

# Annual Review

## 2019



*All about* **Jesus**

Welcome to our Annual Report—a review of the church's activities during 2019.

2020 has been a unique year and so annual meetings have been delayed and so, as we gather to look back on what God has done amongst us, we're looking quite a long way back.

This document is a summary of what we've been up to. I hope you find it encouraging.

- P2 CONNECT**
- P4 EXPLORE**
- P6 GROW**
- P8 EQUIP**
- P10 Finance & Administration**
- P12 WORSHIP**

Charlie Styles, Rector

# CONNECT

We will build relationships with the widest breadth of people,  
seeking to serve them as Jesus did

We want to be:

- Serving in the community in all areas, with a particular focus towards the less fortunate.
- Being good neighbours, filled with the Spirit, showing the difference that knowing Jesus makes.
- Being accessible for everyone of different ages, stages and abilities.
- Using various media, both print and digital, to reach as many people as possible.

Here are just a few examples of what that looked like in 2019.

## Welcome Team

Going somewhere unfamiliar for the first time can be daunting. The Welcome Team try to put newcomers at ease, giving details of the service, explaining the facilities available and introducing the newcomer to another member of the Church family.

Likewise, the Welcome Team will have a warm welcome for regular members, particularly any who have been unable to attend the services in person, perhaps through ill health or work and family commitments.

Being a member of the Welcome Team is a great way to get to know friends, old and new, and at the same time give practical assistance to those running the Services.

*Andrea Jones*

## Midweek Coffee

We take pride in opening the Church Café for two hours every morning, from Tuesday to

Saturday. We offer a warm welcome to all, from home and abroad, and our conversations with visitors allow us to introduce them to other things that the Church offers.

Our Church's historic association with John Wycliffe attracts many. Some are grateful to learn of the workings of the Foodbank. Others just need guidance to reach the Church Office! There is always plenty of literature on display to publicise the worship, study and outreach activities that are going on.

Our regulars also include established members of our church family. They value the chance to catch up with each other and share news of others in need of some special attention, to flag up such needs to the ministry team.

If you could spare a morning regularly, once a month, or just occasionally to cover a gap in the rota, we would be delighted to welcome some newcomers to our ranks.

*Tricia Dean*

## Listening Team

This began as a bereavement group to help people having difficulty with adjusting to the loss of a loved one. It has developed into the listening team, serving anyone who needs someone to talk to. Two members of the team are in Church every Tuesday from 10am to 12noon. We find that people who visit the Church enjoy seeing someone and sometimes stay for a chat.

Should anyone need help, they can call in on Tuesdays or call the office and one of the team will get in touch.

*Marilyn Belton*

## **Under 18s**

Little Acorns continues to be an excellent opportunity to reach out to our community, to support new parents, to be a listening ear and to share the gospel. We continue to have great numbers and new people come along every week. It is particularly encouraging to see parents coming back with their next children. We have a wonderful group of volunteers and have seen God's faithfulness in providing new team members when several of our existing team had to leave. We continue to think about ways we can build ongoing relationships with families that come. The Baptism Course has worked well, but often our relationships stop at the end of Little Acorns.

We are so thankful to God for all the opportunities he has given us to serve him in primary schools. 2019 has involved another Bible Week in Sherrier, Prayer Spaces, Church Visits and Open the Book sessions in all three primary schools. We are struggling to have the capacity in our team to visit Bitteswell and John Wycliffe Primary School as regularly as we would like. We are thankful for the way the children love to hear the Bible and for the opportunity to share God's Word with them. Please do pray for them.

Throughout the year, Graham Thomas has been working as Chaplain to Lutterworth College, supporting both students and staff in pastoral care and bringing the gospel to assemblies and lessons. Several students have visited the church on tours and been invited to



**Lutterworth College's Commemoration Service**

events and services. A Christian Union is running weekly in the college, but our prayer is that this can lead to deeper relationships and more opportunities to share the gospel. A new Christian Union is being planned for Lutterworth High School, led by Ben Horrex our Youth Minister.

We also meet regularly with a few young people from the local schools in Costa once a week, building relationships and playing games together. Please pray that this will lead to more gospel conversations, and for clarity as we consider how best to reach out with the gospel to those aged 11-18.

