



**ST BARNABAS
with
CHRIST CHURCH
REPORTS 2024**

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PRIEST IN CHARGE REPORT 2024

How can we sum up a year in our shared lives — twelve months, fifty-two weeks, another Christmas, another Easter, and all of the other three hundred or so days in between? I am writing this report on Maundy Thursday — the day when we remember the command of Jesus “love one another as I have loved you.” It feels fitting to reflect on the life of our church through the lens of this command. Love, as Jesus reveals it, is not a theory or a mood. It is embodied, chosen, spoken, given, and endured. In the 1990s, Gary Chapman described five ways people give and receive love: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. I want to borrow this simple tool. Of course, these categories are not everything, but they offer a helpful lens. As we look back over 2024, we can see how these ways of loving have been lived out among us.

Words of Affirmation: Speaking Love Out Loud

Jesus speaks love with truth, not flattery. To the thief on the cross: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” In His final hours, Jesus speaks belonging to a man the world had written off. And to Peter, before the denial: “I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail.” Even as He knows what is coming, Jesus names strength where Peter will feel weakness. As a church family we too are able to say what matters. I have heard spoken love in the way we encourage all those who prepare and lead our prayers and music, in the way we welcome those coming nervously to a funeral or baptism, not sure what to expect, and the countless hours of friendship that is offered between us at harvest meals or Lent groups.

Acts of Service: Showing Love in Humble Action

Jesus reveals love through action. He sends His disciples ahead: “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” Preparing the space matters. And He kneels to wash their feet: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” Service brought to ground level, done with humility



and tenderness --- floors swept, leaflets delivered, setting up church for the nativity set festival, bringing blister packs for recycling, behind the scenes acts of administration, ensuring our safeguarding is up to date or our Open the Book story for school has the right costumes. This is the bread and butter of parish life isn't it.

Receiving Gifts: Giving Love Freely and Openly

Jesus gives not a theory but His very self: "Take and eat; this is my body." Love placed into human hands. And, "Drink from it, all of you." No one excluded. The gift is offered to all. We have glimpsed this kind of generous love among us. We give generously, in the quiet moment to a person in need, as a community supporting Maggs or St Pauls, in a planned way through our direct debits and standing orders.

Quality Time: Choosing to Be Present

Before the trials, before the cross, Jesus chooses to be with His friends: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you." And in the garden: "Stay here and keep watch with me." Not action, not fighting — simply presence. This gift of time has been lived out among us in the regular pastoral visits made to the housebound and hours spent in playing in the after school club, and in the ways in which we live out our worship at the special occasions, such as the All-Souls' Café or Bishop Perowne's Festival of Remembrance.

Physical Touch: Loving Through Our Hands

Jesus does not love from a distance. "He began to wash His disciples' feet," touching their tiredness and their need. And when the servant's ear is struck, Jesus touches the wound and heals it — even in the middle of His own arrest. In our community, I have seen love made tangible in the handshakes, hugs, and warm greetings offered week by week at the Peace, the hospitality shown through hosting the German exchange, and the practical kindness of offering an arm to steady someone for whom mobility is struggle.

In all these ways — spoken, given, shared, received — love has been made real among us this year. Not in theory, but in bread and towel, word and wound, silence and supper. The commandment of Jesus is not to feel something, but to live something. Love one another as I have loved you. As we move deeper into 2025 together, may we

continue not just to remember this love, but to live it, speak it, offer it, and become it.

Revd Sarah Northall



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2024

For the first half of the year, Rachel Chalmers was the only churchwarden until Mary James was elected at the APCM. As Mary was the only nominee, she continued as the only warden, taking up her duties after the Admission Service in July. Rachel stepped down having completed her time as warden. We were very grateful for everyone who volunteered during the year to assist on Sundays with both of us.

As the Bishop's officers, wardens have a duty of care for the clergy and also represent and communicate with the congregation. We are also responsible for the care and management of the church building.

INVENTORY

Our thanks go to everyone who helped with the Inventory this year.

FABRIC

The Fabric committee had a busy year, with the church building and Christ Church refurbishment. We have appreciated all that they have done.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Sue Sykes and other volunteers have continued to lead Open the Book at St. Barnabas school. The chaplaincy team lead assemblies at Bishop Perowne C of E College and have also welcomed both schools for various services and activities in church.

Green Lane Preschool continue to meet in the church hall during the week.

