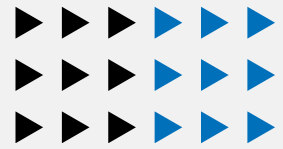




*St Michael's Church*

Worship • Community • Mission



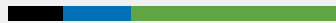
# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023



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# INTRODUCTION

## REPORT



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

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

Email: [office@stmbb.church](mailto:office@stmbb.church)

Website: [www.stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk)

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

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

Royston Young served until January 2023.

PCC Secretary: Alex Davis

There were two Deanery Synod representatives.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Since APCM 2023 the PCC has met seven times (May, August, September, November, January (twice) and March).

The electoral roll:

There are 93 members, of which 62 are resident in the parish and 31 are non-resident. None have joined the roll; 4 have left.

# VICAR'S REPORT



David Brown  
Vicar

The standout moment of 2023 at St Michael's for me was our baptism and confirmation service held in Kings Meadow. Well, I say Kings Meadow, it felt more like a marsh than a meadow! We got most of the way through the service until things were interrupted by the deluge at the end; I've never seen rain drops so big!

Nobody seemed to mind though – there was great joy at what we'd all shared in. The ten different testimonies told moving and powerful stories of God at work in ways that no-one could manufacture. Lives being impacted and changed is what the church is all about. As someone said at the time, if these baptisms are the start, then bring on the deluge!

Amen to that. Let's celebrate all that is good and continue to pray for more, for a move of God that sees more and more people turn and return to Jesus.

We continued to shape and plan for this too – running Alpha and sharpening our discipleship patterns. There has been good feedback from our triplet patterns as we seek to make our discipleship habits practical and repeatable.

# VICAR'S REPORT




This sense that we are heading in the right direction was confirmed by the feedback from this year's Retreat to Advance. We're on the right track, so we need to keep going, walking together in perseverance.

There was a clear call to develop our prayer strategies too, so we are better equipped for "battle" – something that finds fullest expression in our being willing to share our faith boldly in the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We continue to pray together for the life of the church weekly – do join us 7pm on Sundays – it's not a case of the more the merrier, rather, the more the mightier!

Our Communities have written their own prayers, expressing their vision, plans and priorities. We hope to repeat this exercise for our different ministries and use these together to complete a set of prayer prompts so the whole church can continue to pray for our various groups and ministries through the year.

So, we press on – listening to God as we go, seeking to develop and enhance all that we offer.

This doesn't mean everything is sorted. This report reflects that we are mindful of significant challenges too.



# VICAR'S REPORT



There is a wonderful level of commitment in the church family and it has been a joy to see so many grow in faith and gifting – we have a shared ministry.

However, the risk of bottlenecks remains. With Mary's retirement, the majority of Martin's availability focused on his wider rural life ministry, and now with my leading on a Diocesan project, in practice we have less than one full time equivalent in terms of clergy time to oversee the parish.

In general terms, we manage this well. There is a strong team and a fantastic ethos around shared leadership and ministry which is a sign of our health. I do note, though, that pastoral care is a weaker area that needs attention and the PCC are looking at how to improve this, particularly for the period of my secondment.

So, 2023, a solid year with clear progress towards our multiplication vision, but we trust the signs of life, like the baptisms, are just the beginning. After that:- the deluge!

“ we trust the signs of life, like the baptisms, are just the beginning...”

# WORSHIP REPORT



Steve & Liz Thompson  
David Brown

Our two gathered Sunday congregations (9:00am and 10:45am) are now well established. The benefits of offering a more structured and a more unstructured service, providing spaces that those who appreciate different styles of worship can connect with have been reflected in a slight increase in attendance on 2022.

It has also been good to see a little overlap of those staying/arriving for refreshments between the services. In fact, the simplicity which coffee machines offer for serving of refreshments makes them a rare thing – a change in church that has been universally welcomed!

In 2023, the 9am service continued to meet throughout the summer period for the first time, with the PCC noting the need to find patterns of gathering as a whole church at different points in the year.

We have continued to meet weekly to pray at 7pm, an aspect of our public worship which isn't recorded in the numbers / returns. Once a month, we extend the meeting to include a more open time of praise and worship. We have also used these times to pursue a specific focus. For example, in November, our Community leadership teams gathered to discern and draft prayers for their community.

Teaching themes included our continued journey through Acts (nearly done!) and the memorable Lent series on the Parable of the Sower. We continue to have good engagement online, and have seen people join the Church, having first followed services from the 'safety' of home.



# WORSHIP REPORT



David Brown

With the services in a settled format, the challenge going forwards is not to get stuck in a rut, or two ruts. We need to continue to seek the Lord, first of all coming to worship hungry for God and expectant ourselves, and second, from that place, developing our worship services so we are week by week better positioned to meet more deeply with him in worship.

**Steve and Liz Thompson add:** The Worship and Tech teams have continued to support our growing congregations both in the church building and at home via streaming to connect with God in sung worship.

It has been great to see our Youth again take some services and we look forward to building this ministry over the coming year. As a group we are hoping to carve out some time to establish some aims and goals for the next season for worship at St Mike's Sunday, conversations around this have already begun.

Thanks go out to all of the team for their faithful service each week and for the prayer, preparation and passion that they put into their varied roles.

# DISCIPLESHIP

# REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

A case could be made that the health of the church reflected in all of our reports really flow from this one.

Making disciples of all nations was, of course, Jesus's last instruction to his followers. At Budbrooke, we have sought to be strategic and intentional about this because: If we can multiply discipleship patterns, we can multiply discipleship. If we can multiply discipleship, we can multiply disciples. If we can multiply disciples, we can multiply groups, [missional] communities and even congregations.

## **So, what progress have we made in 2023?**

Learning from how Retreat to Advance has given us a replicable pattern for daily devotional prayer and engagement with the scriptures. We have aimed to create similar patterns for each area of our CROWN framework.

To road-test this we integrated these practices into Nurture Triplets, Small Groups with focused material designed to help new Christians establish life-giving and faith-filled patterns.

An honest assessment of progress would say that if we sought to model 10 practices (2 for each area of CROWN), 4-5 are clear and working well, 3-4 need some further development, clarifying or simplification and 1-2 something of a rethink.

The PCC Core Group have picked up the conversation and our goal is to have all these memorable, multipliable practices in place by the end of 2024.

# DISCIPLESHIP REPORT



David Brown - Vicar

“Well”, you might ask,  
“how can I help?”

The best thing you can do is pick up some of our practices and have a go! We're keen to get all the feedback we can, so that we can ensure they are simple enough for everyone to try and anyone to teach and we'll know they are working when those using them can say that they are meeting the Lord through them. We all have a part to play with this plan.

*These resources are available at:*

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

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR

## PRESENCE & PRAYER

Mary Lodge & Ruth Stephens

### Resting Space

These times of drawing apart for an hour once a month on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11am have continued when we can enjoy a time of stillness through a guided meditation, quiet music and restful images on particular themes. This has now become a regular rhythm of responding to God's invitation to 'be still' and we look forward to creating more opportunities for people to let go of the busyness and demands of their daily lives and to rest and be restored in God's presence.



