



ANNUAL ST PAUL'S CHURCH REPORT — TWENTY FOURTEEN —



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Rev Jonathan Jee

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR



As always, there is so much to thank God for in the life of our church family. The pages that follow give a flavour of what goes on at St. Paul's, and we want to celebrate all that's been good and exciting in the last year. I'm so grateful to everyone for their hard work, faithfulness and prayer.

What thrills me even more than all the ministry described here is the quality of relationship among us (both with each other, and with the Lord) which grows deeper year after year.

2014 was our 140th anniversary year, and we marked the occasion with a good party. We were planted as a daughter church from St. Mary's, with the same purpose that we have today: to bring "Glory to Christ, Growth to his Church, and Good News to the Community".

While that overall purpose has not changed, the vision has grown. In 1873 the vision was for "the people who live in this part of St Mary's parish". Our vision over the last few years has been for the whole town: "to see Leamington changed, one life at a time".

Let's pray that God continues to grow our church at St. Paul's, both in depth and numbers, and uses us to grow his kingdom in this town more and more with every year that goes by. And may the ripples spread far and wide.

With love and prayer,

Jonathan

We have four services every week, each of which has a different feel to it. While they have different styles and emphases, some things are constant across them all: a real desire to meet with God and to be open to his work in our lives by his Holy Spirit, a serious listening to his Word as we hear preaching from the bible and seek to apply it to our daily lives, and decent time to build up our relationships with each other after each service (we get through a lot of good coffee!). The sermons are available on the website, and we encourage people who have missed them to listen in.

Sundays at 8.30am

This is always a quiet service of Holy Communion, with an average attendance of 10-15. It is held in the chancel of the church.



Wednesdays at 11am The Midweek Service

This congregation has mostly retired people in it, but with a few younger adults too. There are usually 40-50 each week.

Sundays at 10.30am

This is our largest congregation, with 200-250 adults and around 100 children & teenagers every week. It is a congregation of all ages, with people from every decade represented well. Amazingly, there are people from over 20 nationalities represented in the congregation!

Sundays at 6.30pm

This congregation is mostly made up of young adults in their 20s and 30s, with a fair few older ones too. In the holidays there are typically 70-80 in the congregation, but in university term-time we are joined by around 50 students, mostly from Warwick University. The sermon is usually the same as at the 10.30am service.

Highlights from the services

Baptisms are always a highlight – both babies and adults are baptised by immersion whenever possible, a wonderful symbol of being immersed in God's love, united with Jesus in his death & resurrection, and washed clean of all our sin. Hearing how God has met with each individual is always encouraging, and occasionally dramatic – none more so than Greg Bramble's testimony at his baptism of his encounter with God as a soldier in Afghanistan (recorded on the website sermon page, 6 July)

Having over 20 different preachers over the summer, mostly from within the church family

Seeing Esther Peers (10.30am), Elly Crofton (6.30pm) and Ruth Smith (Midweek) step up and grow as service leaders while we had fewer clergy available

Having past vicars Norman Warren and Andrew Dow come back in our 140th anniversary week

Sunday Sermon series on Handling Money Wisely, Images of Salvation, and Strength in Weakness (from 2 Corinthians)

Midweek sermon Series on the Sermon on the Mount, Philippians, and the Creed

John Haynes' sermon on "Finishing Well" at the Midweek Service

An impromptu interview between Jonathan Jee & Simon Willetts on "Storm-tossed & comforted" when the scheduled preacher couldn't be there (29 June, listen via the website)

Around 500 at the 10.30am service on Easter Day, worshipping the risen Lord

All our Christmas Services – each one a highlight in its own right.



In 2014, eight children were baptised, two adults were baptised by full immersion and three adults renewed their baptismal vows, also by immersion.



WORSHIP



2014 has been an exciting year for the worship team of around 40 musicians. Our vision is to help people encounter God and respond to that encounter in meaningful and transformational ways. Sunday worship times have continued to play a huge part in allowing space for such encounters, with an ever-growing repertoire and a willingness to explore new and exciting ways to release deep and truthful worship at St. Paul's.

In March, Martin Haywood ran a workshop for bass players to develop musical confidence, which was much appreciated. The worship team has also continued to serve the wider community of Leamington Spa through its involvement in a number of Easter events such as the Raising of the Cross service.

The worship at the annual Praise in the Park celebration was once again led by St. Paul's musicians.

We are so grateful to our worship leaders for their commitment and dedication to this ministry: Ruth Smith, Timmy Jee, Ross Caws, Helen Chapman, Gethin Jones, Jonty and Rachel King, Mark Lloyd, Ellie Stamp, and Jeremy Clack. A special mention must go to Simon Willetts for his leadership of the worship team over the last few years. The contribution he made during his curacy was hugely significant and we look ahead with excitement as Gethin Jones steps up to lead the team.

"I enjoy being part of the worship team because it gives me a chance to play with others and to use my skills to worship God. It is also a great way to meet different people from across the church who perhaps I might not get to meet otherwise." Andy Castle

PRAYER MINISTRY

God is good and has continued to give the prayer ministry team words, pictures and scripture that have resonated with individuals who have come forward for prayer. It has been a great joy to see many people encouraged and equipped as they meet with God. There have also been physical and emotional healings during the prayer sessions after both the 10.30 and 6.30pm services. The team also encourage making appointments at the Well Healing Centre if more time and attention is required for any reason. We are very blessed to be able to do this and many of our team members are also active in the Well.

In the Autumn term Milli (Helen Milliken) took on the leadership of the team and has focussed on seeking a realistic picture of where we are, and what God might be asking of us in 2015.

"Worship (in song) is, for me, the place of uncomplicated intimacy with God. As a church I think we are on a journey towards greater 'Spirit-fuelled' freedom of worship, and it's exciting!"
Charlie Crow

"For me Sunday evening worship encompasses a mixture of vibrant praise and silent adoration. Committed musicians, prayers and preachers weave people of all ages together into a tapestry of worship. It lifts my eyes above the work of the week and fills me with peace in the midst of daily challenge."
Pam Daniel

Technical



Last year the technical team staffed around 150 services and 20 special events, including First Priority, weddings, Passover, Create for Christmas, etc. The growing congregation and thriving ministries mean an increasing number of special events need sound & visuals support so it's great to be able to acknowledge our team who have managed to staff them all! We're also increasingly being called upon to support other churches and organisations with our technical resources, a real testimony to our team.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Tom and Ruth Hartley who had diligently served on team, as well as Ruth having run the Visuals team for the previous 18 months. As we say goodbye to old members, we are delighted to welcome the new: Caroline Castle, Daniel Rogers, Jake Hollebon and Zak Dunstone. We are now privileged to have a team of 10 sound and 9 visuals techs and are hugely grateful for their dedication and service. We are very grateful to Dave Gorton who leads the team so well.

Newcomers



As our church has grown larger, it gets harder to spot new faces and our Newcomers team do a great job in identifying new people and helping them to feel welcome and at home. With the range of ministries and activities we have in our church, it can be confusing for newcomers to find out what they need to know and the team can help with this - finding information and introducing them to appropriate people. This is a vital ministry and we are very grateful to Julie Jackson who co-ordinates the team.

"We continue to be blessed with newcomers on a weekly basis. The newcomers team is delighted that we almost always encounter a new face whenever we're on the rota - and frequently when we're not!"

Julie Jackson

CHILDREN

COSMIC - Children On Sunday Meeting In Church



Little Stars

0 - 2.5 yrs

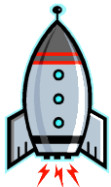
Co-ordinated by Beth Penney there are about 20 children in Little Stars who enjoy playing, with care and prayer provided by the team.



Shooting Stars

2.5 – 4 yrs

This year we created a new session structure which seems to work well. This includes a craft, biscuit time (very important), shared story, playtime and worship. About 20 children take part in the sessions.



Rockets

5 – 7 yrs

Co-ordinated by Katrina Bush, Rockets have about 25 children in their group. They usually explore a bible story together and respond with craft, games, prayer and worship.



Space Rangers

7 – 11 yrs

Between 30 and 40 children every week join in these fun sessions in the hall. It is a delight to see our older children connect together and meet with God.



Hester writes,

"I started my year in January visiting all the groups and spent time talking to many leaders and parents. I was overjoyed to hear and experience how happy our children and families are in church. I have often been told by parents that their children look forward to their COSMIC group; feel comfortable and safe in them; and that they grow in their knowledge of the Lord through them. It is such a joy to hear this. In March this was confirmed when I spent time with a group of ten children, listening to their views on COSMIC. There were lots of positive experiences shared and ideas for the future. The children expressed a desire to go deeper in prayer and encounter God more. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that COSMIC does and understand what their dreams for it were."

Just before the summer our Space Rangers children explored how God might work through them, wherever they spend their time. We drew a picture of ourselves in the middle of an A3 sheet of paper and started mapping out where we go and what we do on a regular basis. From there we reflected on the people we meet in those places and chose one person we particularly wanted to pray for. We wrote that person's name on a tag and attached it to a fisherman's net, reminding us that God calls us all to be fishers of people. Afterwards we prayed for one another and for the person we identified. There was a real sense in the Space Rangers group that God had a purpose for us and that we can join in the adventure of sharing his good news with others.



In Shooting Stars we have a favourite story which reminds us that God knows all about us “from the tips of our toes, to the wiggle in our nose.” Shooting Stars are now starting to be able to repeat the lines in this book verbatim and can do the actions without any prompting! Our leaders may be out of a job soon!

Around 50 people volunteer altogether on our COSMIC rotas and each person is such a valuable member of the team. We met as a leadership team in April and spent time reflecting on the bible story of Samuel who was used mightily by God, even at a young age.



Easter Crafts

We had an exceptionally large number of children attend, about 120 in total accompanied by adults. The morning was a great success and the children enjoyed Easter themed crafts, a party tea and a short talk on the meaning of Easter. We had a fantastic team and one mother said she was 'amazed' that the event was so good and was free! There was great fun and a real sense of celebration.



