

# ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, WARWICK



ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING  
2025 – 2026



## Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Time – 11.50am

### Present:

Rev'd Linda Duckers (Chair), Sarah Bazin (Secretary), Jane Rogers (Treasurer), and some **38** members.

### Apologies:

Apologies were received from **9** persons listed on the Electoral Roll.

### Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened with a Prayer.

Chair noted that there would be two meetings. The first, the Vestry Meeting, when the new churchwardens would be elected. The second meeting would follow when other elections would be held and where reports would be discussed.

### Vestry Meeting:

For this meeting Chair noted that the electorate was all whose names were on the Electoral Roll of the Parish as revised on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and there were 92 with an increase of two. Don Bull was thanked for all his work as Electoral Roll Officer.

### Minutes of last Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**Danny Crowther** proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record; this was seconded by **Oliver Lane**, with all in favour.

There were no matters arising.

### Election of Churchwardens for the year 2025 - 2026

Before the election of the churchwardens for the coming year, the Chair wished to thank both **Sarah Bazin** and **Jonathan Forbes** for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Chair stated that they both deserved a round of applause. Although Jonathan Forbes was standing down as church warden all were very pleased that he had agreed to stand for the PCC and continue his roll on the Fabric Committee.

The meeting moved on to the elections of Church Wardens for 2025/2026.

Chair confirmed that the following agreed to stand as churchwardens for the coming year.

**Sarah Bazin** proposed by Sally Howells and seconded by Jonathan Forbes.

**Danny Crowther** proposed by Maureen Nicholas and seconded by Oliver Lane.

As no further nominations for churchwarden had been received, Chair proposed that **Sarah and Danny** be appointed as churchwardens for the **year 2025/2026**.

A request was made for a show of hands in support of this proposal. All approved, no abstentions. Congratulations were offered to Sarah and Danny – who were both duly elected.

The Vestry Meeting closed at 11.59am

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Time – 12 noon**

**Present:**

Rev'd Linda Duckers (chair), Sarah Bazin (secretary), Jane Rogers (Treasurer) and some **38** members.

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from **9** persons listed on the Electoral Roll.

**Minutes of last Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> May 2024)**

**Dennis Crips** proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record; this was seconded by **Oliver Lane**, with all in favour.

There were no matters arising.

Chair referred to the extensive Reports by the various Church Officers and activities and thanked all who had submitted reports which she hoped had been read by Church members, both the financial report and the more general Annual Report – they had been available in plenty of time to have been read.

There would be an opportunity to discuss any of the reports and make any recommendations to the PCC before they were received.

**Electoral Roll Report:**

Presented in the Annual Report by Don Bull, our Electoral Roll Officer. Following the revision of the Electoral Roll, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the electoral roll stood at **94 people**.

Currently the PCC were within the permitted number of members and were entitled to an additional Two members – Chair invited any eligible congregation members to stand as PCC members. Deanery Synod currently had two members.

Chair thanked Don Bull for maintaining the Electoral Roll.

**Reports**

Chair thanked all who had submitted Reports and all who had supported the Church activities.

She noted the following key points:

**Children and Families Ministry Lead**

A big thank you to Ellie Wellicome for all her work with children and young people including Parent and Toddler Group, Messy Church, Sunday activities, Parents Pause and for developing links with the schools since her appointment. Thank you to Ben Wellicome for his support.

**Children and Families Work**

Julie Edwards was thanked for her work with the Muddy Church which had been enjoyed by all. Youth Ministry – Revered Dr Anita Morgan was thanked for her work with Messy Church. We had seen a further increase in the number of children coming to take advantage of the Hot Chocolate and Ice Cream giveaway after school on a Wednesday afternoon.

### **Pause in the Park:**

Many thanks to the volunteers who have been giving their time to this activity. Linda noted that Volunteers were the life blood of the church and were key to all our Outreach activities.

### **Safeguarding:**

Sally Howells was thanked for her unstinting work in maintaining a safe environment for all in our church and in outreach situations. She had no concerns and there were no on-going matters. The Chair thanked Sally for all her work. Sally will be stepping down over the year. Next year there will be an independent audit for parishes. The chair remarked that it was very important for all to take responsibility for one another especially the children.

### **Warwick Team Ministry:**

The new Rector the Reverend Canon Angus Aagaard had been appointed during the year. He has a new view of how the team will function in the future. It is proposed that St Mary's will become a Minster. Each Church will retain their own PCC and Finance and will take a lead on a specific area. It is proposed that St Nicholas will take a lead on health, wholeness, mind and spirit. There will be a PCC visioning morning on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July which will be open to everyone.

### **King Henry VIII Trust:**

We have an agreement with the Project Pool to fund the Children and Families Ministry Lead for the first year of Ellie's appointment.

### **Thank Yous**

Linda thanked the Readers for their ministry during the year and Bishop David for his home communion ministry.

All were thanked for their involvement.

### **Jane Rogers - Financial Review 2025**

2024 ended up with overall BS position of £263,688, decrease of £12k since the end of 2023.

#### Breakdown of £264k

£192k total cash in bank

£73k Lees bequest shares – the value of these shares changes each year and in 2024 they increased in value by £2k.

£40k Debtors (money we are owed) – Outstanding grants from the Henry Pot and LPWS claim for the Boiler work (which we have now received). Also some late income.

£42k Creditors (money we still owed at the end of the year) – Outstanding payments on the Boiler and other payments including energy, salary payments.

At the end of 2024 the £264k was broken down into separate funds (unrestricted, designated and Lees).

Lees fund consists of shares held in the C of E Investment Fund. We cannot sell or spend these shares but we can use the annual dividends from the shares for repair or improvement of the church fabric, furniture, fittings or ornaments. Currently there is nearly £26k included in the bank for these accumulated dividends.

#### Income/expenditure in 2024

Congregational giving £48k (standing orders, envelopes, income tax claims) small increase since previous year.

Major expenditure on replacement of the boiler of £74k using £25k from the Warwick and Budbrooke Community Outreach Pool and other income from the Henry VIII Trust. Able to claim £12k VAT back from the LPWS.

### Henry VIII Trust

Warwick churches are in the fortunate position of receiving income from Henry VIII Trust BUT there are restrictions on what we can use this for. We received £54k in 2024 and used some of this for the Diocesan Training Fund contribution, local charitable donations, local ministry (Messy Church, Hot Chocolate Giveaway, Pause in the Park and contributions to costs for the community use of the building (energy, cleaning, administration). By the end of 2024 we had used up all our Henry funding but will receive similar amounts going forward.

We were also fortunate to receive funding from the Outreach Pool covering the cost of our Children and Families worker.

Future commitments for St Nicholas are for the new West Doors.

**Chair** Thanked Jane Rogers for her on-going care and skill in managing the Church Accounts. She noted the Key points of JR presentation.

### Fabric (Jonthan Forbes/Robert Perkins):

Jonathan Forbes reported that the new boiler is working well and that we should aim to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A feasibility study is being undertaken to look at ground heat pumps, air heat pumps installing solar panels on the roof to generate half the electrical annual power requirement. York Minster have solar panels on their roof and contact is being made with them. We are going to investigate radiation heaters which may be suitable for the upper east end – these have already been installed at All Saints Leek Wootton. These are very efficient as they are only used to heat the area at the time of need.

It has been noted that some slates on the roof of the east end have slipped and they will either need to be replaced or we will have to look at reroofing.