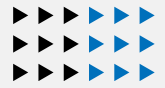
“Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

### Quiet Spaces

The booklet we produced two years ago which highlights those places in the church and the church grounds where people can sit quietly and enjoy the peace and beauty around them, continues to be used but our vision is for it to be used more widely especially by those people who come to use the Centre for training and meetings as well as members of the church community. We are constantly looking for ways of making our prayer spaces more attractive and relevant for those wanting to use them for private prayer as well as those coming to be prayed for by the prayer ministry team.

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR

## PRESENCE & PRAYER



### Sunday Night Prayer:

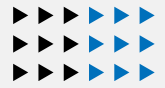
The weekly prayer time in church and on Zoom from 7 to 7.30pm in which we pray for the movement of the Holy Spirit to bring revival is now firmly established. On every third Sunday evening this prayer time is extended to include a time of praise and worship.

### Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Team is pleased to pray at non-community services at 9am and 10.45am. We meet before the services, listening to what God wants to say to us for the service and praying for the whole service. In addition to continuing to pray during the service, we are available 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 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 praying for each other.

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR

## PRESENCE & PRAYER



In the year we provided a Prayer Team to support the New Wine Weekend. As a team we have met on two occasions for fellowship, teaching and praying for each other. We sadly said goodbye to Janice Cairns as she moved to Scotland with Ricky. We have been delighted to welcome Sheila and Paul Reading to the team. We are thankful for the commitment and dedication that all members of the team have shown in offering and seeking to grow in this ministry.

**A core prayer ministry group** of Linda Jones, Mary Lodge, Rae Poole and Ruth Stephens continue to meet in the church or church centre every Monday morning between 10 and 11am to 'watch and pray', to listen to God, to call on the Holy Spirit and to pray for the whole church, its leaders and its ministries. We pray each week for the 9am, Network, Hampton Magna and Chase Meadow worship communities, and for individuals and situations in need of God's healing, encouragement, blessing and protection. We want to encourage more groups and individuals to bring to us any particular requests for prayer.

Our vision is for every member of our various congregations to grow in confidence in praying with and for each other and this to become a natural part of our worship together. We pray too that more people would become bolder in coming forward to ask for prayer from the prayer ministry teams so that this very special ministry may become embedded in the life of our church community not just on Sundays but during the week too. It would be good to have more people who feel called to join the team especially more men!

The members of the Prayer Team are Ellen Drain, Sue Filby, Suzanne Hotten, Linda Jones, Rae Poole, Rebecca Poole, Paul Reading, Sheila Reading, Ruth Stephens, Susanne Wood.

# COMMUNITIES

## INTRODUCTION

David Brown - Vicar

The emergence of Missional Communities at St Michael's has helped us minister more effectively to our varied parish geography. I think everyone also agrees that more people are exercising leadership and growing in gifting.

At the same time, we began the year recognising the following challenges:

- Leading a Community can be demanding.
- Youth and Children's Ministry is harder without the critical mass of the gathered church.
- The fortnightly pattern means some people are attending less. Some "regulars" are opting out of either the whole Church or Community week.

2023 then has seen us wrestle with maximising the benefits of our pattern whilst minimising the impact of the weaknesses.

Each of our Communities have made very honest assessments of their effectiveness in reaching out to others. Certainly, the commitment to that call outwards is clear. It is expressed in each our communities' collect prayers, and has informed the emerging plans and strategies of each group.

# COMMUNITIES

## INTRODUCTION

David Brown - Vicar

Things remain very much a work in progress though. We don't want to be too busy organising Sunday worship that we simply don't have time to live out our mission calling.

Nonetheless, by the end of the year, possible ways forward for each of our communities began to emerge. For example, Hampton Magna are considering a Saturday morning drop-in at The Open Door to build on the success of their regular craft outreach.

This pattern of ministry remains very much a work in progress, but given the wider strategic plans in both the Diocese and the National church to release more lay-led expressions of mission within a "mixed ecology" of church, we seem to be ahead of the curve.

However, our primary attention should not be on what the institution is doing, but what the Lord is doing – let's pray for our Communities then, that they keep in step with the Spirit as we try to reach as many as we can with the life changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

## Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

2023 – a year to embed, reflect and consider how we can move forward with our mission as the Hampton Magna community.

Our patterns of worship became familiar allowing fellowship to develop amongst the group. I think the hardest part of leading the meetings is starting! I hate to interrupt conversations and catch ups that are so important to building church as family in Hampton Magna. Our 3rd Sunday Bacon Butties allow more space and time to build those relationships as well as encourage others to step out and try sharing what God has been saying to them on a passage of scripture or within their lives.

Caroline's involvement in all things Open Door and Hampton Magna was revealed at one of our 3rd Sundays and provided an opportunity for us to pray into the rich and varied events going on. They drew our attention to the ways in which the church is involved in the community, but also the ways in which we can bring Christ with us to those events – making the link between the social and Jesus more overt. The weekly walks are already providing opportunities for members to share faith and offer to pray for others.

We have continued with our craft events during some of the school holidays in order to be more present in the village. These have always been well attended and as I write this, members of the team are recovering from a hugely successful pancakes and craft event for the second year running. At Christmas, the craft event provided something for all ages (and skill levels!) but more than that, it provided space for natural conversations to develop, and Rebecca Poole found at least two people with whom she could share Christ's faithfulness and promises to meet us in our deepest needs.

# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

## Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

The annual Lantern Walk was not washed out by the weather and although we didn't do the walk, many did come to sing carols at the Community Centre and enjoy music, readings and Michael's story of God's guidance and provision. Mulled wine and mince pies ensured the evening was a strong community event.

Though we have many coming to crafting events and other events at The Open Door, we are yet to see a harvest. Further challenges have been highlighted in how best to use our space for the children and how to build the ministry amongst the children. We are keenly aware that many families enjoy the outreach events, but we are not necessarily best set up for receiving them on a Sunday. A reorganising of the 'play area' in The Open Door for our Sunday services has led to a permanent change that has benefitted many of the groups. Lou has also provided craft and Bible Passage packs for the children with us on a Sunday. These are a great way to keep the children involved and being taught. Elli, one of the St Michael's Pais Workers, has also been a great asset with the children forming good relationships with her.

We feel that God has been 'nudging' us over the year in response to these challenges and we are beginning to seek ways to ensure we are building bridges between the community and church, or as David's word at the Prayer Evening went - ways to bring the aeroplane steps to the aeroplane!

# COMMUNITIES

## REPORTS



Rebecca Cowie

### Hampton Magna

10:45am

at The Open Door

As we look to 2024, we feel God is calling us to do a 'new thing' and to 'not hide our light under a bushel'. Various meetings during the year followed by the extended prayer evening in November, confirmed that we need to be reaching out into the community even more. Our 3rd Sunday services had the intention of being a softer entry into the church community but an even more relaxed and 'non-Sunday' approach feels to be the right way to move forward. Some of the words given at the extended prayer evening in November included 'building on the natural hospitality that meeting in a café offers – Romans 12:13 "Share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality".' and an encouragement to break down barriers through love being shown and being ready and trusting the Holy Spirit to put words in mouths.

