

1 Church name: St. James the Greater Church, Oaks-in-Charnwood.

Date: Compiled by the PCC on 18-10-2023

<p><u>Who are you?</u></p> <p>A close-knit rural church located within a farming community.</p> <p>We see our Anglican Church as being a focal point. Our 'catchment area' is the Ecclesiastical Parish of Oaks-in-Charnwood, but in truth our congregation is from further afield e.g.: Shepshed, Loughborough, Coalville and Whitwick.</p> <p>In the main our congregation at church is primarily Elderly and must summarize by stating that at the present time we are NOT intergenerational!</p>	<p><u>Where have you come from?</u></p> <p>A traditional church that has focused on trying to adapt to change. We have always prided our selves on using Fund Raising Events to draw in people from other communities with our primary event being the Oaks Spring Fair which attracts in the region of 4,000 for a day of pleasure.</p> <p>Farming community events include: Plough Sunday, Daffodil Tea, Spring Fair; Harvest Supper and Harvest Service, Pet Service have become traditional to our church and social life guaranteeing us a loyal following.</p> <p>We are happy to accept Female Leadership.</p>
<p><u>Where are you going?</u></p> <p>We are focusing on what we need to do if we are to become an Intergeneration, we know that we need to think beyond the age of our current congregation and will use the Minster Community to help us explore things that other churches have found successful</p>	<p><u>What are you doing now?</u></p> <p>We are teaming up with a Forest School whose leader has offered to update our thinking of "what will make a child friendly service" coupled with the parameters that we need to operate within to manage a religious service.</p> <p>Open reach was supposed to be delivered in The Oaks and Charley in 2020 but as yet it has not so we are still without wifi. We are just about to commence the introduction of a card reader for cashless giving.</p>

2 Church name:: St. James the Greater Church – Oaks-in-Charnwood

Date: Compiled by PCC on 18/10/2023

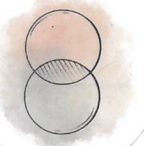
<p><u>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</u></p> <p>We have had new people attending services and more importantly returning. We have recognized that we occasionally have baptisms that afford us a chance to bring people who might not normally attend church through our doors. The quality of our ability to make those attending feel as though they could belong is a challenge and we are facing it head-on.</p> <p>Improve our website and usage - work with St Botolph's to improve our benefice website,</p>	<p><u>What are you fearful about?</u></p> <p>Falling numbers coupled with a lack of growth coupled with small indicators of growth that are not fast enough</p> <p>No dedicated Clergy</p> <p>How can we meet the demands of self-sufficiency with so few able-bodied volunteers.</p> <p>No schools in our Ecclesiastical Parish.</p>
<p><u>What are you hopeful for?</u></p> <p>Grow our faith – we recognise that we need to share our faith with each other – Bible classes – maybe link in with our sister church to breach gaps that our differing styles of worship have created. Casio</p> <p>A social areas inside the church (remove – reposition 4/5 pews</p> <p>Health and Safety: Safe access into the church is nigh on impossible for those with mobility needs – this is an important issue and, we need to search for a new and innovative solution.</p>	<p><u>How can others pray for you?</u></p> <p>Don't hide our fears, people who are not always churchgoers will have their own reasons for the survival of a church.</p> <p>Pastoral, Social, Friends of the church!</p> <p>Be respectful of each other</p> <p>Think outside of the Box!</p>

1 Church name: St Mary the Virgin, Osgathorpe

Date: 3rd October 2023

Who are you?

- We are St. Mary's Osgathorpe, one of the smallest rural churches in the Diocese.
- Our church attendance has declined over a number of years with a small core of people keeping the church going.
- We are part of a local benefice community which consists of Belton, Ong Whetton, Kegworth, Diseworth and Hathern. This is working well, and the Benefice has become closer since the Covid lockdowns.
- We are a church that is well supported in fundraising events by the people of Osgathorpe.
- We have no school in the parish and families with children don't attend church.



Where are you going?

- We are at a crossroads, with no Team Rector, no Churchwarden and a declining church attendance from people in the village.
- We have an ageing church population and succession planning is difficult.
- We are not sure where we are going, but we are open to new ideas.

Where have you come from?

- We were a church with a small, but stable, church community, including a small choir.
- We had children coming to church to child-focused services.
- Historically, we have had more clergy and administrative resources to support us.

What are you doing now?

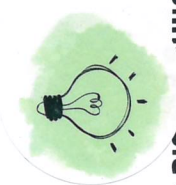
- We are in the process of consulting with the residents of Osgathorpe to ask them what they want from their church. Once we have collated their responses, we will decide our next steps.
- In our benefice, services take place on a six-week rotational basis at each church, with each church having its own service on the first Sunday of the month.
- In addition to services in church, Home Church takes place once a month and has drawn in a different group of worshippers.
- We have a very active Fundraising Committee which organises fundraising events to raise money for our church building repairs.
- In the absence of a Churchwarden, we are distributing roles between PCC members to keep the church going.
- We are communicating with the Diocese for advice and assistance with grant funding for major repairs.

2 Church name: St Mary the Virgin, Osgathorpe

Date: 3rd October 2023

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- The willingness of the community to support the church with money and time.
- Support and generosity for the local Food Bank (Shepshe Food Bank).
- Home Church discussions are enabling people to engage with worship in a different way.



What are you fearful about?