MUSIC & AUDIO VISUAL

We thank John Hocking for playing the organ for some services and for recording some music as needed. We appreciate all the members

of the band who led the music for services twice a month and also those who operated the audio visual system.

WORSHIP

We are grateful to all the ministers and lay people who have led our services – Revds Sarah Northall, Diane Coksey, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon and Sooz Magee. Also Julie Berrow (Licensed Lay Minister) and Sue Sykes.

Thanks to all the readers and those who led intercessions.

The 10am weekly Wednesday service continued and the Prayer Chain met regularly monthly.

FINANCE

We do appreciate all the work that our treasurer Aidan Melarkey and also John Dentith has done during the past year.

January	Burns' Night party
February	Lent groups
March	World Day of Prayer Mothering Sunday Bishop Perowne school in church St. Barnabas school in church Holy Week services Cluster breakfast followed by the Passion Play in Cathedral Plaza
April	APCM St. Barnabas school Early Years in church
May	Bishop Perowne in church Deanery service at Claines Garden tidy up
June	St. Barnabas Patronal Sooz Ordination
July	Picnic on the Green St. Barnabas year 6 leavers service
September	Pop up café for parents of St. Barnabas Reception children
October	Open Door café Harvest festival and lunch Beetle Drive Bishop Perowne in church Church garden tidy up
November	Service in Christ Church for Patronal



December Brass band concert
Nativity sets exhibition
Carol singing on the Green
Carols around Tolly
Shoe boxes for the homeless
Schools Carol services
Crib service, Midnight communion

Many thanks to everyone who works so hard for the church in many different ways – you are all very much appreciated.

Rachel Chalmers & Mary James

PCC SECRETARIES' REPORT 2024

The PCC met on seven occasions in 2024. A joint meeting with the PCC of St Wulstan's took place on the 2 December but with no formal business discussed or recorded. The 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in church on the 14 April and was followed by a short PCC meeting to elect Standing Committee posts.

In between those meetings specialized sub-committees met to discuss and process appropriate matters, subject to the approval of the PCC. Minutes of the sub-committees were submitted for approval as necessary. The sub-committees were: Parish Hall, Mission Giving, Worship, Events & Publicity, All Age Outreach and Fabric. Our Eco Representative vacancy was filled by Sue Martyr.

PCC meetings began and ended with prayer or the grace. Agendas, minutes of previous meetings and reports/sub-committee minutes were collated by the joint secretary and circulated to PCC members via email prior to each meeting. Attendance at PCC meetings during 2024 was approximately 78% .

In no particular order of significance, items on PCC agendas, additional to finance and general administration, during 2024 were:

- Safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults
- Health and Safety
- Christ Church building restoration and future use
- Redecoration of church hall

- Crossroads Sunday evening services
- Music
- Curate
- Outreach to parents of school and preschool children
- Car parking
- St Barnabas School Governor
- Prayer requests
- Welcome leaflet and pack
- Table at the back of church
- External noticeboards
- Contactless giving
- Sale of the Rectory
- Demise of the electric piano
- Nativityfest
- Worcester Concert Brass concert
- Christian Aid
- Nicholson Pipe Organ minor repairs/tuning
- Disposal of old banner and installation of framed photograph



Jackie Campbell Joint Secretary

John Dentith Joint Secretary

FINANCE REPORT 2024

Treasurer's report available separately.

WORCESTER AREA DEANERY SYNOD 2024

Deanery Synod has met 3 times this year. On each occasion we are at a different venue. This serves two purposes. The first is the opportunity to visit the very varied locations of parishes in our Deanery and also to ensure not every Synod member has a distance to travel each time.

The first Synod was an opportunity to meet the new Arch Deacon - Mark Badger. He encouraged us to think about mission with a particular focus on engaging with people moving into new housing developments but also thinking about how we connect with new people moving into existing homes in our parishes. As groups from different churches we were encouraged to look at what our churches

currently offer and where there are openings to extend our welcome beyond the church setting. The aim is to bring people gradually into contact with the church and faith by using experiences and settings where they feel more comfortable.

At our second Synod meeting we were invited to bring our Treasurers along. Quite often issues involving finance are discussed at Diocese level without the impact of everyday, individual parish life being articulated. This 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. She has a wealth of experience and provided many resources and ideas that parishes can build into current parish activities. She is willing to help all churches wanting support to develop their interaction in communities.

