



*Growing in love - for God,
each other, our community & the world*

stbarbaras.com



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Introduction from Bishop Sophie

As the new Bishop of Coventry, I am delighted that you are considering the possibility that God may be calling you to St. Barbara's. It is a challenging time to be a church leader in the Church of England and here in Coventry we are committed to helping clergy to flourish and grow in their vocation, to know themselves loved and called by God and to find that they are valued by the bishop, the senior team and their colleagues both lay and ordained.

We seek clergy who find their joy in the good news of Jesus Christ and are passionate to share that joy with others. St. Barbara's is a lively community with a rich history and a real heart to reach the people of their community with God's love. Like many churches they want to find new ways to support the growth of the church among all ages and have a particular sense that nurturing children, young people and families will be key in this. Of course, we are deeply grateful for the faithful ministry of older people in our communities too and there is a very committed team at St. Barbara's who will want to welcome and work with you going forward.

Coventry also has a special calling to be a place and people of reconciliation. Our world is far from peaceful, and God calls us to be peacemakers, so if this is something you feel drawn towards then Coventry Diocese may well be the place for you. Everyone has a part to play in this, and we are excited about the shape of this in the years ahead.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern your future,

+ Sophie



Introduction from the Churchwardens

Welcome to St. Barbara's church!

Our mission is to grow in love for God, each other, our community and the world. We are looking for someone who will guide us with compassion and care as we journey in God's love.



At St. Barbara's you will find a broad church of different ages, backgrounds and interests who all joyfully come together to worship God and deepen our understanding of the Scriptures. We enjoy worshipping together, led in singing by the choir with Holy Communion at the heart of our worship.

Earlsdon has a very strong community spirit and is a great area to live and be a part of, with cafes, restaurants, pubs and a theatre within the parish, as well as parks and a good primary school.

We are excited to be approaching the centenary of the church on the current site. We are looking for someone keen to journey with us and guide us into our next 100 years.

Andrea French and Ed Manning

Our Mission Statement:

Growing in Love for...



God



**Each
Other**



**Our
Community**



**The
World**

Growing in Love for God

Services

St Barbara's Church offers a vibrant and inclusive programme of worship and outreach throughout the year, fostering spiritual growth and community engagement.

Weekly Services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion Service:

A peaceful, traditional service cherished by regular attendees, which lasts around 40 minutes, this is an opportunity to pray, have Communion and listen to a short sermon.

Sunday 10:00am Holy Communion Service:

A Sung (or said) Eucharist featuring our choir, offering rich and reverent worship. This service is followed by refreshments, providing an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. It is also livestreamed via our website and YouTube channel for both live and later viewing. The main Sunday service lasts around 70 minutes, there is a thought-provoking talk, time for prayer, hymns and songs. Children head out to HIVE (Sunday School) and feed back later in the service. Bible readings and intercessions are led by a significant number of the members of our congregation.

Wednesday 11.30am Service:

This 11:30am Holy Communion service supports connection and reflection during the week. This service of around 40 minutes, is an intimate time for quiet, time to pray and receive Communion.

Worship and Choir

St Barbara's choir is an unauditioned four-part group that leads the singing at the main 10am Sunday service, usually a sung Eucharist, and at other special events. We rehearse on Friday evenings and before the service.

Our repertoire spans the range from Tudor anthems to metrical psalms and 21st century worship songs, including Taizé chants. We have a spectrum of singers from confident to novice, children to senior citizens. Additional members of the congregation join the regular choir members for the Christmas carol service. All are welcome.

We previously had an all age mini orchestra which we would love to restart.



Holy Communion

We hold Communion, where possible, three times a week. Since lockdown we have administered Communion by intinction. We are fortunate to have our self-supporting, part-time curate, Rev. Jeremy Bevan, to preside over Communion as often as he can during the vacancy.



