

Deepening our roots of faith and sharing Christ's love in 2026

As we step into 2026, we do so with confidence and expectation. With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26) and we believe this year will mark an important stage on our journey toward Vision2030. Our desire is to be a thriving church, cherishing our historic building and choral tradition, nurturing an inclusive and caring community, and shining as a beacon for Christ on the hill in Warwick.

Over the past year, the whole St Mary's family has helped shape Vision2030, and we are already seeing encouraging signs of growth: deeper engagement, rising attendance, and a renewed presence in our town. These are signs of God's Spirit at work among us.

In 2026, we hope to take important steps towards a restored and renewed St Mary's, strengthening our ministry, finding new ways to serve our community, developing plans for a new church hall, and growing as a resource to others as Warwick Minster. As Abba Arsenius taught, *He who is turned in upon himself cannot pray; he who points beyond himself will be nourished by God*, hence our ministry is **rooted in faith, reaching out in love**, in the service of our local community and beyond.

We recognise the need to strengthen our regular income, in line with churches of a similar size and ambition, so that we can continue the work God is calling us to do. Over the coming year, we will gently invite one another to renew our commitment to serving and giving, including through our Lent Stewardship Campaign. We pray that, by God's grace and our shared faithfulness, our church will continue to flourish and to serve our community with love.

Together, we can make 2026 a year of real transformation: welcoming, vibrant, outward-looking and alive with the hope of Christ. Please speak to me or any PCC or staff member if you'd like to get involved.

Angus

The Reverend Canon Angus Aagaard CF
Rector of the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick
Team Rector of Warwick Team Ministry



Our Vision

What we seek our church to look like in 5+ years

Rooted in faith, reaching out in love

Our Mission

What we will do as a church

Worship God

Encourage discipleship growth

Transform communities

Our Mission Action Plan

How we will achieve our vision

Pray for clarity and faithfulness

Share our vision with the local community

Contribute our God given skills, talents and financial support

To discover more about Vision2030 and our Mission Action Plan pick up a booklet from the back of church or explore the digital version online at: <https://shorturl.at/4dreh>

What's ahead in 2026

Vision2030 is gaining momentum, **building on the vibrant life of St Mary's**, the wonderful **commitment of volunteers** and **many ministries that shape our church week by week**. Our Mission Action Plan describes how we will achieve our vision in four areas: **faith, community, world and stewardship**. Key activities planned in 2026 are outlined below.

Faith

We seek to deepen our spiritual life through inspiring worship and opportunities to explore our faith, helping us grow in numbers

- **Growing in faith:** running a young choristers formation course, study group retreat (June) and preparing candidates for confirmation (April)
- **Lent and Advent:** lay led preaching, sharing personal faith experiences
- **Pastoral care and hospitality:** developing welcome, support and volunteer ministries
- **Patterns of worship:** exploring additional ways of worship alongside our much-loved choral tradition to help welcome those new to church
- **Partnerships:** joint Anglican services and civic worship such as Blue Christmas, NHS Carol Service and Remembrance Sunday

World

We seek to work for God's kingdom by helping build a more just and peaceful world

- **Peace-building:** forming a Peace-builders Group (March), becoming a Global Centre for Peace-building and Business (GCPB) Cornerstone Church, hosting the Warwick Peace-builders Festival (May)
- **Global links:** welcoming a priest from Ghana to share with our ministry and supporting communities such as in Madagascar and Tanzania
- **Chaplaincy:** our rector continuing to serve as padre to Military Intelligence

Community

We seek to be at the heart of our community, offering hospitality and support, grounded in faith

- **Social impact centre:** opening a town centre community hub to offer advice, support and hospitality (March)
- **Practical support:** launching the Merry-Go-Round Clothing Library (March), continuing Singing for Mums, support of refugees and Packmores Estate ministry, supporting Warwick Hospital chaplaincy
- **Events:** Rectory Garden Party (July), Dog Show (July), Teddy Bear Parachute Drop and Community Picnic, Christmas Tree Festival (December)
- **Civic partnerships:** hosting the Warwickshire Change Makers Ceremony in partnership with Warwick Castle and Warwick County Council (July)

Stewardship

We seek to operate sustainably, securing the people and resources needed to fulfill our mission

- **Gifts and giving:** Lent Stewardship Campaign
- **Fabric:** submitting a Heritage Lottery Fund application to support restoration and reordering, develop a new hall, and explore environmental sustainability
- **Events:** delivering a vibrant programme that engages new audiences and generates income
- **Staff:** appointing an associate rector and welcome manager to support our growing ministry (Sept)
- **Digital communications:** launching a new church website (March)