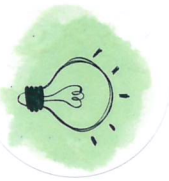




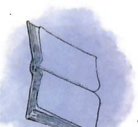

1 Church name: Hugglescote, Donington-Le-Heath, Ellistown & Snibstone

Date: 26/09/2023

<p>Who are you?</p> <p>We are a parish of 4 villages and 3 active churches. The Parish is still emerging from a 2.5 years vacancy and pandemic. In that time one church has been re-ordered, another is in good condition and the smallest church now needs repairs. We are mainly an aging congregation, but services are well attended.</p>	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <p>We have come from long established tra- churches Who join together as one parish for worshipping in all 3 buildings with a positive environment, which helped us to work together through the interregnum and Covid.</p>
<p>Where are you going?</p> <p>We now feel that we are working towards the future. Increasing numbers in various ways at services, After School clubs, Messy church, Family services, 'Open the book' and soon to begin a 'Toddler Group'.</p> 	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <p>Church is not just for Sundays. Midweek Communion services, Tuesday evening prayer meeting. Monday Coffee Morning, evening Explore Group. 'Open the book' school visits 3 times a month, local junior Schools regularly coming into all churches. After school clubs and Church Brigade meet weekly. Joint services with Methodist and Baptist churches. Regular wedding, baptism and funeral services.</p> 

2 Church name: Hugglescote, Donington-Le-Heath, Ellistown & Snibstone

Date: 26/09/2023

<p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <p>We are seeing the Kingdom of God emerging through the positivity of our Church Family, who throughout the interregnum and Covid 19 regularly contacted each other by 'phone or email. Now, we regularly see new people joining our congregations.</p>	<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <p>We are all fearful about the future. Losing an incumbent again. Another vacancy. Having the energy to take on all the extra work which comes without a regular priest. Not getting new people to come forward with commitment. Too much reliance on Laity. The pressures of an unknown Minster Community. Unanswered questions.</p>  
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <p>We are hopeful for revival and not decline. Future clergy support with leadership. Full time ministry from a committed ad enthusiastic priest, who has time to support and encourage their community to build and reach out to Christ Their Saviour.</p>	<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <p>Fervently. For energy. Leadership. Stability. Revival.</p> 

Who are you?

A group of local Christian believers gathered in the ancient parish church of St Denys, Ibstock. The wider church in Ibstock finds its expression in several evangelical fellowships, including at least: the St Denys congregation itself; the Ibstock Baptist Chapel; the Wesleyan Reform Chapel; and a local Living Rock homegroup. (There are others who participate in church groups further afield: a phenomenon engendered by the ready access to personal transport over recent years.)

Where are you going?

That is the big question! The inherited model is collapsing as the material wealth of the Anglican church evaporates amidst the witness of the Lord Jesus Christ we want to see. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we want to be a group to hear His voice and to follow him as he builds His church (the body of all true believers)... even when this is unsettling. The lack/diminishing of finances is a concern.

Where have you come from?

A traditional, and fairly typical English low-church parish setup, where for centuries the Anglican church building and associated congregation has enjoyed its position as an unquestioned focus for the community at various levels, providing the assumed "by right" baptisms, weddings and funerals for all in the village and its environs. The rectors through many generations enjoyed a fairly comfortable rural living in their benefice – but the old certainties are now being shaken to the core!

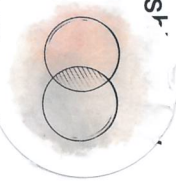
What are you doing now?

The building and its services continue to function much as they have done, but under ever-increasing stress as the congregation is much-reduced from former times and the wider community, who do participate in the life of the fellowship, still expect the provision of baptisms, wedding and funeral rituals, though the demand is diminishing as "church" is increasingly being seen as irrelevant to the population at large.

There are encouraging signs, however ...[next box]

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

We see the Kingdom of God amongst one another as we witness the Bible, teach/learn, pray and spend time together in various ways.



- Recently-started home groups are valued and thriving.
- Work with the very young, through activities such as Little Fishes, Messy Church and Open the Book, is going well.
- There is a strong pastoral element in working with the elderly as well with services taking place in homes and visits/contact with people in their own homes.
- An initiative called Welcome Time offers opportunity for informal contact and conversations outside of the church building.
- Shared activities (walks, breakfasts etc.) are being enjoyed and provide a way to befriend and welcome people who currently have no inclination to come to formal church services. The both men and ladies groups.

