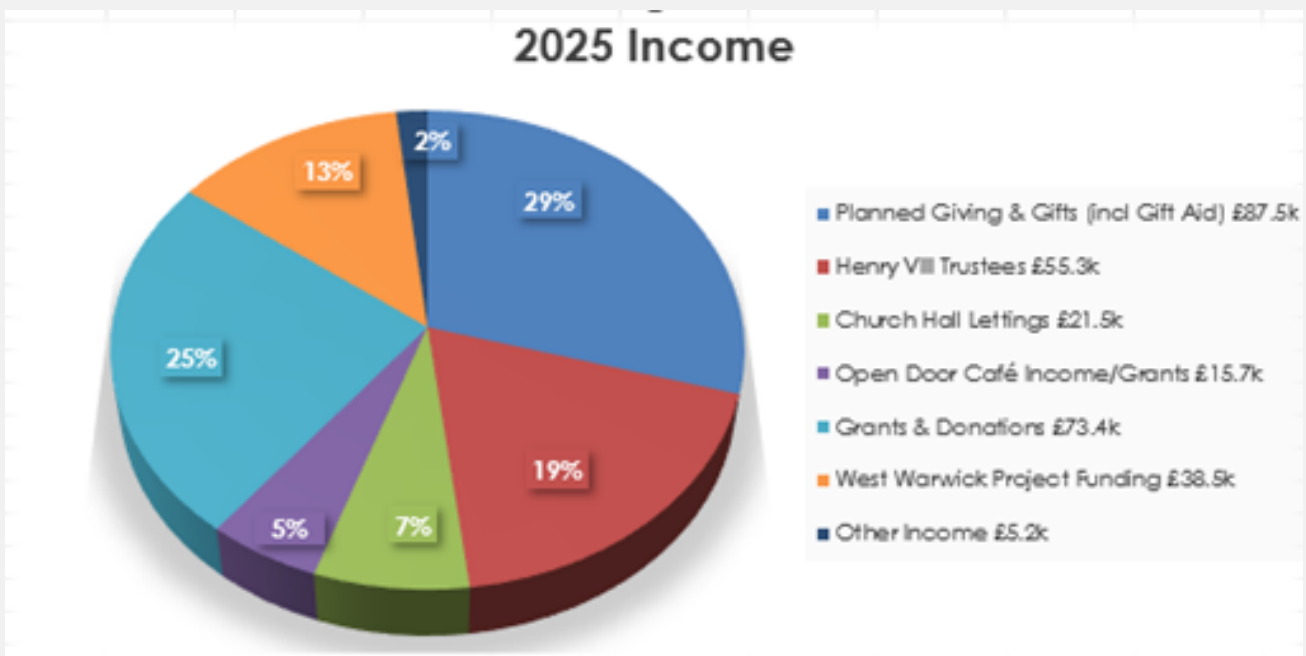
FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

Overall, regular giving by standing order, including Gift Aid, has increased by 3% from the 2024 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 2024 level as clients & groups continue to return to regular meetings in the Church Centre.

The Open Door has remained a well-loved community meeting place, though income has fallen compared to 2024. We continue to be grateful for the support of Entrust Care Partnership in choosing to carry on using our facilities.



FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

The main sources of income in respect of percentage of total were Planned Giving (29%), income from King Henry VIII Trustees (19%), Income from Church Hall lettings (7%), Other Grants & Donations (25%) and West Warwick Project Funding (13%). Unrestricted income was £155,936 (£188,956 in 2024)

Regular Giving and Gifts

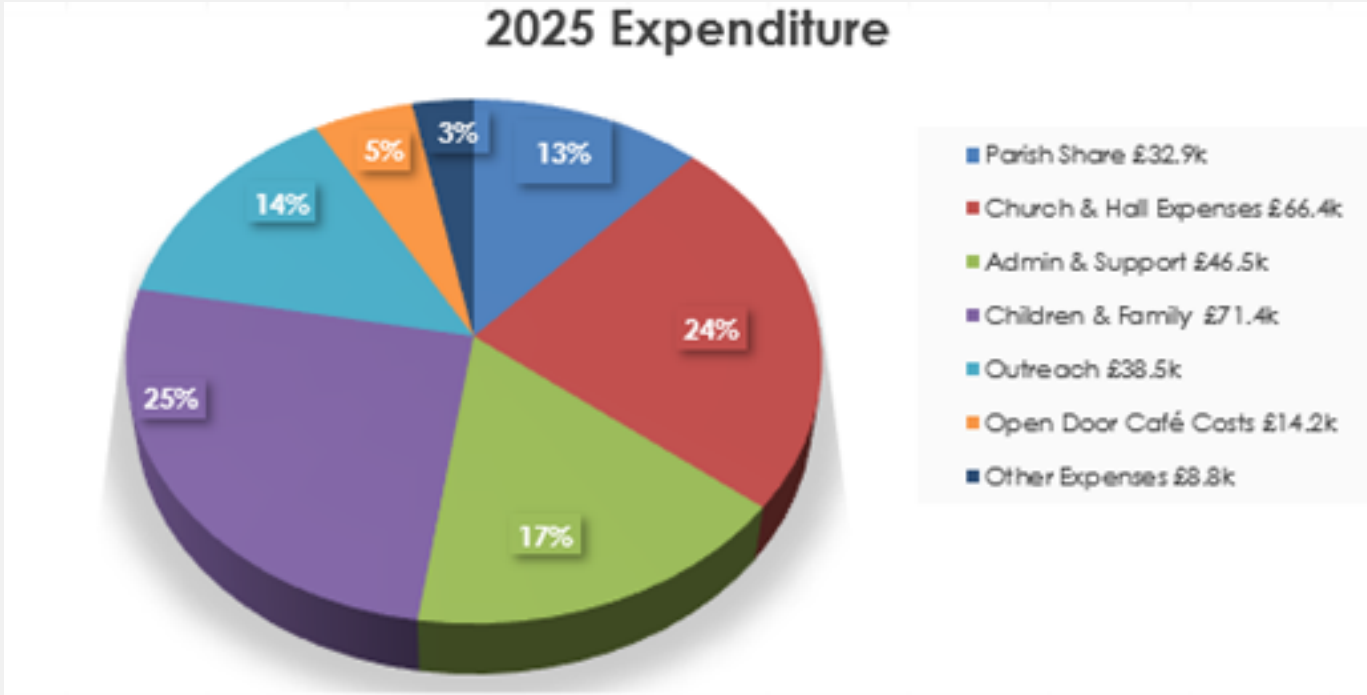
The majority of our Church family give regularly through monthly standing order and respond to specific appeals. The Gift Aid Scheme then enables us to add to this regular giving as well as being able to reclaim tax on smaller giving through the plate. Giving from our personal financial income is a fundamental 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 £55,321 (2024: £53,934) to be used for our mission in the Parish.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

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 £172,540 (2024: £172,050). Detailed information can be found in the Annual Accounts for 2025 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 2025 on Parish Share was £32,907 (2024: £33,090)

Mission Outreach

As a church we are focused on discipleship and mission in our local communities supporting both young and older people. Expenditure in 2025 on Outreach costs amounted to £38,485 (2024: £39,028).

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025



Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis


Youth Children's and Family Work

This work has remained steady in reaching children, young people and families, with spending increasing in 2025 at £71,360 (2024: £68,209).

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 1st April 2026 and signed on its behalf by
Rev'd David Brown - Vicar





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