



HOLY TRINITY COVENTRY

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Review of the Year**

# Our Vision

**Jesus First:** We want everyone to know their Saviour, Jesus, more and more. That's the priority – to trust in the love He has shown to everyone; to always rely on Jesus and be confident in our relationship with Him.

**Being Transformed Together:** God wants to transform us, to become more like Jesus....together. We welcome God transforming us through our relationships with each other.

**Church for Everyone!:** We are called at Holy Trinity, to be church for everyone. Our hearts and prayers are for ALL who come here; to grow and nourish in their relationship with Jesus and each other.

# Our Values

**Welcome** – This is about ensuring that all aspects of a visitor's first approach are really good, from initial on-line exploration through to coming through the great west doors for the first time, whether they're just passing or more wonderfully pondering if God is inviting them to be part of our church family.

**Warmth** – This is about drawing each person and family into our church family, remembering them, and inviting them to be fully part of our common life.

**Worship** – This is about desiring that all our worship, and all our participation in worship, is given to God with the sole desire to honour Him as well as we can. It's to be our expression of love in response to His love for us. It's to be a witness to His presence amongst us, so that the seeker and searcher knows that God is here. He is revealing himself before his people.

**Witness** – This is about making Christ known to the lost, lonely, and searching. I'm amazed at how many people pass Holy Trinity each day – we have perhaps the most prominent place in this whole city. Passing our doors every day, and indeed coming through our great west doors, are so many, who don't know Christ's hope, peace and joy, the fullness of life that we have found in Him. We are called to witness to that Gospel, that Good News.

**Wealth** – This is about becoming a generous people in our personal stewardship and generous together towards the City, the wider church and the community we serve. Our Lord invites us to walk in his ways and making generosity part and parcel of our daily discipleship. We're to rejoice in God's generous blessing poured upon us, and to allow our wealth to be shared with those around us.

## Introduction

Each year, each Parish Church is required to hold an Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which the Church Wardens are elected, and an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at which the Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents reports to the Church on any changes to the Electoral Roll; the finances of the Church; the Building and Fabric; and on the activities of the Diocese and Deanery that the Parish Church belongs to. New PCC members are also elected for a 3-year term at the APCM.

However, these don't always reflect the full life of the Church over the past year, so I have asked the Leaders of the various ministries to reflect on and share about what they have done over the past year and what they plan for the future and any help or prayer needs they may have.

All the above reports are included in this review and are available for you to read in preparation for the APCM. There will be an opportunity for questions or comments during the meeting.

A separate booklet is available which includes an agenda for the meeting and the profiles of those standing for Warden and for election to the PCC. The Report and Accounts 2021 are also available to view in a separate document.

*Keri Husband, PCC Secretary*

## Finance Report

The Treasurer will provide a verbal report at the meeting.

## Building and Fabric Report

**IT Issues:** Emmanuel and *Solutions Squared* have proposed a solution for the reinstatement of the alarm remote access facility at a cost of approximately £180. Solutions Squared has been requested to proceed, using funding from the B&F budget.

**External CCTV and Defibrillator:** A faculty has been granted for a defibrillator and installation will take place in the next few weeks, followed by training for church members. The external CCTV project approval is delayed because the original DAC advisor is not able to continue at present and a new advisor is being briefed on the project.

**Organ project:** A new contractor, Anthony Hall, has begun the design for the organ installation. Details of the recent church CAD survey have been sent to him, to help with the design layout.

**Screens / West End Project:** Following a meeting with the DAC, their advisors have requested that we treat all the proposed alterations to the West End furniture and fixings as a single project. These items include: a new AV desk, a new welcome desk, a small server, and storage areas. Sam has drafted a brief for our Architect and is working on a drawing of our initial proposals using the new CAD survey drawings. Details will be discussed by B&F Committee prior to forwarding to our architect.

**Car Park:** A parking scheme proposal has been submitted to the DAC and they are currently gathering responses from various statutory consultees.

**Downpipe project:** A faculty has been granted to replace 4 small diameter downpipes and hopper heads on the North side of the church and following competitive tender, a contract has been placed with MCL to carry out the work for the sum of £19,518.93. The PCC and Feoffees have agreed to fund the project and the outcome of two bids for additional funding is awaited, though the project is about to commence on site.

**Church Heating:** There have been problems with the Hanwell control system and with the boilers over the last three months, resulting in under heating of the church building. These problems are now resolved, though the expenditure has put pressure on the B&F maintenance budget for the year.

**Utility tariffs:** Our existing very favourable 3-year gas and electricity contracts have ended and we have had to renew at much higher rates. In the current situation of price volatility, we have renewed for a period of one year only. In view of the extra pressure that these higher unit rates will place on the PCC budget and our recent commitment to the Eco-Church movement, we will continue to investigate ways to reduce our consumption whilst continuing to protect our 'Doom' painting.

*Prepared by Bill Johnson on behalf of the Building and Fabric Committee, April 2024*

## Report from Diocesan Synod

**Vacancy in See:** In June last year, Bishop Christopher informed us that he is to be the next Dean of Windsor: he would serve a few more months here and then take up his new post in the Autumn. Bishop John had recently also announced his own retirement. We now have Bishop Ruth Worsley as our acting Diocesan. The Crown Nomination Commission, including six diocesan members, is at work compiling the short list: we might expect an appointment early in 2025. Please pray for the Commission.