*Katrina Harper & Ben Horrex*

**120+**  
Average number of children and parents at Little Acorns each week

**230+**  
Number of sessions taking place for Children and Young People in 2019



### **CONNECT**

- How can I connect with the church and spiritual things?

# EXPLORE

We will take every opportunity to share the Good News about Jesus

We want to be:

- Helping people explore questions of spirituality, faith and God.
- Praying that the Holy Spirit would give us boldness to speak and open people's hearts to the truths of God.
- Proclaiming the good news of God's love, shown in the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Giving people an opportunity to respond to God's word in repentance and faith.

Here are just a few examples of what that looked like in 2019.

## Christianity Explored

This year we have established the Explore strategy which is designed to encourage people who would not yet call themselves Christians to find out more about Jesus through His word and consider putting their trust in Him. A small team of church family members has been created to help coordinate these activities and we are making plans for a series of events and activities to run when social distancing restrictions as a result of the Covid19 pandemic are lifted. One of the main activities of the Explore strategy is running Christianity Explored courses and we had a very successful course in February and March which was held mainly at Lutterworth Cricket Club.

This course was well attended and a good number of church members brought along guests who responded very positively to the content of the evenings. We had a very committed team of helpers from the church

who helped cook some amazing meals (Graham Thomas' curries being one of the highlights) and led table discussions. The course is based on the excellent material from the Christianity Explored organisation, both videos and literature.

Due to the Covid19 lock-down, we were unable to conclude the final part of the course which was due to be an evening and day away at the Stable House in North Kilworth. However, we are running the last of these sessions at the end of May online using Zoom video conferencing technology. This will also be an opportunity to test this format as we are then planning to run a new Christianity Explored course online starting on the 11th June. Please do be praying for this event and considering which of your friends, family members, work colleagues or neighbours you might consider inviting to these amazing courses.

James Dargie



CHRISTIANITY|**EXPLORED**

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?



Youth Games at Rooted

Each session includes games, time to build relationships and a Bible study focused on the gospel that would be accessible for inviting friends. We hope to provide more opportunities to explain the gospel creatively and to train our young people in evangelism.

The youth team also joined the new Christianity Explored courses, supporting eight young people as they heard about Jesus in Mark's gospel, now following up through our regular activities and groups.

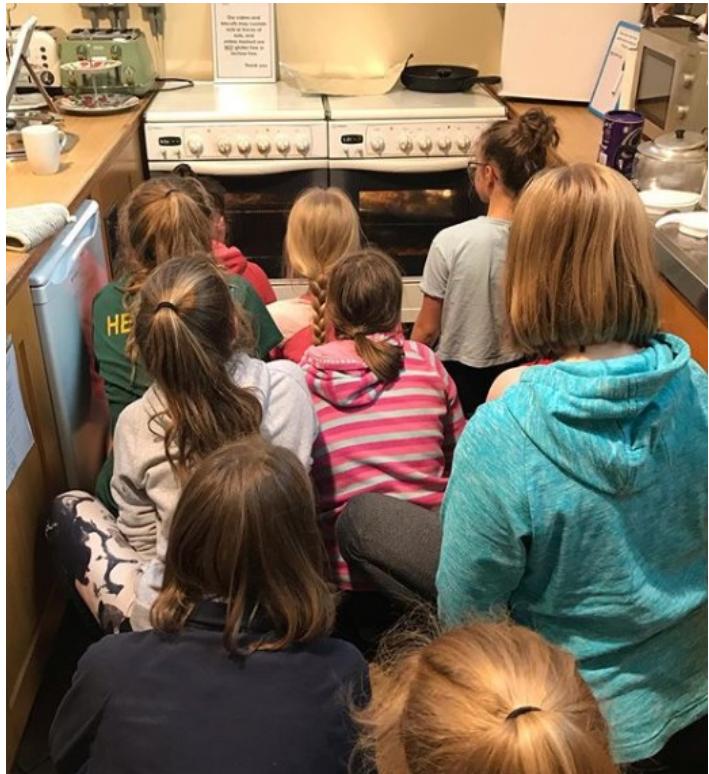
Please join us in prayer for those members of our church family who may feel called to join us, serving in this exciting ministry.

