

Voices Old & New Lives Young & Old



May 2025

This is the Annual Report for 2024, required under the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 for Worcester St Wulstans in the Deanery and the Diocese of Worcester. St Wulstan's promotes the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as stated in the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is aware of its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2025 the PCC will continue to review its practices using the Safeguarding Toolkit to ensure it fulfils that duty. We continue also working with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018).

St Wulstans Church

Cranham Drive, Worcester, WR4 9PA

St Wulstans PCC | 40-52-40 | 00023672

saintwulstans.online

Membership of the PCC

Sarah Northall --- VICAR AND PCC CHAIR
Keith Sockett --- CHURCHWARDEN
Rick Atkinson --- CHURCHWARDEN

Members until 2025

Angela Holmes & Debbie Atkinson

Members until 2026

Chris Walker & Brian Penson

Members until 2027

Trish Smith & Lorna Davies

Our Vision and Mission

We believe that the heart of Warndon beats at St Wulstans, and all that we do flows out from our worship of our generous, including God. As we strive to secure our legacy as a church for everyone, our vision is to be people who are known for:

- Our open door
- Our joyful hearts
- Our trust in God and
- Our willingness to help

The Annual Meeting was held on 17 March 2024. PCC met in June, September and November of 2024, and again in January and March of 2025. We met jointly with the PCCs of St Barnabas and of St Nicholas in December 2024. As of May 2024, there are 25 on the electoral roll. We should note that 2025 is a year in which a new roll is drawn up and so reflects that a number of people have moved on from the church family in the last couple of years. However, there is one new member this year.

Fabric Report

Electrical Inspection and works. Remedial work has been undertaken and at present the Church and Hall are in a safe condition. Advisory work will need to be completed in the future but we are waiting to see what the architect's recommendations are from the Quinquennial Inspection in July 2025.

Hall Fire doors: Contractors have been out to look at these and provide quotes, the main issue is that they are not standard size, further quotes for PVC construction will be requested in the near future.

New Sanctuary curtains have been purchased and installed and really sets the scene and provides a screen between the altar and multi-purpose area. The defibrillator has been installed.

Boilers/Thermostats: Thermostats have been replaced to ensure heating operates efficiently.

Outside wooden panelling and frames at back of small hall, preparation to check and replace/paint is in hand this summer.

Small repairs, including maintenance of toilets, chairs, repairs to guttering etc carried out by churchwardens as required. Leak in Miriam room has been repaired by Colin along with clearing of guttering.

Keith Sockett and Rick Atkinson

Worcester Deanery Synod

The first Synod was an opportunity to meet the new Arch Deacon - Mark Badger. Our second Synod meeting was used to discuss the issues faced by us as parishes which were then presented to the Diocesan Officers for them to understand our concerns. Our final meeting, held on a Saturday, had two guest speakers. Rev Kim Brown has been appointed to help develop New Worshipping Communities, and Rev Duncan Hutchinson who has launched the 'Church and School Partnership Award' in our Diocese.

An extra event, organised by Rev Paul Wilcox, was a Deanery Prayer event. It was held in September, offering prayer stations linked to praying for different aspects of our Deanery life.

Elizabeth Fleming and Nick Stephens

Worship

Our worship life in 2024 has been marked by creativity, collaboration, and a growing rhythm across the cluster. We began the year with *Epiphany Exchange Sunday* during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as ministers swapped churches for the day — a joyful act of connection and encouragement. This spirit of shared celebration continued with joint services for Candlemas, Shrove Tuesday, and All Saints' Day.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter were marked by a full programme, including special services at St Wulstans for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Good Friday evening saw the beginning of a new Tenebrae tradition. Alongside these major seasons, we launched *Sunday Crossroads*, a new evening service offering a reflective close to the week and a shared space for the cluster.

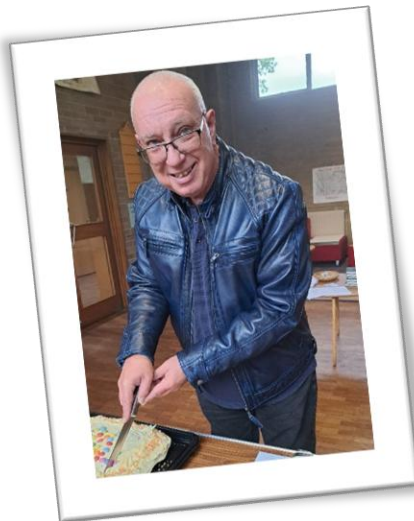


In June and July, our preaching focused on the letter to the Ephesians. Through titles like *Forever Faith*, *Fuller Faith*, *Fresher Faith*, and *Fiercer Faith*, we explored a grounded vision for growth in Christ.

Over the summer, we ran *Sense and Sensibility*, a series on encountering the good news through the senses: touch, sight, taste, hearing, smell, and knowing. This was supported by the *Forty Days of Summer* ABIDE resource.