**Safeguarding:** The number of cases (from simple advice to full allegations) has increased by about two-thirds. The reasons include: the Past Cases Review; austerity; lockdown; better reporting. Also, DBS

checks are now required every 3 years, not 5. An additional officer has been appointed, and some admin tasks have been re-allocated. Links are being made with local organisations such as CRASAC. Coventry is to be audited in 2025. From General Synod, we heard that a scheme for redress to survivors of church abuse is being prepared.

**Finance:** The last three diocesan budgets (of roughly £11m) have incorporated deficits, supported by subsidies from reserves, most recently equivalent to 8 ½ clergy posts. A five-year plan has been drawn up, with the aims: reduce the deficit; support mission and growth; support existing parishes as well as new initiatives; work on net-zero projects. We were reminded that many rural parishes are now struggling financially and may need special help: villages may be small, and not everyone in the countryside is rich.

**Education:** Church schools have now more-or-less adjusted to the “new normal.” Changes have kept coming from Government, and Ofsted inspections can be very stressful. A significant number of church schools are small and may be at a disadvantage in the academy system. Please pray for pupils, teachers and heads. Please also consider becoming a (Christian) school governor.

**Living in Love and Faith:** Synod heard brief comments from General Synod about difficult debates on the question of ministering to same-sex couples. The Church is not of one mind: evidently some people have spoken with more force than charity, and there has been much hurt. Bishop Ruth herself commented on this: in meetings as in life, we should all show grace, kindness, mercy and justice. Bishop Christopher had reminded us that every legal marriage is a valid relationship and is to be respected.

**Net-Zero work:** The current estimate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from diocesan activities is roughly 7000 tonnes/year. Little of this is directly controlled by the diocese: schools and parishes are responsible themselves. Synod endorsed the proposed action plan; aims to meet the “milestones” in General Synod’s route-map (2020); calls on schools and parishes to continue their own work. Also, we were reminded that emissions from the congregation’s households will be many times greater than those from the church building(s): we should each be working on our own ways of living. (A sample church in another diocese: a new building, congregation approx 250. Church emissions estimated at 70 tonnes/year: total household emissions 3,500 t/y.)

**Our Shared Future:** This scheme of planning for the future was approved in 2020: it is basically a cycle of listening, deciding, allocating funds and then reviewing. There are currently several active strands, including mission, lay training and racial injustice. One group is considering what the Church might be like in 2030.

*John Roy, Deanery Synod Representative*

## **Report from the Deanery Synod**

Holy Trinity is part of Coventry North Deanery. The Synod has met three times this year. Presentations included Lou Peet (Bluecoat Coventry Chaplain) on opportunities to support our local schools; a presentation on Eco Church (and it is good to note that HTC now has an Eco Church team which is engaging with this most important issue); Rev Peers (Dean of Women’s Ministry) on her vision for her post; an impressive sharing by clergy after their ministers’ retreat which showed real unity and generosity of spirit; and an address from Bishop Ruth.

An organizational change is that Father Simon Oakes (St Lukes Holbrooks) is now Assistant Area Dean. New clergy arrivals include our own RevCarolyn Powell, Rev Matthew Bull as curate at St Pauls, Rev Sarah Ashelby as rector at All Saints Allesley.

Finally, the Deanery Strategic Plan is due to be refreshed next year. This plan has three headings: Engaging with the younger and more diverse majority of Deanery inhabitants (“How do we reach the

people who will not walk through the church door?"); Transforming communities especially by offering generous help for poorer areas of the Deanery; Becoming bolder in sharing the Gospel. So, HTC will in due course be asked to summarise progress under these headings. As all who have worked in large organisations will know, it is good to contribute actively to construction of and renewal of strategic plans: it helps the large organisation to make positive decisions which provide resources for further work. Fortunately, HTC has a good story to tell here!

*Megan Bishop, Paul Doggett, Wilfrid Kendall, Deanery Synod Representatives*

## **Safeguarding Report**

Every January the P.C.C. reviews our Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines, based upon the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church,' which has been recommended by Coventry Diocese and has had due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance. Safeguarding is on the Agenda at every P.C.C. meeting.

In March the P.C.C. reviewed the Policy on the Recruitment of Ex –Offenders which is done every three years. In addition, there has been a review of the Domestic Abuse Policy and the adoption of a Youth Mentoring Policy, produced very ably by Jack Bishop. Jack has also reviewed, in depth and detail, Risk Assessments for the Church and Trinity House.

We have been implementing the changes required by the Church of England from January 2022 whereby D.B.S. certification has to be renewed every three years instead of five and Safeguarding Training, similarly, has to be refreshed every three years. The Safeguarding Handbook is available on the Diocesan website.

Twenty one training sessions have been completed at Basic and/or Foundation levels. In addition, the P.C.C. was required to follow the course, 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse.' It is really encouraging to be able to tell you that Safeguarding Training is taken so seriously by everyone and is done speedily with no complaints! My grateful thanks for this.

