

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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ST. PAUL'S CHURCH  
LEAMINGTON SPA

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## Letter from the Vicar



**Jonathan Jee**  
Vicar

2015 has been a year with much rejoicing – there is just so much to thank God for!

This annual report shows some of the life and vibrancy across every area of our church. I have loved

reading it, and remembering all that God has done. 2015 has been an extraordinary year: we have completed phase 2 of the redevelopment, we have multiplied our Sunday services, and we have grown in numbers. We now have around 680 members of all ages (including a surprisingly large number of babies and ordinands!).

I am so grateful to God, and to all of you for your hard work, faith, prayer and generosity. In particular, I am thrilled at the wonderful way the church family has coped with so much change this year. I believe this is a sign that our security is in God, and not in the way we do things. In a world where change is all around us, and the pace of change keeps increasing, it is vital to make sure we trust God to provide for all our needs.

I hope you enjoy reading this report, and that it spurs you on in your walk with God. Let's celebrate all that God has done, and continue to pray that he will use us for his glory, so that we may see Leamington changed, one life at a time.

With love and prayer,  
Jonathan

OUR VISION IS TO SEE  
LEAMINGTON CHANGED,  
ONE LIFE AT A TIME

## SERVICES

### Description



We have 5 services every week, which provide a range of styles and emphases. In a variety of ways, each service gives the opportunity to draw close to God through Jesus, to worship him, hear his word and apply it to our lives by his Holy Spirit. The sermons from our main morning and evening services on Sundays are available on our website, and we encourage people who have missed them to listen to them at another time.

**Sunday 8am:** This is a small quiet service of Holy Communion lasting about half an hour, held in the chancel.

**Sunday 9.30am and 11.15am:** These lively services have the same content, with groups for under 14s. There is band led worship with a mix of contemporary songs, hymns and action songs, a talk and prayer ministry. These services attract the full spectrum of ages, with lots of families.

**Sunday 6.30pm:** This service has band led worship with contemporary songs, a talk (which is usually the same as the 9.30am and 11.15am) and prayer ministry.

The congregation is mostly made up of students and young adults in their 20s and 30s, with some older ones too.

**Wednesdays 11am:** This is a slightly more traditional service with hymns and a talk. The congregation is mainly made up of retired people, with a few younger people too.



## Highlights from Services

### Sunday Morning

The big news from 2015 was our move to 2 main morning services at 9.30am and 11.15am. For some time our main Sunday morning congregation (and especially the children's groups) had been feeling comfortably full, and we had been wondering whether the Lord was leading us to plant another congregation to facilitate growth. The redevelopment of the worship space provided the perfect opportunity to try this out. The first Sunday with services at 9.30am and 11.15am was 12 July, and for the next 12 weeks we all squeezed into the hall for worship. This worked very well for the first 8 weeks during the summer holidays, when the services were all age and different people were away each week. Many people commented on the sense of intimacy and enjoyed being able to see and hear others in the congregation. However, we were very pushed for space in September and October, when the overflow area in reception was often full, the children were tiptoeing through the sermon as they changed zones, and we were not able to serve coffee. Everyone coped admirably, and throughout this period of upheaval and change there was a real sense of unity and grace.

It was wonderful to have the worship space back on 18<sup>th</sup> October! We seem to have developed 2 roughly equal sized congregations, and we see the Lord's hand in this. Each service typically has 120-140 adults and 50-60 children, with more pre-school children at 9.30am, and more primary aged children and youth at 11.15am. We are delighted to welcome new people every week, and both congregations are growing.

### Sunday Evening

Our 6.30pm service enjoyed meeting in the hall during the redevelopment, and made the most of the space by using some more interactive models of prayer, and hearing testimonies from congregation members. We now typically have 70-80 people during the university holidays, and about 120 in term time when we are joined by many students, mostly from Warwick University.

This service benefits from not having the time constraints of the morning with slightly longer for worship and teaching. During 2015 we incorporated prayer ministry into the main part of the service with anyone in leadership at St Paul's encouraged to pray for those who come forward. This has led to more people receiving prayer and more people offering prayer, and seems to have encouraged others to pray for their friends in their seats after the end of the service too.



## Sunday Teaching

Our 3 main services on a Sunday usually have the same sermon. In the spring we did a series called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' following the themes in Mark Greene's book of the same name. This encouraged us to think about where we go regularly and meet people who don't know Jesus (our frontlines), and how God might want to use us to be fruitful there.



"One of the sermons in the Fruitfulness on the Frontline series prompted me to action a corporate social responsibility project that I'd been thinking about for a while. The project was at St Paul's school, & turned out to be one of the highlights of my year! A team from work got involved, and it felt like we really accomplished something special."  
David Jackson

In the summer we explored Romans 8 and Jesus' parables, with 15 different preachers, all from within our church family.

In the autumn we looked at our values as a church. These were initially set out in 2006, and it felt timely to preach through them again.

We have 2 foundational values:

**Biblical and Prayerful**,  
which underline 5 others:



**Generous:** we will be generous and welcoming to all, so that others encounter God's transforming grace for themselves

**Loving:**

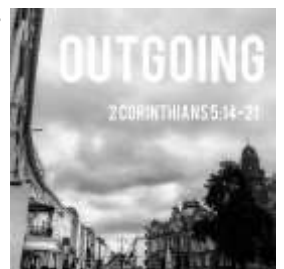
we will be real & loving with each other, so creating a safe place in which people feel free to seek wholeness in every area of their lives



**Distinctive:**

we will be wholehearted in learning to be more and more like Jesus

**Outgoing:** we are eager to go out to others, overflowing with the love of Christ, and determined to make the gospel accessible to all



**Led by the Spirit:**

we will be led and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, accepting risk and change for the sake of his kingdom

"I found the sermon series on the St Pauls values extremely practical to apply to all aspects of my life, be it at work, in my marriage, with my friends or serving in church. I particularly enjoyed the talk on being "Real and loving" as it sparked some great discussion in small group to encourage and build one another up, as well as being vulnerable and open in order to grow. The series challenged me to allow the values to shape the person I am and how I live my life."

Abi McKnight



## Special services

### Baptism & Confirmation

16 people were baptised in 2015 and 1 person renewed her baptismal vows; 8 infants and 9 adults / young people.



On Sunday 1 March at 6.30pm, we held a **Confirmation Service**, with Bishop Christopher confirming 29 of our church members. Some were new Christians, some had joined us from other denominations and were submitting to the discipline of the Church of England, and others were teenagers who had grown up in the church and were now ready to make their own commitment to Christ. It was a wonderful uplifting occasion.

*"At this stage in my Christian journey I never imagined I would be going to a church like St Paul's, let alone being Confirmed, but I can see God's hand in bringing me to this point and am so glad I said 'yes'.*

*In Confirmation I have reaffirmed my baptism vows, been commissioned afresh to serve God, and received a fresh infilling of His Holy Spirit for the journey ahead. What an amazing evening. I'm still trying to take it all in. "* Judith Linnell

*"It was wonderful to confirm my faith in front of my family and my church family. I felt a real sense of being 'at home' at church after the service. Also it's given me a fantastic opportunity to start conversations about Christianity and what it means to me on my front lines!"* Julie Jackson

### Easter & Christmas

On **Easter Sunday** we had a combined service for our morning and evening congregations. 500 people of all ages packed out the building to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. There was a wonderful sense of joy, the party blowers were a particular hit with the children!



*"It was a great Easter celebration, and it was truly a church family celebration"* Ross Caws



Our **Carols by Candlelight** service was really amazing! The church looked beautiful, with fairy lights, Christmas tree and decorations. The orchestra and choir, led by Ruth Smith, sounded fantastic. Many people brought friends and guests, and the whole service was full of the joy and wonder of Christmas.



“Singing in the choir for the Carols by Candlelight service is one of the highlights of my year. It is great fun to be part of it - we are worked very hard by Ruth Smith (who is a talented choir master - thanks Ruth!) and it all comes together on the night (despite more than a few duff notes during rehearsals!) It all adds to the wonder of Christmas.” Caroline Castle

This year, for the first time, we had 2 **Christingle services**, each lasting about 35-40 minutes. The first was attended by about 165 people, and the second was full, with about 350 people – both were great opportunities to share the message of Jesus’ birth with our local community. Everyone was invited to bring their own Christingle, & glo-candles were distributed. On **Christmas Day** we had one main service at 10.30am. Now that we have moved to multiple congregations, being all together in the redeveloped worship space felt particularly special. Christmas crackers were given out on the door, and it was great to see everyone at ease in their paper crowns, worshipping and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

## Midweek

During 2015 we have had between 40 and 50 people worshipping with us regularly at the Midweek service. We started the year by looking at the Gospel of Mark, the events of Holy Week, and joining in with Mission Week.

The Autumn term saw us start a series of talks looking at the life of Abraham and we all learnt a lot from a Giant of the Faith who was also extremely human and prone to making, and repeating, mistakes in just the same way as we do – very reassuring!

One of the highlights was the Remembrance Day service when we invited people to talk to each other about their own war time experiences and then we had a few people feed-back their memories, including one person being born in an air raid shelter! It made what we were commemorating that much more personal and real, and then we were able to think about the ultimate sacrifice paid for us on the cross.

Ruth Smith took over the responsibility for the Midweek congregation at the start of September 2015. There is a wealth of wisdom in this group of people and many of them are real prayer warriors regularly asking what they can pray for.







## Worship

2015 has been an exciting year for the worship team of around 45 musicians headed up by Gethin Jones. Our vision is to facilitate and help people encounter God through sung worship, and to 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 the redevelopment phase over the summer challenging us to explore how to worship in simplicity.

In addition to an ever-growing repertoire, it has been hugely encouraging to see how many young people have joined the team. We have also started exploring ways in which we can create and develop home-grown worship and songs.

We are so grateful to all our worship leaders for their commitment and dedication to this ministry: Ross Caws, Mark Chesters, Jeremy Clack, Jake Hollebon, Timmy Jee, Gethin Jones, Rachel and Jonty King, Mark Lloyd, Colin McKnight, Helen Ovenden, Ruth Smith, Thea Smith, and Sam Stone.



## Technical

2015 was probably the Tech Team's busiest year to date. In mid-July, St Paul's services moved out of the worship space in readiness for Phase 2 redevelopment works, and took up residence in the Church Hall. As the Hall had never been used in this way before, AV equipment had to be retrieved from the main church building and installed as a new system in the Hall and Welcome Area. Many thanks to Dave Gorton, Lars Wicks & James Richardson for their tireless energy and enthusiasm in getting the new systems up and running in time. The sense of joy in these new services, and intimacy in worship was readily apparent, and it was very satisfying to see the newly-installed technical equipment playing a supporting role to our worship. So successful was this installation, that most of it will now remain in the Hall, adapted to support our growing children's ministry.

2015's biggest event for the technical team was taking ownership of the new PA & Visuals equipment suite, following the completion of Phase 2 works. An investment of over £60k in AV has brought us a top-tier loudspeaker & amplifier system, and a vastly improved Visuals system including new projectors & screens. After herculean efforts by Lars Wicks, Mike Young & our commercial contractors, everything was installed & working on time.

Of course, all the new shiny equipment in the world means nothing if there's no-one to operate it, but luckily we have a great team of eight audio- and ten visuals technicians, led by Dave Gorton, who all serve selflessly in the background, keeping everything running for every one of our services and special events.



## Prayer Ministry

2015 saw God answering prayers and encouraging us as a prayer ministry team here at St Pauls. We know of several physical healings and many more encouragements and people receiving God's peace in their situations. With the multiplication of the morning service came some logistical challenges, but the team were still able to offer personal prayer after the end of each service and God has continued to give words and pictures to encourage people to come forward for prayer. The prayer ministry team is led by Helen Milliken (Milli) and has 21 members.