To this end, we are looking to start a Saturday morning event once a month where we open The Open Door for about an hour and half for it be a relaxed place to meet and connect with the village. A craft would feature along with some pastries and the coffee that is available. It would be a drop in event that can build relationships and conversations leading to sharing God's Word in a short pause for thought moment or having a verse out as a conversation starter.

As we journey through 2024, we continue to seek God's direction praying for wisdom and enthusiasm throughout the group. During the extended prayer evening, Rae Poole shared a word that is a strong reminder for us all: "Hampton Magna – on His Majesty's service – You are representing Him in your community, showing His Love."

# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



## Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

In the past year, the community of Chase Meadow has become more established as a gathering of Christians across the estate. During our Sunday gatherings, we have seen new faces and have begun to notice more people staying and connecting with the broader community. We prioritize children and young people during our services, giving them space to share and be involved in the service. We have a good number of children attending our Kids Church in the cafe each week, and we can fill a youth table most weeks. We are seeing more people within the community getting involved in leading, preaching, and serving, and we have new members on our leadership team. Once a month, we gather after the service to share food, and for many, this is the highlight of our gatherings. We are still trying to find the perfect balance between making our Sunday gathering low maintenance while also ensuring that we are doing our best to provide the best experience possible.

Throughout the week, we host various events across Chase Meadow. Mini Meadows is one of our regular events that continues to grow and connect people to the wider community. Make Lunch is another event that we host where people can gather and connect to our Sunday gathering. The Message bus is a platform that helps young people from local schools to connect with us. Additionally, we have some mid-week groups that meet for study and discipleship, and we have several triplets forming. Our goal for the next year is to encourage more people in our community to connect with events that take place outside of our Sunday gatherings.

# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



## Chase Meadow

10:45am

at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Luke Thomas

In the next year, we aim to bring more people from Chase Meadow into our community. We want to create a space where people can meet each other, and where kids and youth can make friends. Most importantly, we want to create a space where we can encounter Jesus. To achieve this, we have created a missional prayer that encompasses all that we would like to be and that we would like to pray over our community.

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

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

*Amen.*



# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Kate Booth

## Network

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

The Network Community is a group of St Michael's folk who mostly come from slightly further afield than Hampton Magna or Chase Meadow. We meet in the church centre on the first and third Sundays for a service at 10.30am. Before the service on the first Sunday of the month, we eat breakfast and pray together. After the service on the third Sunday of the month, we enjoy lunch together. There are also two small groups which meet during the week – one on Tuesday evenings and another on alternate Wednesday evenings.

In 2023, our focus has been to encourage and equip each other to “work the nets” – to reach out to non-Christians and share the good news of Jesus in a deliberate and bold way. We incorporate the idea of SALT conversations and the patterns of “Pray for 5” into teaching and our services. Our talks on the third Sunday of the month are specific to our community and based on these aims. Early in the year, a number of our community took up the offer of training in delivering talks and have put into practice what was discussed.

# COMMUNITIES REPORTS



Kate Booth

## Network

10:45am

at St Michael's Church Centre

Over the summer we challenged our community to read the book "Searching Issues: Tough Questions, Straight Answers" by Nicky Gumbel. Since then, our talks on the third Sundays have been based around the chapters in this book, to give practical application in our conversations with non-Christians.

We put on a few events to which we could invite non-Christians to during the year, including a hedgehog talk and a seed planting event. They have been lovely events, where we grew in our relationships as a community, but haven't yet drawn many new people into the church.

We set up a spreadsheet of events being put on by other churches and organisations that we could share with one another and invite people along to. We intend to explore opportunities to go out in small groups to meet new people where they are in a more deliberate way in the coming year.

As a community, we haven't grown in numbers but we have grown in fellowship with one another over 2023.

# COMMUNITIES

## REPORTS



### 9am Community

9am

at St Michael's Church

Martin Davies

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

The Community has grown a little over the last twelve months with new members joining as new people come to live within the parish. It has been lovely to see the community grow stronger together by supporting each other and especially supporting Roger and Mark during their preparation for Confirmation and celebrating with them and others last summer when Bishop Christopher Baptised and Confirmed many members of the St. Mike's community in the field. The distribution of communion was particularly memorable as there was a heavy storm at that particular moment with many of us getting soaked.

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



# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

The youth ministry at St. Michael's has been going from strength to strength, and the Lord has been working in the lives of the young people in really wonderful ways. The youth team have done an incredible job of consistently offering their time and gifts to this ministry, and it certainly has not been in vain – The fruit of their labour and the outpouring of God's blessing is evident.

Our Friday night youth group, 'The Rock', is continuing to grow, both in maturity of faith as well as in numbers. Many of the young people who attend on a Friday night have not grown up in church and some of them are hearing the gospel for the very first time. A typical evening begins with free time, followed by some group games, then a short gospel message, and an opportunity to respond in discussion groups. The openness that the youth have and their willingness to engage with Jesus makes our Friday night youth group an incredibly fruitful and exciting ministry to be involved in.



“ The fruit of their labour and the outpouring of God's blessing is evident.

# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

Our 1-1 Youth Mentoring/Discipleship is also continuing to flourish, and capacity has grown such that we've been able to offer this opportunity to more of our young people. We see 1-1 youth mentoring as perhaps the most impactful form of discipleship, and we would love to be able to offer this opportunity to all of the young people that we have connections with. To do so, however, we need to grow our team of mentors. If you have a spare hour every few weeks, like coffee (or tea!), and are a good listener, then 1-1 mentoring/discipleship is a great way for you to make a huge impact in the life and faith of our youth. If you just want to find out more, please let me know and I'd love to share more with you (see contact details at the end).

In October 2023, we ran another Youth Alpha course. This time round we were very eager for some of our youth to take responsibility for leading the course. A number of them stepped up to the challenge and took on different roles, from being on the welcome team, to organising the catering, and facilitating the group discussions around tables. They did an incredible job of hosting their friends and giving them the opportunity to explore the Christian faith. We then had our Youth Alpha Away Day at Lenchwood Christian Centre, which was a precious time of worship, prayer, and fellowship. We'll no doubt be running another Youth Alpha course in the near future, so look out for that.



# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Williams

Over the last year, we have been a consistent presence in the lives of young people in Chase Meadow through our outreach on the Message Bus. This project has just gone through a rebranding process, but is now up and running again, under the new name, the 'Thrive Bus'. We will be using it to reach out to young people in Chase Meadow every Thursday after school for the remainder of the academic year (and beyond!). Most of our time on the bus is spent getting to know young people over a hot chocolate and some games, followed by a short gospel message and an opportunity to pray in response. For many young people, this is their very first engagement with the gospel, making it a really exciting ministry to be part of. Again, we would love to have many more people involved in helping to run these sessions so that we can grow capacity and more effectively reach these young people. Please consider if this is something you could help with – if you can make a hot drink and enjoy playing games, the Bus Project is an easy way that you can begin connecting with young people.