Light & Bright Party

130 children and parents plus a large team had a wonderful time at the Light & Bright Party. The nave was cleared for a 17ft bouncy castle, as the central body of the church was taken over to become a treasure hunt and games area. Meanwhile in the lounge, sweet kebabs were created and the hall was used for circus skills and games. The two side rooms were craft centred and there was a real feeling of space and flow through the building, even with such large numbers. The evening concluded with a short talk on Jesus as the Light of the world, followed by a party tea.



St Paul's School

The relationship between St Paul's and the school has gone from strength to strength over the past year. The school is 'Church Aided' which means that we (together with the Diocese) appoint most of the governors. We are grateful to Richard Duxbury, Gail Linnett and Becky Brackley who stepped down as governors during 2014, to Jonathan Jee, Naomi Chard, Charlie Crow & Nick Ireland who have continued & to Hester Meacock & Joy Caws who joined the governors in the Autumn. As usual the children joined us in church to celebrate Easter, Harvest, Christmas and a Leavers' Service. These events have been very enjoyable and parents and carers often join us for these significant times. Weekly assemblies are led by Hester, Kate and Dick Stratton and singing practice is led by Naomi Chard and Ruth Smith.



Hester started the year by visiting the Senior Leadership Team at school and discussing at length their distinctive Christian ethos. She has worked closely with the school RE coordinator.

As part of this, in the Autumn Kate Wallis and Hester led a weekly small group for Year 6 children who had a special talent or interest in RE, and enjoyed exploring some of their Big Questions. Concepts discussed were 'What is religion and why are people religious?' 'Has science disproved religion?' And 'Can the bible be believed?'

We have also worked with the school to hold a Bible Week. Kate and Hester had great fun going into school each day and running class workshops exploring different Bible stories. Years 5 and 6 studied the life and journeys of St Paul, during which they visited church and looked at stained glass windows depicting key elements from his story. We also set up an obstacle course throughout the building and discussed life journeys and the challenges we all face. Throughout the week the normal curriculum was all taught through biblical concepts or themes. For example, in Design Technology, a class constructed their own Noah's arks. The week culminated in all the children and staff dressing up as Bible characters!

Under 5's Ministry



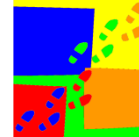
It has been a year of transition for our toddler outreach in 2014. Tiddlies Praise runs on Tuesday mornings replacing Tiddlywinks, our toddler group which ran for many years on a Monday and Tuesday. Finishing Tiddlywinks in October and starting Tiddlies Praise in November was a tricky process of change, which had involved a lengthy consultation and time of prayer as we sought to understand what the Lord was calling us to in our Under 5s ministry, so we are delighted that Tiddlies Praise is well attended and enjoyed by many families. Being able to use the church, lounge and reception area enables a good flow for the activities and makes use of the fantastic acoustics within the nave. The vision of Tiddlies Praise is an increased Christian distinctiveness. We play worship songs as background music, tell bible stories and teach children's worship songs such as 'Our God is a Great Big God' We hope that through these seeds, alongside the love and serving that parents receive, fruit will be grown for God's Kingdom.

"Tiddlies Praise is amazing, I was dismayed when Tiddlywinks came to an end, but Tiddlies Praise is so much better, using the main church building has made the toddler group much more relaxing."



Stepping Stones aims to provide friendship and support for mums, and to share God's love with them. It is now

STEPPING STONES being led by Amy Chidley and Holly Whitmill. Each week we do a different activity such as felting, knitting, deco-patch and bulb planting. The crèche run by Pauline Castle, Pam Daniel and Fran Shaw is an integral part of Stepping Stones where they also have Christian-themed activities. Numbers have been smaller this year, which allowed for greater openness and faith-based discussions. One mum, has now attended the Alpha course and another told us that Stepping Stones was what she would miss most about leaving Leamington.



Footprints Our coffee morning for mothers and their pre-school children continues to meet at Southorn Court, Lillington, every Wednesday in term time. We are so grateful to God for the families who attend regularly and for the opportunity to get to know them. The Footprints mums really enjoy the treat of delicious home-made cakes, provided by volunteers from St Paul's and appreciate being able to ask for prayer. Kate Edwards, Lizzie Knight and Sarah Crooks, who have developed strong relationships with the women, pray with them, encourage, listen and connect with them.

"Coming to Footprints is my oasis in the week, I don't know what I'd do without you."

Youth

The Youth Ministry at St Paul's has been full of fun, joy and growth this year. Here are a few highlights...



Friday Club Yr 7-9

This youth group continues to blossom. This year we have seen many new faces due to an increased number of young people moving up from the Children's Ministry, and young people also inviting friends along. Over the last year we looked at topics ranging from Judges to the Psalms and novelty items at Christmas. Each week there is a theme to the evening with games, craft and a short talk and prayer alongside. The Tuck Shop and Quenchball (now known as Sproutball), continue to be a hit! Team: Kate Wallis, Pete Wallis, Stan Harris, Mark Chesters, Tom Stone, Anna Smith, Bec Rolls & Roger Penney. 15 – 23 attend each week.

Engage Yr 7-9

We welcomed three new volunteers to this team over 2014, and they have been a real blessing. Each Sunday morning we focus on a different topic and encourage the young people to discuss, pray and apply that topic to their lives. Again, the numbers present in this group have grown over the year, mostly as a result of the great Children's Ministry that the young people have grown out of. Team: Kate Wallis, Robin Killick, Bec Rolls, Ellen Axcell, Jon Randall, Clare Randall & Emily Haywood. 15-23 attend each week.

The Hub Yr 10-13

In the summer we said goodbye to a third of the youth group as they headed off to uni and other further education or Gap Years. It was a joy to witness how each of them had grown over the years that they have been involved in St Paul's Youth Ministry. The Hub continues without them however, and we have focused this year on various subjects such as relationships and different ways to engage with the Bible. The young people themselves have led some sessions too. We continue to have an excellent in-house band who often lead us in times of sung worship. Many of the young people in this group are also involved in volunteering in the church through leading in children's or younger youth groups, worship and welcome. We also took part in a Helping Hands project and really enjoyed painting in a house for a family.

Team: Kate Wallis, Andy Castle, Sophia Wallis & Neil Collings.

15 attend each week.



Summer Activities

We ended the summer term by having a social with all of the youth groups racing Dragon Boats in Warwick. It was a really great time to have fun together (and Kate's team won so she was super happy!!).

For the third year, we took a group to Soul Survivor. This year we took eleven young people and three team. We had a great time together, worshipping, eating, reading the Bible, eating, attending seminars, eating, listening to really relevant talks and eating great food!

Many of our young people also attended New Wine with their families and several of these young people also served on the New Wine Team in the children's groups. It's a real joy to see them putting their faith into action.

A number of our young people also attend Christian holidays over the summer, such as Christians in Sport, Ventures and Scripture Union Camps. These holidays provide a great way for young people to have fun away from home, meet new people and have a week focused on God.

Quench was also open for 2 days at the end of the summer holiday with summer crafts, games and food for the young people to enjoy. It was really great to see some young people that we had lost touch with and to have some quality "hanging out time" with our regular young people. We also visited Jephson Gardens and ate ice cream too!





Schools Work

Kate has regular contact with St Paul's School through doing assemblies and playing a role in school services.

This is a really great opportunity to get to know the children before they move up into the Youth Work. For the fifth year running she also attended the Year 6 Residential camping trip. Kate also continues to attend North Leamington School each week to lead a club with Crosstech. The aim of the club is to provide a space for students in years 7-9 to bring their questions about God and to teach a simple message from the Bible. There is also cake and craft involved too!



Youth Growing Leaders Kate worked with Andy Castle of Thrive Youth Ministries to run two Youth Growing Leaders courses in 2014. The first (which ended in April), had 14 young people, coming from 7 different local churches, including Rachel Duxbury and Tom Stone from St Paul's. In September, the next course started with 11 young people, from 5 different churches, including Becky Tidd and Sam Stone from St Paul's.

"It was great learning about gifts we have so we could work out which area of leadership we should be in."

"I now lead worship at my church which I wouldn't have done before."

"After a few sessions I realised that I was talking more about God at school, just as things came up. I was more confident."

Students

Weekend Away December



Under the leadership of Thom Jee, 2014 has been a great year for the student work at St Paul's, with a lot of change. From January to June we continued to run a weekly student night, preaching through the book of Romans with a group of around 20 students, mainly finalists. In March we went on our first weekend away, to the Mill, with 25 students all in need of a rest at the end of the university term. In June, with the close of the academic year, we were sad to say goodbye to a huge crop of finalists moving on to jobs and other things around the country. Our leavers' lunch was a great time of talking together about what the transition into the working world would be like, hearing from different people about where they were going to, and praying for each other.

Leavers' Lunch



"Having a mentor has made me feel so much more plugged into church, having not only someone to talk things through with, but also a family away from my home one!" Beth Jolley

We weren't sure what student ministry would look like with the start of the new academic year, as over half of our community graduated over the summer. Fresher's week brought a huge burst of new life, however, and we've loved welcoming around 30 new first and second years to St Paul's over the last term. Instead of a separate Student Night, we are working hard to integrate the students into the rest of the church family, and something like 40 students are now either in a church small group or being mentored by a member of St Paul's. A real highlight of the year was another weekend away in December, with 35 students mainly in their first and second year coming away to the Mill for worship, teaching, and lots of rest and time together – it was wonderful watching relationships deepen and to see so many meeting with God and being renewed after so much service through the term. We are really grateful for the huge number of students who serve in our music, children's and youth work.

"The weekends away are a great break from the business of life and really grow me spiritually and in relationships with people." Beth Jolley

"The student weekend away is definitely the highlight of each term! Such a peaceful chance to reflect on the term gone by and enjoy some wonderful fellowship with friends." Zak Dunstone

Small Groups

Small groups lie at the heart of our ministry at St Paul's and are the ideal place to grow in discipleship, accountability and community. We encourage all committed members of the church to be part of one, or one of the equivalent ministries such as Oasis or CAMEO.

There are currently 17 small groups, meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays in homes around Leamington for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. These groups are growing and we are continually planning new ones. We are very grateful for the work of our small group leaders in leading the groups over the last year.

During 2014, the small groups have studied a variety of topics according to the needs and interests of their members. Most of the groups have also served together by helping with serving refreshments after services or getting involved in community projects in support of our Helping Hands ministry.