Ladies group



What are you hopeful for?

[What is the collective vision here?] Suggestions made so far: Giving the Process of Minister Communities a chance so that the right decisions will be made. More positive attitudes – let's have more 'half full' than 'half empty'. That members will think beyond themselves. Consider 'the whole' not just our small part. That everyone will look to the future. It's not 'all about us' That the Church of England will be looked at in a more positive light. Don't make changes for changes sake. It's not all bad. That we can work together, sharing ideas and resources, trusting in God to show us how to grow His kingdom here. That people recognise that Church is a community, not a building!

What are you fearful about?

Societal trends are in the ascendant. Indifference in many places is giving way to outright anti-Christian antagonism. If we stand in our own strength and limp on within falling structures and rituals, we shall fail – that is something to fear.

- Specific examples of things that, if not rightly addressed, can be things to fear: Negative attitudes 'we've always done it like this and don't want to change'!
- Finance
- Unnecessary division (focused on the trivial rather than the essential).
- Lack of openness to hear and respectfully consider different views and opinions.

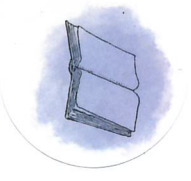
- Lack of foresight in respect of Minister Communities.
- Dwindling congregations (at St. Denys mainly due to death, illness, regular members now finding themselves housebound.)
- Lack of commitment to joining PCC etc. from younger people with more energy (30 – 50 group) [but aware they have families and full-time jobs].
- Children have more opportunities to do other things on Sunday like sport.
- Lack of youngsters – mainly for the same reason as above. If Mum and Dad won't (or can't) come then they won't.
- There are no older children or teenagers and again there is that gap to cater for children once they have grown older than those who are catered for by Messy Church etc.
- Fear that the church may close due to people not attending or because of lack of an individual formal leader (ie rector).



How can others pray for you?

A few prompts offered so far:

For everyone: trying to do the right thing for the benefit of all. To give us strength as individuals and as a group to do whatever He wants us to do in the time allotted to us in this life. For everyone to come together through our differences with love and kindness, to look at this new Minister Community process to see where it will lead to God's glory. To have a vision for working with the whole church in Ibstock to reach the vast, lost community on our doorstep and to see people of every age and background becoming fellow-disciples of our Lord. For us to draw together as a unit and to grow.



1 Church name: All Saints Long Whatton

Date: 23/10/2023

Who are you?

All Saints Church Long Whatton LE12 5DB semi rural in NW Leicestershire on the edge of the proposed new free port. Part of a 6 church benefice in vacancy but sharing a part time vicar and curate with lay and retired clergy support We are beautiful grade 1 1 * listed building with an existing list of repairs with 3 bells which are rung for service, a well maintained organ, electric piano, sound system and open graveyard Electoral Role of 29 Rising to the challenge of being a mainly older congregation but with new young families showing recent interest and support. We are an important part of the social fabric of the village and a only place of worship Friendly, welcoming, hard working , dedicated PCC.

Where have you come from?

There has been a church here since the 13th century. 40 years ago we were a single parish with a resident vicar. 30 years ago a service every week and a choir, 2 church wardens, school were part of our harvest, Easter and Christmas services. 10 years ago 2 services a month , and a part of 6 church benefice with 1.5 vicars . Good ecumenical links. Now both village Baptist and methodist churches have closed Pre covid after school club during term time. one church warden

Where are you going?

We are renewing community engagement
Sustaining an open building
Developing friendships (school , parents and children)
Having a more noticeable presence

What are you doing now?

Preparing for our quinquennial inspection and fund raising to provide the money for this and inevitable repairs
Once a month inside / outside service
Coffee morning once a month
Collection point for local food bank
Eco church
Join in with community events
Sharing the participation

2 Church name: All Saints Long Whatton

Date: 23/10/2023

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Church friendships in the community
Through Eco church
Working at better school contact and involvement
As a congregation always available to listen and help when approached

What are you fearful about?

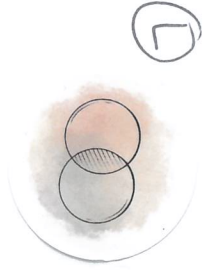
Maintaining a listed building
Higher running costs
Less regular giving
Losing clergy
Less pastoral care and visible ordained presence in the community
Sustaining services
Dissolution of our benefice

What are you hopeful for?