I would like to thank Richard, our Vicar, the Wardens and the P.C.C. for their continuing and valued support for Safeguarding in our Church, also Jack, Megan and their volunteers for their gifted and tireless commitment to our young people and Alex Norman, Director of Music, for his skills and care for his Choristers. Particular thanks to Alison Jackson, our Safeguarding Warden, for sharing her experience as previous Parish Safeguarding Officer and for her meticulous attention to detail. Every blessing to her.

I hope we have created together an atmosphere of trust and respect so that anyone with concerns about Safeguarding feels confident to come forward and speak to Richard or me. It is everyone's responsibility to remain vigilant in our workplaces, in our neighbourhoods, in our schools and in our Church because sometimes the most unexpected happens.

*Vicki Johnson, Parish Safeguarding Officer.*

## **Prayer**

**Prayer Hour:** We continue to meet for an hour to pray every month, usually on the first Monday. The meeting takes place in a variety of people's houses, with the host usually leading the session on the invitation of the Vicar. Numbers tend to be around 8-10. Our pattern is to pray in four distinct areas: for example, world events, the church's mission, city concerns, and the needs of our community and ourselves. It's a very focussed and business-like hour. The meeting is open to anyone from the church: please feel free to join us.

*Catherine Kendall*

**Monthly Prayer Diary:** Prayer is integral to life of Holy Trinity. Caroline Simiyu has kindly volunteered to prepare a monthly prayer diary which will be shared via e-mail and on the Holy Trinity website and will include an area to pray for each day of the month for areas of our Church our country and the world.

We are very grateful for the prayer warriors who undertake to faithfully pray each day of the month and the year to ensure all the work of the Church is undergirded and overarched with prayer.

### **Eco-Church Group:**

HTC has established an Eco-church group to guide the church towards more environmentally friendly behaviour. The group consists of Paul Doggett, Jane Hutton, Bill Johnson, John Roy and Martin Trewinnard. We have submitted an initial report in the format advised by the Diocese which has pointed up a number of areas where we need to do things better and we have made a start, thanks to Colin Millard, on recycling and low energy light bulbs. Areas where we need to improve include making the church more aware of global environmental issues through sermons, prayer and discussions on the basis of looking after God's good earth, practical work in the church building and churchyard to reduce energy consumption and improve the local environment, community schemes and wider involvement with these areas and promoting individual lifestyle choices which move us in the right direction.

*Martin Trewinnard on behalf of the Eco-Church Group*

### **Mission and Donations Committee**

The Mission and Donations team has met four times in the last year. Our main task is to promote interest and participation by HTC in God's worldwide mission, based on the principles of partnership in the gospel and God's heart for justice. We have been doing this by:

- Recommending to the PCC the agencies (missions, charities, individuals) that we will support as a church, both in prayer and in finance.
- Developing links with these agencies and disseminating information to church members. Each month we focus on one of these agencies (e.g. a paragraph in the church e-newsletter and social media, and a mention at prayer hour).
- Short talks, interviews or videos at our Sunday morning services from the workers or agencies we support (e.g., Bev Samways gave a vivid picture of the work of Embrace with Coventry on-street sex workers in Sept 2023).
- Planning one-off mission/world need events (e.g. John and Rachel will visit for a weekend in October 2024).
- Encouraging participation by church members in short or long-term mission, both in UK and abroad. This year one church member joined the Coventry night-time Street Pastors' ministry.

*Nick & Alison Jackson*

## Outreach

***The Table:*** Launched in September and built on the excellent and much appreciated Soup & Crumble/ Jacket and Jellies ministry (Nick, Alison, Catherine, Jim, Kathryn, Wilfrid. Some who came then still come now!) *The Table* is a weekly space of welcome and witness, as an overflow of our worship.

Every Sunday, 6 to 30 young adults and students (always a surprise!) have enjoyed a lovely meal and time dwelling in God's Word. Over the year more than 40 different people from over 10 countries have come, either because they attended one of the Sunday services, or were invited by the Welcome team throughout the week or were looking for community. Jesus often ministered around the Table, and it is a place where all can experience his welcome and forgiveness (Luke 15:23). It is also a prophetic picture of the heavenly banquet where nations will be reconciled by Jesus. Thank you to Pam, Catherine and Wilfrid, Jane, Dani and Alex for spending time cooking and spending time with our young adults, creating community, a place of belonging and living faith, where each are welcomed as they are and invited to take a step closer to Jesus.

***The Table at Home:*** "I don't come to church, but if this is church, I want to come". Building on *The Table*, *The Table at Home* provides a home away from home to young adults and students, creating a community where all take part in equal measures (cooking, setting up, cleaning, etc). We celebrated together Christmas Eve, Chinese New Year, and Easter. *The Table at Home* seeks to be a place of welcome (to all, faith and no faith) and witness, where faith is embodied at home and faith-based conversations organically happen around the table.

***Sundays@7:*** The 7pm informal service which was intended to reach out to the students and those who are around the city centre continued to happen over the last year. The service took a change in pattern over the last three months to have a pattern of studying God's Word around a table. The service is usually attended by 20 to 30 people - including existing members and new attendees. There has been a constant flow of students, young adults and visitors coming into the open church either to participate in service or to pray.