"I love being part of a small group because I find it provides an opportunity to share each other's highs and lows."

"I think the group is a spiritual family where you are able to exercise and practise godly ways of living."

"In a big and busy church like St Paul's, one important benefit we see, as leaders, is that when people have a sense of belonging to a small group they become better connected and able to participate more fully in the church as a whole."

"The benefits of small group are many! The two main ones for me are: building real community based on mutual respect and intimacy which builds an atmosphere of love; and being encouraged to take risks with God-stuff and be held to account which promotes Christian growth"

Parties

In 2014 we have had quite a few parties! These are a great opportunity for people from our various congregations to get together, and for relationships to grow. They were all overseen by Naomi Gaade, who has a wonderful gift for creativity, and flair.

Passover meal



90 people joined in the Passover meal. Jonathan explained the components of the Seder meal, and everyone had the opportunity to taste some mortar, unleavened bread, bitter herbs and red wine, to learn more about the Israelites liberation from slavery in Egypt and how this was the background to the Last Supper. Then everyone tucked into shepherds pie and puddings. It was a joyful occasion and a great start to the Easter weekend.



Cheese & Biscuits, Desserts and a Quiz

Winter Party

A fun evening attended by around 120 people, with nibbles, desserts and the ever popular chocolate fountains and a quiz. Various quiz masters produced a round each and the party goers divided into impromptu teams. Kate organised a game in the middle. Isaac Gaade won the game and Isaac Wilkinson's team won the quiz.



Summer 140th Birthday Party

The first service at St Pauls was held on Ascension Day, May 14th, 1874, so we held a 140th birthday party in May to celebrate. Jonathan told the history of the church through the 11 vicars we have had, and Naomi Gaade compiled a fascinating set of photos – with several of our church members looking a lot younger! There was even a congregational photo from 1984 with a picture of Juliet Jee worshipping at the church when she was a student at Warwick. Around 150 people of all ages were there – including a visit from Chris Knight, the vicar of our mother church, St Mary's, to bring us birthday greetings!

Regency Run Water Station



Families



Family Events this year have included bowling and walks, all co-ordinated by Katrina and Andrew Bush. The highlight was the sunny camping weekend near Bewdley.

10 families enjoyed a walk around the Wyre forest, pizza, a pub lunch, a barbecue and each other's company.

Prayer

As a church, one of our core values is to be prayerful about all we do. We encourage all teams and groups to pray together, seeking God and listening for his guidance. We have also held various united prayer gatherings for the whole church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, spread throughout the year.

In March, we had a week of prayer before the Gift Day for Phase 2 of the Redevelopment, asking every small group, team, and ministry that met to pray into this topic. We were delighted when around £350,000 was given and pledged (including tax back). The PCC felt this made it clear the Lord was in the project, and decided to proceed, looking for the work to be done in summer 2015.



Week of Prayer
March 16 - 23 2014

Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you are at work among us.
Thank you for our church family,
for all that happens in our buildings,
and for the difference Phase 1 has made.
Strengthen us to use our gifts in your service.
Increase our faith, deepen our unity,
and help us to be generous.
Release the resources needed,
and guide us as we plan the details of Phase 2.
We pray that you will use us to help many to
encounter you, and become disciples of Jesus.
May Leamington be changed,
one life at a time,
to your praise and glory. Amen.



Redevelopment & Gift Day

On Commitment Sunday in the autumn, the church was invited to sign up to receive prayer information by email from various different ministries such as children, youth, students, Alpha, leadership, community support. This has been really helpful in mobilising prayer at key times, and feedback indicates that leaders have felt supported and many people enjoy being able to pray in a more informed way for the ministries that are on their hearts.

Got questions about life



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's relaxed and informal, with food, a talk and discussion, and is open to anyone who is interested in discovering what Christianity is about.

In 2014 we continued to run Alpha every term, with about 20 guests attending over the year. Tuesday evening courses featured meals from Aubrey Allen and were led by Simon Davies (spring term), Simon Willetts and Amanda Leadbetter (summer term), Roger and Beth Penney with Simon Davies (autumn term). We had a great team of speakers, including Simon Davies, Roger Penney, Thom Jee, Pete Wallis, Esther Peers, Lisa Holt, Ali Darren, Charlie Crow, Jonathan Jee and Lizzy Woolf. The spring and summer courses both had a great group of guests, and in the autumn term we had 3 groups – 2 for new guests and 1 for people who had done Alpha

before but were not yet ready to become Christians and fully part of the church.

This year we also offered Alpha each term on Thursday mornings for women, running alongside OASIS, with cakes and a crèche. These courses were led by Beth Penney and used the DVD version of the talks.

As an Alpha resource church we continued to support other churches in running their own Alpha courses. 2 local churches joined us for our Alpha away days, increasing the sense of excitement and expectancy, and many guests felt this was a turning point in their journey to faith.

“The Alpha away day was the best day of my life!”

“I just felt such overwhelming peace – like nothing else mattered.”

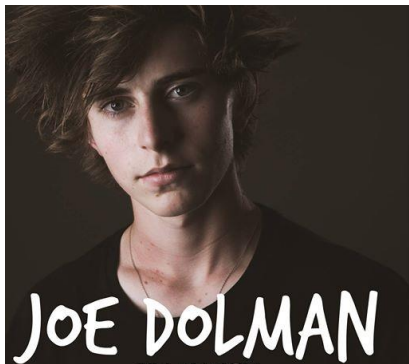
“My new faith has left me never feeling on my own.”

“My journey towards God has been work in progress for a number of years. But it wasn't until I joined Alpha, when I experienced 2 particular events that transformed my belief in God.

Firstly, during one session, a guest speaker brought along a painting by Holman Hunt, depicting Christ knocking at a door of a house. This picture really resonated with me, as I realised that all I had to do was to simply open the door and let Christ into my life. That was a strong sense of realisation, as if the lids had been lifted from my eyes. I now started to see much more clearly. A light had been switched on.

Shortly after, we took part in the Alpha away day at church, where Jonathan prayed for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. With open arms and a glad heart, I invited the Holy Spirit into my life and moments later, I was overwhelmed by a deep sense of joy and euphoria. I couldn't stop beaming! It was a truly unique and wonderful feeling. I ran home to tell my family how much Jesus loved them and that everything was going to be alright! With God watching over us, I feel truly blessed and equipped to continue the rest of my life as a Christian!”

CAFE CREATE



Café Create is an occasional performance arts café. This year's Café Create was as lively as ever, with 5 events held on Saturday nights throughout the year. We had attendance of over 50 at all events and over 70 people came to the event in May. A highlight of the year for many was the outstanding performance by Joe Dolman at the November event. Joe is a highly talented young musician who has already played in venues such as Hyde Park for BBC Introducing but still fondly remembers his first ever gig at Cafe Create in 2010.

Other great musicians this year included Simon and Naomi Willetts who played some of their trademark chilled out jazz at their last Cafe Create. Throughout the year, we had a range of other high quality acts including funk from One Nation, close up card magic by Theo and comedy songs from Robin Killick and Ali Darren. We've been able to provide a platform for several young artists including local band Blackwater Ridge who played some classic 70s rock alongside their own songs.

We have a great team headed up by Ali Darren, who enjoy putting on the event and seeing a wide variety of people coming every time. There is always a fun and relaxed atmosphere and Cafe Create continues to be a great place for people to invite friends from beyond the church.

"Café Create is a fun evening with a great atmosphere and entertainment.

I enjoy being part of the committed team that make the evening a success. Cafe Create is a great way to show the church building in another way, showcase peoples' artistic gifts and welcome people who would not normally enter a church."

Tracy Southam

Community Support



During 2014 our Community Support Ministry, co-ordinated by Beth Penney, has continued to help vulnerable people in need in the local community. In total our volunteers have provided approximately 650 man hours on practical projects, both big and small. Special thanks to Roger Wain for delivering furniture to about 30 new referrals.



Jon Stone continued to lead the fixings team, organising small groups to give up their time to help with projects. His team completed two large decorating jobs as well as three gardening jobs, including clearing and putting down turf in the garden of a single mother.



"I hope you liked the thank you gift, doesn't compare with everything you've done for me n the lassies though."

The Oasis ladies were involved in two projects this year. The first was the clearing of a flat for a retired gentlemen who had not thrown away any rubbish for some time. From the photos you can see the extent of the work and the fantastic job which was completed in just 4 hours!

Volunteers from Oasis also spent a full day deep-cleaning the flat of a single mum of three small children. She needed help to get the flat to a manageable level. As part of the project, we replaced the carpet in her living room and her sofa. A church mentor is now supporting her long term

Towards the end of the year we undertook a full renovation of a three bedroom house in Lillington. the family (a father and his two teenage daughters) had moved from a run-down flat to the house. To bless them several teams (including a small group and a youth team from The Hub), helped in the full redecoration.

Towards the end of the year, the team increasingly felt God was calling them to focus on fewer, but bigger, projects, where they could make more of a significant difference to people's lives. We look forward to seeing where God takes this ministry with the arrival of Wendy Harkness, our new Community Support Minister in February 2015.



"I am overwhelmed by all your kindness & also overwhelmed by the result! What a great job you all did."

Kennedy Square

BBQ

Rachel Jee organised this year's barbecue as part of her summer internship with St Paul's. She writes, "Another way God really spoke to me was when organising the Kennedy Square BBQ. Initially it was a project I wanted to execute well, so I got on with emails and bookings and shopping lists, but started to lose sight of the purpose. Dad then linked me up with a family connected to St Paul's who live there, so I went round for a cup of tea to meet them and had a wonderful time, knowing God's favour upon the situation. It completely transformed what I was doing from being about the project to being about the people, which is the key to ministry. What is the point in running events or groups well if we aren't loving the people we do it all for?"

Kennedy Square Neighbourhood News

The 8th Annual Kennedy Square BBQ

The summer might be over, but last Saturday was a great way to end it! The day was a great success with the weather staying dry. All the burgers and hotdogs went, many faces were painted and there were lots of giant bubbles and balloon modelling.

Well done to Theo who won an enormous jar of sweets, Diane for guessing the weight of the cake (and winning it!), and Amy and Kendell who won the quiz & a voucher.



