

# Annual Review

## 2020



Welcome to our annual review—looking back on 2020 and reflecting on a year like no other. We've collected reports to find out more about how the different areas of church activity coped with the pandemic and how God has continued to be faithful to his church.

*Charlie Styles, Rector*

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# A Unique Year



This year has been really tough. Many of us have faced personal health struggles and bereavements. Everyone has been impacted by the global pandemic, especially by the national lockdowns.

There is so much to be thankful for, but it's also worth taking some time to express our sorrow and lament for all that we've found difficult.

## MOVING ONLINE

Within days of the first partial lockdown, we moved our services online. A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our online services, recording prayers and readings, actions and music for worship and the many people off-camera who help make it all work!



Your readings of the Word and your prayers have been so very valuable and are wonderful expressions of faith.

Learning to record ourselves and producing a variety of methods of praying across different homes, gardens and locations has been quite an adventure, and one that isn't over yet.

We were delighted that the Summer and Autumn allowed for us to come together in limited ways, but are longing for a full return eventually. Thank you to everyone who's been part of our journey.

All our activities were altered by the pandemic, but we persevered where we could:

## WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday Communion went online too, but between lockdowns did have socially-distanced communion services. We all realise how lucky we are.

It has been very positive to have a good supply of readers during the past year and many have joined in with preparing prayers in Church when allowed and also recording the prayers at home.

We have found that many have joined us from far away—the furthest as far as we know is Florida. We've also stayed in touch on WhatsApp group.

*Geraldine Tew*

## MOTHERS' UNION

February: Margaret Rouse spoke about Modern Day Slavery. We all knew that it existed, but not its scale and that it encompassed so many different forms.

Lent: Ben Williams gave us encouragement to continue our journey through life, just before the Covid-19 pandemic forced the country into lockdown.

October: We able to reunite to share Holy Communion together in Church, followed by afternoon tea and a catch-up chat.

*Joan Brown*

## MID-WEEK COFFEE REPORT

For the past year, the Church has been operating under Covid-19 regulations that have ranged from complete closure, through socially distanced services, to limited access for private prayer. The provision of refreshments has been suspended throughout. Those of us who have felt able have volunteered in other ways to support the Church's outreach to the community. Some of us have had food hygiene accreditation – online – ready for re-opening

*Tricia Dean*

## PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Throughout, the Prayer Ministry Team has been active in intercessory prayer, keeping up to date with developments and changing prayer needs. Importantly, along with the wider prayer needs that the pandemic brought, individual requests for prayer have been and will continue to be honoured.

We are a close group, offering love and support to each other as well as our church and

community. Every two months a support group meeting is held during which team members talk and pray through their own concerns and needs.

Change is afoot however, and three members of the team have been called to leave Lutterworth and build new lives elsewhere. Two have now left, and one preparing to do so.

We also developed a prayer garden in the churchyard which was well supported by members of the church and public. Thank you especially to Paul Dean for your gardening.

*Lesley Turner*

## READER MINISTERS

Reader Ministers participate in the church teams according to their gifting, skills and interests and each contributes to the life of the church accordingly. Thank you to Peter Kent, Ruth Bilton, Lesley Turner and Martin Lowdon, who has continued his valuable work for Gideon's International. Rosemary Lowdon having become a full-time Prison Chaplain in Dec 2018, was relicensed into Coventry Diocese on 12th September and began ordination training for priesthood in October. 2021 will see Lesley's transfer to Coventry Diocese too as she prepares to move house.

## MOBILE APP

One of our big advances this year is the launch of our mobile app. This app enables messaging, and helps us all to access the video media at our fingertips. Just search your app store for 'Lutterworth Church'.



Lutterworth Church

Available in App Stores





# 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.

This year has provided some wonderful opportunities for reaching out—streaming services online has hugely increased our reach. But it also led to the closure of the church building and the suspension of many activities.

open for private prayer, cards were again completed by visitors, with some asking for more information about the church, about the building or just generally saying how thankful they were to have a quiet place to be alone with God.