In September and October, *Glimpses of Eden* explored creation, renewal, and hope through scripture from Genesis to Revelation. We reflected on what it means to live as stewards of a gifted, fragile, and beloved world.

During Advent, we explored five kingdom values in *An Adventurer's Guide to Life, the Universe, and Everything*, with weekly themes of *Hopeful Confusion*, *Peaceful Disruption*, *Joyful Warnings*, *Faithful Uncertainty*, and *Fragile Glory*. That final theme became the lens through which we approached Christmas: recognising the vulnerability of the Christ-child as the meeting point of heaven's splendour and human need. It shaped our preaching, prayer, and joy as we welcomed people into the story once again. All of this was undergirded by a rhythm of morning prayer in the week before Christmas.



We have gathered for Sunday worship every week, except for three occasions when we shared in cluster services at St Nicholas, St Barnabas, and Christ Church. Our worship has been enriched by the hard work of Cary and Revd Rosie in

developing *Something Else Sundays*, which take place monthly alongside our regular eucharistic rhythm. We have hosted Julie Berrow and Nick Stephens regularly as lay readers from the cluster, and also Revd Diane, Revd Andy and Revd Paul as associate clergy. We did of course, say a farewell to longstanding lay reader Phil Howell, whilst welcoming Revd Sooz Magee, who spent the first six months of her curacy with us before moving onto a second placement in the Bredon Hill Group of Churches.



Serving One Another

Our building continued to be a place of welcome and community throughout 2024, serving not only our congregation but also the wider parish and local partnerships. We are home to groups such as Prayer Club, Mainly Music, and occasional midweek worship. New for 2024 were our partnerships with Scouts, Healthy Worcestershire evenings, and craft groups run in collaboration with Worcestershire County Council. The church was also used regularly by the cluster ministers, school chaplains, and the Warndon Forum, alongside a women's well-being project. Support groups such as the 12-step recovery programme continued to meet here, alongside community-building initiatives like the Community Mile, quiz nights, and social gatherings. We hosted baptisms, Scout sleepovers and fetes, and TEABAG mornings (The Environment and Buildings Action Group), where volunteers cared for the church grounds and outdoor spaces. And of course, week in week out, dozens of Sunflowers kids enjoy all that our spaces have to offer! Our building remains a living expression of hospitality — a shared space where sacred and ordinary life meet.

So much of the life of our church is sustained by faithful, individuals who pray, serve, and encourage. Eve writes:

"A group of us have met nearly every week through the past year. A very informal time is had, sharing much friendship, discussion, and fun together. Prayer is always made for our clergy, laity, leaders, and members of the congregation. All groups meeting in our church are prayed for, as well as needy individuals, the sick, housebound, and those in care homes. We pray for medical services, police, and all local emergency services. An important feature is prayer for our local community, council, and leaders, as well as local events and concerns. Each week, we pray for six different roads in the parish by name. National and international situations and governments are always in our prayers. We have been greatly encouraged that our gracious Heavenly Father answers our prayers and has richly blessed us constantly over the year."



Margaret Probett and others faithfully continue to make regular home visits to those who are not able to be with us in person regularly, and Amanda Stokes leads us in our Safeguarding obligations, ensuring that all those authorised to work with children or adults who are vulnerable are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice, suitably trained and supported. We are fully compliant in the vast majority of areas, having ensured we have adequate policies in place, together with undertaking relevant DBS checks and training for those in key roles.

This year has seen creative and practical progress in how we care for our church environment and connect with our wider community. The Richness Group completed its first full year, adopting and supporting a set of worldwide, national, and local charities. It organised social gatherings at key points in the year, launched a monthly pre-service social time alongside *Something Else Sunday*, continued work on improving church signage, and championed the Warndon & Tolladine Forum as a parish priority.

Alongside this, TEABAG (The Environment and Buildings Action Group) completed the Wilding St Wulstans project, transforming the land around the church and vicarage into a vibrant ecological resource. The project included a newly fenced wild hay meadow, a functioning composting area, a nature walkway, and wildlife



habitats throughout the grounds — including hedgehog houses, bat boxes, and nesting boxes for various species. A Wilding Information Board has also been designed and printed, ready for installation with a QR code linking to further details on the church website.

Together, these two groups have helped shape our shared spaces as places of welcome, witness, and ecological faithfulness. Cary has led on all this with energy, wit and wisdom!

The financial statement (in the centre of this booklet) was approved by the full PCC in March and independently examined by Michael Bishop from Stourbridge Deanery. **The full accounts are available on the web address below.**

Angela our treasurer and Keith & Rick our wardens are truly amazing. Along with Debbie and Chris, they quietly work away in the background as what we now call the Core Group, embodying all that we hold dear at St Wulstans — hospitality, community, kindness.