Katrina Harper & Ben Horrex

## Under 18s

Explorers, our mid-week after school club for 8-11s, has now been running for a year with 12 children regularly attending. This started as a way to help our children with deeper discipleship, but it has become more focused on exploring what it means to be a Christian. We welcome the opportunities that God has given us, with children inviting their friends and connecting on a deeper level with new families. It is our prayer that these children would come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

Rooted Youth Club continues on Thursday evenings in the Church Gate Centre, led by members of the staff team and occasional volunteers.



## EXPLORE

- How can I find out more about the Christian Faith?



## The Great Rooted Bake Off

# GROW

We will be a family of Christians helping and supporting each other to become more like Jesus

We want to be:

- Growing in dependence on God in prayer and in gratitude through whole-life worship.
- Being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to obey God.
- Teaching and enabling Christian disciplines and habits, to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Jesus Christ.
- Building healthy relationships and loving one another, including practical support like visiting the sick and helping in times of need.

Here are just a few examples of what that looked like in 2019.

## Life Groups

Life Groups continue to be at the centre of how we help one another grow as followers of Jesus. Each of the 9 groups are different but all are built around three core strands: care for one another, learning for life and dependence on God in prayer. This year our learning in Life Groups has typically connected with what we have done in the Sunday service, helping one another work out that same part of the Bible in our own lives.



Life Groups

In 2020 many have moved online, meeting as a Life Group on Zoom, while others have stayed in contact by phone, ringing round on a weekly basis. Even in these difficult times, Life Groups continue to help one another grow as disciples of Jesus. If you would like to join one please get in touch with Tom or Charlie.

Tom Brown

## Under 18s

Treehouse (for 3-11s) ran during our 9:30am and 4pm Sunday services. We are thankful for the children God has sent us and we have two great groups. Our 9:30am group is smaller but closer in age and they have really enjoyed the series on Jonah. Our 4pm service is bigger with a wider age group and it continues to be a challenge to provide for all ages.

We are breaking down into smaller groups to try and answer the deeper questions from our older children. Space continues to be challenging and we are praying for more leaders to make these groups as effective as they can be.

Once a fortnight we run Youth Night, when a church member hosts the young people aged 11 and over in their home for a meal. One of our youth team leads a Bible study which focuses on the practical application of our faith, studying the breadth of the Bible.

Many of our young people also meet up regularly with mentors in the church, reading the Bible and praying together. We hope to expand this so that all our young people can be supported in this way.

Katrina Harper & Ben Horrex



## Mothers' Union Socials

### Prayer and Pastoral

Our aim as a Prayer and Pastoral Team is to enable every church member to grow in their prayer life and relationship with God. We want to come alongside people in the Church and the community to support them through difficult times, responding to people's needs. We hope to be the bridge between those we encounter and Jesus, modelling Godly values.

On a weekly basis we go into Country House, Bitteswell and Woodmarket House as 'befrienders/listeners' to those who don't have contact with family. We have also continued home visiting and taking Holy Communion to individuals and into Care Homes.

A social gathering of funeral directors, clergy and lay people who are involved in taking funeral services has taken place. This gathering helps to promote a deeper understanding of how the church operates continuing pastoral care and is particularly beneficial for new incoming funeral directors.

During the year, our teams continued to give a valuable service to both church members, and

the local community. Graham Thomas continues in his role as chaplain at Lutterworth College and Lesley Turner continues in her role as Chaplain at Lutterworth Fire Service.

Our Services to Remember take place twice a year and are a time for all to remember loved ones who they died. These services are well attended by the community.

It's been a great year and we have seen God answer so many prayers. It's a privilege to serve God and his people in this way.

*Ruth Wagstaffe*

### Mothers' Union

The year flew by as we endeavoured to follow the 2019 theme of 'Listen, Observe, Act in Step with God'. Our meetings begin with a short act of worship, followed by talks by speakers from all walks of life, who share their experiences and views with us.

A highlight was staging our Summer Lunch in the Rectory garden, where we were joined by several members of our Ministry Team to enjoy the hospitality of Charlie and Sophie Styles.

