

PARISH COMMUNICATION

Twenty-Third Warwick Symposium on Parish Research
Saturday 17 May 2025, 10.30-18.00, at The University of Warwick, Coventry
Hosted by Beat Kumin with Angus Crawford and Kristi Flake (Warwick History/My-Parish)

CALL FOR PAPERS



Emanuel de Witte, 'Interior of a Protestant, Gothic Church during a Service' (oil on panel, 1669).
Extract from the painting in the Online Collection of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Ever since the formation of a local ecclesiastical network in the Middle Ages, communication has been a principal feature of parish life. Clergymen sought to disseminate core teachings (through sermons, writings and personal conversations), artists created paintings / sculptures / compositions, lords used churches to publicise regulations, bells announced service times / warned of imminent danger, while congregations instrumentalized religious gatherings for sociability and the exchange of news. The 2025 Symposium seeks to explore a wide range of verbal, written, visual, musical, ritual, symbolic, environmental and material media linked to parish cultures in multiple regional and chronological contexts, welcoming contributions on theoretical / conceptual approaches (from different disciplines), methodological aspects, case studies of particular contexts / sources / figures / periods as well as issues relating to audience response.

We now invite proposals for 15-minute papers. Submissions should contain a title, abstract and brief biographical note (on max. 2 A4-pages), reaching b.kumin@warwick.ac.uk by **1 March 2025**. The Symposium has always been an inclusive forum of exchange between anyone with related research interests from whatever background or career stage. It may be possible to offer a small number of postgraduate bursaries to help with travel expenses – please let the organizers know if you would like to apply.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Warwick Network for Parish Research, Warwick's Humanities Research Centre & the History Department. Further information and programme details will be published on the Symposium homepage at: <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/my-parish/parishsymposia/communication/>.