“Over the Christmas holiday I got flu like symptoms. Then I woke with very stiff hands. These symptoms got worse and I couldn't sleep because of the pain in my joints. I couldn't lift my right arm at all. ....in church as we sang the last song, 'Cornerstone', I heard a very quiet voice in my head, which I recognised as being God, say 'Raise your hands'. I thought to myself but I can't raise my right hand. I decided to try and when I got them about half way I felt heat coming into my hands and arms.... I fell to my knees taking huge breaths. At last all the panting stopped and I sat up and moved my hands to see if they were better. All the pain had gone. That night I slept really well and needed no painkillers. I feel like a cloak of stiffness and pain has been removed. I am so thankful to Jesus for healing me. “

Moya Kirton

“Exactly a year ago I received literally the biggest shock of my life. I was told I had breast cancer and suddenly, for the first time ever, my life seemed very fragile and uncertain. It was my faith, along with the love of family and friends, that helped me through and thankfully I could make regular visits to the prayer ministry team on Sundays. It was amazingly supportive to receive the compassionate prayers of people who didn't really know me but knew how to reassure and offer me hope. They highlighted God's promise to me in Romans 8: 28 'And we know that in *all* things God works for the good of those who love him...' The concept that 'good' would come out of this crisis was such a help. I found it important to be topped up with prayer ministry every 3 or 4 days in the early weeks because emotionally I was very wobbly. Every time the Holy Spirit ministered to me giving me inner calm and strength. My Oasis group and The Well also prayed for me which was like a medicine, offering God's peace and reassurance which kept me positive and helped me cope with fear. With hindsight I can say that God's promises have been a rock and my faith has been strengthened in a unique way. “

Liz Garrett

## Children



### ST PAUL'S KIDS

In the middle of 2015 God called the church leadership to multiply the morning service into two congregations. After much prayer and discussion it felt right to offer the same groups and activities for children at both services; this provided much needed extra capacity in our children's groups (which were full to bursting) and meant families were able to make a free choice between service times. St Paul's Kids ministry couldn't be done without a wonderful volunteer team. This team became an army over the summer as we grew from around 55 volunteers to 80ish! This was an amazing answer to prayer and we are so grateful to each person who serve on any of our teams. Each and every person is very valuable and plays a significant part in developing and sustaining this ministry.



**"I especially like the songs, playing games, the biscuits & drawing in the Wonder Zone. But singing mostly."**  
Penelope, Groovers

**"Leading our POD has so far been a privilege. There are moments that test us but we are truly blessed with seeing how much the children changed since we started in September. I look forward to seeing what develops for the rest of the year for all our group in Gods grace."**  
Tracy Southam, POD Parent



**Groovers** (our new group for primary aged children from year 1 to year 6) now uses a carousel teaching style. We put all our children into small groups called PODs. Each POD has at least 2 POD Parents who come every week to help disciple the children and foster a sense of church family. The PODs hear a Bible story all together and then move around three Zones doing a Construction project; playing a game; and then spending time with God in the Wonder Zone. The vision for the Wonder Zone is to allow children time for reflection and provide opportunities for them to meet with God. As part of this we have been teaching a style of conversational prayer called 'chat and catch'. It has been a joy to see the children connect with God in this way and a privilege to walk alongside them as they meet with Christ.





Our younger Sunday groups, now overseen by Hannah, have also thrived over this transition period. Crèche changed names from Little Stars to Wrigglers (0 - 2.5 year olds) and Shooting Stars became Movers (2.5 - 5 year olds).



In **Wrigglers** Hannah has worked hard with the team to increase the spiritual content and support

families as they start leaving their youngest children to return to church. This has been very well received and it's great to know that families are increasingly confident to leave their little ones.



**Movers** continues to be a wonderful environment to nurture and grow early faith.

Overall it remains similar to before though we have tweaked some content, as the children are now staying in this group until Year 1. We usually have a craft activity, a Bible story, a drink and a biscuit plus free play, and have also been learning how to chat with God.



"I love the vibrancy and inquisitive nature of our church kids.. they often ask questions adults perhaps shy away from and it's great to hear their explanations and understanding of God."

James Leng,  
Children's team



"I love helping out in Movers! To be able to share God's love and watch young minds soak up the awesomeness that is God is a remarkable privilege. Not only do I enjoy sharing and teaching them but I often find I learn from them and the questions they answer. It's a blessing to be part of the children's ministry team."

Claire Greig, Children's team



## Events

We have hosted three large Children's events this year. In the Spring term we did Easter crafts; in the Summer, as part of Mission week, we hosted our first ever Summer Celebration event; and in the Autumn term we did our traditional Light Party. Each event was popular with both church and community families and all enjoyed being together to mark these moments.



*"What a brilliant morning!  
So well organised, with a friendly welcome  
and so much for the children to do! I never  
cease to be amazed at the number of  
people giving their time to help the children  
with their crafts, or serve their grateful  
parents/carers a hot drink and a hot cross  
bun. The relief of some parents at finding  
something really fun, safe and, to their  
surprise, free (!) to do in the school  
holidays was almost palpable (or was that  
just me?!) and news is spreading.  
The numbers were huge (around 145)!  
A significant blessing to the community in  
itself and a huge opportunity to welcome  
people into the church. Having completed  
the treasure hunt and as many crafts as  
they could, the children were then invited  
to join in a couple of songs and listen to a  
great talk that made it clear what Easter is  
really about and why St Paul's sees it as a  
reason to celebrate. After that, party lunch!  
A huge well done and thank you to Hester  
and her whole team for a really great  
morning!"* Becky Crow





## School/ Prayer Week

St Paul's School had a demanding year in 2015, including an Oftsted visit, but one of the overwhelming causes for celebration is that relationship between school and church has flourished this year.

We were delighted to be invited to host a Prayer Week in school and gave a workshop to each class about what prayer is. We also gave the classes a prayer station which can be used to help the school's 'distinctive Christian ethos' (a specialist requirement of church schools). We have some excellent church members serving as governors: Charlie Crow (Chair), Julie Jackson, Hester Meacock, David Harkness, Joy Caws, Jonathan Jee & Naomi Chard who work hard to support the school in these roles.

The children's and youth team continue to do weekly assemblies on Thursday mornings and afternoons. We also have enjoyed welcoming the school to church during key festivals in the year and our Harvest school service was the first event in the redeveloped church. It was wonderful to see how the children and staff appreciated the new building!



"During Prayer Week our Reception class had a collective worship organised by Hester where she talked about different types of prayer; saying thank-you, sorry, praying for others and ourselves. The children wrote their own prayers and we made a book of class prayers. They also made a class prayer tree to help the children remember to pray for everyone in Reception.

Hester also introduced prayer stations for each class. In Reception we have play dough where the children can make something they have been thankful for as a focus for their prayer. They were also given a box of sand where they are encouraged to think of something they are sorry for and then rake over the sand to indicate forgiveness and a fresh start."

Rachel Cooper, Reception Teacher



"St Paul's Church plays a significant part in our school life here at St Paul's Church of England School. We feel very blessed to be linked to such a wonderful and active Church and look forward to continuing to strengthen this essential link."

Matthew Bown, Head Teacher



## Tiddlies Praise

Tiddlies Praise has now been running for 18 months and is going from strength to strength. Hannah Jones has taken over weekly responsibility for this ministry and is doing a great job. We had a pause over the summer as the re-development happened and since re-starting in the autumn we have seen many of our regular families return. We are also delighted that many of our new church mums have joined us and there is a real sense of community in Tiddlies. We see a weekly average of 40-50 parents bringing their children and are grateful to our generous team who remain very committed to the ministry.

**“Wow! Tiddlies Praise is great.”**

**“What an amazing toddler group.”**



## STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones ran for 2.5 years in St Paul's and we are deeply grateful to the wonderful team who poured time and prayer into it. In the summer the leadership all felt called to give the group back to God in prayer and ultimately to move onto new things. Therefore it didn't start again in September, but the women who came to Stepping Stones now often come to other events in church and it is great to continue the links we have with them.

## Other news

Behind the scenes, our Families Ministry has developed as Lizzy and Hester went to London to meet Rachel Turner, a key thinker in children's faith development. This was a helpful time and has enabled us to continue thinking about how we support parents to disciple their children.



Hester has started Baby Box visits to new parents and this has been a great way of meeting the newest and smallest members of

our church. She has also enjoyed doing home visits with older children for 'life events' such as confirmation and baptism. This has been a great way to hear more about individual children's growing faith. She has done 10 of these visits across the year.



The children's and youth team have also hosted two thank you parties for their volunteers in the Summer term and at Christmas. These events are great fun and it was lovely to have so many join us. Hester also hosted a variety of meetings during the second half of the year to share the vision for St Paul's kids, attended by well over 50 parents.



## Youth



### Friday Club:

Friday Club is aimed at school years 7-9 and provides a great space for young people to invite friends who may not usually attend church. This year we have had a lot of fun looking at topics ranging from Mr. Men and Little Miss characters as we thought about characteristics of Jesus, to games such as Human Hungry Hippos and Snakes and Ladders as we thought about the Easter story. Each session has a theme with activities, craft and a short talk and it is a great way for young people to have a small glimpse of how great God is for perhaps the first time. We ended 2015 with 40 young people on the register and we see between 20 and 30 each week. A number of our older young people have joined the leadership team and it is a real joy to work alongside them and see them investing in those a few years younger than them.

"I go to Friday Club every week because it is a great way to stay connected with God and it is also a fun evening with games and crafts. It is a great event to bring friends along to because you are taught about God in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere that wouldn't scare away people who aren't Christians. My friend has been a Christian for 2 years and it started when I began bringing her to youth group 3 years ago."

Poppy MacRae

### Engage:

Engage is for school years 7-9 on Sunday mornings. 2015 has been a year of change for Engage as we have moved from being one group to splitting into two for the 9.30am and 11.15am services. With 13 young people moving up to the Youth Ministry from the Children's Ministry to join us at Easter, we were the largest in number that we have ever been and so it was definitely time for things to change. This split into two groups has generally gone well and God has provided us with 3 new team members to help accommodate this. This year we have looked at a range of subjects from the Youth Alpha material to the vision and values of our church. Each week we aim to help the young people to discuss topics that are relevant to the Christian faith and then think about how they can implement what they learn into their daily lives. We ended 2015 with 36 young people on the register for Engage, and we see between 20 and 30 each week over the two services, with more at the 11.15am service.

"Over the last year, Engage has helped me to understand the Bible better and ways to apply it to my life."

Hannah Castle



## The Hub:



The Hub meets on Tuesday evenings and contin-

ued to be a great place for those in years 10-13 to grow in faith and discipleship over 2015. 4 of our young people moved on to pastures new – university and other further education – during the summer, and we welcomed around the same number of younger youth into the group at Easter. We meet with around 15 young people in this age group each week.

This year we have looked at topics such as Old Testament characters and what the Bible says about being a man or woman of God. From September we have started a course which will lead us through the whole Bible in a year in 31 sessions and it's been really helpful so far.

Many of the older young people from The Hub are also involved in ministry and leadership at St Paul's and it is a real joy to see them fully involved in church life.

**"I have really enjoyed being given the opportunity to help with prayer ministry at the evening services, its amazing to see how God can work through prayer and the effects such a personal thing has on people."** Emily Haywood

**"It has been great to be part of the church's worship team, following on from enjoying leading worship in The Hub for the past year. It has been encouraging to have the opportunity to develop our gifts. Recently, I have been privileged to lead worship on Sundays which is a joy to do."**

Sam Stone

**"I first signed up to be a POD Parent because I thought it would be a really exciting opportunity to get involved in the growing children's ministry at St Paul's. My favourite part is having the same group every week so I can build relationships with the children. The wonder zone is particularly special as there is lots of space for the children to 'catch' from God and meet with him in really significant ways."** Becky Tidd

**"I enjoy leading at Friday Club because of my own experience of the youth teaching and leadership. I want to help the younger youth have the same experience as me, and have a good role model as they grow in age and faith. Friday Club is a fun group to lead at, and its nice to see the younger youth of St Paul's enjoying their journey with God and it shows that everyone can enjoy church. When I first got involved as a leader, I was a bit nervous because I hadn't done it before but now I feel more comfortable."** Jonah Haywood

## Growing Leaders – Youth Edition:

The Growing Leaders course is run by Andy Castle from Thrive Youth Ministries and Kate Wallis. It aims to equip and encourage young people in their leadership roles as Christians through teaching and discussion. The course runs for 8 months with two 24-hour residentials and 6 monthly meetings. In April we completed a course which was attended by 11 young people from 5 different Warwickshire churches, including two from St Paul's.