The second speaker was the Rev Duncan Hutchinson who has launched the 'Church and School Partnership Award' in our Diocese. Even though we do not have a church school linked to St Nicholas it does not prevent us from building stronger bonds with secular schools.

An extra event, organised by Rev Paul Wilcox, was a Deanery Prayer event. It was held on September 11th, offering prayer stations linked to praying for different aspects of our Deanery life. The detail that was put into the evening was excellent but unfortunately very few non-clergy attended. This was a shame as the quality of what was offered was excellent.

Elizabeth Fleming & Nick Stephens
Paul Fulbrook (Worcester Area Deanery Secretary)

WORSHIP AT ST BARNABAS w CHRIST CHURCH

The pattern of services was broadly as follows:

Sundays:

1st *Something Else Sunday*”(SES).
2nd, 3rd, 4th Eucharist

5th
3/4

Cluster service
Crossroads at 7pm

Wednesdays:

Midweek Eucharist (3rd of the month, Service of the Word)

Services were led by Revd. Sarah Northall, Revd. Rosie Moss, Revd. Diane Cooksey (St Nicholas), and Revd. Andy Gandon (retired priest in the parish), including Holy Week, Easter and Christmas. Services of the Word are led by the lay team on Sundays and by Julie Berrow LLM or Sue Sykes on Wednesdays.

In addition, Archdeacon Mark Badger presided and preached on Maundy Thursday and acting Bishop, Martin Gorick (+ Dudley) on Christ the King (24/11)

Seasonal and other services:

- Mothering Sunday SES (10/3)
- Ash Wednesday (14/2)
- Quiet hearts, Quiet minds: A series of talks on Exodus, with Compline (24-27/3)
- St Barnabas Patronal (9/6)
- Harvest (SES) 6/10
- All Souls' Service (3/11)
- Remembrance Sunday with uniformed organisations (10/11)
- O Antiphons (17-14/12 on zoom)
- Crib and Christingle Service (24/12)

Schools services took place for St Barnabas' Primary School and Bishop Perowne C of E College at Easter and Christmas. St Barnabas' Leavers' service was held in church in July.

Julie Berrow



PASTORAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Prayers

The weekly pew slip prayer list is reviewed at each committee meeting. Requests are incorporated and names may be moved to a "With Thanks" section as appropriate.

Prayers are collected from the Prayer Box outside church and these requests are prayed for at mid-week services.

The prayer chain, including members of the clergy, the congregation and pastoral committee, continues to meet monthly to further enhance the support for our congregations and the wider community.

Home Communion Visits

These are undertaken by trained members of the committee in response to requests. Recipients include previous members of both St Barnabas and Christ Church congregations.

Those in need of support

As committee members are made aware of circumstances where additional pastoral support has been requested these needs are responded to. The support may include home, hospital or care home visits and help to access appointments.

Julia Adams

March 2025

OPEN THE BOOK REPORT 2024

In January 2024 we continued with Year 1 of the Open the Book stories.



I was ably assisted by volunteers from St Nicholas and by Brian Penson from St Wulstans. Vanessa Haddleton was also able to join the team and I have much appreciated her organizational skills in keeping the costumes and props in some sort of order and producing “stickers” for the participants each session. I am also extremely grateful to Marian Bailey and the Revd. Julie-Ann for making some wonderful new costumes. The children seem to get taller for their age each year and have outgrown our older costumes.

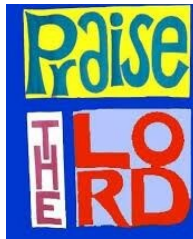
At the end of the Summer Term, we said Good-bye to Kate Robertson who had headed up the Open the Book Assemblies for very many years and was an enormous source of support and encouragement to me especially through the Covid Years. She has moved on to take up a Headship in a school nearer her home and we wish her every success in her new role

September saw the start of our 17th year of Open the Book at St Barnabas School and we began to explore the new Storyteller scheme while included the Christian Value Stories for each half-term's Value.

Vanessa and Brian Penson have continued to help on alternate Monday mornings and I am very grateful for all their help and enthusiasm.

As ever, the Staff at St Barnabas have been wonderfully welcoming and supportive and my thanks go to them and the fabulous "Tech Teams" for keeping us on the straight and narrow and making Open the Book the success that it is.