A generous benefactor
Better sourcing of funds
New life and involvement on the church
Becoming important to the people
More musical input and output
More community and school enga
Younger generation taking a part in r
Speedy progress with Minster Community
Clear direction

How can others pray for you?

Opening hearts in the community
Recognised as the spiritual centre in the community
For speedy progress and clear direction
For generous giving physically and financially



1 Church name: All Saints with Holy Trinity, Loughborough

Date: 22nd October 2023

Who are you?

We are a **radically inclusive, intercultural, community, gathered** at the heart of our diverse University town. We enjoy and participate in a **rich long history of worship** in our building, emanating from the 12th century. The phrase '**robed and radical**' sums up our approach – blending a traditional Anglican liturgical worship with a theology of **radical inclusion** concerned with **social, racial and climate justice**.

Choral, contemporary, and contemplative worship can all be found at All Saints, within a **strong liturgical tradition**. Prayer forms the beating heart of our community, with daily morning prayer (both in person and online) and prayer at all planned events and meetings. As the **historical parish church of Loughborough**, we participate in the **civic** life of the town, taking a lead on the Mayor's carol service and the remembrance day activities through our outgoing Rector's role as RBL Chaplain. We are well-resourced in skills and structure allowing us to maintain **good governance and safeguarding practice**.

We are **intentionally welcoming and hospitable to all** who come through the door **celebrating and affirming every person** without discrimination. We: '**challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.**' This includes **advocating for equal rights concerning the marriage of same-sex couples**.



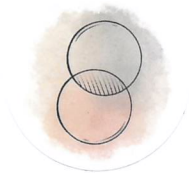
Where are you going?

Ultimately we want to **follow where we feel God is calling us to. Towards becoming a fully inclusive, intercultural, eco-community** that acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. This sometimes means **advocating for those traditionally marginalised by the Church or community**.

Our direction of travel is **towards becoming a community that truly lives out and embodies our values more widely**. We want to look outwards, **participating in the life of our whole parish** through our **charitable partnerships**, the **university chaplaincy** and **musical offerings**, such as our **free lunchtime concerts**.

We want to **extend relations within our Deanery and be involved in the life of the Diocese**.

Underpinning our journey is our **deliberate liturgical approach**, aiming to become representative of the very best examples of the Anglican tradition in our worship, prayer and music.



2 Church name: All Saints with Holy Trinity, Loughborough

Date: 22nd October 2023

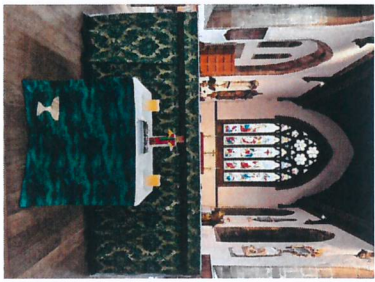
Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Recently, we have seen the Kingdom emerging in our **growing diversity within the congregation**, across generations, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, and education.

The demonstrable love being shared across the congregation and community for each other has been a privilege to be a part of. The newly formed **pastoral team** has made **real connections** with those who cannot make our services and other activities.

We're seeing people being affirmed and often **returning to church** after rejection and often long gaps away. This is especially true of our LGBTQ+ siblings where we are becoming increasingly able to offer a **heartfelt and true welcome**. Such individuals bring amazing skills and excitement at the invitation to participate in services. As a result, we have found that many in our community have **discerned a vocation to ministry**, and we have supported individuals in training. This has led to rich and diverse teaching of a high calibre, as **new perspectives on God's word** are shared.

As we move into a period of vacancy, it has been exciting to see our PC, warden team, and congregation be firm in their desire to **grow our inclusive ministry**. A ministry which has resulted in growing numbers of disciples, financial giving, and a flourishing spiritual life together.



What are you hopeful for?

We are hopeful for growth in all senses. That we will see more disciples in our community and a **greater depth of spirituality** amongst our congregation and community. We are hopeful that we can find a **real sense of abundance** through the MC forming process as we come together to reflect on our skills and assets.

We are hopeful that we can learn from others, that we can discern a strong vision for our area, and that the end position is full of grace, generosity and love. We are hopeful that God will continue working through us to offer a **radical, open and inclusive welcome** to all who seek Him, and enable us to meet them where they are. We are hopeful that we will become an ever more inclusive and affirming space to everyone we meet and journey alongside, whether they are just popping in to see our beautiful building for ten minutes or if they stay for many years to come.



Where have you come from?