### Summer Activities:

For the fourth year we took a group to Soul Survivor. This year we took 15 young people and 4 team. We had a great time together, camping, worshipping, eating, reading the Bible, eating, attending seminars, eating, listening to really relevant talks and eating great food! We also loved seeing one of our old youth – Timmy Jee – presenting live Soul Survivor coverage on God TV!

“God showed me he had a plan for my life and to trust him.”

“I felt God was telling me to get involved in charity work and volunteering at school. Then perhaps to get involved in overseas mission at a later date.”

“I loved seeing God touching those who called for him.”

“Soul Survivor was a great opportunity to live with each other for a week and to grow in relationship.”

Many of our young people also attended New Wine with their families and a large proportion of these served on the New Wine Team in the children’s groups. It’s a joy to see them putting their faith into action in this way. Some also attend other Christian holidays over the summer such as Christians in Sport, Ventures and Scripture Union Camps.

“I lead at New Wine because I like to help the children to learn about God. I like seeing the children having fun, especially last year as I was looking after a child whose dad was in hospital and seeing him smiling was a really happy thing to see. I like being able to branch out in my faith to teach younger children about Jesus. I also like that I can develop my faith through the talks to the team as they allow me to ask questions. I was very nervous when I first started on team as I didn't know what the children were going to be like and I didn't know anyone else there. But I was also excited about what God was going to do and any challenges that were going to arise. I feel very pleased that I have done this ministry as I feel like I was, with the other leaders, able to teach the younger people about God and allow them to have fun. I also made some great friends on the Pebbles team that I wouldn't have met otherwise.”

Josh Stone



### Schools Work:

Kate has regular contact with St Paul's School through assemblies and school services. This is a really great opportunity to get to know the children before they move up into the Youth Work. For the sixth 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. Kate has also been involved in two further groups at North Leamington this year including some one-to-one sessions in the individual educational needs support room and leading a reading programme for talented and gifted students in year 7.

### Youth Weekend Away:

In March 2015 we took away 39 young people and 7 team to The Pioneer Centre in Shropshire for our fourth annual Youth Weekend Away. We had a great time doing outdoor instructed activities, getting to know each other, eating cake and having meetings. The theme was chocolate, and we used 4 different chocolate bars over the weekend to think about our relationship with God and how we could learn to love him more and to remember him when we returned home.





## Students



Our student ministry has grown enormously over the last few years, and we now have about 50 students, mainly from Warwick Uni, who regularly worship with us on Sunday evenings during term time.

Many of these students are very involved with the Christian Union at Warwick. We have therefore decided not to run many student events at church, though we do encourage students to join in with our small groups and ministries. Occasional student pizza evenings in Quench after the evening service have proved popular, helping our student community to connect with each other. In 2015, we also held 2 weekends away, both of which were much appreciated.

Our March weekend away was attended by just under 30 students, with a real sense of depth. There was lots of laughter and fun while going on walks, playing Frisbee, and eating great food. There was also a real spiritual hunger. It seemed like everyone had come away looking to meet with God, and as a result we had some intimate times of extended worship. Relationships went deeper both with each other and with God, helped by some challenging teaching on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus – dying to ourselves to live for Him.

Our December weekend away was attended by 19 students, who enjoyed rest, prayer, fellowship, worship, a country walk and teaching from Thom Jee. There was a palpable sense of God's Spirit moving among us as we prayed and worshipped together, and a strong sense of community.

Thom and Sarah Jee led our student ministry until the summer, when it was handed on to Thea Smith (a current 3rd year sociology student at Warwick), Daniel Rogers (a maths PhD student) and Mark Chesters (our ministry intern and a recent Warwick graduate).

**"I had a great time at the weekend away enjoying the peacefulness after a busy term and being able to spend time with God and with friends"**  
Rachel Knight

**"I really enjoyed the relaxed and timeless feel of the place and a chance to draw close to God and reflect on a busy term."**  
Will Bolton

## Small Groups



Small groups are at the heart of life at St.Paul's, providing a place to build community and grow spiritually.

We now have 16 small groups, which meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday across Leamington and Warwick, with around 150 members of the church belonging to a group. Other members of the church connect into small groups through Cameo and Oasis.

In 2015, small groups spent time discussing the Sunday sermons in more detail, as well as meeting for socials and helping out with community projects and courses.

Our small groups are led by:

### *Tuesdays*

Robin & Jo Killick; Mike & Sam Young  
Andrew & Ann Rolls.

### *Wednesdays*

David & Wendy Harkness; Carolyn Stone and Ellie Hucklesby; Graham & Judith Eastwick and Judith Linnell; Chris & Charlotte Lockyer; Lars & Sanna Wicks and Jeremy & Ellie Clack; Ed Lowndes and Catherine Worsnop; Naomi Gaade.

### *Thursdays*

Lisa Holt and Colin & Abi McKnight; Dan Rogers; Charlie & Becky Crow; Ruth & Richard Quigley; Simon & Sophia Wallis; Jan & Graeme Pringle.

"I have found a family and support network with my small group. Great leaders and being around vibrant and loving people, has made it easier to settle in having moved from Milton Keynes. Learning, growing, having fun together and loving one another in Christ. I wouldn't have it any other way :)" Bhav Joshi

"I wouldn't be able to manage with out its support network "  
Will O'Connor

"A lovely mix of all ages, where the group grows in number and in Spirit."  
Averil Richards

"Joining a small group has been a great way to get to know a few people much better, which makes Church feel more like a family. Its a place to dive deeper into the Sunday teaching, to agree or disagree and explore others points of views (without heckling in church!) Small groups are also a good source of strength, and accountability, and its great to know that there's a group of people praying for you."  
Rachel White

"I love our small group. I feel as though I belong - even though I've only been a part of the group for a few months and often can't get to the meetings! The atmosphere is relaxed, we learn together, share together and pray together, and have seen some great answers to prayer."  
Carolyn Davey





## Transforming Work

Transforming Work is a new course by the LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity), consisting of 8 sessions spread over a 12 month period to allow space between gatherings to reflect, try things out and to pray. We started our first course in November, led by Catherine Worsnop and Ed Lowndes with 21 participants. Sessions include:

Why does work matter?

How can I flourish at work?

How can I influence the culture of my workplace?

How can I tackle workplace issues with Biblical principles?

Transforming Work is about Christians being envisioned, equipped and supported in their workplaces. It's about an integrated way of life that empowers us to be consistent in our values and our actions in every area of life, including our work.

"I've found Transforming Work really helpful, as it's given me time and space to reflect on my work life. I also really value spending time with other people who want to explore the connection between faith and work"

"Thought provoking, relevant and applicable."



Prayer at work, Dan Upton & Dawn Bush

"Transforming Work is for those who know that their daily work could welcome God's kingdom in more but sometimes don't see how to do it. The mixture of encouraging teaching, informal setting and group discussion and prayer have been a source of strength during a difficult time for me at work."

"I am finding it quite helpful. I was worried at first as the group seemed to be full of professional people, but I have actually discovered it is not what we do but who we are in Christ."

"We have been challenged by the course. The content is excellent and it has given us a reminder that our work is part of who God wants us to be."

"I've had loads more conversations about God at work since doing the course."



## Freedom in Christ

The Freedom in Christ course is a 12 week course designed to help us get a

better understanding of what the Bible says about who we are as Christians.

The format is that we watch a DVD which presents the teaching for the session and at various points split into groups to discuss key points from the preceding section. The teaching is delivered by Steve Goss who heads up the Freedom in Christ ministry.

The spring course was led by Chris and Jo Barrett in their home. We had 15 people complete the course. The autumn term course was led by Ruth Smith, Jonathan Smith and Adrian Smith; we met in the church lounge each Wednesday evening and we had 10 people complete the course with us.

The beauty of the course is that even if you have been a Christian for many years, or you've only just decided to follow Jesus, there will be new things to learn and teaching points that make you stop and think. We had a fairly diverse group this time round with a good spread of ages and Christian experience. As the course progressed it was great to see friendships developing, people starting to go deeper in their faith and the group discussion times becoming more animated.

The highlight of the course was the day away generously hosted by Chris & Jo Barrett. We all travelled out to Offchurch for a day of teaching and time for

individuals to reflect on what God was saying to them specifically – there was no group time that day. It was so encouraging to see the Lord meeting people and hear stories of how individuals were starting to see themselves as the Lord sees them and not as their past dictated.

We serve an awesome God!

"The course helped me to become much closer to God. Been able to forgive, open my eyes and heart to lean on God more. I feel that I am worth loving."

"The course helped me to understand that I am not mediocre or insignificant because I am a child of God. It feels like there is nothing today that can happen that God and I can't handle together."

"I enjoyed the structure of the course, and the process of personal reflection and transformation has been amazing. There has been a real community feel to this course and it's been a joy discovering together."

"I've gained a greater sense of my identity in Christ and God's plan for my life."







## Alpha

The Alpha course is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith together in a friendly informal environment. The course is usually 10 weeks long and we have run 4 in 2015: on Tuesday evenings in the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms, and on Thursday mornings in the Summer. The growing team of helpers, cooks and speakers, led by Simon Davies have enabled the guests on Alpha to feel at home and have helped to befriend and guide through the courses. This year again we have seen a number of folks come to faith in Jesus, and get involved at St Paul's.

Alpha has proven to be a very significant experience for most with the highlight being the 'away day' for many. The away day takes place on a Saturday in the middle of the course, and is a chance for the guests to meet with God and to receive prayer. We find that the Holy Spirit is always present with us in a very special way. We are also very pleased that other church Alpha courses have continued to join with us for the away day, including Holy Trinity Stratford, St Peter's Wellesbourne, St Michael's Bishops Itchington and Southam Community Church.

"We have been bringing groups from Holy Trinity Stratford almost every term since summer 2013. It has been a great joy to see our guests meet with God in a special way on the away day. We are very grateful to St Paul's for the opportunity to join with other smaller groups for this key event on Alpha." Steve Bate

"When I started Alpha I never thought I'd be sad it's finished. It's been educational and I've met a great group of people I hope to be seeing more of." Christopher Ryan

"It was brilliant. I found it very helpful—I learnt everything behind the Bible and about Jesus."

Anne Ridley

"At a time in my life when things were looking a little grey, attending the Alpha course revitalised my faith and gave me my passion for God back. It was encouraging, uplifting, welcoming, and the food was pretty good too! Through the Alpha course, and attending Sunday services, I have met some lovely people who have been very kind and friendly and made me feel very welcome."

Megan Birch

"I feel I have moved up a few gears in my faith, I am happier."

Peter Leopold

'I had many questions about the meaning of life, Christianity, different religions, faith... During each session of the Alpha course, one piece of the jigsaw fell into place...'

Ainara Eguidazu



## Community Support

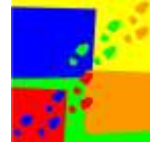
### Mentoring & Befriending

2015 saw a change in direction for the Community Support Ministry at St Paul's. Wendy Harkness joined the staff team in February and one of the first things she did was conduct a review of all that had taken place in the previous years. Following this and a month of prayer, we felt the church should move away from one off practical help and concentrate on developing relationships with people in the community. The focus for this year has therefore been developing St Paul's mentoring and befriending scheme, aimed at helping people facing difficult times to achieve their goals. We have recruited and trained members of the congregation as mentors, and are currently running a pilot scheme involving 3 people. There have been several introductory events and a training day for potential mentors and befrienders was held in early October. Bryn Hughes, who has extensive experience training and mentoring leaders from a variety of church backgrounds, delivered three inspiring sessions.

