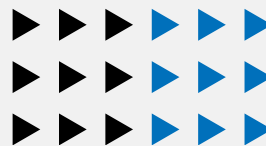




St Paul's Church

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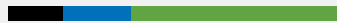


2025 ANNUAL REPORT



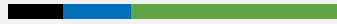
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Introduction	03
Associate Minister’s Report	05
Message From Revitalisation Plant Leader	08
Churchwarden’s Report	10
Finance Report	13
Reveiw of PCC Year	15
Make Lunch & Food Pantry	20
Over 50's Seniors Club	23
Sunday Club	24
Christmas Charity Coffee Morning	25
Lego Club now Big Friday	27
Little Stars	28

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Youth Cafe	29
Safeguarding	30
Wider Church Links (Warwick Team)	31
Wider Church Links (Deanery Synod)	32
Churches Together	33
Schools Outreach and Families	35



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

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 April 2025 the following persons served as members of the PCC:

Associate Minister: Rev David Brown

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 (2025 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 (2025 elected for 3 yrs) Resigned November 2025

Co-opted: Amy Vogel (Church Revitalisation Plant Leader)

2 Representatives on Deanery Synod

INTRODUCTION



Electoral roll

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

Bank:

Lloyds TSB

Independent Examiner:

Gagandeep Ubhey
Edwards, Pearson & White.
8 Jury Street
Warwick
CV34 4EW

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT



David Brown
Associate Minister

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 Michael'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.

Our multiplication vision has continued to shape our priorities, and our partnership with St Michael's has deepened further as we take practical steps towards becoming Warwick Network Church. Collaboration between congregations and leadership teams has increased, and we have also formalised our working relationship with St Michael'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. Work continues on a new shared website into which both PCC's have given input – with the launch scheduled for May 2026.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT

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.

Amy has begun studying for ordination in Oxford, which is an exciting step as she continues to discern and prepare for future ministry within the Church of England. We recognised this would impact her capacity and through the Autumn have journeyed with her with a view to ensuring the right support is in place. With a clearer sense of her availability and, in light of that, the ongoing needs of the ministry we began 2026 thinking about recruiting to complementary support roles to help continue and sustain the growth we have begun to see.

This year has also seen the continuing development of the Pais team, who have played a key role in the life of both St Paul's and St Michael'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.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT



Across the year we have shared many moments of community life together. We 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.

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.

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 at St Paul's. We are grateful for all you do and bring as members of the body of Christ here.

REVITALISATION PLANT LEADER WORSHIP REPORT

Amy Vogel


There is a lot to celebrate and give thanks for this year. It has been a real blessing to see the new members of St. Paul's be baptised and confirmed at both the May and November services. St. Paul's continues to see between 25 and 40 people attend the 10am Morning Worship every week. It is wonderful to see many of the new people getting involved in serving, both on a Sunday and as part of the weekly ministries.

The monthly pattern of worship for Sunday mornings at 10am has found its rhythm. The first Sunday being Morning Worship, second - 'Love Sunday' our fresh expression, third - Morning Worship & Holy Communion, fourth - 'Love Sunday', and fifth (when it occurs) - Morning celebration/ gathering with the wider network. Over the last year the network staff team has taken it in turns to preach and lead across the different sites. The church has also enjoyed welcoming guests to preach/ be interviewed from outside our network. We have looked at various series from the 5 Fold Ministry, 5 Marks of Mission, Knowing God and God Made Me. Some of the series have been further explored in Advent and Lent groups.

We have had up to 17 under sixteens attend on a Sunday. The children and teenagers like to serve in church, supporting with tech, leading prayers and being part of the music team. A big thank you to Pat who served so faithfully for many years in this ministry. Pat has passed on the baton and Ana has helped to bring together a team to lead the Sunday children's ministry.

REVITALISATION PLANT LEADER WORSHIP REPORT

Amy Vogel



It is exciting that in the last year we have seen a number of people coming into St. Paul's asking for help to read the Bible. This has led to the Bible Reading Group being formed. A number of people get together every Thursday morning in the church to explore and read God's word together.