Sue Sykes



EVENTS GROUP REPORT 2024

The Events Group met a number of times during 2024 to organise social event which were as follows:

- Burns Night supper in January with Scottish dancing.
- A gardening & grounds tidy up was organised in May.
- After the outdoor St. Barnabas Day service, coffee and cakes were served.
- Our parish picnic was held on the green with a quiz & games.
- The group helped at a breakfast at a Pop up café in church for parents of children starting school at St. Barnabas for the first time.
- A bring & share Harvest lunch was held.
- A Beetle Drive was held in October.
- We had a busy December. The Worcester Brass Band concert was most enjoyable with proceeds being sent to the Worcester Foodbank.
- The Nativity Sets Festival was appreciated by many including St, Barnabas school and parents.
- Carols on the Green, held in the hall due to the weather, was enjoyed by many.

Mary James

ECO CHURCH REPORT 2024

A new eco representative was appointed in April 2024 after a year's vacancy.



The aim of the year has been to further the ambition of St Barnabas PCC to achieve A Roche Gold eco award. This is to complement the two A Rocha Eco Awards already obtained; Bronze in 20219, and Silver 2022.

In Nov 2024 A Roche produced new surveys. The surveys consist of questions to be completed through participation and action which demonstrate our eco credentials and concerns. The surveys use the same 5 keys areas as previous awards:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global engagement
- Life style

While trying to see the best way forward the Parish magazine has kept environmental matters alive by presenting monthly articles: reflections, photos, information and questions, not only by the eco rep but also by other magazine contributors, including the Junior eco rep, Noah.

During November a 'how did you travel to church today?' survey was left at the back of church.

A 'post box' box was positioned at the back of church to encourage the collection of used blister packs, which have been regularly taken to a chemist.

Eight weeks of Creation themed Sunday services gave the opportunity for the congregations to study the Bible and to reflect on God's creation.

These actions have been complemented by the congregation who 'naturally' add to helping the environment and are embedded in the church life ie. using local greenery in the flower arrangements throughout the year, use of LED lighting, the policy of only print if

necessary, using environmental cleaning products, using Fair Share products etc.

St Barnabas church and the Parish's commitment to environmental issues contribute to the aim of the Diocese becoming carbon net-zero by 2030, which aligns with the Church of England's route map aiming to become net zero 2030 <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/RoutemapToNetZeroCarbonFinal.pdf>

Thank you to everyone involved in taking care of God's creation.
Sue Martyr, Eco rep

MUSIC REPORT 2024

The Viscount digital organ has now been in place for almost 4 years and continues to provide effective accompaniment for services, with its recording facility showing its worth. The position of the console has made the life of the organist much easier for both hearing the singing (a challenge from the old organ console) and being able to see what's going on, not only at regular services but at wedding and funerals.

The Nicholson pipe organ was given its annual tuning and maintenance in December, though it is little used now (the digital's convenience and effectiveness rather supplant its usefulness). At the time of purchase of the Viscount, the PCC determined that we should keep the pipe organ in working order for 5 years which will be reached in Feb 26. It might be time to start discussions.

Unfortunately the digital electric piano used on 'band' Sundays developed faults which were not repairable, and it has therefore come to the end of its working life. Whilst funds are raised for its replacement, our portable instrument is brought into use when needed.

Music for worship can now be more varied, as the use of our audio-visual system means that we are not tied to one hymn book.

Thanks are due to Brian, John, Andy, Guy, Jonathan and Steve who make a great contribution to the music, and also to Brian and John for maintaining the music rota.

John Hocking



SAFEGUARDING 2024

During 2024, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding is on every PCC agenda when Rachel Chalmers, the PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer), reports on any safeguarding issue. She reports on any updates from network meetings run by the diocesan safeguarding team.

The PSO also shares data provided by the parish dashboard. This dashboard monitors our compliance with all Parish safeguarding requirements. An action plan that addresses any areas that require attention can be generated from the information. The PSO reports on mandatory requirements for safeguarding. These include Safeguarding procedures, roles and training, Safer Recruitment and people management.

Thanks to Pippa Hawkins who continues to have responsibility for Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

Everyone who needed a DBS successfully gained one. These have to be renewed every 3 years.

Safeguarding training also has to be renewed every 3 years. There are various courses – an online Leadership course for anyone in a leadership role; Basic Awareness and Foundation courses for PCC members and those who are involved in children's and vulnerable adults' work.

Members of the diocesan safeguarding team are very supportive. There is information on posters at the back of church. There are details of local and national organisations as well as diocesan and church details.