*"It was absolutely brilliant and I really enjoyed the day ...I completed a 4 day course with Coventry City Council earlier this year on mentoring and I have to say it was nowhere near as good as yesterday. Bryn has given us some really useful tools and excellent insight into mentoring."*

*"I found the day really interesting & helpful"*

The practical side of the ministry has not been forgotten and projects have been completed for people who are accessing St Paul's mentoring service and who are in regular contact with the church. This has included painting a fence and decorating a bedroom.



### Footprints

Footprints Mums' group has been running for several years at a flat in Southorn Court. It has been a privilege to get to know the mums and their pre-school children and to offer practical help & prayer when appropriate. However, numbers have dwindled and at Christmas 2015 we decided the time had come to end Footprints. Informal relationships continue, and we are very pleased that most of our regulars have now made some connection with Crown Community Church in Lillington.

### Kennedy Square

The church has been involved with our neighbours in Kennedy Square for many years with the first Carol Singing event taking place in 2005 and first BBQ in 2006. Relationships with our neighbours there have been growing ever since. This year's BBQ in August was extremely well attended, the weather fine, food excellent and for the first time Lizzie Knight (our housekeeper) brought along her team from Crown Community Church to perform a puppet show with the message that God loves us and wants to be our friend.







The Kennedy Square Carol Singing in December was also much appreciated by the residents who gathered on the balconies to listen or came down to join us in the singing. Around 60 members of the congregation sang carols, accompanied by our own brass band, and knocked on doors to give out boxes of biscuits and invitations to St Paul's Christmas services and events.

## Community Christmas Meal



A week after the carol singing we held our first ever Community Christmas Meal on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This was planned in response to a prophetic vision God gave to Elly Crofton, one of our Church Wardens, where she saw Jesus walking out of the church into our neighbourhood and coming back with a crowd of people, particularly from the Kennedy Square and St Paul's Square area. The aim of the meal was to demonstrate the love of Christ to local people and those accessing Foodbank here at St Paul's. We wanted to welcome them warmly, serve them humbly, bless them with good Christmas food and fun. Prior to the meal, teams went door-knocking in Kennedy and St Paul's Squares to invite them along and invitations were given out through Foodbank.

We entertained 40 adults and 32 children from the community to a beautiful Christmas Meal, lively music provided by Nigel Turner's very talented band, a photo booth put together by Mark Chesters and team, and children's crafts provided by Hannah Jones and team. Dawn Bush gave an excellent short monologue with the message that Jesus was not just for Christmas but wanted to be involved with us as our friend throughout the year. Christmas presents were given to both the adults and children. Over 50 church members supported the event in various ways from welcoming our guests, serving them with food and drink, helping with the washing up and clearing away.



Everyone left full of thanks & compliments for the fantastic evening they had experienced.

The following Sunday everyone was asked what they wanted to thank God for. One family who had been to the Community Meal turned to a church member and said "Thursday night, it was just what we all needed". We also received a text message from another family saying "Thank you all so much for last night, we had a fantastic time" We hope this will become an annual event which, if possible, will only get bigger and better.



## Relational Ministries



### Marriage Course

The Marriage Course is a series of 7 sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. We ran it on Friday evenings in the summer term, and once again the church lounge was transformed into a relaxing inviting dining space, followed by the DVD teaching by Nicky and Sila Lee and time to discuss as a couple (no group work!). It was hosted by Ross and Joy Caws and Tim and Rachel Smith, with many others, most notably Carolyn Harris, helping out in the kitchen. The course is based on Christian principles and open to all. Feedback suggested all couples truly valued the time set aside to reflect, evaluate and invest in this most crucial of relationships.

"The marriage course helped make the space, time, prompts and conducive atmosphere to focus on the important things in life and on each other"

"We enjoyed being forced to step away from the busyness and have the time together. This will help us improve our marriage by making more quality time, and working on clearer communication to prevent misunderstandings"

"Really enjoyable evenings, lovely food, and kind service of so many, made the environment and experience a positive one. A real treat to come and so conducive to relaxed discussions"



### Marriage Preparation Course

The Marriage Preparation course is a series of 5 sessions to help engaged couples build strong foundations for their future together. Led by Ross and Joy Caws using DVD teaching by Nicky and Sila Lee, the course has seen a somewhat unexpected surge in popularity in the last 12 months and had to run 3 times during 2015. With people coming to the church requesting courses we sense exciting times of growth ahead and are praying that we are ready to move at God's pace with this.

"Ross and Joy were very welcoming and put us at our ease immediately. We found the course invaluable, it really helped us to confront things that otherwise we would have avoided discussing and since the course we have put into practice a lot of the advice we were given and would recommend the course to anyone planning to get married."

Lizzie Knight & Pat Timlin





## Parenting Teenagers Course

The Parenting Teenagers Course was led by Kate Wallis in February and March 2015. Around 11 parents attended the 5 week course to listen to a talk on DVD, discuss with partners and in small groups, and eat tasty puddings! The course allowed parents the chance to try out different techniques and ways of managing family life within a Christian framework.

"The Parenting Teenagers course gave us lots of useful advice and we found it helpful talking with others in the same situation as ourselves."

John & Elizabeth Taylor

"Restored Lives is a fantastic course which supports anyone at any stage of relationship breakdown. I have been a participant on it and helped to run it and, alongside the course, which contains so much helpful material, perhaps the most important thing is being able to talk to people about what you are going through, who are going through similar situations, in a completely non judgemental atmosphere."

Simon Brown

"It was somehow reassuring to be with a group of people who had been through or were still going through one of the most difficult times of life. Most of all it reminded me how faithful and gracious God is for being with me always and bringing me through."

Liz Thomson



## Restored Lives

The Restored Lives course is led by Kevin and Sarah Roe, in their home. We ran it twice during 2015, at Easter and in November. Each course consists of six Monday evenings where we follow a programme that is appropriate to people undergoing separation or already divorced and the many issues and emotions which such intimate relationship breakdown brings. We reserve plenty of time each week for people to share with each other. The course provides support for those whose relationship breakdown is new, as well as those who have been divorced for decades but may have issues and hurts still residing in their lives

On the Easter course we initially had seventeen people subscribe. It was a large group so we split into two separate groups each week. There were some particularly harrowing experiences of abuse shared so the support of other group members, who had encountered similar issues, proved a major benefit.

On the November course we had seven people subscribed, one of whom was a young woman who is not a Christian, whose midwife had recommended the course to her.

"Restored Lives is a good much needed course for divorced or separated people run by two very committed people. Thanks."

Chris Dronfield

## Leadership Development

### Growing Leaders Course



This year Jonathan and Juliet Jee, Mark and Esther Peers led a group of 15 on the Growing Leaders Course. The course is designed to help individuals explore the gifts and skills they were created with, and how these can be used in our calling as leaders in the home, church and the workplace. We met as a group once a month for teaching, once a month in prayer triplets and then once a month with a mentor to talk through the journey.

"The first half of the Growing Leaders course gave me some time and space to reflect on my journey so far and helped highlight a few key areas that needed addressing. The second half has developed my understanding on how to lead effectively, whether it is in a secular or a church organisation. Both parts of the course will continue to affect my life indefinitely." Ruth Quigley

"What's the similarity between a church and a helicopter? If you stand too close to either you end up getting sucked into a rota! Having grown up with the impression that the best church leader was the person who did the most, the growing leaders course was a refreshing change. I loved looking at great biblical leadership examples and learning some practical tools on how we can structure how we serve to benefit both ourselves and those who serve with us." Jon Randall



### Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit

About 20 people from St Paul's attended the annual Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit at its Coventry venue in October. The 2 day conference is an opportunity to hear (via videocast) a whole range of internationally recognised leaders speaking about leadership issues that inspire them.

"What an inspirational, motivating and challenging conference! I absolutely loved each talk...but to combine these talks with a set time to reflect as well as a workbook to write thoughts, questions, and complete activities meant that for me it wasn't just motivational speeches but the learning could actually sink in and provoke further thinking" Hannah Jones

"I absolutely loved attending the Global Leadership Summit this year. I wasn't expecting a series of videos to be so engaging, but each one had me hooked, and I learned loads from each of the speakers. I enjoyed every talk and would find it hard to pick one over the others. Bill Hybels wealth of knowledge and experience was evident, hearing about the creative processes behind Pixar with Ed Catmull was fascinating, Horst Schulze's hotelier experience was surprisingly relevant to church leadership, Brené Brown's research and honest life stories were compelling, and Albert Tate perfectly mixed humour with the serious and important content of his talk about giving God what you have and letting him use it. It was a brilliant, thought-provoking day and I would jump at the opportunity to go again." Mark Chesters



## New Wine



New Wine 2015 saw another 10,000+ descend on the Bath & West showground in August. Almost 120 people from St Paul's joined together with Martin Haywood acting



as village host, and this year we had enough space to carve a hole out for a small 5-a-side / kids play area.

A great mix of families, singles and couples

enjoyed a week of getting to know God and each other a little deeper, attending seminars, kids groups, enjoying a communal BBQ & a Bacon Sandwich Fest. It was noted that the "camping" experience was quite new to a few and avoided by others, notably

the occupants of Meacock Palace (a campervan). Most of the guys seemed to have been allotted their jobs for the week – some got away with the BBQ and rubbish, whilst the vicar drew the short straw with daily flower arranging on the perimeter of the Jee estate. Resembling a Honda 90 in Bangkok, the Peers family won the award for how many you can get on a push bike. It was heart-warming to see everyone having a holiday and deepening friendships in the process.



## Retreat to Advance

In January 2015, 30 of us travelled to Center Parcs in Sherwood Forest for New Wine's Retreat to Advance weekend for those in their 20s and 30s. We had 5 adjacent chalets which enabled good socialising with sharing of meals. The theme of the weekend was the psychology of prayer which was really interesting and challenging, encouraging us to explore different ways of praying best suited to our own personalities and working out how to overcome the 'blocks' that we have to prayer. The Saturday afternoon was free to enjoy the various sporting facilities that Center Parcs has to offer.



New Wine was life changing for me. Before I went I was in a really bad place with my anxiety and was close to giving up on my faith. Then one night the call forward for prayer was anyone who has anxiety. I went forward not thinking anything was really going to happen. I was very wrong! The Spirit moved and I felt a massive tension release throughout my body. Since then I've had no anxiety at all. God is good!

Anna Smith

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Oasis is a group of about 65

ladies, ranging in age from 20s-70s, some of us are working, others at home with children, and still others retired.

On Thursday mornings during term time we gather for coffee, cake, worship, teaching, small group discussion & prayer. A handful of the ladies belong to other local churches.

This year our teaching topics have ranged from the Sermon on the Mount, to women who encountered Jesus, to women of the Old Testament. In the spring term, a small group stepped aside for 6 weeks to explore our particular giftings, while another small group did the Alpha course.

In May, eighteen ladies spent a Saturday together, for a quiet day of prayer at Redhill Christian Centre. In June, we finished the term with a number of coffee mornings in lieu of our more formal meetings, and were pleased to welcome a few new ladies into our fellowship during this time.

In the summer Esther Peers finished in her leadership role at Oasis to pursue ministry training. In the autumn, under the leadership of Lissy Clarke, Juliet Jee, Caroline Castle and Becky Crow, we re-launched the group with a new vision statement. Our aim is to be "a community of women wholeheartedly pursuing the transforming, life-giving love of Jesus." We were delighted to move into the new church space in November. One of the great benefits of the space for Oasis has been that the small groups have gained a valuable ten minutes together, as our small groups now meet around the edges of the church rather than in various rooms throughout the facility.

During 2015 we have grown from five to

seven small groups (including one dedicated to newcomers and visitors) and we are immensely grateful to each of our 12 small group leaders.

We are also very grateful to have so many members within the group exploring and stretching their gifts in a variety of ways. Many of our members help by speaking, leading worship, looking after the children, welcoming on the door, leading small groups & serving coffee. It is a great encouragement to see so many stepping out and using their gifts, and sharing the responsibilities.

The roots of Oasis are in a group that was for mums of very young children and although we grew beyond that boundary many years ago, mums of preschool aged children continue to be a vibrant core of the ministry. As such, we are extremely blessed by the love and commitment of a number of volunteers, led by Liz Lewis, who run the crèche, HOPPERS AND BOUNCERS. Not only are the children looked after, they are known, loved, and provided with a wonderful programme of fun and care, experiencing their own kind of Oasis.