Robert Perkins reported that another concern is the drainage outside the exit door on the south side of the Nave. In heavy rain water comes under the door and makes the mat sodden.

It is proposed to have a new cremation plot and a ground penetrating scan between .8 to 1.2 meters down is required. The west end door should be installed during 2025 including changing the step to a slope.

We are most grateful to the Project Pool for a grant of £25,000 towards the replacement of the boiler. As part of the grant of faculty by the Diocese for the boiler replacement we have had to create a route map towards being eco friendly by 2030.

### Deanery Synod:

There were no questions and the chair thanked Chris Foy and Antoine Mitchell who will be continuing in their role.

**Chair.** Thanked all those who kept the Church functioning safely and for the continuing work in fundraising.

Questions: None.

### PCC

Chair noted that both the above were ex-officio members of the PCC.

Other ex-officio members of the PCC included Licensed Clergy and Church Wardens.

Chair advised that all six existing members had agreed to stand again as members of the PCC:

**Jane Rogers, Anne Heaney, Roy Emmerson, Katie Jelfs, Robert Perkins, Pam Meale and readers Fiona Trewick and Carole Ellis.**

There being no further nominations the above were re-elected and elected for **2025/26**:

Carried unanimously.

**Other Appointments:**

**Independent Examiner of Accounts –**

Joan White had provided the independent examination of the accounts for 2024 and will be happy to be reappointed to provide the independent examination for the 2025 accounts. The reappointment of Joan White as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Andrea Perkins and seconded by Diana King.

**AOB:**

- a) The next PCC meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.
- b) The meeting closed with Prayer led at 12.27pm

PCC Officers

Chair: The Rev'd Linda Duckers

Vice Chair: Sarah Bazin

Treasurer: Jane Rogers

Electoral Roll: Don Bull

PCC Secretary: Pam Meale

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING**  
**TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

**The Vicar's Report 2025**

As always, it is a privilege to serve you and share with you as your vicar through all the challenges and joys of church life. We are so fortunate to have a loving, caring and gifted congregation who make St Nicholas Church the welcoming place that it is. Thank you!

Every church depends on volunteers giving of their time and energy. We have been blessed by many people serving God in a variety of ways – many serving quietly week after week behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of our worship, our mission, our administration, our committees, our pastoral care, our teaching and preaching, our finances, and the upkeep of our building. Thank you, I am very grateful. There are too many of you to mention you all by name – but you know who you are! Thank you for your loving service.

**A few notable things this last year:**

- On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 I was invited to join the Warwick bell ringers in **Loughborough Bell Foundry**. My role was to Bless three bells as they were 'cast.' One bell was in memory of Simon Rogers and his dad. We also had a tour of the Foundry. It was a very interesting day and it was a privilege to be invited to be part of the special occasion.
- **Easter Experience** – It was wonderful to be one of the volunteers at this special event which involved two schools (Coten End and Warwick Prep) and 150 children coming to church to experience the story of Easter. Well done Ellie for organising it.
- **Youth Take Over Service** – one of my favourite services last year was in July at the excellent service led by our young people. It was just fab! Seeing them lead and do everything was great. Well done to our young people!! (and to those who assisted).
- **St Nicholas Church Vision** - The PCC and others have spent time over the year discerning what our priorities might be for the next 3 years. The areas we identified were: Discipleship; Healing & Wholeness Ministry (body, mind & spirit); Prayer & Spirituality; and continue developing our Outreach to Children, Young People & Families. In addition to these the PCC also recognised that we need to improve our Communication, Welcome of newcomers & Pastoral Care. It was agreed that some working parties will be set up in the near future to explore how we can develop some of these areas of ministry.
- **The Warwick Team Ministry has now been replaced by Warwick Ministry Partnership (WMP)**. Each of the five churches in Warwick/Budbrooke would remain independent, maintain its own buildings, have its own PCC, traditions and worship styles. However, the hope is they would share resources, work collaboratively across parishes to serve the town and focus on priorities across the town. Each church was asked to take a lead on one area of ministry on behalf of the team. St Nicholas Church has offered to lead on Healing & Health Ministry (body, mind and spirit). In the short term, this will involve exploring what this ministry might look like. Then appointing someone (paid from the Henry Project Pool -POT) to take on the leadership of this ministry.
- **Incumbents Leadership Course**. Bishop Sophie nominated me (& 7 other incumbents in the diocese) for a place on this course because of our current ministry with children, young people and their families. *"The course is focussed on mid-sized churches: those with 11-24 CYP in average weekly attendance (AWA) across their church. It is a year-long part-time programme delivered in partnership*

*with a theological college. Its purpose is to give incumbents the opportunity to step back from the relentless demands of parish ministry and give attention to both their own well-being and to the ministry of their church with children, young people and families (CYPF)."*

- Sadly, during the year (& start of this year) we lost two faithful and committed members of the congregation: **Carole Ellis** one of our Readers & **Selena Maguire**. Although we miss them very much, we need to also continue to remind ourselves of our resurrection hope which our faith is built on: That all who believe in Christ will have eternal life. Alleluia!

**A special 'thank you' to:**

Sally Howells who has done an excellent job in her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and stepped down beginning of January 2026; Chris Foy for taking on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer; Bishop David for taking Holy Communion to those unable to get to church & for Rachael Smith who is now taking on that role; Chris Foy and the Choir for their on-going excellence in aiding us to 'lift our hearts to the Lord'; the bell ringers who call us to worship every week; Sue Randall and her team for the wonderful flower arrangements; John Alderman for sorting the recycling and putting the bins out each week; Antoine Mitchell for organising the monthly concerts; Neelima for making our brass and silver shine beautifully; Robert Perkins, Jonathan Forbes, Paul Onions and Danny Crowther for your hard work in all things Fabric! Sarah Bazin for your 100% commitment to St Nicholas Church in so many ways. Thank you.

I would also like to thank all those involved with ministry to children, youth and families (e.g. Sunday Club, Messy Church, Muddy Church, Toddlers, Parent Pause, 9am Rise & Shine, Thrive Bus, youth group, Hot Chocolate Giveaway & our School work) – so many people now assisting in one way or another to this vital work. A special thanks to Ellie Wellicome, Rev Anita Morgan, and Julie Edwards for your leadership in this important and growing work. It is exciting to see how far we have come over the past year or so. Thank you.

Also, a big thank you to the team who ran Pause in the Park, our Wednesday Weekly drop-in. Over the year we had a variety of people come through our doors looking for peace and quiet to pray; wanting a listening ear or some company or just a cuppa & biscuit. After three years of serving in this way, we decided it was not really meeting the original vision we had when we set up Pause in the Park. Therefore, we decided to finish this ministry at the end of October 2025. It could be restarted in the future, of course, but for now it seems right to focus on other areas of ministry.

At St Nicholas Church, we are very fortunate to have a team of gifted and creative preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders. We have been enriched by your ministry – thank you. As always, I am very grateful for our hardworking administrator; our supportive PCC and other committee members; committed House Group leaders; brilliant treasurer; supportive, talented, and caring Ministers – Anita & Fiona; as well as loyal, caring, dedicated, hardworking Churchwardens.

Let us continue to encourage one another to love and serve the Lord!

**The Revd Linda Duckers**  
**April 2026**

## Church Wardens Report

2025 was another busy year in the life of St. Nicholas Church.

We must begin this report with an enormous thank you to the six church members of the Fabric Committee who do so much work alongside the Church Wardens behind the scenes: Jonathan Forbes, Paul Onions, Robert Perkins, Jane Rogers with Babu and Neelima. On a weekly basis their efforts allow the church building to be a place of warm-welcome for everyone who enters into it.