***Mark's gospel study (October to November 2023):*** We had a total of 17 participants over the course of 8 weeks with around 8 regular participants. The leadership team included Catherine, Laurence, Richard, Carolyne and Andrew. Big thanks to Sam and Jean for all the great food offered and for opening their home for the day away. Thanks also to Febin, Billy and other volunteers who helped. The course was based on Christianity Explored content with adjustments to suit the needs of the group. Most of the students and young-adults part of the study was from The Table. Praise be to God, that 5 to 6 students from this group, continue to be part of the student's group and the life of HTC.

***The Way - Preparing for Easter:*** *The Way* is an organic group that come together each Tuesday to have fellowship and learn God's Word. As a start to "The Way", a 6-week session titled *Preparing for Easter* was led by Carolyne, supported by Andrew and Richard. Many volunteers came forward to cook delicious meals for the group. The session was based on Mark's gospel. The group consisted of 8 to 10 students and young adults. *The Way* will continue to meet every Tuesday to fellowship and learn God's Word – focussing on different topics.

*Revd Carolyne Powell, Associate Vicar and Andrew Selwyn, Outreach Warden*

## Welcome Team

The church is currently open for visitors from 11.00am – 3.00pm on Wednesdays to Saturdays, from 12.30pm to 5.00pm on Sundays, and on Tuesdays as well when we have available volunteers. As well as one of our wonderful vergers, we have a pair of welcomers present throughout these times to greet visitors. We aim to discern if possible if they have come to sit quietly, pray, remember a loved one, enquire about faith, get help with a life issue, or explore the art, architecture and history of our

magnificent medieval building. We have 2000-3000 visitors per month (40-80/day on weekdays and 120-150/day at weekends), so it is a fantastic opportunity to show care in Jesus' Name. Currently 19 dedicated people make up the welcoming rota, usually doing one regular two-hour slot each week. We have occasional meetings for training. We could do with extra volunteers to provide more robust cover and allow us to open regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays as well. Please see us if interested in knowing more or doing a trial session; training and support is provided.

*Nick Jackson & Chris Aston*

## **Vergers' Report**

Once upon a time far, far away there was an Ogre. With the gracious help and timely advice proffered by his wife or in swamp parlance, Parish Administrator, he toiled and toiled, endeavouring to keep in check those cheeky mice and that naughty cat from spoiling an otherwise spotless and serene building.

This task was aided and abetted by the trusty vergers Vino and Chris. Often unseen by those caught up in the worship on Sundays the stalwart volunteer cleaners who are not spring chickens (and one in her 80's!!!) sweep and dust and vacuum and feel guilty they do not do more (!!). This building oozes dust constantly, on a bright summer's day you can see the millions of dust motes suspended in the sunlight beams that fall from the windows.

The worship here draws in both those whose lives are in good order and those about whom that could not be said. Now and again those who are in distress, seem to find something they have never come across before, a gentle love. I see them not just once but several times in church services, listening. I remember my own first days and weeks here, how different the people were, how much time they had for you and how little they asked of you. I can tell you a church community, even a building they use, that has but one member in, can be, refuge, a hospital for a wounded soul, to be taught that their mind can find hope and tears.

Prayer and prayer and the heart and soul of the service leaders who ask Jesus to bring in these souls is key to this. You have to understand, this has to be something that like the scattered seed of the sower, the permission of you all and those you trust to lead us is integral to that light and call being in the air here.

The logistics that undergird this, the maintenance, the engineers / electricians / architects / the Serving team / the Music team and Choir. the Welcomers, the busy office printing / keeping track of and providing communication are the fabric that supports this, that allows Richard and Carolyne, and Catherine and Paul and Emmanuel the PA operators, the Streaming team. Knees on roofs cleaning dead pigeon carcasses from blocking down pipes, humping candle staves and trees at Christmas, these make a fabric that is woven each day anew, not without a headache or two, or three. Some days are frustrating, tongue biting failures, days you do not want to live through again. I wonder how those volunteers we never notice, what gripes and disappointments, what feelings they never get to share. If I have them, they must too. If we do then I guess you do also, yet you pray, give finance, quietly smile?

*Colin Millard, Verger*

It has been more than a year since I started my role as the assistant verger. I am still learning, and the learning never stops. I appreciate this beautiful building and how much comfort this building imparts to all who enter in. I have learnt a lot about the maintenance of the building. In the last year I have been able to successfully verge funerals, carol services and evensong services. The church is now open for a full day on Sunday, and I am amazed by the numbers of people who walk in to visit and pray. It is really encouraging to meet, greet and speak to them about the Church. I would like to encourage people to volunteer as a Welcomer and help keep HTC open all 7 days of the week.

