

Who are you?

A church has stood on the present site since 1220 approx.
Extensive restoration during Victorian times.
Thurmaston lies on the boundary of Leicester City. Some Thurmaston houses in the city are included in the ecclesiastical parish.
Thurmaston is currently made up of Residential housing both private and social. Retail Park and Industrial units.
Population around 13,000. Latest census states 33% claim to be Christian, 30% Of no religion, 25% Hindu and the other 12% either Muslim or minority religions.
There are plans passed to build 5,000 houses in or around Thurmaston
Four primary schools including one Roman Catholic, one C of E.
A small congregation with a big heart, and a big building.
A dedicated, hard working, PCC.
We have a thriving band of bellringers who continue to recruit new bellringers.

Where have you come from?

A thriving Anglo Catholic Church. Three services each Sunday 8am Communion BCP. Choral Eucharist Rite A and Choral Evensong BCP. Adult and boys choir, RSCM affiliated, surpliced, SATB choir, which sang at cathedrals every year and made three LP records.
Choir disbanded Nov 1990. Active Sunday School up until 2014/2015.
We had a curate until 1998. Two of which had four children each which helped to maintain Sunday School and Other than Sunday Activities for families and children. NSM followed in 1999 /2000.
Family service started in 1990's and remained popular until 2016.
Children and young people taken to Walsingham residential weekends and Youth Camp. Last one attended was around 2014.
Regular coffee mornings and fundraising activities were held in the Old School until it closed during COVID / lockdown, and was subsequently sold.
I don't know if there were any house groups initially. Some house groups but not a huge attendance from 1996 onwards. Two or three Alpha Courses over a period of 15 years.
Lots of people serving in lots of ways.

Where are you going?

Some of our congregation prefer a formal service and Living Hope Church has been planted to reach unchurched people in a different location and at a different time of day.
Mainly Elderly congregation average age 73+ years.
A number of people (approx. seven) have recently left the church for various reasons, including moving out of the area and preferring a different style of worship.
With low numbers and age of congregation it is difficult to see how best we can continue with so few people being stretched to capacity.
The congregation are increasingly aware of the need to be welcoming.
We have different styles of worship, including Morning Worship and Holy Communion.
We continue to look for outreach possibilities but do not have the human resources to increase our output.
Children and Families worker runs Bright Sparks Stay and play toddler group, holiday Messy Church events and has good relationships with C of E school.
Upgrading heating and various areas of need within our church building.

What are you doing now?

With no Vicar Sunday services are engaging with visiting clergy or lay led.
Numbers average around 18/22. Small prayer group meet four weekly.
Small but dedicated group of people who will get things done as far as they are able.
Two Readers covering the majority of funeral requests.
Children and Families worker covering Baptism Prep
One reader supporting person wishing to be confirmed in conjunction with Living Hope.
Thursday Cafe Drop in. Food bank. Bright Sparks stay and play toddler group. Holiday Messy Church events. School involvement.
Readers taking Home Communion for those who are not sufficiently mobile to get to church. Various people supporting elderly members of congregation.
Good relationship with other community groups, i.e. Parish Council, Royal British Legion and Thurmaston Scout & Guides. With congregation members serving in many of the organisations.
We are in the enviable position of having considerable funds but have to plan carefully in current economic climate or we will run out of money in a few years.

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Our Food Bank is an excellent outreach to our community helping those living in areas of deprivation. Good relationships are being made. We are able to extend the love of Christ to our guests whilst helping in a practical way.

Likewise, our Thursday Coffee Time is well-attended and a place for good conversations, including short reflection / prayer time.

Bright Sparks, our stay and play Toddler Group is very popular, offering simple Bible stories, craft and songs. Committed helpers chat to mums/carers. Some have brought their babies for baptism, some attend other activities but not on a Sunday. Good relationships built with families/carers.

Messy Church – held most school holidays and festivals. Attract a fluctuating number of participants with no reasoning as to why some are more popular than others.

Good relationship with C of E school, we have three foundation governors. Children and Families Worker runs a Christian craft club, takes collective worship etc and schools come into church for seasonal celebrations.

What are you hopeful for?

Guidance – we often feel we are searching for the way forward without a Vicar.

Help – we are a small aging congregation with a big heart and want to do more than our numbers allow.

We hope to retain the services of an excellent – and full - team, including Churchwardens, PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Lay Ministers, PCC members, and employed Children & Families Worker.

A new Vicar / Priest.

What are you fearful about?

Having no Vicar and having to rely on lay or visiting clergy for services.