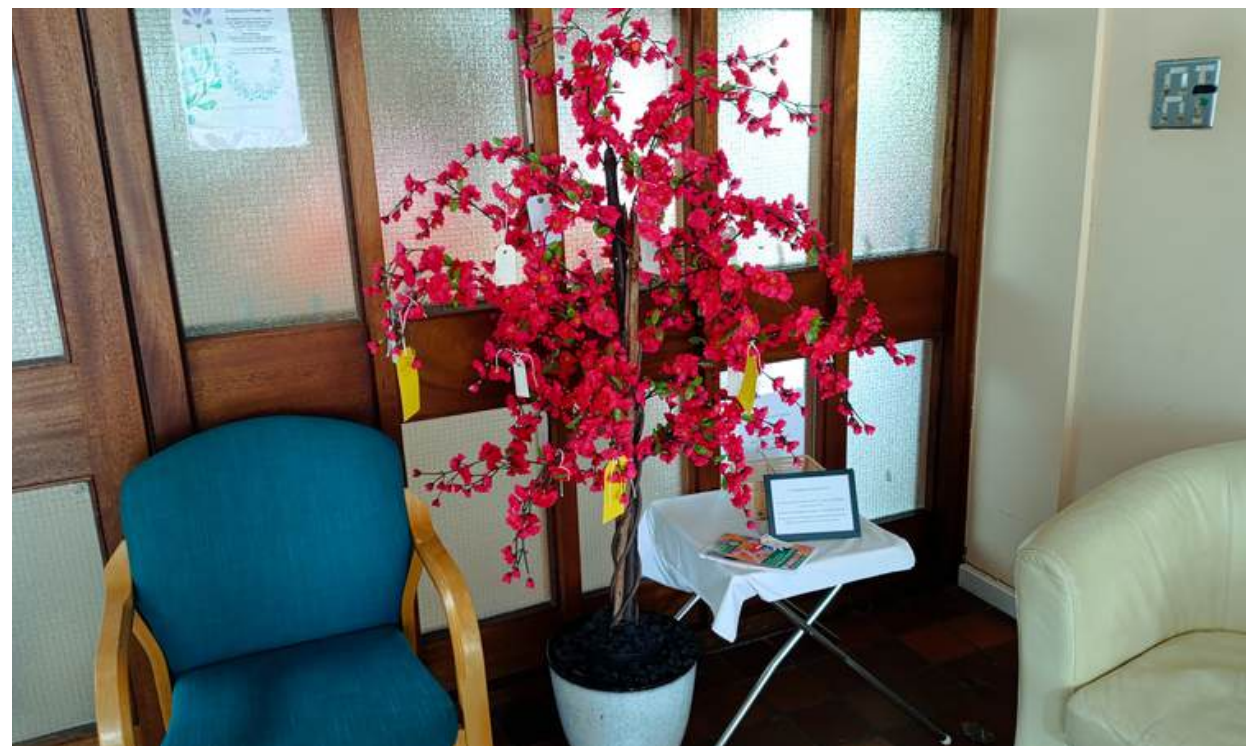
Preaching

We are a traditional church, mainly following the lectionary with occasional bible-based series. Rev Jeremy Bevan preaches, as do other members of the congregation. We also have occasional preachers from elsewhere, including from CAP and Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which are among the charities the church supports through its tithe.

We have someone currently discerning a call who has just started to preach and lead services.

We have enjoyed daily reflections on Bible passages at seasons during the church's year, provided by the incumbent and curate, though we now support the Everyday Faith App.

Growing in Love for God



Prayer and Retreats

We have an email prayer chain where requests for prayer can be shared. We also have a prayer tree in our foyer where members of the community, or the church, can write and hang prayer requests. At times we have had regular prayer meetings, either on a Sunday evening or after the morning service, as well as a Pastoral Prayer team. This is an area that could be developed. Sixteen people went on a day retreat in July 2024 to Berkswell that people greatly appreciated.

Special Services

We host a number of seasonal and commemorative events throughout the year, including the very popular Nativity Service, Candlelight Carol Service, Christingle, Easter Sunrise Service, Remembrance Sunday and our annual service of commemoration and thanksgiving for those who have died, each drawing broad participation from the community.



Home Groups

Our home groups continue to meet, study the Bible and provide a source of encouragement and spiritual support, in addition to our youth group, for younger secondary school aged children. The group for older young people has folded due to some of them moving on to university, but we are trying to encourage the remaining ones to meet informally.