We also join with the wider MU at Deanery and Diocesan special events, such as the Deanery Festival at Cosby and the Advent Carol Service at Countesthorpe. It was our privilege to host the Deanery Lady Day service at Bitteswell, with Holy Communion and a bring-and-share lunch.

Mothers' Union is an ecumenical Christian organisation, whose members raise funds and work practically towards its activities, both locally, nationally and worldwide. Our own fundraiser took the form of Afternoon Teas in St Mary's Church, with a bric-a-brac stall, raffle and Tower Tours.

*Joan Brown*



### GROW

- How can I grow as a Christian and become more like Jesus?

# EQUIP

We will encourage, train and support each church member  
to serve God in their context.

We want to be:

- Teaching and learning greater depth of understanding of Christian faith and how it works out in daily life.
- Providing skills training for service in the church and in the world, especially in speaking the Good News of Jesus.
- Giving opportunities to serve with support and accountability.
- Considering the moral and social issues of the time, so as to be well-prepared to live in a world sometimes hostile to Christianity.

Here are just a few examples of what that looked like in 2019.

## Servant Leadership Course

The Servant Leadership course began in September 2019 with its pilot group. Meeting weekly, the course helps Christians grow in their relationship with God and knowledge of the Bible, while shaping and equipping them to serve God in the future, whatever that might look like.

Modules so far have included: an overview of how the whole Bible fits together; leading Bible studies from the Gospels and from the Old Testament; sharing our faith with others; and, personal change through the Gospel. Alongside growing in knowledge and skills, we have also grown together as a group and helped each other apply these truths to ourselves personally.

Since we have been unable to meet physically, we have continued online over Zoom. In addition, we have begun to run some of the modules as short courses for other members

of the church, which so far has had a good group joining in. We plan to start a second full Servant Leadership group in September. If you think that might be something you might benefit from and would like to know more, please get in contact.

Tom Brown

## Training Sessions

Throughout the year we run training evenings to help us serve God more effectively. In 2019 these included:

Growing Young Disciples at Home. Time for parents and carers to learn more about how children grow in faith and how we can help them along the journey. It was great to spend time together as those facing similar situations.

How to Share Your Faith. Learning simple and memorable ways to explain what we believe. We also had a great time practising telling our stories in ways that would help others to consider faith and the claims of Jesus for themselves.

Charlie Styles

8

Church Members studying on the Servant Leadership Course

94

Children attended Summer Club 2019

## **Under 18s**

The Junior Team is a group of our young people, exploring how they can serve the church and wider community as an expression of their faith.

Primarily they serve at Summer Club, but also contribute to the church family through welcoming, serving refreshments, assisting with Children's Ministry and contributing to our online resources.



**Youth BBQs**

Regular training sessions help to unite the group and explore the reason behind their service. Several of our young people continued to be supported in the Youth Band, playing together once a month and leading the sung worship in our 9.30 service.

Summer Club was a highlight of 2019. We had 94 children and a wonderful team. It was incredibly encouraging to see our Junior Team and Youth Band sharing this giftings and serving the church.

Our prayer is that we can better establish links between the families we meet at Summer



**Summer Club: Radical Romans**

Club, so that we can build relationships with them throughout the year.

*Ben Horrex & Katrina Harper*

## **Safeguarding**

Caring for all, especially the vulnerable, remains a key focus for us as a church. So, each year we hold compulsory Safeguarding Training for all our volunteers—teaching best practice in the way we run our events with children and young people. All our key leaders are DBS checked and held accountable for their duty of care.

*Charlie Styles*

## **EQUIP**

- **How can I serve God every day in the church and beyond?**



# SUPPORTING THE MISSION

While our four ACTIONS are the activities that are the essential components helping someone grow as a follower of Jesus, there is other kingdom work that enables the mission of the church

## **Buildings Management & Administration**

This group is convened by a Churchwarden, with the purpose of supporting the growth of Christian fellowship in Lutterworth, by enabling our Church's mission. It aims to care for our historic buildings and churchyard; provide safe, comfortable and well-equipped surroundings; promote clear and effective methods of communication, and foster efficient administration and management.