All Saints has had 37 rectors, since the 12th Century. In this time, we've walked alongside the town of Loughborough, being instrumental to the foundation of the Loughborough Grammar School and Fearon Hall – a major community hub for the town and a spiritual A&E during times of crisis. Our liturgical yet open style of worship has been a common thread throughout, providing a peaceful and contemplative space for all.

50 years ago:

Very strong traditional, liturgical, and choral services with strong links to the Loughborough Endowed Schools. There was a major reordering of the building at this time to create a Nave altar and a new lighting system. Later incumbents acted as community leaders and reconcilers at pivotal moments such as 9/11 and local tragedies.

10 years ago:

Vacancy after our first female incumbent who had a focus on growth and pastoral care in the community. The vacancy heralded a period of consolidation, with lay leaders stepping to the fore, buttressing areas of strength, though at times pressing beyond the bounds of resources on offer. The strong choral tradition was kept alive during incumbency by a strong-minded choir which maintained a real sense of community, alongside a thriving Children's choir (part of the Diosisling project). Despite these positives, there are mixed recollections of this period as either energising or exhausting and the finances ultimately worsened.

5 years ago:

A time of new beginnings and growth. In 2017 we signed up to become an inclusive church, an intercultural worshipping community, and began our eco-church journey. We received a grant for 'mission through music' giving new life to the choir. We started a project to upgrade our sound system and website (now complete) and began to enjoy a blend of worship styles, adding contemporary worship to our pattern on a Sunday.

What are you doing now?

We are deepening our sense of **community** by building a **strong pastoral team**. They are serving the **housebound, elderly, and marginalised** and also working with our **dispersed Iranian community** who joined us last year. We have recently invested further into our **children's work** which is steadily growing and appointed a **new music director to develop our intercultural, choral and contemporary music**.

We are exploring a radical and ambitious vision for our physical assets, looking at how our church building and other estate can **further the Kingdom in Loughborough**, in the age we find ourselves in. Alongside this, we are raising funds to repair our porous South roof in preparation for installing solar panels.

As we enter vacancy, we are aiming to keep up the momentum of **growing our radically inclusive mission**, building a strong team approach to leadership, and making the most of opportunities as they arise. We are further **developing our intercultural activity**, exploring further actions to **reduce our carbon emissions**, and looking into making our building **more accessible**.

What are you fearful about?

Generally, we have **fears about the vacancy**:

- That our leaders and volunteers will become overstretched.
- That we might lose momentum and miss people who could have found a home with us.
- That we will lose our sense of common vision, that our blend of worship styles will lead to disunity, and our progress to embed our values will falter.

We are committed to our shared life as part of the Anglican Communion but are at times frustrated by the tension between that and our desire to be radically inclusive, particularly around the area of same-sex marriage. As a consequence, of the Minister Community process, we are fearful we will not be able to be our true selves; **our identity and that our inclusive, intercultural, sacramental church will be diluted**.

Alongside this, we are **fearful our congregation will feel change has been done to them, rather than with them**.

We are **fearful that we do not have the resources to maintain a large medieval building**, whilst giving priority to the purpose of the Church.



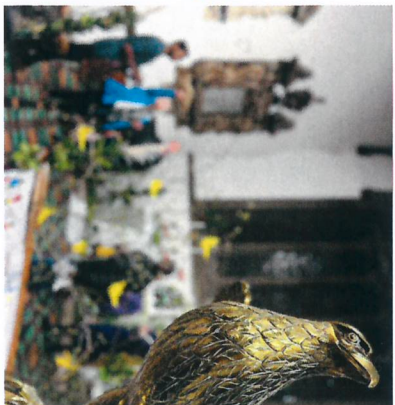
How can others pray for you?

Please pray that we **continue to feel affirmation in the Word of God for our vision and direction of travel**.

That we might **grow corporately and individually in wisdom, grace, and love for one another and the world**.

We ask for prayer that our radically inclusive ethos and ministry will be maintained during our period of vacancy and that **we can discern and fill our leadership needs well**, to fulfil our vision and values.

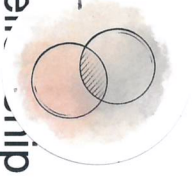
We pray that **God will provide us with a new leader** who can move us forward in our inclusive ministry.




