

BACKGROUND TO POST

St Paul's lies close to the centre of the very popular town of Leamington Spa (recently regarded as one of the best towns in the country to live!), and the congregation is drawn from its own parish and a wider area.

St Paul's is currently the largest evangelical church in the Diocese of Coventry, with around 750 people of all ages who come at least monthly (475 adults, 150 children, 70 young people, and 50 students in term-time). On an average Sunday, attendance across the different services is around 350-400 adults (including students), and 125 youth/children. Substantial refurbishment and redevelopment to modernise and improve our buildings and facilities was undertaken in 2012 and 2015, as a means of increasing capacity for mission, ministry and growth. Alongside this redevelopment, we decided to multiply our main morning congregation into 2 identical services (9.30am and 11.15am), which has already resulted in increased growth (about 130 adults at each, with children and youth work at both services too). Our evening service, comprising mainly younger adults/students, has also grown to about 130 in term-time and 80-90 in holidays.

You can click [here](#) to find out more about our church through our Annual Reports – this gives a greater picture of all the groups we run and our current activities.

Following the redevelopment there has been quite a lot of change, including significant staff change. The church has a fairly large staff team to cover the leadership and day to day activities of the church.

History

Almost ten years ago, the church felt led to create a dedicated space for young people, and so transformed part of the crypt into a youth café space, designed to be welcoming for young people from both within the church family and those who wouldn't usually enter a church. Since 2012 the Youth Ministry has been overseen by the Youth Minister (previously Student Youth Worker) who is due to return from maternity leave in the Autumn of 2019. During her maternity leave, we have employed a Youth Worker (Maternity Cover) who has overseen the youth ministry alongside the curate.

Current youth set-up

There is a team of committed volunteers who help lead the different youth groups and who attend regular training.

We see around 70 young people each month and they attend one or two of four age-appropriate youth groups.

Engage (11-14s) – takes place during the main morning services (9.30am and 11.15am) and focuses on discipleship in a fun context. Recently this group have been looking at heroes and heroines of the Bible.

The Hub (14-18s) – takes place on Tuesday evenings and is a discipleship group, focusing on encouraging each other to grow in relationship with God, grow in the gifts he has given and to reach out to others.

Coffee At Five (14-18s) – takes place on a Sunday at 5pm, we meet at a local cafe on the Parade. This is a social purely to help them build relationships with each other and us. We buy them a drink each, chat and then walk over to Church at 6pm for the evening service.

Thursday Club (11-14s) – takes place on Thursday evenings, creating a space for the young people from the local area, our regular youth and their friends to socialise, enjoy games and discuss current issues and explore the Christian faith.

The current Youth Ministry vision is to build firm foundations for the young people to grow in their faith and in their ability and eagerness to share that faith with friends. An annual youth weekend away for all youth, and a trip to Soul Survivor for The Hub, helps to deepen relationships and build a genuine community amongst our young people.

Town-wide youth ministry

There is some youthwork happening in the town. There is a termly youth workers' gathering, for mutual support and encouragement. This is run by a local youth charity called Thrive Youth Ministries which aims to help, encourage and equip local churches with their youth ministry.

St Paul's also have good links with Flourish, a local Christian charity. The aim of Flourish is to help girls with low self-esteem to discuss and find ways through their struggles.