St. Paul's is a very welcoming family and the congregation has coped with the transition. As we look forward to the future we need to address the questions of connecting our weekday ministries to our Sunday worship. We may need explore how service timings and introducing other services may enable us to reach the community God has blessed us to be a part of.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

Buildings and Grounds

Buildings

Boiler

- Due to repair needed to the boiler, there was no central heating in the church and hall at the end of the year. Thanks must go to Rev Martin Davies who supplied heaters to help keep the chill off and to Alex Davis who ordered blankets to keep us warm. (The boiler was finally repaired in early January 2026 at a cost of £2948.40.)
- A Hive system was installed, enabling the heating to be remotely controlled via an app, at a cost of £625.23.

Carpet Cleaning

- The carpets and hard floors were cleaned in November prior to the joint baptism & confirmation service.

Fire Safety

- Following advice from Admiral, a fire safety company, an additional fire extinguisher has been situated on the mezzanine.
- Flammable items being stored above the door in the Table Store have now been moved.

Hall

- The unsafe stacking of chairs in the hall was brought to the attention of the PCC. It was subsequently agreed that chairs should be stored in stacks of 10 with the seats facing the wall. A notice is now displayed to this effect and hall hirers have been informed.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

Kitchen

- It was agreed to replace the water boiler after ongoing problems with the existing model.
- It was agreed to purchase a replacement freezer for the kitchen at a cost of £79.

Office & Vestry Refurbishment

- De-cluttering has taken place and draft plans have been drawn up for new storage and workstations. A second quote will be required before a faculty can be applied for.

Quinquennial Inspection

- As reported last year, the 5-yearly inspection, which took place on 20th 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. Philip Waghorn, our church architect, has prepared a schedule of work for other items that need attention which include repointing of stonework. We are awaiting quotes for this.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hazel Phillips

Churchyard

·The general maintenance of the churchyard continues to be the responsibility of the Town Council whose contractors mow the grass and cut back the shrubs along the drive. The Town Council also look after the trees which are named on a Tree Preservation Order. Again, thanks must be expressed to Edward Kibbler who tackles weeding, pruning and cares for the Rose Garden. The roses he planted in 2024 looked beautiful last year.



FINANCE REPORT



Sheila Pink

Charitable Giving

Our charitable giving for 2025 is a 10th of our giving received in 2024 which comes from General Funds and Henry Money. As usual the congregation were asked for their nominations, but not many people came forward with their favourite charity. The decisions were left to the Finance Team to decide which charities to support. The following charities were nominated and approved by the PCC at their meeting in November 2025.

Way Ahead Support Services	£600	Christians Against Poverty	£600
Myton Hospice	£600	Mikey's Wish Foundation	£600
Embrace the Middle East	£610	Hill Close Gardens	£600
TOTAL out of General Funds		£3,610	
Newburgh School	£1,700	Westgate School	£1,700
Aylesford School	£1,700	Make Lunch	£294
TOTAL FROM HENRY FUNDS		£5,394	

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. In particular we received an email from the head at Westgate School saying that their School Council had voted to spend the money on a stage to be built in the playground.

The annual accounts will show you the way that the money has been spent during 2025 and I encourage you to look at them. Thanks go to Gagundee at Edwards, Pearson and White for his advice and help.

A thank you to all who regularly give to the church, either by standing order, plate, envelopes or by the card machine. At the APCM there will be the opportunity to hear more about stewardship and what this means for each one of us and our church.

Finally, I would like to thank the Finance Team: Karen, Richard, Ann, David and Amy. Also thanks to Alan Rylett (treasurer at All Saints) for the support, expertise, and patience he gives to me and St Paul's in finalising the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE PCC YEAR

Hazel Philips

During 2025, five PCC meetings were held with an additional joint meeting taking place in July with the PCC of St Michael's Church, Budbrooke.

The New Year heralded fresh plans and initiatives, all designed to strengthen and build up the life and mission of the church. At January's meeting, David dedicated the opening prayers to the new place of welcome which Marvin Vogel had cleverly constructed and Amy explained the name of the now very-well-used hospitality area - LUDS - as being a church in the Peak District, founded in a chasm where persecuted Christians in the past had worshipped safely in secret. We now welcome folks to a family-friendly, more relaxed style of worship in our Love Sunday service twice a month with a warm drink, pastries and fruit from this new area.

There having been several requests for full immersion baptism, which was recognised as being a powerful statement of faith and witness, it was agreed to share the purchase, with St Michael's, of a portable baptistry. We were delighted to learn later in the year that Bishop Sophie Jelley, the new Bishop of Coventry, would officiate at a joint baptism and confirmation service on 30th November.