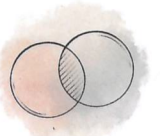
1 Church name: EMMANUEL CHURCH, LOUGHBOROUGH		Date: OCTOBER 2023
<p>Who are you?</p> <p>Rooted in Christ Growing like Christ Planting for Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We grow disciples in order to plant churches that plant churches and share the gospel with those in our community who do not yet know Christ- An evangelical church, rooted in Scripture and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit- Part of a Resource Church Partnership with The Good Shepherd and St Barnabas Grange Park- Generous financial givers to the Diocese giving in excess of two full-time stipendiaries, and significant financial givers to other projects including within the Diocese of Toioha, Tanzania- Intergenerational and intercultural worship and discipleship- Four weekly services with an average of 250 people- Staff team of 10 including three clergy	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Emmanuel has church planting in its DNA. St Mary's Nanpantan was planted 125 years ago, The Good Shepherd was planted 93 years ago, and St Barnabas was planted four years ago- Working closely with other churches through the Loughborough Churches Partnership- A culture of generosity and serving- giving time, money, skills and expertise to the church and the local community e.g. Project 5000, Child Contact Centre, Emmanuel Football Club, Lunchtime Concerts, Carpenters Arms- Historic strong links with the local C of E Primary School- Building is at the centre of the community, used for many groups throughout the week e.g. orchestra, polling station, NHS	
<p>Where are you going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We are dedicated to our core vision to be a church that plants churches that plant churches in the name of Jesus Christ- Rooted in the authority of Scripture we are focussing on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discipleship: through the midweek Emmaus Groups- Identifying and developing new leaders- Prayer: the foundation of everything we do, we have monthly prayer meetings and joint prayer and worship meetings with the Resource Church Partnership- Resourcing, supporting and developing the Good Shepherd through clergy, families and administration/operation	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alpha, and a Chinese language Alpha- Sunday children's groups, youth clubs, midweek toddler group 'Little People', intergenerational services- Seniors' ministry: lunches, concerts, pastoral support- Student ministry: weekly Bible studies, pastoral support- Links with C of E school: 'Spark' lunchtime club, assemblies, parents' prayer group- Emmaus Groups and developing leaders- Prayer meetings, Women's and Men's prayer gatherings- Community: football, Project 5000, Contact Centre, concerts- Actively and strategically discerning where to plant next- Supporting and developing ministry for refugees	

2 Church name: EMMANUEL CHURCH, LOUGHBOROUGH		Date: OCTOBER 2023
<p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <p>Through all of the above areas of ministry!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We see the Kingdom of God embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.- Through growth in numbers at three of our weekly services- Through growth in depth of discipleship through the Emmaus Groups growing, and seeing emerging and developing leaders- Through people coming to adult baptism and confirmation	<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <p>We do not feel fearful, however we are concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the timescale of the process feels tight and potentially rushed- the future resulting in a widening disconnect between the priest and the congregation- there not being the infrastructure and support in place to raise lay leaders to be able to lead churches- the national context of the Church of England and a drifting from the authority of Scripture- the mission and ministry of Emmanuel being adversely affected through organisational change and different theology leading to vision and values- being unsure of a 'one size fits all' model- over-stretching the resources we have in terms of staff	
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <p>To continue to keep 'the main thing the main thing': the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour</p> <p>To expand this ministry in the local community and through the partnership with the Loughborough Resource Church Partnership</p> <p>To see people come to know Jesus Christ and to deepen in their discipleship</p>	<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For God's wisdom and discernment as we move into the future- For courage- To keep Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do- To focus on God as sovereign over all things	

