

# People's Hall Evangelical Church Bridgnorth

Annual Reports  
For  
2025

Annual Meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## 2025 Ministers Report for AGM, 2026

Look up.

It is very easy to look for our blessings here on earth. I think this is more so in the affluent West. At times Reformed and Evangelical preachers can almost sound as if they are advocating some of the Health Wealth and Prosperity gospel. All too easily it can be said (and I have heard it said) 'if you give generously to the Lord now, he will prosper you.' The Lord often prospers generous believers, and this can be seen in men like George Muller throughout church history. However, would that teaching work for Christians in Iran or other countries where martyrdom is a real possibility? Truth and true theology work in all situations and not only in some countries – for the truth will be seen to be true wherever the gospel is preached. To give to the church under the principle of earthly blessing can lead people to fix their eyes on the wrong blessings. We must not confuse the Lord giving many believers prosperity upon earth with a *quid pro quo* type of Christianity.

We should be looking upwards and not downwards – to our reward in heaven and not on earth. The Lord is a gracious Lord and often does give great blessings upon earth. However, consider Abraham – he did see blessings upon earth, but his life was far from one of ease. The Lord took him away from his home country and family, Gen 12:1; when he got to the Promised Land he was driven away by famine, Gen 12:10; Abraham virtually prostitutes his wife in trying to save his life, Gen 12:11ff (here his faith wavered and he sinned); he then wanders around for years and has to separate from his Nephew, Gen 13:5-9ff; He has to rescue his Nephew, Gen 14:14-16; he is childless in old age, Gen 15:2 (a difficult time of waiting for him); he begets trouble for himself in Ishmael, Gen 16:2; he has domestic strife, Gen 16:5; in continuing his travels he again is deceptive regarding his wife, Gen 20:1ff; after Isaac is born he is compelled to drive out his firstborn, Gen 21:9ff; he has to strive over a well, Gen 21:25-31; he is told to sacrifice Isaac, Gen 22:1 (although this is a test and Isaac is spared); and he does not possess the promised land but his descendants did. Some of Abraham's difficulties were caused by his own sin (i.e., calling his wife his sister), some by the sins of others (i.e. Lot's wanderings) and some by the providence of God (i.e., famine).

It is all too common to smooth over the difficulties of Abraham's life and romanticise it. The simple truth is that he had a very demanding and hard life on earth. It is encouraging to think on the end product, but we must be careful not to gloss over the hard path that many a believer has to tread. Hard, but not impossible, because the Lord will keep His people, Hebrews 13:5. If you would like to see how low a believer can feel then read Psalm 88. When the next time you feel low and a fellow believer tells you that as a Christian you are not allowed to, then show them Psalm 88. Of course we are not to stay in that state, there are plenty of Psalms to lift us up, but believers are not to pretend that there are no hard times (Job 1:21-22)! At such times look up – remember heaven.

Why was Abraham not overwhelmed? Because he looked up – beyond the troubles on earth to heavenly riches. "For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10. Abraham had something greater in mind than an earthly promised land which is a picture of the real Promised Land! As real picture as the land and its capture etc was real. I am not arguing that Abraham was not blessed upon earth but that through all the strife and difficulties his eyes were fixed on something even higher. Abraham did not

stagger back from the promise of God as impossible (Romans 4:21-21) but he had faith in the Lord – that the Lord will complete what He started. Abraham did not see the fulfilment of the earthly promise as that was left to his descendants. By faith he looked to not only the earthly fulfilment but beyond that to the heavenly fulfilment.

Therefore, let us follow Abraham's example. Look up to that which is greater. We may strive and have a very hard life on earth as believers, many do, but we can look up and remember our reward. If your life is blessed with a measure of ease, then thank the Lord and use that ease for His glory and keep in mind that your earthly reward is but a small taste of the wonders of Glory! Believer, every which way, Look Up!

Over the last year we have had a number of blessings as well as challenges. And through it all the Lord has been with us and has kept us. The membership has remained stable, what we could term the ordinary work of the church has continued through the various meetings and events – which are covered in different reports.

However, through various trials, funerals, illnesses, joys and in the whole gambit of our human experience the Lord is with us and has kept us as a church. And as we looked up during these times so we will look up again by God's Grace.

Always remembering, we wait *for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God* Hebrews 11:10.

