



## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Review of the Year**

## Our Vision

*"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it:*

*You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world.*

*God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine!*

*Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."*

**Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message)**

**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.

**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

The PCC approved the Report and Accounts for 2021, 2022 and 2023 since the last Annual Meeting. These can be found on the Charities Commission website under the charity [The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Coventry](#).

The Finance team has had a busy year with several ongoing projects, including:

- Reviewing and updating our mandate with HSBC
- Recommending changes to how PCC investments are organised
- Revising our reserves policy.

Business as usual included the finalisation of our annual accounts for 2022 and 2023, preparation of the 2025 budget, processing of gift aid claims, and regular provision of management accounts to PCC.

Over the coming year we plan to continue work on our reimbursement process and a wider review of our financial controls.

As Treasurer I would like to express my thanks to the Finance Committee, particularly Jane Hutton for her work on gift aid and Ed Kendall for handling our banking arrangements; Vino Jayakumar for her dedication as our Parish Finance Assistant and Nehemiah Akinyele for his oversight as Finance Warden. We also give thanks for Alison Jackson – her guidance and diligence around our church finances will be greatly missed.

*Kathryn Hunter, Treasurer*

## Building and Fabric Report

**Organ Project:** A quotation has been received for the revised organ design and Chris has met with our organ consultant, William McVicker, to discuss various peripheral items that are not included in the quotation, so that a complete picture may be presented to the DAC and a faculty application made.

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

**Eco Church:** A report recommending actions to be taken to raise awareness of environmental issues was presented to the PCC's March meeting. An energy survey highlighted the need for draught proofing measures and a quotation is awaited, in order that a grant funding bid may be made for this work.

**Quinquennial Report:** A major repair project is required for the South side roofs and stonework that should be carried out during this quinquennial period (i.e. before May 2028). Recent roof leaks on the South side have made this project more urgent and 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 will be held for the congregation in the Summer. The Diocesan Disability Officer will visit soon, to discuss access issues and provision for wheelchairs. Members of B&F are developing risk assessments for 'Working at Height' and for the clearing roof debris.

**Candle Holders:** We have been granted Archdeacon's approval to repair the two candle holders on the high altar, so that they are stable and stand upright.

**West End Modifications:** Discussion is continuing with our architect and with Novum Ltd. regarding options for the West End refurbishment and the fixing of screens and speakers. A successful screen demonstration was held on 18th March to assess the visibility of the screens in direct sunlight.

**PAT testing:** PAT testing of equipment in the church and church centre has been carried out and AVIVA, our insurance company, has visited to review our electrical inspection certificate, our PAT testing and boiler maintenance regime, our fire risk assessment, fire extinguisher service regime and our intruder alarm and CCTV system operation.

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

## **Report from Diocesan Synod**

*No report available at time of printing*

## **Report from the Deanery Synod**

The Deanery synod cycle of meetings for this period was as follows: 26/06/24, 22/10/24, 18/3/2025.

The 26/06/24 meeting focused on prayer and worship. The Deanery was divided into 4 groups of churches; each group shared what had been going on in each of their churches and also prayed over an allocated subject area. Holy Trinity was in a group with the Cathedral and St John Baptist: prayers concerned thanks and prayer for new Canons at the Cathedral and staff comings and goings at HTC. The ongoing partnership at HTC around Medieval music was also mentioned. Prayer was also given for the City Centre and Deanery finances.

The 22/10/24 meeting was largely focussed on Safeguarding: the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Sarah Price reviewed the five National Safeguarding Standards (1.Culture, Leadership and Capacity, 2.Prevention, 3.Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk, 4.Victims and Survivors, 5.Learning, Supervision and Support). Action points suggested for PCCs included: A. Review the Parish Dashboard new categories (Parish Safeguarding Officer reported to PCC on this 25/11/24), B. Consider having a Safeguarding Sunday (this happened on Sunday 17/11/24), C. Review safeguarding topics with PCC (done in PCC 27/01/25).

The 18/3/2025 meeting was postponed to the next annual period, because of attendance difficulties for a significant number of Synod members.

*Wilfrid Kendall, Deanery Synod Representative*

## Safeguarding Report

Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life: life in all its fullness .' (John 10) A message for all to flourish- children, the fragile, ALL of us.

In this way, any kind of abuse denies that message.

Increasingly, we trust and hope that we shall be able to promote a healthy and safe Church culture. Recently we have been described as a happy Church working in unity. So, the message that Safeguarding is for us all is loud and clear! We take responsibility, together, for reporting concerns about any Church related issues, our neighbours, our children's friends. The responsibility lies with each one of us enabling us as Communities to take more care of each other.

Turning to the legalities, the P.C.C. has approved Policies on Safeguarding and Guidelines and is in the process of discussing refinement of such. Reviews have been made of Domestic Policy Abuse, Social Media Policy, Mentoring Policy, Risk Assessments. The Dashboard system reminds us of what has been achieved and areas which could need more attention. I am delighted to report that our only single area for focus, regarding that some minimal numbers of Safeguarding Training Candidates were in process, was 'How to PROMOTE a healthy and Safe Church culture' . However, I know that to obtain that very positive result I may have placed some lovely, loving and faithful folks under considerable pressure to complete Training. I am sorry.