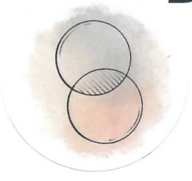

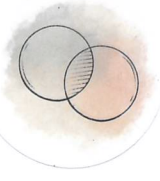
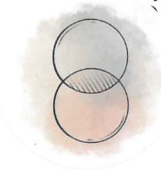
<p>1 Church name: GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, LOUGHBOROUGH</p>	<p>Date: OCTOBER 2023</p>
<p>Who are you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electoral roll of around 70, Sunday attendance of around 30 - Service of Holy Communion most weeks with a strong foundation of preaching and on the authority of Scripture - Fortnightly intergenerational family service: 'The Fold; Families at 4' - Pastoral and caring congregation - Large residential parish with high deprivation on the edge of a council estate - Increasing participation and development of prayer in the life of the church - Part of the Loughborough Resource Church Partnership seeking to support church planting - Community links with 'Your Store' social supermarket in partnership with St Barnabas Grange Park and deepening links with local primary school 	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planted 85 years ago from Emmanuel Church - Partnered with Emmanuel to plant St Barnabas Grange Park in 2019 - Strong links with the local community, in particular Shelthorpe, the Stage Group, and as a polling station - Strong links with the local primary school: Beacon Academy - Generous in giving money and resources for the church and local community (e.g. Your Store, Foodbanks etc.) - Tradition of investing in children and families through Kidz Club and Messy Church - Culture of church planting through supporting and investing in 'Reside'
<p>Where are you going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focusing on the Great Commission to make disciples and deepen faith - Holding to the authority of Scripture through preaching, discipleship and developing faith - Committed to growing the church and reaching the local community - Investing in children and families through The Fold and links with the local school - Continuing to discern where to plant next in partnership with Emmanuel and St Barnabas - Identifying and developing new leaders - Continuing to develop a foundation of prayer through monthly prayer meetings, The Prayer Course, RCP prayer and worship - Growing recognition of the need to change and develop 	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Running the 24/7 Prayer Course - Focus on discipleship groups - 'Your Store' social supermarket - Developing relationship with The Beacon Academy - The Fold; Families at 4 - Developing discipleship with children on Sunday mornings - Pastoral care for seniors and vulnerable people, 'Tea and Chat' - Weekly toddler group 'Tots of Fun' - Continuing relationship with community groups using the building e.g. Stage Group, U3A etc. - Deepening relationship and resource sharing within the Resource Church Partnership through clergy, administration,
<p>2 Church name: GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, LOUGHBOROUGH</p> <p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the areas of ministry we are investing in. - The Kingdom of God is embodied in the person and work of Jesus Christ. - Beginnings of growth in the Sunday services and The Fold - Baptisms and a wedding - Growing depth of discipleship - Deepening foundation of prayer 	<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <p>We are not fearful, but have concerns about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It feels to be rushed and decisions are required very quickly - It feels like a process for managed decline - Being required to align with churches with different vision/values and theology - Reduced contact between priest and congregation and loss of ministeria. oversight - Reduced contact with the local community - The congregation could find adapting to change difficult - The process could result in fewer people giving and reduced giving to the church - The congregation already being at full capacity for taking on leadership/responsibility
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth in numbers and depth of discipleship - More volunteers to participate in the ministry - Identifying and developing new leaders - Transformation and change in Christ Jesus - Growth that leads to church planting and reaching our local community with the gospel - Using the buildings and location to serve the local community 	<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To remain faithful - For The Good Shepherd to grow - both in numbers and depth of discipleship

<p>Who are you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Church PCC.• Part of a benefice. • Traditional Anglican fellowship• A village community building and church• We share Sunday worship but focus on our own village and church particularly for fundraising events.	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single church with our own Rector living in the village• Local and surrounding parish lay people.
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<p>Where are you going?</p> <p>Nowhere unless we are allowed to modernise or building for better outreach village and community use.  </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are trying to maintain the building as a place of worship and also as village amenity.	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trying to continue to meet the needs of St Andrew's family and also the people in the parish.• Waiting for approval for the previous item.• Joining in with village and school events
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<p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming newcomers and visitors. <p> In the events and outreach we can do in our witness and caring within the community.</p> <p>Optisms, weddings and funerals for village families</p> <p>people call in when the doors are open and appear to feel welcome.</p>	<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unfamiliar priests and services. Different ways of worshipping• Reduced number of services in our church.• Reduced income making the building maintenance difficult• Lack of spiritual leadership lack of services• Loss of support from supporters in kind and financial due to loss of interest.• Reliance on retired and laypeople.• Problems with travelling to services.• Losing online services <p></p>
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More ordinands and parish clergy to lead, especially spiritually.• Good local leadership – ordained and lay – preferably paid• Continuation of livestreamed services.	<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitators to pray for us – increased relevance• Good Christian fellowship.