We held two online Welcome Tea events during 2020 for people who had completed a card and expressed an interest in church life. Although the numbers attending was fewer some years, these great events provided a good opportunity for people to get to know the church.

*Caroline Cook*

## CHRISTMAS

We held some great events during Advent and Christmas and safely welcomed hundreds of people to our various carol services, as well as many more enjoying the lights in the churchyard. From street Carols with the Saxman to a very different crib service, it was great to celebrate together. We held the carol service and midnight mass outdoors—definitely something to be continued in future!



### CONNECT

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

Connect Cards are for anyone interested in finding out more about the church, its history or for those who want to find out more about Jesus. Completing a Connect Card gives us the opportunity to get in touch with visitors to the church and start to build a relationship with them.

Once the church was able to re-



# 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.

The Explore ministry is all about sharing the good news of Jesus and helping people who wouldn't yet call themselves Christians to investigate the Christian faith and have the opportunity to learn from the Bible and ask questions.

The COVID 19 pandemic over the last 12 months presented some significant challenges to this ministry however the team were able to adopt new technologies and ways-of-working in order to be able to adapt our in-person enquirer courses to an on-line

format. We ran three Christianity Explored courses last year on Zoom.

Having got used to the new format, both the team and guests found the on-line video material really helpful and encouraging. Great relationships were formed over the various different courses and despite not being able to meet up in person some really encouraging connections were built up with people who are now coming along to church. Also, we are about to launch a Life Group specifically for those who have been on courses over the last 12 months who would like to continue to meet with other Christians to study the Bible and build fellowship.

## EXPLORE

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



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

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

The main limitation of the various lock-downs has been our inability to run in-person events and the team is very much hoping and planning to be able to run these sorts of events once restrictions are lifted. These events will be great fun social occasions featuring for example a sports quiz or a wine tasting evening all with a Christian theme and a short talk introducing people to the Gospel in a very informal and relaxed setting. We will probably aim to start running these events at the end of the summer so please do look out for more details.

*James Dargie*

# 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.

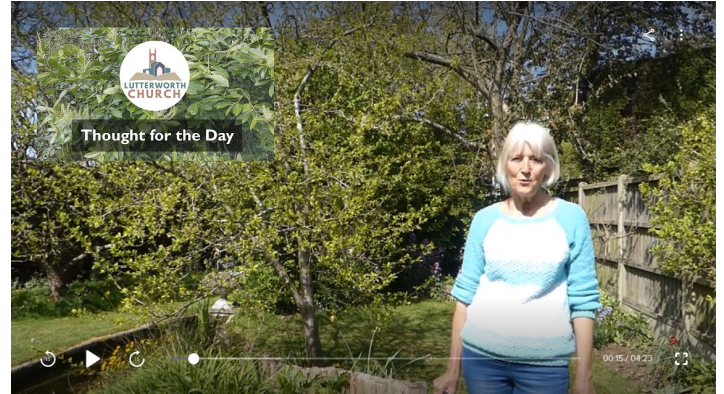
## BIBLE TEACHING

This year we have continued to preach the Bible faithfully each week, on Wednesdays and Sundays. A particular highlight was our series looking at the Apostles Creed.

As we settled into lockdown, when so much of our usual life was upended, we tackled the big Christian beliefs. This was intended to re-steady ourselves in a never-changing message in an ever-changing world.

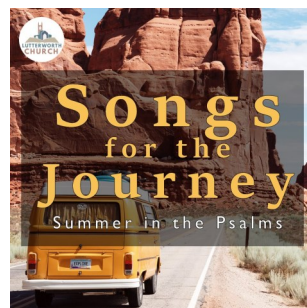
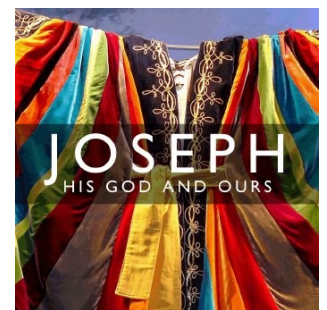
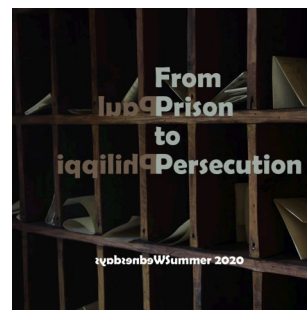
## LIFE GROUPS

Our church family meets in many smaller contexts for mutual support, learning and prayer. Many of our life groups have continued to meet online, whilst others have stayed in touch on the phone. It's been really encouraging to see people's ongoing love and commitment to their brothers and sisters.