At the February PCC we discussed the document “Warwick Team Vision 2030” and members of the PCC, House Group Leaders and the Children and Families Ministry lead were asked to consider an area of Ministry, that as a church we might take a lead, on behalf of the Warwick Team. The agreed decision was ‘Health, Well-being, Healing and Wholeness’ with a strategy to be devised.

In April, a loose slate was noted on the roof at the chancel end as well as evidence of water staining certain beams in the upper east end. Following further investigation and conversations with the church architect, it was decided that the whole roof should be re-slatted, and the four louver windows replaced. Three quotes and a diocesan faculty were sought. We were most grateful to the King Henry churches pot for their agreement to fund half the cost. Prior to any work being commissioned, we were required to have a bat survey carried out by two ecologists, who visited on two separate evenings over the summer - no roosting bats were noted.

Jonathan Forbes stepped down as Church Warden at the May APCM. Everyone was very pleased that he had agreed to remain on the PCC and continue his valuable work on the Fabric Committee. We were delighted to welcome Danny Crowther as Church Warden.

There is a proposal to have a new cremation plot and, in preparation, an archaeological survey was carried out by Alex Harvey and his colleague, to ensure that the chosen area was clear of previous interments. This evidence was required as part of the faculty application to the diocese.

The barbecue in July was, once again, a resounding success, although had to be eaten in the church due to very heavy rain, and we were grateful to Don Bull who, with Diana and Anthony King, manned (and “womanned”) the barbecue despite the best efforts of the elements. We also joined together for the Harvest Festival and Patronal lunches, which were well supported.

A Visioning and Strategy morning, open to all church members, was held on a Saturday morning in July.

As 2024 had been the year of the great boiler replacement, 2025 became the year of the West End front door replacement. The main challenges being the locking mechanism, the provision of keys long enough to open the door from the outside and the position of the handle once the door was open – all now finally resolved.

In the autumn there was a data breach at APCS (access personal checking services LTD) due to a cyberattack. This affected six church members who had recently made DBS applications, and many more across the Coventry diocese.

At the beginning of December, we welcomed 200 junior school children from three schools who came to sing as part of the ‘Warwick-A singing town’ project. With the wonderful acoustics, the church is a popular music venue. Over the year, the church has been hired by many choirs and orchestras. We are grateful to Antoine Mitchell, who has arranged the programme for the ever-popular Lovecy Concerts on the third Sunday afternoon of each month.

During the year we were sad to see the closure of 'Pause in the Park' held on Wednesday afternoons and of the 'Two Castles Male Voice Choir', who had, for several years, held their rehearsals in the church on Monday evenings. We have been pleased to welcome 'Rethink Mental Illness' who hold sessions in the church each Tuesday morning and the continuation of the Men's Shed sessions in the lower east end on a Monday morning.

Church activities which have continued include the monthly Rise and Shine service, Messy Church, the Toddler group and the Wednesday afternoon giveaway to local school children.

We are very grateful to Rev. Linda Duckers for her spiritual leadership, supported by Rev. Dr. Anita Morgan alongside Fiona Trewick and Carole Ellis, our readers. Also, grateful to Sally Howells, who, as the parish safeguarding officer has been a tower of strength for the past ten years. She stepped down from the role at the end of the year. We have all been delighted to see the growth in Children's Ministry led by Ellie Wellicombe.

We are grateful to Jason Ellis who researched, recommended and helped to fit new microphones to improve the sound system and to all who gave so generously to support their purchase. We were all greatly saddened by the death of his wife, our reader, Carole Ellis who died on Christmas Day after a long battle with cancer.

A big thank you to all those within the church who unseen undertake supportive roles on a weekly basis.

**Sarah Bazin & Danny Crowther – Church Wardens**

### **Fabric Report**

This report covers the extensive work on the St Nicholas Church building in 2025 on two major projects and on other issues: progressing the new replacement west doors, and addressing the south roof of the chancel whose slates were found to be failing. Another major issue was seeking appropriate ways to move forward on the Net Zero 2030 target.

In mid April an environmental expert, Mr Legge, offered to us by the Diocese, came to do an energy survey on all aspects of the building and recommend ways to cut carbon emissions. He pointed out that the new boiler carried a substantial embedded carbon content within it. The importance of this is that we should seek to obtain as much benefit from this large outlay by maximising its useful life. He agreed that the size and height of the ceiling meant the walls had considerable ambient heat within them, so a medium ambient temperature (16 degrees to preserve the organ and piano) would be most efficient method to heat the church during the winter.

Stratford Energy were invited in mid April to assess the site and the church for its suitability to have solar panels on the roof. This company was in the process of fitting panels on York Minster and therefore had substantial expertise and experience in such matters. They explained the optimum configuration was to collect electrical energy during daylight and store it in large batteries for use as desired later. They submitted a sample solution which had considerable benefits but, of course, it all depended on approval to fit panels on a Grade 1 Listed building.

The west doors. A contract was finally let to Cooper Whyte Conservation Ltd in August 2024 ,though since planning permission had not been sought earlier, work on the doors had to await that approval. This was forthcoming in early 2025. Work proceeded well on the doors themselves. Issues then arose over the door

furniture which had to comply with diocesan rules, and Building Regulations. A handle and locking mechanism design was identified and agreed but as this furniture had to be fabricated from scratch a 6 week delay ensued. As it turned out the first set of furniture was inappropriate so a second six weeks went by to manufacture the correct set.

The doors were installed at the first week of September 2025 to feelings of relief and elation that at last these beautiful doors were in place. Relief because the long delays had resulted in the church receiving letters from donors asking what was being done.

The striking and graceful Manueline design catches everyone's attention and passers by frequently stop to admire and comment on them. These glazed doors immediately give a feeling of openness to visitors as they look straight into the church. Unfortunately the closing mechanism is counter intuitive; opening is achieved by raising the handles. This is far from ideal and confusion arises when people try the doors to enter. A pragmatic solution suggested by an inspired church warden to ease matters has been to drill holes in the metal locking mechanism which enable the handles to be held fixed when the doors are unlocked. Without this modification the doors were in constant threat of damage. A gently sloping threshold enables wheelchair users to enter on their own. A brass plaque has been placed on the wall inside, near the doors to commemorate the major donors.

Chancel roof. Around this time fallen slates from the chancel roof were found thereby. A reputable roofing company was engaged to come and assess the roof's condition and provide a quotation. Our architect was notified and on her next visit to see the west doors she examined the chancel roof too. The last time the roof had been tiled was in 1970s and in the interim fabricating protocols have changed. Roof Maintenance Leamington, the proposed contractor, advised us that iron nails were standard at that time and these had rusted. This obviously would affect the whole roof, and their opinion was that the whole roof should be stripped and replaced, using copper nails. This also meant that the north side would have to be replaced to ensure the ridge tiles would sit level. The whole project had therefore become a more complex and expensive task.

At this point it was decided to renew the four veluxes on the east and north faces as all were unserviceable. The scaffolding would serve both tasks.

Some funding was obtained by the church warden, from the 'Pot' for half the cost, an extremely valuable contribution for which St Nicholas Church is indebted.

Additionally the architect informed us that a bat survey would be required but she thought that that should not delay the start of work too much that would not delay matters as she knew of a bat survey company. This turned out to be the case and the site was declared free of bats two weeks later.