*Vino Jayakumar, Assistant Verger*

## Youth and Children's Report

### *Looking Back:*

- We ran our Ready to Share (communion preparation) course and out of that, we had a number of young people get baptised.
- We had a good number of young people confirmed at the cathedral in November.
- We are really grateful for our volunteers stepping up during Megan's maternity leave and my paternity leave, which meant we were able to keep almost all our regular groups going whilst we were off.
- Many families used our Light Party packs to celebrate Jesus being the light of the world at Halloween.
- Alison and Karen were a tremendous help in getting our nativity service running smoothly and we had lots of children and young people involved which was great to see.
- We had a really good youth rise-up day where we went bouldering, played games, studied the Bible and had a prayer room full of different prayer activities which all went down well.
- We have had a number of different families join us at The Flock, we have had low but steady numbers for the most part but have had several well-attended socials and it has been a great space for conversations and connections.
- Together with Carolyne, we ran an Easter trail, that walked people through the Easter story and had various prayer activities to help people connect with God.
- We have also been encouraged by the growth in the number of children and families at Sunday morning services, particularly the 11:15 service, to the point that we are now beginning to struggle to fit into the choir vestry, which is a lovely problem to have.

### *Looking forward:*

- We have written a youth mentoring policy which was approved by the PCC and are in the process of recruiting and training potential volunteers. We are hopeful that this will be a really important area of ministry that will allow us to meet the needs of our youth in a new way and encourage their faith to deepen.
- We also have a handful of families signed up for our Ready to Share course, so it will be a privilege to welcome them into taking communion.
- We are hoping to grow The Flock by meeting weekly in the hope that this will allow us to build a bit more momentum and consistency.

### *Challenges and Prayer points:*

- We have a brilliant bunch of volunteers who allow us to put on and run all that we do however they are stretched much thinner than we would like, particularly as we would like to be doing more.
- Pray for our amazing volunteers to be blessed, encouraged and strengthened in this ministry.
- Pray that individuals would be identified and come forward to join in with this ministry so that it continues to grow and flourish.
- We would love to see our youth and children attending more consistently, we have a large number of them who come along infrequently which makes it harder to build momentum.
- Pray that we would find appropriate time and space to allow new groups within youth and children's work to start and grow.

- Pray that mentor training and recruitment will go well and the process of matching mentees with mentors will result in good pairings, that encourage our young people to grow and develop in their faith.

*Jack Bishop, Families and Youth Co-ordinator*

## **Growth Groups**

Established Growth Groups have continued to meet regularly over the past year and I'd like to say a big thank you to those who host and lead the Growth Groups. Your work is often unseen, but vital for the spiritual health and pastoral care of the Church.

I decided to step down from the role in the Autumn due to increasing family and work commitments and Paul Doggett and Anita Draper have volunteered to take over the co-ordination of Growth Groups, for which I am very grateful. I have been in this role since 2010 and have rejoiced to see how this ministry has grown and been such a blessing to many since then and pray that it would continue to do so going forward.

*Keri Husband, Growth Group Co-Ordinator*

## **Music**

This year has been a particularly fruitful year for music at Holy Trinity. We welcomed the Cathedral Choir for (probably) the first Ascension Day Joint Choirs service to be held in the church. On behalf of Holy Trinity, I applied for a Church Choir Award from the Cathedral Music Trust and RSCM. We were one of only 7 churches in the country to be selected for an award from a large number of strong applications. A generous grant enabled us to appoint two choral scholars in the Autumn of 2023: Georgi (soprano) and Seren (alto).

Before this appointment, members of the choir enjoyed a successful visit to sing at Llandaff Cathedral in July 2023. Then in October 2023 we welcomed Prof Jamie Savan and Dr Helen Roberts from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire/*Aural Histories: Coventry 1451 - 1642* who, together with their internationally renowned period instrument ensemble *His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts*, joined forces with an augmented Holy Trinity Choir for a special Choral Evensong. After the service, Helen and Jamie gave the first public presentation in Coventry about the project. The service and presentation were both attended by the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Pauline Black OBE.

Following the presentation of the Cathedral Music Trust award by Revd Canon James Mustard of Exeter Cathedral, the choir prepared for three wonderful Advent and Christmas services, singing to a packed church at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. In the New Year we sang for our first Candlemas Carol Service and are currently preparing for Ascension Day at the Cathedral (9 May) and another *Aural Histories Evensong* (23 June).

In March we admitted five young people as choristers in the choir and over the course of the year we have welcomed four young beginners. I would like to thank Karen Shipley, who has stepped in as essentially our (volunteer) choir assistant whilst Megan is on maternity leave. This summer the choir are visiting a cathedral closer to home – Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford (28 – 30 Aug). Please come and support us if you can (details of service times will be circulated).

The 9.30 music team has also been blessed with new musicians - Anand, Mike, Kathryn, Jackie, and Jude. I would particularly like to acknowledge those who take the responsibility of lead musician each week (this involves choosing songs, coordinating, and leading rehearsals) and Churchill, who completes our CCLI returns for all services. This year has also seen the establishing of a regular rota of pianists for the Wednesday Midday Communion and a music team for the new Sundays@7 service. Across all the services, there are around 30 adult volunteers who contribute to the music at Holy Trinity (some

doubling up in multiple roles), alongside 10 young people (plus 4 beginner singers who have not yet started singing at services), 2 choral scholars and 4 professional organists, all under the oversight of the Director of Music (a total of c. 50 people).

