



ALL SAINTS, ALLESLEY

2024 Annual Report



"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5: 14-16



RECTOR'S REPORT *Rev. Sarah Ashelby*

As I write this, my first annual report as your Rector at Allesley, I am filled with a deep sense of joy and gratitude. Stepping into a new church is not just about the fresh faces and the exciting opportunities ahead, but it's about the joy that comes with starting something new—together. In every new beginning, there is a chance to grow, to learn, and to build something beautiful. This church, with its rich history and vibrant community, is a place where we will continue to live out the love and teachings of Christ in ways that are meaningful to each of us. There is an energy that comes with change—a sense of anticipation, a reminder that God is always at work, guiding us into new paths and possibilities.

As I prayed for you before my Induction here in April, it was the verses above which held my attention. "You are the light of the world," says Jesus to his followers "a town built on a hill can not be hidden." All Saints was often described to me as the church 'up on the hill.' The invitation is, of course, to allow ourselves to become more visible - not for our own reputation as a church - but to live out the identity God gives his people as the light of the world. There are many ways that All Saints already shines the light of Christ around us; our connection with Allesley Primary School, with local families, with the elderly, with the bereaved, with those who have fled their countries, to name just a few. The reports below are a snapshot of the ways that each of us have inhabited that call to be the 'light of the world' and there is much more that could be said and celebrated.

There have been many highlights this year, but some of my favourites include the garden party at the Rectory in July, the Harvest beetle drive, and, of course, Narnia! I'm deeply grateful for the welcome, encouragement, and grace you've all shown as our family settled into life in Allesley. While it's risky to name names, I want to give special thanks to Roz and Paul for their service as Churchwardens during the vacancy, and to many others who led, served, and volunteered both during and after my arrival. I also want to recognize Rev. Linda Blay, Colin & Fey Holtum, Tracy Kates, Roz Hosiene, Angela Taylor, Lesley & Nigel Borrell, Janette Eaton, and Michael Jones for going above and beyond in ways that often go unseen.

As we look to the future, we do so with hearts full of anticipation, knowing that God is at work in us. Christ's light shines not just as a distant hope, but as a present reality, guiding and transforming us. As we walk together, let's expect God to work in powerful ways, illuminating our paths, strengthening our witness, and growing us into a beacon of hope.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY

Sarah

Worship, prayer and spirituality remain at the heart of who we are as a Church. The first half of the year was about maintaining our value of simplicity, committing to keeping on meeting together for worship and community, and looking forward to the next season of the Church.

In our Sunday Services from January to Pentecost the lectionary guided our services, followed by a focus on the fruit of the Spirit in May and June. During the summer, outdoor services provided a relaxed space for Bible study, fellowship and creative activities from Muddy Church. The autumn months featured monthly themes of Prayer, Generosity, and Faithfulness, with lessons from Old Testament followers of God, the life of Daniel, and more. During Advent we adopted the Church of England's Christmas campaign "Calm & Bright".

During 2024 the new band has played 3 times in our 10 o'clock service and Mike began leading worship monthly which brought live music to more services, while David continued his faithful service playing the piano and organ at the 6pm service. Livestreaming ensured that those who couldn't attend in person were still connected. These efforts have likely strengthened community and spiritual growth.

In September, a new pattern of Morning Prayer was introduced on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with Thursday's focus being ecumenical and outward-facing. October focused on "Generosity," exploring God's generosity and how we can reflect that in our own lives, including a call for regular financial giving. The month culminated in a Harvest Celebration, where we gave thanks for our blessings and shared a meal that strengthened our sense of community.

Children and young people are cherished at our services and find their own ways to worship God either in the blue corner, or with flags and ribbons at the front. Over the year we enjoyed a number of all-age services at the 10 o'clock service, including during the summer holidays, the festival service, our harvest celebration and a new Narnia-themed service to begin Advent. Looking forward we need to continue to explore the culture of and opportunities for intergenerational worship that blesses all ages.

Special services and festivals continue to be a blessing to both the church congregation and members of the community. Carols by Candlelight, the Commemoration Service, Harvest Songs of Praise, and the school Christmas visits were all particularly valued.



