HOLY TRINITY COVENTRY

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

SUNDAY 17th May 2026

Review of the Year

Our Values

Welcome – This is about ensuring that all aspects of a visitor's first approach are really good, from initial online 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.

Walk – to create space for our discipleship, reading God's Word, creating rhythms of prayer, and confidence in living the Good News of Christ day by day.

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 and 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 Deanery Synod and PCC.

Many thanks,

Keri Husband, PCC Secretary

Finance Report

During 2025, the Finance Committee and PCC completed a detailed review of our internal financial controls using the Charity Commission's self-assessment checklist. This exercise identified some gaps in our written policies, which we are working to fill, but overall confirmed that our controls are robust and reflect good practice. A regular review point will be implemented going forward.

The 2024 accounts were submitted on time to the Charities Commission in October 2025, reflecting the work that has been done over the last few years to return to an annual cycle of accounts preparation. Our thanks are expressed to Nehemiah Akinyele, Finance Warden, for his diligence and oversight of this process. Please find the Holy Trinity Report and Accounts 2024 here.

Business as usual included the processing of gift aid claims, updates to our banking arrangements, and regular provision of management accounts to PCC. Finance Committee met five times in 2025 to provide scrutiny and recommendations to PCC. We are also grateful to the congregation for the substantial increase in regular giving during 2025, following an awareness campaign over the summer services.

The Treasurer will also provide a verbal update on current church finances at the APCM.

Kathryn Hunter, Treasurer

Building and Fabric Report

Organ Project: A faculty application was made in February 2026 based on a revised organ design from Walkers Ltd.

CCTV: Zircon Ltd. has been requested to provide a quotation for the annual maintenance of our internal and external CCTV systems.

Vicars' Name Board: A new glazed board is proposed that will be integrated into the West End scheme.

Quinquennial Report: A major repair project is required for the South side roofs and stonework though this work has become less urgent as temporary repairs have been carried out with 80% funding from the diocese.

Church Building Risk Assessment: The Fire Risk Assessment has been updated and a fire drill was held for the congregation in the summer. B&F are developing risk assessments for 'Working at Height', and a faculty application has been made for a roof ladder, to simplify the clearing of roof debris from our North facing roofs.

West End Modifications: Our preliminary proposals produced negative feedback from the DAC and our architect has provided a revised design that will be discussed at B&F Committee before it is brought to PCC.

Screens Project: Faculty has been granted for the installation of column mounted screens and funding bids have been made to a number of bodies. Two bids have been successful, two unsuccessful and two bid decisions are awaited. The Government withdrawal of the VAT reclaim scheme for Places of Worship has left an unforeseen funding gap of £10,000.

Office Kitchen: Work to refurbish the church office kitchen has just been completed.

Office Safe: The main office silver safe has been converted from a combination lock to a key lock in order to simplify the operation. Faculty application has been made to dispose of a silver dish that has not been used for many decades and is taking up precious space in the safe.

Heating Controls: Hanwell Controls, the company that has provided our control system for the church heating, has been taken over and technical support has diminished to an unacceptable level. We have one of the highest 'carbon footprints' in the Diocese, caused by the need to maintain a suitable environment for our 'Doom' painting. A grant has been received for an expert environmental survey of

the building, with a particular focus on how we continue to protect the 'Doom' painting whilst keeping heating costs and carbon emissions to a minimum. We would hope that this survey will make recommendations for the short-term control of our heating system and for the longer-term future method of heating provision.

Prepared by Bill Johnson on behalf of the Building and Fabric Committee

Report from Diocesan Synod

What is Diocesan Synod?

Every diocese in the Church of England has a "diocesan synod", which meets three times a year and receives representatives from each of the eleven Deanery Synods. This is a governing group for the whole diocese of Coventry (which includes the city of Coventry and lots of the county of Warwickshire), and meets for a mixture of worship, prayer, presentations, debates and discussion.

Key areas that feature at Diocesan Synod are safeguarding, the environment, money (to consider and approve the annual budget), Living in Love and Faith, church growth and attendance, any matters referred to it from the national General Synod, and how church buildings are used.

What could you pray for?

Wisdom and peace! The Diocesan Synod has more than a hundred members, with lots of different opinions. It is also full of people who care about Jesus' work in this geographical area and beyond, and who want the best for the church here. The reading material can be quite significant, hence the need for wisdom.

Matthew Davies, Paul Doggett, Jim Kendall, Diocesan Synod Representatives

Report from the Deanery Synod

Holy Trinity is a member of the Coventry North Deanery Synod.

An organizational change is that Father Simon Oakes (St Lukes Holbrooks) is now Area Dean, succeeding Rev Gareth Irvine. Deanery Synod is now seeking to fill the roles of deanery synod treasurer and deanery synod secretary. Expressions of interest please to the Lay Chair Ann Weitzl weitzel4@hotmail.com.

The synod has met three times this year. Topics included:

- a very informative presentation on insurance and care of church buildings from Ecclesiastical Insurance,
- an exercise of praying through the parishes of the deanery [1],
- a valuable discussion led by the new Area Dean on increasing polarization in our city and raising the question, what does it mean to hold to Christian truths in an increasingly polarised and secular society,
- a video interview with Dean John Witcombe in the final few weeks before his retirement,
- an overview of reconciliation ministry here in the deanery from Rev Canon Kate Massey.

You will already be aware of the external safeguarding audit taking place in the diocese in April/May 2026, which was flagged up at Deanery Synod last June. We also await the plans for the 2027 Parish Share, but this may be delayed till July.

Additionally, Bishop Sophie visited the deanery on 12 November, culminating in a special meeting with the students of our own Table; the incoming Area Dean described the Table fellowship to one of us as an outstanding example of mission in the deanery.

Febin Abraham, Nick Jackson, Wilfrid Kendall, Deanery Synod Representatives

[1] Two responses specifically to the HTC prayer pointers during the praying exercise, unsigned, written on post-it notes: Phil 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." and Isaiah 61.4 "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated" – Prayer that HTC would be a place of rebuilding literal ruins and ruined lives and ruined hopes. Feel God is saying that this community at HTC is here for that reason.