Group membership varies, with some always involved, such as the Church Administrator, whereas others, with specific interests, contribute only as and when appropriate. Members may be serving on the PCC or co-opted from the congregation.

The PCC receives regular reports from the group, which can sanction modest expenditures itself and refers larger quotations for PCC approval. The Group has particular oversight of Health & Safety requirements and is responsible for implementing Quinquennial inspection recommendations to keep the buildings safe and fit for purpose.

*Tricia Dean*

## **Finance & Personnel**

Not perhaps the most exciting group in the life of the church, but one that really matters. The bible is very clear in its expectation that our faith will be worked out both in the way that we manage our money and in our dealings with other people. Hence, as stewards appointed by the rest of the church, members of the group look to put these principles into practice in a variety of ways.

Below is a flavour of some of the things that we discuss:

- a) Reviewing in some detail how resources are allocated between different priorities
- b) Reviewing future expenditure to make sure it is appropriate and fits in with what we can afford
- c) Adapting and reviewing our policies in the light of legislation and overarching Christian principles
- d) Exploring planned appointments to the church team, both in terms of the necessity of each post and the duties that need to be undertaken.

*Peter Kent*



01455 558797

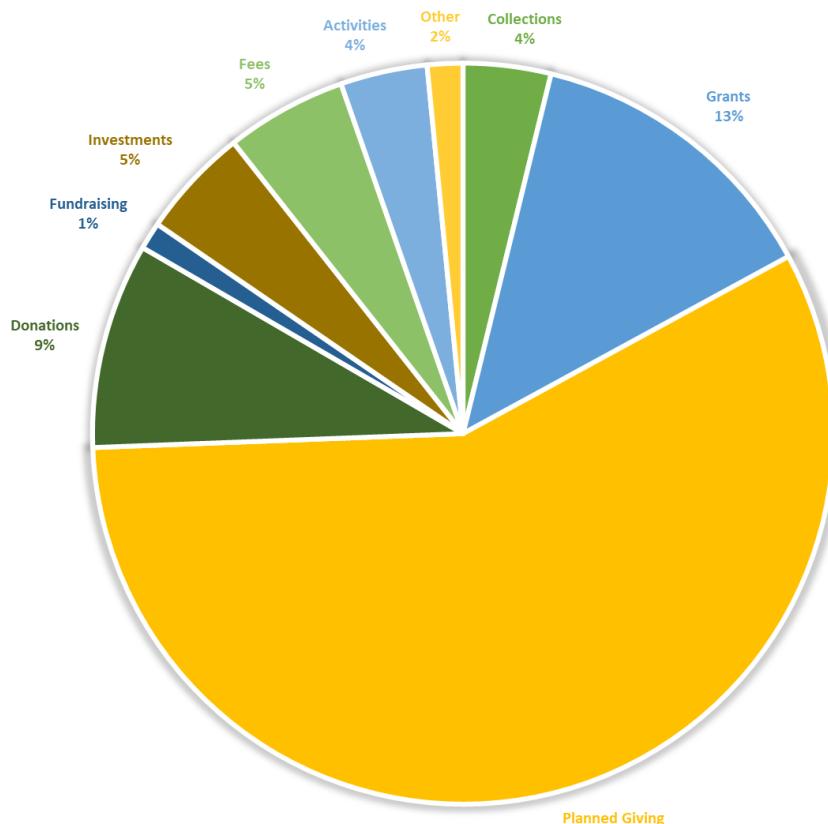


Lutterworth Church  
Church Gate, LE17 4AN



[office@lutterworthchurch.org](mailto:office@lutterworthchurch.org)