Looking ahead to the summer, we are very excited to be taking our youth to Limitless Youth Festival at Stafford Showground. This will be an amazing week of worship, Bible teaching, and activities. For many, these events are truly life-changing, and we pray this will be the case for our youth also. Please also pray for all the logistics to fall into place as we organise this. We would love to grow our youth team for all of our youth activities so that our existing work can continue to flourish, and so that we can also step into new areas.

Youth ministry is an incredibly fruitful and dynamic ministry to be a part of – If you are interested in hearing more about what being involved in the St. Michael's Youth Ministry would look like, please get in touch with me (Tim Williams): youthmdl@stmbb.church

*37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."  
Matthew 9:37-38*

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

## REPORT

Lou Thomas

The children's ministry has seen a rapid growth in recent years, and a significant increase in the number of children we are able to reach and interact with!

### Kids' Church

Kids' Church takes place each week (when we are not in communities) on a Sunday morning (term time only) and we are seeing a steady and regular number of children who are joining us for these sessions.

Most of our sessions include a catch up at the beginning that is immensely valued by the children as it gives them a chance to share their news from their weeks, both good and bad.

We then transition into a time of setting the theme for the week and an explanation of how we will be unwrapping and developing this theme throughout our session. This could be via a leader explaining at the front, or a video played on the screen, or an object lesson from the front, or a group game.

Usually we then break into smaller groups to partake in the craft activities that help provide opportunities to unpack to a greater level the theme for that week.

This is also a good opportunity for the leaders to catch up and check in with specific children, and a fantastic moment for our absolutely beloved - SNACK TIME.



# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY REPORT

Lou Thomas

One of the most well loved and fruitful times of our gathering's on a Sunday morning is the "Soaking Time". Where each of the children, no matter their age, are encouraged to find a space on the floor to lie down on by themselves. We then have a piece of reflective worship music played over us whilst we have a time of stillness and quiet, to let God speak to us. Oftentimes, this 'soaking time' results in the children receiving pictures or thoughts from God that we then spend a bit of time unpacking and talking through.

## **Communities:**

Within the children's ministry, our communities format has proven a much harder task to have consistent children's work with, and is something that is reviewed on a weekly basis, and is a constant discussion amongst the differing leadership teams of how we can best support the children (and the volunteers) on these community weeks.

On an average community week, our format takes a slightly different structure, is run by our children's team of volunteers, and is supported and enabled by each of our community teams and leaders.

The sessions look different for each community as the needs, and resources, from each community are different. Each community are provided a theme/craft activity/resources which volunteers from within those communities then oversee for the children.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

## REPORT

Lou Thomas

The main challenge the children's ministry is faced with in community weeks is that the group that usually gathers together all together is then split up into different communities, with some communities having the larger proportion of the group, and other communities having a much smaller number of children attending.

The differing building's that our communities meet in provides another challenge in terms of what resources are available for our children's sessions, as well as a limited (although fantastic!) team of volunteers for each community.

However, this is a challenge we are aware of, and are earnestly seeking God's will and plan for these children and volunteers on these harder weeks, and whilst for some communities this model works well, how we best support those other communities that it doesn't quite work as well for.

### **Mini Meadows**

Mini Meadows is a Toddler and Parents group that St Mike's runs down on Chase Meadow each Wednesday morning 10-11:30am (term time only).

There have been some fantastic improvements to how the group is run in the recent months with Social Media advertisement ahead of the session becoming a more regular feature, there is an improved welcome area that better displays what our sessions involve, we have a contactless pay option for those that would prefer that, and each week our sessions ends with a story and a short talk from a member of our team linking the story, to our Bible Verse of the Week!

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

## REPORT

Lou Thomas

Mini Meadows is seeming to be really thriving and proving a regular support for many parents/carers of our local community. We are seeing a regular number returning each week, but also regularly meeting new people each week, too!

### **Pebbles**

Pebbles our weekly Children's' club that runs on a Friday 4-5:30pm up at St Michael's Church Centre (term time only).

Pebbles is rapidly growing at the moment, and is targeting some families from Church that are connecting in through our community outreaches, and we are consistently seeing the same children returning each week, and more incredibly than that, those regular attendee's are inviting their friends, who invite their friends, who invite THEIR friends! Which explains our significant growth in the few short weeks we have been running

Our sessions typically include a time of free play and socialising before coming together to play some group games, followed by a short talk and game to finish. Oh, and don't forget the free snacks!

There are plans emerging for the future of Pebbles of better connecting that gap between Pebbles and the youth group, The Rock. So for the older members of Pebbles - that jump up into The Rock when they move up isn't such a large and intimidating transition. So watch this space for how we better bridge that gap and help assist that transition stage for our children emerging into young people!



# SCHOOLS MINISTRY REPORT

Gabi Campolina

## Pais

The Pais Team has a mission to serve the church, community, and local schools with spiritual, social, cultural, and moral development for the young people while introducing positive role models to their lives.

The current Pais Team in Warwick started the academic year focused on the different areas to serve. Today, spending around 20 hours a week on this mission, the team hasn't stopped to bring up ideas and ask for opportunities to continue to grow the connections with young people.

Currently going to two different primary schools, the Pais Team is really well welcomed by the teachers and students, with beautiful smiles and excitement. The good behavior, raised hands and participation has shown impact on the team's encouragement to continue growing relationships with the schools with after school clubs and potential lunch time activities. The nickname "Dream Team" is one of the responses from students that keep the heart of Pais Warwick warm and excited for more..



# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

We continue to welcome additional customers to The Open Door as the new housing reaches completion. We are so thankful for this space that allows friendships to build as they join in with the various activities we now have on offer.

Entrust continue to bring joy along with delicious bakes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as they encourage their students on their pathway to employment. We have also joined the Chatty Café scheme running on a Tuesday morning from 11am -12pm. Chatter and Natter tables are where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. The aim is to kick start conversations, get people chatting and reduce loneliness along the way. There are so many opportunities to develop this further, but we need the support of more volunteers.

Spin a Yarn – the knit and natter group have gone from strength to strength and now run a Tuesday evening session in addition to their Thursday morning gathering. This multigenerational group of crafters have been busy working on the fabulous post box toppers that brighten the village and their Christmas teddy sales have provided much needed funds for Baby Basics who operate from Castle Hill Baptist Church in Warwick. This charity help vulnerable groups – such as teenage parents, asylum seekers, those fleeing domestic abuse, trafficking or those generally struggling – by providing them with everyday essentials they need for their 0-5 year old.

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

Hampton Magna Lego Club has a regular following at both the family and quiet sessions. Ed Guise runs this group along with Liz Bennett, they work hard to ensure everyone has a great time. There is a theme each month and some fabulous builds. The adult Lego Club has proved popular too, it may become a regular edition alongside the 'Spin a Yarn' crafting group on a Tuesday evening!

Fun Toast Friday run by the PTA continues to be popular with both children and parents. In April following on from the PTA session, 'Fun Fit Friday' a chair-based exercise class run by Nicola Burroughs was established at The Open Door. This class funded by 'Think Active' is also well attended has been a welcome edition to what was previously a quiet morning.

Afternoon teas are served on the first Monday in the month and are extremely popular. We are thankful to the folk band that play for us each month and Penny Bedford for delicious sandwiches and cake. None of this would be possible without help from our volunteers, Debbie Wilson, Penny Baugh and Siobhan Titley. We will also be joined by Gemma Stanton in the New Year, another much needed volunteer who will join our team!



# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

The same volunteers also help at Memory Lane Dementia Café, held on the second and fourth Monday in the month. We provide activities along with tea and cake and advice from the visiting support teams. Friendships are building and it's wonderful to see the support they have for one another. We were fortunate to receive further funding from The Pam Britton Trust again this year.

In March we said farewell to Twirling Toddlers. They have been offering a dance and movement class at The Open Door on a Monday morning for the last 8 years. Sadly numbers had fallen and we were not attracting parents with little ones from within our community, and those attending travelled from further afield. Sadly it wasn't sustainable for them to continue.

We continue to work closely with Budbrooke Medical Centre, listening to the needs within the community and expanding on the services we offer. The monthly Peri/Menopause support group continues, providing a variety of management methods both holistic and medical. We are most thankful to Nurse Sally Bell who supports this group along with guest speakers.

BMC also highlighted that new parents moving to the village were struggling to connect with other parents and their little ones. The Monday session was available, and towards the end of the year we started a coffee morning for parents with babies and toddlers. Numbers are gradually increasing and the parents are already talking about how to develop this group further with the addition of story and rhyme time.

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

It was highlighted that men too were struggling and could we think of a way to bring them together. We applied to the Councillors grant to host a Men's Breakfast held on the last Saturday in the month and started in September. It is well attended and Eddie provides a fabulous feast! We also applied for funding to start a 'Men Walking & Talking' group. We have the walkers wanting to go but no one to lead this group. If we could recruit two or three to share this role that would be wonderful.

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks continue to go from strength to strength with three walks held on a Wednesday, starting and finishing at The Open Door. This supportive group led by our fabulous walk leaders is a joy to run and is a pathway to other activities within the community. We take photos of the surrounding countryside on our walks and we hope that you will see some of these images published in our marketing in 2024!

In October we took the first deliveries of food hampers from Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop. These hampers are delivered once a month on a Monday morning to help support families in food crisis. A Farming Food bank that delivers all the required ingredients to ensure the families being supported can produce full balanced meals. The Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop is funded by The Anglican Churches of Warwick and Budbrooke and King Henry VIII Endowed Trust and delivered in partnership with Your UK Farmer and Transforming Communities Together Warwick. In 2024 we hope to provide access to support services during these sessions.

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

During the year we have received advice and support with guest speakers from Warwick Time Bank, Crime prevention by the Warwickshire rural crime advisors. On this occasion the police and crime commissioner Phillip Seccombe and Councillor Jan Matecki and Councillor Peter Phillips joined us too. In June, Matthew Bennett delivered an online safety course for beginners and the more experienced and Ian McCloskey ran a freestyle drawing class called Sketchy once a month for six months starting in April. We are most thankful for the time they have shared with us.

We have also held a Macmillan fundraising coffee and cake afternoon in October, raising nearly £500 towards their funds. This is always a popular event!

Our family craft events are always well attended and fun to run, we hope to hold more of these in 2024. Many thanks to Alex Davis and Debbie Wilson and the HMMC team for organising these.

The window at the Open Door has been beautifully decorated throughout the year by the Brownies and Rainbows for Easter, the Kings Coronation, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

Looking to the year ahead we would like to welcome more volunteers to work alongside us in our activities. Our groups work best when we have a good support team. It's good fun too, so please get in touch!

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Caroline Edwards

## The Open Door

We appreciate the support from Fiona Spiers from WCAVA for her guidance in funding opportunities along with Jacqueline Holcroft and Wendy Leach from WRCC, Stacey Bains from Transforming Communities Together Warwick, Lindsey Kemp and Joanna Dagg from Warwick District Council and the Warwick Community Network Team. Graham Leeming has also been a huge support with funding applications. We couldn't have achieved what we have without you all.

We are grateful for all the hard work of Alex Davis, Eddie Fowler, Ellie Coysh and David Brown (the Open Door Working Group) who have brought this project together. We will continue to build on our current activities and add any additional support required to The Open Door, the heart of our community!



# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

## Make Lunch



Throughout the year, God has continued to bless this ministry. In school holidays we were able to offer weekly sessions at Chase Meadow Community Centre for families whose children have free school meals, and others on a tight budget; our highest attendance was at Easter when 23 children and 14 parents were entertained with craft and games, and fed a hot meal.

We are especially thankful for :

- Our term-time move from Wednesday afternoons to Wednesday mornings, to link with the Community Fridge run by CMCC. The café is also open at that time, so some of our parents stay for a cuppa and chat to share their challenges so that we can pray with and for them.
- Lidl customer toy donations which delighted many families. • Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop visits CMCC monthly with quality frozen meat and fresh veg at affordable prices for families referred by Make Lunch and CMCC (see pic below).
- Grants from Lidl Community Fund for fresh food parcels earlier in the year and for supermarket vouchers; from TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) for school uniform; funding for mattresses through Warwick Relief in Need.
- Foodbank supplies, although reduced from fortnightly to half-termly due to rising demand at foodbanks. Also weekly donations of surplus food from Lidl. The dedication of our small team of volunteers: Suzanne Hotten, Margaret Gayler, Sue Nicholson, Sue & Ray Filby, Rae Poole and Susanne Wood, all of whom have been a huge support and have handled challenges with prayer, optimism and humour. Jess & Ant Bishop, Royston Young, Emma Pace, Maureen Chapman (MU) and Sue Duggan have also lent a hand as needed, and we continue to be grateful to Renay and Jason Swartz for minding our food bags for later collection.

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Val Brant

## Make Lunch

Some of the challenges we faced are: • The need for more volunteers, especially a relief cook during holidays; • We were restricted to the café area when Oak was used for vaccinations – however, a good session was enjoyed. • Formal training for our core team, and identifying a new coordinator have yet to be resolved. Our prayer for 2024 is that we continue to build relationship with some parents, helping them to come closer to knowing Jesus personally.

A God-given opportunity arose to link Mothers' Union with Make Lunch and CMCC for the global campaign to end domestic violence that MU supports. One of our Make Lunch Mums belongs to the craft group at CMCC, which also meets on Wednesday mornings; the group engaged with the project to knit or crochet white and purple hearts, signifying #No More 1 in 3 – the awful statistic that one in three women and girls is impacted by domestic abuse. The craft group at The Open Door also took part in the project, and good conversations on the subject, close to many hearts, ensued at both venues.





# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

## Midweek Group

The 9am Communion Service at church now provides a worshipping community for many of the older people that the Midweek Group traditionally has served. The fellowship within this community has deepened over this past year and this has been strengthened by a fortnightly bible study /prayer group led by Ruth Grinbergs which meets at The Open Door on Thursdays. Many of the other activities that are held at The Open Door, like the monthly Afternoon Tea with Music on Mondays, also reach out to older people and so many find company and support in this way.

So the Midweek Group concentrates its energies now on organising the monthly Lunch Club which meets at the Church Centre and seasonal Songs of Praise events with music provided by Keith Arnold. Over the past year, we have held an Easter Praise afternoon with hymns and readings with tea and cake in the Church Centre and a Hymns and Pimms afternoon in July with themed songs and music and appropriate refreshments!