"For me, Oasis is Christian fellowship and development -and friendship- in a non-threatening, like minded all female group"  
Fran

"Oasis is a place where I can just be myself before the Lord; not someone's wife, mother, employee or anything else, but where I'm simply a child of God." Dawn

"Oasis is a place of peace, support and love, where I can deepen my relationship with God and my Church sisters. I LOVE it!"  
Emma

"Oasis is for me a life line, a support, a sisterhood, an inspiration." Arianna



# Create for Christmas



Create for Christmas, a crafting event for women held annually on the first Thursday in December, was enjoyed by many St Paul's women and lots of their friends, many of whom

can't wait for the opportunity to sit and chat and create for an evening. This year the redeveloped space enabled us to use the church to create a relaxed café style environment for the women to enjoy a thought provoking talk from Becky Crow, half way through the fun, friendly and productive evening. There was a fantastic variety of crafts including chocolate baubles, owl tree decorations, candy cane place holders and decopatch reindeer.

## BOOK CLUB

Book Club, led by Fran Shaw, meets on the second Monday of the month, with the book list for the year published on the church website enabling avid readers to prepare for the informal discussion. It's a great opportunity to chat, develop deeper relationships and debate interesting topics.



## CAKE & CRAFT

Cake and Craft, led by Katie Collings and Bec Rolls, continues to be a popular event for ladies from both the church family and their friends. Each month ladies bring either a craft they are working on or we try a different craft and have been fortunate to have different ladies share their skills.

We have several ladies who attend every month including some talented cake makers and enjoying the cake adds to the relaxed and informal time together.

*"It is a place where I can breathe at the end of a busy week."*

*"It is lovely to knit, chat and eat cake with my friends."*

*"I really enjoy this time together and I love to craft, even if I'm not very good at it!"*



## MEN'S MINISTRY

St Paul's Men's Ministry is led by Mark Peers. The year saw a more low key array of activities aimed at enabling guys to go deeper with God and form long standing relationships with others in the church. Following reflection, both the men's Bible study and monthly breakfasts came to an end in the summer following a number of years of operation. However, curry nights, bike rides and pub nights all continued with a wide mix of blokes from both within and outside the church.

### Men & Kids Camping



In July, the 2015 annual men and kids camping trip returned to its favourite destination - Biblins Forestry Commission youth campsite for another year. The aim of the weekend is to have fun with your kids, get outside and relax with other men from the church. Organised by Simon Davies it was a tremendous weekend under canvas in the Forest of Dean. 15 men and 30 of their kids came along for the 2 nights and partook in walking, wood chopping, pub lunch, campfires, BBQ, marshmallow roasting, tournament games, pyramid making and of course the now traditional 'paddle' in the river Wye. We were again blessed with exceptional weather and a fantastic weekend was had by all.

"I've been going to men's camping for seven years. The boys love it and always ask when it is. One of the highlights of our year." Nick Ireland

"The relaxed atmosphere and agenda lends itself to great fun and a real community feel - my boys love it ( and so does their Dad!)" Charlie Crow

### Tapas

TAPAS men's group has now been meeting for 2 years under the leadership of Martin Haywood. 2015 has seen a common core who attend most months and it was noticeable half way through the year that our relationships, with each other and collectively, reached a new depth. It feels like our foundations are much stronger, and we continue to be blessed with being able to meet at the Crooks' house.

"After c.18 months of TAPAS there was an overwhelming feeling of going to a new depth as we continue to get to know God and each other together" Martin Haywood

"I went along to my first TAPAS thinking it was a sort of Mediterranean dining club, but it wasn't. Been going since though, when I can." David Harkness





## OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

### Mirth

MIRTH continues with its aim of "creating a community of retired men that welcomes others and improves the quality of retired life for all". We meet on Tuesdays for discussions on current news topics, walks, visits, speakers and food but there is a continuing positive trend to connect with one another outside these organised times. People do seem to keep on retiring so it is good to be able to invite them into this pleasant eclectic group which numbers just over 60.

Our latest offering is a regular Bible discussion with a short, hopefully provocative, talk followed by small group discussion. Aimed at Christian men it has also attracted a few who would not consider themselves in that category. Highlights last year included the visit of evangelist Roger Murphy, Chris White MP being questioned by MIRTH members two days before the General Election, a Curry evening with Spa Blokes, a visit to Leamington Real Tennis Club with a demo by the world number 1, and talks on "Coping with Bereavement", "Lessons from NOTDEC Uganda and "Leamington's Crown Jewels". We also had our traditional June "Jolly Boys outing" this year to Sulgrave Manor and a Christmas Party.

A final highlight was an autumn series of talks, by Christians who explained how faith shaped their working lives: "A life behind bars" [Rev. Richard Higginbottom, Prison Chaplain], "A life in crime" [Chris McKeogh, former Birmingham Police Commander] and "Large Scale Engineering Projects", [John Leftley, MD of John Laing Midlands]. Mirth is led by Tim Wagg, supported by John Robinson, Neville Compton, Anthony Johnston, Stan Harris and Mike Bench.

### Cameo

These are our aims:

Come and join us for the Midweek Service, followed by lunch in the church lounge....  
A long with an activity.....

Meeting together to get to know each other better, to care for one another and...  
Encourage each other in our Christian walk with an.....

○portunity to make new friends.

We have tried to fulfil these aims and have welcomed new members and laughed together. We also shared sadness with the loss of three friends, Brenda Moody, Pam Smith and Dilys Arthursen. We celebrated their lives in Thanksgiving services that were a testament to their faith. Brenda was a very valuable practical member of our committee and we shall miss her in very many ways.

We have been fortunate to have had many interesting informative guest speakers this year, as well as our own members and church friends who have shared their passions with us. Mel Tweed has continued to devise brainteasing quizzes for us. One highlight was the Lunch Garden Party on one of the hottest days of the year where Anthony and Janet sent us home with freshly picked sweetpeas.



During the year Cameo agreed to undertake the support of Mordecai, a young boy at the orphanage at NOTDEC in Uganda.

Cameo is led by Jean Grimes, with a hardworking committee, Barbara Edwards, Shirley Crook, Ann Duxbury and Vanessa Leedle.

## Events

### Education Professionals Evening

Around 20 congregation members who work in education gathered together for an evening of mutual support in January.

Over a good meal, there was the opportunity to hear some short talks about the value that Christians bring to the educational world, followed by an opportunity for prayer.

### Auction of Promises

In February, we held an Auction of Promises to raise funds for Phase 2 of the Redevelopment. Around 60 people generously offered goods and services including holidays, babysitting, meals and pictures. Around £6000 was raised and the evening was highly enjoyable.



### Riding Lights - Inheritance Play

On 6 March, we hosted the Riding Lights theatre company as they performed their passion play

'Inheritance'. The production was of a very high standard with superb acting and was well attended by church members and people from other local churches. We followed the stories of Jairus, his daughter and Tova, a woman accused of adultery. We watched their encounters with Jesus and the impact he had on their lives. The story ends after the crucifixion as each character responds to what has happened and we were also invited to make our own response. Feedback after the event was overwhelmingly positive, with many very moved by the experience.

*"Such a moving occasion"* John Hardeman

### Passover Meal



On Maundy Thursday, around 100 people gathered in the church lounge and foyer for a Passover meal. The evening began with lively worship and then Jonathan talked us through the Jewish Passover traditions and we sampled bitter herbs, 'mortar' (apple and nut sauce), salt water and hard boiled eggs all symbolising different aspects of Israel's slavery in Egypt. We then enjoyed a delicious meal with much conversation and laughter.

*"For our family The Passover Meal has become an annual favourite event! It is the start of our Easter celebration, connecting with Jesus' Jewish roots. Last year we invited a family who don't usually attend church events. They really enjoyed it and found it fascinating learning about how our celebrations link with the Jewish festival. The food is always yummy!"* Liz Garrett

### Regency Run Water Station



Early on Sunday 19th April, St Paul's volunteers set up a water station in Newbold Comyn car park, in anticipation of the arrival of the runners midway through the Regency Run 10k which curls its way through St Paul's parish. We cheered on the runners and handed out drinks. Lots of fun was had by all involved.

# CAFÉ CREATE



## Café Create

We had a great evening in April when the church lounge was filled with a wide variety of people enjoying a relaxed and informal evening. Colin McKnight, Jake Hollebon, Lizzie Adsett, Will Bolton and Perry Emerson provided high quality music and Dawn Bush entertained the crowd with poems and short stories that managed to be both funny and thought provoking. As always Café Create is a great way to develop relationships both within the church and beyond and to see the many talents our performers are blessed with.



## Family Camping

Six families with children of all different ages enjoyed a very wet weekend in June at Far Peak Campsite. Activities undertaken included a very, very wet walk followed by a pub lunch, a climbing wall, and the adventure trail at the campsite. Fortunately the rain stopped for long enough for us to have a group BBQ on the Saturday evening.

*"I love family camping, it's one of my favourite times of the year. I love camping and lots of my friends go" Jasmine Phillips.*

## High Sheriff of Warwickshire visit



In June, we hosted a visit from the High Sheriff of Warwickshire – Mrs Janet Bell Smith and her husband who were touring some of the churches in the diocese to see their work with local communities.

After a short tour of the church, they joined us for lunch met the ministry staff & visited the Food Bank. At the end of their visit, they expressed admiration for the scale of the work and the dedication of our volunteers. They were stunned that most of the funding for our redevelopment had come from direct giving.



## Rugby World Cup Final Screening

The Rugby World Cup final was immediately before the Light Party. We showed the match in a packed out Quench to an audience of between 40 and 50 people, with an honesty bar and snacks from the local curry house. It was a fantastic atmosphere, and great, to be able to bring kids along to watch the rugby in a communal setting that wasn't a pub.



## MISSION WEEK

**Sun 31 May to Sun 7 June**



In 2015 we joined with 22 other local churches for HOPE 15 Mission week. This was not a traditional mission week, but more of an umbrella under which different churches and groups of churches could do mission events in their own style. It was wonderful to have so many churches working alongside each other, and we were very pleased to welcome Roger Murphy (from Through Faith Missions) as our main speaker for the week.

### **Sunday: Praise in the Park**

Mission week was launched by our 5th annual Praise in the Park service. The weather looked awful, but with a forecast saying the rain would clear, the decision was made to set up in the park as planned. The rain held off for the duration of the service, and a few minutes either side (thank you God!). Two bishops took part in the service: Bishop Christopher led in prayer and Roman Catholic Bishop William read the scriptures. Jonathan led the service, Gethin Jones and a St Paul's team led worship, Roger Murphy spoke, and we heard testimonies from Lizzie Knight and Roger Penney. Once again Dave Gorton did a great job overseeing the practical production of the event, and it was fantastic to see so many smiling volunteers from St Paul's willing to lend a hand even at such an early hour.

"A member of our extended family, who was not brought up as a Christian, has had her life turned around after she went forward in response to the invitation...and is now a regular member of her local church."

### **Tuesday: MIRTH Lunch**

About 20 chaps came and after a rather sumptuous lunch at the Angel Hotel, Roger Murphy shared his journey from football hooligan to Christian evangelist powerfully and movingly. This produced a flurry of pertinent questions. Several men made a point of talking with Roger at the end and he prayed with three of them.

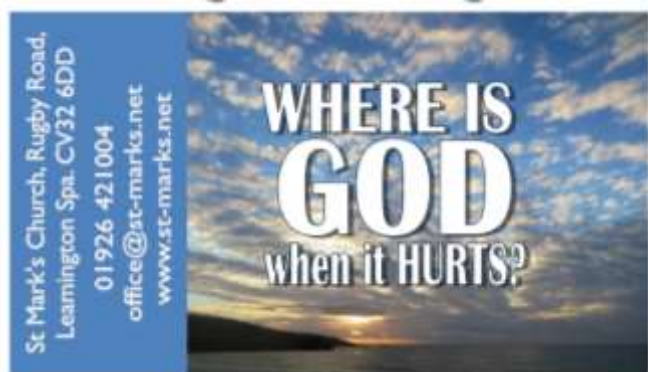


### **Tuesday: An evening with Linvoy Primus**

About 15 people gathered in the upstairs room at the Fox and Vivien pub to listen to Linvoy Primus talking about his Christian faith & career as a professional footballer. The informal setting meant that there was plenty of time for questions and conversations about football and faith.