Carol Singing

2014 was the 10th anniversary carol singing in Kennedy Square! So on Wednesday 10th December 50 eager volunteers went out on a dry chilly evening on what had actually been forecast to be a night of gale force winds and heavy rain. The event has grown over the years and is a real highlight for the residents as they enjoy their neighbours coming out to sing carols to them.

"This is the best night of the year and makes Christmas for me." A resident.

We were accompanied by our amazing brass band, and gave out personal invitations to our Christmas services along with boxes of chocolate biscuits. The 18 folk who knocked on doors with the leaflets and presents received a warm welcome and many residents came outside to join in or watch from their balconies. It was especially encouraging to renew acquaintances and meet some who have been along to various events at St Pauls over the year, including Stepping Stones and Alpha. Each wrapped box of biscuits contained a card with the blessing:-

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace".

This is our desire for the residents in Kennedy Square in 2015 and beyond. We are very grateful to Anne Wagg for organising the event.

Relational Ministries



Hester & Sam Meacock led a Marriage Prep course for engaged couples, this involved five sessions designed to develop strong foundations for a lasting marriage.

This year there have been six weddings at St Paul's, two of which were church family: Nigel Turner & Abi Challand and Thom Jee & Sarah Warren. Four other members of St Paul's were married elsewhere, Deb & Judi Thakurta and Mark & Danika Wigglesworth



On Saturday 8th February, 17 couples re-affirmed their marriage vows, taking part in an event called The Big Promise, part of Marriage Week, celebrating the importance of nurturing marriage. After a short service, the couples enjoyed some bubbly and wedding cake.

VALENTINE DINNER



The church lounge was transformed into a pop-up restaurant with tables for two, laid with white linen table cloths, beautiful cutlery and flowers. Every couple enjoyed a 3 course meal, from Aubrey Allen, including wine, and a short talk on 'what makes a marriage grow' Each couple left the evening with a goody bag, including an invitation to The Marriage Course.



14 couples joined the Marriage Course February, for 7 sessions, which were led by Angela & Lewis Stephenson and Rachel & Tim Smith. 10 couples were members of St Paul's, with 4 couples coming from outside the church. The lounge provided a welcoming and intimate setting, in which each couple had a table laid out to give the feel of a special evening out for two.

A two-course meal was provided and each evening we worked through a DVD course, with frequent pauses for couples to discuss specific questions together. This year we enjoyed main courses provided by Aubrey Allen, which reduced the workload on volunteers. In fact, on the feedback, the food scored very highly, second only to 'time to think & talk' as what people had most enjoyed on the course!

As with previous Marriage Courses, the feedback showed that the most common issues in marriages prior to the course were communication & conflict. It was therefore very encouraging to also see on the feedback that the majority of couples saw an improvement in these two areas as a result of the course.



The Restored Lives course supports and empowers people to move forward from divorce and separation, or the breakdown of any serious relationship, to live a full life free from past issues. The course spreads across six weeks plus a social and follows some of the key issues facing those in separation and divorce, such as emotions and how to deal with them, forgiveness, boundaries, legal options, how to deal with children, in-laws, and moving on.

Key to the course success is a non-judgemental environment and also confidentiality, so there is no feeling of shame sharing some of the deep, dark issues and emotions that transpire.

We were delighted to be able to offer this course for the first time in 2014. Kevin & Sarah Roe led the course in their home. It was hugely valued by the 5 people who completed the course, and it will run again in April 2015.

"It is great after such a long time since my divorce to be able to sit down with other Christians and talk about it. Divorce can be a lonely experience, when surrounded by 'Happy Families'. I expect there are many others who would benefit from it."

"From the moment I arrived I knew I was supposed to be there, for a number of reasons, and I felt at peace. It felt safe and Kevin and Sarah did a wonderful job keeping it so, despite a challenging range of topics that are covered in the course."

"I feel forgiven, redeemed, cleansed and full of the Holy Spirit. The experiences of others showed me I was not alone and overall every week I came away slightly more confident that I could trust and should trust and no longer be afraid."

"As Christians we know we fail God constantly but when you fail through marriage some how that seems worse as you promised before God until death do us part. Thankfully, on the Restored Lives course, separated & divorced Christians are able to meet in a secure environment, with leaders who have been where we have been. I watched as in just 6 weeks people really did change their outlook on life. I have built good friendships with the other people on the course and we are now there for each other as we move on."

"As a result of this course I have become more positive, hopeful, joyous and have returned to church after some absence. I'd recommend anyone who has been separated or divorced to consider this course, because not only are Kevin and Sarah empathetic and warm hosts, I believe those six weeks will change you and give you hope and a future - Jeremiah 29 springs to mind. If you are willing to really trust God, and put your faith in Him to help you come through a dark time, then you will not be disappointed."



In June, the Parenting Teenagers Course ran for the first time at St Paul's Church, led by Kate Wallis, Youth Minister.

Around 20 parents attended the 5 weekly sessions to listen to a talk by Nicky and Sila Lee, who developed the course, which is interspersed with filmed clips of parents and teenagers sharing their own experiences, street interviews and advice from parenting experts. Following the talk there is an opportunity for discussion with partners and in small groups, and to eat tasty puddings!

The course was a real success and allowed parents the chance to try out different techniques and ways of managing family life.

Session topics:

- ✓ Keeping the end in mind
- ✓ Meeting our teenager's needs
- ✓ Setting boundaries
- ✓ Developing emotional health
- ✓ Helping them make good choices

'The course gave really helpful ways of dealing with seemingly impossible situations.'

'Hearing other parents is reassuring, and finding the tools to use is brilliant.'

'All the sessions tackle really good stuff, and they don't skirt around the issues.'

'We've been given the tools to communicate better with our teenagers.'

'The course has broadened our minds...big time!'
'It was very, very useful.'

Leadership Development

Growing Leaders

In September, our Growing Leaders course started again with 15 people. This time Jonathan and Juliet Jee are leading with Mark and Esther Peers, who bring great balance to the team. The course runs from September to June, with monthly evening teaching sessions, two extended Saturday sessions, mentors and prayer support.

"The Growing Leaders course was a hugely significant chapter in my spiritual life. It gave me an opportunity to commit time and prayer into what God had planned for me - in my case it was about being called to lead his people in sung worship and to lead the worship team at St. Paul's - a role in which I am continually being blessed through." Gethin Jones



In October, 25 of our leaders attended the Willowcreek Global Leadership Summit in Coventry. The event happens in hundreds of cities around the world, using DVDs from the live event in Chicago, and as always it provided a huge amount of stimulating food for thought, relevant both to our workplaces and our church context. This year most of us ate lunch together in a local pub, so that we could start to process all the information.

ONE LIFE AT A TIME: 1-2-1 DISCIPLING

This is a new, fairly intensive, 2-session course led by Tim Wagg. The first session is about developing a lifelong vision for making disciples and the second deals with the practicalities of how to bring this about in the context of St. Paul's church. We had the first course in July with 14 people and the second in October with 7. After the courses eight of these "disciplers" were connected with someone who they will meet approximately twice a month to go deeper into the Bible and pray with.

"Positive things about 121 discipling have been the pleasure of witnessing her growing faith and sharing in the excitement of her new discoveries about who the Lord is and how much he loves her. For me, it has been a great reminder about God's faithfulness to me over the years, and about all that that my own faith journey has taught me. I have learned and know a lot more than I realised! This has been very affirming for me."



In January 2014 it was exciting that 30 people from the 20s and 30s age group at St Pauls went together to Retreat to Advance, run by New Wine. The weekend was held at Centre Parcs in Sherwood Forest; we received inspiring teaching on Psalm 23 and had time for spiritual refreshment as we focused on having a relationship “with” God at all times. We were also able to spend time getting to know each other whilst swimming, playing sport, games and eating together. It has also been encouraging to see two new small groups start up in September that cater for mainly this age group as it continues to grow.

“I really enjoyed the weekend, and becoming more part of our church!”

“It was really encouraging……. I can recommend it!”

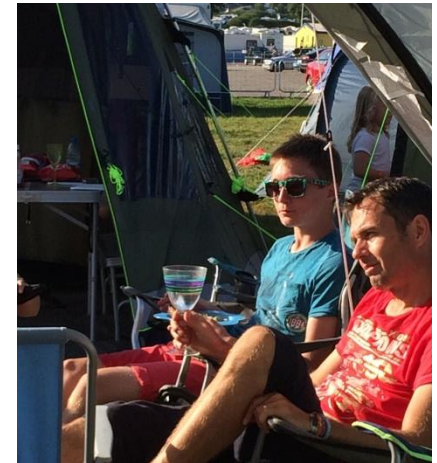
“It was great.”

“Would love to come again.”



In August, around 80 people from St Paul’s went to camp at Shepton Mallett for the **New Wine Summer Conference**. Martin and Lisa Haywood acted as wonderful hosts, helping to organise our camping area and help everyone settle in. For the first time, no clergy were present (although the Jeeps enjoyed visiting for a day), and it felt like the church had really come of age. As always there was lots of relaxed time to get to know people better, fantastic children’s groups and great teaching and ministry for the adults.

*“New Wine –
Great for us.
Great for the kids.
Great teaching
& worship.
Great sense of
St Paul's community.
Great friendship
building.
Great fun!”
Naomi Chard*





Hothorpe Hall

In May, Jonathan invited everyone who leads a group, team or ministry, plus all PCC members, to come for a weekend away, together with their husband or wives if they are married. He also invited several of our first year students who were about to start leading groups at Warwick University to join us. In all, there were 101 from St Pauls (including a few babies & toddlers). Hothorpe Hall is a beautiful country house with excellent food, and it was wonderful to have a relaxed time away with each other, and to build relationships with others leading in different areas.

The theme was 'Empowering Leadership', with fantastic teaching from Bishop Christopher, John and Ann Coles, and Jonathan Jee. One theme which emerged strongly was learning to become more like Jesus. Bishop Christopher illustrated this from Paul's example to Timothy, while John Coles focused on how the Holy Spirit helps us to become more like Jesus. Anne Coles helped us to see that we need all 5 areas of the ministry described in Ephesians 4 to be effective (prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers and evangelists) and all of us have strengths and gifts in one or more of these areas, so our leadership teams need to have a blend of all 5. There was also plenty of time set aside for prayer ministry, with many people having profound encounters with God.