A detailed specification and plan would be required to enable the project to go forward in compliance with Grade 1 building standards with an authorised quotation. It was now autumn; replacement tiles would have to match, as far as was possible, the existing tiles. Obtaining these tiles for the south facing and most

prominent aspect would be to use sound existing tiles supplemented by recovered tiles. These are difficult and time consuming to obtain. The north facing could be of an acceptable type of matching tiles.

Oliver Architecture was appointed to manage the project and draw up the specification for Roof Maintenance Leamington to provide a quotation for all the work including the 4 veluxes. Work was scheduled to commence in early 2026.

AFTERNOTE: the reroofing project has been completed with a very good end result.

West doors: TOTAL	GBP 26,737.95
Chancel roof: Oliver Architecture	GBP 6,883.13
Ecologist	GBP 1,594.83
RML	<u>GBP 50,770.00</u>
TOTAL.	GBP 59,247.00

**Jonathan Forbes**

#### **Section on regular compliance checks (either weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually)**

Maintenance and checks to the fire alarm system, emergency lighting, water system, electrics, boiler/gas service, lightening conductor, first aid kits and accident book, step ladders/ladders, drains, roof gutters and gullies, tower clock (PAT testing every one or two years, and fire extinguishers annually). Of these some are necessarily carried out under contract with specialists, the remainder by volunteers, mainly Paul Onions.

**Robert Perkins**

#### **PCC Report**

PCC Meetings – 2025-2026

The Parochial Church Council met 10 times, plus one special meeting to approve the final Accounts prior to the APCM, 4 were on Zoom, 6 were in person.

Topics discussed over the year included Safeguarding, the Front Door, Chancel roof, bins, bats and drains, Church Vision & Church growth, Warwick Ministry Partnership, the Website & Sound system.

Minutes of the meetings have been circulated to all members and have been available for reference.

**The Revd Linda Duckers - Chair of PCC**

#### **Readers Report**

Once again this has been a year of ups and downs. It was with great sadness that I heard about Carole's death on Christmas Day. Even during the last months of her life she still managed to minister to many of the people around her and joined us at church as much as possible. I know we shall all miss many aspects of her. I will miss having a 'fellow Reader' here and particularly her contributions to the church leadership

team, as well as the opportunities to meet for coffee occasionally. As well as bringing much wisdom, her great sense of humour and mischievous character brightened every meeting we had.

During the year I have continued to preach and lead services every other month. I always enjoy preparing a sermon and preaching because it allows me lots of time to reflect on and pray about the passages, research them and then consider which bits of all of that I will talk about in my sermon. In addition to that, this year, I particularly enjoyed working with Ellie and some of our young people to put together the family service in November.

My role of Assistant Warden of Readers in the diocese has taken more of my time this year. It was lovely to attend the installation of our new Bishop of Coventry, Bishop Sophie Jelley and later in the year to talk to her about lay ministry in the diocese. There are many ideas to be developed when we have the time. I'm particularly involved in improving our training both for trainee Readers and those who have been Readers for a while, which I am enjoying.

I'm still representing St Nicholas at the Churches Together in Warwick Prayer Breakfasts along with Shirley Osborne. These are on the first Saturday of the month and start at 8.00. It would be lovely to see some of you at these too. They are a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Christians from Warwick and experience different styles of worship and prayer, as well as breakfast.

**Fiona Trewick**

### **Children and Families Ministry Lead 2025 Report**

#### **Sunday Club:**

Sunday club continues to run during every 10am Holy Communion service, where we explore a reading through games, activities and crafts. There are 10 children between the ages of 5 and 15 who regularly attended in 2025, though we do occasionally have visitors attending too as one offs. This is slightly less than last year. We have a team of five brilliant volunteers supporting the work of Sunday Club on a rota basis, as well as a few extras to support occasionally.

#### **Family Services:**

We had some varied family services across 2025 that I have been a part of organising, including our Harvest service which had activity stations around the church to explore the themes of Harvest, and Christ the King in November which had a similar set up.

I also led the Mothering Sunday Family Service with the support of John Alderman.

I especially enjoyed the children and youth 'Takeover Service' we did in July, where the children and young people planned and led the family service themselves. This was a huge success and was well received by the congregation, and has led to the children and young people contributing more to other family services. The children requested a 'music group' for their takeover service, so I put one together – and this group has played at a couple more family services since too. Intergenerational relationships and worship is key to growing faith in children and young people – but I would say us being open to what our children and young people can bring to our own faith is hugely important too.

#### **Rise and Shine:**

I have been a part of the Rise and Shine services that take place once a month for young children and their families. Sometimes I am organising and leading them, and sometimes I am behind the scenes. I particularly

enjoyed our 'Back to School' service in September, where Linda blessed the children's school bags for the return to school. We had 7 families regularly attend Rise and Shine each month in 2025.

### **School Work:**

I have regular contact with Warwick Prep, Coten End Primary School, Woodloes Primary School, Myton Gardens, and Evergreen School. This has included assemblies with Woodloes Primary School (Christmas, Harvest), Myton Gardens Primary School (Harvest, "Kindness", and a Christingle service), and Evergreen (Christmas assembly at Brittain Lane, and Sensory Christmas Story with each class at the Deansway Campus). I also did some lessons with Warwick Prep (Signs & Symbols, Christingle, and Harvest), and Coten End (Christmas, Reconciliation & Forgiveness, and a session in about church and how it impacts my faith as a Christian). Since September I've also been going into Woodloes once a week to hear readers, which has been key in building a relationship with the school.

### **Easter:**

In April 2025, we had our first year of running Experience Easter, for schools to visit and hear the Easter story and take part in reflective activities to explore the themes within it. Coten End and Warwick Prep both signed up, and in total we had 150 pupils come into church across the day. This went very well, and led to both schools taking part again the following year.

We had our annual Easter Crafts on Good Friday, with a range of families coming from Toddlers, Rise and Shine, Sunday Club and Messy Church – as well as those coming as a one off. I also organised an Easter Egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday, which was lovely – we had a whole gang of children running around looking for eggs together.

### **Summer Holiday Activities:**

I ran four events over the summer holidays, aimed at different age groups and at different pools of people, and we saw good attendance for all of these. This included a film morning, an art project for our Sunday club, and:

**Summer Crafts** – We had over 75 people in church to take part in a beach themed craft morning, which included a sand pit for messy play and proper ice creams in a cone! We explored the story of Jesus on the beach with his disciples as part of this morning.

**Play in a Day** – In just one day, 15 children and teenagers put together a 45-minute play telling the story of the Book of Daniel, the day ending with a performance for family, friends and church members. This was a really brilliant day for exploration, fun and relationship building. I hope to repeat this event this summer (with a different play!).

### **Youth Work:**

We are blessed to have 10 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 who regularly attend our church services. **The Youth Group began in March 2025** with these young people in mind, but is open to anyone of that age group. We meet once a month on a Sunday evening, with sessions ranging from games and pizza, to creating a Lego nativity scene, to going bowling. During 2025 we had low monthly numbers at youth group, normally around 4 young people in any one session, but overall we had 8 young people attend in 2025.

We also trialled running '**youth sessions**' during the **10.30am Holy Communion service** for young people 11-18. These ran from June to November, and again over the months we had 5 young people attend, though individual session numbers were a lot lower. We decided to pause these sessions until further notice due to

lack of take up from the young people. (If any young people would like something for them during Sunday services, please speak to me).