Instead of five yearly checks, we now have to renew DBS certification every three years and Safeguarding Training should be refreshed every three years at the latest level obtained. Safeguarding is on the Agenda at every P.C.C. meeting.

DBS certification 2025    8            2025 Training    34

DBS certification 2024    2            2023-2024 Training    117

DBS certification 2023    11

With my grateful thanks for so much support!

*Vicki Johnson, Parish Safeguarding Officer.*

## 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. Every session is led by the Vicar or someone he appoints: the pattern is usually to pray in four distinct areas, for example, world events, the church's mission (including our mission partners), city concerns, and the needs of our community and ourselves. Personally, I find this a very focussed and positive meeting. People can join in praying without having to speak out loud, but it's encouraging to pray together for concerns that affect us.

*Catherine Kendall*

## Eco-Church Group:

The Eco-church group has managed little in practical terms this year apart from continuing with the process of improving recycling and completing the installation of low energy light bulbs in the church. We reconsidered the national Eco-church Survey format which had changed and reported to PCC that little had changed in terms of the main categories in the Survey. We have made suggestions for action to promote general awareness of environmental concerns on a national and local basis, to sign up to the well-established toilet twinning scheme, to consider including an environmental charity in our charity giving pattern and to carry out improvements to the area on the south side of the church.

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

## 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 (e.g. Phil Hollis from Novi Most spoke at Sunday morning services, and also at The Table and Youth Cell).
- Planning one-off mission events. John and Rachel visited for a weekend in October 2024; and Thomas Abraham spoke vividly about TearFund's church-based development work at our Harvest Sunday service.
- Encouraging participation by church members in our mission agencies, both in UK and abroad.
- We have been encouraged to be joined by two new members of the team (Namkha and Dani), and thanked Andrew Selwyn and Paul Doggett for their past contributions as they 'retire' from this team.

*Nick Jackson, on behalf of the Missions and Donations Committee*

## Outreach

**Outreach, discipleship and formation for students and young adults:** Welcome, Warmth, Worship, Walk, Witness, Wealth. The values at the heart of HTC are at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Christ, living life anchored in and transformed by God's love and welcome to us, that we may in turn offer and share his love to others and partner with him in the recreation of this world into his Kingdom. It is a joy and a privilege to see the welcome and warmth of HTC embrace the students and young adults community, to see many explore a life of worship to the Living Lord whilst also growing in love and knowledge of Christ, walking with each other and witnessing to God's faithfulness in their lives. One young adult writes *'I was invited to The Table after a few visits to HTC. The idea of studying Christian values together really spoke to me, especially as someone returning to his faith after years away. I found a warm, welcoming community that made it easier to reconnect with my Christian roots. A message that stayed with me is that Christ is with us even in our darkest hours. Attending The Table helped me build new habits, like practicing lectio divina [at **The Way**], and led me to read the Bible again for the first time in years. It's been a key part of my journey back to God.'*

**The Table: a new worshipping community:** One student said *'This is the highlight of my week, it is my family'*, another one said after coming for a few weeks *'I don't know why, but here I can be real and cry, I usually never cry'*. Another writes *'The Table' is a wonderful community, I love to join every Sunday. We get to meet many people from different nations. We talk to each other and make friends. Also, we get to share*

*meals on the table together. We pray and study Bible verses and discuss among ourselves. This is an insightful way to know about Christian faith and history.'*

How faithful is God! God has blessed us with his presence, his love, students and young adults who come from all around the world and make the Table their family, and a dedicated servant hearted growing leadership team. We welcome with joy each person sent by God and always find it hard when it is time for one of them to return home. We try to follow God's leading but when we have failed or made wrong turns, we have seen his kindness and faithfulness.

- ***A new worshipping community***

The Table has become a weekly new worshipping community (Sundays, 1-3pm) offering to students and young adults a space to befriend and become family, to know the Love and Lordship of Jesus, to become his apprentices (disciples) and in partnership with Him to transform this world into his Kingdom. We do this by sharing a meal together, opening Scripture (John's Gospel - The 7 I am statements of Jesus, then his miracles for instance) encouraging each other in prayer and testimony and have started to think more intentionally about missional opportunities (ex: praying and blessing neighbourhoods for Christmas flyer distributions)

- ***Growing into a movement***

The Table also occasionally meets in homes for special celebrations. We give thanks in particular that in the last year, the Table has grown into a movement. Four homes have opened their doors to welcome and celebrate Christmas and Easter with the growing number of students and young adults, and regularly meet with them outside of a Sunday.

- ***Growing in diversity***

This year has seen a numerical growth (20-38 people every week) as well as a wider diversity of faith backgrounds and ethnicities (most come to a morning service, but not all do as they see The Table as their 'church'). Students and young adults come from at least 12 different countries: India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Myanmar, Mexico, Nigeria, Ghana, Romania, Latvia. It is a privilege to be such a diverse group of people as we point to Christ, the only one who can reconcile us with God, and in such a divided and broken world, to each other.