In light of an expanded remit my working hours were increased this year from 10 hrs to 17 hrs per week. I am very grateful to Chris Howard for managing the Lunchtime Recitals series; in the recital on 25 May (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Historical Performance Department) we will hear Sue Shepherd's harpsichord for the first time since it was donated to us. Sue gave so much to music at Holy Trinity and so it is wonderful that her harpsichord will continue to be used in this building – a very fitting tribute to her.

*Alex Norman, Director of Music*

## **Services**

### **9:30am**

We have welcomed a number of new people (of all ages!) to our congregation this year and said farewell to some long-standing members who were moving on. We have had time to develop friendship and fellowship in Trinity House at breakfast after the service: this is well-supported by the congregation as a whole and provided by a number of generous givers over the year.

In musical worship, we have benefitted this year from the increased time that the Director of Music is able to give in leadership. We have been blessed immensely by new people coming to participate in various roles including the music group, especially as a couple of key musicians are on maternity leave.

We have appreciated the many sermon series this year, particularly on the Communion Service and what it means.

We are so grateful to everyone for the time they give and the gifts they bring. Prayers, service leading and reading have been some of the roles people have tried this year for the first time. We are trying to make it easier for people to take up new roles and explore their gifts: help with leading prayers, trialling shared leading of services, and resources for the roles that people may not know much about.

We rejoice in what God has given us to celebrate, we pray continually for the challenges people face daily, and we give thanks to God for where we are and who we are with.

*Jim Kendall, Congregational Pastor and the 9:30am Leadership Team*

### **11:15am**

All are welcome to our 11.15 a.m. Choral Eucharist service, whose attendance has steadily risen over the last two years, reaching 130+ adults and 30+ under 18s, many of the latter in the 0-10 age group.

But who are we? We are a warmly diverse congregation aged 0-80+, of many traditions and nationalities. We come together to worship God, and learn to walk in the way of Jesus Christ,

How? We know that when we come as we are, we will be greeted and included warmly, held by the familiar dignified liturgy; guided by the reading of Scripture, touched by the choir's singing, challenged by the preaching; we can be 'lost in wonder, love and praise' as we sing together. In remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, we have the opportunity to take the bread and wine, our souls lifted up as we begin another week, though not before the socialising over coffee afterwards.

So many thanks are due to our Vicar Richard, his assistant Vicar Carolyne, Youth and Children Team, Director of Music, verger, the wardens, servers, communion assistants, readers, the 'tech. team' on PA and streaming, the flower team whose skilful arrangements enhance our beautiful building, and the welcomers and coffee servers. It is good to see an increasingly representative team fulfilling some of

these duties. Thank you all. Please don't be too shy to offer help: have a word with me, particularly regarding welcoming and coffee please.

We give thanks for our freedom to worship God and pray for the families soon to explore the taking of communion by young children; for the needs and fellowship of students attending *'The Table'*, and those exploring faith at *'The Way'*, and the forthcoming Alpha Course. Our prayer is that everyone who is made welcome in the name of Jesus is empowered to grow in faith and share that welcome with others.

*Jean Howard, Congregational Pastor*

## **5pm Evensong**

Our term-time service of Choral Evensong (Evening Prayer in school holidays) has a special place and function in our regular pattern of weekly services. It is the only one that still uses the great 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the bedrock of Anglican liturgy and is itself based on Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's inspired, rich and beautifully balanced work of 1549.

The timeless liturgy and music appeal today to an increasingly diverse group of worshippers in terms of age and cultural background. Numbers fluctuate but continue to edge upwards overall, with choral Evensong usually having between 25 and 40 adult participants, and occasionally more, with several others who come into the church during part of the service, and we trust take something from it.

Most attendees, whether musicians, leaders or congregation, especially value the measured pace and reflective space that Evensong offers. For some it is their main service. Others also attend one or both of the morning services, and some use Evensong as quiet preparation for a more participatory role at the Sunday at Seven service.

Just under a year ago, Sue Shepherd, a much-loved Reader who had been our congregational pastor for several years, died. The rota of readers and preachers is now organised by Zsafia Hacsek. Evensong has been noticeably strengthened in the past two years by more visible clergy support and leadership, the restoration of a short homily on the readings and the move to 5.00pm, which better suits the nature of the service and those who come. The increased participation of our young choristers in reading the lessons is a blessing. Pray that people will continue to find this service a welcome path into the church, or support to their place in it, and for the growth of its witness to our city.

*Matthew Davies*

## **Sundays @ 7**

The 7pm informal service launched to reach students and those who are around the city centre welcomed 15-30 people each week, including existing members. There has been a constant flow of students, young adults and visitors coming into the open church either to participate in service or to pray.

Thank you to the team who continues to support it and to those who have since joined the worship band.