Being forced into something we're not.

Difference of churchmanship in Minster Community parishes.

Difference of opinions within our own church towards Minster Communities.

Continuous decline in numbers. Ageing congregation.

Burn out for PCC members who work tirelessly to keep church and events going.

Finances - we are fortunate to have healthy finances but with an old building requiring various improvements and operating at a substantial loss each year they won't last long.

We are aware of the need to balance the cost of any future re-ordering with eliminating our recurring annual deficits and achieve a balanced budget.

How you can pray for us.

Pray for strength and resilience – the crops are plentiful but the workers are few.

For the growth of the Kingdom in our community, which will in turn provide us with more volunteers/leaders to do more outreach.

For guidance – without a Vicar we often feel a little lost. We need to know if this is the right direction for us, or what is?

United – within our own congregation.

where come from.

Sale of Old School
funds went to
the church

where come from.

Expand on Financial
Situation.

fearful

Annual defecits
of £50,000
in 2022

1

Church name: St Chad, Leicester

Date: 13th March 2023

Who are you?

Anglo-Catholic history

Inner city – low congregation, mainly elderly

Parish mainly of other faiths

Very small worshipping community now.

Where have you come from?

First building on the site was 1922

New church built - 1968

Vicarage built with donations from church and community

Church Centre build 1991

Huge demographic change that has affected church attendance

Where are you going?

Community involvement through Centre has been very important and we are keen to carry this on in a redeveloped church building

In process of seeking Centre to finance church redevelopment

Very hard to get people involved

What are you doing now?

Warm Spaces through the Centre (soon to be in church)

Exploring future possibilities following community consultations

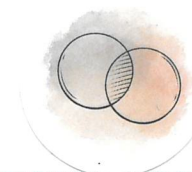
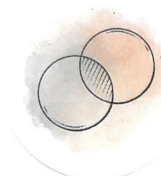
What are the legal issues involved?

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Contact with the community and witness to other faiths through our work

What are you fearful about?

Sale of Centre and whether redevelopment takes place
Dying out
Minster Community process

**What are you hopeful for?**

Having a church building that is more useful to the community and to which they will turn

**How you can pray for us.**

That engagement with the authorities we have to deal with is fruitful in achieving our goals



1

Church name: All Saints, Scraptoft

Date: 13th March 2023

Who are you?

Parish Church on edge of city: warm, loving and welcoming. Traditional.
 Congregation generally in older age groups. Variety of backgrounds:
 'CofE', Anglo-Catholic, Roman.
 Eucharist is central to our spirituality and life.

Where have you come from?

Many have been brought up in Christian faith, though some who have come to faith in later years.
 Grade 1 listed building serving local community for 800+ years.

Where are you going?

By being part of the worshipping community and being involved in what is provided we hope to pass on the Word to others. Hopefully living by example.

Church numbers have fallen in recent years (esp. since COVID) due to death and moving away. Though many people still come but not as often.

We are struggling to know how to reach new people.

We are trying to be actively a larger part of the community – e.g. through the ECO Group.

What are you doing now?

Telling, informing others we come in contact with at our various events.

Our reordered and flexible church enables us to use the building for local community benefit as well *ASA Just worship*

just worship.

Regular coffee mornings, pop-ins take place (Warm Space). We use these to hand out invitations and advertise what we do.

Eco Events sponsored by the ECO Group and working towards Eco Church award.



Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Visitors remark on warm, friendly reception and some beginning to ask about faith.

Teaching and nurturing the young about nature and God's creation when we have the opportunity.

Even if we are all often fearful, there is a growing understanding of the realities the church face and a willingness to explore ways of mutual support and working between the churches.

What are you fearful about?

Lack of people attending church.

Reduction in church attendance.

How anglo-catholic faith will help or conflict with others in Minster Community. Losing our identity and spirituality.

Small group of ageing volunteers do everything – we need help!

Losing members of the church

What are you hopeful for?

That we will be able to encourage others to discover God.

That we will again be able to reconnect with families and younger people as well as adults who have not yet made the first step in faith.

How you can pray for us.

That there will be a greater unity of churches and faiths.

How we might reach out more effectively and for strength to meet our challenges

1

Church name: Thurnby St Luke's

Date:

Who are you?

A medium sized church; focused on worship, Bible teaching; families; evangelism, growing as disciples who love Jesus.

Committed to the principles of being a Resourcing Church– reaching the 93% (+) outside the church; planting churches; mission-focus.

Self-consciously evangelical.