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We've also worked hard to encourage each other in our personal faith—sending resources home and publishing a daily video devotion: a bible reflection and prayer. It's been great to hear many different voices.



## 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.

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The Servant Leadership course has continued this year, training members of the church family for wherever God is calling them to serve Him. Over two years participants grow their relationship with God, deepen their knowledge of the Bible, learn and practice the skills to serve Him in different ways and explore together where God is leading them to play their part in His church.

This autumn our first cohort progressed to the second year and a new group begun year one of the course. Thus far the first year has included, among other things, a Bible

Overview, writing and leading Bible studies and exploring how God changes us. Second years have gone on writing and giving talks, mentoring others, learning how to pray and read in church and much more besides. However, each week we have sought to not just gain new knowledge and skills but to let those things bring us back to God in prayer and change our lives.

## EQUIP

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



In more normal times we would meet weekly in the church, eating together as part of our evening. However, even in lockdown we have been able to meet online and have done much of what we hoped. In addition, we have been able to run some mini modules online during , allowing people to get a taste of what the course is like. We look forward to moving towards doing more in person as restrictions lift.

It has been a delight to have a real mixture of people in both groups. As a church we need people with all sorts of different gifts to build

up His people. Please pray for everyone as they progress on the course that God would reveal how He is calling them serve Him in the future.

*Tom Brown*



# Under 18s



## CONNECT

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

Graham Thomas has continued as Chaplain to Lutterworth College throughout the year, supporting the staff and students with pastoral care. Ben Horrex has been able to work alongside Graham to support the Christian Union and virtual Religious Studies lessons. Graham has regularly released assembly and thought for the week videos online, reaching both students and parents with the gospel. We hope to restart the Christian Union and other clubs in Lutterworth College in the near future, as well as starting a new Christian Union in Lutterworth High School in late 2021.

From March 2020, Little Acorns took the



decision to suspend in-person sessions due to the government restrictions. However, using social media through the Little Acorns

Facebook page, it has provided families with access to online Bible stories, songs and provided printable activity ideas.

We have also had limited physical time in the primary schools. Virtual assemblies towards the end of the year have allowed the schools to access the gospel message and maintain relationships until we can meet again in-person.

Explorers, our mid-week after school club for

## EXPLORE

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



8-11s, has often had to pause its in-person sessions to meet government restrictions. We have been able to hold a few sessions in the church building when permitted, and have more recently met online for our Bible Bake Along sessions. These include time together, a Bible story, and a tasty cooking activity related to our story.

The majority of 2020 has seen Rooted Youth Club move online to Zoom, running every Thursday evening. Each session has included plenty of games (think online quizzes, Pictionary, escape rooms and bingo), time to catch up, and a Bible study running parallel with the Sunday service theme. We've had a few opportunities during relaxation of COVID restrictions to meet for camp fires, afternoons at the park and games nights in church. We also had a number of young people join Christianity Explored and Alpha courses, hearing more about Jesus in Mark's gospel.





## GROW

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

Treehouse our children's group for 3-11s met during our 9:30am and 4pm Sunday services until March 2020. In lockdown, we met regularly online after school for a family session, before moving to its current 9am slot before the United Service. We are thankful we were still able to have a community online and a place to share the gospel with families. We continue to follow the sermon series together.

Starting the year with Youth Night in church members' homes, sharing a meal and studying the Bible together, we've moved most of our sessions online. We've learned how to read the Bible on our own, thought about the theology of social media and learned how to use the Bible to evangelise to our friends at Christmas. We hope to be able to return to meeting in-person soon, sharing a meal and having more informal time together.

