

Who are you?

- St. Marys Church, Melton Mowbray
- A worshipping family of over one hundred each Sunday, and midweek services
- An electoral roll of around 150
- A historic building which attracts many people from all over the country and the world, open and stewarded most days with many people coming to light a candle and for quiet reflection.
- A variety of services – quiet communion- morning prayer – choral evensong – sung communion – all age worship
- We are a huge building filled with people from the local community, but definitely an ageing congregation.
- A dysfunctional Team Ministry
- Centre of a rapidly expanding Market Town
- Close and caring community which welcomes those from the town and surrounding areas to join us.
- A very friendly Church
- A community that works to do the right thing.
- A focal point for the town and community
- Considered to be the town, Church.
- Need more families and Young Children
- Many Members are linked with Town organisations, can always do more!

Where are you going?

- To have a bigger congregation filled with Young Families
- Need more teaching courses so we can grow in faith.
- We need direction from a dedicated ordained team, within the parish.
- To be more inclusive, and open to new ways of worship.
- Need more outreach, evangelising and community involvement.
- Open to any suggestions that might help us to grow.
- I am looking for the RAPTURE (1 Thess 4)
- Minster community discussions not helping with our vision.
- Need to be more flexible with our service pattern.
- To be a church that learns to love God personally and to share that with the town around us.
- To have an enthusiast leader who will be an inspiration to us all.
- Encourage more groups to use the Church

Where have you come from?

- Current building dates from 1170
- Grade 1 * listed building
- Can seat one thousand people.
- A Building updated to include all modern amenities, toilets, servery, level access, good heating, LED lighting, Wi-Fi, State of the art Sound and AV System, Historic Organ Etc.
- Centre of the Community.
- A place of Peace
- A versatile and Welcoming Space
- A living History
- A great outreach opportunity which is not being achieved at present.
- Wide variety of Services
- Generations of Prayer and Worship to the people of Melton Mowbray

What are you doing now?

- Working to raise money to keep our building in good order and pay the diocese, as well as maintaining our services.
- Welcoming visitors into our building 6 days a week
- Morning Prayer and Midweek communion services
- Tiny Tots service weekly
- Monthly Organ Recitals
- Twice monthly Outreach morning (Saturday Morning @ St. Mary's)
- Lent Courses, Advent Courses.
- Services on a Sunday
- Creating a New Web Site and Weekly News sheets.
- We all feel overworked, and pressurised.
- Limited Clergy is restricting our outreach and expansion.
- Can not see how minster communities is going to help us.

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- Our 10.00am Sunday service numbers are increasing, and a good fellowship is building up following the service.
- Monthly Saturday Mornings are bringing in lots of People, but we have not seen an increase in our congregations from this as yet.
- Need more social events.
- Tiny Tots, good support but for a limited time
- Christmas Tree Festival helps people to feel comfortable within our building.
- Good relationships with town Organisations, Local Borough Council, Bid, Town Estate.
- Congregational Contact Scheme.
- Have gained people following funeral services and care shown.
- Many people doing many jobs.
- Help from Retired Clergy (A Godsend that we could not do without)
- Not enough Stipendiary Clergy.
- Repeat Visitors who find sanctuary within our building.
- Large community Services.

What are you fearful about?

- That we have to focus so much on buildings and keeping worship going with fewer ageing people, that there is no time or energy to engage with mission, and with social concerns both locally, nationally and across the world.
- Being spread too thin, especially the ordained ministers, relying on unpaid volunteers who have their own interests, families etc, and many of whom are working in full time paid employment.
- Clergy not knowing their congregations.
- All the good things that have happened could be dismantled.
- Too much expected from lay people.
- C of E in a downward spiral, too many Bishops and Diocesan Staff
- Minster Communities not the answer
- Lack of support from the diocese.

What are you hopeful for?

- That God will be active and help us despite our fears.
- That we might be an inclusive church that is able to minister to all and embrace all.
- An enhancing and growing Church Community
- To be able to accommodate diverse ways of worship.
- A clergy team that can work together.
- More People, especially young Families
- New Rector, who will encourage families, but also respect the existing older members.
- Continuous improvement
- An enthusiastic clergy person who can administer across the board.
- A thriving and bustling Church Life
- All Age worship rethink
- To have the occasional meal together

How you can pray for us.

- Small local groups targeting how we can move the church forward.
- Pray for those who do not want change and want to continue out of date and non-inspirational services.
- Prayer stations in Church.
- Morning prayer, give areas of focus.
- Pray for us all to work together.
- For a fairer share of clergy resources.
- Pray for a way forward that is not imposed from above! and is for the good of the parishes and not down to Diocesan finances.
- For inspirational ordained leadership.