Shared ministry and network commitments with St Michael's & Chase Meadow had become a regular agenda item at our meetings. In March, all agreed that the sharing of preachers and leaders had been working well. It had been refreshing to hear different voices and experience different styles

REVIEW OF THE PCC YEAR

Hazel Philips

Alex Davis, the St Michael's Operations Manager, had already assumed the role of our Operations Manager and Eddie Fowler, St Michael's caretaker, had taken over cleaning duties after Theresa Young's retirement in January, after many years of loyal service. Eddie also covers our caretaking needs. We were beginning to feel part of the St Michael's team especially after the PCC was invited to share a meal together at The Open Door with David and his family.

A new name – Warwick Network Church – was proposed with a new logo, both of which will be launched in Spring 2026, subject to diocesan approval, along with a combined new website for the three locations.

At the joint meeting of St Michael's and St Paul's PCCs in July the proposed network church structure and ministry shape were discussed, focusing on how a shared pattern of ministry will work and how it can be shaped to grow and multiply. Both churches will remain as separate parishes with their own PCCs.

We share common vision and values but noted the need to work to an overall shared plan, alongside each site having its own local action plan. A joint plan will be reviewed, incorporating elements of the current St Michael's plan relevant for the network as a whole; it was also noted that it would be helpful to standardise policies across the network.

A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up following this meeting, setting out the commitments of the new network which was approved by both PCCs.

REVIEW OF THE PCC YEAR

Hazel Philips

Tim Williams will now oversee youth ministry across the network while Caroline Mara will be responsible solely for Primary Schools Ministry, in a change to her original job description.

It was agreed that a joint network service will be held on fifth Sundays plus the occasional other service.

Although it was hoped to run a joint Alpha course early in 2025, the required numbers didn't materialise. Those who had expressed an interest were encouraged to take part in coffee evangelism or baptism preparation which have a similar input. However, following a more positive response to advertising later in the year, a course was successfully held at St Paul's in the Autumn. A town-wide Youth Alpha course for school years 9-13 is now set to begin in January at Castle Hill Baptist Church.

After having a year to bed into her new role at St Paul's, Amy faced more change in the second part of the year. After Christmas, the Wardens oversaw the much-needed refurbishment of the St Paul's vicarage, enabling Amy, Marvin and family to move into their promised home during the summer holidays. Amy had only a few weeks to settle in before she began her theological training at Wycliffe College, Oxford, where she studies for three days a week.

The Pais team of interns have been a welcome addition to our missional work for several years now. Ana has joined us as Children's Worker and Karina is now in her second year with us and is working with the youth in our community. Their energy and love of the Lord is truly inspiring.

REVIEW OF THE PCC YEAR

Hazel Philips

Whilst we were in a new season at St Paul's, the Warwick Team churches collectively were also experiencing change as they welcomed Rev Angus Aagaard as Team Rector and Vicar of St Mary's. He set up meetings with clergy and wardens of each church to discuss the vision for the Warwick Team so David, Amy, Hazel and Sheila met with Angus and his representatives from St Mary's in mid-March. All team churches engaged in the conversation to help discern the shape of the Warwick Team going forward. It was agreed that the two churches have shared values, a shared heart for discipleship, growth, multiplication and mission.

As a result of these meetings, a Warwick Minster Partnership, formerly Team Council, was developed. As part of this, St Paul's has been tasked with leading on schools & youth ministry across the Team. St Michael's and St Paul's together are to investigate the development of intern ministry and support new worshipping communities in collaboration with other Minster churches and the Leamington Mission Hub. Discussions have already begun on gifting and expertise in youth ministry planning and the sharing of resources.

Being custodians of a Grade 2 Victorian building means there is always repair work and maintenance to be done. At the end of the year we received a schedule of work from our church architect detailing repairs which will be going out to tender shortly. There is also a vision to re-organise and refurbish the office and vestry with the aim of improving their functionality. It is hoped that space can be maximised so they become fit for purpose, giving an improved working environment, better storage and increased security when lone working.

REVIEW OF THE PCC YEAR

Hazel Philips

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Pat Kibbler, ensures that all church leaders, employees and volunteers have received the correct training and have DBS checks in place. She also ensures that PCC complies with the duty, under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. PCCs are now required to discuss the culture of their church at least once every three years; St Paul's was identified as being welcoming and supportive with positive signs of growth.