Thank you to our 2025 youth group volunteers Helen Edwards, Ben Wellicome and Danny Crowther.

I am the churches representative on the **Thrive Youth Bus Steering Committee**, helping to guide the direction of the bus's ministry. The bus is currently doing very well and is out several times a week in different areas of Warwick, and has introduced more Christian content. **The Hot Chocolate Giveaway** grew hugely in 2025, sometimes giving away 100 hot chocolates or ice creams in one afternoon to children and young people. We have seen the numbers coming from Myton School grow from about 5 to 50! To help with these numbers, Gillian and I were pleased to welcome Paul, Dennis and John to our volunteer team – thank you for your ongoing support. Hot chocolate giveaway is one of the best parts of my week!

### **Christmas:**

At Christmas I wrote and organised the Nativity Service which was very well attended. A Nativity Workshop took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December to rehearse the play, and we had a good range of children take part from Rise and Shine, Sunday Club, Youth Group, and Play in a Day – as well as 4 others who saw it advertised and joined the fun, making a positive link with our church.

### **Other parts of my role:**

Part of my role includes leading Messy church, including organising the monthly session and the volunteers, preparation, and leading up the front. Please see the Messy Church report for a more detailed report.

I support the running of Toddlers and Parent Pause. Thank you to Julie for continuing to take the lead in coordinating these sessions, and to Holly and Mei-Leng for running Parent Pause. These are both lovely groups and a lot of fun to support, and in 2025 we started to see attendance at Parent Pause slowly growing in number.

In 2025, I also connected with other children and youth workers from other churches in Warwick, and we began to plan some joint projects together as a group.

### **Thank you:**

Thank you to everyone who supports the Children, Families or Youth Work through leading, volunteering, and praying for the activities and events. I am hugely grateful to those who personally support and encourage me including Linda, John, and Anita.

**Ellie Wellicome, Children and Families Ministry Lead**

### **Messy Church Annual Report**

Messy church is an ecumenical missional activity taking place in Woodloes primary school on a monthly basis since 2018, with of course the inevitable pause during the pandemic.

During 2025, I took on more of the leadership of Messy Church with Fiona Sutton from Thrive Youth Ministries handing over her responsibilities to me. This involves organising the team of volunteers including monthly meetings to plan the next session, advertising and promoting Messy Church, and often leading sessions from the front. I am grateful to Anita Morgan for her continued role as part of the leadership of Messy Church.

Volunteer numbers have not increased in 2025, in fact we unfortunately had to say goodbye to four of our leaders by the end of the year - a big thank you to Anne Heaney, Shirley Osbourne, Nirmal Kanta and Pauline

Sutton for all their hard work. We also welcomed a few new volunteers who we are so pleased to have in the team. The team is now made up of Sarah Bazin, Kirsty Mitchell, Pam Meale, Mark Leonard, and Sally Schofield. We are very pleased to have 4 young leaders at Messy Church – Harvey, Mollie, Maisie and Kezia. Ideally, we need 10 leaders for Messy Church to fully function, so if we have anyone away or unwell this has a large impact. We can reduce the number of crafts on offer at a session to make sure each activity is properly staffed. My thanks go to all those who volunteered to continue support Messy Church. This includes Ciaran Morgan, Don Bull and Andy Mitchell, who attend Messy Church before and at the end of each session to turn an empty school hall into a welcoming space full of tables and chairs. Also thanks to Jonathan who will step in to assist whenever there is a gap either in setup.

Stacey Baines also stepped away from supporting Messy Church every month, but thankfully Sally Schofield and Sarah Bazin took over organising and making the food for each session. Sharing food is an important part of the Messy Church model, so we are very grateful to them for stepping into the breach. Stacey has still provided Easter Eggs and books, and Christmas gifts, for our special seasonal sessions – thank you. In 2025, we had a variety of group sizes. Sometimes as small as 6 children, other times we had 20 - larger groups seem to be particularly around Easter and Christmas. For Christmas 2025, we did a large leaflet drop around the Woodloes Estate – with thanks to the Mitchell family who posted the advert through the majority of the letter boxes on the estate. We had over 20 children attend the Christmas session including some new families, but unfortunately numbers were low again in January 2026. We cannot flyer drop for every month as the time and man power requirement is too great.

Families who come to Messy Church are predominantly from Woodlands Park. However, we do have a number of families who come from further afield. Some of the families who attend are regular churchgoers elsewhere for others their only experience of church is Messy Church. We have a number of families whose only church is Messy Church. We have a stable core group of attendees and the regular influx of new visitors some of whom continued to attend on an ad hoc basis, some have become regular attenders and others dip in and dip out. The age range from Messy Church is typically primary school age; that is four years plus. Sometimes we have families who attend with toddlers. They are very welcome to join us but they often find that than most of the activities are a little too old for their child at present. Parents are expected to attend with the children. Sometimes both parents will attend other times only one. As it is not possible to predict in advance how many will join us, the session including six different crafts has to cater for a minimum of 20 children each time as we would not want anyone to attend and then find they were not able to join in.

I would say that one of the biggest thing you could do to support Messy Church in the next year is to pray about it regularly. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach and serve the families on the Woodloes estate, but there are months where we only have small numbers attend despite our best efforts to advertise. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you feel you could join the team in any way then please speak to myself or Anita.

**Ellie Wellicome, Children and Families Ministry Lead**

### **Electoral Roll Report**

As at the 31st March 2026 the electoral roll stands at 95 people, which is the same as it was in 2025. We have gained 1 new member, and 1 has been removed, now deceased.

**Don Bull**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

## Safeguarding Report

I am very new to the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, having been put forward by the PCC in March 2026, and officially starting when my enhanced DBS check was received just before Easter.

This report is about 2025, and I begin by paying tribute to Sally Howells for undertaking the PSO role for over a decade. She carried out the duties with great diligence and good humour, both of which are definitely needed.

Sally retired at the end of 2025, and in some ways her final year was the most difficult. While there were no safeguarding incidents reported in our parish, there was a security breach of personal data supplied by some of our volunteers for their DBS checks. The breach occurred at a subcontractor to the Diocese's appointed administrator of DBS checks, and came to light in August 2025. Numerous parishes across the country were similarly affected.

Sally and Linda promptly notified the nine of us whose data were compromised. We also reported the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office and the Charity Commission, though the individual reports from parishes were later held to have been unnecessary. As far as we know, no adverse consequences have happened to the individuals whose data were breached, although some were advised to obtain new passports, and this will have cost them money. It is not yet clear whether there will be any redress for this.

The Diocese have now appointed a new provider of DBS checks, thirtyone:eight, who are experienced in the field. Sally had to learn their procedures, and checks are now proceeding smoothly.

I hold the overall responsibility for safeguarding, along with the PCC, but we all have a degree of responsibility, so please let me or Linda know of anything you think is untoward. Naturally we hope and expect that there won't be any problems, but experience elsewhere shows that problems can get out of hand if we keep any concerns we might have to ourselves, thinking that they will go away.

I am very grateful to Emily Burgess, who has agreed to administer the DBS checks, and to Veronica Onions, who will be keeping an eye on volunteers' training needs. I couldn't do the whole job on my own. With their help, and the goodwill of all of us, St Nicholas' will continue to be a place where all are welcomed, cared for and kept safe.

**Chris Foy**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## Choir Report

We continued to hold Friday rehearsals throughout the year except during holiday periods, and contributed an anthem to almost every Sunday service. Numbers were sometimes small, but only on two or three occasions were there not enough singers. The Carol Service, which needs quite a lot of preparation, was once again a highlight. Many thanks to the "extras" who joined us just for that occasion.