Safeguarding Report

Protecting those at risk, preventing harm, accountability are central to the teachings of Jesus. So, the message is loud and clear, we take responsibility together for reporting concerns about any church-related issue, our neighbours, our children's friends. Safeguarding is for us all, with each one of us enabling our communities to take care of each other.

Every January the PCC reviews our Safeguarding Policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church' and Guidelines, based upon the Church of England Safeguarding Policy. This has been recommended by Coventry Diocese and has shown due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance. Reviews have been made of the Domestic Abuse Policy, Social Media Policy and Risk assessments. The dashboard system reminds us of all that has been achieved and what needs to be done to keep everyone safe and within the legal requirements. Some members of the PCC undertook a survey about parish culture and we trust and hope that we shall be able to promote a healthy and safe culture as outlined in the Safeguarding standards.

In August last year we learnt, much to our dismay, that there had been a data breach with regard to the provider of our DBS certification. Eighty parishes in the diocese were affected and Holy Trinity was one of them. Nine members of our congregation were affected with the possibility that their personal ID information had been misused. I should like to commend them for their gracious attitude on hearing this dreadful news. Advice was given by the diocese and one of the nine used professional experience to add to this advice. All contact with the previous provider was shut down and we have what we believe is a trusted provider to take us forward.

As a major part of the Church of England's national commitment to strengthening safeguarding culture, practice and accountability across every diocese, cathedral and parish, there is to be an audit by an independent body called INEQE. Bishop Sophie and Rev Richard have asked that as many as possible reply to the INEQE survey. This was live until 6th May and this should help provide a meaningful review. Auditors visit in July and a report will be published in October.

As previously, safeguarding training is taken very seriously by our congregation and it is pleasing to report that 47 training courses have been completed since the last APCM, including Basic, Foundation and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, and there have been 17 applicants for DBS Certification. I am grateful for this positive response.

May I thank so much our Vicar, Richard; Jenny, our Safeguarding Warden; the Wardens and the PCC for their constant and unfailing support.

Vicki Johnson, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Mission and Donations Committee

The MDT 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 (see Finance report for details of the distribution of our 'tithe').
- 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 (a different one each month).
- Planning one-off mission events; e.g. liaising closely with Iworibo Thomas in planning the Harvest Service (Sept 2025) which was led by our young people and focused on Tearfund's work with HIV-affected people in Africa.
- Encouraging participation by church members in our mission agencies, both in UK and abroad.

Thanks to the team, which comprises: Luis Sanchez, Clifford Davies, Antoinette Malabo Gerardin, Nick Jackson and the vicar. We would like to recruit 1–2 additional members, so do talk to one of us if you are interested.

Nick Jackson, on behalf of the Missions and Donations Committee

Eco-Church Group

This year the Eco-church has continued with a series of small-scale and survey jobs which should bring long-term benefits to the church. The main action has been to persuade the Mission group to include A Rocha, a Christian environmental charity which runs the national Eco-church project, in our pattern of charitable giving. We have also asked them to consider signing up to the "Toilet Twinning" project.

In terms of the main church building, we have:

- been awarded £2,000 for draught-proofing and pipe insulation;
- started a programme of only turning on lights that are needed;
- been awarded a grant for an environmental survey of the church building to investigate the relationship of the heating system to the conservation of the "Doom" painting so that we can consider the future replacement of the heating system;
- had a survey carried out to investigate the viability of solar photo-voltaic panels on the church roof, the results of which are awaited.

The Diocese has started a project concerned with environmental conditions in churchyards which we are interested in to complement planting work that has started on the south side of the church. Part of the project includes "Citizen Scientist" surveys and we would hope to include the congregation in this process.

Martin Trewinnard on behalf of the Eco-Church Group

Music

This year has seen significant growth in both the choir and music group – an answer to prayer! There are now 22 children involved in the choir (and this is despite losing 6 children in the last couple of years, who

moved away from Coventry). Some of these are not yet singing in services due to age/experience level but are attending choir practice on Tuesdays; those who are experienced enough to be singing in services are making an excellent contribution, forming the core of the soprano line (which now consists almost exclusively of children and young adults). In February 2026 the leadership of the Church of England launched The Choir Project, expressing a desire to increase the number of children singing in church choirs (following significant decline); however at Holy Trinity we have already experienced approximately a tripling of the number of children over the last 2-3 years, an astonishing growth (in these challenging times) which is all the more remarkable considering the fact that the church is situated within metres of a cathedral with its own strong choral tradition. This year we have also benefited from the presence of Libby as a soprano choral scholar, supported by an anonymous donation in memory of Sue Shepherd; we also give thanks that Libby was baptised at Holy Trinity on Palm Sunday.

The 9.30am music team has been blessed with new instrumentalists joining the rota: Emmanuel David (guitar), Mendrika (piano) and Titus (drums). We sadly had to say farewell to Anand at the end of 2025 - he was a very faithful member of the team (regularly playing the guitar), so it is encouraging that Emmanuel David and Churchill have between them managed to arrange to alternate as guitarist week by week, with Jonathan also playing occasionally. We now have a large number of musicians involved in leading worship at the 9.30 (potentially the most in quite some time), putting us on a firm footing for maintaining a strong music lead each week. We still need another pianist to play ideally once a month, however. In October 2025 we ordered a set (music copies for the choir + 50 words editions for smaller congregations) of the updated hymn book 'Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship'; these are being used by the choir for some hymns during the 11.15am service, and by the congregation and musicians at the Evensong and Midweek services. This will then become the main hymn book used at the 11.15am once the screens are installed; for now, having this as a reliable music edition for almost any hymn not contained in Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard has been very helpful indeed.

The final concert of the Aural Histories project took place in September 2025, showcasing a wide range of instrumental and vocal music dating from 1451 – 1642 and connected to Coventry. This involved performances by The Binchois Consort, His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts and our own choir. Aspects of the project were presented at the 21st Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music, held at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in July 2025, and following its official launch, the Aural Histories App was featured in a report for BBC Midlands Today, with contributions from Prof. Jamie Savan (project lead) and I. The final research findings, book and recordings will all be made available online.