We look forward to what 2026 will bring and pray that we may embrace every opportunity that God gives us to share His love and spread His word with our community in the west end of Warwick.

MAKE LUNCH & FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers
and the team

2025 has been an amazing, fulfilling and joyful year for Make Lunch Warwick St Paul's. We have seen new volunteers coming to help, not always from our church but who have heard what we are doing and want to be a part of God's plan here. Sam and Marie are doing a fantastic job, along with the rest of the team. We are so grateful to everyone, without them none of what we do would be possible.

In 2025 we held 11 Make Lunch Clubs on Fridays during the school holidays. These were attended by 70 different children and 41 different parents/carers, an increase of approx. 25%. We provided 249 children's meals and 142 parent/carer meals, making a total of 491 meals.

Once again we had a wide range of activities with a different topic each time, some were in-house but one week during the summer holidays we had a visit from The Petsman Animal Encounters who brought along various pets from insects, reptiles, through guinea pig, rabbit to chicken and owls - fantastic, a certainty for next year. For the third year, on our last session of the school summer holidays, we held our own Family Fun Day with bouncy castle, BBQ, popcorn warmer and lots of games and activities. The weather was not very good so a lot needed to come indoors but nevertheless we had a great time and we are looking to a repeat in 2026. One day, one of our children asked why they couldn't make their own lunch so in October Chartwell Catering Company came and helped everyone make their own stir fry lunch - what an experience but the families certainly enjoyed it. Thanks to the whole team for the time and energy they put into making these sessions the success they are.

MAKE LUNCH & FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers
and the team

We had a bit of a wobbly start to our Food Pantry but now have it organised on a Monday morning during the Open Church session and also take bags to some who can't get to us. We plan to continue developing this ministry.

In December we again held our Christmas pop-up shop for 2 days where we give away donated new and good quality toys to any needy family, but this time we left Chase Meadow Community Centre and came here to St Paul's Church. We were uncertain about whether it would work, would we be able to collect sufficient donations, would we have enough helpers but Father God had it all in hand (why did I doubt?). Someone who had helped a few years ago offered her help (a very experienced lady) and she came with mom, dad and 2 teenaged children!! It was totally amazing so another definite for next year.

Towards the end of the year that 'churning within' began, what was God saying? Was this a time for change? So much prayer followed and after 9 years (10 years for St Mike's) we are ending our affiliation with TLG (absolutely no problem with TLG, they are an amazing organisation) but this will enable us to develop the ministry to our own individual needs and abilities. Essentially Make Lunch will continue but from September the name will change – more information to come.

MAKE LUNCH & FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers
and the team

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 a local resident donate £100 of his pensioner's heating allowance along with support from other local people so we were able to provide a plentiful Christmas food hamper for each of our families.

So although 2025 was a little different, we'll continue doing what we can with your help and support as we approach 2026, a year of change and of opportunity.

OVER 50'S SENIORS CLUB

REPORT



Pat & Edward Kibbler

Writing reports is not my favourite pastime and the time for this one comes around far too soon I feel. Perhaps that is something to do with my age and I am sure that the members of St Paul's Over 50's group probably feel the same sometimes. However, despite our age we always enjoy our social evenings once a month.

Our programme over the past year has included a dance demo by the children of Liz England's Fit2Dance group, slides of Richard and Audrey's cruise, a Talk by Amy on Zimbabwe and the charity that she and Marvin are involved with there, and also a visit from Jane Harrison and her Hearing Dog. In the Summer we also had an afternoon visit to Hill Close Gardens which the PCC generously agreed to fund for us. It was a jolly party who enjoyed a lovely tea with scrumptious cakes in the gardens at Hill Close.

We are grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to help us each month and thanks go to Richard and Audrey and also our volunteer drivers who collect members from their homes each month – Karen, Kate and Sue and also Richard and Edward when they are needed.

If you or anyone you know would enjoy an evening out once a month, we would love to welcome you.

SUNDAY CLUB REPORT



Pat Kibbler

During the year we have continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays using the theme set for the day in a child friendly format. It is quite difficult sometimes to have stories and activities appropriate for the varied age range of the children but hopefully they have been able to understand something of the message. Due to the increase in the number of children and the varied age range it became obvious that we may need to have two groups in order to cater for their specific needs. What a wonderful position to be in – God is so good!!

