

Annual Review

2021



Welcome to our Annual Review looking back on 2021. We've collected reports to find out more about the different areas of church activity and how God has been at work in his church. If you'd like to get in touch for more information about a specific activity, please contact the Church Office using the details below.

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WORSHIP

In a year of much change, the most important things stay the same. We are the people of God, gathered to His throne. We have been saved to worship Him. We worship Him together in our services. We hear Him speak as we open up His Word, the Bible, and reply with prayer and song. Then from there, we are sent many places and situations to worship Him with the whole of our lives.

Yet this year our gathered worship has looked very different. As the nation went into another lockdown, our Sunday and Wednesday services moved online. The hard work of musicians, readers, preachers, prayers and service leaders to record, facilitated by a behind-the-scenes tech team, made it possible for us to continue to worship together.

As we followed Jesus through Matthew's Gospel, we were able to fix our eyes on our unchanging Lord who has promised to be with us "to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And yet we felt keenly the loss of gathering physically together. We missed the sound of others singing around us, words of welcome and encouragement and sharing together in the bread and the wine.

It was a source of real joy to begin to regather at Easter, starting with our outdoor services. While streaming continues to help those needing to isolate, our physical gatherings grew and we looked together to the Bible to renew



our vision of what it means to be the church. As restrictions gradually lifted, we began to be able to sing together again.



Over this period, we also undertook a discernment process with our sister churches Bitteswell and Cotesbach, one outcome of which was a new pattern of Sunday worship:

- A classically Anglican 9:30am service alternating between the villages;
- A more contemporary 11am service in Lutterworth;
- A reflective 7pm service in Lutterworth;
- An 8am Book of Common Prayer service every other week in Lutterworth;
- An occasional 10:30am United Service drawing together our congregations.

This new pattern of worship marks a significant strengthening of our bonds of fellowship as three churches worshipping together.

This new pattern really got going in the autumn term as we read Paul's letter to the Ephesians together. Our gatherings are just an anticipation of God's great plan that we read of there: "to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." (Ephesians 1:10)

Week by week our gathered worship declares where under God this world is headed: not isolation or division but unity in Christ.

Tom Brown

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.
- Good neighbours, filled with the Spirit, showing the difference that knowing Jesus makes.
- Accessible for everyone of different ages, stages and abilities.
- Using various media, both print and digital, to reach as many people as possible.

We still felt the effects of the COVID pandemic in 2021. When the church building re-opened, stewards offered a friendly welcome.

Online booking was needed for Sunday morning services and the Welcome Team, while greeting familiar and new faces, checked details for track and trace purposes. Refreshments after the service were served outside, weather permitting!

Connect Cards, completed by new members and visitors, have helped us to keep in touch and to organise a Welcome Tea on Zoom for those new to the church.

In the Summer, we enjoyed the very generous hospitality of Charlie and Sophie Styles in the Rectory garden, with morning coffee, afternoon tea, cheese and wine and a barbeque. It was wonderful to reconnect after being separated for so long.

The people of Lutterworth came to our Book Sale (7th to 9th October) and on Saturday, when we were blessed with fine weather, many brave souls made a sponsored abseil down the

church tower. The money raised will help us make much needed improvements to the Church Gate Community Centre.

It was also a delight on 26th November to take part in the traditional Christmas Lights Switch On. Hot chocolate was served in Church Street and, inside the church, craft stalls, children's activities, music and refreshments made for a wonderful atmosphere.

We invited our community to join us at Christmas. Over 30 volunteers delivered 4,000+ Christmas cards across the fellowship. Particular thanks must go to Paul Dean who delivered over 2,000 cards.

The Welcome Team assisted at our Christmas services with seasonal refreshments such as cheese and wine after Contemporary Carols and mulled wine and mince pies during the Service of 9 Lessons and Carols.

If you would be interested in joining the Welcome Team or getting involved in one of our events, please do get in touch.

Andrea Jones



CONNECT

MIDWEEK COFFEE

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we took pride in opening the Church Café every morning, Tuesday to Saturday. We offered a warm welcome to all, from home or abroad.

Our Church's historic association with John Wycliffe attracted many, with some grateful to learn about the Foodbank. Others just needed to find the Church Office! Of course, there was always plenty of literature to publicise our worship, study and outreach activities too.