Who are you?**St. Mary the Virgin Church, Nether Broughton**

We are a small village church on the edge of the village of Nether Broughton in the Vale of Belvoir, surrounded by a beautiful churchyard. We were originally part of the benefice comprising Old Dalby, Saxelbye, Six Hills, Grimston and Wartnaby, but more recently have joined with the West Vale of Belvoir group, which contains Long Clawson, Hose, Harby and Stathern.

Where have you come from?

The church largely dates from the C13th and C14th, though the building was extensively restored in the 1880s. Throughout its long history, the majority of services have been traditional, with Holy Communion and Evening Prayer taken from Common Worship featuring alongside pastoral services. As a farming community, services like the Harvest Festival and Rogation Sunday have always been celebrated. The worshipping community is relatively small, but the church has always been very well supported by the wider community. The church's annual fundraising events, such as the summer fete and Autumn Fair have always proved popular.

Where are you going?

We are endeavouring to introduce a new generation of parishioners into the worshipping community, whilst maintaining the traditional elements of worship that our existing congregation values. We hope to make the church building more accessible by installing a toilet facility and small servery. Music has always been important in our church; we are fortunate in having an excellent organist, and hope to expand the music provision in the church.

What are you doing now?

We have introduced a new series of monthly services, entitled 14NB, largely, though not exclusively, aimed at families. They incorporate activities for children, with singing, prayer and readings. Other services have included visits to choral evensong at the Cathedral, Taize style worship, Celtic services and open-air services, with the emphasis on wildlife. A new Bible Discovery group has also been established, which meets monthly to discuss a particular aspect of the Bible.

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Parents bring their children to our 14NB services. The church is full for the annual Carol Service. Increased attendance over the year. Support for community activities in the village.

What are you fearful about?

We are worried about the loss of an incumbent as a result of the Minster formation and an increased workload for an already overstretched PCC. We fear that the number of services will be reduced still further, especially those where an ordained minister is required. There are also concerns about the loss of autonomy and control over our own affairs and finances. Ultimately, the closure of our church with the loss of the Anglican tradition is perceived as the greatest threat.

What are you hopeful for?

There will be increased support for our church and PCC, especially with administrative matters and the maintenance of our medieval church building. We would hope for support with our church services, especially with regard to the provision for children and young people. We would hope that there would be the opportunity to access services with different styles of worship within a small geographical area. At the same time, we would hope to retain our independence. If our church is to survive, we need to make it welcoming and exciting for new members, especially from recently constructed new housing.

How you can pray for us.

Please pray for the growth of our church, so that we may be seen as relevant in today's society. May we reach out to the younger generation to build our worshipping community into the church of the future. We would ask for more help and support for our small PCC with all that is requested from us.

1

Church name: St John the Baptist Church Old Dalby

Date: 21 April 2023

Who are you?

- A church in the village of Old Dalby (head of the Vale of Belvoir)
- Three services a month (one led by the Methodist church)
- A growing village with significant housing growth
- A village with a growing CofE primary school

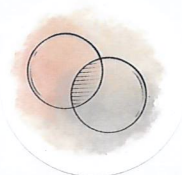


Where have you come from?

- The presence of a church since medieval times
- The Knights Hospitaller had a preceptory near by
- 2005-2006 extensive restoration of the church (£300k)
- A decline in recent years of participation in church both in attendance and support
- An ageing congregation and PCC with no natural infill from younger and new residents

Where are you going?

- Opening the church daily
- Growing an active group of people to maintain the church yard and look after the church
- Maintaining contact with our 'church family'
- Trying to engage more people onto the PCC
- Trying to understand better what motivates people to engage with their local church
- Regular services (termly) with the village school
- Working with the Village History group to better inform people who visit our church



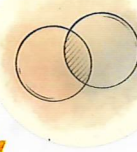
What are you doing now?

- Ensuring worship appropriate for all ages. Introduced a more relaxed modern service once a month to encourage families
- Introduced a music group to play at services
- Supporting the community with a weekly friendship group
- Collection point for Melton Foodstore
- Monthly Parents and Toddler Group
- Improve our online presence

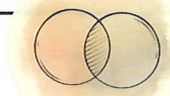


Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- Future growth in the village which may spark more interest in the church
- More residents helping to look after the church
- Good attendance at festival services e.g. Christmas, Remembrance, Easter
- Significant support for our ongoing food collection basket and specific requests at Christmas and Harvest



What are you fearful about?



- Uncertainty
- Our church being insignificant as a member of the church family, because we are small and rural seen as less relevant
- Continual pressure on finances
- Request to find more money for the Diocese yet a reduction in Ministry
- Continual upkeep and maintenance of a listed building
- Lack of understanding within the community as to how the church is funded and how much responsibility rests with the PCC
- Our hopes of engaging more people onto the PCC will not materialise

What are you hopeful for?