### **Wednesday: Midweek Service**

At the Midweek service Roger Murphy gave a simple gospel message and encouraged us all to reach out to the people around us who don't yet know Jesus. His visit was well received and it was good to feel part of the wide town initiative.



## Wednesday:

### Where is God when it hurts?

St. Paul's teamed up with St. Mark's church and *The Well Christian Healing Centre* to put on an evening of healing and hope, entitled 'Where is God when it hurts?'. The aim of the event was to reach out to those seeking God in their suffering or pain, with the good news of Jesus and prayer for healing. Around 250 people came to the event, where Roger Murphy gave a talk on the healing power of God using a Gospel story about Jesus healing the sick.

Anne Hibbert from The Well interviewed two guests who both gave powerful testimonies of how God had healed them – either of physical or emotional suffering. And both of these guests answered the question "Where is God when it hurts?" by saying that He was right there in the midst of their pain even though they didn't know it at the time.

Roger gave opportunity for people to turn to Christ for the first time, and everyone was invited to visit the various healing "islands" so that they could connect with God in different, creative ways. 30 people came for individual healing prayer, as well as over 150 people coming up for anointing with oil. New links were made with people who don't usually come to church, and it was exciting to see God touching lives as we prayerfully united with our fellow Christians at St. Mark's for this special event.

## Thursday: Oasis Coffee Morning

Oasis opened our doors for a coffee morning where members were encouraged to invite a friend. We laid out our best coffee and homemade cakes and welcomed 20 extra ladies plus children. Lizzy Woolf shared how being a Christian has made a difference in all aspects of her life. We had a joyful, happy morning with some great conversations and a few guests returned in following weeks.



## Thursday: Children's Summer Event

The church was filled with excited children (aged 7-11) and big smiles. Everyone received a friendly welcome and enjoyed craft activities, a treasure hunt and the extremely popular bouncy slide. This was followed by songs and a talk about how we can become friends with Jesus. There were children from both the church family and the wider community, with some visiting church for the first time.

"This was the first time that our children had been to St Paul's. They received such a great welcome and had so much fun that they have never looked back. They were keen to go to a service the following Sunday, where they joined the children's group that they have been part of ever since. What a great way to start their journey with God!" Sarah Darren

## Saturday: Kids & Dads Morning



On a glorious Saturday St Paul's hosted a "Dads and Kids" event at Newbold Comyn field. Sporting activities were the focus of the day, but not just a couple of jumpers for goal posts. Oh no... When St Paul's hosts an event we do it properly, with Jon Smith bringing down his very own lawnmower in order to mark out the football pitch and a regulation cricket wicket! It was a great



opportunity for fellowship amongst the Dads & spirited competition from the kids. Activities included football, cricket, ultimate frisbee, american

football, juggling, races parachute games & face painting. We were joined by Roger Murphy who gave a great talk about Jesus's love and colour he brings to our lives (yes, Jonathan's magic book was deployed to full effect - gets the kids every time).

After the talk we were all treated to an Ade Smith BBQ special, burgers, sausages, crisps, fizzy drinks and ice pops!



## Saturday: Student Ball



The first Student Ball at St Paul's was a fabulous evening of canapés, Jazz and Jive dancing. Finishing with a tremendous but fiercely competitive dance competition, a special mention has to go to the evening's winners, Jack Shepherd and Sophia Bryant, who impressed with their flawless moves and improvisation!

## Sunday:

### First Sunday Summer Special

This was an evangelistic, social event celebrating the end of the Mission Week for youth. With a bouncy castle, inflatable obstacle course, (which added the competitive factor to the evening) and BBQ cooked by local youth leaders, this event was packed full of vibrancy, joy and fun! Roger Murphy, shared his testimony engaging youth who were exploring Christianity as well as those who were more mature in their faith. 110 people attended and 13 committed their lives to Christ.

*"The First Sunday special was an exciting event. It was very social and was welcoming to people who had never been to First Sunday before, and as well as all the fun there was also a time for God at the end which made for a perfect end to the evening and helped to show what First Sunday is all about."*

*"An evening of food, friends and the Christian message. Particularly memorable were the fiercely fought races on the bouncy obstacle course!"*



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON



Our vision is to see Leamington changed one life at a time, and so we believe it is hugely important to work and pray with other local churches. In 2015 Jonathan continued to host monthly prayer lunches for church leaders (for the 9th year!). Usual attendance is about 15, out of a possible 25. Relationships are very good, and we always pray together for God's blessing on the town.



In April 2015 we hosted an evening with Mike Pilavachi, for all the churches in Leamington. It was a remarkable evening of worship, teaching and prayer ministry, and there were some significant encounters with God.

"It had been some time since I met with the Lord in a significant way, but the evening that Mike Pilavachi spoke changed that. The presence of the Lord moved in me during the prayer time, to the point where I was physically shaking. the sense of His love, acceptance and presence (which had been lacking for some time) came upon me strongly and stayed with me for weeks afterwards, and all my doubts and fears were gone, along with the idea that He was somehow disappointed in me. I'd had a picture from God previously that the ash grate had been cleaned out, the kindling was laid, and all that was needed was fire. There's no doubt in my mind that that evening, the fire was re-lit."

Dawn Bush.

"I attended the evening with Mike Pilavachi expecting great worship, great teaching and good fun. As the evening progressed issues from my past began to arise and I continued to give them up to God as I had done many times before, I had a lot of questions but I wasn't really expecting personal assurance or relief, He had never answered me before and I had accepted that was how it was going to be. At the end of the session Mike gave a word that I knew was especially for me concerning this issue. God had answered me so personally. As I received prayer I knew that God WAS with me during the past difficult times and will continue to be with me as I work through these issues.

Thank you God. "

There are many excellent town wide ministries where churches work together.

These include: Street Pastors, Night Light, Cross Teach, Christian Resource Centre, Warwick Gates Centre for Relational Care, Nightshelter, Homeless Action Project, Home for Good, Leamington Vineyard Learning Centre. We pray for these ministries, & encourage members of St Paul's to get involved. We also celebrated them all at a united service held at St Paul's on Jan 25th, (St Paul's Day) during the week of prayer for Christian unity. Financially, rather than give a small amount to all the ministries, we have decided to build significant partnerships with a few: The Well, CAP (Christians Against Poverty) & Thrive Youth Ministries. We were also legally responsible for Foodbank until it became a charity in its own right in April 2015.



**The Well Christian Healing Centre**, led by Anne Hibbert, is a place where people of all faiths and none can have prayer for healing. We offer

weekly prayer sessions in the Pump Rooms, Quiet Days, soaking prayer, healing training courses and Pathway teaching days. We also held 2 Listening to God events in 2015. 9 people from St Paul's are in the Well Prayer Team, and in 2015 we have welcomed many of the congregation to our weekly prayer sessions and special events.

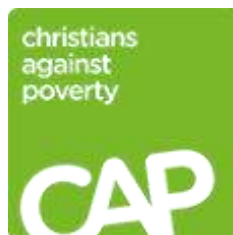


Once again we are extremely grateful to St Paul's for another generous financial gift to support our work. Your gift makes such a huge difference to us. As we start 2016 The Well is in a very exciting time, as we endeavour to secure a permanent home. We praise God for you and your partnership with us. Thank you!

More info at [www.wellhealing.org](http://www.wellhealing.org)

*"Volunteering at The Well is a rewarding experience to see God working in peoples lives to bring healing and wholeness."*

Ruth Lockyer



**CAP** is a national charity passionate about releasing people from a life sentence of debt, poverty, and their causes. Services include

debt help and a money management course. In Leamington the CAP Debt Centre is based at St Mary's Church and led by Darren Mitchell.

During 2015, 37 households were booked in for first visits, and 20 were successful in entering into a debt management plan. 12 households became debt free including one couple who paid back £59,000 over 5 years. 12 clients made first time commitments to Jesus Christ as well as many others recommitting their lives to Jesus once again, and several have started to attend local churches (including St Paul's). We saw God's provision many times after praying with clients for specific items such as fridge freezers, cookers, washings machines and a car. Every client that received an appliance ended up giving their lives to Jesus.

More info at [www.stmarysleamington.com](http://www.stmarysleamington.com)

A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well.



budget. save. spend.



**Thrive**, led by Andy Castle, exists to help churches in Leamington, Warwick and the surrounding areas to be more effective in reaching out to young people and

discipling them in the Christian faith. 2015 saw Thrive continue to grow in influence as Andy started to mentor three more youth ministers, (in addition to the existing 7) and launched a new church partnership scheme aimed at keeping youth ministry development firmly on a church's agenda.

Another focus was on developing our work with children's leaders. Research we carried out in early 2015 reported that around 80% of churches have no 11-18's. We don't find this acceptable and so have felt God leading us to help churches work with the children they do have, to create a platform on which to build a youth ministry, as those children grow older. We are recruiting a Children's Adviser to join the Thrive team and hope to finalise this appointment in early 2016.

Thank you for your support financially, prayerfully and practically. Thrive would not be able to do all it is without your help. More info at [www.thriveym.org.uk](http://www.thriveym.org.uk)

*"Andy is a great listener and always remembers the details from one mentoring session to the next. He's kept me focused and helped me find new ways of working with my team."*

Lou Thomas,  
Youth Minister, St Michael's Budbrooke



**Foodbank**, which is managed by Andy Bower, gives 3 days' worth of food to those in the local community experiencing crisis. Clients receive a voucher from referring agencies such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau or Children's Centre and bring it to one of 6 distribution centres (we opened our 6th centre at the Westbury Centre in June). St. Paul's host a centre on Thursdays, 1-3 pm, led by Miriam Bowen and 7 people from St. Paul's volunteer.

During 2015 we have seen a rise in the number of clients visiting Foodbank. Around 800 have received help from St. Paul's with over 3,427 mouths having been fed across all six centres. The three primary causes are low income, benefit delays, & effects of debt.

Excellent work has been done by Paul Clarke, (Chairman), and the rest of the Trustees in enabling Foodbank to become a charity in its own right in April. The milestone was marked by a Launch Event held at St. Paul's with over 70 delegates from local churches and donor organisations, as well as representatives from the Trussell Trust.

More info at [www.warwickandleamington.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.warwickandleamington.foodbank.org.uk)

*"I wanted to help others in a practical way and Foodbank not only gives food to the people in need but also signposts to other agencies to enable them to change their circumstances and offers support with a cup of tea and a chat. It is a privilege to serve in this way and see hope and love come into their lives."*

Pauline Archer



## GLOBAL OUTREACH ( GO TEAM)

The GO Team (short for Global Outreach) is led by Carolyn Davey and looks after and promotes the church interests and activities that are geographically beyond Leamington. St Paul's makes a difference! That's the message our mission partners and organisations tell us. Here is just some of the feedback we have had this year from the six individuals/couples we support with finance and prayer.

**Jenny Davies**, has returned this year after 21 years serving overseas, latterly running a school for children of Christian workers in Pakistan. You may remember her sharing in services in June when we also had a big cake with the flag of Pakistan on it.

"Thank you so much for the gift to help with relocation/resettling expenses. I am very grateful to you for this and appreciate it very much. I still miss many of the material possessions that I had in Pakistan ...As I look round shops I often think: "Oh..... I had that in Pakistan". I think it is part of the grieving process. Thank you so much for this gift that enables me to replace items and also buy other things that I need in UK."

**Keith & Catherine Ranger** have a ministry encouraging Chinese in the UK and producing DVDs for use in the UK and mainland China.

"We are hugely encouraged by yet another loving and generous gift to enable our Chinese ministry to continue to hit the road! Thank you all so much for your love and prayers! These few weeks should see a sizeable number of Mandarin DVDs going out, please pray with us for spiritual fruit as these are viewed and listened to."