Our regular customers also included established members of our Church family, who valued the chance to catch up and, when necessary, share news about those who may need support from the Ministry Team.

For the past year, the Church has continued under gradually easing regulations, finally allowing us to fully reopen. Most of those who volunteered as Stewards during lockdown have joined the rota serving refreshments in the Café, for which we are very grateful.

If you could spare a morning regularly or occasionally, we would be delighted to welcome newcomers. It's an excellent way of getting to know your fellow townspeople!

Tricia Dean

BELLRINGERS

The Lutterworth Church Bellringers practice every Monday 8-9pm. We also ring for services twice a month and for weddings, funerals and important national events. During COVID restrictions we 'rang' together from our homes using a computer programme called 'Ringing Room', which needed a completely different skill set, and had small group social catch-ups when restrictions permitted.

We are now delighted to be back to ringing as normal, and privileged to ring Lutterworth's excellent eight bells. We're a friendly bunch and always happy to welcome local or visiting ringers to join us up the tower on practice night and for service ringing. If you'd like further information about ringing, would like to come and watch or are consider learning to ring, please email john.c.carr@talk21.com

Penny Carr



CONNECT

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

BUSY FINGERS

Busy Fingers meets on Fridays in the Café Area at St. Mary's Church, Lutterworth, normally from 12-3.30pm (4.30pm in the summer).

The group is a social craft club, connecting people who want to learn specific crafts and also including those bringing their own craft to do in the company of others. You can meet, have tea or coffee, and there is no charge!

We've tried spinning, weaving, macramé, needle felting, knitting, crochet, beading, cross stitch and are attempting latch hook rug making. We share our knowledge of different crafts and learn together. We have 'kits' for group members to try new crafts at a small cost, and occasionally do a charity craft too.

It's a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere where all levels of ability are encouraged. We're always looking for new members who can simply turn up on the day, but do call the Church Office to check we're open.

Caroline Topham

CONNECT

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

As a parish church, we get to play a part in some of life's most significant moments, both for those in our church family and for many in our local community. While COVID had brought restrictions on weddings, in 2021 we saw previously postponed weddings finally going ahead. Couples were grateful to have family and friends present to support and celebrate with them and streaming even enabled those overseas or in isolation to witness at a distance. In every wedding we were able to point to God as the Giver of love and One whose love marriage points to.

Losing someone has been made all the harder by the restrictions on gathering and yet it has been our privilege to be a source of help and hope for grieving families. We have been able to draw alongside many in our community: to help them say goodbye and give thanks for the one they love, while pointing them to the promise of eternal life that the risen Lord Jesus offers to all who entrust themselves to His care. Services of Remembrance at Easter and Christmas have remained key opportunities to support these families and point them to the hope found in Christ. From the team of those taking funerals, we bid farewell to Lesley Turner and are thankful for her ministry among many in the wider community.



In the past year we have lost a number from our own church family. While we continue to miss them dearly, we have entrusted them into the hands of our heavenly Father with Christ's assurance that all who die in Him will rise with Him in glory.

CHRISTMAS & EASTER

As in previous years, seasonal events were key to connecting with our wider community. The run up to Easter began with an open-air Palm Sunday service together with other Christians in the town. Throughout Holy Week, services of quiet reflection, lively celebration and activities for all ages gave everyone from seasoned saint to complete outsider a chance to contemplate Jesus' death for us. Easter Sunday itself was a celebration that drew guests alongside regular members of the church family.

Our Christmas events brought the return of many pre-COVID favourites alongside some of the best innovations of the very different Christmas in 2020. The Light Switch-On was back and we were out in the town with hot chocolate, and in the church with activities and stalls. 9 Lessons and Carols and Contemporary Carols made their return inside the church, and the success of outdoor carols the previous year was carried over into carols around the trees in the churchyard, decorated again by a range of community groups. On Christmas Eve we were able to welcome far more people than in 2020 to our ever popular Crib Service - though we still found ourselves fully booked in advance! - and Midnight Communion took us into Christmas Day itself, when we had a fellowship-wide celebration.

Tom Brown

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, having the opportunity to learn from the Bible and ask their questions.