In August we welcomed Ana, a new member of the Pais Team, who has joined us specifically to work with primary age children in church. Ana has been a real blessing and soon settled in to supporting me at Sunday Club and also leading the children's activities on Love Sundays.

This will be my last Sunday Club report to the APCM as in October, after much prayer and thought, I decided to step down from leading the Sunday Club and wrote to Amy indicating my decision and the reasons behind it. After over 60 years working with children on Sundays, I am content knowing that the work is in safe hands and that the children will be served well and continue to learn from the Gospel Message and grow closer in their relationship with God.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

COFFEE MORNING 2025

REPORT



Hazel Phillips

The Christmas Charity Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 22nd November. Marvin again did a great job of putting up the Christmas lights beforehand which helped to create the all-important festive atmosphere, and a team of willing volunteers set out all the stalls on the preceding Friday afternoon. Unfortunately, it was a rather wet day so footfall was lower than usual; we were very happy therefore to learn we had raised £358.86, a very similar amount to the previous year, to be shared equally between our three chosen charities for the event – Christian Aid (in memory of Sally Claridge), Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and St Paul's.

The raffle, which is one of the most popular stalls, was generously supported by businesses in Warwick such as the Lord Leycester Hospital, Okens Tea Rooms, The Tuckery, Mary's Sweet Memories, Love Labels and Present Days. We are always pleased to welcome the Lifeboats Charity who regularly come to sell their cards and gifts and always tell us they've had a lovely morning talking to folks. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the day or who helped beforehand, especially to those who contributed items for the chocolate tombola which of course proved to be a big hit with all our younger visitors!



Lifeboat Stall

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

COFFEE MORNING 2025

REPORT



Hazel Phillips



Chocolate Tombola



Christmas Bag Tombola



Christmas Bric-a-Brac

LEGO CLUB NOW BIG FRIDAY REPORT



Amy Vogel

One of the changes we have made this year is renaming Lego Club as Big Friday and changing the day from a Tuesday to Friday. The thinking behind this was to create an after school club, that does have Lego but also includes many other activities to connect with different children's interests. Changing the day has also given the club an end of week celebration feel. It is crazy and fun! Children and parents both enjoy the milkshakes and nuggets & chips. There have been many opportunities to connect with the Parents, especially those from Westgate. What is amazing is that we do little advertising; it is parents themselves inviting other families along. Ideally we could do with a couple more volunteers, so please pray about this.

LITTLE STARS REPORT



Amy Vogel

Little stars is our new coffee morning and baby & toddler group. It meets every Friday in term time from 9:30-11am, in the church and hall. At the end we always have a time of songs and a short story relating to a biblical theme. The group has now been running for a year and has a real sense of family. We have a strong team of volunteers, who enjoy it as much as the children and parents. There has been lots of celebrating as we have welcomed a number of newborns to the group over the past few months. It is great sitting back and watching how all the parents that come have caught the vision and are very welcoming to anybody new - everyone supports each other.

YOUTH CAFE

REPORT



Tim Williams

Every Monday at St. Paul's, we run 'Youth Cafe' – a space for young people to explore who Jesus is, and who they are in His eyes. Every gathering is centered around 4 main pillars: Food, Fun, Friendship, and Faith.

One of our driving convictions as a team is that Jesus is revealed as we open the Bible. Therefore, we always make time to open the Bible in our gatherings, facilitating a space for young people to ask questions and share their reflections on the passage. As we've done this, their curiosity and openness towards the Gospel has continually grown. As a result of the seeds sown in Youth Cafe, we have also been able to initiate a number of 1-1 mentoring relationships between these young people and members of the Youth Cafe team, enabling further opportunities for discipleship and investment to take place during the week.

Over the coming term, we will be taking the Youth Cafe group through Youth Alpha as part of our regular Monday sessions. We are praying for this to be a powerful time through which Jesus becomes more real to them than ever before. We are also hoping it will encourage the Youth Cafe group to view this as an opportunity to bring their non-Christian friends into this journey of exploration with them.

Youth Cafe is an exciting ministry to be part of, and we would love to invite members of St. Paul's to join us in passing on the Gospel to the next generation. Get in touch with our Youth Ministry Lead, Tim Williams, if you would like to explore how to get involved.

