

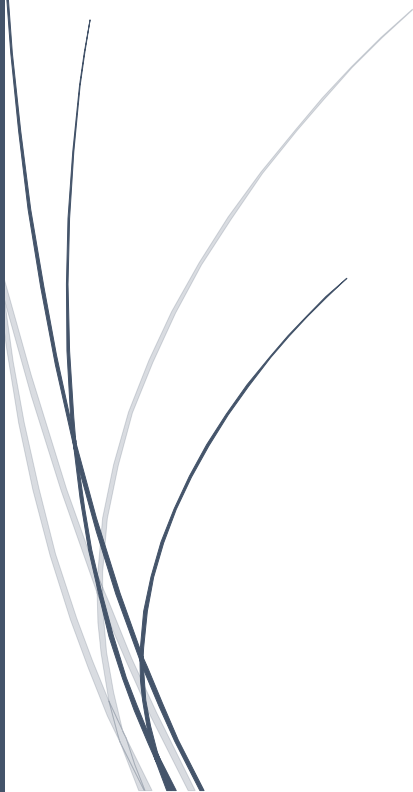


Amington PARISH
CHURCH

following Jesus together

Annual Report

2025



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Church Wardens' Report

This year has been fairly uneventful general maintenance has been on going, Boiler and alarm system have been serviced outside light, socket and light switch have been replaced, fire extinguishers have been checked and are going to be replaced. Ian kindly helped fix one of the window pains and light in the porch cleaning bowl and replacing bulb. Hedges have all been trimmed and James has been maintaining grass and creating space for wildlife.

Roof is ongoing we videoed and photographed the roof with a drone and info has been sent to diocese for faculty approval, quotes have been obtained.

Janet and I attended a church warden meeting to discuss ideas and share information.

We would like to thank all of the teams who have worked alongside us to create a great and loving church family from worship band, organist, cleaners, refreshments, sound desk, side people and of course our leaders.

May God bless the next 12 months as we grow in number and closeness to our Lord and Father.

Mark and Janet.

Buildings



The starting point for the newly elected Church Wardens was to review the Quinquennial report and to prioritise the work which still needed to be looked at.

Activities

The activities undertaken in 2025 were:

Pastoral Support

The prayer group met monthly on a Monday evening and prayer has been offered during the year after the services on a Sunday morning. All the funeral families have the opportunity of a follow up visit after the funeral for pastoral support.

News Sheet

The news sheet continued to provide a weekly source of information for the congregation and the wider community at the Place of Welcome and because it is displayed in the noticeboard.

Eco-Church

The first meeting regarding Eco-Church was held.

Messy Church

Over 2025/6, our Messy Church program held six sessions, reaching a total of 21 families. These gatherings typically saw an attendance of 5–12 children and 7–8 adults per session. Together, we explored various Biblical themes, including the temptation of Jesus, the story of David and Goliath, Creation, Noah's Ark, Jesus calming the storm, and the miracle of Easter.

Despite these meaningful moments, we have made the difficult decision to pause Messy Church for the foreseeable future due to a decline in consistent attendance. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated, with a special thank you to the volunteers and prayer warriors who gave so generously of their time and spirit. As we move forward, we are entering a season of prayerful discernment, seeking God's guidance on the next chapter of this outreach.

Steve

Home Groups

Three home groups continued to flourish and explore faith and Holy Scripture throughout the year.

Study Groups

The Way of Discipleship course (Module one) was completed.

Community Support

One of the local public houses, The Pretty Pigs, expressed a keen interest in being available for us as a Church. We sang Christmas Carols there just before Christmas and have a good relationship with the manager.

Socials

Our socials have been fund raising events this year, with quiz nights, beetle drives and other opportunities for people to gather. We also had a wonderful lunch to celebrate the birthday of Irene Davies.

Occasional Offices

In 2025, 3 children were baptised, 3 couples were married, and we held 23 funeral services in the church building, with a further 1 at crematoria and 1 memorial service.

Services

Following a letter from + Michael Volland, our services were amended to include a service of Holy Communion each Sunday at either the morning or evening service. The context of a more informal or traditional remained the same during Morning or Evening Services.