Seven of our young people also meet regularly with a mentor either in-person or online, sharing life together, applying God's word to their lives, and praying for each other.

Summer Club team adapted well to the government restrictions and included both socially distanced in-person activities and online con-



tent. Children were assigned small online groups to engage with praise songs and prayer videos. We had around 20 children online each day studying Romans and our theme was Ancient Explorers.

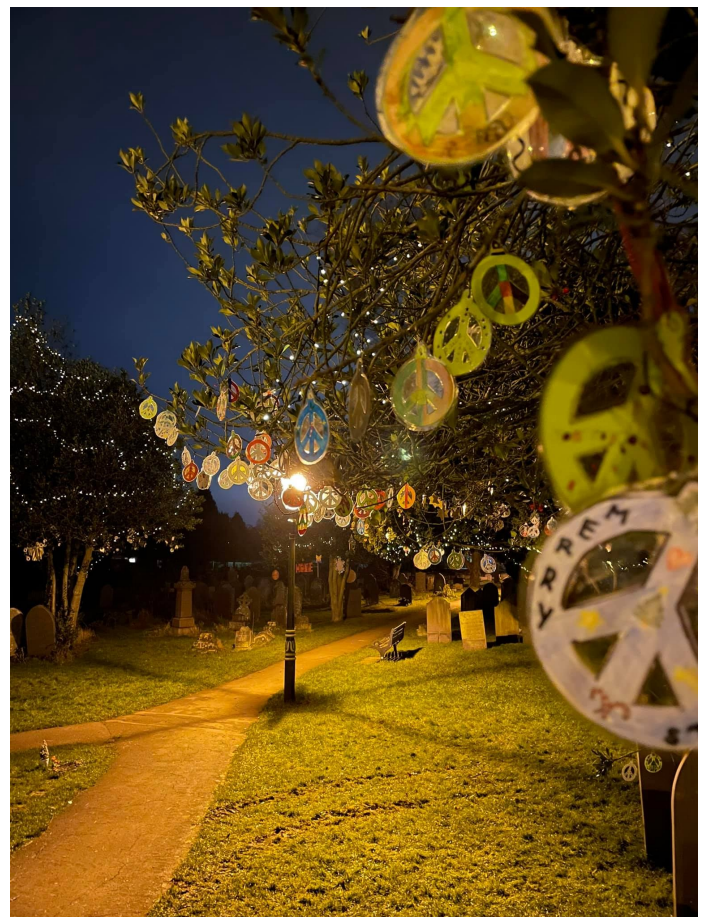
## EQUIP

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



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. In 2020, they served at Summer Club, leading parts of our small group time and helping at our morning of outdoor games. They have also assisted with Children's Ministry, contributed to our online services and, most recently, began some small gardening projects in the churchyard.

*Rhiannon Kerton and Ben Horrex*



# SUPPORTING THE MISSION

*Tricia Dean*

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

We said goodbye to two members of the staff team during 2020: Nikki Hollingworth, part of the office team, and Katrina Harper, Children and Families Minister for 5 years. It's always sad to see people move on to different roles, but we wish them well.

We welcomed Ben Horrex as Youth Minister at the beginning of the year, and he was just getting settled in as the pandemic hit! Rhiannon Kerton was recruited over Zoom and began with us in Autumn to work with children and families.

## BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT

We care for our historic buildings and churchyard, providing safe, comfortable and well-equipped surroundings. The Group has particular oversight of Health & Safety requirements and is responsible for implementing such Quinquennial inspection recommendations as are sanctioned by the PCC.

The appointment of a Premises Officer has been a great blessing. Paul Knight has already proved invaluable in encouraging volunteers and helping us to get on top of H&S.

As well as Paul Knight, I must thank Hilary Cooper and Ben Horrex for their unstinting encouragement and support, as well as the occasional participants, such as David Underwood. Sadly, Dave Millers died before Christmas and his contribution will be much missed.

## FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

My report last year described the group as 'not perhaps the most exciting group in the life of the church, but one that really matters' and I think I would echo those thoughts once again in 2021. At a time when so many in our nation have been hit by the financial impact of the Pandemic, I have been struck by how fortunate we are to have a congregation that is willing to continue to give sacrificially in order to support God's work in Lutterworth.

We are also very blessed that our treasurer Peter Gray is such a committed and hard working steward who gives up large amounts of his time in order to oversee our resources. Peter's careful reporting and watchful oversight has been tremendously helpful to the committee and the wider PCC and I would like to thank him for all that he does on behalf of us all.

*Peter Kent*

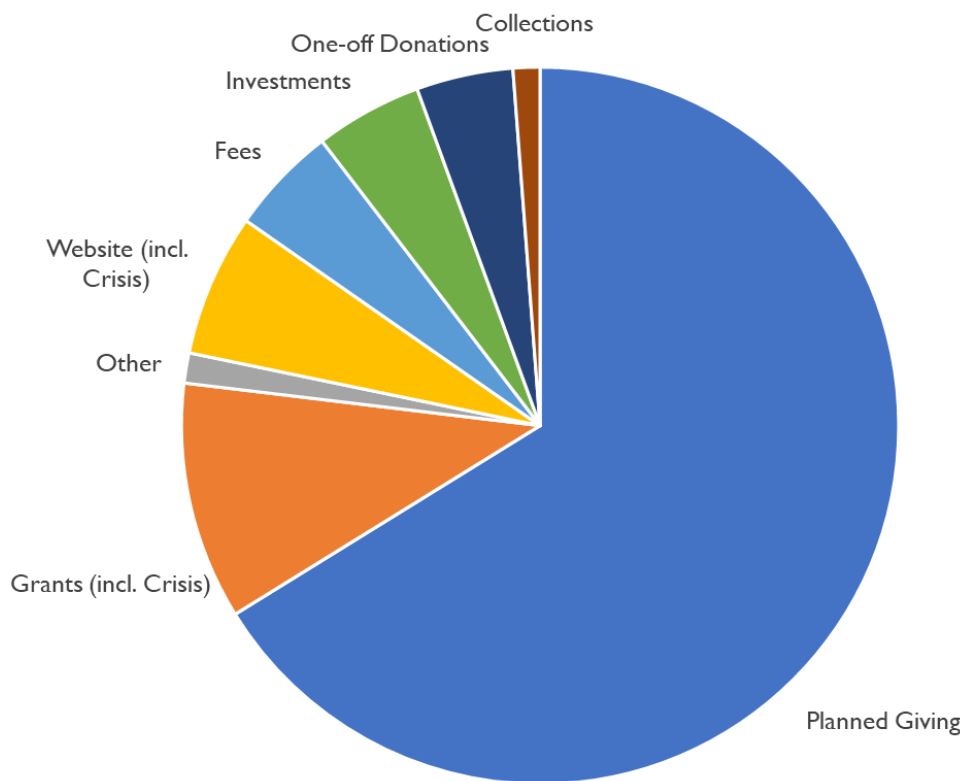
## SAFEGUARDING

Caring for the vulnerable, remains a key focus for us as a church. A big thank you to Rachel Krzeminski for serving as Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the past few years.

All our key leaders are DBS checked and held accountable for their duty of care. 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.