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

Lesley Borell

MAINLY MUSIC



Mainly Music is a group for pre-schoolers and their families, which meets on a Saturday morning in the hall. In answer to prayer Mainly Music has continued to grow and by the end of 2024 we had an average of nine families attending each week. Rachel has joined Judith and I as a regular member of the team and we were also blessed by Iris who joined the team as a young leader, whilst she completed her service for her D of E Bronze award. Di and Annelie also provided support to cover for holidays and illness. My thanks to everyone for their support and for creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the group which has been commented on by parents.

Parents, who work during the week, have said that they value a Saturday morning group which enables them to spend quality time with their children and other families. We look forward to continuing to welcome new families into the group and continue to pray that other people from the church family feel called to join the team.

MITES AND MINDERS

Mites and Minders is a toddler group which meets on Wednesday mornings in the hall. Membership of Mites and Minders continues to be made up of parents, grandparents and carers, mostly from the community, and the groups popularity ensures that most sessions are fully booked. Once again It has been a joy to see the children grow in confidence week by week and for the parents and carers to get to know one another and share the joys and challenges of caring for pre-school children.



During 2024, Chris Massey has been safely recruited onto the team joining Sabrina and Sarah Stacy. My thanks go to them and to Roz, Di, Julie and Annelie who have stepped in to cover team illness, holidays and clashes with Open the Book assemblies for their support. The safer recruitment of additional members onto a Mites and Minders Team rota would be a great help.

UNIQUE



Our monthly, mid-week group for Y5/6 and Y7 year old young people has been well established during the year with regular attendance by eight to ten young people who share fun, food, fellowship and faith together. My thanks to Andy Littlewood who co-leads this group with me and to Abi, who has helped in the kitchen and Nicky who had stepped in to cover illness and holidays.

A personal joy has been the growth of this new midweek faith community and looking forward my hope is to build on the success of UNIQUE to launch a new mid-week group for upper KS2 children in September 2025 if more leaders can be recruited.

WORSHIP ZONES

Over the last year the number of children attending 10am services has varied from week to week, with an average of ten children and young people attending each week and some times as many as twenty. As children reach school age parents have been encouraged to stay in church when the children move into Worship Zones. Older Secondary aged young people are encouraged to choose whether to stay in church with their families or act as 'young leaders' in Worship Zones or as part of the technical support team.

I continue to be supported in Worship Zones by a number of committed people who feel called to serve as part of All Saints Children's Ministry Team on a rota basis. During 2024 we have safely recruited and welcomed Kate Gregson and Andy Littlewood on to the team. Layla has also joined the Team as a Young Leader, working particularly with the youngest children. It has been a great joy to see her grow in confidence week by week and to watch her build real and meaningful relationships with the children. My thanks to everyone for their support.



Although the range of worship zone opportunities in the hall have continued to enable children to explore and to take steps along their own individual faith journeys, during the last year we have tweaked the format by introducing Opening Words of Worship, which children and young people are encouraged to lead, followed by Memory Verse Hunts to introduce the day's theme. We have also developed the way we group the children for our story / bible study sections to ensure teaching is delivered in age-appropriate ways. Personal joys have included seeing children and young people grow in confidence and display leadership skills.

MUDDY CHURCH

Muddy Church activities have remained popular with all ages, allowing people to engage with creation and reflect on their faith as they wander through the churchyard. Although it's hard to pinpoint exact numbers, we estimate that around forty to fifty people engage regularly, with positive feedback from the community about the simplicity of the messages displayed.

The Muddy Church element of the Summer 10am outdoor Family services was particularly enjoyed by children and continues to be a fun resource. While popular with younger attendees, there's potential for it to become a more inclusive all-age experience.

The "I spy" trails remain a hit with younger community members, and attendance at events like Good Friday Muddy Church, Summer Games Afternoons, and Positive Pumpkin Carving has increased. A standout moment was an afternoon with families from Mainly Music creating a wildlife pond and bird feeders.