"It was great to get to know people and to be encouraged and empowered."

"The weekend gave me confidence that God's spirit is in me and that He can use me."

"I now have increased confidence to continue seeking wisdom and guidance in leading my small group."

"There was a strong re-affirming of God's love, (I felt) refreshed in who I am in God and called to be fully me and surrender myself to His call."

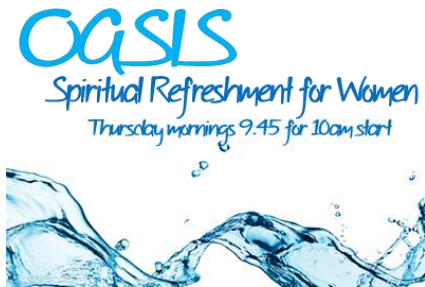
"I feel a renewed sense of confidence and call."

"Great weekend. Thank you for organising it and to Caroline for all her hard work. Can't wait to do it again."

"God freed me from some things that were holding me back and encouraged me to think about letting some things go."

"I feel encouraged, invigorated, refreshed!"

Women's Ministry



Oasis is a ladies midweek group where we join together to meet, worship and grow in the Lord, led by Esther Peers with Lissy Clarke, Juliet Jee, Hannah Drifill, and Lisa Haywood. We are a diverse community of about 50 women, with a creche, to allow ladies to spend time with God and with others, finding an 'Oasis' in the busy-ness of the week. We have 6 small groups and a welcome group, (for newcomers) where, after we have listened to the talk, we meet to share with one another. This year we started a ladies prayer group that meets to pray for women around the world. Over the year at Oasis we have spent time in our talks and small groups thinking about spiritual disciplines, the Sermon on the Mount, and how and why God made us.

While we spend time with one another and the Lord, our little ones have fun in the Hoppers and Bouncers group. Liz Lewis and her team run a group for around 10 pre schoolers, doing a variety of activities, including craft, games singing and stories. The children love going to the group and the mums love having a well deserved break for an hour!



Cake and craft, led by Bec Rolls and Katie Collings, is now in its second year and continues to be a popular event for ladies and girls from both the church family and outside to meet and chat while learning new skills and mastering old ones. Each month we try a different craft and have been fortunate to have different ladies share their skills such as crochet, knitting and wood engraving amongst other things. We are lucky to have some talented cake makers in the group and enjoying that adds to the relaxed and informal time together.



The women's book club meets every second Monday in the month to discuss a nominated book. Fran Shaw leads the club, which has read a wide variety of genre over the last year, chosen by the group members. It's a great opportunity to chat about books that you may not normally consider reading.

"Cake and craft is in my diary for the whole year, I wouldn't miss it. I have learnt new crafts and made new friends with ladies I may not have met otherwise."



Create for Christmas

Create for Christmas, organised by Bec Rolls and Katie Collings is always a popular event for ladies who attend St Paul's and many who don't and this year was no different; a fantastically festive evening was enjoyed by many. The evening gives women the opportunity to take part in a variety of creative crafts that can be taken home or enjoyed throughout the evening (the melted snowmen biscuits went down a treat!). This year we had wreath making, deco patch doves, jewellery and card making among other things. Ruth Smith gave an amusing yet poignant short talk part way through the evening. At Create for Christmas we celebrate not only the creative streak that we all have within us given by the ultimate creator God but the birth of his son our Saviour.

"It was a moment of calm amidst the busy and frantic lead up to Christmas; and an opportunity to really grasp the fact that a saviour was born so that that we could have freedom."

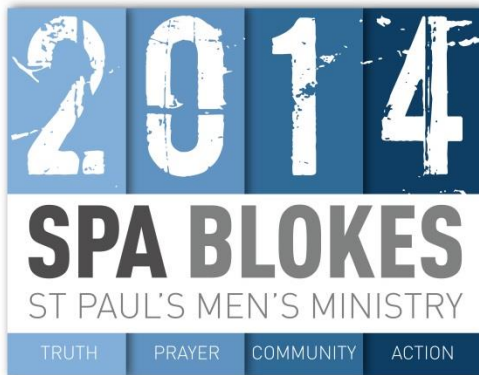


"I've always been rubbish at craft so I was a bit nervous about attending this event.

However, from the moment I stepped into the hall I felt at ease; everyone was friendly and really helpful with each different craft. The evening was great fun and the range of activities was brilliant from biscuit making to earrings and even flower arranging; perfect inspiration for Christmas."



"It is a fantastic night of crafting for those who want to try out new things but also for those who are avid 'try anything' crafters like me! A glass of mulled wine, mince pie and Christmas chatter top it off."



Mark Peers heads up the **Men's Ministry** at St Paul's and he explained, 'Our prayer for 2014 was that all of the men at St Paul's would meet with God at a deeper level than they had done before, regardless of their starting point, age or perspective.'



In our termly **Saturday Morning Breakfasts** we had the opportunity to deepen relationships with God and each other, gently challenging each other to new levels of vulnerability in the process. We started the year with "Falling or Calling" (a challenge to make 2014 a year of significance, not just another year); progressed to focus on our personal needs for support; wrapping up the year discussing our Anchor Points, Secure Connections and personal Stories of Hope to share with others.



TRUTH
ACCOUNTABILITY
PRAYER
AND
SUPPORT

In **TAPAS** we continued to meet as a group of 3-6 guys on a monthly basis, led by Martin Haywood. The blessing of meeting at the Crooks' home has meant our get-togethers feel more personal. The books we covered or started during 2014 included:- JI Packer's "Weakness is the way" and "The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson - both challenging and thought-provoking.



In September, Jonathan Smith organised another successful **Plumbing and a Pint** evening, which about 70 men attended. Jon invited a couple of friends, who are also plumbers, and between them they gave practical demonstrations on how to complete basic plumbing tasks, including changing a washer on a tap. One plumber, also explained how he became a Christian.

Men's & Kids Camping

The 2014 men and kids camping trip, organised by Simon Davies, was another special weekend spent in the Forest of Dean. 13 men and 26 of their kids camped out for 2 nights at Biblins forestry commission youth campsite in July.

Activities included walking, cave exploration, wood chopping, pub lunch, campfires, BBQ, marsh mellow roasting and of course the now traditional 'paddle' in the river Wye. The weather once again was exceptional, the company was wonderful and the kids were bearable. For 2 whole days the top priority was spending time with your kids while other things like keeping clean took a 'back seat'.



Cycle Rides

Everyone enjoyed the half a dozen or so rides during 2014 whatever the weather and conditions. With Dave Wilkinson and Richard Duxbury organising the routes and various guys attending the bike rides meant each one was a different experience to the last, and it didn't matter whether there were eight guys or just two. Guys obviously enjoy a bit of fresh air, exercise, a chat, friendly banter and a bit of mud, making a very good reason to get up a bit earlier on a Saturday morning to take part.



"For me and my kids the 'men and kids camping' is one of the best weekends of the year and 2014 did not disappoint."

Older People's Ministry



CAMEO

COME and MEET EACH OTHER(CAMEO)

We have continued our regular programme of the mid-week service followed by a light lunch and activity.

Many interesting speakers both from within the group or from outside have entertained and informed us. Some examples of the topics are St Paul's Roll of Honour, The Book of Kells, The Road to Santiago de Compostela, and The Lord Howe Island. We have had demonstrations of felting, pottery and cake decorating. In our group there are many who are willing to share their interests of music, poetry, quiz making and leading discussions.

There has been a marked increase in developing and deepening friendships amongst us, and we continue to pray for each other as we cope with the trials of old age!

MIRTH

MIRTH is led by Tim Waggoner with John Robinson, Anthony Johnston, Stan Harris, Neville Compton and Mike Bench.

In 2014 MIRTH continued to move closer towards its aim of "improving the quality of retired life (physically, mentally, spiritually, socially) for men in the Leamington area". One of the most encouraging signs of this has been the deepening of a real community spirit amongst its 50+ members with increasing connections outside of MIRTH meetings.

We have continued the same mixture of events this year;

First Tuesday 2-3pm; Discussion on a current news topic in local homes (typical attendance 12)

Second Tuesday 10am – 2pm; Local walks of a few miles ably organised by Mike Bench followed by a pub lunch. This year there have been significantly more MIRTH members in the pub than on the walk!



Third Tuesday 12.30 – 2.30 pm; Main meeting, after a drink and a meal, usually in a local pub, we have discussions, talks and several memorable visits.

In addition we have had those perennial favourites the June 'Jolly Boys' Outing, this year to Oxford, and the Christmas meal and quiz.

Fourth Tuesday 2.30 – 4.00pm; "MIRTH questions" has been a real highlight of 2014. Eight MIRTH members gathered together monthly to investigate questions about the Christian faith that are relevant for retired men (e.g. "Future or Where would you like to be in 50 years time?" "Purpose or What if the Hokey Cokey really is what it's all about?" etc.). Participants are very genuine in their consideration of the topics and want to continue meeting in 2015.

"I am still on the fence as I see the big implications of "jumping" into faith but I now cannot contemplate jumping the other way"

"It has been massively helpful to share my own struggles with faith and listen to how others have dealt with theirs"

Churches together in Leamington

When the Lord gave us our vision “to see Leamington changed one life at a time”, it was quite clear that this could only be achieved in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by working together with the other churches in the town. We encourage members of St Paul’s to get involved with all the various inter-church ministries.

Jonathan hosts a monthly prayer lunch for the leaders of the churches and other Christian ministries in the town. During 2014 plans began to emerge for a town-wide mission week in 2015 which celebrates both our unity in Christ across the churches, and our diversity of expression. The week will begin with Praise in the Park (May 31st 2015) and continue until June 7th, with the main evening meetings being hosted by different groups of churches, and lots of events run by individual churches throughout the week.