- ***Outreach and evangelism***

The Table has been for many a first step in their journey of faith, and Alpha their second. Alpha courses have been offered in Spring 2024, as well as the Autumn and now Spring 2025. The Table also regularly partners with Friends International to reach out to a larger group of students. It hosted afternoon teas after two historical guided walks in Coventry and welcomed Coventry CU in partnership with Friends International where over 120 people attended the Christmas carol hosted by HTC.

- ***Growing in leadership***

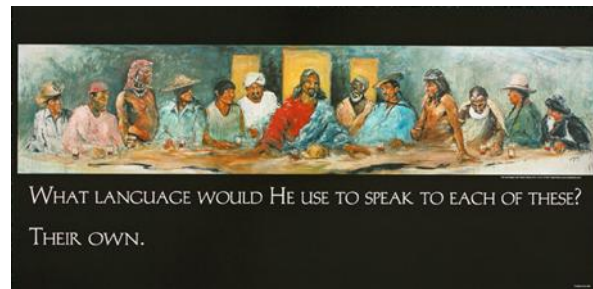
It has been a joy to see students and young adults take more ownership of The Table this year, and we look forward to their growing leadership. Thank you so much to all who come, you offer us your friendship, your help, your faith journey, your enthusiasm and your honesty – The Table is shaped by everything you offer it.

The Table could not welcome as many students and young adults every week were it not for the resourcefulness, grace, warmth, organisation and dedication of loving and servant hearted leaders who all carry The Table and make it happen. Alex, Blessy, Catherine, Dani, Jane, Justin, Pam, Siby, Namka, Wilfrid, provide weekly meals, offer hospitality of heart around food or the Bible study, friendship and encouragement in the faith, and a safe space for people to be and to grow.

- ***The story of the mustard seed...***

Finally, The Table is the story of God's unfolding Kingdom – from a mustard seed. The Table was planted in Sept 2023 on deep and hidden foundations laid in love of God and of his people. Nearly 15 years ago, Nick and Alison Jackson opened their home to a group of Chinese students and discipled them around their dinner table. A few years later, Catherine and Wilfrid Kendall furthered this ministry by opening their own homes for 'Soup and Crumble'. The Table has grown from the mustard seed that was planted by Nick and Alison Jackson and expanded by Soup & Crumble. We praise God that he works through the

passion, heart and experience of his servants and does what we cannot do on our own! The Table now looks into a new season as Siby Moleakunnel will take on the leadership of The Table, watering it into a new future.



The Last Supper with Twelve Tribes, acrylic and oil on canvas, 20ft. x 4 ft. 6in. by Hyatt Moore

**Discipleship through Evangelism - Alpha:** We give thanks to God for how he always pursues us and meets us at the right time. Over the last year, two Alpha courses have been offered in 2024 (Spring and Autumn 2024). Over 12-15 people came in 2024. One found faith in Christ and now worships in his parish church, one was confirmed, and many encountered the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Alpha has been a next step for many who come at The Table, or as a next step after baptism or a preparation for baptism. We give thanks to God for his unfailing love and for the teams that enable Alpha to happen. Andrew, Catherine, Siby and Namkha, Blessy and Justin, as well as the many helpers and the generous hospitality team enabling it to happen every week as they cook and/or set-up and clean: Andleeb, Antony, Abe, Abel, Andrew, Ayden, Blessy, Justin, Gordon, Helen, Namkha, Pradeep, Priscilla, Rebecca, Vino, Siby. Thank you for your service often behind the scenes and the love you share.

**Discipleship through Spiritual Formation - The Way, Emerging New Monastic Community:** One young adult writes '*Being part of the church activities like The Way and Practising the Way [seeds of emerging new monastic community] has been a huge blessing in my life. As a young adult and an international student, it's not always easy to find a place where you truly feel at home, but the church community gave me that. Having something to look forward to during the week, beyond just university or work, made such a difference. I found real fellowship, people I could open up to, and a safe space where I could just be myself. Over time, I've grown so much, not just spiritually but personally too. I'm more confident, more at peace, and having genuine conversations has become so much easier. Especially during tough times like job searching or university challenges, having a group that prayed with me, checked in on me, and just cared made all the difference. It honestly feels like a big warm hug every time I'm there. I'm really grateful for how much I've grown in my faith and as a person through everything the church has offered.*'

In his book *Practicing The Way*, John Mark Comer writes 'If we're not being intentionally formed by Jesus himself, then it's highly likely we are being unintentionally formed by someone or something else. (...) The problem is, in the West, we have created a cultural milieu where you can be a Christian but not an apprentice of Jesus'.

**The Way** started in Spring 2024 is a pioneering learning community for students and young adults already believing in Jesus as The Way who want to invest in their spiritual formation and shape their lives according to his way of life to become Jesus apprentices. Most of them have attended or attend The Table, and/or have come through the Alpha course. The Way is a next step on their discipleship journey. Starting with a meal (shared with those attending Alpha), we gather in one or more groups, share and learn from each other as we hear God's words of comfort or challenge. Last Spring, we looked at the events that lead to the Cross followed by an Alpha Course. In Autumn 2024, we started a journey of encountering the transforming presence of God through the Prayer Course, followed by a term of practicing various types of prayer (journaling, Lektion divina, praying and writing psalms, lamenting,



prayer walking) Students and young adults are keen to attend to grow in their relationship with Jesus, to grow in closeness and Christ-likeness and carry his presence as they live in the world the call to be and make disciples of all nations.