In July the choir enjoyed a visit to sing for three days in Worcester Cathedral; we were warmly welcomed and will no doubt return there again. We were grateful that a number of our congregation were able to come and support us. The choir have also contributed to civic services during the course of the year including The Lord Mayor's Carol Service, The Lord Mayor's Civic Service of Thanksgiving and the Armed Forces Service. We also sang carols for the Carriers of Hope Christmas Party at St Mark's. Looking ahead, at the time of writing we will be joining with the Cathedral Choir for our service for Ascension Day (14

May), and also for a special Choral Evensong as part of the Cathedral Music Trust's annual conference, to be held in Coventry in September. In June, Rev Richard and I will be attending the Inaugural Major Churches Music Conference, being held at Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge; this promises to be a very interesting day, exploring ways in which traditional church music can be supported in what are undoubtedly difficult times.

And finally, some thanks. Firstly, to those at the 9.30 who take the responsibility of lead musician each week (this involves choosing songs, coordinating, and leading rehearsals) and to Churchill, who completes our CCLI returns. The piano playing at the Wednesday service, allowing for the inclusion of hymns, is also much appreciated. Next, to Chris Howard, for managing our successful series of Lunchtime Recitals – Holy Trinity is arguably the leading venue for free classical music concerts in the city centre, so we are helping to sustain Coventry's cultural heritage. Next, to Karen Shipley, our volunteer Choir Assistant, for training our youngest choir children every Tuesday evening during term-time; with the growth in number, she is being kept very busy! And lastly and by no means least, to all in the 9.30 band, choir and to those who play the piano or organ, who give many hours to enrich our worship. These number approximately 50 musicians across all the services. I am reminded of Bishop Sophie's words in her sermon at Holy Trinity a couple of weeks ago, where she said that we are all 'living stones', often coming together from different backgrounds, cultures or countries to serve. Please continue to pray for all musicians who serve at Holy Trinity and in particular that the current number of musicians may be sustained in the long-term.

Alex Norman, Director of Music

Services

9:30am

2025–26 has been a year for trying out new things.

The number of people coming to 9:30 has been steadily growing over the year, though there are age groups where we would love to see increase. It has been great to see a growing number of volunteers getting involved, in new roles and for the first time, and new and returning preachers.

Trying out new things: after the 9:30 Forums in 2024–25, we had four pillars to build on: Equipping (people bringing and becoming God's gifts), Flexibility (in worship by mutual trust), Home (welcome and warmth), and the Holy Spirit, without whom such work is in vain.

In line with these four pillars, we've started a new "planning team" to take this all forward. Ideas we have tried out over the year include testimony in the service, space to move around and use the church building, and more opportunity for silence in prayer.

This has aligned beautifully with the prayer ministry restarting! We pray for wisdom in all this work, for all the people involved.

As a prayer point: more families, teenagers and children would be a blessing, especially as several of our families have children who are now in the choir (which is a great thing, I say from personal experience). Also, we celebrate those who have offered their time in volunteering. We would love to see more musicians, particularly drums, bass and lead guitarists, and keyboard players.

Our song of focus during those 9:30 Forums was *Purify My Heart*. The words resonated strongly and remain in our prayers: "My heart's one desire is to be holy… ready to do your will."

Jim Kendall, Congregational Pastor

11:15am

It has been a joy to reflect on the life of the 11:15 congregation over the past year. One of the clearest gifts within this service continues to be the richness of our diversity. Week by week, the congregation gathers as a genuinely intergenerational and international community, reflecting something beautiful of the kingdom of God. We welcome around 165 adults and 32 children on a typical Sunday, with growing depth of connection and participation across the congregation.

The Table has continued to flourish and has become a significant expression of hospitality, discipleship and community among students and young adults. It has been a particular encouragement to see many students not only gathering around the table for Sunday lunch and conversation but increasingly connecting into the 11:15 congregation itself. There is a growing integration between *The Table* and the wider church family, with students serving, building friendships across generations and becoming rooted in the life of the church.

There is much to celebrate in the wider life of the congregation. Faithful teams continue to serve generously in welcoming, coffee, worship and practical ministries. Over 75 people help support worship and ministry across the congregation, reflecting a strong shared ownership in the life of the church. There has been a warm spirit of hospitality at 11:15, and it has been encouraging to see newer faces gradually becoming involved in the life of the congregation.

Another gift has been the prayer ministry within the congregation, which has been a real blessing to the community. The prayer team has faithfully served through prayer before services, sharing words of encouragement and discernment, and making space for people to receive prayer and ministry. Many have been strengthened through being prayed for, and this has become a valued part of the worshipping life of the congregation.

There have of course been challenges. Like many church communities, we continue to hold the tension of building deeper community in a busy and often fragmented culture. There remains a longing to see more people move from attending into deeper belonging, service and discipleship. We continue to pray particularly for younger generations and for those on the edges of church life to find confidence to step further in.

Looking ahead, there is much hope. There is a sense of life and quiet growth, and gratitude for the ways God is drawing people together. We give thanks for the diversity of the congregation, for deepening relationships, for *The Table* and the students among us, for those who serve faithfully, and for the many unseen ways people care for one another.

Points for prayer include continued growth in discipleship and belonging, wisdom in nurturing intergenerational community, fresh welcome for newcomers, and that the 11.15 congregation would continue to be a place where people encounter Jesus, grow in faith and are equipped to serve.

We give thanks to God for his faithfulness over the past year and look forward with hope to all He will continue to do among us.

Dani Joyce, Congregational Pastor

Evensong

Awaiting report

Wednesday Communion

This is a fairly quiet said service, with hymns. Numbers have been steady for some time, typically 15–20, mostly regulars: there are more on special occasions (over 45 on Ash Wednesday). Some people value the additional opportunity to receive the Sacrament, perhaps because they have church duties on Sundays; some either attend elsewhere or have trouble getting here on Sundays. Some visitors have been glad to find a service during their travels. We are able to talk to them during the refreshments afterwards.

Changing from *Mission Praise* to the new hymnbook has been welcomed: it has widened the range of material available.

John Roy

Youth and Children's Report

Looking back

It has been a season of growth and celebration for our younger generation. Highlights include:

- We had a wonderful Harvest celebration where the children led the service, handled the readings, and led the intercessions. The Nativity service was also a beautiful highlight for the whole church.
- Eight of our young people were confirmed. This was a significant spiritual milestone, and we were all encouraged by the key speakers from the church who taught and mentored the candidates.
- We are seeing an increased number of teenagers joining the Youth Cell, and it is a joy to see new families joining us regularly at the 11:15 services.
- Most of our children are now part of the church choir, adding so much to our worship life.
- We held a great Light Party which was a success for all involved.
- We are thankful to have had four new volunteers join the Children's Ministry team.

