

## Themes emerging from PMC Data profile

Partnership for Missional Church initially involves reflecting on our church as it is now. A profile of information about St Paul's and the community it serves has been assembled from Parish and Diocesan records, the National Census and local knowledge, and has been discussed and interpreted by the PMC steering team. Here are some highlights:

**St Paul's parish demographic.** Around 11,000 people in the Parish identify themselves as Christians, suggesting that many not attending churches for worship are committed to or open to God's gospel. The Parish population is not unusually elderly, as is sometimes thought; the age profile is fairly even other than "missing" students of university age. Unemployment is low, and most jobs are full time. One quarter of households comprise a single person. New estates will expand the population of the Parish.

**St Paul's buildings.** St Paul's location is somewhat peripheral to Wokingham town centre, but is highly visible from road and rail. The church and Parish rooms are widely used by many groups with minimal connection to congregational life. Groups using the church appreciate the beautiful space, but are less appreciative of the accessibility of various amenities. The church building enables mission by being a focal point that is generally open to all during the day; it doesn't provide flexibility as a meeting space. Running and maintaining the building is expensive, which inhibits investment in mission.

**About the congregation.** 70% on the electoral roll live within the Parish, and most of the rest in Wokingham. Over the past decade, normal Sunday attendance ranged from 120 to 200. The combined weekly attendance at St Paul's and St Nick's amounts to 0.8% of the Parish population, compared to 2.2% attendance at Anglican worship across the Oxford diocese as a whole. Christmas and/or Easter attendance is habitual for >650 Parish residents. An increase in "Sunday School" age children over recent years is welcome; teenagers are scarce (and precious!). Church members have high involvement in the many community networks present in the Parish, and round Wokingham in general.

**Finance and leadership.** Income has grown since 2010, and in recent years has exceeded £150k p.a. There are ~160 planned givers. Funding of mission beyond the church declined during 2010 to 2015, a decline recently reversed by the PCC. Church finances are stable, but scope for funding new initiatives for mission seems limited. The congregation depends heavily on the Rector, churchwardens, etc, for decisions and implementation. The leadership in general would welcome more members sharing the work underpinning church life and proposing new initiatives to enhance worship and mission.