Sunday Services

- **Morning Worship**

We have a Service at 10.30am every Sunday which is projected onto 3 screens to make it more accessible to the varied congregation some of whom would be struggling to read from a book.

The format varies depending on who is leading but it is of a more informal style everyone feels included in this way of Worshipping.

Music is provided either by our long-standing Music Group or is part of the audio visual on screen.

There is a children's craft table at the front of church with led activities which fall in with the Christian year.

- **Evening Service**

We have a service of Evening Prayer or Holy Communion at 17.00 each Sunday except a fifth Sunday where there is not a service.

The evening service is a traditional service steeped in the Church of England's heritage by using the Book of Common Prayer as our liturgical basis for Evensong and Common Worship in traditional language for our Holy Communion services. Members of the congregation contribute by way of reading the lessons and leading the intercessions.

There is a very small choir who robe for this service and our Organist is Michael Ackroyd. The evening service includes singing traditional hymns and the Evening prayer is normally sung.

Mid-week Services

A quiet reflective space in the middle of the week, by way of a said Holy Communion service.

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service was held, as it normally is, in Church and was well attended.

All Souls

Invitations were sent to families who we have conducted funerals for over the last two years.

Christmas Services

Then we were delighted to be involved in services for Greenacres, Florendine and Amington Heath Primary schools. Two Rivers school came into Church to hold their Carol service. Carols by Candlelight, Carols on the Green, Christingle, Crib Service and Midnight Mass were all appreciated by all who attended.

Funerals

The requests for funerals in Church are an affirmation of how the local community look to the church as being theirs for times of need in their lives.

We have conducted funerals for local families in Amington as well as families with historical links to Amington.

REPORTS

PCC Report

'The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.'

The PCC met 8 times in person in 2025, and held 4 emergency meetings by email throughout 2025. It discussed, among other items:

- Safeguarding
- Children's Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Healing & Wholeness Ministry
- Parish Administrator vacancy
- Financial issues, including giving and Common Fund
- Fundraising
- Building and Ground Works

Members of the PCC in 2025

Chair Revd Claire Mitchell

Lay Chair

Church Warden Janet Hine-Thompson

Church Warden Mark Widdas

Secretary Vacant

Parish Safeguarding Officer Vacant

PCC members were all elected for one year at the APCM.

Readers Sue Joyce

Elected Members

Muriel Smith

James Westley

Mandy Widdas

Wendy Ruff

Catriona Paton

Treasurer Rachel Robins

Deanery Synod Mandy Widdas and Roberta Andrew

Financial Review

Treasurers Report 2025

First of all, I would like to say a massive thank you to those that have given so generously to the church and have enabled it to continue. Without your giving, we wouldn't be able to afford to pay our Common Fund to the diocese, nor cover the regular running costs of the church and so many people in the community would miss out on hearing about Jesus and learning how to follow Him. If you give regularly to the church, I sometimes think that people don't realize quite how appreciated and important that has been and so now is my chance to express my sincere thanks to you.

The church has quite a number of significant costs to pay every month. The utility costs faced by the church are still staggeringly high with our gas and electricity just for the church building (and ignoring any contribution towards TCHA for hall use) costing close to £6,000 in 2025 with the vast majority of that paying for the under-floor heating run by gas in the church building. Overall income for the church fell in 2025 compared with the previous year and unless things turn around, that trend is currently looking to continue. I am concerned that with the value in our general fund having fallen in 2025 compared with the previous year and being below the level that we would like to keep in reserves, that we could end up struggling to pay for the normal day to day running costs of the church unless things change.

I also think that people don't always realize quite how much it costs to run a church and so please do look over the figures in the accounts that show the different types of both income and expenses because we really do have a lot of bills to pay.

If you are a regular giver to the church and haven't changed the amount that you give within the last couple of years or so, I really would encourage you to consider doing this because we are having increased costs and I can see that we are going to struggle to afford to pay bills if the current trend continues.

If you don't already regularly give to the church, I would encourage you to set up a form of regular giving to the church even if it is literally just a few pounds a week.