The annual Carols and Cake Christmas celebration took place at Hampton-on-the-Hill Village Hall on December 14th with traditional carols and readings, a short talk and lots of cake, the highlight of which was the Christmas Cake made by Ann Arnold. This event is always very well attended not just by church members but by people from the village of Hampton-on-the-Hill and further afield. For some who come this is their main Christmas event so it has proved over the years to be an important outreach occasion.



# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

## Midweek Group

### Lunch Club

Lunch Club continues to be well attended, averaging 36 diners each month with 46 for the Christmas meal in 2023. Some people come from quite a distance and we are delighted that we are gaining people from the new estates in the village. Since starting up again after the Covid lock-down Lunch Club has normally taken place on the second Friday of each month excepting August when we take a break. Due to double booking of the Hall we cancelled the Club in January 2024 and the one in March will also have to be moved.

We had an Environmental Health inspection in November 2023 and we were very happy to be graded 5 for the second time.

We now offer a second main course option for at least four vegetarians each month, and do our best to accommodate one gluten free diner. We still charge £5 for a two course meal and tea or coffee after it. Included in that charge is £1 which goes to support a young student in Uganda through Compassion UK. We do, however, still have a surplus most months after costs have been deducted. As a result, it was decided that, allowing for a contingency fund to replace broken or missing equipment where necessary, we would donate extra monies to local charities. During the last year we have donated sums to Helping Hands in Leamington Spa and Zoë's Place.

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

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mary Lodge

## Midweek Group

There are two of us who regularly cook, Ann Arnold and Caroline Edwards, but we have been grateful to be able to call upon Penny Bedford and, more recently, Sue Scurrah to help us. Two of our stalwarts, Keith Arnold and Michael Edwards, have sadly had to drop out of our regular service due to ill-health although Keith still provides a quiz for each session and both give us moral support. We are blessed with a team of amazing helpers who set up the room, serve food, clear up and wash up. We are very grateful to Penny Baugh, Jo Lang and Linda and Terry Jones for their cheerful hard work.

We begin each meal with church and local news and prayer and are always happy to welcome members of the clergy to say a few words at Christmas and on significant occasions. Although the team tries to spend time in missional chat with our diners, this is difficult to achieve whilst completing all the practical tasks necessary. It would be wonderful to welcome other members of the church to take on this missional, befriending role without any expectation that they should wield a spoon or a tea towel.

Lunch Club is very hard work but the lavish appreciation we get from our guests makes it all incredibly worthwhile.

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## 2023

David Brown

Here's some of the family events of 2023...



### February

Funeral of Christine Murly. David took the service in Coventry. She was memorably baptised by immersion in King's Meadow in 2011 after coming to faith via Young at Heart.



### April

We had our annual Maundy Thursday meal. A special thank you to Alex, Eddie, Richard & Audrey Akers and the rest of the team. All food was cooked in local ovens to ensure everyone was fed - all temp probe tested of course!



### June

In June we celebrated the wedding of Tim & Ellie Coysh.

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## 2023

David Brown



### July

In July we had our Baptism and Confirmation service. We celebrated the baptisms of David Brett, Ben Thompson, James Davis & Chris Bain. The renewed vows of Roger Medwell and Miriam Brown. The confirmation of all those baptised, plus Anna Brown, Mark Edwards, Jacob Watts & Daniel Booth.

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



### August

We said goodbye to our PAIS interns, JJ and Lilly but we were really pleased that Gabi decided to stay with us another year. We then welcomed Manka & Eli.



### September

We held an End of Summer BBQ for our church to come together along with some of the families from Make Lunch .

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## 2023

David Brown

### October



In October we celebrated the dedication of Eloise Bourton.



We have been praying for the healing and recovery of Hannah Montagu since her brain bleed in January 2021. In October, her and Rob were able to move into a newly renovated bungalow so that they could embark on the next season of her recovery and their lives together. Many people donated money to help fund this renovation project and it was an amazing image of both people's generosity and God's provision.

# WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

David Brown

## Warwick Team

Whilst St Michael's isn't formally part of the Warwick Team, our various connections mean we will always work together in some form. Our vicar, David Brown, continued to lead the team ministry as Acting Rector through 2023, during the ongoing vacancy.

In this time, David has been able to establish a clearer shape for the oversight of the Team and its shared ministries, such as our work with Transforming Communities Warwick, and progress towards a town-wide Youth Strategy with Thrive Youth Ministries. We have also handled a complicated transition around the operation of the youth bus after a partnership with The Message came to an end by mutual agreement.

Funds for the "Project Pool" in 2023 exceeded £0.5M, with the identified priority project areas being: Schools Outreach and Support; Youth Ministry (via the Youth Strategy); the Elderly; and Outreach to Priority Communities. Themes for work include: Mental Health; Isolation; Hardship; Creative Arts; Capacity Building; and the Environment.

This gives a great foundation for the new Rector to take things forward from.

For Budbrooke, the "Project Pool" has funded the West Warwick youth project, a shared outreach project with St Paul's Warwick, with a vision to help the church grow younger through connection with schools, young people and families. In practical terms, we get funding for a project lead. We were delighted to appoint Caroline Mara to the role in late 2023, and an intern team.

Close work with St Paul's Warwick is not accidental either. As 2023 progressed, our PCCs have met together to discuss the future. The likely direction is that upon Jonathan Hearn's retirement the parishes will merge informally, with a church planter being based at St Paul's, but managed by the wider team at St Michael's.

# WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

## Churches Together in Warwick

The three Forum meetings have been well attended, and at the AGM in October, Rev'd Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist Church was elected Moderator, following Rev'd Jonathan Hearn who had completed his three years in the role; Mark Leonard (Castle Hill) continues as Secretary for his third year, supported by Liz Reid (Methodist) as Minutes Secretary, and Helen Granger (St Mary Immaculate) as Treasurer . Rae Poole and Val Brant continue to represent St Michael's, with Emma Pace continuing to manage the Facebook page. Andy Walker maintains the CTW website [www.ctwarwick.org.uk](http://www.ctwarwick.org.uk)

Highlights of the year have included:

- The Big Local Night Out (BLNO) in May and October at Bridge House Theatre, with headline acts supported by local school choirs – a great opportunity for inviting community friends and fringe members to a joy-filled evening. Attendance was excellent on both dates, and funding allows more planned for 2024.
- Monthly Prayer Breakfasts are thriving again for a half-hour of worship followed by continental style breakfast and useful conversation. St Michael's hosted at the Church Centre in May. Our dates for 2024 are 2nd March at Church Centre and 7th December at CMCC, both at 8am. Everyone is welcome to attend all events.
- Good Friday Walks of Witness in Warwick were again organised by Claire Harris, and a good number gathered again in the sunshine for the clergy-led service in Market Place. Claire really wants to stand down from organising the walks, so if you would like to 'shadow' her in liaising with WDC and others, please let us know.