We continue to organise the annual “Praise in the Park” event for the benefit of the whole town. Something like 1500 people from many of the churches in the town gathered together to worship and pray for the town on Sunday 1st June. It was a great expression of our Christian unity. Once again, Dave Gorton oversaw the practical production of this years’ Praise in the Park – the 4th one. He had a wonderful crew of practical helpers. Simon Willetts led a band from St Paul’s to lead the worship. Jonathan Jee led the service. The Street Pastors acted as our stewards for the day and Ivor Cooper (from Myton church) preached – using 4 of the biggest visual aids he could see from the Pump Room Gardens:

- ❑ The Justice Centre – illustrating the fact that all of us have sinned and deserve God’s punishment for sin
- ❑ The War Memorial – illustrating Jesus’ death in our place for our sins – he paid the price for our freedom
- ❑ The Pump Rooms – a place of washing and healing – illustrating what God wants to do in our lives
- ❑ The Sky – reminding us (as it was Ascension season) that Jesus will return one day

The main speaker will be Roger Murphy, who lived in Leamington for many years.

With the mission week in mind, in September we hosted an evening ‘The Power of an Invitation’ for people from all the churches in town with guest speaker Michael Harvey. Michael is the man behind “Back to Church Sunday” and travels widely encouraging Christians to get better at inviting others to church. He reminded us that our task is to pray, and invite those that God prompts us to invite – the rest is God’s responsibility. With a very dry sense of humour, he helped us to see that the main reason we may not invite others to “come and see” is out of a fear of rejection – but that is something that followers of Jesus should be ready to accept.

This year the PCC decided that, rather than giving a smaller level of financial support to all the ministries in the town, we would look to build more significant partnerships with a few of those ministries: The Well, Thrive Youth Ministries, and CAP (Christians Against Poverty). Other churches have particularly strong links with some of the other ministries. We are also legally responsible for Food bank until it becomes a charity in its own right



The Well Christian Healing Centre, led by Anne Hibbert, is a place where people of all faiths and none can have prayer for healing. At The Well we are so grateful for St Paul's for all your generosity to us both in finance and for hosting a number of our events. A massive thank you to you all for catching the vision and supporting us in these ways. It makes such a huge difference to us. There are 9 of us from St Paul's on the Well Prayer Team. Over this last year we have welcomed many of the congregation at our weekly healing prayer sessions at the Pump Rooms as well as at Soaking Prayer for Pregnant women, Quiet Days, our Healing Training courses, our big 10th Anniversary event when Jonathan commended us and gave a personal testimony about receiving prayer, at our Pathway teaching Days and at our Listening to God event with Russ Parker last November. We praise God for your partnership with us. Thank you!



is a locally based charity which exists to help churches in Leamington, Warwick and the surrounding areas to be bolder and more confident in supporting young people in their community and enabling them to be all that God made them to be. Thrive is run by Andy Castle, a member of St Paul's. Thrive worked with over 20 different churches in 2014, in different capacities. Andy mentored, each month, 6 youth ministers and 2 children's ministers, including Kate Wallis and Hester Meacock from St Paul's. These meetings (usually at Caffè Nero's!) were a chance to talk honestly about the highs and lows of ministry and to discuss, confidentially, how they can grow in leadership. In February, Thrive held a 24 hour spiritual retreat, called Resolution for youth ministers, children's ministers and schools workers.

Feedback from Resolution participants

"I have a renewed sense of hope and authority in my role. If Moses did it, so can I!"

"It's a perfect opportunity to be renewed and inspired by spending time with God and others"

"Really helpful balance of talking, listening and reflection time"



CAP is a national charity which seeks to lift people out of debt and poverty through an award winning debt help service and money management course, the CAP Money Course. In Leamington the CAP Debt Centre is based at St Mary's church. Our partnership will take effect in 2015, when we will be looking to provide befrienders for those who CAP are working with as they become debt-free, and for people to run the Money Course.



Warwick and Leamington Foodbank

gives 3 days worth of food to those experiencing crisis. Clients receive a voucher from a referring agency and bring it to one of the 5 distribution centres, including one here at St Paul's on Thursdays, 1-3pm, led by Miriam Bowen. 6 people from St Paul's volunteer at Foodbank: Stanley & Anne Anthony, Nicky Wilkinson, Jill Worth, Dot Mulligan and Pauline Archer.

During 2014 we have experienced a steady increase in the number of clients coming to Foodbank. Around 700 people have received help at St Paul's with 3100 mouths being fed at all 5 centres. We believe that there are two main causes for this: more people experiencing crisis as result of the current economic situation, and greater media and public awareness of Foodbanks. Andy Bower is the manager of Foodbank and has his office at St Paul's. Excellent work has been done by Paul Clarke and the rest of the Management Committee to facilitate the process of constituting Warwick and Leamington Foodbank in it's own right as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and we hope this will happen in 2015.

New for 2014:



Krish Kandiah



Home for Good is a Christian charity which aims to make adoption and fostering a significant part of the life and ministry of the Church in the UK.

In 2014 we worked with Jeremy Bray (Open House church in Warwick) to develop a Home for Good ministry in Leamington. In June we hosted a launch event with Krish Kandiah to gather Christians from the area to worship together and focus on what we can do to make a difference for children needing fostering and adoption. In July we then hosted an information evening with the local authority for anyone interested in finding out how to become a foster carer or adopter in Warwickshire.

During 2014, St Paul's became a 'Home for Good' church, committing to support those who foster and adopt within our church family.

Leamington Vineyard Learning Centre

The Leamington Vineyard

Learning Centre was opened in September 2014 at the Chapter House at St Margaret's Centre, Whitnash. The Centre is an alternative to mainstream school for pupils with behaviour and learning difficulties. One-to-one tuition in English and Maths is provided by Teaching Assistants, including Sarah Jee and Judi Thakurta, as well as pastoral and other support. The centre aims to raise achievement levels and work towards the re-integration into main stream schooling. The Centre is currently in contact with the majority of schools in the local area and has been working with around 8 children at any one time.

We also support the following ministries with prayer, volunteers, and/or finance: Street Pastors, incl. St Paul's members Adrian Smith, Gail Linnett, Neil MacRae, Mirek Jaskolka Nightlight, Cross Teach, Christian Resource Centre, Warwick Gates Centre for Relational Care, Night shelter, and Homeless Action Project.

Global Outreach

The main focus of the GO Team is to raise the profile of those we support in various parts of the world. During 2014, all our partners expressed their thanks for the support they receive from St Paul's whether that is through prayer or finance or both. A first for the GO Team was to organise a **Relating Across Cultures Seminar** that was aimed at helping people understand their neighbours from other cultures. Although attendance was small, it was very much appreciated by those present.



The highlight for the GO Team from 2014 was the visit of **Marcos & Claire Wurfel** who work in Argentina, with their 3 young children, Marisol, Lukas and Oliver – Oliver was only born in February and it was a great joy that he arrived safely after a difficult pregnancy. They met up with many friends and supporters during their visit, as well as sharing in church and having a church lunch. They were overwhelmed by the love and generosity they experienced from St Paul's and its members. They are also delighted that the children's English has improved remarkably due to the visit. Marcos and Claire are planting a church in the middle-class area of Concordia. They face a lot of opposition and prejudice, but were encouraged at Christmas when 114 people attended a Christmas dinner, half of whom were not Christians.



Richard & Carolyn Davey work with WEC International. They report: 2014's major challenge was to step back into our old roles as managers at Bulstrode for 4 months, which meant being on site for 3-4 days a week. Around that, we continued with our input on finances, leadership and training, bringing in some of the changes to WEC UK operations that have come out of the major 2013 review.



Jenny Davies runs a school for the children of Christian workers in Pakistan, with up to 14 children aged 5 – 11. Jenny was the only full time teacher but had help from parents and other adults from the missionary community. She writes : Thank you so much for the finance for the solar panels for the school. These were installed in September – it makes life so much easier knowing that there is a constant supply of electricity.



Ron & Patty McCulloch work with international students in Birmingham. They write: In November we celebrated 21 years of Friends International ministry in Birmingham when around 120 gathered, including previous staff, hosts, volunteers and prayer partners. It was a special time of giving thanks to God and praying for the Spirit's on-going work. At the end of December, Ron retired from his role as Centre Team Leader and Area Team Leader.



Keith & Catherine Ranger have a ministry encouraging Chinese people in the UK and producing DVDs for use in the UK and mainland China. 2014 has been an encouraging year, with evangelistic visits to churches, and the DVD widely used. A Chinese student came to Christ after an evangelistic meeting in Wales and they had visits from Chinese friends from Malaysia and New Zealand.



Richard & Catherine Weston are based in Oxford helping churches to work with international students. They are continuing with their part-time Masters degrees in 'Contemporary Missiology' and are hugely grateful for the opportunity to read widely and reflect theologically on the international student ministry which has occupied them for the past 30 years. Their studies should equip them for their training and mentoring work. Richard has also been mentoring a young German woman pioneering international student ministry in Mexico.



Theresa Wilson works with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea as a Seimat Translator and Senior Literacy Consultant. Theresa writes: We made good progress in the translation and checking of Genesis, on the Seimat-English Dictionary and in producing more Seimat literacy materials for schools and teacher training courses. This could not have been done without God's help and people praying.



Andrew White is working with the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East. Andrew is the Vicar of Baghdad, but towards the end of the year, the situation became so desperate that he had to relocate to Jerusalem. Despite poor health, Andrew has continued to raise support for the work of FRRME as well as his pastoral care of believers in Baghdad.



NOTDEC is an orphanage in Uganda where many children are sponsored by St Paul's members. In 2014, Anthony & Janet Johnston, Tom & Ruth Hartley, John & Carlee Leftley and Carlee's sister Val spent time at NOTDEC, each one helping in various ways. About 10 new babies arrived during 2014 and a new administrator was appointed.



Charles Barr-Johnston, retired but still living and ministering in Argentina, continued to lead Home Bible Studies throughout 2014 and preach in local churches.



Jonny Morgan was based in Turkey until the middle of the year when he returned home due to health problems.

STAFF

We have a dedicated and gifted staff team and we are very grateful for all that they have done throughout 2014 to ensure the smooth running of the church and to lead and support the many and varied ministries of St Paul's.

During 2014, we were very sad to say goodbye to **Simon Willetts** and his wife Naomi. Simon served as Curate here for 4 years and has now been appointed as Associate Vicar, at Christ Church, Virginia Water.