Looking ahead to 2025, we aim to build on the success of Muddy Church, with plans to explore the development of a new outdoor worshipping community. To make this sustainable, we'll need to recruit a team of people passionate about Muddy Church to support its growth.



SCHOOLS MINISTRY

I'm delighted to report that, All Saints relationship with Allesley Primary continues to grow. Sarah and I had a very successful meeting with the headteacher, Mrs Hoey, who said we are welcome in school anytime. Another member of staff commented on how All Saints has become a valued part of the school community. The Open the Book team regularly visited school to lead monthly assemblies years 1 and above. The cast includes eight to ten Y4's each month and children join in the audience participation enthusiastically. Additional OtB assemblies were also arranged at Easter and Christmas. I would like to thank the team for their ongoing support, with a special thank you going to Peggy, Brenda and Michelle who have sadly had to step down and a warm welcome to Chris Hazel and Sarah, who joined the team.

Nursery and Reception classes welcomed Nicky and I in to lead Easter and Christmas story bag sessions for them and Sarah and I were delighted to welcome Y3 children to church as part of an RE day focusing on what it means to be a Christian today. We also provided Y6 children with 'It's your Move' books to support their transition to secondary school and welcomed Y4 children to an Advent in Narnia Event. The Y3/4 and Y5/6 Christmas Concerts held at Church, to which parents were also invited were a real highlight and providing Easter and Christmas booklets for all pupils, enabled the possibility of making links between: church, school and home.

Sarah and I were also privileged to welcome a class from Sherbourne Fields Special School to explore All Saints Church and grounds as part of their RE curriculum. This was a highlight of the year!

Looking forward, we are planning to open up Our Sensory Narnia Event to classes from Sherbourne Fields in 2025. Sarah and I have offered to lead additional assemblies at Allesley Primary and we're hoping develop the impact of providing It's Your Move booklets to the Y6's by hosting a post SAT's celebration event.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

During 2024 we enjoyed developing our relationship with Allesley Beavers, and we welcomed them to church at Harvest and at Christmas for a special session exploring the church and various Christian beliefs. Taking 10 children to the Thrive Juniors Praise Party was great fun. Our Crib Service on Christmas Eve was particularly popular amongst the younger children, with the church full and much fun had!

Narnia is of course always a highlight and thanks goes to the team of 30 who made it happen! This year we repeated the sensory session, which was particularly appreciated for those who have additional needs. It was precious to share the message of hope in a relevant and accessible way.

We partnered again with Allesley Primary School Choir who sang beautifully at our Carols by Candlelight and this year our Church Community Choir loved singing a song with them, "Prince of Peace," which created a beautiful atmosphere.



SMALL GROUPS

Shera

Small groups have been a key part of All Saints Church for many years, providing support, spiritual growth, and fellowship. At their peak, over half the church participated, though numbers have since declined, particularly after the pandemic.

Currently, three groups meet regularly, both in-person and online, continuing to play an essential role in church life. These small groups offer members the opportunity to connect beyond Sunday services, fostering relationships through Bible study, prayer, and shared life experiences. Many have found comfort and encouragement in their groups, particularly during challenging times. The Wood Small Group, with five members, meets on Wednesdays and maintains support through a WhatsApp group. They've studied the Gospel of John and provide prayer and encouragement to each other. The Payne Small Group, which meets on Thursdays, has six regular attendees and uses Christian conversation cards for their discussions. They also host biannual Breakfast Socials for fellowship. The Macdonald Small Group, with 14 members, offers flexibility, with some members joining in person and others staying connected through WhatsApp. They've focused on deepening their faith through study books and aim to continue in 2025.

Looking ahead, All Saints' small groups remain a vital part of church life, offering spaces for faith, friendship, and support. As they move into 2025, there is hope that these groups will continue to grow and adapt, providing meaningful ways for people to journey together in faith.

PASTORAL CARE

Paul & Fey



The pastoral care group meets termly to consider the care of people within the church family and the wider community. We review pastoral needs and visit or phone if appropriate and support other groups, e.g. Bereavement Group, which care for church and community. Home Communion was taken to 12 people, with a member of our team visiting one once per month to share a simple Communion service, to chat and share news about All Saints Church.