**Richard & Catherine Weston** are based in Oxford helping churches to work with international students.

"We continue to be grateful for the faithful support of the St. Paul's family over many years. Your care for your mission partners has been exemplary and we thank God for you and others on the GO team who've ensured that that is the case."

**Marcos & Claire Wurfel** are church planting in Argentina. They are always very thankful to St Paul's for our prayers and giving and for the strong interest we show – it's a real encouragement to them.

"Thank you for your constant support in prayer, it is so important to us, it sustains us and transforms lives. We are looking forward to enlarging our ministry, thanks to your support and trust."

**Patty McCulloch** works with international students in Birmingham (we used to support both Ron and Patty, but Ron has now retired).

"Many thanks for your generous support of my work with Friends International this year – in prayer and finance. It is so much appreciated!"

**Theresa Wilson** is with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea where she works as Translator/Linguist in the Seimat Project and is a Senior Literacy Consultant.

"A big thank you to all my supporting churches and individuals for their prayers & financial support through this last year!"

We also support in prayer

**Charles Barr-Johnston** who is retired but still living and ministering in Argentina and **Richard and Carolyn Davey** who worship with us at St Paul's and work full time with WEC International.

As well as supporting individual mission partners, we also support 4 mission organisations. During 2015 the GO Team decided to change the mix of the organisations we support, so we no longer support Cord, but have adopted Betel.



**Betel UK** Betel of Britain is a group of caring, not-for-profit Christian communities in the heart of the UK dedicated to restoring homeless and long-term unemployed people to healthy, independent lifestyles. They train men and women in a wide range of life and employment skills, enabling them to rebuild a strong work ethic. All their residences are drug- and alcohol-free and totally free of charge. They offer the opportunity of restoration to all persons who seek their help.

“With your help we continue to care for over 350 men and women in our houses throughout the UK. We see some men come into our community very thin, the light in their eyes has gone out, they don't talk and they are sick. Little by little as they eat, begin to sleep properly for the first time in many years for some, bathe and learn to work a full day's work they literally change before our eyes. Their faces fill out, the light begins to turn on in their eyes. They become lively and animated where before they were dull and lifeless. It is a stunning sight to observe. Thank you for being a part of the process to restore a life that had no hope.”



**CPAS** is an Anglican Mission agency based in Coventry, working to encourage good leadership and ministry in the Church of England.

“Thank you so much for your church's recent donation to CPAS... your support will help us fulfil our vision of enabling local churches to reach out to every person in the UK and Republic of Ireland with the good news of Jesus Christ.”



**FRRME** is a UK based charity facilitating the work of Canon Andrew White in Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. Their current focus is on helping those who have fled ISIS in Iraq and Jordan

“The support of all at St Paul's Church and the Global Outreach Team is much appreciated, and helps make a genuine and lasting difference in the lives of those FRRME assist. Many of our refugees in Jordan are now settled in good accommodation, but many internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northern Iraq continue to live in tented camps, which are extremely cold in the Iraqi winter.”



**NOTDEC** is an orphanage in Uganda where many children are sponsored by St Paul's members. In 2015, Anthony & Janet Johnston, Kay Wootton, Mark Shaw and John & Carlee Leftley spent time at NOTDEC, each one helping in various ways.

“The support received from St Paul's is GREATLY appreciated, the financial support means that an extra £125 can be sent out each month to cover the NOTDEC chaplain's salary with some left over for them to spend on other items.”

# RESOURCING THE MINISTRY

## Prayer

Our foundation value as a church is to be biblical and prayerful in all that we do. We ask all teams, groups and ministries to pray, making sure that we seek the Lord's direction as well as his strength. This means asking him what we should be doing, not just asking his blessing on what we've already decided to do!

At the first meeting of the new Ministry Leadership Team in April, we asked the question: what is God calling us to do for the morning service during the redevelopment when we can't meet in the worship space? One idea was multiplying into 2 services. We knew this would be costly, increasing the demands on bands, preachers and others involved in services, people in different congregations wouldn't see so much of each other, and we'd need to double our children and youth provision. Various options were considered, but after much prayer and discussion, the MLT felt a clear leading from the Lord that multiplying the services was the right thing to do – not only during the redevelopment but long term in order to facilitate growth. We also realised Hester would need an assistant if we wanted to continue to grow the children's ministry. We took both these ideas to the PCC, where after further prayer and discussion they were unanimously approved. It has been wonderful to see how this has all worked out in practice. Over the summer we were able to recruit 30 extra children's leaders, recruit Hannah as Assistant Children's Minister, and God multiplied the 10.30am service into 2 roughly equally sized services.

During our redevelopment project, we have prayed at every stage – covering the big picture, timing, giving, practical details, safety and more. As Phase 2 progressed we found the decisions about carpets, lighting and chairs were particularly problematic. We prayed into these things many times, especially at our First Priority Prayer meetings and it is wonderful to see how our prayers were answered.



**BEND**  
17-24 May  
Week of Prayer

We held 4 weeks of prayer during 2015, in January, May, September and November using a variety of different formats and styles of prayer. The May prayer week, which focused particularly on praying for the redevelopment, the move to 2 services and our HOPE 15 festival week, was called BEND, as a reminder to bend our knees before the Father in prayer, and seek to bend our own wills before his, letting go of the way we were used to doing things.



The November week (between Vision and Commitment Sundays) focused particularly on praying for our vision as a

church. As part of this we sent out regular prayer emails with prayer points focused on our town.



## STAFF

Our staff team worked hard during 2015, admirably adapting to all the upheaval of our Redevelopment. Wendy Harkness began her role as our Community Support Minister in February and Hannah Jones started as our Assistant Children's Minister in September. Also in September, Esther Peers joined the team as an Ordinand and we welcomed two interns – Mark Chesters and Natalia Freeman.

During 2015, Beth Penney and Lisa Haywood stepped down from their roles as unpaid staff as our pilot scheme ended, but both continue to be very involved in the ministry of our church.



**Jonathan Jee**  
Vicar

**Jonathan** provides overall leadership and vision for the church and particularly focuses on preaching, prayer and investing in other leaders.



**Lizzy Woolf**  
Associate Vicar

We welcomed **Lizzy** back from maternity leave in February. She oversees the ministry staff and partners with Jonathan in leading the church.



**Kate Wallis**  
Youth Minister

**Kate** oversees the Youth Ministry of St Paul's, both within church and linking with local schools. She and Pete are looking forward to the birth of their first child in early 2016.



**Hester Meacock**  
Children & Families  
Minister

**Hester** oversees our ministry with children under eleven and their families. Her work includes training and managing over 100 volunteers and developing our links with St Paul's school.



**Wendy Harkness**  
Community Minister

**Wendy** oversees our Community Support ministry, including our mentoring scheme and events such as the Kennedy Square Barbecue and the Community Christmas meal.



**Hannah Jones**  
Asst Children's Minister

**Hannah** assists Hester in the Children's ministry and has a particular focus on work with the Under 5s, including the midweek Tiddlies Praise toddler group.



**Esther Peers**  
**Ordinand**

**Esther** is training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. St Paul's is her placement church and, alongside her training at St Mellitus College, she gives half her week

to church ministry including overseeing the small groups.



**Mark Chesters**  
**Ministry Intern**

**Mark** is particularly involved in youth ministry, overseeing the students and leading worship but also helps out around church in practical ways.



**Natalia Freeman**  
**Children's Intern**

**Natalia** has supported our children's ministry as well as helping with practical tasks. She left at Christmas 2015.



**Jan Pringle**  
**Operations Director**

**Jan** oversees day-to-day operational matters. She manages the office staff &, during 2015, chaired the Redevelopment team.



**Caroline Castle**  
**Ministry Support Administrator**

**Caroline** provides administrative and practical support to the clergy and ministry leaders.



**Mel Tweed**  
**Finance & Facilities Administrator**

**Mel** is responsible for keeping our building running smoothly and for looking after the accounts.



**Lizzie Knight**  
**Housekeeper**

**Lizzie** keeps our building clean and functioning well. She organises the kitchen and ensures the church building is ready for its users.



**Naomi Gaade**  
**Communication and Events Administrator**

**Naomi** is responsible for communications, including our website and publicity materials and for organising large events at St Paul's.



**Julia Salter**  
**Cleaner**

**Julia** provides extra support with cleaning and housekeeping duties.

## Leadership & Governance

### PCC

The PCC consists of the clergy, churchwardens and elected representatives of the congregation. Its broad purpose is to co-operate with the vicar in 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church'. However, it has particular responsibility for finances, fabric and staffing.

Our PCC meetings are always full of laughter, honest discussion and prayer. This year in particular, we have noticed great unity and faith. As the church grows and the budget grows, we have had to make some big decisions, and there has been a real sense of excitement at seeing, and being part of, what God is doing.

In 2015 we have spent considerable time on decisions relating to Phase 2 of the redevelopment. We decided to sell our property on Wathen Road in order to cover any shortfall in the redevelopment fund and assist with cash flow. Once the remaining amount is known in early 2016, the PCC will decide how to use and/or re-invest it, in line with our vision and values. We also decided how to use the '10% money' (ie the 10% of all gifts for the redevelopment which was set aside to be given away to ministry beyond St Paul's). £4k had already been given to Jenny Davies in Pakistan in 2014. We decided to give £25k to Thrive Youth Ministries to enable them to recruit a Children's Adviser, and £15k (in monthly instalments of £1k) to FRRME towards the work of a medical clinic in Jordan for refugees. Around £8k remains to be allocated, though we expect to send £2-3k to Marcos and Claire Wurfel in Argentina to assist them with evangelistic events.

"In my secular job I make countless decisions and on joining PCC I had hoped I would use this experience to help make good and godly choices to help the Church grow. Although this may be true in part, I also find that PCC decision making through prayer and discussion reflects back into my work life such that I've learned to commit many more work items in prayer. I also like being a PCC member for a number of other reasons. It's great to have a regular overview of what God is doing in our community through ministry and mission and to know that there is an accountable group of individuals who make sure that the right things are being done. It also feels to me that there is often a sense of unity and peace in PCC, particularly around the larger decisions; that God is in the actions that PCC put in place, so they can't be the wrong things to do."

Andy Bush

### Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the PCC is officially there to transact the business of the PCC between meetings. However, at St Paul's it also functions as the senior leadership team of the church, and meets monthly. Standing Committee is made up of the Vicar, Associate Vicar, 2 churchwardens and the Treasurer (Andrew Rolls), with the Operations Director in attendance. The members of Standing Committee are on both the PCC and the MLT.



## Churchwardens



After 4 years, Sarah Darren stepped down from her role as churchwarden in March 2015. She was a fantastic, wise and prayerful warden,

and we are so grateful for all that she did, especially on HR matters (the staff team more than doubled in size whilst she was warden), the launch of Foodbank, and the logistical management of our Sunday services. Sarah spent many hours working behind the scenes to support and release Jonathan to do up-front ministry.

We are thrilled with the election of our 2 new wardens: Chris Barratt & Elly Crofton.



Chris oversees fabric issues (with day to day matters handled by Jan & Mel), and Elly is particularly involved

with how we welcome new people to church (working with Jonathan & Esther).



## Clergy news

At the moment we have fewer clergy on staff than in previous years (no curate, and Lizzy is working part time). We are grateful for support from the 4 clergy who are members of St Paul's: Graeme Pringle (now licensed as an Associate Minister with us), Ellie Clack, Anne Hibbert and John Haynes. We also have lots of ordinands i.e. those exploring or training for ordination.

Typically we have had one ordinand every couple of years. However, in 2015, Thom Jee started training at Ridley Hall Cambridge, Esther Peers started training at St Mellitus, Jonathan Smith and Ruth Smith were both put forward by the diocese into the national selection process, and 2 more congregation members started the diocesan discernment process. Others are exploring more informally – 10 people came to Jonathan's tea for potential ordinands.