Hester Meacock began her work as Children's and Families' Minister in January, alongside our first two unpaid members of staff, **Lisa Haywood** (Leadership Development and Support) and **Beth Penney** (Community Support Co-ordinator). In February, **Jan Pringle** was appointed as Operations Director. We are delighted by the recent appointment of **Wendy Harkness** as our Community Support Minister and she will be joining the in February 2015. Our Housekeeping team was also strengthened by the addition of **Julia Salter** who contributes a few hours a week of additional cleaning.



**Jonathan Jee,
Vicar**

Jonathan provides overall leadership for the church and particularly focuses on preaching, prayer and investing in other leaders. This year, he has been managing the other ministry staff, and is responsible for our links to the wider church.



**Lizzy Woolf,
Associate Vicar**

Lizzy partners with Jonathan and Jan in leading the church. She has been on maternity leave for much of this year and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her back in February 2015.



**Kate Wallis,
Youth Minister**

Kate oversees the Youth Ministry of St Paul's, both within church and through linking with local schools. She runs clubs, leads training courses and mentors young people, ably assisted by volunteers.



**Hester Meacock,
Children's & Families' Minister**

Hester oversees our work with children under eleven and their families. Her work includes training, resourcing and mentoring nearly 100 volunteers who support all these groups. She also works to strengthen our links with St Paul's school by leading assemblies, workshops and other work with the children and staff.

Admin and Housekeeping Staff



Jan Pringle
Operations Director

Jan oversees day-to-day operational matters and works closely with Jonathan and Lizzy as part of the leadership team.



Mel Tweed
Facilities and Finance Administrator

Mel is responsible for the running of all that happens in the building and for looking after the accounts.



Naomi Gaade
Communications and Events Administrator

Naomi prepares publicity materials; co-ordinates events and maintains the website.



Caroline Castle
Ministry Support Administrator

Caroline provides administrative support to the ministry team and volunteer ministry leaders.



Lizzie Knight
Housekeeper

Lizzie is passionate about keeping St Paul's spotless. She organises the kitchen and ensures the church building is ready for its users.



Julia Salter
Cleaner

Julia provides much needed extra support with cleaning which helps to keep the building ready for our wide variety of ministries and other users.

Unpaid Staff



Lisa Haywood
Leadership Development and Support

Lisa provides support to all the leaders at St Paul's, whether they are in charge of a small group, a community group or a ministry within the church.



Beth Penney
Community Support Co-ordinator

Beth organises the furniture and fixings teams who provide furniture, soft furnishings and general household equipment, as well as practical help to people in need in our local community.

PCC

Lots of new people joined the PCC at the APCM in 2014, and it has been good to see how the excellent atmosphere for discussion, debate and decision-making has grown, building on last year. The PCC has particular responsibility for finances, fabric and staffing, but also has a ministry report at every meeting. This is always encouraging, especially in the pace of growth that is going on across every age group. There is no sense of complacency; rather a desire to keep on praying and working for the growth of God's kingdom among us.

In 2014, the PCC gave time to understanding where the plans for Phase 2 of the redevelopment had got to. We rejoiced over the amazing Gift Day in March when around £350,000 was given/pledged, and decided to proceed with instructing the architects to draw up detailed plans. The PCC was kept informed about the various issues, so that we would be ready to make key decisions when the right time came in early 2015.

During 2014 we undertook a "Natural Church Development" survey on the health of the church. The last time we had done this had been 5 years previously, and it was encouraging to see that the statistics suggested that we had grown healthier in almost every area – especially in helping people to serve in the area of their gifting. The survey also suggested that we needed to give attention to our evangelism (which Jonathan had highlighted in the APCM anyway!) and also to our worship services (in particular widening our musical repertoire, having more testimony and encouraging the whole church to pray for the services in advance). The survey stimulated healthy discussion on the PCC about what needed most attention, and why certain things were highlighted – but mostly we were enormously encouraged by what the Lord is doing among us, and healthily challenged to keep praying seeking his leading.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The standing committee of the PCC is there to deal with the business of the PCC between meetings – but in our church it also acts as a senior leadership team for the church, and meets monthly. It comprises the Vicar & Associate Vicar, the Churchwardens and Treasurer, with the Operations Director in attendance. In the autumn, with Lizzy on maternity leave, and Kevin Leadbetter having gone to be with the Lord, we co-opted Simon Wallis to the Standing Committee until the APCM in 2015. We have had a real sense of unity, and thank God for the way we have sensed him guiding us over the year.

OTHER CLERGY NEWS

In addition to our Vicar and Associate Vicar, there are four clergy who are members of St Paul's. Ellie Clack and Graeme Pringle both have roles at the diocese but are keen to do some more ministry amongst us. We are delighted that Bishop Christopher has decided to licence them as Associate Ministers in 2015. We also continue to be very grateful for John Haynes and Anne Hibbert's ministry amongst us. Esther Peers was recommended for training for ordination. She is planning to start training in 2015 by 'mixed mode', doing the practical part with us at St Paul's. Thom Jee will be going to Ridley Hall, Cambridge in September 2015. Jonathan Smith is exploring a call to rural ministry, so he and Vicky and the family went to help Norman and Yvonne Warren at Snitterfield for most of 2014, which was hugely appreciated.



17/12/1960 - 20/8/2014

A tribute to Kevin Leadbetter, Church Warden

Jonathan writes...

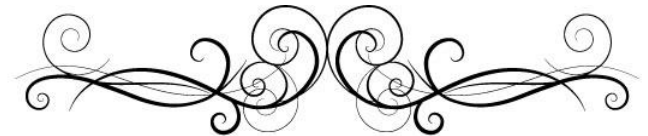
“ Kevin was a fine Christian man, a good friend and colleague. Juliet and I became friends with Kevin & Sandra through our children, while they were at Myton Church. They became Christians through the Alpha course there about 15 years ago, and soon after that did the Marriage Course. This made such a difference to them, that Kevin was always a great advocate for both those courses, and loved encouraging people to grow in their relationships with God and each other.

He was also passionate about serving God in the workplace. Before he became a Christian, he had found his work taking too big a priority in his life. But his newfound faith in Christ helped enormously during a period of redundancy, and he prayed for the Lord to put him in the right place. His last 10 years working at National Grid were very fulfilling, and he had a big impact on many of his colleagues.

I got to know him a lot better when he & Sandra moved to Crown Community Church, closer to where they lived in Lillington. They wound up leading the church during a period of transition, and came on our Growing Leaders course, which they said they found very helpful. As the church stabilised, they found themselves called by God to move on, and joined us at St Paul's. It was a joy to see him blossom in his faith, and his delight to worship God. I was very pleased when Kevin agreed to be churchwarden – his understanding of leadership and ministry made him a very wise colleague indeed.

His faith in Christ shone through during the year he battled with cancer. In the end it took everything, except for his soul. His deep relationship with the Lord and his confidence in the resurrection only grew stronger. It was a huge privilege to read scripture to him and pray with him, and see the depth of his relationship with God, with Sandra, and with his children: Chris & Steph, and Amanda.

The service of thanksgiving for him was one of the most remarkable I have ever known. A huge congregation gathered together: family, friends from school days and down the years, work colleagues, friends from the churches he had been part of, neighbours and many more. Despite the sadness of his death, the joy of the Lord's presence was even greater, and we are thankful to God to know that he is more alive now than ever before.



All the funerals held at St Paul's this year were for church members past and present, as well as Kevin Leadbetter, services were held for Olive Amos, Joan Page, Betty Fletcher, Ingrid Wright, Jean Pettit, Isobel Mold and Libby Sheehan.

BUILDINGS

Fabric Report

In 2014, our Finance and Fabric Administrator Mel Tweed has done a great job of managing the many and varied tasks which have needed doing to keep our building, grounds and equipment in good repair. He has been ably assisted in this task by a considerable number of volunteers, and it would be impossible to keep things running so well without them. Throughout the year, a whole range of servicing of equipment, safety testing, inspections, repair and maintenance work is carried out.

Early in the year, new heaters were installed in the Garden room and the Vestry.

John Webber oversaw the work needed to replace the repaired clock faces, and with the assistance of grants from Church Care and the local council, these were finally in place in November.

John Leftley has been busy organising work on the tower (loose masonry was identified in our last quinquennial inspection) and we hope to be able to go ahead with this early in 2015.

In preparation for the start of Tiddlies Praise in October, a small team led by Martin Haywood helped to make the worship space safer for small children by completing a variety of smaller jobs around the building.

With our staff team expanding, Beth Penney worked tirelessly to oversee and organise the refurbishment of the Garden Room as a Youth, Children and Families office which has given much improved office facilities for Kate Wallis and Hester Meacock, a pleasant meeting space, and fantastic storage for resources. David and Wendy Harkness also contributed a great deal of time and expertise to the work on this room.

We upgraded our broadband provision and ran data cabling over to the vestry and Garden Room in the summer, and this has made a big difference to all the staff.

Lewis Stephenson, John Robinson, Bill Evans, Richard Davey and Stan Harris all help by mowing lawns and John also does other gardening work; Cally Jones takes responsibility for brasses and linen; and Brenda Moody heads up our flower team. Nigel and Janet Appleby have also done a great job of arranging flowers at Christmas and Easter.

Lizzie Knight keeps our building beautifully clean, and this year has been joined on the Housekeeping team by Julia Salter for a few hours each week. Additional voluntary assistance is given occasionally by Juliet Jee, Stan and Carolyn Harris, Ceri Durrant, Nicky Wilkinson, Sarah Crooks and Dot Mulligan.

We are extremely grateful to Mel, Lizzie, Julia and our many volunteers who have worked so hard this year.



Redevelopment

“Build me a place of worship”

This year, we have begun work in earnest towards Phase 2 of our Redevelopment.

Our Redevelopment Team (Richard Duxbury, Dave Gorton, Jan Pringle and Rachel Wiratunga) have been busy working on the detailed planning of the work to be done together with our architect, Dave Sercombe from Robothams who also worked on Phase 1. Subject to finances, permissions and contractors, we expect the work to begin in July 2015.