## **Elders Report 2025**

The first thing to say about 2025 is that our God has been so gracious, kind and loving to us as a fellowship throughout the whole year. We have been so blessed and encouraged by the preaching and guidance of our Pastor Colin and others who have taken the services when required, particularly Bob on a monthly basis. We have so many willing and gifted people who continue to work so hard in so many areas of church life, not just in Ladies Fellowship, prayer meetings, children's work, men's fellowship, Wednesday People, delivering Good News papers around Low town but also faithfully cleaning, catering, maintenance of church properties and grounds, as well as those who use their gifts to lead our Sunday services worship time. All four elders would like to express our deep appreciation for your time and efforts.

Our numbers fluctuate during the year especially during the cold wet winter months which give health problems to the more elderly members, but we give God the praise that he enables the services and midweek meetings to continue week in, week out.

Lord, thank you from every member and attendee of the Peoples Hall for your loving hand on us and the finance (thanks Andy for your skill there) that you enable us to function.

Geoff, Paul, Steve, and Colin

## **2025 Men's Fellowship Report for AGM 2026**

For more than a year we have been seeking the right format for a men's meeting. Initially it was in the evening and consisted mainly of testimonies – which was encouraging. And there was a curry night where two of the ladies kindly fed us very well; and the guest speaker spoke some encouraging words to us.

In the end the format is now established with our meeting on a Monday at 10.30 a.m. each month for an hour where usually one of the men leads us in a discussion study of the bible.

Thus far it has been profitable and encouraging. The numbers vary depending on availability, but we meet and the Lord is blessing us as a group. Different men lead the group and that too is a blessing.

It is good for men to meet around God's word and fellowship.

Colin Wilson

## **Fabric Report 2025**

As the New Year opened, we were visited by a storm which tore the 1908 pottery ridge finial from the church roof, to dash it to the ground. Praise God that it happened in the early morning, so no-one was injured. But on its descent, it damaged other parts of the roof allowing water ingress down through the ceiling. Our roofing contractor made temporary repairs but informed us that other work would be needed later, requiring full scaffolding. This was duly carried out in the Spring.

However, the scaffold lorry damaged the brick wall and coping outside the hall, requiring replacement.

In due course we were able to patch and repaint the ceiling when it had fully dried out.

Although there was no full summer work day this year many small jobs have been carried out and our thanks to those who have helped. Outstanding tasks are still building up, and a day work-in will be planned later.

A big thanks to our teams of cleaners who do such a great job in keeping the place smart and tidy.

Further work and repairs were carried out on No 6 and the manse.

By the autumn our church piano was developing an intermittent fault, to the despair and embarrassment of the musicians. Being digital this could not be repaired and in view of its age (20+ years) a replacement was obtained in time for Christmas.

So once again it is our Faithful God that we must praise and thank for providing the resources to enable us to look after His house.

Steve Tull

## **Media & Communications 2025**

Over the past year we have purchased more toner for the photocopier.

Also, over the last year we have had an issue with Sermon Audio which has meant that sermons have not been able to be uploaded.

The monitor that is used by the singing group at the front on a Sunday morning has been damaged and will need to be replaced.

Andi Garbett

## **Outreach Report 2025**

Friday Children's Club, Wednesday People, Little Treasures, Ladies Bible Study Meetings, Easter Outreach, Children's Summer Club, Family Services, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Harvest Supper, Carols by Candlelight, Co-op Carol Singing, Nativity Play, and more.

None of this outreach would happen if not for ordinary people doing things like putting tables and chairs out, putting toys out and putting them back, making the cakes to give away, making sure we have the right tracts to give out, piano and generator are moved. Cleaning the church and toilets, the flowers, the news sheet, giving out tracts, walking paths to deliver papers, inviting people, giving out bibles over coffee and our prayers praying for that neighbour. Sharing Christ with anyone is outreach.

We praise God for answered prayer.

Sometimes it is difficult, but when we are willing to depend on God to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power we can go into all situations with courage and confidence even when we feel overwhelmed and unqualified. His presence and power can do amazing things in and through us.

