

## **ENCOURAGER**

Sharing monthly stories of God at work among us.



## Reaching hundreds for Christ







This last month saw us moving from the Church filled with fun and games and Jesus being the light in the darkness for the Lighthouse Party through to High Road Carols with beautful lights in the outside tree, glow sticks and lots of carols, mince pies and mulled wine and on to the amazing Christmas Fayre! In total these 3 events saw over 900 people filling St Mary's grounds and building! Praise God! Thanks to everyone involved in every way.





Encounter for Everyone at the beginning of November saw some of our young

people involved with the service. We are loving a real sense of multi-generational fun, worship and joy at our Worship for Everyone services.

We also had an amazing Youth Alpha this term, which runs until February 2026. We have 30 young people as part of this Alpha. Recently, we had the Holy Spirit evening, where many of our younth opened their lives to Jesus and were prayed for the receive the

many of our younth opened their lives to Jesus and were prayed for the receive the Holy Spirit. One young person shared they felt their body was on fire, as they received prayer - amazing!





## St Mary's Church Culture Review

A group of members of St Mary's representing a cross-section of the congregation, were invited to complete a questionnaire about church culture and leadership.

Following this, they were invited to attend a meeting to reflect on our church culture facilitated by our Archdeacon, Jonathan Croucher.

The discussion confirmed that St Mary's is a caring, respectful, and healthy church with strong trust and confidence in its leadership. The group recognised opportunities for growth, especially around inclusion and diversity. Members appreciated the church's strong safeguarding practices, open communication, and willingness to reflect and learn. It was noted that some people may find it hard to connect socially, and that greater efforts by everyone in the church family to encourage belonging and community through welcome and shared activities would be beneficial.

Overall, the feedback shows that St Mary's is a loving, Christ-centred community moving positively forward while remaining open to growth and learning together.