The plans consist of:

- ☐ removing all the pews from the worship area to give more flexibility in using the main worship area.
- ☐ buying chairs (including some with arms for less mobile people).
- ☐ cutting back the dais to retain current seating capacity and adding an extra step to comply with building regulations
- ☐ carpeting the whole worship area in line with diocesan advice, and to improve acoustics
- ☐ raising the floor level in the side chapel to match the chancel, improving access, and using a temporary ramp for wheelchair access to this space.
- ☐ replacing our existing heating system which is unlikely to last much longer
- ☐ improving the lighting to give lower maintenance and greater flexibility
- ☐ improving fire exits by widening doors and improving exit routes, and adding additional fire detection
- ☐ redecorating the worship area
- ☐ improving our PA and visuals to make the sound more consistent throughout the space, and installing monitors where sight lines are restricted to allow people in those parts of the building to feel more part of the worship.

FINANCE

God is still clearly at work! In 2014 we made a surplus of £33,178 before depreciation and major works (or £23,644 after depreciation and major works but before gains and revaluations on investments as per chart below).

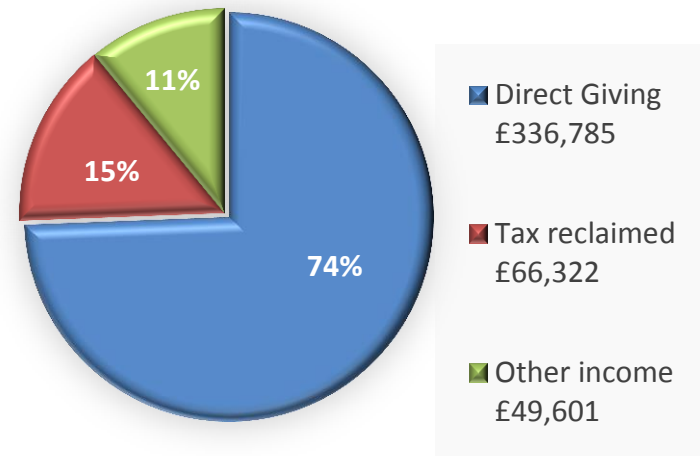
The accounts for the year are divided into “restricted” and “unrestricted” income. Restricted income is money given for specific purposes and can only be used for that (for example the money given for the redevelopment). Unrestricted income is what is given for the regular ministry of the church.

REDEVELOPMENT FUND (Restricted)

Phase 2 of Redevelopment was launched in March 2014 with pledges made of about £350,000 including Gift Aid. During the year actual cash received was £225,819. We have also spent £31,068 on architects and other professional fees. Also £4,000 went to much needed photoelectric panels in the Operation Mobilisation school in Pakistan where Jenny is head teacher as part of our 10% giving away to mission partners.

UNRESTRICTED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Unrestricted £'000	2014	2013	2012	2011
Income	452.7	371.7	318.3	314.7
Expenditure (before charging depreciation and major works)	419.6	348.2	316.4	294.6
Surplus before major works and depreciation	33.1	23.5	1.9	20.1
Major works	-	0.8	45.2	29.0
Depreciation	9.5	8.5	11.3	16.7
Surplus/(deficit) after major works and depreciation	23.6	14.2	(54.6)	(25.6)



REGULAR INCOME

The pie chart for our regular income shows that the vast majority comes from direct giving from members of the church. Direct giving and the associated tax reclaimed amount to approximately 90% of our total income.

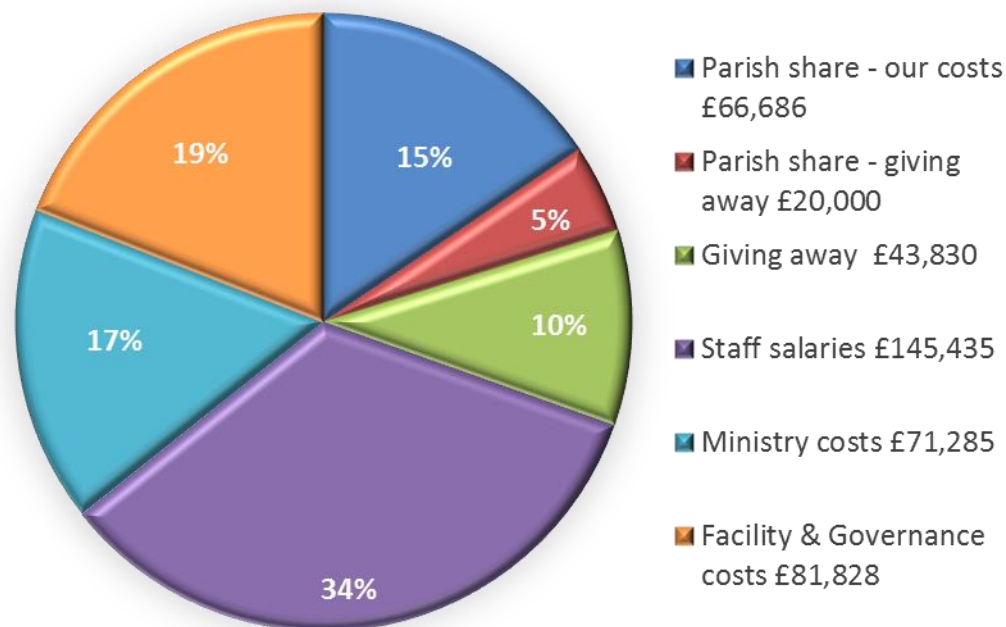
Other income comes from hall lettings, rent from Wathen Road, fees from weddings and funerals and a few smaller items.

Thank you to everybody who has given so generously and sacrificially.

The direct giving went up by 20% from 2013 figure (from £279,951 in 2013 to £336,785 in 2014).

REGULAR EXPENDITURE

In the pie chart below, we have removed depreciation (£9,534) from the figures in the accounts, so that what is left shows our regular expenditure.



RESERVES & CASHFLOW

When all our creditors and debtors have been taken into account we have £62,586 left in cash in reserves. We will seek to maintain this in 2015, as the PCC policy is to maintain as working capital reserves on unrestricted funds (if possible) a cash balance equal to 1.5 months expenditure (which is approximately £57,500). If we need extra money for urgent repairs to our church building we could use some of the equity from 49 Wathen Road.

Included in creditors are:-

£26,622 being half of the 10% from redevelopment that we are holding for Nueva Vida Church in Argentina. £17,590 cash held on behalf of the Warwick and Leamington Foodbank.

Parish Share

This is our share of the costs of ministry in Coventry Diocese. The cost of training, housing, stipend, NI, pension and central costs for a vicar and our share of the Associate Vicar's costs are approximately £66,686 for 2014 (curates costs are included within this). So we give about £20,000 to ministry elsewhere in the Diocese, in addition to paying all the costs of having a Vicar and an Associate.

Staff Salaries

This pays wages, national insurance and pension contributions for our staff (apart from Vicar, Associate Vicar and Curate)

Ministry Costs

This goes to pay all the costs of children's and youth work, adult discipleship and outreach, community work, leadership development and training.

Facility and Governance Costs

This covers all the costs of our buildings and equipment: maintenance, repairs cleaning, office and running costs, heating, lighting, insurance and governance.

Giving Away

We budget to give away at least 10% of the previous year's unrestricted income to our mission partners around the world, and to ministries in the town beyond St Paul's.

Full audited accounts are available on pages 50 – 62 (in a separate booklet).

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Reference and administration details

Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Paul, Leamington Priors

Registered charity number: 1130329

Charity's principal address:

St Paul's Church, Leicester Street,
Leamington Spa, Warks, CV32 4TE

Names of charity trustees, (PCC members) who manage the charity:

Rev Jonathan Jee Vicar
Rev Lizzy Woolf Associate Vicar
Rev Simon Willetts Curate To 30/06/14
Sarah Darren Church Warden
Kevin Leadbetter Church Warden To 20/08/14
Christopher Barrett To 17/03/14
Andrew Bush From 17/03/2014
Katrina Bush To 17/03/14
Helen Chapman To 17/03/14
Elly Crofton
Carolyn Davey
David Gorton To 17/03/14
John Hardeman From 17/03/2014
Lisa Haywood (DS) To 17/03/2014
Thomas Jee From 17/03/2014
Gail Linnett
Suzanne MacRae From 17/03/2014
Esther Peers
Roger Penney From 17/03/2014
Helen Perryman (DS) (Secretary to PCC)
Ruth Quigley From 17/03/2014
Jonathan Randall From 17/03/2014
Andrew Rolls (DS) Treasurer
Adrian Smith
Victoria Smith To 17/03/14
Pam Snape From 17/03/2014
Lewis Stephenson (DS)
Peter Wallis To 17/03/14
Simon Wallis
David Wilkinson To 17/03/14
Nishan Wiratunga
(DS) = Deanery Synod

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4JQ

Auditor: M D Spafford of LDP Luckmans, 44-45 Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 3EH

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules

How the charity is constituted:

A corporate body established by the Church of England

Trustee selection and induction methods: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the church representation rules.

The PCC is also a registered charity.

All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and are eligible to stand for election to the PCC. PCC members are fully briefed on current PCC issues at the first meeting of the new PCC. The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC: the Standing Committee, the HR Group, and the GO (Global Outreach) team.

The PCC has continued to review the risks facing the church, including types of risk, potential impact on the church and means of mitigating these risks. Systems and procedures have been put in place to mitigate identifiable risks. The PCC will continue to review risks on an on-going basis.

The PCC is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the church as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements the PCC will select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently and will make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. The PCC is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for safeguarding the assets of the church.

Objectives and activities

Our purpose at St Paul's is to bring 'Glory to Christ, Growth to his church and Good news to the community' (this purpose statement was approved at the APCM in 2004).

St Paul's vision and values can be summarised as follows: Our vision is to see Leamington changed, one life at a time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will try to fulfil this vision by helping each member of St Paul's to become a wholehearted disciple of Jesus, working towards St Paul's becoming a thriving centre for the Kingdom of God 7 days a week, working with other churches to continue the ministry of Jesus,

proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God and demonstrating it in practical caring ways.

As a registered charity, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. To fulfil our purpose and take steps towards achieving our vision the activities described above have taken place.

Achievements and performance

We hope you have enjoyed reading about these in the preceding pages.

Approved by the PCC on 9 March 2015 and signed on their behalf by

Jonathan Jee
Vicar and Chair of the PCC meeting