Last year, we also held a special course on Exploring Our Life Journey, attended by 15 church members, that enabled many profound conversations to take place.





Growing in Love for each other



Buzz at St B's

Buzz at St B's is our monthly service for families with primary school-age children. Taking place on a Sunday at 5pm, it focuses on a theme from the Bible or the liturgical year. This is then explored through drama, craft, prayer and songs. At the end, there is a bring-and-share tea and an opportunity for the children to play informally. More than just a service, Buzz is a ministry which reaches families who don't otherwise engage with St Barbara's - it is an accessible way-in to the Christian faith at a time of day which is often easier for families than a Sunday morning. For several years we have also had a Buzz weekend away which has been a brilliant opportunity to deepen our faith, develop friendships and encourage intergenerational connections.



HIVE

Our Sunday School is known as HIVE (in keeping with the St B's bee theme). It caters for all children of pre-primary and primary age, with the occasional older one. This takes place during the 10am Sunday morning service, leaving a short way into the service and coming back in time for Communion. We generally do a mixture of Bible story, games and crafts, based on the Roots material. Most of the children are on the younger end of the range and the number of them can vary between around 2 and 12.



Other Children's Activities

Our previous vicar founded and ran Prayers and Bears - a service for pre-school children and babies, and their parents and carers at Earlsdon Methodist Church. It is a wonderful mix of songs, treasure hunts, prayers, stories and crafts, lasting for 20 minutes, and followed by time for refreshments and play. Currently volunteers from Earlsdon Methodist are trying to keep this going.

Other children's activities include Easter and Christmas craft workshops, Sports Day, Pancake race and an Easter Bonnet Parade.

Growing in Love for each other



Book Group

St Barbara's Book Group formed as a spin-off to a Home Group where the members kept finding themselves ending up talking about books, and decided they needed to form a separate book group. They meet every few weeks, reading a wide variety of books, usually from the library, but also getting free books in return for reviews and shadowing major book prizes.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is important to us and is a regular item at our PCC meetings. We follow Safer Recruitment procedures and Safeguarding policies as part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all who enter our church. This is all overseen by our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Alison Manning.



Busy Bees

Busy Bees meet on a Friday morning in the church office to chat and craft together. They have made knitted items for charity shoe boxes and had stalls at church fairs.

Growing in Love for our community



CTEC

Churches Together in Earlsdon and Chapelfields is an association of five local Churches. It was formed in the 1960s with the aim of seeking greater unity between Christians of different denominations. St. Barbara's joins with:

- All Souls Roman Catholic Church
- Earlsdon Methodist Church
- Sherbourne Community Church
- St Mary Magdalen Anglican Church

Members participate in united prayer, worship and training. They cooperate in Christian mission and witness, share concern for wider social and moral issues (resulting in concerted action and service to the community) and encourage the celebration of life in all its fullness. Accordingly, we engage in a variety of social and ecological projects, and are building relationships with our local city councillors to enable the voice of Christ to be heard by decision-makers in our community.

Social Events

The social committee runs a number of events during the year. In Spring we enjoy a ramble around Canley Ford, followed by a soup lunch. We hold a Summer barbecue with games for all ages. We also coordinate shared lunches for Dedication Sunday and at other times.

The May Day Fete is a major fundraising event for the church. We serve 300+ cups of tea/coffee and barbecue burgers and hot dogs. We are proud that we offer a more affordable option alongside the Earlsdon Festival and a place for families and friends to meet up and unwind.

We enjoy twice-yearly quizzes with a fish and chip supper and usually collect donations for Tearfund and Christian Aid. We are always keen to try new ideas and support each other in our events.