Looking forward

As we look to the next season, our focus is on building deeper connections and supporting those who serve:

- We have successfully launched a new Saturday Club specifically for children in Years 6 and 7, helping them bridge the gap as they grow.
- We intend to actively invite more young people to join the Youth Cell, creating a larger, more vibrant community for our teenagers.
- We are planning to organize a retreat for our volunteers to provide them with a well-deserved time of refreshment, reflection, and team building.

Challenges and prayer points

We invite the church to join us in prayer for the following needs:

- Please pray for more volunteers to step forward, particularly to support the growing Youth Cell.
- Pray for more families and children to join the 9:30 am service, and for a sense of consistency in attendance across all our services.
- Pray for a smooth transition for the children who have recently become teenagers as they move into the Youth Cell.
- We give thanks for Julie and pray for her as she steps down from her role in the 9:30 am children's ministry. We pray for peace and clarity during this time of change.
- Finally, we ask for continued prayers for all our volunteers. Pray for strength, wisdom, and joy as they invest in the lives of our young people.

Iworibo Thomas, Lead Youth and Families Minister

Vergers' Report

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

This well-loved hymn expresses something of our shared experience over the past year. It has been a time marked by contrasting seasons – of happiness and grief, of hope and despair. Yet, through all these moments, we have remained sustained by God's faithfulness.

As we look back, we give thanks for a year filled with encouragement and growth in the life of the church. We have mourned the loss of dear and faithful members of our congregation, while also celebrating the joy of new life with the birth of children among us. Both sorrow and joy have drawn us closer together as a community.

It has also been heartening to see an increase in the number of visitors. Many have come to explore HTC for the first time, including some who have lived in Coventry for many years. We pray that these initial encounters may lead to deeper connection and belonging within our church family.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Colin, Chris, Paul, Nick, Thomas, Nehemiah, Richard, Carolyne, my dear family and to all the welcomers and vergers who generously gave their time and energy, particularly in covering responsibilities during my absence. Your service has been invaluable and deeply appreciated.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we do so with hope and expectation. We pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen us, deepen our fellowship, and grow our witness in the community. May we remain faithful in all seasons, attentive to God's leading, and ready to serve with generosity and love.

Vinodhini Jaykumar, Parish Finance Assistant & Assistant Verger

Targeted Terrain Response, calls up visions of military reactive provisions. Though in the business of enduring peace , the church has in the past gone through times of conflict , physically (read Coventry

under fire) and spiritually, and has always walked the walk of holding scripture up above our heads as we walk with it in our hearts.

No single person of any age including those just departed , enter and walk through this building without being brushed with the myriad actions of dozens of volunteers: those who sweep / dust / wash linen / appear to you just when you find a need for an answer as to why that stone arch looks like it had a window in it at some point, prepare the elements for communion an hour before the service , then most silently and with majesty process and serve throughout the service. We are joined at many services by musicians / descants / bass / soprano alto tenor, which is just as well as I can shriek but not in tune. Volunteers are not on a list, they are reflected in this building being a living responsive organism. Much as 1 Cor 12 / 12 states, we are one body, the Body of Christ. Enter this building most days, sit or stand silently. Sometimes not a sound, not even that naughty church mouse, let your heart share Him sitting with you. Not all volunteers are to be found inside. There is a great work happening, a revolution transforming the grounds into wildflower meadow / too eye catching. "What is the name of that plant?" I hear people say as they walk past Trinity churchyard. A little noticed but extensive framework encompasses 2 thirds of the church boundary. A wrought iron sturdy, steady to hold reassuring structure, have you a steady eye / bendable back, supple knees, enjoy outdoor work as the world walks by? The massive vergers dept is currently looking to clean / wire brush / repaint this through the summer. Might this be your thing? There is an immense satisfaction in watching paint dry.

Some congregation follow the services online through the streaming. Did you know that there is an incredible techo kit addition that means the service is available in many different languages from around the world? Just as well my mother-in-law passed on as I'm not sure it would cope with deep a Scottish Glasgow accent! Though I rather expect Anna is listening in some Sundays.

Be Bold Be Brave, you are wanted here / needed here, your hand your heart could reach out and hold a shy hand, a shy nervous heart, and save a soul. What you do is partly what we are. Thank you

Colin Millard, Verger

Welcome Team

The church is currently open for visitors from 11.00am–3.00pm on Wednesdays to Saturdays, from 12.30pm–5.00pm on Sundays, and sometimes on Tuesdays when we have available volunteers. As well as one of our wonderful vergers, we have a pair of volunteer welcomers present throughout these times to greet visitors.

We aim to discern, when possible, if visitors 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.

In 2025, we had an average of 2,600 visitors per month, more in the summer than the winter, so it is a great opportunity to show welcome and care in Jesus' Name. Many have also been introduced to our

church services, groups to explore faith, and other events. Most weeks we have opportunities to talk about following Jesus with a few visitors.

Currently 22 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 Tuesdays as well. Please see us if interested in knowing more or doing a trial session; training and support are provided.

Chris Aston and Nick Jackson, Lead Welcomers

Growth Groups

Growth Groups continue to offer opportunities for fellowship and spiritual development. There are two groups that meet at Trinity House on Wednesday evening and six meeting in the week at other locations.

The Trinity House groups and three of the other groups are Bible Study and teaching groups. In addition, there are themed groups consisting of the Men's Breakfast, the Walking Group and the Crochet group. There are also occasional short-term groups looking at specific topics such as a theme or a Bible book. For younger adults, under-graduates or graduates, there are other groups such as the Table available for you to learn more.

If you want to go deeper into the Christian Life with others from Holy Trinity then do contact Anita Draper or Paul Doggett for further information or use the form on the website.

Paul Doggett, Growth Group Co-Ordinator

Students and Young Adults

This year it seems the bluebells have multiplied in front and around HTC giving us the joy of God's beauty in the middle of Coventry. Maybe that's a good image of what HTC has longed for and is starting to see – students and young adults in greater numbers, welcomed, befriended, discipled and released to make disciples of all nations whether here in Coventry or into the nations.