- The Minister structure provides a practical framework to enable the church to grow with our community
- A vision for rural ministry
- Leadership
- Greater engagement with our church
- Resolution to our lack of heating and repair to our vestry roof



How you can pray for us.

- To understand what people want from our church and to have the courage to change and be mindful of the many paths which lead to God
- The Diocese makes the right choices and leads our Ministry wisely



Who are you?

Within South West Framland, the Burrough Hill, South Croxton and Upper Wreake Benefices are in a Cluster with shared administration. SWF is in turn part of the Framland Deanery, with its matrix of ministers sharing parochial responsibilities with a range of Deanery-wide ministries. Among us there is a willingness and openness to embrace changes.

Where are you going?

- Endeavouring to respond to Diocesan strategy for (a) depth of discipleship (b) growth in number of disciples (c) serving the specific needs of our rural communities.
- Recognising that Diocesan leadership has stated its intention to invest in time, resources and a focus on equipping, we await to see results of this at the local level.
- Seeking to continue to find ways to serve and encourage our congregations and communities, including building sustainable relationships with young people and new residents in each Parish, and offering pastoral support throughout the Benefice.
- Seeking to utilise our resources to build an inclusive, sensitive and available church.
- Making more creative use of Church buildings as places which can be used for a variety of events, both Christian and secular. This will involve engagement with others to fundraise for ongoing repair, restoration and improvements to our churches, and thereby strengthen friendships and relationships.

Where have you come from?

We have worked collaboratively in the Southwest Framland group of 16 churches for more than 15 years. And share in the groups centralised administrative provision.

What are you doing now?

Rural parishes, renowned for friendliness and community spirit. All within about ten minutes' drive of each other.
Local economy revolving around farming, equestrian, and small service-based industries; there are pubs, which include restaurant facilities, as well as farm shops/cafes. National Cycle Route 64 weaves its way through the Benefice.
Beloved ancient church buildings.
Elderly congregations/church membership with most people in their 70s or above. This diminishes our ability to serve our churches and communities due to restrictions of time, health, personal finances.
Welcoming of input from Pioneers and other ministers in support of our local clergy.
Shared House for Duty Associate Priest
Services held on a rotational basis

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

29 on the Church Electoral Roll (c.17% of the population)
 Church building open during the week on certain days/times
 Treasurer and PCC Secretary, with three others on the PCC supported by a Minutes Secretary
 Strong friendships between church members and the wider community.
 Shared involvement in social/fundraising activities including the annual Fete
 Parish Giving Scheme and regular giving by Standing Order supported by several (including those who rarely attend church services)
 Parish Contribution always paid to the Diocese
 Expensive Quinquennial Inspection works to be carried out but can be financed from reserves
 In receipt of a large legacy which we plan to use to enhance the church building
 A core of worshippers regularly travels to other churches in the Benefice
 Lay involvement in leading worship and prayer.
 Active team of bellringers who also ring in other Diocesan churches

What are you fearful about?**What are you hopeful for?**

To strengthen community involvement in the practical aspects of maintaining the church building and offering worship opportunities
 Specifically, to involve younger adults

How you can pray for us.

For our hopes

1

Church name: St Mary's Queniborough

Date: 18 April 2023

Who are you?

Currently in interregnum, so church 'run' by volunteers

A regular, committed congregation (majority over 65 yrs) who worship in a beautiful historic church building (13th century)

We have a service every week trying to offer a variety of services that will appeal to all at some point. These include an informal family service, HC service, Said HC, Morning Praise

- We finance a qualified children & families worker (1 day/week) who leads a parent & toddler group, a weekly after school club, & works with a small group of children for School Worship Time. Also prepares and leads a Family Service one Sunday a month
- Close links with our village school, Queniborough CE Primary School
- We are welcoming and sociable, making use of a recently refurbished kitchen and meeting/community room
- Since late 1980s, St Mary's Preservation Society have raised funds to help maintain the fabric of the historic church to keep the building in a reasonably good state of repair
- Popular church for weddings, funerals and baptisms

Where have you come from?

- Over the last 35 years we have gone from sharing a full-time vicar with 1 other church (Barkby, then East Goscote), then with 3 other churches (Rearsby/Thrussington/Ratcliffe). Since 2017 this was reduced to a part-time vicar (4 days) for the 4 churches. Had been part of the Syston Team since 1990.
- We have always been willing to work with other churches and share what we have with them.
- Worship at St Mary's has tended to be informal ('Low' church), using Common Worship, Patterns of Worship, Mission Praise Hymn book, SU Roots material for Family services, etc
- Congregation numbers have declined in last 5yrs or so, made worse by the Covid pandemic

Where are you going?

- ?????
- St Mary's church has survived the vagaries of history and we are confident that God has a plan for us.
- Assume will become part of a Minster Community, but don't know when or who with. Uncertain how this will change our pattern/styles of services

of church. vibrant & active
 spiritual life

What are you doing now?