## MLT

As the church has grown, Jonathan has delegated more areas of ministry to others (for example: children, youth, Alpha, small groups, midweek service etc). This has released energy and vision, and made it possible to keep growing. However, as Jonathan is less directly in touch with all that is going on, decision-making and co-ordination has become harder. Some of the leaders of these ministry areas are on staff, but some are not, and it has not been easy to find times to meet together.

In addition we have Graeme Pringle and Ellie Clack, both ordained and currently working for the diocese, who have wisdom and maturity and some (but not a lot!) of time to give to ministry at St Paul's.

After much prayer and reflection, Jonathan invited various leaders of large ministry areas to meet together with Standing Committee to discuss and pray into how the ministry of St Paul's should develop. This is the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT). MLT is not a decision-making body (that rests with Jonathan and the PCC), but it has been really good to meet together to seek God's direction for the church. Our first meeting was the time we sensed God leading us to multiply the main morning service into two. Since then we have looked at structures, especially how we welcome and integrate new people into the church.

In addition to Standing Committee, the members of MLT are:

Hester Meacock (children and families), Kate Wallis (youth), Wendy Harkness (community support), Ruth Smith (midweek service), Mark Peers (men), Gethin Jones (worship), Thom Jee (students – left Sept 2015), Esther Peers, Graeme Pringle and Ellie Clack.

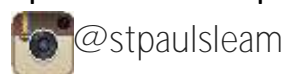
## Social Media



Facebook is proving to be a powerful tool for sharing what's going on at St Paul's. By the end of 2015 we had 291 people who 'Like' our page, this means that each time we post anything on the page it automatically appears on the News Feed of those people. Of course, anyone can view the page, at any time, whether they 'like' it or not. Every post has what is called a 'reach' - so if you 'like', 'comment on' or 'share' one of our posts then it will appear on the News Feed of your Facebook friends, meaning that the post spreads far and wide. One of our most successful posts in 2015 was a time-lapse video of Ministry Intern Mark Chesters unstacking and putting out our new chairs for the first time, reaching an audience of 1500 people! However, even more popular was the image posted to celebrate the first day we were in the redeveloped worship space, reaching an audience of 2700 people! We also use Facebook groups to communicate with particular groups of people, e.g. St Paul's Women, St Paul's Blokes, St Paul's Kids, Tiddlies Praise, Oasis etc.



Twitter is another great way of reaching out to people. We joined in September 2015 and currently have 92 followers. Like Facebook our content is not restricted to just those 92 people, it can be 'retweeted' or seen by anyone who visits our page. Our most popular tweets so far have reached upward of 1900 people.



Finally, we started engaging with Instagram (social media platform for sharing photos) in November, using it to share the photo prayer points sent out each day during our week of prayer.

## Fabric

In 2015, Mel Tweed, our Finance and Fabric Administrator continued to keep our building, grounds and equipment in good repair by managing a wide variety of maintenance tasks as well as less regular but vital one-off jobs. A number of volunteers assist with this and it would be impossible to manage this work without them. Throughout the year, a whole range of servicing of equipment, safety testing, inspections, repair and maintenance work is carried out.

The beginning of the year saw a complete refurbishment of the main office which has made this a much pleasanter and more efficient place to work. We are very grateful to Beth Penney and her team of volunteers who planned and completed much of this work.

The curtains in the hall, which were getting very tatty, were replaced with good quality black-out curtains with assistance from Kay Wootton.

John Leftley has been taking a lead on investigating repairs that will be needed to our smaller tower (identified at our last Quinquennial inspection). This may involve quite significant work and we are hoping to complete this in 2016.

For many years, a dedicated team including Lewis Stephenson, John Robinson, Bill Evans, Richard Davey and Stan Harris have kept our lawns well-trimmed.

This year, owing to the difficulties in storing mowing equipment, this team have retired from their duties and we now have a contract mowing service. We are very grateful for all the team's hard work.

## Redevelopment



We've done it! Praise the Lord!

6 years ago (autumn 2009), the PCC asked the redevelopment team to draw up plans to re-order the worship area. As they did, they realised we needed a phased plan for the whole building. This led to the appointment of Robothams as our architects in 2010. We had an amazing Gift Day for Phase 1 in 2011 and the Phase 1 work (the entrance, welcome area, toilets, lounge and kitchen) was done in 2012. In 2013 we started praying and preparing for Phase 2 (the worship area). There was another amazing Gift Day in 2014, plans were drawn up, and all the Phase 2 work was done in 2015. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Christopher to all our main Sunday services on 17 Jan 2016 to celebrate with us and to dedicate the redeveloped building to God.

Throughout this 6 year period, 3 members of the redevelopment team have been constant: Dave Gorton, Richard Duxbury and Rachel Wiratunga. Others were involved along the way, and Jan Pringle joined them in 2014. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.



So what was done in Phase 2? The pews came out (many of which are now in homes around Leamington), masterminded by David Harkness, and have been replaced by chairs. The dais was cut back, and now has beautiful oak steps. The heating system, which was on its last legs, was replaced (though we are still working on getting the temperature controls right!). The lighting was all replaced and now has a variety of settings for different events. The PA and projection system was upgraded, doors were replaced, fire exits improved, and a new carpet (coffee coloured to hide stains!) was put down throughout.

The worship area is now the most wonderful space, and very versatile. It can take a lot of people for big services (for example, we had well over 400 on Christmas Day), but chairs can be arranged for smaller services and events so that the space works well for 50 people (for example, the Midweek service and OASIS). The space is cleared each week for Tiddlies Praise, and can also be turned into a great venue for a meal (for example, the Community Christmas Meal) or party (for example, the Light Party).

Throughout the whole process of redevelopment, there has been a sense of God's timing, his resources, his oversight and his direction. We have been particularly conscious of this with the finances – being able to pay every bill on time, and with some of the more problematic decisions – like choosing chairs and carpets. We are now looking forward to seeing how God wants us to use our building for his glory, and to see Leamington changed one life at a time.



From pew removal...



....to ready  
for services.



## Finance

God is at work!

In 2015 we made a surplus of £22,605 before depreciation (or £13,072 after depreciation) and 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. Phase 2 has received £612k over the two years and has spent £684k on the fabric of the church. In addition, 10% of all that is given by church members is given away to Mission Partners this amounted to £52k making the total expenditure on Phase 2 to be £736k.

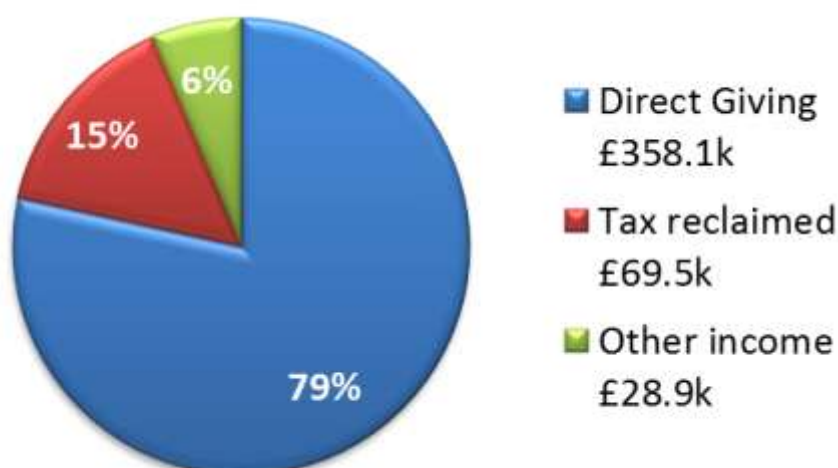
### Unrestricted Income and Expenditure

Unrestricted £'000	2015	2014	2013
Income	456.5	452.7	371.7
Expenditure (before charging depreciation)	433.9	419.6	349.0
<b>Surplus before depreciation</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>22.7</b>
Depreciation	9.5	9.5	8.5
<b>Surplus after depreciation</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>

### 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 Gift Aid tax reclaimed amount to approximately 94% of our total income. Thank you to everybody who has given so generously and sacrificially.

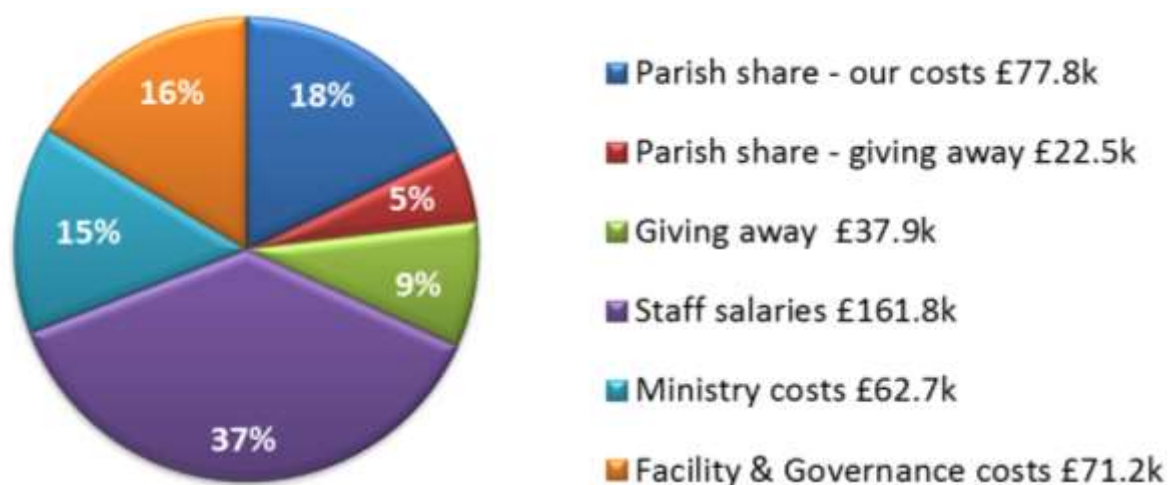
Other income comes from hall lettings, rent from Wathen Road, fees from weddings and funerals and a few smaller items.





## REGULAR EXPENDITURE

In the pie chart that follows, we have removed depreciation (£9,533) from the figures in the accounts, so what is left shows our regular expenditure.



### 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 Associate Vicar are approximately £77,800 for 2015. We also give about £22,500 to ministry elsewhere in the Diocese.

### Staff Salaries

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

### Ministry Costs

This covers 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. In 2015 a small amount (£2.1k) has remained unspent.

## RESERVES AND CASH FLOW

When all our creditors and debtors have been taken into account we have £394,038 left in general reserves. £75,727 is "ordinary" and the balance of £318,311 is uninvested proceeds of the sale of 49 Wathen Road. We will seek to maintain this balance of £64k in 2016, 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 (approx £57,500).

The PCC is currently discussing how much of the Wathen Road proceeds should be reinvested in a property (perhaps with a view to getting an extra member of clergy in due course) and how much should be spent on ministry (for example an extra staff post or church planting).



## 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 Graeme Pringle Associate Minister from 17/01/2016

Christopher Barrett Church Warden from 23/03/2015

Elly Crofton Church Warden from 23/03/2015

Sarah Darren Church Warden to 23/03/2015

Andrew Bush

Carolyn Davey

David Gorton from 23/03/2015

Thomas Jee (DS) resigned 6/09/2015

Gail Linnett

Suzanne MacRae

Esther Peers (DS) resigned 6/09/2015

Roger Penney

Helen Perryman (DS) (Secretary to PCC)

Ruth Quigley

Jonathan Randall

Andrew Rolls (DS) Treasurer

Adrian Smith to 23/03/2015

Jonathan Smith from 23/03/2015

Ruth Smith from 23/03/2015

Pam Snape

Lewis Stephenson (DS)

Rachel White from 23/03/2015

Nishan Wiratunga

(DS) = Deanery Synod

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

Independent Examiner: 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).**

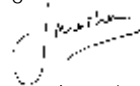
**St Paul's vision and values can be summarised as follows:** Our vision is to see Leamington changed, one life at a time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will try to fulfil this vision by helping each **member of St Paul's to become a wholehearted disciple of Jesus, working towards St Paul's** 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 16th March 2016 and signed on their behalf by



Jonathan Jee

Vicar and Chair of the PCC meeting