Quiet Communion with refreshments is supported by this team (average 18 attendees) and 3 very successful Tea and Cake events, with 25 singing carols at Christmas. Blue Christmas was a new service for those who find Christmas difficult and was appreciated by 28 people. It would be great if there were more people available to offer lifts for these events. Several are grateful for these lifts, which mean they can still be a part of church.

LIFE EVENTS

Sarah



The church continues to minister to people during their happiest and hardest moments. In 2024 we had the joy of baptising 3 children and holding 3 weddings. Both of these are slightly down from 2023, which is common during vacancy.

Our funeral ministry has grown, with there being 20 funerals and 11 burials of ashes in 2024.

My thanks goes to Rev Linda for taking so many funerals during the first part of the year and for continuing to exercise this vital ministry in the second half too. Thanks goes to Angela for her continued practical and emotional support to the families we meet through funerals.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Barbara

The Bereavement Group meets every Friday for a coffee morning in the church hall. It is for church and non-church members. At the moment we have 17 people on the books. There is always plenty of chat and everyone is very supportive, especially to new members. In September we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning which raised £250. In December the group went to the Elms for a Christmas lunch which was an enjoyable occasion.

ASYLUM SEEKERS & REFUGEES

Colin, Fey & Roz

We continue to support those asylum seekers who attend our Sunday services, and we stay in touch with those who have moved on. Numbers at the hotel have declined and often people we are just getting to know are moved on quickly. Some of the men regard All Saints as their spiritual home and continue to come as often as they can even though it may mean two hour bus journeys.

They are grateful for the practical support the congregation gives in providing clothes or items of furniture and they love to attend the weekly 'Life Course' Bible studies we hold for them. Our current group are from Ethiopia and Eritrea so we use Amharic text as well as English to help understanding and improve language learning. They are grateful too for the instantaneous translation they now access during our services.

Our monthly cooking sessions with ladies continue. They are well attended and we are looking at sessions for men alone too. These sessions teach them basic skills in cooking to enable them to eat healthily when leaving the hotels and allows them to eat meals together in a friendly, relaxed environment.



SHERBOURNE HOUSE

Di

Sherbourne house is the Hope into Action home supported by this church. Our tenant for the whole year has become more confident and relates well to the friendship and support group. She is also very grateful of a wide variety of gifts and prayer support from the congregation and the love that they represent even though she's not known individually.

We've also had two other tenants (they are all female and quite young) who again have known the care and love of God and found the time in the house to be of great benefit.

We are looking towards a new tenant coming soon and value prayer for the right person. When a new tenant moves in we need to give them new bedding, towels and make their room welcoming so once again we'll be encouraging you to join in the practical sharing of God's love and welcome to all. Cathy, Di and Michelle are the befrienders who meet with the tenants regularly, Colin and Adi are also part of the friendship and support team with their prayer and practical gifts, others are welcome to join.

ECO CHURCH

Paul

The main event for Eco Church in 2024 was the announcement in August that All Saints has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of our efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas: Worship and Teaching, Management of Buildings and Land, Community and Global Engagement, Lifestyle.

The next step is to start on our quest for a Silver Award, which in some areas we already meet many criteria, but an example of one challenge is: do we promote active transport such as walking and cycling, and encourage the increased use of public transport where possible? Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

ALLESLEY FESTIVAL

Julie



We continued to support the Allesley Festival in many ways in 2024. There was the Art Exhibition in our hall, a fete in our grounds and a festival service in Church. Our "Water Sports" scarecrows won a prize and we entered a float in the procession with the theme of "Gladiators".

A big thank you to Mike Ashelby and friends for our very successful music night which unfortunately had to be moved indoors because of wet weather. We were able to make a donation to festival funds and the Festival Committee then made a generous donation back to the Church towards the cost of the work to the tower. The week was again a wonderful display of community spirit and a chance for us to engage with people who might not otherwise come to Church.



PCC *Michael*

The PCC met every two months in 2024, with the Standing & Finance Committee meeting in between to set the agenda, review processes, and handle smaller business. Key topics included working with our new architect to address items from the quinquennial report. Structural stonework around the tower windows was replaced during the summer, with work done offsite and fitted in August/September.