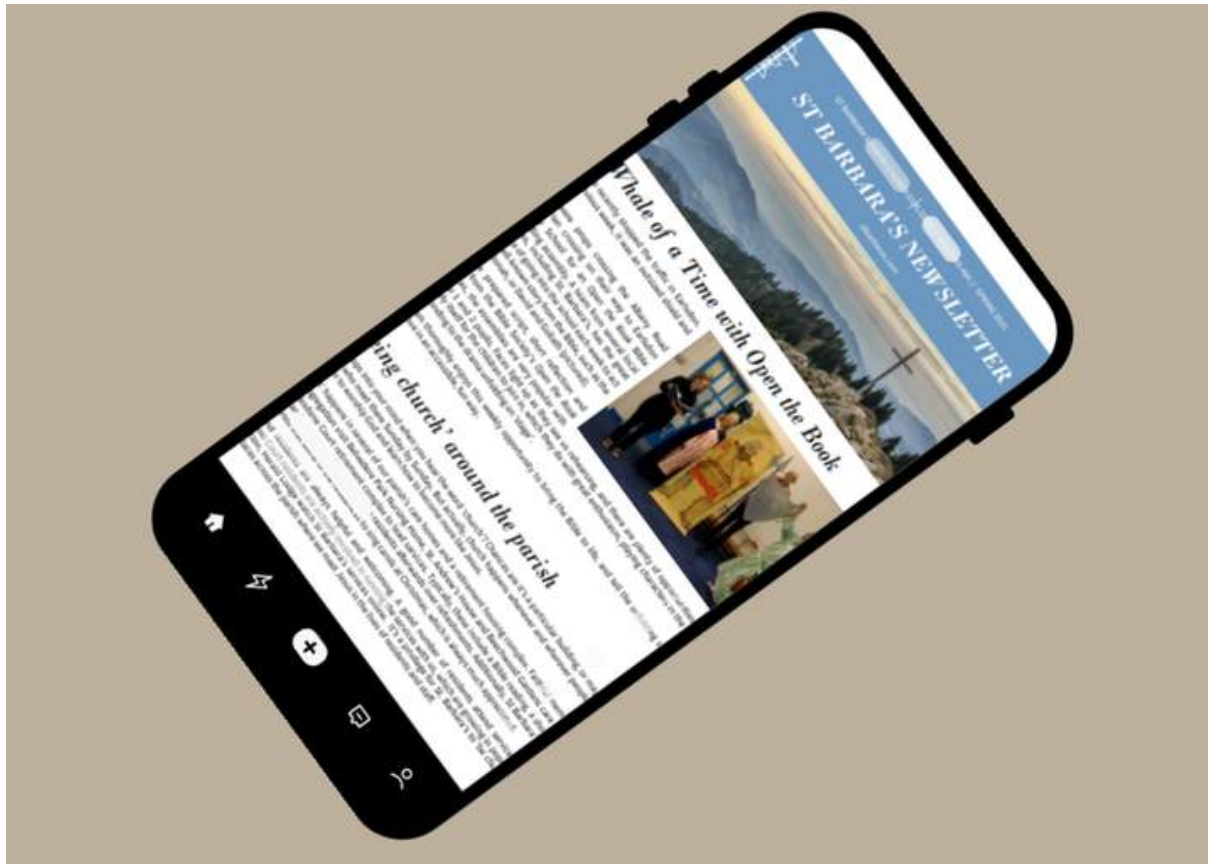


Care Homes

We have some excellent involvement with local care homes, with regular services and Bible studies being conducted in four of the homes in the parish, and at least one joining us regularly online for our live-streamed Sunday Services, sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ within the wider community.



Growing in Love for our community



Communications

A weekly email is issued to the whole church, with service details and notices. We produce a Parish newsletter four times a year - the first three times this is issued in electronic format, the fourth time, before Christmas, it is printed and distributed to every house in the parish.

We have a church Facebook page on which we aim to share details of services and events weekly, sharing posts on local community pages. We also have a website.

We share stories and publicise events in ECHO, the local community newspaper. The church is one of the points of sale for this and three members are involved in producing it.

School

We have a good relationship with the only school within the parish - Earlsdon Primary School. We are able to host them in the church for special services, such as their Christmas Service, which they find helpful as there is no room within the school where they can fit everyone in.

Three people from St Barbara's go in to the school weekly as part of a team to take Open the Book assemblies, and these are very well received.