The COVID-19 pandemic over the last 12 months presented some significant challenges to this ministry. However, the team were able to continue using new technologies and adjusted ways-of-working in order to be able to adapt our in-person enquirer courses to an online format. We ran one Christianity

Explored course and one Alpha course last year on Zoom, before also running an Alpha course in person in the autumn.

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 for two of the courses, some really encouraging connections were built up with people who are now coming along to church.

EXPLORE

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



We will be running our next Christianity Explored course starting on Thursday 28th April. It will run in-person in Karter's Cafe in Lutterworth at 8pm for 7 weeks (plus one week where we will meet on a Saturday for a day away).

This course is a great opportunity for people who are interested in finding out about the Christian faith to hear the gospel clearly presented in an informal and friendly setting. Most importantly, guests are able to ask whatever questions they might have about Jesus and who he claims to be. We would like to really encourage members of the church family to invite friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to join the course.

James Dargie



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

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

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.

Jesus' call to make disciples does not stop when someone becomes a Christian. Coming to Jesus is the beginning of a life of getting to know Him better and becoming more like Him. At the core of that life of growth are our church gatherings, but alongside that we have different groups and activities to help us grow.

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups remain vital to the life of our church. Meeting weekly, they give us a smaller group of people to get to know within the church family so that we can help one another grow as we study the Bible, pray and care for one another. Groups often focus on the Bible passage we have studied in our Sunday services, giving us space to apply it personally to our lives, but we have also used a variety of courses, tailored to each group's needs.

Through all the ups and downs of the past couple of years, Life Groups have proven themselves to be key to being church family together. Even in the midst of lockdowns, these groups have continued, sometimes needing to meet online and then, when possible, in person. We have had new groups

start and a number of people have become part of a Life Group for the first time. If you would like to give one a try, get in touch and we'll find you one that is right for you.

Tom Brown

MOTHERS' UNION

Mindful of COVID security, we were unable to gather at the start of the year. When we began meeting again in April and May, we welcomed Tom Brown and Ben Williams respectively, reflecting on their time in Lutterworth. In June, Sophie Styles explained her work with Share and Care and in July, Tricia Dean encouraged members to share memories of churches they had been associated with.

August saw us walking in support of the Mothers' Union Summer of Hope Appeal, raising over £500 from our Sponsored Stroll, to which we added £200 from a bequest given in memory of Joan Hodson. The money will be used worldwide to help families who have suffered in the pandemic.

In September, we held our delayed summer lunch and our annual Holy Communion and Afternoon Tea took place in October. Thank you Charlie, for leading the service and for all your support during your time in Lutterworth. In November, we held a members' discussion meeting, sharing our experiences of living in the shadow of a pandemic.

My very grateful thanks to all, especially the Committee for all your love and support. Lastly, but certainly not least, Mollie McMillan and Tricia Dean for keeping me on track!

Joan Brown

GROW

PRAYER

Although we weren't able to meet in person in our usual way, throughout the year we met online on Thursday mornings to pray, bringing our thanksgiving and petitions to God.

Now that we are able to start meeting again in person, we have restarted "Prayer Focus". Every Tuesday morning at 9.30am, we gather in the church building to pray. Although very much in its infancy, it's encouraging to gather and pray as a small group. Do contact Marilyn or the Church Office for more information.

Marilyn Belton and Ben Horrex



GROW

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

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Support Team have continued to offer prayerful and practical support to those identified as needing this particular care.

A training course was held at St. Mary's, Lutterworth last November, with delegates attending from the Wycliffe Fellowship as well as other churches in the local area. The course was helpful in identifying other areas in which support can be offered.

We are keen to hear from others who would be interested in joining the team, particularly men. A listening ear makes so much difference when someone is struggling, so if you are able to spare an hour or so on a regular basis to give someone a call, please do let us know.

Caroline Cook and Ann Newmark

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

2021 was a milestone year for many families and individuals with a number of baptisms. This included the very young, whose parents were committing to bring them up in the faith, while other families chose a service of thanksgiving. In both cases we joined in praying for these children to grow to know Christ for themselves, as well as for their parents and godparents as they promised to bring them up in the church.

We also baptised adults, who were able to declare their faith for themselves and were encouraged by the stories of God's work in their lives thus far.