	
Who are you? A caring Christian community in a large village, well-thought of by most of the village, with good links to Measham Primary School and a PCC committed to serving the church and community.	Where have you come from? From having a very efficient incumbent who perhaps did too much, we have been in vacancy for 2 years and currently have no churchwarden. However, the PCC and congregation have adapted to having fewer clergy led services to take on other roles and to introduce lay led services.
Where are you going? The PCC and congregation are aging and unable to maintain the current pace without effective support and leadership.	What are you doing now? Arranging and leading services Supporting the school Safeguarding Maintaining meetings and finance Struggling to maintain the fabric of the building Organising a holiday club for children Arranging social events. Involvement in the community
  	

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?	
Increased discipleship In the way our community recognizes our efforts to keep the church open and functioning In seeing people offering to help in unfamiliar roles	What are you fearful about? Managing life events and Holy Communion w. insufficient clergy. In sharing the pastoral load of an aging church community and village looking for guidance Maintaining our parish share with dwindling income and falling numbers of baptisms and weddings. The community being put off by the lack of a caring incumbent. Losing our team administrator
 	
What are you hopeful for? That our church (the people) will survive another few years. That a new incumbent be appointed. That Christians moving to the area will join us.	How can others pray for you? The health, strength and grace to keep moving forward. For the imminent advertising for a new Incumbent. For the expertise needed in many fields, such as pastoral care, ministry, mission and finance
 	

Name of church: The United Benefice of Mountsorrel Christ Church and Mountsorrel St. Peter.

Who are you?	We are two Anglican parishes that love God and believe Jesus is risen from the dead. St Peter's is at the North end of the village on Market Place and regular services here follow the BCP. Christ Church can be found at the top of The Green and the services here use contemporary language and resources from Common Worship. Together we seek to serve the Kingdom of God and the people of Mountsorrel.
Where have you come from?	St Peter's is 15 th Century built. It was a Chapel of Barrow-upon-Soar originally dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Later in the 19 th Century became independent of Barrow-upon-Soar and was rededicated to St. Peter. Christ Church is a 19 th Century Church given to the village by Sarah Brinton to serve as a Bible based Evangelical Church. Both Church buildings have been much altered and extended since originally built. We also share our Priest in Charge with St. Leonards Church in Swithland.
Where are you going?	To make use of our historical assets within the community. To build upon the positives of what we are doing best. Use the talents and resources we have, in the Service of God.
What are you doing now?	We serve a community of approx. 8,000. We use and share our resources and talents. The Mountsorrel Church of England Fund, which is a charity whose trustees, are confirmed members of the Church of England and are proactive in financing the promotion of Christianity in Mountsorrel. We support and minister to our village C of E Primary School. We support and minister Mountsorrel children at Rawlins Academy, Quorn. Our Groups include Children and Family Work which is; Sunbeams, Beyond the Bump, Baby Loss Awareness Week, Muddy Church, Messy Church, with also Youth Work and Bible Buddies for teens. In summer we have a "Summer Activity Week". We have Ladies Fellowship Group, Senior Sunday, Fellowship Bible Study Group, Music Group, Book Club and Bell Ringing for services and special occasions on the 8 bells at St. Peter's. We run a Lent course and Alpha and Marriage Preparation courses and we hold occasional Charity raising Concerts. Our services include All Age Worship sometimes with Communion, Café Church, Morning Worship, Sung Matins, Holy Communion, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Choral Evensong, Common Worship, Morning Prayers and Compline during "Thy Kingdom Come". We are members of Churches Together in Mountsorrel (which includes the Baptist and Methodist churches.) coming together at united events in each other's Churches and in the village. Involvement in Soar Valley Food Bank Project. St Peter's services generally have the Organ being played with hymn books. Christ Church uses both the organ and piano with a projector screen.

Name of church: The United Benefice of Mountsorrel Christ Church and Mountsorrel St. Peter.

	Weekly Coffee Morning. Remembrance Services, involving the Royal British Legion Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas services. Something for everyone! Thanks to our volunteers.
Where are you seeing the kingdom of God emerging?	Fellowship. Food Bank. People giving up their free time to Serve. Ministry at the schools. Our Children and Family Work/ Youth Work Our Children and Family Staff. Our Youth Worker. Our Leaders. Our Readers. Our Churchwardens. In strangers when they join in our services and fellowship.
What are you fearful about?	Change in Administration of Holy Communion. Growth of a secular society. Overstretched Clergy. People NOT having the sense of belonging. Losing local Churches and or services People losing the sense of familiarity. The Clergy not being able to visit the sick/not having the time to administer Holy Communion to those in their in own home.
What are you hopeful for?	Spreading the Word by out-reach. We hope that God will increase our numbers and spirituality. We hope more of our community come to know Jesus and live in God's Way. We hope to cater for a changing society and remain relevant. To use technology. To provide pastoral care for all ages. Be intergenerational. To work alongside other Churches that have the same Theological approach and belief.
What do you want others to pray for you?	We would like prayers to help us to remain Faithful to God's Word. We would like prayers that we are able to strengthen our position in the community. We pray that the guidance we receive is wise and not self-serving. Deuteronomy 31:8 2 Thesalonians 3:5 Romans 12:10 1 Thesalonians 3:12 1 Corinthians 10:24

1 Church name: St Mary in Charnwood, Nantpantan

Date: 19/10/2023

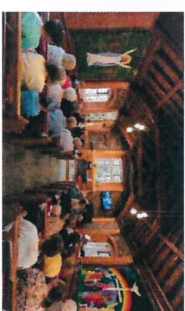
Who are you?