The vicar has previously led assemblies in the school as well and members of the church have gone in to share what it means to be a Christian as part of RE lessons.



Links with other organisations

We also support our community through involvement with other organisations such as Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and Good Neighbours with a number of church members being active volunteers in these. St Barbara's, helped launch the Good Neighbours Project in this area in 2017, working in partnership with [HOPE Coventry](#) and CTEC churches.

A wide variety of local organisations hire our hall for their meetings, as well as individuals using it for parties and gatherings.

The 42nd Coventry Scout Group have a Scout hut in our grounds where Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers meet. We encourage them to attend our special services, such as Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. We have been working with the Scout Group as they have just been granted funding to redevelop the hut as a more modern facility.

Growing in Love for the world



ECO Award

We achieved our A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award last year. We are working towards Net Zero where we can and have switched to genuinely renewable green energy for electricity and biomethane for gas. We have taken part in recycling schemes.

Garden

The church is surrounded by gardens on three sides, including some mature trees and shrubs. We maintain the gardens with wildlife in mind, growing bee-friendly lavender and developing a wildflower area. We also have an insect house and bird boxes.

As well as this, we have benches and a castle and slides for the children to play on.



Giving and Prayer

We also express our love for the world through giving and prayer. We have two international mission partners to which we give significant grants, and we give to other organisations throughout the year such as through Lent and Harvest Appeals and our annual Tearfund big quiz night. We consistently pray for our Mission partners, as well as other international situations through our intercessions on a Sunday morning.



Local Area

The Earlsdon high street (located $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the church) features many amenities. These include: cafes, charity shops, pubs,, a post office, two opticians, a chemist, an organic shop, a greengrocers, a fish and chip shop, hairdressers, a bakery, a variety of different restaurants, a Co-op and Greggs.

Closely located to this high street is the Earlsdon Methodist Church, the well-regarded Earlsdon Primary School and the Carnegie Earlsdon Library which is run by volunteers. This hosts a variety of daytime and evening activities targeted at a range of demographics, from families to the retired population including French and Spanish speaking groups. Also nearby is the Criterion Theatre which hosts a variety of different amateur plays and occasionally musicals throughout the year.

The parish is within walking distance of the city centre and there is also a Church of England secondary school (Blue Coat) less than 3 miles away. We are well connected by bus services and through being closely located to both Canley and Coventry train stations.

Earlsdon has a village feel despite its close vicinity to the centre. We have varied access to nature and parks. This includes Canley Ford, Spencer Park (with its bowling greens, playground and tennis courts) and we are close to the War Memorial Park. Additionally, we have a large golf course and a tennis club within our area.



History of the Church

131 acres of farmland were sold to create the Earlsdon Estate, with 250 building plots established. Many residents worked in watchmaking and ribbon-weaving industries.

Streets of shops and three pubs were built to support the growing population.

1852

1860s

1922

Earlsdon became its own parish, reflecting the area's growing congregation.

1921

'The Institute', a large wooden building for church and community use, became a hub for parish activities.

1913

The first Mission Church dedicated to St. Barbara opened on Palmerston Road, serving the growing Anglican community.

1890

Earlsdon was incorporated into Coventry but retained its distinct identity as 'the village'.

1884

The first permanent Methodist Chapel was constructed.

1873

Wesleyan Methodists converted a ribbon factory into a temporary chapel.

1929

Plans for a new St. Barbara's Church were initiated, with architects Austin & Paley creating the design. However, financial constraints following World War I required significant scaling back, leading to the omission of two additional bays, ornate porches, and a baptistry.

1930

The foundation stone was laid by Sir Alfred Herbert in memory of his wife, Florence, with a blessing from the Bishop of Coventry. Construction commenced.

1931

The new St. Barbara's Church was consecrated on September 26. The Lady Chapel, endowed by Sir Alfred Herbert, featured intricate carvings, stained glass, and a carved wooden ceiling.

1954

The sanctuary was enhanced with a raised reredos and a frieze depicting the four seasons by artist Walter Ritchie.

1971

A new parish hall and vicarage were built, replacing the old wooden institute, improving facilities for church and community activities.