In November we had a service of Confirmation where candidates from our church and others in the area who had been baptised when younger were able to affirm their intention to follow Him, as we prayed for God to continue working in them by His Holy Spirit. Let's carry on praying for all those who have said they want to follow Christ, for their love for Him to grow more and more and for strength to keep the faith to the end of their lives.

Tom Brown



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.

This year saw the pioneering of Sunday School for Grown-ups. Meeting at 9am on Sunday morning on Zoom, we met to explore topics relevant to living out faith in a complex world.

Each “module” ran for two or three weeks with an interactive style that mixed teaching and discussion. Some focused on key issues in society, such as politics and social media, while others gave space to explore questions of church life including spiritual gifts and the question of what it means to be Anglican and evangelical. While the shift to our new service pattern as we came out from lockdown meant that this 9am slot has not continued, it has been a good opportunity to explore what future training could look like.

This summer also saw two groups of the Servant Leadership Course complete years one and two of the course respectively. During the year participants have sought to grow in their personal discipleship, honed their skills

EQUIP

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



in serving Christ in different ways and sought where God might be leading them to serve Him in the future. Meeting weekly, modules have included a mixture of teaching, practice and personal reflection, with a number of focused days away throughout the year.

While limited team capacity has meant that we have not been able to continue the course with a new intake this autumn, interest suggests this kind of course could continue to play a significant role in raising up and equipping future leaders in our church family.

This year has also seen a number of one-off opportunities to equip us to serve God. Back in November we hosted a Pastoral Care Conference, organised by the Pastoral Network, as well as those serving in different areas of our church life benefitting from training conferences elsewhere.

Tom Brown



UNDER 18s



CONNECT

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

In 2021, our Children and Youth Ministry Team organised more than 180 sessions, including groups in schools, cafés, parks and church buildings. We've worked directly with more than 160 children and young people, showing them something of who Jesus is.

We've also reached hundreds more through assemblies, seasonal services and church visits, partnering with many of our local schools. Highlights of the year have included a new Christian Union in Lutterworth High School, teaching R.E. lessons in Lutterworth College, and having both primary and secondary schools visit the church to learn about the gospel.

As restrictions eased, we were able to restart our parent and toddler group, Little Acorns, welcoming families back into the building for coffee, cake, Bible stories and songs.

At Easter, we invited families to try our Good Friday Experience and Easter Trail, learning about Jesus' death and resurrection through craft and activities. We even baked hot cross buns over Zoom! At Christmas, we ran our fully-booked Crib Services, acting out the Christmas story while creating some very impressive felt pictures and peg nativity scenes.



EXPLORE

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



We're passionate about both children and young people exploring faith and responding to the gospel, so we run activities and groups that enable that exploration.

This year we welcomed back our in-person Summer Club, with games, songs, crazy challenges and plenty to learn about the book of Daniel. It was wonderful to be back together for the week!



Our young people (11-18s) have met regularly throughout the year, both on Zoom and in-person. On Thursday evenings, we gather together to play games, encourage one another and read the Bible. This year, we've followed Jesus through the gospels, heard the stories of Daniel and David, as well as thinking about why Jesus should be central to our lives.

We're always keen to have new leaders join our teams and would love to have a real variety of role models for our children and young people. If you love Jesus and want the next generation to know him, do get in touch!

Ben Horrex



GROW

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

We're blessed as a church to have many children and young people as part of our family. We seek to encourage them in their faith and see the Holy Spirit transform them to be more and more like Christ.

For those under 11, Treehouse was able to restart in September to offer accessible teaching during our 11am service. We follow the same Bible passages as the sermons, but use questions, stories and craft to make them a little easier to understand.

Similarly, our young people (11-18s) have gathered every Sunday evening to share food together and delve deeper into the Bible passage we read during the main service. It's been a real joy to spend time together over a meal as we grow in our love of Jesus together.

Our young people have also had the opportunity to go away together to get to know one another better and to hear more from God's Word. In April, we enjoyed a day at the Stable Barn in North Kilworth, learning about how we could share the gospel with our friends. In September, we went away for the weekend to Harby in North Leicestershire, enjoying the story of Jonah and playing lots of silly games (which included certain leaders getting quite messy!).