The process of selecting a new Rector was completed, and The Reverend Sarah Ashelby was formally inducted as Rector on April 24, led by The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley and The Reverend Tim Cockell. To celebrate, a full peal of bells was attempted on April 27, and bells were rung before the service.

The PCC oversees the church buildings, contents, personnel, safeguarding, finances, and the spiritual wellbeing of the church, as well as promoting the church's mission in the community. We encourage clear communication between the PCC, church members, and groups, so feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

SAFEGUARDING *Karissa*

During 2024 we continued as a church to maintain our commitment to this church and community being a safe space for all. This is especially relevant in light of the Smyth Review and we at All Saints continue to put safeguarding at the heart of all we do.

During the year we continued to safely recruit into roles which included 2 people- 1 for Mites and Minders, 1 for Worship Zones. 12 DBS checks were completed and 1 person accessed safeguarding training. It was discovered that a number of volunteers are due their safeguarding training to be renewed so we have arranged a safeguarding evening on Thursday 3rd April 2025 where the Diocese will deliver training alongside the PSO. We have continued to use the safeguarding dashboard which uses a red, amber, green system to alert us of any actions required. The church administrator and rector have worked hard together to go through the dashboard and ensure that it is up to date.

If you have any questions regarding safeguarding and our procedures, or if you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Karissa Coley (PSO) on this email address: safeguarding@allesleychurch.org.uk

ELECTORAL ROLL *Michael*

The electoral roll is the list required by each Parish of those who are entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. If you would like to join the PCC, Deanery Synod, be a Churchwarden or vote at the APCM, then you must be on the Electoral Roll of All Saints, Allesley. You can join each year before the APCM or throughout the year by completing a form and giving it to the PCC secretary.

The current number of people on our electoral roll is 161 (last APCM was 160)
93 people living in the parish (last APCN was 90)
68 people living outside the parish (last APCM was 70)

People are removed from the electoral roll if they have passed away, moved away from the area or no longer attend. The Electoral roll is next updated in 2025 (every 6 years) at which point everyone must complete an enrolment form prior to the APCM.

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

Tracy & Roz

Firstly, we welcomed our new Rector – Sarah Ashelby and her family in May 2024. Since arriving at All Saints her enthusiasm for God's works and vision has been both exciting and refreshing as she leads All Saints into its next chapter. Her support and guidance has been encouraging and appreciated.

Church & Hall

The Bell Tower repairs were completed in October 2024, and after a short time where bell ringing couldn't take place, this has fully resumed. In September, the PCC discussed replacing the aging visual system, which uses projectors with hard-to-find bulbs and fading screens. The current setup has electrical extensions, creating a fire hazard.



After seeking quotes, the PCC chose Hilltop to install LED screens, maintaining two front screens but changing the configuration. A faculty has been completed, and we are awaiting a reply from the Deanery. For more details, contact Tracy Kates (Churchwarden). The piano tuner declared the church's 30+ year-old 'baby grand' beyond repair. The church was advised to invest in a new, higher-quality piano suitable for worship in a large stone building like All Saints. Through God's provision, an anonymous donation enabled the purchase of a new piano, which has been installed.

Following the results of the Church survey carried out in 2024 to looking at views and investment priorities, the PCC have decided that replacing the Hall flooring was not identified as a high concern/ priority. It was agreed that the Carpets in the Church Hall, entrance hall and corridor would be professionally cleaned in. This was undertaken in August and will be repeated annually.

Grounds

Churchyard tidy – We're grateful for the dedicated volunteers who help keep our church grounds looking beautiful. It's a rewarding, therapeutic way to care for God's creation and connect with passers-by. We also appreciate the ongoing support from JLR. Please join us whenever you can. Tree surveys – Arbscope recently conducted a survey of all three churchyards, tagging and mapping the trees. The report highlighted some high-priority work, and we're seeking two additional quotes, including from Arbscope.