St Mary in Charnwood Church, Nantpantan, located on the very outskirts of Loughborough on edge of Charnwood Forest and within our own little wood. There is also a war memorial and garden of remembrance in our grounds.
Sunday congregation = 60 over 2 Sunday services (capacity is 70 in pews, with option to overspill into Chapter House using audio and visual systems to relay services) Congregation mainly white, professional, mostly retired folk, with a few young families. Known as 'the little church in the woods'; we may have a small building, but we have a big heart



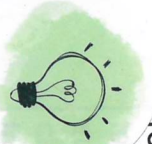
Where have you come from?

First service in newly built Mission Room was on 5th Nov 1888, with building dedicated to St Mary in 1957. Since then, has been a 'daughter' church in Parish of Emmanuel, 'sister' church with own minister within Teamministry for same parish, and on 1st Jan 2015 became a Parish church with own Parish and part-time stipendiary minister. (Also have 2 lay readers and a deanery curate at current time).
2018 was our first interregnum in almost 20 years, so recent history is one of change; discovering who are we as a separate parish, what we believe God's calling us to do with what he's blessed us with and coping with the impacts of the pandemic.



Where are you going?

Our new incumbent challenged us to discern a Vision in 2020 –we have recently revisited it and our priorities to 2026 are;
improve the hospitality and accessibility of our building and site to port and grow intergenerational worship and engagement with dren and young families
encourage wellbeing and good mental health in partnership with other groups and agencies



We are also moving towards being a worshipping community of perhaps more irregular but still consistent members, and fewer traditional every-week-because-it's Sunday worshippers.

What are you doing now?

Run many groups: Forest Church, Mossy Church, Children's Sunday group, Monday Morning Men's, Ladies' Group, Tower Group, Sunday Supper Social, Starting Rite, Growing Rite, Table Talk, Parish Pilgrims, Campfire Compile, Woodland Working Group, and occasional study groups. We also do school visits, and work with retirement communities, scouts, and nurseries. We run occasional study groups and hold Worship With a Classical Flavour (WWCF) services.
Working towards our Vision we are actively looking to recruit someone to help us connect with families and children and support what we're already doing with respect to intergenerational worship.
Also, almost at faculty submission stage to effect improvements to our facilities to allow better hospitality and welcome.

2 Church name: St Mary in Charnwood, Nantpantan

Date: 19/10/2023

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

God is sending people to us! Every week for some months now there has been new faces in church services. This is particularly striking after so many years of constancy in our congregation.
Cause for encouragement as growth is often linked to presence of children and families, which we historically have either a lot of, or very few of (currently very few).
In our woodland! As well as running Mossy Church and Campfire Compile
ourselves, we have connected with various external agencies who provide therapeutic help to a range of clients and use our wood to enhance their provision.
A sense of engagement! Our church family seems more willing to engage actively both in services and in issues and initiatives that affect us.

What are you hopeful for?

- That we would truly discern God's voice in our own future and in the Minster Community process
- Growth, achieved through generous sharing of people and abilities among our churches
- The chance to work with others and share
- St Mary's Vision
- God's kingdom to come

What are you fearful about?

- Strong opinions and divisive voices, leading to conflict
- Pushing ahead with minister community proposals if during the process more time or different options are needed
- Working with churches where views/traditions might be very different to ours
- That our individual church 'voices' (identities?) would be lost
- That the bigger churches take charge!
- That closer association and sharing of resources with other churches might be viewed as a return to 'the old days' when St Mary's felt swallowed up and overlooked as a small part of a larger parish
- Potential loss of clergy and its impact

How can others pray for you?

Pray that our St Mary's Vision can be fulfilled at the same time as we discern and incorporate the changes, we know will result from the Minster Community process.
Pray that the recruitment of a person to support our intergenerational work would be successful.