Paul Wanklin

## **Good-News Papers 2025**

At the start of the year the decision was taken to increase our allocation to 150 copies each month. This allows for a small number of papers to be left over after the normal distribution is made to homes in Low town by the regular team consisting of Anne, Marlyn, Mary and Geoff. The extras are then available for church members and friends to distribute and share wherever there might be a chance to share with neighbours, work colleagues and friends as an additional outreach. Sam Moineux is already using them in this way. Who knows how God might use that copy left in the takeaway (with the owners OK of course). So don't be afraid to take a copy from the back of church.

Our church contact details are attached and occasionally we get encouraging feedback from those receiving the papers, even though we might not have had opportunity to talk individually.

But for those of us who can't get out and about delivering, we can still remember this work in our prayers, asking God's blessing as we seek to win souls for Him

Mary Tull

## **The Friday Children's Club**

### **Annual Report April 2025 to March 2026**

We are so thankful that we have now been running for almost 2.5 years, praise the Lord, since starting on 3rd of November 2023. We are very grateful for all the prayer, supporters, and contributions given to enable the children's club to run.

We are still having a steady 5-7 kids, and it has been great to have one child come up through Toddlers, and awesome to see how the children have welcomed the new 5 year old and help them with games to still be a part of what they are doing.

We raised the age range to 12 last year and were very pleased most of the older ones have chosen to still keep attending, continue to pray how we can better support and guide those starting or started high school and to accommodate the age differences. We have made all sorts of crafts from air dry clay modelling, weaving, painting to making yarn monsters and bristle bot robots. Pray we can keep the balance with our age range and perhaps develop into a Kids/ Youth club.

We have been very pleased with how our Christmas and Summer evenings have gone where we have invited the parents to join and seeing how they have really enjoyed taking part in some games and joining in with the celebrations eating lovely cakes, cooldrinks, or dairy free hot chocolate. It has given a great opportunity to get to know each other better.

We are very grateful to those who lead, come to help with the bible stories, setting up, helping the kids with the crafts, providing meals for the leaders groups every week, without all this we would not be able to run the kids club, and so we thank the Lord for it is only Him who enables us to ultimately do any of these things.

Lord Bless,

The Friday Children's Club Team

## Little Treasures Baby and Toddler Group 2025

Well, it has been another busy year for our toddler group.

**Matthew 6:31-32:** "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Week after week, God has continued to bless us in so many ways:

- A continued growth in numbers.(We now have between 17 & 22 each week)
- Develop relationships, and support families and carers who attend.
- Opportunities to share God's love both with the adults in conversations and sometimes prayer. Also, with the children through the activities and crafts put out each week.

As our numbers increased God met our needs and we welcomed Alastair and Maggie to the team, who slotted in very quickly to the business and face pace of toddlers. And in June we sadly said goodbye to our brilliant team member Esther, due to college commitments. Her help and support was a real blessing.

How wonderful it has been to see so many of our families attend other church events: The Easter Outreach and also the family services..... Praise God!

Our Christmas celebrations were particularly busy.... The session before our family service in church, was very well attended and each activity and craft was Nativity based, which gave us many opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with both adults and children.

A particular highlight was the Christmas Family Service, where a small group of toddlers came and took part in the nativity, singing and playing instruments.

For some of our families, stepping into a church service is incredibly daunting. But because, as a church, we continue to do outreach events, this has made the move from the back hall into church itself a really positive experience. All have said they have felt so welcomed.

Again, our Christmas party was a really busy, but fun time. Each child went home with a book (The Christmas Story) and each family had a gift bag which contained a Christian calendar, a bible tract, a Christian book mark and a candy cane with a poem attached about God's love. Thank you to Paul, our most talented resident Father Christmas!

New families arriving are hearing about our group by either Facebook, word of mouth or the posters they see around town. We continue to pop fresh messages out on Facebook most weeks, to give session details or as a reminder we are closed for a school holiday, which seems to be appreciated.

We would like to say how grateful we are for everyone who continues to pray for toddlers or help in any way. God hears our prayers and is ever faithful!

Little Treasures has been running for about two and a half years now, and from the very beginning we have seen God's love and faithfulness week after week. As a team we feel incredibly blessed and privileged to be able to serve our Heavenly Father in this way.



Please continue to pray for each family represented in toddlers, that they will see Christ in all we do and say and that they will want to know Him more and know Him as their personal saviour.