EQUIP

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



We've also had many opportunities to equip our young people to serve God to the best of their ability. 11 of our young people joined the Summer Club team as Junior Leaders, coming alongside primary school children to give them a fun and gospel-centred week.

We were very thankful to have a total of 36 leaders serving at Summer Club this year, making its in-person return possible. It's always a time of fun together and we'd love to have new faces on the team in 2022!

A number of our young people also serve in other areas of church life, particularly with Treehouse sessions. We're incredibly grateful for their willingness to serve and their energy that they bring to the team.

We're also passionate about equipping parents to bring their children up to know Jesus and follow him as their Saviour. We invited Ed Drew from Faith in Kids to run some Zoom training for our parents and leaders, showing us how we can be teaching the young people in our care to trust God. We're hoping to invite Ed back in 2022 to run some more training, particularly focusing on parenting teenagers as they grapple with questions of faith.

It's been such an encouraging year for those of us privileged to work with the youngest members of our church family. They are amazing! Please do pray for them as they discover more about our God and what he has done for them.

If you want to find out more about what we do, get in touch with me, or (even better) ask our children and young people!

Ben Horrex

FOODBANK

We would like to thank everyone who has so generously supported our Foodbank during the most turbulent of times. We have been overwhelmed by the support from the Church and wider community for those in financial difficulties. We would also like to thank our clients, who have been so flexible and understanding during this challenging time.

We have continued to support the clients in the Harborough and Blaby districts by offering emergency food parcels throughout the pandemic, now operating a delivery only service. We have successfully managed to keep operating with a much reduced team due to social distancing and other restrictions.

We are incredibly proud of our volunteers who have simply embraced all of the changes with ease, professionalism and with good humour! The pandemic has offered us the opportunity to broaden our reach and improve our operation, both via new referral agencies and new technology.

We have been blessed with so many donations in both food and funds from the public, supermarkets, other shops and businesses. Since the pandemic began, each year we have collected at least 50,000kg of food and have donated 45,000kg to people in need. This is almost double the amount in 2019/20.



We were also incredibly grateful to SaxMan Steve for his phenomenal support of us, whose saxophone playing was a highlight of lockdown for many and has raised a staggering amount of funds for us too (at least £10,000).

Through the generosity we have received, we are in a unique position of having many more options open to us for supporting people in the future.

In the past two years, we have seen a 69% increase in the number of food parcels we have donated to families and individuals in need, increasing from 1818 3-day emergency parcels in 2019 to 3086 parcels in 2021 (the equivalent of at least 27,000 meals).

As we come out of the pandemic, demand continues to fluctuate. We saw a steep rise in demand when the uplift in Universal Credit was discontinued, as well as when the furlough scheme ended. With the ever increasing costs of living, it is clear that the people who are negatively impacted the most are those on the lowest incomes, often on benefits or in insecure jobs and housing.

The pandemic has given us scope to think about how we might do things differently and we now have some resources at our disposal. It enables us to more actively work to end the need for our existence and to look at other ways of supporting the community too. 2022 is promising to be a positive year for the Foodbank but with elements of uncertainty, we are very grateful to have such wonderful support in our community. Thank you all. Do keep an eye on our social media pages and website for exciting updates on our plans!

Lucy Freeman

SUPPORTING MISSION

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT

Convened by a Churchwarden, the Buildings Management Support Group supports the growth of Christian fellowship in Lutterworth by enabling our Church's mission. It aims to care for our historic buildings and churchyard, providing safe, comfortable and well-equipped surroundings.

For the past year, all activities have continued to be influenced by Government and Church of England guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic: this impacted furnishing, sanitising and social distancing. Adherence to the changing guidelines has been scrupulous, but is gradually easing, thankfully.

The Group has particular oversight of Health & Safety requirements and is responsible for implementing such Quinquennial inspection recommendations as are agreed by the PCC.

The appointment of a Premises Officer has been an invaluable help to the Group's work. Paul Knight oversees the Church's compliance to legally required policies, such as Health & Safety, and has set up regular inspections and checks to ensure that a comprehensive cycle of repairs and maintenance is followed. In 2021, we have completed a number of important repairs and replaced one of the church's central heating boilers.