# WIDER CHURCH LINKS REPORTS

Val Brant

## Churches Together in Warwick

- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2024 – Guided by the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke’s gospel, the focus to ‘go and do likewise’ included visits to pray with our Warm Spaces. The United Service was hosted by Castle Hill Baptists.
- “Thy Kingdom Come” prayers were hosted on Zoom and led by Rev’d Sally Jones of Warwick Methodist, and it was a joy to pray with others from further afield during the 11 days from Ascension to Pentecost.
- Messy Church resumed at Woodloes School, but with fewer volunteers and attendees. Dates for 2024 have been circulated in the hope of attracting more helpers, alongside discussion around hosting less labour-intensive events.

During the year we have had presentations from Flourish, who mentor teenage girls and are looking to increase their volunteer team ([www.youcanflourish.co.uk](http://www.youcanflourish.co.uk)); and from Care for Creation.

Following this last talk, the environment/climate has been a hot topic, and both Castle Hill and Warwick Methodists are part of the Eco-Church movement, encouraging anyone interested from other churches to contact them to share experiences and learn together. Making small changes can have a big effect.

The next Forum will take place at New Life Church on Tuesday 13th February, 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 2024 our Discretionary Grants totalled £5004 including gifts and support to Entrust Care Partnership, Hampton Magna Rainbows and Brownies, Budbrooke School PTA, Budbrooke Bricks (Lego Club) and Aylesford School.**

# MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

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

Name	Amount
Tear Fund	£600
Compassion	£402
The Well	£600
Thrive	£1,200
Kairos Connexion	£1,200
Carriers of Hope	£617
Transforming Lives for Good	£600
Warwick & Leamington Food Bank	£600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,196</b>

# MISSION LINKS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

David Brown

In cash terms, the total we disbursed £10,823, or 6.4% of our income whilst 18 Christian churches / ministries and community groups were able to use the Church Centre on a donations only basis over a total of 28 bookings.

In addition, we support Anglican parishes within our Diocese through the mechanism of the support fund which is a voluntary element of our overall Parish Share. In 2023 our contribution to the support fund was £19,534 or 12.5% of eligible income.

In total then, we gave 17.9% of our income to needs beyond ourselves plus the discounted or free Church Centre usage

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

# PCC REPORTS

## GOVERNANCE

David Brown

2023 has seen the PCC have to juggle handling a number of unexpected urgent matters alongside the more strategic ongoing progression of our 5 year plan.

The most pressing issue was resolving the repairs to the collapsed part of the church roof. We remain grateful for every financial gift that enabled this work to take place swiftly, and are thankful that no further damage to the church fabric occurred.

We have also had to give additional time to understand and begin to respond to the issues raised by the recent proposals of Synod for “Prayers of Love and Faith” related to same-sex blessings. Following my initial pastoral letter in January 24, the PCC will continue to reflect on these issues.

Nonetheless, the Core Group (PCC Standing Committee and nominated Missional Community Leaders) have been able to hold more qualitative conversations about culture and progress towards our multiplication vision.

It has been good to see more connections between some of our community work and our Missional Communities. For example, the overlap between Make Lunch’s drop in time and Mini Meadows on Chase Meadow or closer working between the Hampton Magna Community and some of our Open Door projects.

# PCC REPORTS

## GOVERNANCE

David Brown

A way forward for kick-starting the re-ordering scheme has also begun to emerge. The PCC will be submitting a proposal to secure some core funding from which we hope to build a clear road-map to deliver the overall plan.

Earlier reports offer a picture of how our Missional Communities and discipleship patterns have progressed. No doubt the renewal of our strategy for the coming 5 years in 2024 will take account of the progress made and set the direction for the forthcoming season.

2023 ended with the PCC getting to grips with my now confirmed part-time secondment to lead a strategic project for the Diocese. I thank God for a faith-filled response, generous to release me, whilst also trusting that we cannot outgive God.

I remain very grateful for this group.

“*We keep the promise in sight that... God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8.*

# PCC REPORTS

## SAFEGUARDING

Margret Gayler

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

The PCC have been discussing questions arising from Leadership training :

- how to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected ,
- ensuring that we recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and protect all from abuse,
- how to ensure that we have a positive, open culture where no one can become above being accountable.

We want to ensure we are a church where people are able to speak out about any concerns they have and any concerns are dealt with in a professional manner.

### **Training**

The Diocese now offer training on issues such as Domestic Abuse, which some of the church have now taken. If you feel any of the training below would be useful to you in your ministry, please do go on the Coventry Diocese Safeguarding website, or contact me on 07903 895777.

# PCC REPORTS

## SAFEGUARDING

Margret Gaylor

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

### Next steps

I am continuing to work through risk assessments for activities involving children and vulnerable adults and this year the Social Media policy needs to be finalised. The PCC will be reviewing the safeguarding action plan at the next PCC meeting and we continue to have Safeguarding as a standing agenda item for all PCC meetings. We will readopt the 'Recruitment of Ex-Offenders' policy at this year's AGM and the PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. All those working with children and vulnerable adults are safely recruited.

Finally, can I thank all the volunteers and ministry leaders who ensure we follow good practice as an expression of our Christian service, always remembering that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.



# PCC REPORTS

## FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

Clare Watson & Ruth Grinbergs

During the year we received the necessary consents and the hole in the roof of the south transept was repaired. Given the age of the roof, we believe it is likely that in the foreseeable future, similar repairs may be needed.

The other major work which took place was the replacement and extension of the decking at the church centre. We believe that this makes an attractive addition for users of the church centre, as well as giving flexibility in the use of King's Meadow for worship.

We are grateful to all those whose generosity allowed this work to take place.

Following the working party held in December 2022 a skip was organised and various large items of waste which had been stored around the church site were disposed of. Another working party held in December 2023 resulted in the church being cleaned and prepared for Advent and Christmas as well as the car park being cleaned up. Thank you to all those who took part.

A highlight of the year was our formal recognition as a Single Friendly Church, which means that we aim to be sensitive to the needs of single people in our fellowship and in the wider parish. Budbrooke has been added to a map of Single Friendly Churches so that single people looking to join a church in our area know that we are Single Friendly. It is then up to the rest of us to ensure that we live up to our registration by welcoming singles, both new and existing, into the church family.

Looking forward, 2024 will bring the quinquennial inspection, so our next report will no doubt be referring to the outcome of that.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

## A Year of New Beginnings

With Covid, high inflation and the cost-of-Living crisis becoming a distant blur in our rearview mirror we now find ourselves traversing through the start of hopefully calmer seas. There has been some small turbulence within the Finance team as we said a fond Bon Voyage to Graham and a “Welcome Aboard...Brace Yourself” to Alex.

This year we’ve also “Broken in” a new Finance System as we continue to bring our system infrastructure more up to date, removing some of the data risk in the process.

Overall, regular giving by standing order, including Gift Aid has increased by 8% from the 2022 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 remained steady compared to the 2022 level as clients & groups continue to return to regular meetings in the Church Centre.