I am grateful to Antoine Mitchell for playing and leading the choir on the few Sundays when I was away.

There were two first-time events during the year. The first was that we were invited to sing Evensong at St Mary's Warwick on one August Sunday, while the regular choir was on holiday. For this, we were joined by our friends from St Mary Magdalene, Lillington. It took quite a bit of rehearsal, but went off well, and the congregation appreciated it.

The second novel event was that we were invited to sing carols in Smith Street on a Saturday in early December, while the street was closed to traffic for an event celebrating local independent shops.

Later in December, we were invited to sing carols in the Castle chapel on a Saturday afternoon, again with Lillington. This has been a fixture for many years.

We could still do with some new voices. If anyone wants to attend a Friday practice at 7.30 (without feeling obliged to sing on a Sunday until you are ready), you would be most welcome.

**Chris Foy**

### **Deanery Synod**

The Warwick and Leamington Deanery Synod is a meeting of the clergy and elected lay representatives of the parishes in Warwick, Leamington and the surrounding area. We normally meet three times a year, on a Monday or Tuesday evening. Antoine Mitchell and I are the elected lay representatives, though Antoine is stepping down.

In 2025, two formal meetings were held, as opposed to the normal three. The scheduled March meeting had little necessary business, so it was replaced with an informal prayer meeting

The June meeting featured a presentation by Anna Naish of the Diocesan training team. This focused on training for various forms of lay ministry.

In September, we had an extra evening to welcome Bishop Sophie, to hear her vision and to pray together.

The October meeting, which we hosted at St Nicholas, focused on the "Quiet Revival", and agreed to use some unspent Deanery funds on providing gospels and bibles for each parish, for giving away as outreach. (The original Bible Society survey describing the Quiet Revival has recently been withdrawn, but most churches in the Deanery report a number of new attenders and enquiries, so the news is still positive.)

All the meetings continue to include news and mutual encouragement from all the parishes, which to me are the most encouraging feature of the Deanery Synod.

I continue as a lay member of the Deanery Leadership Team, chaired by Jonathan Jee, the Area Dean.

Elections to the Deanery Synod are to be held this year at the APCM, and we are entitled to three lay places, which also get you a seat on the PCC. Lay members of Deanery Synod will be entitled to vote for General Synod lay members this autumn. If you are reading this beforehand, do have a think about putting your name forward. It is not an onerous duty, and I find the chance to meet with people from other churches quite inspiring.

**Chris Foy**

### **St Nicholas Church Flower Report**

Another busy year from the flower cupboard. Danny very kindly put some new shelves into the cupboard which has made storage a great deal easier.

Easter brought flowers back to the church after the weeks of Lent.

On a few weeks when no one sponsored flowers I did green arrangements. These consisted of greenery foraged from the hedgerows. I always try to get greenery from the lanes around Warwick.

When buying the flowers for sponsored arrangements, it is not always possible to get them from the UK. Most florists and supermarkets get their cut flowers from abroad and they come with air miles. Buying from local flower farms in our area is more sustainable and supports our flower farmers. However this is not always possible.

At Harvest we used locally grown flowers and home grown fruit and vegetables. We had tomatoes donated by Muddy Church for the second year running - grown in the churchyard! Pat brought home grown vegetables and did a lovely flower arrangement in the font. Gillian joined the flower team at harvest and we are very pleased to welcome her!

Remembrance Sunday called for an arrangement of poppies and roses.

At Christmas we recycled the enormous foraged pine cones from last year, along with church yard greenery: Holly, ivy and yew and some lovely bought flowers. I would like to thank all who were so generous once again with their donations for the Christmas flowers.

Many thanks to those who have sponsored flowers over the past year; we really love to arrange them for you.

Please sponsor flowers for 2026 if you wish to - just fill in the flower form over by the coffee hatch or speak to me.

I would like to thank the flower team for their dedication over the year. If anyone would like to join us have a chat with me as we'd love to expand our numbers.

**Sue Randall and the Flower Team**

### **St Nicholas Church Toddler Group**

The Toddler Group meets every Wednesday in term-time from 10-11.30. During the course of each term we regularly welcome over 40 children and their parents or carers.

The group is run by a dedicated team of volunteers who have all been safely recruited and are up to date with their safeguarding training. The team provide a warm welcome and support the parents to make connections and build relationships with each other, reducing the isolation that can occur as a parent of young children. Parents say that they love coming to the group as they feel welcomed, accepted and relaxed to be themselves. We are a very diverse group with families from all over the UK from many different nationalities. We are very proud that we have created such a warm and inclusive environment to nurture children and their carers.

Sessions include free play with a variety of age-appropriate toys, a sensory play area, singing and refreshments. We always finish with story-time where we present a short bible story or other story with a Christian theme, for example kindness, fairness, sharing, caring for the environment, being loved, respecting difference. Our volunteers pray for each of the families every week and we are always ready to answer questions about faith and Jesus! At the end of every term we provide a very popular soft play centre and bouncy castle. At Christmas, our resident Father Christmas distributes gifts to every child.

We are always trying to recruit new people to help so we can carry on the excellent work, but I would like to thank the whole team for their dedication and hard work once again:

Jennie Bull, Victoria Bull, Diana King, Dorothy Evans, Joan White, Ellie Wellicome, Liz Banyard and Andrea Perkins who sadly had to step down at Christmas due to health issues.

**Julie Edwards**

### **Muddy Church Report**

Muddy Church is a place for people to gather together outside and to connect with the space and God. It is an intergenerational idea, based on groups discovering the gifts in their community. The heart of Muddy Church is to offer spaces to 'wander and wonder' together.

We meet seasonally at least once each term on a Saturday morning, weather permitting, and work hard in the churchyard, although we do stop for refreshments halfway through, donuts bring a firm favourite.

Examples of our regular activities:

- \* building and refreshing our bug hotels
- \* planting bed and butterfly friendly plants
- \* planting plants which are used for the flower arrangements in church
- \* planting containers with colourful flowers to enhance the cremation area
- \* labelling plants and trees
- \* putting up bird boxes
- \* removing moss from the church building and gravestones
- \* making an annual Easter garden
- \* decorating an Easter tree
- \* taking part in national bug hunts and recording them on the iNaturalist app
- \* making bird feeders and homemade bird seed balls
- \* the Sunflower competition

I would like to thank the children, for their boundless enthusiasm and energy, their parents and their grandparents who give so graciously of their time and provide me with very welcome advice and the church for supporting my ideas. Without them, this project would not be a success.

**Julie Edwards**

### **Bellringers Report**

#### **Warwick Bellringers Annual Report – 2025**

The year 2025 has presented many challenges for the bellringers in Warwick. We have continued as a combined band, with planned ringing at both towers—a tradition that has now been sustained for over 30 years.

We are fortunate to ring on two fine peals of bells: a 24 cwt ring at St Mary's, Warwick, and a 15 cwt peal of eight at St Nicholas. The bells at St Mary's present particular challenges. Access to the belfry involves climbing 64 steps, and the long ropes (known as the draught) require additional skill and effort to handle effectively. By contrast, the bells at St Nicholas are easily accessible and widely regarded as a pleasure to ring. Both rings of bells have received a full service from Taylors of Loughborough, and I am pleased to report that they are in excellent ringing order.