# FINANCES

## INCOME



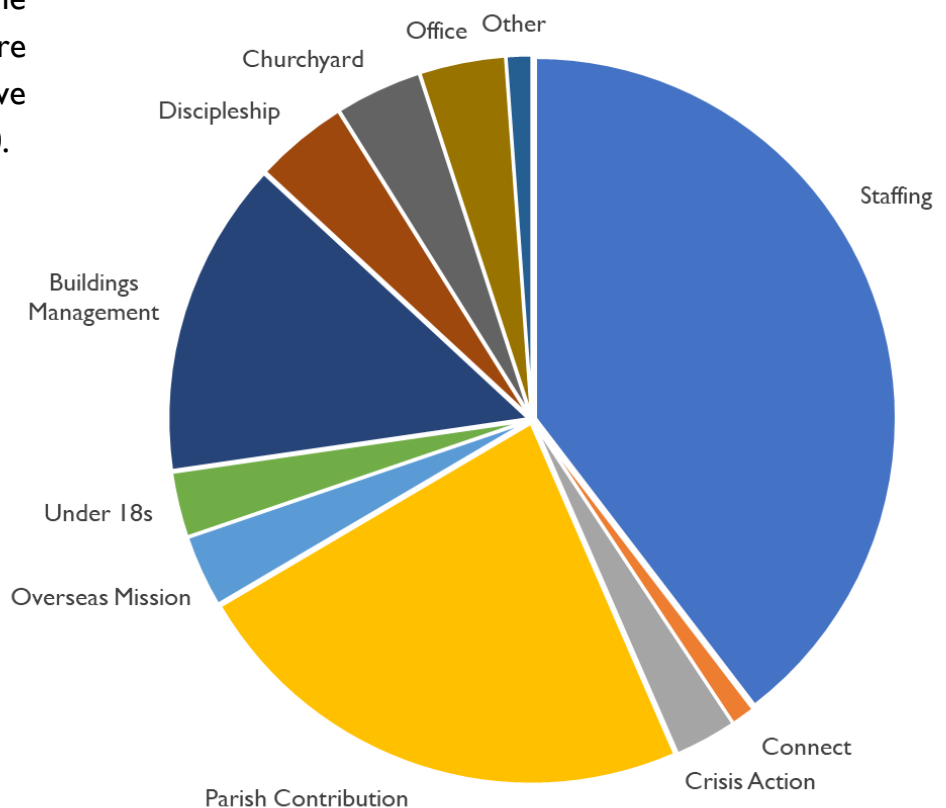
Thank you so much to everyone who has given so generously to support the work of the church. As you can see, the vast majority of our funds comes from members of the church.

Planned Giving	£123,434
Other	£2,536
Grants (incl. Crisis)	£19,984
Website (incl. Crisis)	£11,995
Fees	£9,138
Investments	£9,014
One-off Donations	£8,136
Collections	£2,257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£186,495</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 2020.

Staffing	£79,516
Connect	£2,159
Crisis Action	£5,597
Parish Contribution	£46,300
Overseas Mission	£6,500
Under 18s	£5,883
Buildings Management	£28,475
Discipleship	£8,446
Churchyard	£7,826
Office	£7,748
Other	£2,311
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£200,761</b>





# CRISIS ACTION

During 2020, Lutterworth Church pioneered the local response to COVID-19 - the Lutterworth Crisis Action project. In the height of the pandemic, the project was supporting over 300 individuals through the work of 100 local volunteers. Ten teams ran during this time and each was led by a volunteer leader. The teams helped with shopping, prescription collection, gave friendly phone calls and went above and beyond to assist the vulnerable.

Within the first week of the project, some clients were rehomed, one person was taken to hospital as their health weakened (something that would have been missed without the volunteers making regular contact) and emergency food provision was given to families awaiting universal credit.

It really was a team effort. Collaboration between organisations has been key, specifically through the Town Council, our church, Age Concern, Leicestershire County Council, Lutterworth Community Transport and more. The local supermarkets donated huge amounts of food to the local Foodbank and donated luxury gifts that we were able to give out to volunteers as a small thank you!

The highlight of the project has to be VE day

when local catering company Neil Green Catering provided over 600 cream teas that were handed out to 300 isolated households and was a thoroughly welcome surprise to many people.

The project initially wound down at the end of Summer 2020, with a transition group operating till the end of December. However, in the light of Lockdown 3.0, a smaller but effective team has continued to offer support into 2021.

It has been a real opportunity to develop our participation in service to our local community. A chance to build lasting relationships and offer practical and prayerful support to our town. As we continue to work out what it means to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbours, I hope that the lessons learned from the Lutterworth Crisis Action project will inform any future plans. Combining word and action as partners in God's mission.

*Ben Williams*