Paul was also responsible for establishing a voluntary Churchyard Working Party. The improvement in the churchyard's appearance has received universal approval. In recent times, Paul has been dealing with the aftermath of several trees being blown over by storms; negotiating with a neighbour over the removal of a tree and the repair of a boundary wall;

also, negotiating with the Town Council over pedestrian access to the churchyard from St Mary's Road and the subsidy of grass mowing costs in the churchyard. Through the year, 400 volunteer hours have been spent ensuring the Churchyard is a safe environment and a place to be proud of for the community of Lutterworth to benefit from.



The Quinquennial inspection identified, amongst other things, repairs required to the Church tower. Paul's forensic investigation of historic maintenance of the tower resulted in a ten-fold reduction in the cost of the project, which will be undertaken after Easter 2022.

With the assistance of Tor Berry, work continues on seeking grant funding to allow the refurbishment of the Church Gate Centre to make it fit for purpose for our children and youth groups, as well as the Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank.

As well as Paul Knight, I (Tricia) must thank Hilary Cooper, Aine Joseph and Ben Horrex for their unstinting encouragement and support, as well as the occasional participants, such as David Underwood.

Tricia Dean (and Paul Knight)

SUPPORTING MISSION

ADMINISTRATION

It's been a busy year for the office team as things slowly return to normal. We've had the joy of working with those celebrating marriage and baptism, as well as sensitively co-ordinating funerals and internments for those who come to us in seasons of grief and hurt.

As we became more dependent on online booking, streaming and our email newsletters, our paid staff and volunteers did an admirable job using these new tools to keep our church family connected in a difficult time. A huge thanks to both Hilary Cooper and Aine Joseph who have served our church family and local community so faithfully.

The Church Office is open from 10am to midday, Monday to Friday, and is contactable by both phone and email. Please do get in touch if there's something we can help with.

Ben Horrex

PUBLICITY

This year we've been updating our brand with our new "Wycliffe Fellowship" identity. You may have noticed changes around the church and churchyard including new internal signage, updated churchyard noticeboards and our beautiful St Mary's, Lutterworth sign that sits proudly at the front gates. We've also increased our social media presence, regularly posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We've produced and distributed striking Christmas cards, sharing the gospel message and service dates. If you have any suggestions or would like to be part of the publicity team, contact jake.godsell@wycliffefellowship.org

Jake Godsell

FLOWERS

Flowers in church are a thanksgiving to God and that's why we put fresh flowers and foliage in church. We have a team of 22 ladies sharing this responsibility, with some floral arrangements and some simply placed in vases.

Each fortnight we have two people on the rota, one doing the Sanctuary and the other covering the Lady Chapel and Welcome Desk. This is usually done on a Friday but is flexible. With only 22 ladies, that means several do twice a year and Jean and Katie fill the rest, with festivals covered by many of the same volunteers. All our members fund themselves, but we do get some donations which are used for extra flowers or if someone drops out. We suggest using plenty of greenery from your own gardens or friend's gardens, or even the churchyard and hedges as you soon learn how to find it. We've been pleased to have three new people join the team this year.

We are in need of more people to join the team, so if you can assist, please contact Katie (01455 554403 or 07813960585).

Katie Scott

SAFEGUARDING

Caring for the vulnerable is vitally important and we owe huge thanks to Wendy Jones for serving as our Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

All our key leaders are DBS checked and held accountable for their duty of care. We regularly hold compulsory Safeguarding Training for all our volunteers, teaching best practice in the way we run our events with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Ben Horrex

SUPPORTING MISSION

COMINGS AND GOINGS

During 2021, we said goodbye to five members of the staff team: Aine Joseph (Admin), Ben Williams (Ordinand), Lesley Turner (Reader Minister), Rhiannon Kerton (Children and Families Worker), and Ruth Wagstaffe (Pastoral Assistant). We also said goodbye to Hilary Cooper (Admin), but she has temporarily returned to the team in 2022. Charlie Styles' new role as CEO of OCCA was announced in the autumn though he remained as Rector into January 2022. It's always sad to see people move on, but we wish them well in their new roles.