John 13:34-45

A new command I give you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Little Treasures Team:

Anne, Alastair, Mary, Maggie & Nina

## Sunday School Report 2025

First we would like to thank you for all your prayers. The Sunday School team would not be able to carry on without them. We have had times when the children have told us the Bible story, but then we have been able to concentrate on the application. Please continue to pray for the children and the teachers, that God may make our teaching true to Him and a blessing to the children.

Sunday School Team.

## **2025 Ladies Fellowship report for AGM March 2026**

April 2025 to March 2026

The Ladies Evening Bible study group has continued to meet mostly once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and the Ladies afternoon study group once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The aims and benefits of attending the ladies Bible study still remain and are:

- to develop and enrich our own faith building understanding & communication with our female friends
- to learn more about God, ourselves through reading God's word amidst meaningful discussion
- to discuss thoughts and opinions in a safe, open and confidential forum, to listen with patience and thought, with a desire to move forward making a difference to each other and our wider friends and family
- the meetings focus on God's word but will broaden out to discuss aspects of daily life allowing time to share about the struggles and successes of our lives - there is much laughter and occasional tears, and to receive encouragement
- It is also a time of prayer. We share concerns for our family, friends and the wider world issues. We thank God for His blessings to us.
- we gain insight, wisdom and knowledge about God's plan for us and our role in the church and helping others

### **Thursday Afternoon group:**

We have been blessed to continue with our group of 7 for most meetings, one other following our theme remotely online.

We continued with our theme of Fruits of the Spirit. Discussing and strengthening how our own gifts and talents can be developed to serve God in as many ways as possible, also serving others. We encourage each other through talk and prayer.

Since October our focus has changed to a study of Ruth, with themes of trust, loyalty, obedience, relationships, the unchanging nature of humanity, faithfulness through trials. How our faith is tested, perseverance, childlessness, homelessness. We always seek to hear God's voice and to do His will, encouraging each other through difficult times, yet continue to move forward in what we can offer to the church and each other.

### **Tuesday Evening group:**

We have continued in our study book on Philippians slowly, which is helping us learn to go deeper into God's word. We have now reached Philippians 2 v4 and have been reminded of the trials, difficulties that Paul went through, which has opened up discussion and sharing personal difficulties or sharing how God has brought us through these tough times, and how important it is to be like minded and united together meeting together as a Christian family and to support each other as we serve each other.

Wednesday People Team

**Our Social events:** - Our ladies afternoon tea on the 30<sup>th</sup> August was a blessed time as sisters in Christ enjoying fellowship together and learning a little more about each other and enjoying eating too much delicious food - We finished the year on Nov 22nd with our Ladies Christmas bring and share Lunch at the Fisher's house, and we had lovely hot chocolate made by Esther, various lovely cakes, snacks and finding out a few of our favourite things like colour, flavour of crisps, holidays etc.

**Conferences:** A group of us attended the EFCC's Women's Conference on building a life of Godliness with speaker Linda Allcock 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> March 25. The conference is usually a time of refreshing, and great fellowship with ladies from other EFCC churches. We are looking forward to our next women's conference on Walking with the Father speaker Jane McNabs 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Please continue to pray for the Ladies Bible study groups, that we can continue to encourage each other. Phil 2v4 " Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Jan & Vicky

## **Wednesday People 2025**

We continue to meet twice a month on the first and third Wednesday, and we are now in our tenth year. Prayer is an important part of the work, and we always have a prayer time at 10 am, over a coffee before our visitors come in.

During this year Terri was not able to meet with us for some time due to health issues, but the meetings continued thanks to the rest of the team. Particular mention needs to be made of Ruth and Derek who get everything set up before the meetings and have made sure that the kitchen is always supplied with tea, coffee, etc., and who kept things going throughout the year. Anne Lloyd and Rachel Garbett also helped out when needed.

Thanks also to Nina who has kindly been helping to promote the meetings on local Facebook pages.

Numbers attending have kept quite steady, and a friend of Mary's has been coming regularly with her very well-behaved little dog.

We gave out the usual Christmas gift bags at the last gathering before Christmas, and these were well received.

We are only a small team and always happy to welcome anyone who would like to be involved. We would very much like to be able to meet every Wednesday, but we feel that a second team is needed for that to be considered. Please talk to us if you would like to join the team, or even just pop in one Wednesday for a chat.

Wednesday People Team