Since the beginning of 2025, The Way has given space every month for a worship evening. Following the pause of Sundays@7 in Summer 2024, God has provided a new space for this season to empower students and young adults to hear from the Lord, to bring their own songs – those from their country, as well as those from their heart – and to grow in their giftings.

As part of The Way, a small group gathered in 2024 in a home to dig deeper into their spiritual formation. Every fortnight they worshiped God in music, met around a Sabbath meal, shared life by celebrating God's faithfulness and being real with the struggles of life. This fostered a community growing in friendship and resemblance with God, intentionally praising him and seeking his Kingdom in the everyday life.

We give thanks for all the seeds that have been sown, for the kindness and guidance of the Holy Spirit and for all those who serve at The Way, leading, cooking or setting up: Andrew, Abel, Ayden, Maggy, Namkha, Siby and all those who cook or help: Andleeb, Abe, Abhisheck, Anthony, Gordon, Priscilla, Pradeep and Helen, Rebecca, Vino. Thank you so much for hosting and feeding many who don't have the time or facility to cook, and for enabling The Way to meet every week.

**Emerging New Monastic Community:** The fortnightly gatherings (worship, food, formation) described above may be some of the seeds of the practices and values of an emerging new monastic community. In September 2024, other seeds were planted with the appointment of a pioneer prayer apprentice in partnership with St Mark's Academy Coventry (providing a day of teaching) to create and live out rhythms of daily prayer. It was very encouraging to pray with Brite and offer these times of prayer as a container of grace to God, however due to employment pressures, the apprenticeship had to stop. We give thanks to God for the opportunity he provided, the seeds sown and the desire of a young graduate to be expectant about God's mission through prayer.

**Sundays@7:** Sundays@7 was launched in 2023 with the hope to see many students and young adults worship or encounter the living God. Over the following 18 months, God has brought a core group of diverse people from morning congregations at HTC and beyond. We give thanks particularly for the team that enabled Sundays@7 to happen through their dedication and support: Anand, Andrew, Catherine, Churchill, Jean, Jim, Pam, Paul, Sam, Sophie, Wilfrid.

However, after a three month discernment period last Summer, it felt like the focus of our outreach (and time and attention) needed to be The Table as a place to invite people of peace to meet with the Living God. Students and young adults also shared how the time of Sundays@7 wasn't best suited to their needs, however together we rejoiced for all that God has done – bringing people with a passion for worship, as well as releasing giftings in people, especially young adults– in leading worship, preaching, prophetic listening, etc.

We therefore unexpectedly paused Sundays@7 and pray the Holy Spirit would hover over the emerging worship nights at The Way to create what only God can create, a new space of worship and encounter of his living presence that many would experience and turn to Him.

*Revd Carolyn 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 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.

We have 2000-3000 visitors per month, (60-90/day on weekdays and 120-160/day at weekends), 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.

Currently about 20 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 is provided.

*Chris Aston and Nick Jackson, Lead Welcomers*

## **Vergers' Report**

Flashed all their sabres bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wondered.  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right through the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reeled from the sabre stroke  
Shattered and sundered.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

Sacrifice /here valiant/through blunder/or trusting in that Great Love declared in JESUS is what I see in those who I work with/who volunteer on PCC/Trinity House Committee/welcome desk.  
Streamers/cleaners/choir/so many serve here. I sit and look and listen. Over the years they pray and call on JESUS to change hurting souls fresh through the door/or here 50 years/ this building is a holy place /no greater love JOHN 15 V13.

*Colin Millard, Verger*

## **Youth and Children's Report**

In July 2024 we bid a fond, but sad, farewell to Jack and Megan Bishop, and their son Caleb, as they moved on to pastures new after 5 years faithfully serving at Holy Trinity as the Youth and Families' Co-ordinators', growing and guiding the Youth and Children's ministry.

Until a new Lead Youth and Children's Minister was recruited a team of volunteers stepped up to keep the ministry going and we are enormously grateful for their faithful service in this important ministry. Below are reports from each team about the particular group they looked after.

We are delighted that Oworibo Thomas has been appointed as our new Lead Youth and Children's Minister and we look forward to him starting his ministry with us in May/June 2025. He joined Holy Trinity in 2024 whilst completing his Master's degree and so is already a member of our community.

*Keri Husband, Children's Volunteer*

**9:30am Children's Group:** 2024/2025 has seen a big change for the 9.30am service kids' group, with Megan and Jack having left last summer. They have been greatly missed but we've had continued support from Keri, who has taken on a lot of the administrative and safeguarding roles as well as, with Julie, leading sessions; ably assisted by Alison, Rebecca and Ed.