PCC AND FINANCE

Last year I gave a list of things that I enjoy about our PCC meetings. I won't cheat by providing exactly the same list, but there are some significant positives about this year that are worth emphasising:

- ⇒ It has been great to return to face to face meeting. Whilst Zoom has been invaluable, it is no substitute for the more in-depth conversation that is possible only when in the same room.
- ⇒ We have tackled a whole series of challenging issues (from planning the vacancy to discussing our building strategy) in a prayerful and thoughtful manner, seeking God's will and his provision for our future.
- ⇒ Whilst it is inevitable that complex issues can produce a range of views and opinions, we have always maintained our unity and shown an impressive willingness to listen to the other person's point of view.

So, other than the examples above, what have

been the issues that have dominated our meetings? I think three jump out:

- ⇒ The continuing **financial** challenge of having only limited resources available to us. We will be exploring with the wider church how this impacts upon our individual stewardship of the resources that God has given us.
- ⇒ Our **strategy for the future**. I think the central question we are considering is whether we should spread ourselves across a wide range of exciting projects or focus upon a smaller number that we feel will have a particular impact?
- ⇒ Our **relationships** with a series of partners and groups beyond our church (including both the diocese and external agencies).

As you can see, there is a lot to do and we are never lacking items to put on the agenda. Arrangements for the vacancy and Charlie's successor are likely to dominate over the coming year, but we will also need to monitor both practical issues (such as repairs and capital projects) and the varied elements that make up the wider spiritual life of the church.

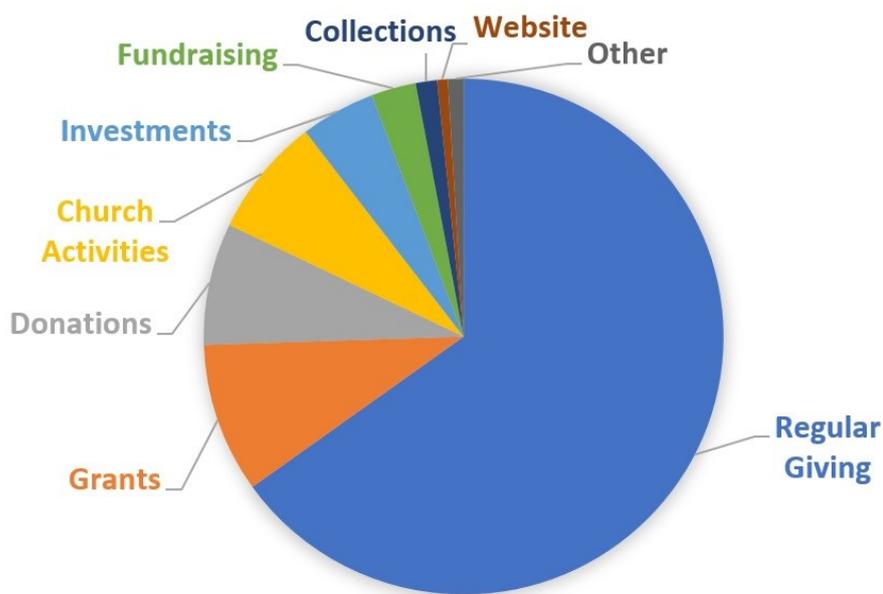
As well as all this, I have emphasised to my fellow PCC members the value of having a settled and stable routine to our meetings. Sometimes God calls us to put other things aside in order to deal with immediate concerns. At other times his call is to work steadily and methodically through an ordered set of issues in order to discern his will. My sense is that over the coming year we are being called to take the second of these routes, but we will see what adventures God has in store for us in the months to come.

Peter Kent

SUPPORTING MISSION

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 giving regularly.



Regular Giving	£118,759
Grants	£17,140
Donations	£13,932
Church Activities	£13,626
Investments	£8,495
Fundraising	£5,080
Collections	£2,435
Website	£1,179
Other	£1,790
TOTAL	£182,436

SPENDING

We are careful with the money of the church. The majority of our funds are spent on staffing and our contribution to the Diocese of Leicester, partly to fund clergy roles. In 2021, we spent £111,148 more than we received.

Staffing	£65,372
Parish Contribution	£46,300
Church Running	£17,849
Church Maintenance	£8,991
Discipleship	£8,851
Churchyard	£8,116
Overseas Mission	£6,000
New Major Works (CGC)	£5,592
Outreach & Welcome	£4,791
Under 18s	£4,547
Other	£17,175
TOTAL	£193,584