We have so much to be grateful for! What a privilege we have to be invited to partner with God in his work as he rewrites Coventry's (in)famous expression 'sent to Coventry' into 'sent from Coventry' and entrusts HTC to journey with many students and young adults from all tribes, languages and nations – and faith backgrounds – and grow together as apprentices of Jesus.

We give thanks to God as students and young adults come alive in Christ, connect the dots between the Bible and everyday life – and seek to adopt practices to become more like Jesus and to live his way of life – all of this through *The Table, The Way*, modules at St Mark's Academy or through friendship with one another and with those who are walking a few steps ahead on the discipleship journey. We also remember that many had to leave for a new chapter (new job, end of visa or to find employment) and recognise the current national and global context is uneasy for those who are seeking employment.

It is also a great joy to see a greater number of students and young adults involved in the life of the church as volunteers, lead volunteers (Social Media team leader, Scriptorium Convenor) and staff members (Youth and Families Co-ordinator, Parish Manager, Trinity House Urban Monastery Co-ordinator).

I especially give thanks to the remarkable team of leaders (Siby M, Namkha N, Catherine and Wilfrid K, Pam H, Jane H, Dani and Alex , Blessy and Justin C, Andrew S, Nick J, Jean H, Monica V, JoAnn B, Rebecca R, Priscilla, Vino J, Anthony and Abe) who journey with students and young adults as they cook, bake, clear or serve, lead groups and discussions, open their homes and befriend. Thank you for all you offer with such love. And to the students and young adults themselves – thank you for all you are and all you give us.

A very special thanks to Siby Moleakunnel for his empowering and visionary leadership of The Table as it grows into a disciple making movement; to Blessy Justin for her warmth and prayerful commitment as Alpha co-ordinator for the fourth Alpha in three years; and to Andrew Selwyn and Namkha Moleakunnel for their faithful and gracious support and leadership at *The Way* as we seek to model every day practices of Jesus apprentices.

Join me in gratitude for God's great grace and in prayer as we seek to anchor discipleship (as a lifestyle with values and practices) bringing solid foundations to our students and young adults equipped and released for the rest of their lives. 'Coventry is the city where movement began' was Coventry City of Culture publicity. Let's pray indeed for the movement to begin! A movement of students and young adults on fire for Jesus longing to see their friends come to faith and this city and the nations transformed into God's radiant Kingdom

And if any of this resonates with you, feel free to be in touch!

Rev Carolyne Powell, Associate Vicar



The Table

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness to *The Table* over the past year. *The Table* has grown significantly in both breadth and depth through regular engagement with God's word, spiritual practices, community life, and service.

The Table welcomed around 140 students and young adults with a clear Gospel invitation to follow Jesus and join the community and about 100 of them signed up. Regular attendance grew from 30 to 40, with increased diversity from 20 to 24 nationalities and potential leaders rising from 6 to 12. Moreover, we rejoice that two individuals from non-Christian backgrounds came to faith in Jesus and committed to discipleship. Several participants were baptised, while others were confirmed and more fully integrated into the life of the church.

Hospitality and community life remained central to *The Table* this year. Volunteers, including culinary professionals, faithfully provided meals and desserts, while social events such as termly gatherings, a graduation celebration, picnics, barbecues, and Christmas events strengthened fellowship. Church families extended hospitality during Christmas and Easter, and Core Group members regularly opened their homes for meals, pastoral care, and prayer. These consistent efforts fostered strong relationships and a deep sense of belonging, with many S&YA describing *The Table* as a family or a "second home."

This welcoming environment also drew new students, including one who, after a year of participation, came to faith in Jesus.

While relationships and hospitality remain central to *The Table*, our primary aim is to know Jesus and make Him known, with Christ at the centre. In pursuit of this, the Bible studies have been rooted in the Gospel narratives. In the first term, we explored the identity and mission of Jesus through Mark; in the second, we examined His teachings and discipleship in Matthew. These studies encouraged a transformative, obedient response to Christ, including the cost and call of discipleship and His commission to make disciples. This formation was supported through pathways such as Baptism classes, Alpha, *The Way*, and a study of Ephesians. Many students and young adults are growing as committed disciples who follow Jesus and make Him known.

As *The Table* grows, many S&YA are developing Christlike character, with discipleship both caught and taught. However, greater emphasis is needed on hearing and obeying God and making disciples. The leadership seeks to create meaningful opportunities for growth within students' limited time, as many balance studies, work, and transitions. We value your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we equip S&YA to hear God and become disciple-makers in their present and future contexts.

We praise God for His transforming work among S&YA. *The Table's* growth has been enabled by the faithful commitment of Core Group Leaders and the generous support of the wider church family. It is a joy and privilege to serve alongside such a dedicated, wise, and passionate leadership team.

Siby Moleakunnel

The Way

Vision and Purpose: *The Way* continues to grow as a community committed to growing in love and knowledge of Jesus, learning to shape our lives according to his way of life as apprentices encouraging one another to follow and share Him faithfully in every sphere of life.

Community and Participation: This year we have been blessed with a core group of 6–12 students and young adults who have journeyed together but have had to say goodbye to those moved away (new employment or seeking employment). Though we miss them, we continue to pray for them as they carry the light of Christ into new places.

Leadership and Support: A heartfelt thank you goes to all who cooked, served, cleaned, and helped set up each Tuesday. Your hospitality has been a ministry in itself. With gratitude to: Priscilla, Brindley, Rebecca, Churchill, Antony, Aby, Vino, Siby, Namkha, Blessy, Justin, Carolyne, Febin, Anita, Ayden, and Abel for enabling us to eat together. And a warm thank you to Namkha who faithfully supports *The Way* witnessing to the way of life of Jesus.

Weekly Gatherings: We continue to meet every Tuesday at 6pm, beginning each evening by sharing a meal around the table. This time of fellowship has become a real space for connection, encouragement, and testimony. Our gatherings include worship led by students and young adults, testimonies and prayer, teaching, discussion, practical engagement with Scripture and spiritual practices. We are especially thankful for the musical gifts and worship leadership brought by Mendrika.