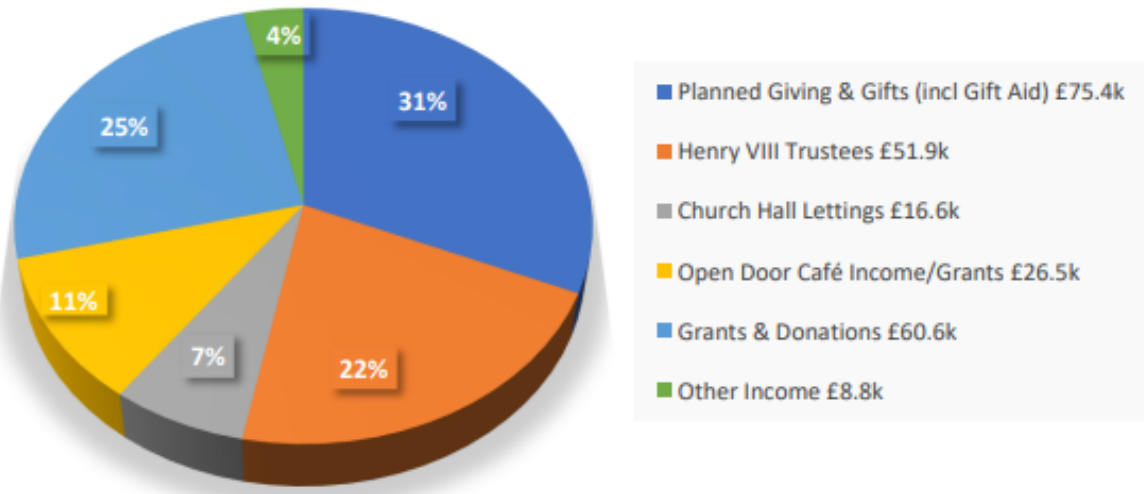
The Open Door Café has settled into its new role as a community meeting place, with Income almost doubling 2022 levels. We continue to acknowledge the grateful support of Entrust Care Partnership in choosing to carry on using the Café facilities.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023



Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

### 2023 Income



The main sources of income in respect of percentage of total were Planned Giving (31%), income from King Henry VIII Trustees (22%), and grant support income (25%). Income from Church Hall lettings, as mentioned above was a strong contributor to total income, amounting to 7% of total 2022 income. Unrestricted income was £136,294 (£114,118 in 2022)

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

## 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. The total unrestricted income from regular giving (STOs) and plate gifts amounted to £64,320.61 (2022: £60,858) and in addition £13,090 (2022: £12,141) was recovered in tax reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs.

## 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 £51,894 (2021: £46,958) to be used for our mission in the Parish.

## Letting Income

2023 was a year of steady recovery. Total 2023 letting income amounted to £16,591 (£18,059 in 2022).

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

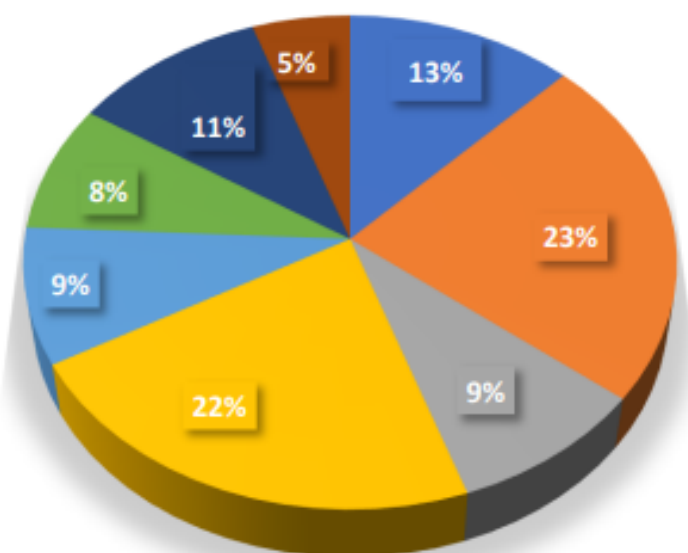
## Income from Restricted Donations & Grants

Restricted donations and grants income was a significant amount of £135,844 in 2023 (including restricted Lloyd graveyard upkeep dividend) – this also included £51,894 from King Henry VIII Trust mentioned above. Further amounts received from King Henry VIII Trust included £39,827 in support of the West Warwick Youth project.

Selected other grants received were Make Lunch (£3,265) and Outreach Worker Fund (£4,596)

The Raise the Roof appeal raised a phenomenal £30k in respect of the roof repairs & decking area.

### 2023 Expenditure



- Parish Share £33.4k
- Church & Hall Expenses £62.5k
- Admin & Support £24.7k
- Children & Family £59.8k
- Outreach £24.1k
- Open Door Café Costs £22.5k
- Building Work £28.6k
- Other Expenses £14.3k

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

The Church and Church Centre have significant expenditures ranging from Administration, Youth and Families Workers, Parish Share, Mission Outreach, to running costs such as utilities and insurance. The total unrestricted expenditure amounted to £138,956 (2022: £119,519). Detailed information can be found in the Annual Accounts for 2023 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 2023 on Parish Share was £33,365 (2022: £31,505)

## **Mission Outreach**

As a church we are focused on discipleship and mission in our local communities supporting both young and older people. Expenditure in 2023 on Outreach costs amounted to £24,052 (2022: £21,858).

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

## Unrestricted Giving (Church Tithe)

The PCC seek to tithe its income and give 10% to Christian mission supporting causes locally, nationally and internationally. Any funds received from King Henry VIII Endowed Trust that are tithed are given specifically within the parish or the wider CV34 boundary. In addition, from our regular giving, 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 2022, we paid out gifts of £10,806 or 8% of our income. Our contribution to the support fund was to £19,534 or 14% of eligible income. In total then, we gave 22% of our income to needs beyond ourselves.

## Youth Children's and Family Work

This work has remained steady in reaching children, young people and families, though Expenditure was down in 2023 at £59,845 (2022: £73,104).

## Running Expenses

We regularly review our running costs and continue to benefit as a result of joint purchasing with Parish Buying for cost efficient utilities. Running expenses in 2023 were £37,909 (2022: £26,5310).

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023



Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

## Restricted Spending

The Henry VIII Trust and their funding enables additional provision of resources which is used in the Parish and included employment of youth workers. Further details of expenditure are provided in the accounts.

We would again like to thank the Trust for their continued support which has provided additional resources for wider use in the Parish to support children, families, and older people which otherwise we would not have been able to provide.

The Open Door Café The use of the Open Door Café continued to develop in 2023 as the Outreach Worker created a number of new initiatives largely funded by grants received. The various projects had year-end balances of:



# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

Source	Project (Restricted Income)	Year End Fund Balance £
Think Active CSW	Think Active	337
Warwick County Council	Social/Isolation	757
Pam Britton Dementia Trust	Memory Lane Cafe	440
Budbrooke Charities	Peri/Menopause	6
Budbrooke Charities	Staying Safe Online	75
Warwick District Council	Cost of Living Grant	36
Together for Change	Bereavement	692
Together for Change	Grave Talk	100
WRCC Rural & Miller Homes	Warm Hubs	911
Warwickshire County Council	Country Councillors Grant	<b>1,486</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4,840</b>

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023




Andrew Cowie & Alex Davis

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 25th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd David Brown - Vicar



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