A regular member shares:

*"I enjoy the 7 pm service because it's not a typical service! It feels more grounded in real life, both in its format and its content. I love the cosy atmosphere created by the small tables where we gather to chat over tea. It brings a sense of authenticity to our conversations. Plus, the timing is perfect, especially for those of us who aren't early birds. In general, for me and some people Sunday evenings can often feel a bit sad and stressful, with the looming start of a busy week ahead. But meeting at 7 pm on Sundays feels like a refreshing and relaxing way to kick off the week with renewed hope and faith in Jesus".*

A young adult shares:

*"As a young follower of Jesus Christ, I find the Sundays@7 service essential for deepening my faith and understanding. Discussing God's word with fellow believers and sharing in worship through song provides the spiritual strength I need for the week ahead. This session anchors me in the basics of my faith and fosters personal growth in my spiritual journey".*

*Revd Carolyn Powell, Associate Vicar*

## Wednesday Communion

Our Midday Service of Holy Communion has grown in numbers and fellowship. It is a midweek haven for some, from the busyness of the office, and others an opportunity to worship in the richness of Common Worship. We usually have about 20 participants, and pray that this service will continue to touch the lives of those who pass by.

*Revd Richard Hibbert*

## Media ministry

### ***Livestreaming and YouTube Channel:***

*The report is for the period 18th April 2023 to 30th April 2024.*

### **Thank God for the below:**

1. **193 new subscribers** are added. This brings the **total subscriber count to 414**. (More than 200% of new subscribers added in this year in comparison to last year).
2. **277 Live streams, 48 Videos and 18 Shorts** published. Popular ones are the Live streams of services around Christmas, New Year, Lent, Good Friday & Easter, Richard's weekly videos and more recently our Shorts of HTC music.
3. **32,697 views** by viewers across **23 countries**, with **2800 hours** spent in total viewing our Live streams, Videos and Shorts.
4. The new city Fibre broadband and the live stream hardware & software working well together, enabling us to **live-stream services seamlessly**.
5. The dedicated **team of Live streamers and the team who create & review content for Shorts**.
6. The **encouragement given** by Richard, Alex, the leadership team and all our viewers.
7. **New volunteers who continue to come forward** to be part of this media ministry.

### **Prayer needed for:**

1. **Proposed upgrades to the software** to be approved & funded, so that we can provide our viewers with a better viewing experience.
2. All the live stream **hardware & software to continue to work smoothly**, and for our Lord God's  **blessings to continue to be upon all our subscribers & viewers**.
3. Our Lord God's **Blessings to be upon the Live stream team**, and for more new volunteers to come forward to be involved in this media ministry.
4. **God's wisdom upon all involved in the future plans** for live streaming and for God to lead us according to His will so that we continue to take the Gospel to the world.

### **Future plans:**

1. **Upgrade** our live stream software to be able **to show lyrics/subtitles and video within video feature**.

2. Upgrade our live stream hardware/software so that they **integrate well with the planned new TV screens.**

### **Website**

*The report is for the period 10th October 2023 (new website inception date) to 30th April 2024.*

#### **Thank God for the below:**

1. **New HTC website (powered by HubbChurch) went Live in October 2023 with a new look and feel.**
2. **190,000 views of the various pages in the HTC website by visitors across 25 countries.**
3. **52 total enquires received via the website forms** provided in the menus like 'Church Office', 'Trinity House', 'Weddings', 'Baptisms', 'Funerals', 'Children & Youth', 'Students & Young adults', 'Music', 'Growth Groups' and 'Be part of Holy Trinity'.

#### **Prayer needed for:**

1. **Wisdom to all involved in the review of Church contacts data** and for the work to be completed quickly & successfully so that the website database can be used effectively.
2. **Website visitors to be blessed** to find the right information they are looking for and for our Lord Jesus to continue using the website as a blessing for those in need.
3. **Correct and timely updates to the website** with the relevant information and for the successful completion of the future plans.

#### **Future plans:**

1. **Enable login access** to the Electoral roll members.
2. **Use features on the website for Church email communications and to maintain various rosters.**

*Emmanuel Vasanthakumar*

### **Social Media**

*Report unavailable at time of printing.*

### **Office Report**

Last year I began with the question "Is it busy working in a church?" the answer would be "Yes, your inbox is never empty, and no two days are ever the same." That still continues to be so, and is just one facet of life in the "admin chair".

The newer roles of Associate Vicar, Assistant Verger, Social Media Missioner and Trinity House Coordinator continue to assist in extending our outreach into the community and beyond.

This year, we have taken a more proactive approach to letting the community know that we are here. Our parish is a wide and diverse one where some may not know we exist or that Holy Trinity is their local church. This has meant making a substantial effort to get that message "out there and we are here".

So "outreach" has evolved further in the last twelve months, starting with the production of an attractive bookmark giving details of our services and our opening hours. We've also produced our Christmas card displaying the nativity window which we've sent to those who provide a service to us.

Given the success of our A6 flyers given out from the welcome desk in Christmas 2022, we decided to do the same once more but distribute, where possible, to every address in the parish. Clearly, measuring the success of a task such as this is difficult to quantify. However, attendance at our services over the Advent and Christmas season were excellent and a marked increase on previous years (notwithstanding 2020 and 2021). We have also undertaken this for the Easter season.

Such activities require a team of willing helpers to make this happen. Without the support of those volunteers who helped to produce a list of all roads/streets, bundle bookmarks and flyers, and distribute these items, this goal would have been very difficult to achieve. Please accept a heartfelt thank you to all of you who helped and contributed so much to make this initiative a success.