Waverley Abbey Day Retreat: A significant highlight was our visit to Waverley Abbey, a site of Christian prayer and worship for over 1,300 years. With 15 participants, the day gave space to two teaching sessions and quiet reflection led by Rev Rebecca Henney on The Love of the Father and Dealing with Life with the Father. We are grateful to all the drivers, and to Mendrika for leading worship. The testimonies that followed were a powerful witness to God's work in our hearts and within the community.

Teaching and Formation Throughout the Year: Our sessions focused on encountering the presence of God through worship, testimony, Scripture, and prayer. Key themes included: Biblical encounters with God, experiential practices (prayer walks, being present in public as pairs, morning and evening rhythms

of prayer), Jesus' invitation to follow him (through hearing God, prayer triplets, people of peace) and his invitation to downward mobility (Lent Bible study 'in God's Kingdom, the way up is the way down').

Conclusion: We give thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout 2025–26. *The Way* continues to be a place where students and young adults grow in their daily relationship with Jesus, grow as disciples and apprentices and learn to live out their faith and live the way of Jesus. We look forward with hope and expectation for all that God will continue to do in the year ahead. As we continue to grow together, we warmly invite you to uphold *The Way* in your prayers. Please pray especially for additional volunteers who can support the vision by cooking or serving.

Andrew Selwyn

Alpha

We give thanks to God for the Alpha course which began on 10th February and for all that He has done through it. The course started with a strong response of around 25 participants, supported by 6 helpers, before settling to a regular group of around 15 each week. Two small groups, led by Siby with Margaret and Richard Little, and by Justin with Rev Richard and Blessy, enabled deeper discussion and engagement. We are especially grateful for how God led a few people to discover Alpha at Trinity House through the Alpha website, drawing them in at just the right time.

Experiences During Alpha: Throughout the course, a number of participants shared that they experienced a deep sense of peace while attending Alpha – something they had not found elsewhere or with anyone before – which made the evenings particularly meaningful.
Alpha Away Day Highlights: A particular highlight was the Alpha Away Day on 11th April at St John the Baptist Church, Berkswell, with 18 participants attending. This was a significant time of reflection, with many sharing personal experiences of the Holy Spirit, which continued to shape conversations in the weeks that followed.
Thanksgiving and Acknowledgements: We also give heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported Alpha. We are especially grateful to the core team who faithfully prayed before each session, preparing the way spiritually, and to the hospitality team whose dedication ensured that meals were provided each week, creating a warm, welcoming, and well-nourished environment for fellowship and conversation. We also sincerely thank all those who faithfully upheld both the core team and the guests in prayer throughout the course – your quiet support has been deeply valued and has played a vital role in all God has done.

Blessy James

Prayer

Prayer hour

Prayer Hour takes place on the first Monday evening of each month. We meet either in Trinity House or in people's homes and every session is led by the Vicar or someone he appoints. We usually pray in four distinct areas: for example, world events, the church's mission (including our mission partners), city concerns, and the needs of our church and ourselves. This is a very focussed and positive meeting, where people can pray out loud or silently. It's a good opportunity to bring our concerns to God for all those things which affect our community.

Catherine Kendall

Prayer Ministry

In the past two years, the PCC has expressed a desire for more prayer and for prayer ministry. In July 2025 an invitation was extended to many to be part of a new prayer ministry team following the teaching (or refreshing the teaching) of Rev Ann Hibbert founder of The Well healing centre in Leamington Spa. It was a powerful day grounded in scriptural teaching on healing and offering various opportunities to put this into practice.

Since then, a team of six people has been (re)trained and is now offering monthly prayer ministry on the first Sunday of the month at both services. Over the last six months, 15 people have been prayed for and half of them responded to pictures or words given.

We pray that more would find prayer ministry an opportunity to bring to God their concerns or challenges or respond to a word/picture – and find their prayers answered revealing Jesus' closeness and sovereignty to them. We worship a God who sees, who is alive, and we give thanks for his presence to those who have come to him.

A warm thank you to Bill and Vicki Johnson, Jenny and Jonathan Williams, Billy Smith and Paul Doggett for making themselves available for the work of the Holy Spirit, partnering with God and offering all who come seeking him his presence and his hope. And especially thank you to Vicki Johnson for her heart for this precious ministry and for co-ordinating the team.

In addition to this ministry, over 2,000 prayers are left each year on the cross in the Jesus Chapel, often by people sharing their heart with God, sometimes in desperation. We give thanks that God does hear and listen and also give thanks for Vicki and Bill Johnson who faithfully pray each week over these intercessions and advocate for those who have turned to Jesus.

Rev Carolyne Powell

Prayer rhythms

'Lord teach us to pray'. The disciples could have asked Jesus to teach them so much and yet the 'teaching question' recorded in the Gospels is 'teach us to pray' (Luke 11:1). Prayer is part of the pillars of the life of a disciple of Christ as we shape our lives on the way of life of Jesus. Though prayer meetings are absolutely key and help us to both align ourselves with God's desires and see his glory in the ways he answers prayers, adopting prayer rhythms in our everyday life help us to be anchored and 'abide' in Jesus seeing fruitfulness.

Since Oct 2025 and especially during Advent 2025 and Lent 2026, HTC prayer room in Trinity House opened for personal prayers, engaging with silence or worship or any of the seasonal prayer stations.

In Lent 2026 various prayer rhythms were offered in the mornings (praying Lectio365 in community) as well as in the evenings with the Examen. The Examen was offered daily thanks to a partnership with the Order of the Mustard Seed. The Examen is an ancient prayer practice and an opportunity to review our day with God, giving space for our worship and gratitude and his voice as we look back to the day and look forward to the next.

Rev Carolyne Powell

Report from Parish Manager and Trinity House Co-ordinator

(jointly held by Tayo Akinsemoyin in 2025)

Managing the dual responsibilities of Parish Manager and Trinity House Co-ordinator requires balancing two distinct yet interconnected roles. Both Holy Trinity Church and Trinity House are heritage sites requiring ongoing care to remain fully operational. The church office serves as a central hub, supporting a wide range of activities across both sites, including administration, bookings, compliance, and day-to-day co-ordination.