If you are someone that has maybe received an unexpected bonus amount of income then do remember that God loves a cheerful giver.

I would also encourage everyone to realize that any resources that they have are effectively given by God's grace and that He wants us to give our best gifts and effectively our first fruit to go to Him.

By far the most useful way for the church to be able to continue its work is if people give to the church each month and it is especially helpful when that money comes straight into the church bank account.

It's also especially useful where someone is a tax payer (paying income tax or capital gains tax) for that person to sign a gift aid form as it is effectively free money that we can claim back as a church and boosts donations by 25% at no cost to you as long as you are earning enough as PAYE income, self-employed income or as pension income to pay tax.

Whether or not, you allow gift aid to be claimed, the Parish Giving Scheme has been incredibly useful to us as a church because the money comes straight into our bank account every month and they also do the gift aid claims for us all at no cost to us.

In 2025, we had 17 people giving through the Parish Giving Scheme each month as well as a small handful of people giving by standing order and other people giving cash or cheques. These 17 people may well effectively represent a giving unit of a couple or family and so may in fact represent more people than that. I really would encourage more people to join this scheme because this is the method that is the most easiest for us as a church to receive regular income, the least work for us in terms of us not having to chase you about asking about gift aid or doing the gift aid claims ourself and it also means that someone is not having to count the money or carry it down to the bank and so it saves us a considerable amount of time.

The other big advantage with the Parish Giving Scheme is that it is possible to give through that completely anonymously to anyone in this church. Admittedly you would need to give your details to the Parish Giving Scheme, but your name would not appear on any reports that the church receives on donations through the scheme if you choose for it to be shown as anonymous.

I really would encourage everyone to use this scheme to give your first fruits each month towards God's work here in Amington.

When you're ready to set up a new regular gift, you'll need to have your personal bank account details, the name of your church or parish, and the PGS parish code to hand. To confirm for anyone that is joining the scheme;

You can either phone them to set up a regular monthly giving amount on:

Telephone: 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

If you are phoning, they will also ask about your preferences for opting in to Gift Aid, if you are eligible, and whether you would like to increase your gift annually by the rate of inflation.

This call usually takes about 10 minutes to complete. We will then send you confirmation of your new gift by post or email.

To confirm certain details if you are setting this up:

Our Parish name is Amington St Editha.

The diocese is Birmingham.

Our Parish Reference number is 020602134

Or you can do this online: www.parishgiving.org.uk/givers/howtogive

If you are doing it online, you will need to click on Login and set up an account with them first.

If you are logging back in online with them to review your giving amount, and haven't logged in for some time, you do need to set up new account details with them including two factor authentication even if you had a previous login.

If you would like more information about the Parish Giving Scheme, their general phone number is:

Telephone: 0333 002 1260

Or you can email them:

Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk

Just to mention, that we will still accept cash donations and cheques too, but it is that regular monthly giving straight into the church bank account that tends to be the most reliable form of income for the church in terms of us knowing where we are likely to stand and being able to afford to pay our bills. Thank you too to the handful of people that also give by standing order each month. Literally everything that people give enables us to carry on the work of Jesus within Amington. In light of our regular giving currently on track to fall unless people choose to turn things around, I really would encourage you to ask yourself the question about how much you want this church to continue in Amington and whether you are prepared to give your all to help it continue.

In the past, there have also been some people that have very generously chosen to support the work of Amington St Editha's Church with a gift in their will. Please do consider this if you would like to continue to support the work of Christ in Amington after you have gone. That money could well help people that you may never have met to follow Christ right here in our community.

As in previous years, we are continuing to pay considerably below the full amount of our Parish share as a Common Fund payment back to the Birmingham diocese which we are part of, which contributes to clergy costs, such as stipend, housing, pension, Diocesan-wide costs, such as ordinands, curates, training, vocations and wellbeing as well as support for schools, children and young people. At present, we aren't technically paying enough to cover the costs of even a part time vicar and so are effectively being subsidised as a church, but I don't know how long this can continue for. Please do prayerfully consider how much you give towards the work of the church and please do put God first in your financial decisions.