2010s

Modern upgrades included rewiring, a new heating system, organ restoration, and a modernised foyer.

2025

St. Barbara's thrives as a centre for worship and community engagement, hosting events and groups weekly.



Statistics



Church

There are 103 people on our Electoral Roll, following a six yearly-refresh in May. Almost a quarter are new, whether recently joining our congregation or settled worshippers committing themselves to St Barbara's. A number of young adults who grew up in our church family are now members in their own right.

Occasional offices – whether for church or parish members – totalled 3 baptisms and 12 funerals in 2024. There have been a small number of weddings and funerals, including one hugely attended community funeral, in the first half of 2025.

Area

The 2021 Census paints a picture of Earlsdon as broadly demographically mature – with plenty of older middle aged and retired adults, and families with older children. Economically, most residents are recorded as comfortable or relatively well-off, though there are lower-income households as well. Compared to other parts of Coventry there is lower cultural and ethnic diversity, but a more secular feel than national or diocesan averages (as seen in proportion reporting no faith affiliation).



Church Buildings

The church building is a modernised version of medieval architecture, with the high altar at the east, organ and vestries for clergy and choir on the north side and Lady Chapel on the south side. Current seating is for 200 people, but the church can hold more than 400 on special occasions, for instance the nativity service. The church has a frieze around the high altar showing 50 aspects of the four seasons and a 17th century carved pulpit, and stained glass windows.

The Lady Chapel has a carved wooden ceiling and cornice, a carved west screen and doorway, carved figures behind the altar and stained-glass windows. The chapel has 25 seats and is used for the 8am service and midweek services as well as other occasions. It is a beautiful place to come and pray.

The church building has good acoustics and is occasionally used for concerts.

The church hall, meeting room and kitchen are let during the week to community organisations and are a good source of income. The church office contains a printer and files and is used for some committee meetings. The hall is used after the 10am service for tea and coffee and for social activities such as church quizzes.

All church buildings are in good order. The last quinquennial inspection, received in February 2025, highlighted work required which we are hoping to complete in the next 12 months. The restricted funds are more than adequate for this, and the other work anticipated for years to come.

The car park has capacity for around 15 vehicles. There are no burials in the church grounds. We are grateful for all the people who work to maintain the grounds and buildings.



Vicarage

The vicarage was built in the 1970s and stands adjacent to the church grounds.

The ground floor of the vicarage comprises a large lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, utility room, and toilet, while the first floor holds four bedrooms, bathroom and separate toilet. A brick-built garage stands at the rear. It has its own enclosed garden at the front and the back.



Front
Garden



Back
Garden



Study



Kitchen



Lounge



Dining Room



Bedroom (1 of 4)



Bathroom

Administration/PCC

We have no paid administrator but have a full complement of PCC members with all positions filled. Current members provide a good range of ages and backgrounds, as well as Christian heritage and skills.

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Property Committee

Attends to matters relating to church buildings, fabric and contents.

Social Committee

Organises & runs church social events.

Finance Team

Supports treasurer in oversight of investments, stewardship campaigns & annual accounts.

Eco Committee

Whose purpose is to consider the steps the church should take towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030.



PCC Members

Curate (part time, self-supporting):

Rev Jeremy Bevan

Churchwardens:

Andrea French Ed Manning

PCC Secretary: Jessica Moore

Treasurer: Rachael Moorley

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Alison Manning	Elaine Parnell
Michael Fabunmi	Lesley Viggars
Ian Leitch	Thomas Watts
Victoria Mason	Teresa Witt
Steve Matthews	Stephen Witt
Karen Mogan	Keith Wright

Finance and Stewardship

St Barbara's Church has a healthy financial position. The table summarises the financial position for the last three years. Full sets of accounts for these years are available on request.

There is good use of the church hall by both regular and ad hoc users, which raised income of circa £30K in the 2024 financial year. This supports the church to achieve its financial policy of raising enough income to cover expenditure on an annual basis.