# FINANCES



## INCOME

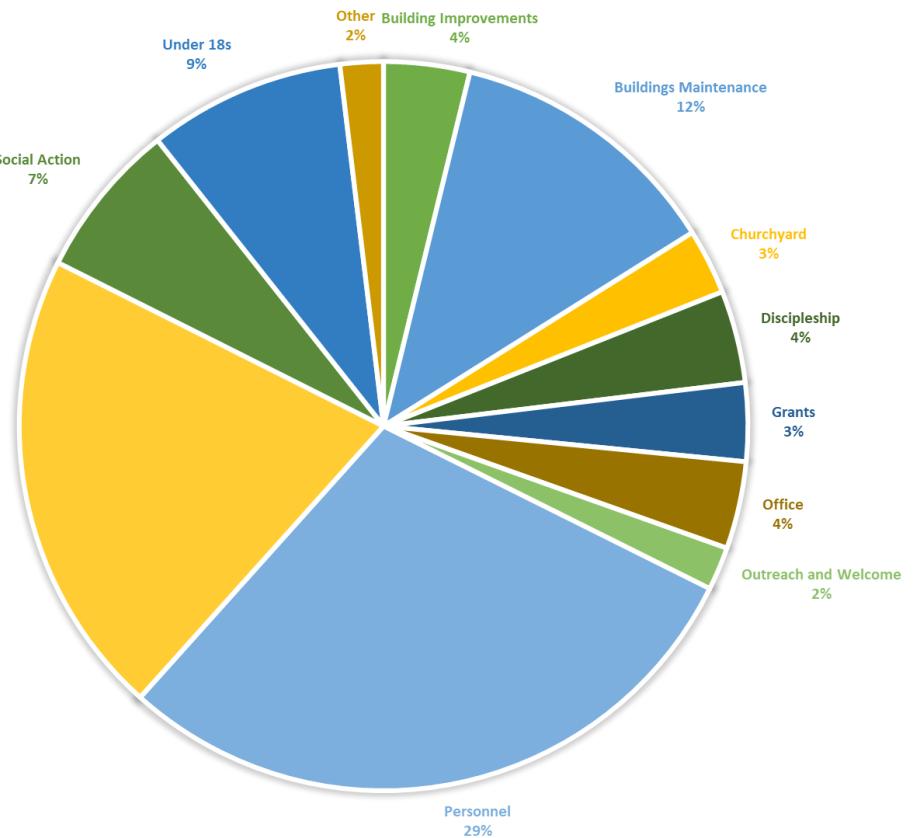
Thank you so much to everyone who has given so generously to support the work of the church. As you can see, the vast majority of our funds comes from members of the church.

Collections	£ 7,622
Grants	£ 26,434
Planned Giving	£ 114,433
Donations	£ 17,902
Fundraising	£ 2,376
Investments	£ 9,600
Fees	£ 10,549
Activities	£ 7,564
Other	£ 3,099
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 199,579</b>

## SPENDING

We are careful with the money of the church. The majority of our funds are spent on staffing. As you can see, we spent more than we received in 2019.

Building Improvements	£ 8,502
Buildings Maintenance	£ 27,389
Churchyard	£ 6,467
Discipleship	£ 9,125
Grants	£ 7,752
Office	£ 8,641
Outreach and Welcome	£ 4,283
Personnel	£ 65,327
Diocesan Contribution	£ 46,300
Social Action	£ 15,481
Under 18s	£ 19,474
Other	£ 4,285
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 223,027</b>



# WORSHIP



Church in the Garden

## A Variety of Services

We are committed to being a parish church: a church where every Christian in the community can feel at home and where anyone can come and find about Jesus.

Throughout 2019, we kept the previous pattern of Sunday worship:

- A monthly United Service: bringing us all together to worship God and encourage one another.
- Once a month 8am Holy Communion following the traditional pattern from the Book of Common Prayer.
- 9.30 Lively Service
- 11am Classic Service: following the Church of England liturgy with traditional hymns and a friendly welcome
- 4pm Our longer service with deep teaching and contemporary worship music.

Lockdown has made a big difference, and so we will need to review the Sunday service pattern going forward.

*Charlie Styles*

## 9.30am Lively

The 9.30am service started in 2018 and has since flourished into a community of people who gather each Sunday to eat, learn and worship together.

A free breakfast is offered from 9am and the service starts at 9.30am and is an hour long.

During our time together we creatively explore a passage of scripture through a variety of activities which often include singing, chatting, hearing a talk and interactive stations which everyone is encouraged to experience.

Treehouse operates most weeks, but on the 3rd Sunday of every month we have an all together service.

*Ben Williams*



Christmas Services