Most of our service ringing has taken place at St Nicholas, with only 14 services at St Mary's during the year where the bells were rung to call the faithful to worship. We have, however, continued to ring at St Mary's for special occasions and for a monthly quarter peal prior to Evensong, often supported by visiting ringers from across the county. All practice nights, bar four have been held at St Nicholas.

We have been pleased to welcome visiting groups to Warwick for special occasions, including a memorable visit from Groton School, Boston, Massachusetts. We also welcomed Scouts and Heritage Weekend visitors to St Mary's Tower, where handbell sessions have featured as part of school visits.

A particular highlight of the year was ringing to mark both the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day. For VJ Day, we invited members of the St Mary's congregation to observe the ringing for this significant and often overlooked occasion. A number joined us in the ringing chamber, and some also rang handbells in memory of the fallen.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Josh Warren, one of our younger ringers, who has left the area and is much missed. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Damian, who has joined us after relocating to the area.

We remain deeply grateful to our regular ringers—Jane Rogers, Geoff Randall, Charles Hayward, Sarah Faulkner, Maxine Browning, Ewan Jelfs, and Karen French—for their continued commitment to ringing in Warwick, alongside all members of our band.

A special peal was rung in October to commemorate the passing of Peter Border 25 years ago, a former member of the band and widely regarded as one of the finest bellringers of his time.

Our continued support of the Christmas Tree Festival remains a highlight, and we congratulate Karen French on her wonderfully imaginative entries.

Although smaller than in previous years, our combined band remains committed to ringing regularly to call people to worship. We continue to focus on good striking and value strong teamwork in all our sessions. We always welcome people who would like to learn to ring and aim to hold an open day later in the year to encourage new recruits.

Looking ahead to 2030, one of our key challenges will be to establish a sustainable band capable of ringing more regularly for services at St Mary's. This is an important goal, and one we must work towards together in the coming years.

**Annie Hall**

### **Sunday Concert Report - (Ian Lovecy Memorial Concert Series)**

Yet another year of concerts at St Nicholas, where does the time go etc etc! Picking up from last season, I am continually impressed and grateful for friends and colleagues to come and perform in our wonderful acoustic. Diatonic chamber choir kicked things off in September, with the Worcestershire saxophone ensemble the following month. November saw an amazing performance of the Scriabine 3rd Symphony as a piano duet with Da Hee Kim and Simon Nicholls. None of these I was able to attend in person as I had a hip replacement end of September and was away recuperating with varying degrees of success (to this day). John Wilderspin gave a superb Bach recital in February which I was able to hear! and successive months have featured the Parmetto Trio and just now, Polyphonica.

Still to come we have a recital of Britten and Vaughan Williams from tenor Gary Beman, soprano Laura Mullinger and in September, a Schubertiade and in October a joint recital from soprano Sydney Suffield and violinist Rosie Thomas. Always good to hear superb music in our fabulous surroundings.

**Antoine Mitchell**

### **House Groups Report**

There are currently four house groups running in the church. One, led by Bishop David Evans, runs fortnightly on a Thursday morning, two led by Dorothy Evans and Sue Chetwynd, run fortnightly on Thursday evenings, and one, led by John and Gillian Alderman, runs twice monthly on Wednesday evenings. About forty people are members of one group or another over the course of a year. Over the part year the first three groups looked at Psalms during the summer term, and all groups spent from autumn to Lent studying the book of Amos, which was challenging at times, but led us to draw parallels with the situations we find ourselves in, both in the church and the world. John and Gillian's group has also had sessions reflecting on Advent and Christmas, and has followed and supported the development of youth ministry in St Nicholas, both with practical help and prayers. There are larger and smaller groups, so there is room for new people to join. If you would like to explore being a house group member, please have a word with Linda or one of the group leaders.

**Sue Chetwynd**

### **Home Holy Communions**

We use a shortened 1662 service, where the familiar wording links happily to people's memories. Sometimes it is also possible to link people in different houses as I act as chauffeur especially in the Bridge End area. At the moment previous visits to various Care Homes aren't needed, as mobility scooters have been provided and weather permitting people are propelled to church. A number have also moved to their heavenly celebrations or moved away from Warwick often to be nearer relatives or to live with them. Others are brought to a service at St Nick's by visiting relatives from other towns. Such basically house bound members of our church are also of course always happy to have visitors from the congregation. So there are various ways of helping our older and more frail members to stay in touch and specifically to obey Jesus' command to "Do this in memory of Me". Our vicar has asked Rachael Smith to continue this ministry in the future, as I reluctantly retire through my own mobility weakness. Memories are an important part of our spiritual life. They can enrich and challenge us all.. Jesus knew this, hence His command.

**Bishop David**



Girlguiding uses the church's upper East-end room 3 nights a week. Brownies and Guide meeting on a Monday, Rangers on Wednesday and Rainbows meeting on a Friday.

### **Rainbows**

Rainbows has a full complement of 15 girls attending 4-7 years old. A wonderful team of Young Leaders age 14 year + and a handful of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who stay for 3-6 months, The Rainbow welcome Kestrel to the adult volunteer team, who is enjoying be a kid again. Girls have enjoyed learning new lift skills. They decorated a picture frame, put a picture in it, and wrapped the frame for a Christmas present, many families loved having a surprise that was so special. We waves Thistle, Bluebell and Orchid off on their senior 6<sup>th</sup> Form adventures.

### **Brownies**

Our Brownie unit has many girls, averaging 24. The girls loved having their water fun evening before breaking up for the summer. The Brownies visited ThinkTank in the Summer using the train to get to the venue We had 4 girls complete the Gold award before moving up to Guides, We have had the joy of hosting 2 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who have been new to Girlguiding and they have enjoyed their time and looking to join Rangers.

### **Guides**

The Guide Unit has grown to 30 members strong. They loved visiting London having a sight seeing visit in the Summer. Fun raising over £500 for Guide Dogs meeting one of the people with their Guide Dog. Cheering 2 of our members in the WAGS Gang show. Showing true sisterhood when one of the cast members moved to our unit after the show, due to issues at the previous unit Attending Cov-oply in Coventry using their map reading skills, working small teams, and walking a lot. This was offered to the younger girls who are in year 5-7.

### **Rangers**

The Ranger welcome girls to the unit moving up from Guides. One of the unit members represent Girlguiding on a County trip to Hungry, providing activity days to the community youth. The Rangers plus one wee Guide attended a wide game across Cardiff, our sister unit from Caerphilly join us and we then stayed at their Guide Hall. We had a very yummy breakfast and learnt that there was an issue with our trains home, so we had to look at different routes of travelling back to Warwick. We learnt that we can get our shift on if we need to, and got our intended train back to Warwick from Birmingham.

September the Rangers moved to meeting on a Friday after Rainbows, to save Dragonfly spreading her energy out. Also giving the church a chance to rent out the church on a Friday.

**All units** attended Remembrance Parade this year. It was our year for carrying the 'Jack' we had 1 girl very excited to carry it as she has never been allowed to for Scouting, she was so please to be chosen to carry it.

### **PGL**

Whitsun break the Brownies, Guides and Rangers from St. Nicholas Church had another stay at PGL Liddington. Sharing their adventure with their sister unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Caerphilly Guides & Rangers Arriving on the

first Saturday of the break as we had learnt from the year before all needed the week to recover from the adventurous weekend. We didn't have any noisy neighbours this time but we did have a few girls who had never been away before so some leaders had very little sleep settling girls back down. Over all, it was a super adventure for all.