"Foundations: Belonging, Growing, Multiplying, Serving".

A staff team of clergy and lay workers.

Committed to schools and community.

Where have you come from?

We have a track record of planting, grafting, and engaging in mission projects.

Grafted into Houghton in 2011.

Resourcing Church since 2018.

Planted Living Hope Church in 2022.

We are smaller than pre-Covid; and conscious of the need to rebuild families, childrens and youth work.

Where are you going?

Committed to investing in and growing our existing congregations, supporting our plants/grafts/pioneering. Building and preparing to open a community café project in Thurnby.

(Priorities for 2023 are Sharing our Faith in Jesus; Building and Opening the Hub; Growing Children's and Youth work)

What are you doing now?

A mix of working on our foundations, post-Covid; while supporting our outreach projects and partners locally, and praying for the next opportunities.

Building our schools and community work.

Getting on with things like Home Groups; Pastoral Care; Ministry among young people and older people!

What would it look like to:

- share - governance
- operations
- clergy
- PCCs
- Appointments etc.

Vision and
Values

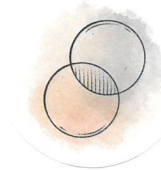
- What do we share?

Finance

Questions

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

We see evidence of the kingdom of God in people coming to a personal faith in Jesus; and as we grow as disciples of Jesus.

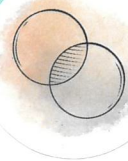
**What are you fearful about?**

Spreading stipendiary ministry more thinly across many churches leading to decline rather than growth.

Ending up in maintenance mode rather than mission mode.

Decisions being made based on what exists now, rather than what might be.

Recent C of E developments around LLF – the damage being caused by leaders and churches walking away from the authority and teaching of scripture.

**What are you hopeful for?**

People coming to know Jesus in our churches and communities.

People growing in faith as disciples, and growing as new leaders.

Positive impact from the Hub community café.

Further opportunities to plant and graft in the coming years.

Developing a shared sense of missional understanding with possible partners over the coming months and years.

How you can pray for us.

To be faithful in sharing the good news of Jesus;

For the task of opening the Hub later this year, while supporting our ministries/ planting etc.

Growing new leaders; and our children's and youth work.



How can we look
forwards not
backwards

Who are you?

We are a growing community of families and individuals from across Netherhall who are discovering ways in which we are 'not forgotten'. This includes residents representing their community; activities and services for those experiencing hardship; and families encountering stories from the Bible together.

Where are you going?

We hope to establish a permanent, sustainable Christian community on the Estate, which is empowered to love their neighbours.

We hope to see people developing a deeper understanding of faith, and emerging leaders within the estate.

We hope to see an estate where people know they have worth and are able to seek flourishing for themselves and those around them.

Where have you come from?

Many, especially those from local churches, remember a time when St Elizabeth's church was at the heart of the Netherhall community. Since it closed, they have been praying that there will be a church presence on the estate.

Starting by praying on a bench during the 2020 lockdown, Matthew Creber has worked with local churches as he spent time building relationships and gathering community, forging a role as a 'community chaplain'.

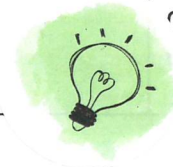
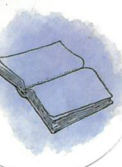
What are you doing now?

We are currently gathering with families every week, enjoying activities, sharing bible stories, eating and praying together.

We are working with the Netherhall Community Association to provide events for residents, and to advocate on behalf of the community.

We are supporting the foodbank run by a local community church.

We are regularly leading worship in the local care-home.



Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Where we see meaningful friendships being built between local families. Where we see people feeling less isolated, or able to cope with adversity. Where residents find themselves able to speak with confidence to councillors who make decisions about their lives.



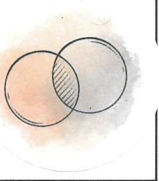
Where 'people of peace' get involved and work together towards the common good.

**What are you hopeful for?**

The future of the community. Committed people of faith living in the area who can ensure continuity. The ongoing commitment of local churches.

What are you fearful about?

The fragility of it all. The risk of there being no succession, or resource for a continued church presence in the community. The sheer extent of the need, the avenues for exertion, the necessity for long-term commitment. The impact of the end of the foodbank on local families.

**How you can pray for us.**

That the relationships build will be long-lasting and meaningful. That people will grow in love for God and each other.



~~More~~ An increasing amount rests on a small number of busy people!

Increasing discipleship
A deeper sense of Christian Community!