- Continuing monthly pattern of services relying on shared non-stipendary vicar plus 'visiting' clergy to take communion services, and a paid children's worker
- We try to make links with our community, particularly by using our new kitchen and meeting room – Art group, Craft & Chat group, monthly coffee morning, summer cream teas, church family meals, concerts, & visiting speakers. We hope this provides a soft introduction and warm welcome to our building and church family.
- Pastoral team ensures sick/housebound congregation members are visited
- Support charitable work, especially local food banks, homeless charity, and 'emergencies'
- Monthly St Mary's newsletter (emailed out and paper copies) to keep people updated on services and Diary dates for events
- Church page in Queniborough Gazette (delivered to village residents)
- Advent and Lent groups
- Advent and Easter windows in houses around the village



Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- Pastoral work in the village, especially caring for elderly past members of the congregation who are infirm, lack mobility, etc. General care / support for each another
- Volunteers working to maintain the availability of the church to the village, and to keep the church in good order, as well as being welcoming to all
- The children loving being in the church
- Innumerable everyday acts of bravery, generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness all around us
- We seek and find the miraculous in the 'everyday'

What are you fearful about?

- No ministerial support for elderly and sick in our community
- Church having to close because expense /workload becomes too onerous for elderly volunteers to cope with. Declining financial support for the church as numbers decrease
- Visible presence of worshipping community within the village decreases or absent: becoming just a Wedding, Christening and Funeral Venue
- That in a Minster Community, regular contact with church leaders will be diminished so we don't get to know them well, and/or they don't come to get to know us as a congregation/ community
- Some people not being able to get to an easily accessible functioning church
- Lack of weekly services will result in people falling out of the 'habit' of attending church, as during the pandemic, and losing touch with traditional ritual.
- Excessive practical jobs will overcome the spiritual life of the church. Getting side-tracked by 'irrelevancies'

What are you hopeful for?

- Guidance, inspiration and support in learning how to make a difference in our community
- New ways of reaching our community especially in the new housing developments
- God will support us physically and mentally to enable us to continue His work in our village community
- We would like to encourage more prayer, to have clergy who pray more readily and freely with us outside of the service
- To extend our Bible Study groups
- That we can attract younger adults, as well as children, to become regular members of the congregation and eventually assist with the running of the church
- Restore our numbers of choir members, bell ringers and hand-bell ringers

How you can pray for us.

- That the Holy Spirit touches people in the community and brings them to Faith
- To feel hopeful for the future of the church in our village, rather than fearful
- That we can maintain a visible Christian presence in the village, and availability to those searching for God, or just to serve those in need of help/support
- That this Minster Community Formation process will help us to find new partners and opportunities to further our mission in the village

↳ But indiv. church to maintain own identity.

Who are you?

Ragdale is a very small community who are generous in their giving and supportive of events with a focus in the village. However, events are very limited because of the small population which is currently approx. 80 adults.

Where have you come from?**Where are you going?**

The most important focus needs to be on teaching, guiding and inviting young families into the churches. Unfortunately, Ragdale has an older demographic, there is no school in the village and only 4 children of primary school age live in the village. Current church services reflect an older congregation.

What are you doing now?

The church is the only building open to the public in the village. Help to support the maintenance and to seriously improve and install facilities so that it can be used by the community much more and thereby generate income for ongoing maintenance and projects. To encourage more people to recognise it is community and not just a building.

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

a special church with a 'niche' for traditional services

'Walking church' – pilgrim ventures across UW



→ love that!

What are you fearful about?

What are you hopeful for

'Walking church' – pilgrim ventures across UW

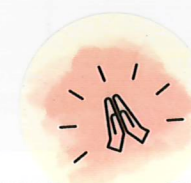
How you can pray for us.

Unity within the village – communication and building up of relationships

It is a special church with a 'niche' for traditional services
how can this be built on.

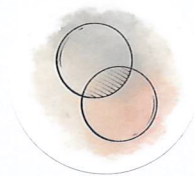
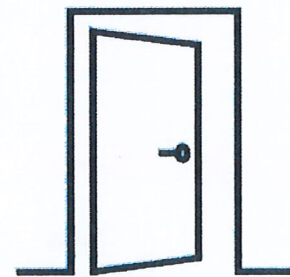
Peaceful place of rest, partnerships with others

'Walking church' – pilgrim ventures across UW



Who are you?

We are a welcoming Christian community



Where have you come from?

From the Fosse Team being fully supported to
Having no Full Time Vicar
Having no Part Time Vicar
No Vicar and no Team

Need to
Feel
Connected



Need to
Feel
Supported
+
Cared
for

Where are you going?

We do not know at this time but we hope and trust in
God that he shows us the right way

Lacking
spiritual
direction



What are you doing now?

Relying on non stipendary and lay people to minister to
us and our community