We continue to meet weekly to plan upcoming services and review those from the previous Sunday, looking at all aspects from who is leading, preaching, intercessor and such. This continues to be a helpful and necessary procedure and one where we come together as a supportive team and one where we can gain insight into the roles of one another.

As you no doubt know, the weekly email comes into your inboxes each Friday and sometimes we supplement with one on a Tuesday. We continue to keep a small number of paper copies on the welcome desk, for "drop in" visitors to take away.

This serves to illustrate that we are a lively and vibrant church and that we welcome everyone. An A3 version is put on to the noticeboard and a GDPR compliant version is uploaded to the website.

As we continue to welcome new people to our church, work continues in the background to upload the welcome card details and database. This is a time-consuming task, and I would like to thank Nick Jackson for his dedication to this in achieving the Welcome and Warmth aspects of our 5Ws.

Technology wise, we are now fully in the 21st century and into the realms of Microsoft Teams and Cloud storage. We're still "finding our way around" this and thankfully, can call on our support company who are timely in their response and getting us back on track.

Our new website has been launched with a colourful and vibrant "look" – thank you to Emmanuel for his hard work in compiling this and for his steadfast patience in tutoring me in its use.

Working in the office is not without its lighter side – just think Abba last year to Shrek a few weeks ago – who would have thought it?

On a personal note, this will be my last report for the Annual Meeting as I will be leaving Holy Trinity at the end of May/early June, to move and retire to the Isle of Wight. I have absolutely loved working here. I have been met with such welcome, fellowship and support throughout my eight years working here. To say that you look forward to coming to work is for some, a rare thing, but I can say honestly that has been the case for me. It has been a privilege to work here and you will be missed. I wish my successor, whoever they maybe, every success in their new role. You will be joining a fantastic team!!

*Angela Lamb, Parish Administrator*

## **Trinity House Report**

Trinity House (Old Blue Coat School) is a charity run separately to the church but with obvious and close ties. The last 12 months have seen real progress made on an exciting journey that started last year.

The Charity has some capital funds in trust left from the original acquisition of the building, however, with pandemic impact and resultant low bookings in recent years plus necessary big expenses on equipment and repair these funds have been eaten into. At the start of last year, the trust was making a 'loss' of around £10K per year. This year has seen the work undertaken by the Steering Group and in particular Thilini Perera, our amazing Co-ordinator, begin to show fruit. Finances have been stabilised with a slight increase in bookings and increased building use.

The Steering Group continues to meet and reports to the Trustees who are the Vicar and Church Wardens. The steering group established a strategic plan to better serve the church and city centre communities and drive-up income, this plan has begun to be operated and is monitored closely through KPIs by the steering group.

Thilini Perera, in her paid role 10 hours per week, has made a very significant impact. Working with the Steering Group Thilini has:

- Created a building refresh and maintenance plan, the early phases of which have been undertaken already. These include de cluttering, deep cleaning and simplifying practical matters such as key holders, building entry, insurance and building use.
- Undertaken a thorough risk assessment, the Steering Group now regularly reviews a risk register.
- Reported on established KPIs to track performance around bookings and finances.
- Implemented more responsive booking system linked to a clearer pricing structure.
- Established clear principles for external bookings in line with the values of the Trustees, Church and the charitable objective.
- Undertaken a rebrand and delivered a simple marketing strategy working closely with the church social media missioner.

However, we are very sad to note that Thilini leaves us this month to move to pastures new. She has secured a fantastic opportunity for full time employment linked to her Masters which she has now completed. We wish her all the very best and thank her for her hard work over the last 12 months. She has agreed to support informally in the transition. Trinity House is therefore recruiting to replace her, a crucial process to continue to the fantastic work she has started.

KPIs show that bookings remain on an upward trajectory and in particular Holy Trinity Church use of the buildings is increasing significantly. A new long-term tenant has been secured in the Mosaic Church for office space whilst other long-term bookings (Arden Psychology and Coventry Prayer House remain). There has been interest in wedding use and some exciting new developments such as the Supper Club planned. Should these trends continue the Steering Group believes that the long-term financial future of Trinity House can be secured. However, there is a constant tension between enabling Holy Trinity Church use of the buildings whilst ensuring that the buildings are available for external income generating bookings to cover expenses and secure the long-term future of the buildings. The Trustees are very grateful to the PCC for a series of measured and pragmatic conversations to agree a structure for Church use and an annual review cycle to scrutinise the above.

Despite the positive news there are major risks financially that remain. Not least major works required on an external wall, and a badly needed internal repaint.

Members of the church can support Trinity House by:

- Praying for the successful appointment of a new co-ordinator
- Supporting events as a volunteer
- Booking Trinity House for events

Members of the congregation are strongly encouraged to explore booking Trinity House. There are a range of rooms and facilities for different occasions and events and all members of HTC are eligible for the significantly reduced charity rate when booking. Bookings or offers to volunteer or support can be explored by contacting the church office on: [trinityhouse@holytrinitycoventry.org.uk](mailto:trinityhouse@holytrinitycoventry.org.uk)

*Chris Jupp, Acting Chair, Trinity House Steering Group*