During 2025, Holy Trinity hosted numerous services, events, and concerts, reflecting its city-centre location and accessibility. Trinity House also secured several new external bookings, particularly from community groups and repeat users, which are expected to continue into 2026. Managing the calendar across both sites has required careful co-ordination to maximise use while maintaining the church's core activities.

Communication remains a key function of the church office. Weekly newsletters now reach over 500 recipients, providing regular updates on services, events, and parish life. We have also promoted church life through noticeboards, the website, and seasonal outreach, including A6 flyers delivered across the parish at Easter and Christmas. This has contributed to increased attendance at festival services, with some visitors continuing to Sunday worship.

Our social media presence and website have been under review, and in March 2026 the PCC appointed a Social Media Team Leader to oversee content and monitoring. This is expected to strengthen our digital engagement, improve visibility, and support outreach initiatives in the coming year.

Trinity House has seen increased external bookings, particularly recurring ones. Redecoration began in October and is due for completion in May 2026, enhancing the building and making it a more attractive and welcoming space. Alongside this, improvements to facilities and presentation are expected to support continued growth in bookings. Enquiries can be made via the HTC website.

The vision of Trinity House as an Urban Monastery has developed through the creation of a dedicated Prayer Room on the ground floor and a Scriptorium on the first floor, providing intentional spaces for reflection, prayer, and quiet work.

Volunteers continue to make a vital contribution to both the Church Office and Trinity House. The office works closely with the Buildings & Fabric Team, Churchwardens, Welcomers, Technical Team, cleaners, flower arrangers, and others to support the smooth running of both sites. Their ongoing commitment enables the breadth of activity currently sustained.

These responsibilities require effective prioritisation and adaptability, as urgent matters often arise simultaneously. Alongside this, maintaining compliance, health and safety standards, and responding to enquiries remain key aspects of the role. The work is both demanding and rewarding, supported by strong collaboration with colleagues, particularly Colin, Vino, and the parish teams.

Rebecca Roy (Parish Manager from February 2026)

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 more progress made on an exciting journey that started three years ago.

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. Three years ago, the trust was making a 'loss' of around £10K per year. Work undertaken by the Steering Group, and particularly Tayo, our Co-ordinator, is beginning to show fruit. All this has meant that in the last financial year finances are now stable with bookings steady.

The Steering Group continues to meet and reports to the Trustees who are the vicar and church wardens. The steering group delivers a plan to better serve the church and city centre communities and drive-up income, and this plan is monitored closely by the steering group.

We give thanks for all the work Tayo (who due to her visa expiring has had to leave the role) has done and for what has been established and has made real impact.

Holy Trinity Church use of the building continues to be significant. There is a constant tension between enabling Holy Trinity Church use of the buildings while 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 enabling regular pragmatic conversations and a structure for Church use and an annual review cycle to scrutinise the above.

In March 2026 Mahima Bolledu was appointed as new co-ordinator. We already give thanks for her appointment and her work. The role has however been increased from 15 to 20 hours per week to reflect a new vision supported by Trinity House Steering Group: creating an Urban Monastery, based at Trinity House, and recognising where the Holy Spirit seems to be moving.

The Urban Monastery is intended to be:

- a space of monastic rhythms
- a space of events and hospitality
- a space of education and learning.

There has already been progress:

- In Oct 2026, a 24-7 prayer room was established and has been opened regularly (especially during Advent and Lent) offering space for private prayers or prayer with friends or prayer rhythms (online). A small team gathers every Thursday to pray for Trinity House as Urban Monastery as well as for the city. We give thanks particularly to Margaret Barnes for her commitment and partnership in making the prayer room a space of encounter and hosting with others those who come and book the space.
- Trinity House already offers events and hospitality to HTC and to guests who book.
- In addition to facilitating various children, youth and students learning and discipleship groups, Trinity House also now hosts a Scriptorium – a weekly structured day of independent studies held

by a rhythm of prayer in community – in partnership with Trinity Forum Europe since Jan 2026. The Scriptorium now welcomes between 4–8 graduate students from various nations, denominations and backgrounds, establishing Trinity House Urban Monastery as a space of learning and prayer.

We look forward to the Urban Monastery being further established.

Members of the church can support Trinity House by:

- Praying for Mahima Bolledu as Urban Monastery Co-ordinator
- Supporting events as a volunteer (opening/closing the building)
- Booking Trinity House for events and telling friends and family that it is available.
- Praying for the emerging Urban Monastery and its Kingdom purpose (see the separate presentation on the Urban Monastery).

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 Mahima: CoventryUrbanMonastery@holytrinitycoventry.org.uk.

Rev Carolyne Powell, Associate Vicar, and Chris Jupp Chair, Trinity House Steering Group

Urban Monastery

Revd Carolyne will be giving a presentation about this at the APCM

Digital Media Ministry Report (Livestreaming, Website and Social Media)

Introduction

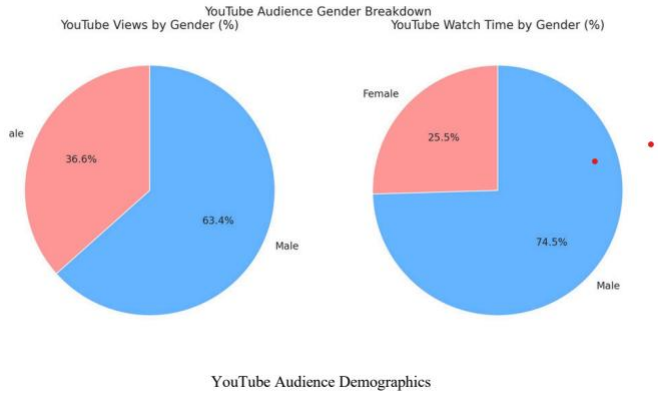
Over the past year, the Digital Media Ministry at Holy Trinity has continued to grow as a vital channel for worship, outreach, and communication, guided by our core values of Welcome, Warmth, Worship, Witness, Wealth, and Walk. Through livestreaming, the website, and social media platforms, we have sought to extend the Church's welcome beyond the building, reaching people locally, nationally, and globally.