The children range in age from reception class to year 6, with children now in secondary school coming along to help out. We average about 6-8 children each week and do a range of activities/games/bible study whilst getting to know each other better and exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We pray that this time together helps the children grow in their relationship with and love for Jesus.

We're looking forward to working alongside Thomas and, of course, also need more involvement from others in the congregation who may have wisdom and skills they can impart.

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." 2 Timothy 4v12*

*Julie Wilcockson, Children's Volunteer*

**11:15am Children's Group:** At the 11.15am service, we regularly have 18 children aged 4-13 joining the groups in the choir vestries, with some weeks having 30 in the groups. We are blessed with a large number of children attending, although this does present challenges with available space and number of volunteers at times. Since January 2025, the children have stayed in the service for the All Age service on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Each term we have taken a different focus, including Jesus's "I am" statements, Old Testament characters, and the Sermon on the Mount. Our sessions end up being rather lively, challenging and often full of tough questions from the children!

After Megan and Jack's departure, Andrew and Karen have been leading the sessions, with a dedicated few helpers supporting them each week. We have had 2 new volunteers join us during the year, which makes 5 helpers on our rota.

We have continued to run two groups, as the children have really benefitted from teaching and activities that are more carefully targeted to their age groups. However, we have needed to adjust the age ranges to balance the group sizes and still be able to run the groups with a limited number of leaders and volunteers available.

The Nativity service in December featured "A Baaarmy Nativity", starring 3 of the teenagers as the Party Sheep (Mischievous, Pickle and Woolly) and around 35 children and young people from all congregations in other roles.

Point for prayer: We would love to have another leader and helpers.

A thanksgiving point: for Thomas' appointment and prayers for Thomas as he prepares to start the Y&C role this term

*Karen Shipley, Children's Volunteer*

**Youth Cell:** Since last year's annual report, Megan and Jack have moved on from Holy Trinity, leaving Youth Cell in the hands of leaders Jim, Kathryn, Jackie and Rob, with support from Sophie. Initially the expectation was that a new Lead Youth and Children's Minister would be in place by Christmas, and the interim team would 'hold the fort' until then.

As the period of vacancy lengthened, there was a need to reduce the frequency of Youth Cell gatherings from weekly to fortnightly, owing to limited capacity in the interim team.

Youth Cell continued, with a committed core of five or six regular members, though it was felt that the two-hour slot (to fit between Evensong and Sunday @ 7) was too long at the end of an already full day for the young people. We moved the group's usual gathering place from the Youth Room to different parts of the building, to allow space for more energetic games before settling down to discussion and engagement about Christian faith and life. This helped with the balance of the evenings. We have also shared a few meals, at a Youth Cell Plus, with time for a longer focus on key topics. For Bible content, we

have explored the Communion, and more recently a series of "What did Jesus actually say about..." with a different end to the sentence every session.

When Sunday@7 transformed into a Tuesday service, it was possible for Youth Cell to shift to a more appropriate 90 minute session from 6.00 to 7.30.

During the autumn, we were very sad to see three of the regular members leave, when their family moved away. This left us with a core group of two or three young people. A little later in the autumn, we were delighted to welcome three new members.

Our young people live busy lives. Sometimes, owing to the other commitments that affect Sunday evenings, we have had only one or two come to Youth Cell. Even so, every session is well worth the effort, and it is a joy and a privilege to share our faith with some of the young people of Holy Trinity. Looking forwards, we are excited at the appointment of Thomas; we have enjoyed working with him since he joined the team in a volunteer capacity. We look forward to supporting him and working with him as he explores the way forward for serving our young people.

*Rob Harrison, Youth Volunteer*

## **Growth Groups**

In HTC small groups that meet during the week are called Growth Groups. We have 3 Bible Study groups and 3 Activity based groups as our main Growth Groups plus some other groups which act like small groups but aren't quite Growth Groups. There will almost be something suitable for you! Our recent Growth Group Try-Out saw a number of new people join our groups but we would love to see more people come along to our groups. Even better if we have too many people and need to find more leaders! If you want to get involved with a group then contact Anita Draper or Paul Doggett or use the form on the website.

*Paul Doggett, Growth Group Co-Ordinator*

## **Music**

This year has been a very busy one in the musical life of Holy Trinity. Soon after last year's APCM the choir joined forces with Coventry Cathedral Choir for an Ascension Day combined service; amongst the music sung was *Viri Galilaei* by Patrick Gowers, an extraordinarily evocative anthem for double choir and organ duet. The choir again joined forces with the Cathedral Choir for our Ash Wednesday service in 2025.

On 23 June the choir were involved in another Choral Evensong as part of the Aural Histories project. The congregation experienced music of the medieval and renaissance periods, with the church resonating to the sound of early instruments played by some of the world's leading performers in this style, and the professional voices of *The Binchois Consort*. A final concert of the project is planned for Friday 12 September 2025, which will showcase a wide range of instrumental and vocal music dating from 1451 – 1642 and connected to Coventry; this will be an event not to be missed, especially if you've not had the chance to attend one of the previous services! Aspects of the project are being presented at the 21st *Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music*, to be held at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in July. The final research findings, book and recordings will all be made available online. At the end of August, the choir enjoyed a visit to sing for three days at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. This residential was particularly inspiring for the choristers in the choir, as for most it was the first cathedral visit that they had attended, and singing to a large congregation in the heart of Oxford each evening was very special. We were grateful that a number of our congregation, as well as friends and family from elsewhere, were able to come and support us. This summer (29th – 31st July) we are singing at Worcester Cathedral; please come along to a service if you are able to.