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a vital part of church life. We need to promote a safe environment for everyone, offering support when needed. This is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any questions or safeguarding concerns, do contact Rachel Chalmers, Rev. Sarah Northall or a member of the PCC.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me this year in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Rachel Chalmers

FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Although there were no major projects delivered during the year, the Committee continued to meet regularly to monitor the condition of the Church to ensure it is maintained in good condition.

Examples of the issues addressed were:

- refurbishment of the outside notice boards,
- replacement of a broken glass window quarry,
- renewal of an external door lock.

During the year two water heaters and a room heater in the toilet had to be replaced. Repairs were also carried out to the west window to address the problem of water ingress. The cost of the works was partly funded by a grant from the Diocese.

The Committee ensured that the statutory duties were carried out in respect of health and safety, fire protection and legionella control.

Routine cleaning of the church guttering identified that certain stretches were insecure and in need of attention. Safety measures were put in place and steps have commenced to permanently address the issue.

The Committee oversaw the redecoration and refurbishment of Christ Church and its vestry to enable them to be brought back into purposeful use.

Philip Adams Chair Fabric Committee

CHURCH HALL REPORT FOR 2024

The hall continues to be used by Green Lane Preschool Monday – Friday. It is also used for church functions, meetings and private hire. The City Council hired the hall as a polling station for the local and general elections.

The heating boiler and gas hob were serviced by HMS in February and the fire alarm and equipment was serviced in October by Salamander. A front external light was replaced and two security lights were also replaced.

Many thanks to the small team who replenish the paper towels and toilet rolls every weekend. They also check the fire and carbon monoxide alarms, emergency lights and the water temperatures to help prevent Legionella.

The hall was painted during the school summer holiday. The inventory was checked and the annual “Spring” clean was completed with help from many church members.

Bill Chalmers



MISSION FUND REPORT for 2024

Group members are: Ann Bryant (Chair), Jackie Campbell and Marian Bailey.

Each year the Mission Fund receives 10% of the previous year's Planned Giving Scheme and the Sunday morning service plate collection.

The Group meetings are held three or four times per year to discuss donations from the Mission Fund. Minutes of the meeting are emailed to all PCC members prior to the next PCC meeting for approval. The chairperson notifies each charity or organisation of the donation, which is usually made by bank transfer. The Church Treasurer authorises the bank transfers with details given by the chairperson. Donations are usually made close to Lent, Harvest and Christmas and a list of donations is always on the Mission Fund notice board and in the Church magazine.

During 2024 the Mission Fund donated £3,950 to 10 local charities and 6 international charities/organisations. A full list of donations can be found at the end of this report.

To decide how the Mission Fund is distributed each year can be difficult to decide: each year brings different challenges and this year was no exception. We made a donation to help the humanitarian disaster in the West Bank and Gaza organised by DEC, which Christian Aid is a member. The Mission Fund donated to Christian Aid week this year, instead of holding an envelope collection campaign. Another International donation was made to Tujisaidie Community School in Kayole, Nairobi, Kenya. Andy and Margaret Gandon visited the school this year and witnessed the extreme poverty of the area but also the support and desire of the families and their children to succeed.

For the first time a donation was made to Good Soil, which is a local independent Christian charity, based in Top Barn, near Worcester. Support, advice and training is given to adults, as they move forward from the challenges that addictions, homelessness, poor mental health and crime have caused in their lives. Activities range from horticulture and animal care to rural crafts, landscaping, construction and woodwork.

The Mission Fund continues to support local charities, namely Maggs Day Centre, St Paul's Hostel, Worcester Foodbank and New Hope and the Bishop of Worcester Lent Appeal.

John Dentith organises the Children's Society Coin Box collection throughout the year which raised £199.69 this year. John also sent £176.20 to Maggs Day Centre at Christmas, which was raised from the 'Maggs Board Christmas Star Appeal' whereby Christmas messages to church friends are written, together with a donation, instead of sending Christmas cards. Also included was the collection from the Christmas Eve Carol service. We thank John for all his hard work and to all who contribute to this annual Christmas Maggs collection. The food donations that are taken to the Altar at the 10am Harvest service are also distributed to Maggs Day centre. Thank you to everyone who donated and to John and his helpers who delivered the goods to Maggs Day Centre.

Finally, on behalf of the Mission Fund, we thank all members of the Planned Giving Scheme and the congregation of St. Barnabas with Christ Church for their continuing support.

St Barnabas with Christ Church Mission Fund

LOCAL

INTERNATIONAL

Total Amount Donated £3,950