### **Cadbury's World**

November we took the Brownies, Guide and Rangers to Cadbury's World for a pre-Christmas treat. 32 girls and 4 leaders all got on 2 trains to get to Cadburys. They loved working with chocolate, tasting liquid chocolate and the 4D cinema experience as well as watching the Santa Magic show where the girls received more chocolate.

**Jessie (Dragonfly)**



## **Transforming Communities Together Warwick Project Report December 2025**

### **Changes to Church Urban Funds Together Network**

Transforming Communities Together Warwick was formed by the Diocese initiative Together For Change a Joint Venture in the Church Urban Fund Together Network. This provided our branding, website, technical support, and access to training etc. When management of TCTW moved from TFC to the Project Pool TCTW become a Core Member of the Together Network in its own right. CUF announced earlier this year that it was making changes to the network due to financial considerations, and this would mean loss of access to its IT services and its branding support. CUF will however continue to lead the network and provide opportunities for support, sharing, training and advice.

Due to these changes, the maturing of projects and the development of the Warwick Ministry Partnership it seemed that Transforming Communities Together as a project was coming to a natural end.

During this time a review of the TCTW Development Officers role and responsibilities has been undertaken with a view to how best the role can support the delivery of the Warwick Ministry Partnership formed by the team churches.

A proposal for consideration by the Warwick Ministry Partnership and Project Pool to replace the current TCTW Development Officers role with the role of Director of Engagement for WMP will be considered at the December WMP meeting.

### **Bereavement Support Groups**

As one of the first projects to be established by TCTW it is very encouraging the group has continued for the last 8 years and was able to reestablish after the pandemic. The group has been led by a brilliant and dedicated team of volunteer listeners over the years and a special thanks must go to Eleri Parry, Ian Furlong and Martin Davies who were key to its enduring success. Over the last year the staff at Chase Meadow Community Centre have become increasingly involved in delivery of the group and as part of their staff development requested training from Stig Graham who we are very grateful too for having helped us start the project. CMCC have agreed to take over the administration, funding, delivery and promotion of the group and hopefully it will continue to serve people in their need for many years to come.

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church was also one of the first projects established by TCTW in partnership with St Nicholas Church. It was led by the St Nic's C&F worker and Anita Morgan and Fiona Sutton from Thrive during the time the C&F post was vacant. The TCTW Development Officer also supported the activity by picking up the social media and promotion role in addition to providing the catering. When Ellie Wellicome was appointed in Autumn 2024 TCTW continued paying Thrive to lead on delivery of Messy Church until she felt able to takeover in May 2025 at a cost of £1600. With the growth of volunteer numbers and the St Nicholas Church C&F worker leading the activity once again we have handed over the catering to the Messy Church team which will be an approx. additional cost of £50 per month to St Nicholas Church who also fund the hiring of the school and craft/activity costs. We will still support Messy Church with a supply of free Your Farmer sausages and Easter/Christmas books and chocolate gifts as long as they continue to be provided with our YF hampers. It has been a privilege to be part of Messy Church and many thanks go to Anita, Ellie and all at St Nic's and the ecumenical volunteers we have had over the years.

## **Schools support**

### **Schools Team**

We finally got back into Aylesford in the Summer Term and delivered a Strong Course in partnership with Jamie Moir (Saltisford Church Youth & Children's Lead) and the Thrive Bus team. It was the first time the course was delivered on the bus, and some adjustment was needed but it was hugely successful in terms of student engagement and enjoyment and as a result one pupil has started to occasionally attend local church youth groups. It also proved a great opportunity for building relationships with staff and the bus was asked to stay and deliver a drop in and facilitate another session with the learning support team. It also led to working together with the new Head Teacher to see how we could help student attendance and the idea for the Big Shake was born! The bus was used to sell Oreo Milkshakes in partnership with Marys Sweet Memories Sweet Shop to the students on the last day of school (as the presence of an ice cream van in the summer had increased attendance considerably). It was also an opportunity to promote the bus summer sessions to the pupil and was a great success in terms of pupil and staff engagement. The bus however was a complete mess and the Sweet Shop made a considerable loss but were happy to bless the school anyway!

With the creation of the Warwick Ministry Partnership and the St Michaels/St Pauls network taking the lead on Youth and Schools strategy, it seems like the right season to be handing over the relationships formed for the network to build on. Tim Williams the West Warwick Youth Lead will now be the main point of contact for partnership with Aylesford School unless a Clergy figure is required then David will be called upon. Support ,coaching, advice and any help needed will still be provided to help the network in blessing our much in need schools and young people.

### **Thrive Youth Bus**

It has been great to see the bus up and running and the successful delivery of sessions over the summer and in the Packmores. We have enjoyed some great feedback from the local Police and the Warwickshire County Council HAF and Community Support teams when they have visited sessions. It was so encouraging to see the original vision for the bus manifest at the Packmores with an ecumenical team alongside local community volunteers working with the Gap to deliver sessions that led to an Alpha course and a genuine coming to faith of young people, 10 of which have continued to attend a local church youth group and attended the Thrive Base Youth event.

Having worked alongside the Thrive team and trained members of the West Warwick team in the Schools courses as well as supporting Thrive to deliver and grow the Packmores session and Alpha course it seems an appropriate and right time to step back from these activities now that the capacity of others has been developed.

### **Your Farmer Mobile Farm Shop**

The project will continue to run as long as funded with the only change in delivery being school referral members being able to collect from our Social Hub rather than the racecourse if the project is approved. The success of the Your Farmer BBQ will see more banquet opportunities in churches and potentially at the Social Hub coordinated through WMP as part of its Mission Action Plan particularly its focus on hospitality. It has been great to see the van provide employment opportunities to local people who are able to build relationships and engage people with faith and church. Marvin Vogel was a great help to us and when he moved onto another job it gave the opportunity to one of our YF members and St Pauls volunteer Marie Cyphus to take up the role. It feels like a holy encouragement to pursue providing training and skills opportunities so we can help people out of their food insecurity. As did the many applications we had from YF members for our nail technician training course and the overwhelming feedback we have received from attendees.

'I've had a great experience, the tutor is amazing, friendly, knowledgeable, very approachable, I'm usually quit a shy person but I'm so glad I'm on this course, it's nice and small, I'm made to feel comfortable.' KR

I've never seen my daughter like this about anything; she is so up and down but she absolutely LOVES it!

It's given her a focus and motivation which is what she really needs, and I do worry about what kind of job she could do but she seems to have really taken to it! SS

### **Coordinating Networks**

We will continue to Co-Chair and organise the Warwick Community Network in partnership with Warwick District Council that is held quarterly and attended by all our local community centres, social prescribers, WCC, church community workers, and a variety of local charities and organisations who work to meet social need in CV34. It is a great place to connect with others, listen to current need, build partnerships, hear about funding and develop effective joint projects. This forum will be key to maintaining successful relationships and delivering on our WMP Mission Action Plans. We are also part of the Warwick Town Centre Partnership which seeks to improve the Town Centre for local people, businesses and visitors.

### **TCTW Small Grants Fund**

We haven't had any requests for the TCTW small grants for a long time with projects tending to be over our £3,000 limit and going directly to Project Pool for consideration, so it also seems a good time to be drawing this to a close as it seems no longer useful.

### **Fundraising**

We raised £38,500 from the WCC Household Support Fund Grant for our YFMFS food project this year and will continue to identify and pursue funding for projects within the WMP Mission Action Plan.

**Stacey Bains**  
**Transforming Communities Together Development Officer**