Choristers continue to progress through the RSCM Voice for Life Scheme. In the Autumn Term we were delighted to receive a grant from The Ouseley Church Music Trust, enabling us to appoint a soprano

choral scholar, Anna Nightingale, for the academic year 2024 – 2025. In addition to the support she gives in singing each week on Soprano 2, Anna has also enriched our worship with two new compositions! – her setting of *O Magnum Mysterium* received its first ever performance at Nine Lessons and Carols in December 2024 and her *Dum transisset Sabbatum* (another world premiere) was sung during Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Both the 9.30 band and choir were delighted to lead the music at Revd Canon Richard's re-licensing service in September 2024, and the choir have also contributed to several civic services during the course of the year: the Freeman's Guild Service, The West Midlands Lieutenancy Carol Service, The Lord Mayor's Service and the Armed Forces Service. During the Christmas period we also hosted a number of external carol services at which I played the organ: Coventry University Christian Union, the Mother's Union and the Family Courts. I also played the organ for Coventry Blue Coat School's Commemoration Service, which has returned to Holy Trinity after being paused over the pandemic, and recently a service for the visit of the Mother's Union Worldwide President. In July 2024 we hosted an extraordinary and moving reunion of former choristers from Coventry Blue Coat School (forming a choir of around 100), who gave a recital and sang for our 10.30am and 5pm services. It is wonderful to see Holy Trinity playing such an important role in the life of our city.

After a challenging few months with fewer musicians available than was ideal, the 9.30am music team has been blessed with some new singers - Minu and Esther - alongside last year's new recruits to the team. We now have a large number of musicians involved in leading worship at the 9.30, 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. The band continues to benefit from our subscription to CCLI SongSelect, which gives us access to a very wide range of good quality downloadable music editions in multiple formats (lead, guitar chords etc.) for both contemporary and traditional songs and hymns, and in whatever key we need. The choir also regularly uses this resource for the 11.15am and 10.30am services. I would particularly like to acknowledge those at the 9.30 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. The piano playing at the Wednesday service, allowing for the inclusion of hymns, is also much appreciated. Some further thank yous: to Chris Howard, for managing our successful series of Lunchtime Recitals and Pipe Organ Appeal, to Karen Shipley, our volunteer Choir Assistant for training our youngest choir children every Tuesday evening during term-time, to Matthew Davies, who this academic year stepped down as Chair of the Choir Guild, having served in the role since 2013 (we are grateful that he is now serving as Secretary, with Karen Shipley as Chair) 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 of service to enrich our worship through the gift of music. Please continue to pray for all musicians who serve at Holy Trinity.

*Alex Norman, Director of Music*

## Services

### 9:30am

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."*

The New Thing of God described in Isaiah has been a guiding principle this year at 9:30am services. So many changes already take place every day, with new people wonderfully joining us, alongside unfortunate loss as some dear friends have passed away or moved to live elsewhere. We continue to hope, through it all, in God's New Thing, the streams rolling onwards through the parched wilderness. This year new volunteers have joined our tech team and music group, among other roles, which has been very pleasing. It can be daunting to stand up in faith, whether at the front of church, or in front of all the

buttons and wires and potential of tech equipment. We love to find new ways for people to be involved, to bring something of their time and skill to this act of worship.

One exciting part of this year was the 9:30 Forums. It felt important to pause and examine what that hour on a Sunday is for, to look to the future of what it could be, and to make sure everyone could share their opinion. After three sessions and lots of conversations, we arrived at a set of four “pillars”, shared below. These themes are meant to help us focus what we want to be doing, what we want to build on, at the 9:30am service:

- “Equipping”, helping people to bring out the gifts of God within them.
- “Flexibility” in our worship, creativity, and expression – not needlessly and for its own sake, but making the most of all that our worship can bring, paired always with trust in one another.
- “Home” – so much of Christian community is focused on the welcome to a stranger, our love for one another. From a person entering this church on a Sunday morning, how soon do they feel that they are at home?

Eagle-eyed readers may notice there are only three pillars listed here. The fourth, the most important, is the grounding of the Holy Spirit. Let Paul plant what he wants, let Apollo water as he likes, but the Holy Spirit brings life and growth. At the last Forum, Richard wisely suggested that we spend every day (at least till Easter) praying to God about the 9:30 and the next few years. So maybe, next year, this annual report will be all about that New Thing unfolding!

*Jim Kendall, Congregational Pastor*

## **11:15am**

We extend a warm welcome to all and pray that you find the worship accessible and inspiring; that you are lifted up by the spoken Words of Scripture, the sung Praise to God and the act of Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

We record our thanks to Canon Revd. Richard Hibbert, Revd. Carolyne Powell, Readers, Churchwardens, the Director of Music and Vergers.