Rachel Robins

Treasurer

The generous donations given by members of the congregation are greatly appreciated by the users of the food bank and the hygiene bank.

Place of Welcome

Place of Welcome (POW) Report 2025

I took over being POW Co-ordinator in 2025 . As POW already had a well deserved reputation as the friendliest and probably most well attended POW in Tamworth due to Mandy's hard I saw no reason to make any changes .

I have worked to build upon that firm basis and we have seen new people joining us who are not currently church members which is encouraging .

I hope and pray that we can have continued growth . Advertising on FB and word of mouth are the best ways let people know that we are here and what we do . So I would ask that people mention POW to friends and neighbours and together we can fill the church every Thursday afternoon

Jan

Safeguarding Report

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, and has due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

A copy of our Safeguarding document and policy is available in church and on our website.

Other Reports

Electoral Roll

The current roll has 58 people there has been one addition within the last year.

Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery

Deanery Synod Report

Our first meeting as representatives was on 4th June 2025, where Louise warmly welcomed us and other new members.

Steve was interviewed about his journey to becoming a Reader, this was very interesting. We also listened to other members talk about their experiences of the

Growing Gifts courses and how they had benefited from it, especially having the confidence to get up and speak to a room full of people. Splitting into groups we then had open and honest discussions about Living in Love and Faith; views were heard whether for or against the proposal.

The second meeting on 22nd October was led by a panel included Bishop Ester, speaking on behalf of Bishop Micheal and referring to the £17.8 million grant Birmingham Diocese has secured and how it will be spent. There was a heated discussion from the floor regarding where the money will be used – Sustainability, Leadership, Parish Growth & Revitalisation and Planting being the criteria for the grant and asking the panel to speak in language understood by the laity.

We receive minutes via email and if questions arise from them Archdeacon Phelim will respond. It is a privilege to represent Amington at the meetings and join with people from other churches within our deanery.

We were unable to participate in the last meeting via zoom on 4th Feb and the next meeting is 10th June.

Every Blessing Roberta Andrew & Mandy Widdas

Tamworth Christian Churches (TCC)

We continue to support the work of TCC with Janet Hine-Thompson as the representative for Amington Parish Church.

Fundraising report

Fundraising events in 2025 raised £2,184 . This was down from 2024s total because there were events that year like the Lent Lunches , sale of preserves , the Robbins 25th wedding anniversary lunch and the Church's anniversary lunch which added to the FRSC events .

A huge thank you to Helen Slim for the £400 raised from the sale of her hand made cards .

The FRSC team worked hard throughout the year organising the Christmas Fayre , Quiz Night , Singo Bingo , Summer Fayre and Beetle Drive .

So my thanks to Ian , Maggie , Muriel , Olive and Pauline for their sterling work on the committee .

Also my gratitude goes to the Church Family for supporting our efforts by attending events and generously donating prizes for raffles and tombolas .

Janet

Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association (TCHA)

2025 was another busy year for Tamworth Cornerstone H.A. Demand for our accommodation services remained higher with the Association receiving almost 50% more applications for our services than in 2023. Not only are we needing to support more young people, but new tenants are also coming to us with different needs, many now needing support in multiple areas in addition to having chronic mental health issues. Not only are we having to provide more involved support services, but we've needed to undertake extensive and costly works to maintain our properties at the highest standards. In 2025 we conducted energy efficiency works in the hostel including new windows and doors, installing showers in shared bathrooms, installing brighter lights in hallways, repairing roofs and chimneys, and refurbishing and repairing the windows at Byatt House, plus new kitchens in some flats and all the usual routine maintenance and annual safety checks.

Those members of St Editha's will be pleased to know that church involvement with our residents continues to flourish with craft, games and film nights being run by the church in addition to the monthly prayer sessions. Residents are also being offered the opportunity to volunteer at community orientated sessions run by the church.

With continuing cost of living increases, new legislation in the pipeline and local government reorganisation across the West Midlands, 2026 looks set to be another hectic year. We look forward to continuing to work together with St Ed's to help support the vulnerable young people of our community. [Stephanie Hood](#)

Chief Executive Officer