SAFEGUARDING

REPORT



Pat Kibbler
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding continues to have a high priority within St Paul's and I give regular reports to PCC meetings on any relevant changes reported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

At the first meeting after the APCM various policies and documents were reviewed under the Safeguarding Action Plan and approved with any further action progressed. Information on promoting a healthy and safe culture in the church was circulated to members for discussion at the July meeting [subsequently referred to the September meeting]. It is a National Safeguarding directive that this process is repeated at least every three years.

In August we were informed by APCS, the Coventry Diocese DBS checking provider, that there had been a Data breach and that three families from St Paul's had been affected. The families were advised to renew various personal documents and that the PCC would reimburse the cost. As a result of this breach the Diocese were in regular contact with myself, providing excellent support and advice. In September I was notified that it was their intention to explore other DBS Checking providers and I was subsequently informed that the new DBS provider Thirty-one Eight had been appointed.

In November we were informed that in 2026 a National Safeguarding Audit would take place in this Diocese. This would involve all parishes and an on-line survey would be available for completion by churches. This survey is currently in process. Further information on the findings will be available later this year (2026).

WIDER CHURCH LINKS (WARWICK TEAM)

REPORT



David Brown

St Paul's is part of the wider Warwick Team (Ministry Partnership) and 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.

2025 saw a period of consultation around the future shape of the "Team", now reframed as the Warwick Ministry Partnership, an informal umbrella term for the ministry that also 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 Paul's and St Mike'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 (DEANERY SYNOD)

REPORT



David Brown

Each Synod meeting has included good news stories of God at work which have stirred and encouraged those present. Out of that, a key shared initiative in the Deanery was agreed. Deanery Mission Funds were used to purchase Bibles for churches to give to newcomers to church and in the wider community.

We set aside the March synod meeting for prayer, gathering to pray for our local churches, for Bishop Sophie, the diocese, and for the national church. We have had significant input on the Diocesan Lay Training Pathways and updates on the arrival and installation of our new Bishop, culminating locally in her visit to the Deanery in September 25.

The deanery continued to work with the bishop's and diocesan offices on various matters - manage the parish share process - a scheme which is currently under review and supporting parish appointments. Rev'd Dr Sharon Jones returned to the Deanery as new vicar of Warwick, All Saints where she had previously served as curate.

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

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 2025 for Prayer Breakfast, meeting at the various churches which make up CTW. There are eleven member churches and one associate church and, on average, around twenty people attend 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 thirty 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.

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 re-elected as Moderator in October 2025; Mark Leonard from Castle Hill Baptist Church remains as Secretary with Liz Reid from Warwick Methodist church as Minute Secretary; Helen Granger from St Mary Immaculate finished her term as treasurer and Richard Akers was elected in her place. Pat and Audrey remain as St Paul's representatives with regular attendance at meetings from Richard and Sheila. A CTW programme for the year is available.

18th - 25th January is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year various churches were visited by CTW members to pray and give out prayer leaflets under the banner of 'Say One For Me'. On the Saturday, seven members met in the Market Place offering prayers and prayer cards to people. The United Service was hosted by New Life Church.

CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

Richard & Audrey Akers

For the second year, in September CTW celebrated the 'The Season of Creation' with a Prayer Walk around St Nicholas Park. This was a simple way of reflecting on God's Creation and it is hoped that this will now become a regular event. 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. Rev Angus Aagaard, Rector of St Mary's Church Warwick gave the talk. 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 was the last year Claire Harris organised the Walk but Linz Alexander will continue the good work in 2026.

Improvements have been made to the CTW website thanks to Helen Granger and gives links to each member church. Sally Jones now produces a monthly prayer focus which is distributed to member churches for inclusion in their notice sheets.

CTW are exploring 2 new ministries, the first being a team to go into the Market Place once a month to chat with people and possibly pray with them. A team will gather in a local church to support them in prayer. The second possibly forming prayer triplets of people from different churches to gather again possibly monthly to pray for our town. Prayer is a vital foundational tool which we must use in seeing a greater move of God here in Warwick.

We are all looking forward to a blessed and prosperous 2026 when we can work together to impact the town of Warwick for Jesus.



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 three, 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.

This Annual report was approved by St Paul's Parochial Church Council
on ?? ?? 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd David Brown - Vicar



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