Path, trees, and steps – We're working with Coventry City Council to officially adopt the land between All Saints Church and Birmingham Road as council property, as there's no clear documentation of ownership. Once adopted, the Council will maintain this area. For more details, speak to Tracy or Roz.

In May/June, we had several reports of car break-ins in the church car park. Notices were posted to remind drivers not to leave valuables visible. We're pleased to report no further incidents.

Thanks to everyone who contributes, whether physically or with advice. We appreciate your help and welcome any thoughts or suggestions.

Paul

Total income during 2024 was £197,003, which was £57,157 more than 2023. This included £95,983 of Stewardship giving, other donations and reclaimed Gift Aid; £2,000 from legacies; £63,367 from both restricted and unrestricted grants (£44,500 more than in 2023); £12,892 from Wedding and Funeral fees; £3,647 from hiring out the church hall, £3,512 from various church groups and events, and £14,764 in interest on bank deposits (£4,786 more than 2023). Income was around £75,000 more than projected, largely due to grants towards extensive repair work on the church spire. There was also a £20,000 grant to support work with community-facing groups over the next two years. We are very grateful to the declining number of regular givers who together contributed £83,777 or 52% of All Saints’ income during 2024, down by over £5,000 since 2023.

Expenditure for 2024 was £253,086 (£80,836 more than 2023) giving a deficit for the year of £56,083. We continue to pay more than our expected Parish Share to support other churches in Coventry North Deanery: in 2024 this was 25% above the expected amount, at £82,885. In-house staff costs were £27,917 (£7,742 more than in 2023, when the church was without an Administrator for over six months); utilities, communications and insurance came to £14,883, a 2% increase on 2023; church, hall and grounds maintenance came to £75,864, over £60,500 higher than 2023, due to the cost of repairs undertaken on the church spire. Worship and event costs include £6,900 for a new grand piano, which was funded entirely by a very generous anonymous donation. Legal and Professional fees were higher due to extra Architect fees associated with church spire repairs; but other categories were roughly comparable with 2023 figures. From qualifying income, grants and donations of £17,607 were made in 2024, mainly distributed amongst seven different charities, with three each receiving 20% of £11,563 and the remaining four, 10%; and Hope into Action receiving £5,000 as an ongoing annual grant, paid in monthly instalments.

The 2025 budget shows a reduced potential deficit of £39,405 and we are hopeful that with the renewed mission focus across the church, which is already leading to an improvement in attendance, and in turn personal giving; plus an increase in the use of the church and hall by community groups, and for events that raise funds for the church, that this figure can be reduced.

All Saints Church is blessed to have received two substantial legacies several years ago, which means that we still held over £257,000 in unrestricted funds at the end of 2024, a reduction of almost £75,000 during the year, some of which was used to make up for reduced personal giving but was mostly allocated to repairs on our Grade 1 listed church and grounds. For 2025, in addition to the predicted operational budget deficit of £23,405, another £22,456 has been set aside from those funds to cover essential maintenance and improvements the church building and grounds, as well as the regular grant to Hope into Action.

Our Reserves Policy ensures a degree of continuity in the event of serious disruption to church income; the reserve being calculated as one year of Parish Share (£82,885), plus six months of operating expenses (not including Parish Share) (£46,656), giving £129,541. Added to this is the value of restricted funds (£4,085), giving a total reserve figure for 2024 of £133,626.

IN A NUTSHELL:

Total income for 2024: £197,003
£57,157 more than 2023
Most Income came from:

- £95,983 from regular giving, one off donations & Gift Aid
- £63,367 in grants
- £12,892 from wedding and funeral fees.

Income exceeded projections by around £75,000, largely due to grants for church repairs and community projects.