Things to celebrate

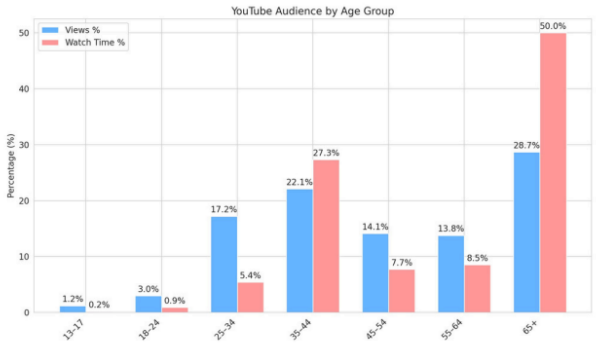
Livestreaming:

- Continued strong growth of the HTC YouTube channel, which delivered 54,426 views and 1,817 hours of watch time across the year, with an average view duration of 3 minutes 22 seconds.
- 175 new subscribers gained, bringing the total to 770 subscribers. The channel generated 426,407 impressions with a solid 3.36% click-through rate.
- Global reach expanded significantly: the UK (GB) remains our core audience (18,586 views, ~34% of total), followed by India (4,351 views), the USA (2,039 views), and smaller but growing audiences in Germany, the Philippines, Indonesia, and beyond.
- Audience demographics show 63.4% male viewers (accounting for 74.5% of watch time) and a notably mature audience, with the 65+ age group representing 28.7% of views but an impressive

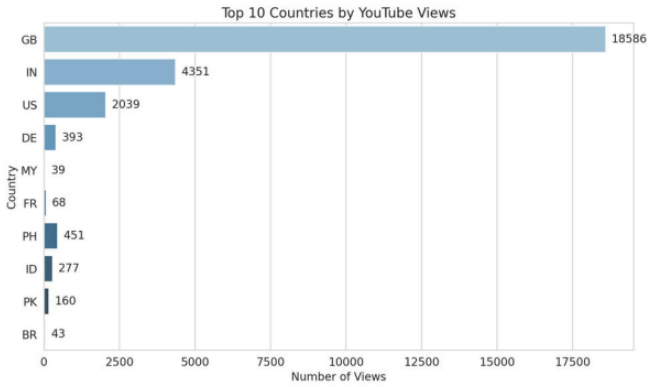
50% of total watch time. The 35-44 age group also contributed strongly (22% of views, 27% of watch time).



YouTube Audience Demographics



YouTube Audience by Age Group (Views % vs Watch Time %)



Top 10 Countries by YouTube Views

- High-engagement content included short-form videos and full services such as:
  - "Be still in the presence of the Lord!" (2,301 views)
  - "Holy Trinity Church Coventry" channel trailer (2,040 views)
  - Christmas and seasonal shorts consistently performing well
  - Full services like Palm Sunday, Harvest Festival, and Good Friday recordings regularly exceeding 200–300 views each.
- Faithful commitment of the livestreaming team and volunteers enabled consistent weekly broadcasts and timely uploads of services, sermons, and special events.

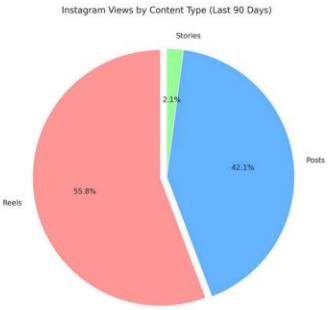
Website

- The HTC website remains a key entry point for visitors exploring the church, faith, and events.
- Strong engagement across pages, including services, life events (weddings, baptisms, funerals), and community groups.
- Continued use of enquiry forms, helping people connect with the church office and ministries.
- Ongoing improvements in content clarity and accessibility.

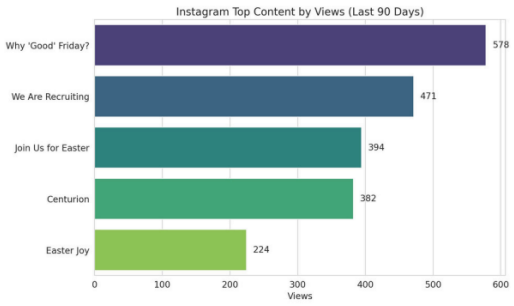
Social media

- Growth in engagement across platforms, with Instagram alone recording 3,903 views in the last 90 days, reaching 929 accounts and generating 132 interactions (from 69 engaged accounts). Reels continue to be the standout format: 55.7% of views and a dominant 70.5% of interactions.
- Creative content (reels, posters, event promotions) helped reach younger audiences and the wider Coventry community. Top-performing posts focused on Easter ("Why 'Good' Friday?" , "Join us for Easter at Church", "Easter Joy") and seasonal themes.
- Increased visibility of church events such as Easter, Christmas, Alpha, and special services.

- Strong collaboration between teams ensured consistent messaging and design.



Instagram Views by Content Type (Last 90 Days)



Instagram Top 5 Posts by Views (Last 90 Days)

Challenges

- Technical limitations, particularly around internet reliability, which can affect livestream quality.
- Capacity and resourcing, as much of the work relies on a small number of dedicated volunteers.
- Consistency in content creation, especially across multiple platforms and busy church seasons.
- Keeping digital platforms up to date, requiring co-ordination between ministry leaders and the media team.

Points for prayer

- For **reliable and improved internet connectivity** to support high-quality livestreaming.
- For **wisdom and creativity** in communicating the Gospel effectively through digital platforms.
- For **more volunteers** to join and support the growing demands of the media ministry.
- For **spiritual impact,** that all who engage with our content may encounter the love of Jesus Christ.
- For **discernment and guidance** in future development of digital outreach.

Looking ahead (future plans)

Livestreaming

- Upgrade of software to include enhanced features such as subtitles, lyrics, and integrated visuals.
- Continued improvements to hardware for better quality and reliability.

Website

- Development of additional features such as member login access.
- Greater use of the platform for communication, co-ordination, and ministry engagement.

Social Media

- More strategic and consistent posting across platforms.
- Increased use of short-form video content to engage wider audiences.
- Continued focus on high-quality, visually engaging designs to support church events and outreach.

Conclusion

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness in using digital platforms to extend the reach of Holy Trinity's ministry. This past year has shown encouraging growth over 54,000 YouTube views, nearly 1,820 hours

of watch time, and strong Instagram engagement and we look forward with hope and expectation to how God will continue to work through these channels in the year ahead.

Terry Kingsley, Social Media Officer