A team of 50+ people support the Worship, by committing to volunteer for tasks behind the scenes. Just as our congregation is wonderfully diverse, we are delighted recently to see representatives of more ethnic groups working together.

May our faith and witness grow, as do our numbers, which often comprise 150 adults and over 30 children. We pray for our new Lead Youth and Children’s Minister as he leads the Christian nurture of the under 16s.

We want to continue to build our relationships over refreshments, opportunities to attend The Table, The Way, Alpha and Growth Groups. With the expected formation of a new pastoral team may we all be encouraged to be ‘pastoral’ towards each other.

*Jean Howard, Congregational Pastor*

## **Evensong**

This year has seen modest continued growth at Evensong, which in its term-time chorally led format is attracting a notably younger and more ethnically diverse demographic. The renewed appeal of timeless liturgy and music fits with wider reports of a pattern of post-pandemic UK church growth.

There are usually 30-40 active adult participants and up to 10 children. Several times this year we have seen much higher numbers, and on one Sunday the highest Evensong attendance for three decades.

Every week a number of additional visitors come into church during Evensong and engage to varying extents with the service, with some staying throughout.

Regular attendees value the structure and reflective space that the service offers. For some it is their main service; others also regularly attend services that are quite different in style.

Evensong is well supported by Zsafia Hacsek's organisation of the rota of readers and preachers, by the team of welcomers who keep the church open on Sunday afternoons and encourage visitors in, and more visible clergy support over the last three years. Along with the much-valued restoration of the short homily on the readings, this has supported the growth of the service. May Evensong continue to grow and witness to our city, to draw people into church, and to sustain those who especially value its reflective nature.

*Matthew Davies*

## Wednesday Communion

This service was started as we began to recover from the pandemic: it is currently the only mid-week service. The order is usually Holy Communion according to Common Worship, save that on the last Wednesday of the month it follows Prayer during the Day, using the readings for Morning Prayer. There is normally music from either piano or organ, and two hymns/songs are sung. Refreshments are served afterwards. We generally keep feasts that fall on the day, and greater feasts from a day either side: it is good to be reminded of these features of the Church's year which do not happen to fall on a Sunday. Volunteers from the congregation read the lessons, administer the chalice and run the refreshments. The congregation typically numbers 20 – 25, mostly regulars, with a variable number of visitors. Some of the regulars find it difficult to get into town on a Sunday or generally attend another church then. The visitors who attend are generally glad to have found a church service on their travels.

*John Roy*

## Livestreaming and Social Media

*The report is for the period 1st May 2024 to 02nd May 2025.*

### Livestreaming

***Give thanks for the following:***

1. The HTC YouTube channel, which continues to grow in popularity and serve as a blessing to those seeking the love and grace of our Lord Jesus.
2. A sustained increase in subscribers and viewership, reflecting the impact and reach of our content.
3. The **addition of 181 new subscribers**, bringing our total subscriber count to 595.
4. A remarkable total of **41,651 views this year** (compared to 32,697 the previous year) across our live streams, videos, and Shorts, engaging **audiences in 38 countries** (up from 23 last year).
5. The dedication of our live streaming team, with **special appreciation for Febin's contributions to YouTube Shorts**.
6. The invaluable support and encouragement from Richard, Alex, PCC, wardens and all our viewers.
7. The continued **commitment of new volunteers** eager to serve in this media ministry.

### ***Prayer requests:***

1. The swift resolution of our Church's internet challenges.
2. The successful implementation of planned upgrades to our live streaming hardware and software, enabling us to harness the latest technology and enhance the user experience.
3. The seamless functioning of all live streaming equipment, and the Lord's continued blessings upon our subscribers and viewers.
4. God's favour upon the live stream team and their families, and that more individuals may be inspired to join and contribute to this ministry.
5. Divine wisdom for all involved in shaping the future of our live streaming efforts, ensuring that we follow God's will as we continue spreading the Gospel worldwide.

### ***Future Plans:***

1. Upgrading our live stream software to enable lyrics/subtitles and integrated video features.
2. Enhancing our live stream hardware and software to ensure seamless compatibility with the planned new TV screens.

## **HTC Website**

### ***Give thanks for the following:***

1. The HTC website, powered by HubbChurch, **continues to serve as a valuable resource and a source of blessing, providing essential information about our Church.**
2. **Over 400,000 views across various pages on the HTC website,** reaching visitors from **more than 25 countries.**
3. **A total of 139 enquiries submitted via the website's designated forms,** including 'Church Office,' 'Trinity House,' 'Weddings,' 'Baptisms,' 'Funerals,' 'Children & Youth,' 'Students & Young Adults,' 'Music,' 'Growth Groups,' and 'Be Part of Holy Trinity.'