Total spending for 2024: £253,086
Total deficit: £56,083.
Contributing factors:

- church spire repairs
- increased staff expenses.
- 125% contribution to Parish Share

Donations to other charities: £17,607

2025 budget predicted deficit: £39,405
Unrestricted funds in bank account: Over £257,000
Reserves maintained to ensure financial security: £133,626

Clergy Changes:

Arrivals: Rev Sarah Ashelby (All Saints Allesley), Rev Kate Pellereau (Associate Minister at St Laurence's Mission Hub)

Departures: Rev Mathew Bull (Curate at St Paul's, moving to Willenhall), Rev Rosalind Murphy (retiring from St Thomas Longford)

Radford Parish: the new Radford Parish (a merger of St Francis and St Nicholas) was completed (only about 20 years after it was proposed) St Nicholas is now a footprint parish- currently still in interregnum, but being looked after by Rev Dexter Bracey from St John's.

Every meeting contained:

Finances: David Fletcher updated on parish share requirements, and contributions were agreed upon without issue.

Eco Church: Rev Charlotte Jackson led efforts toward a net-zero 2030 target.

Meetings through the year:

February (St Paul's Foleshill): Acting Bishop Ruth focused on welcoming others, recognising God's work, and staying prayerful.

June (St Laurence's): A prayer and praise evening, with a focus on Eco Church, serving the marginalised, finances, evangelism, and supporting children and young people.

October (St Luke's Holbrooks): Sarah Price presented new safeguarding standards and led a discussion on promoting a healthy and safe church culture. Questions to be discussed as a PCC were:

- What are the main strengths of the church culture?
- What are the main weaknesses of the church culture?

This conversation took place in All Saints PCC in February 2025.



ORGANISATIONS WE SUPPORTED IN 2024

All Saints Church supports several organisations through financial giving, prayer and volunteering. Support is also given to Hope into Action, which you can read about in the "Sherbourne House" report.

LOCALLY:

Radio Plus is a community radio station working in partnership with local charities and organisations to bring a fresh message of hope to young people in Coventry. Our target audience is primarily young people, 16-35, so we need to ensure that the music is relevant to that age group yet having a positive message for the needs of Coventry. Since April 2023, we have been providing a large training space to NIS (National Infrastructure Solutions Ltd) who are running courses for unemployed trainees who come through Restart / Job Shops doing a mixture of security courses for large Construction and Rail Infrastructure companies. Their results are impressive enabling 42 previously unemployed trainees into employment over their first eight months. By the end of 2024, those numbers have increased threefold. It was a joy to partner with Radio Plus again for our Carols by Candlelight.

Coventry City Mission aims to serve the needs of the local community – sharing God's love while supporting those most in need. They are a small Christian charity based in Coventry that aims to support people at their various points of crisis; this could be economic, emotional, social, educational or spiritual. Support is offered through a number of projects, groups and activities.

Street Pastors aims are to bring peace and a Christian presence amongst night life community by building relationships, serving where we can. Where appropriate they take those opportunities to share our faith and pray with people.

Embrace Warwickshire exists to support female on-street sex workers in the West Midlands. They come along women, many of whom are struggling with life controlling issues and who are disadvantaged by past and present circumstances. They seek to hear, respect, pray, empower and work with them towards a better future. They go out on regular outreach, offering food, drink, hygiene products conversation and support. Through the connections made in outreach, they offer follow up support in the week which is led by our project manager. They work alongside other agencies in the city; our particular focus is on social and emotional support through relationship.

INTERNATIONALLY:

Church Mission Society are called to make disciples of Jesus where you may not expect to find them and to see those disciples make more disciples until communities of people committed to following the way of Jesus are formed. They connect people with a heart for the edges so they can work together. Often this takes the form of cross-cultural hubs, or pockets of people from Western and non-Western backgrounds teaming up to bring change in a specific edge-based context. They train people for ground-breaking, transformational and sustainable mission in the UK and overseas. They equip churches to look around, see what God is doing among people at the edges within their communities and join in.

Christian International Peace Service (CHIPS) join with communities to help build sustainable futures free from violence and division. They live at the heart of conflict, building relationships and engaging in long term development projects to bring about lasting peace.

Serving in Mission, compelled by God's great love and empowered by the Holy Spirit, cross barriers to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ, expressing his love and compassion among those who live and die without him. They make disciples who will trust and obey Jesus, and become part of Christ-centred churches. They work together with churches to fulfil God's mission across cultures locally and globally. They facilitate the participation in cross-cultural ministry of those whom God is calling.