This has not been achieved on the unrestricted fund in 2023 and 2024 because of delays in claiming gift aid. St Barbara's is due gift aid for the financial years 2022, 2023 and 2024 estimated to be in the region of £25K. It is anticipated that this issue will be fully resolved in the current financial year.

Planned giving and donations have broadly remained stable over the last few years. This is an area we will continue to monitor moving forward using stewardship and financial giving campaigns appropriately.

St Barbara's church has a substantial restricted fund due to a significant legacy left to the church approximately 15 years ago. Much of the restricted fund is earmarked for expenditure on the church, church hall, and the wider church grounds.

The church makes donations to several organisations on an annual basis. There are a number of events that raise funds for the church, but the most significant in the last 3 years has been the May Day Fete.

	2022	2023	2024
	£	£	£
General Income	28,713	33,979	33,847
Planned Giving / Donations	57,539	57,192	58,459
Gift-Aid	9,445	0	0
Fundraising	3,880	3,431	3,186
Grants	0	0	0
Income (Restricted Funds)	(26,026)	34,286	17,526
General Expenditure	33,229	36,592	28,444
Parish Share Contribution	67,723	67,723	67,722
Expenditure (Restricted Funds)	7,625	4,225	5,683
Unrestricted Fund Balance c/f	6,169	(3,544)	(4,218)
Restricted Fund Balance c/f	316,100	346,161	358,004
Endowment Fund Balance c/f	31,580	31,580	31,580

Person Profile

Our priorities and vision

Our mission is to grow in love for God, each other, our community and the world. We want to be a church where everyone is cared for, valued, supported and encouraged to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

We are a broad and inclusive worshipping community where people with different views, outlooks and interests serve God in love together.

We value our friendship and our community, with quizzes, church meals and other social activities. The church connects with people through the many groups and activities people are involved in. Hundreds come to our carol and nativity services. We want someone who will help us to deepen our relationship with people and to share our faith.

Our home groups and young people's groups help us to grow in love for God and each other, meeting the needs of our community and welcoming new people in.

Being a multi-age church is important. While we do not have an official pastoral visiting team, we have many people who care for our older members. Whilst recognising the needs of the elderly and housebound, it is particularly key for us to continue to connect with the school and young people, including the Scouts. Buzz at St B's has enriched our community and drawn people in, but we recognise that a new vicar may want to relaunch or adapt that.

We would really welcome someone who is keen to develop our ministry with children and young people.

We support our mission partners and seek a world of justice, peace, love and concern for the environment.

We recognise that the future may look different, and that God may work with us differently.



Our children explored what characteristics they would like in a new vicar

Person Profile

We would like a vicar who will:

Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- Be passionate in their love for God and desire to draw others into a deeper relationship with God.
- Be welcoming and inclusive to all, believing that everyone is precious to God and that Jesus brings us unconditional love.
- Help us to deepen our relationship with the community and share our faith.

Teach, baptise and nurture believers

- Communicate effectively and lovingly.
- Proclaim the Bible as the inspired word of God for today allowing people to grow by open and honest conversations and passionate debate.
- Help us to love and serve God in new and different ways.
- Work with children and young people and help them grow in faith.
- Support every person to understand their talents and how to serve God and others, including those in discernment.

Respond to human need by loving service

- Show God's love by the way they live.
- Serve in practical ways to support the whole work of the church.
- Ensure safeguarding is a priority and that St Barbara's is a safe place.
- Lead the church but also be a team player who works with God, the church and the wider community.
- Understand what people value and meet people where they are.
- Support older members and those who care for them.

Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

- Be a voice for transformation in our area and throughout the world for the poor, the marginalised, the lonely and for social justice.

Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

- Care for the creation in crisis and work for individual, local and global change.



St. Barbara's Church

Thank You for Reading!

Informal conversations very welcome with: Elizabeth Egan (Personal Assistant to the Bishop of Coventry)
email to pa@bishop-coventry.org or telephone 024 7667 2244

For further details and an application form please contact:

Debbie Niblett, HR Officer and Archdeacons' Administrator by email to Debbie.Niblett@Coventry.Anglican.org

An application form can be downloaded from **the Diocesan Website**.

An Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.



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