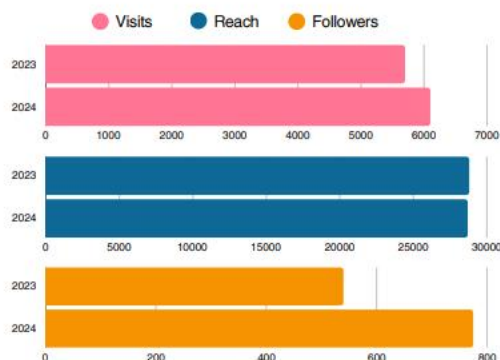
### ***Prayer Requests:***

1. That **every visitor to the website may be blessed** and guided to find the information they seek, and that our Lord Jesus may continue to use the platform to serve those in need.
2. For the continued wisdom to be provided for all those who work with the website. **The accuracy and timeliness of updates to the website,** ensuring the dissemination of relevant information and the successful implementation of future plans.

### ***Future plans:***

1. Implementing login access for members on the Electoral Roll.
2. Utilising website features for Church email communications and the effective management of various rosters.





In our second year of Holy Trinity Coventry online, Our content has stayed consistent with resonating with a large audience, achieving an impressive reach of **28,700 people**. Our community of followers has continued to grow, now reaching **775**, forming a connected and engaged online congregation, with **6,100** visits and **2,856** interactions on Google. Notably, these interactions have translated into further actions, with **1,563** clicks leading to our website and **1,217** individuals seeking directions. These interactions have all increased from 2023, suggesting a positive correlation between our online content and reaching people online. These statistics reflect the vibrant and expanding digital footprint of Holy Trinity Church Coventry.

## Top Performing Posts Why did they excel? Evaluating trends in performance

In 2024, our top-performing social media posts focused on key events, community engagement, and personal storytelling. Posts celebrating Easter services, welcoming new members, and sharing behind-the-scenes moments consistently achieved the highest reach and engagement.

Short videos, personal photos, and clear, hopeful messages proved the most effective formats. Posts with a clear call to action (e.g., "Join us this Sunday!") also drove strong interaction.

For 2025, we recommend continuing to prioritise community-focused content, using authentic imagery, and maintaining a consistent posting rhythm.



Prepared by  
**Sophie Griffiths**

## Report from Parish Manager and Trinity House Coordinator

It is quite interesting juggling two largely different but somewhat similar roles and trying to make "things" not only work, but to make them work properly. As heritage sites, Holy Trinity and Trinity House, require a lot of "extras" to keep them operational. This makes the office a constant beehive of distinctive activities.

In the period under review, the Church hosted a good number of concerts and services from within the Diocese and externally. It is worthy to mention that we welcomed a few new external bookings which are likely to become more regular in 2025 and beyond.

Imparting information via our weekly newsletters to an ever-increasing subscriber base is one primary function of the office and we have made positive changes to its appearance, to enhance the recipient's reading experience. We have also continued to reach our parish using the external notice boards and A6 fliers to notify residents and visitors of significant events. We would like to attribute the noticeably sharp increase in attendance at our Christmas and Easter Services to these. We also ensure that the content and quality of the Website are up to standard.

Similarly, Trinity House recorded a notable increase in external bookings within the period, especially regular ones. We are currently working on an upgrade of the building.

Various maintenance activities are carried out each day. Orders of Services are created and the general setting up of the premises as necessary for each event is done to make sure that the overall experience

of all users (congregation, hirers, visitors and staff) is enjoyable by creating a safe, efficient, and productive environment.

The importance of volunteers can neither be underestimated nor adequately quantified. The Buildings team, Wardens, Welcomers, Tech team, cleaners, flower ladies and other helpers who offer their time, substance and energy all form part of these “extras” keeping both buildings functional. It is almost impossible to write this report without acknowledging the contributions of certain volunteers. However, this is not meant to diminish the help rendered by others. Bill Johnson, Chris Hall and Emmanuel Vasanthakumar constantly go the extra mile to make things happen.

Managing the two positions requires a lot of multi-tasking and prioritisation as different issues which require urgent attention may arise at once. It is a joy working with Colin and Vito who have helped to make it easier.

*Tayo Akinsemoyin*

## **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 2 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. 2 years ago the trust was making a ‘loss’ of around £10K per year. Work undertaken by the Steering Group and in particular Tayo, our Co-ordinator, are beginning to show fruit. All this has meant that in the last financial year finances are now stable with bookings continuing to steadily increase.

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 is monitored closely through KPIs by the steering group. Tayo was appointed to the paid co-ordinator role 10 hours per week (to take over from Thilini who moved onto pastures new and a new full-time job), has made real impact. Working with the Steering Group Tayo has:

- Continued to deliver the building refresh and maintenance plan. These include de cluttering, deep cleaning and simplifying practical matters such as key holders, building entry, insurance and building use.
- Reported on established KPIs to track performance around bookings and finances
- Driven up bookings, in particular longer term bookings.
- Put plans in place for re decoration
- Started to undertake a deep clean of the kitchen
- Resolved some longstanding issues with the building including a major wall repair

KPIs show that bookings remain on an upward trajectory. 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 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 enabling regular pragmatic conversations and 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 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the building.

Members of the church can support Trinity House by:

- Supporting events as a volunteer
- Booking Trinity House for events and telling friends and family that it is available.

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*