- That we don't have the people to run the church in Osgathorpe and we will have to close.
- An expectation that we should be doing more as lay people.
- That the fellowship we have developed as a benefice will be lost.
- That this reorganisation will not solve the problems it is intended to address.
- That there will be fewer and fewer clergy to minister to
- That there will be fewer Holy Communion services.



What are you hopeful for?

- That people in Osgathorpe come forward to help keep the church open.
- That we will develop new partnerships within the Minster Community, drawing on our experience of a six-church benefice.
- That we do not lose all our connections with our current benefice partners.

How can others pray for you?

- To give us strength to manage our next steps.
- For greater community engagement with the church and church services.

1 Church name: Holy Rood, Packington

Date: 19/10/2023

<p>Who are you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are proud of our beautiful old building (and its history), which is well maintained and highly valued by the residents of the village, even if the majority visit it rarely. We maintain a "low" church tradition and bible centred ministry is still very important to us, but we are more inclusive than in the past and willing to incorporate elements of other traditions which enrich our worship and our experience of God. A congregation of people most of whom live in our village and the majority of whom are elderly. There is a relatively small but very active and faithful core of worshippers who work very hard. Most of our members value tradition and familiarity highly but, whilst we find too much change challenging, many of us are open to fresh ways of doing things and experimenting with different types of worship and different activities We are people with a strong faith but many of us find it difficult to articulate it. We are friendly and welcoming and keen to maintain and build up our church and reach out to others, but a heavy burden falls on a few, who realistically need additional support since energy levels decrease with age! We recognise that we have been blessed by God and our resources enable us regularly to give 10% of our income to various, mainly Christian, local and international charities. 	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We worship in an ancient Grade II* listed building, set in our small rural village and which has roots going back to the 11th Century. Historically, we have come from a conservative evangelical tradition. A Mission with an internationally known speaker was held in 1970 which revitalised several of the congregation and grew their faith, and the church became very active. The church was also influenced to some extent by the charismatic movement – brought fresh enthusiasm and new worship songs amidst the traditional. Until a year or two prior to COVID, we had an organist and robed choir which sang at all our main services. The church has a solid financial foundation stemming at least in part, from the introduction of a stewardship giving scheme over 50 years ago We used to meet for prayer and bible study regularly, but it is a long time since that happened, although several members attend team-wide Lent courses. For many years we had well-attended Family Services (and very popular Holiday Clubs in the summer) and we continued to hold them until there were virtually no children coming – only embarrassed adults! Sunday Club was held regularly for younger children until just before COVID struck. For many years lay people have taken on considerable responsibility.
<p>Where are you going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are endeavouring to follow God's leading but in a period of transition this is difficult as many things are out of our hands. The degree of capacity and support which we shall have in the future, in order to see our hopes fulfilled, will become clearer once we are living under the structure of a Minister Community We are painfully adjusting to new realities and praying that God will help us to work with them in ways which will see our church flourish 	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are awaiting the result of our quinquennial survey and any requirements in terms of our building which that may dictate. We are awaiting building work to repair a boundary wall and tombs. We are continuing with our "social" and children's events and maintaining 3 services per month. We are involved in the process of appointing a new Rector and in the MC process We are taking HC to the housebound and carrying out pastoral care as far as we are able. We are looking for a new treasurer and PCC secretary. With no church hall and very limited space in our kitchen area, we are seeking to expand our storage by re-organisation of our facilities, and acquire new tables, in order to improve our ability to cater for social events.

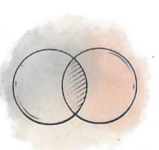
2 Church name: Holy Rood, Packington

Date: 19/10/2023

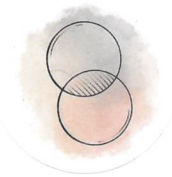
<p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our "social activities" coffee and chat, lunches, and special services e.g. Songs of Praise and events e.g. Heritage Day – people are no longer apprehensive about coming into the church and would attend more social events if we could provide them. In our embryonic work with children In a small number of new people joining our congregation In the huge support for our Ladies' Group In new ventures such as the re-invigorated bell-ringers and the community choir, broadening, the number of people using the church, as well as revealing general goodwill and helpfulness from many who very rarely, if ever, come to a service. 	<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That our church will wither on the vine as congregations diminish That our non-stipendiary clergy and a small number of very active volunteers will become overwhelmed by the enormous workload they have. That the leadership at Diocesan level will become increasingly impervious to the needs of people at local level That the Church of England will become a complete irrelevance in people's lives and we will become either a secular nation or one dominated by non-Christian religions. That we shall have little say in our own future That our resources will be pooled, which will result in reduced giving and the inability to maintain our church or serve the people of our community Increasing lack of free speech in our nation, which will deter the Christian voice Escalating violence in the Middle East with untold and grave implications for all of us.
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <p>A full time vicar shared with a manageable number of other churches would be ideal! However, under the MC structure we hope to maintain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> our church's permanent availability in our village as the House of God the opportunity for regular and frequent opportunities of worshipping the Lord the opportunity for learning and personal reaffirmation of faith through almost weekly services <p>(continued on the back)</p>	<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the pressing need for volunteers as church officers and helping with practical jobs, especially the churchyard, will be met. For development of work with children and young people and a lower profile to the age of our congregation Stretched as we are, that we may be able to care for our elderly and frail and the lonely, effectively. That we may have more of a heart for "mission" – for reaching out with the Good News to those who do not know Jesus. That we may be able to build on our links with the school That our initial small steps towards becoming an Eco church may gain support within the church membership so that we can make substantial progress towards our goal. For health and strength for our lay leaders and time for rest and renewal.

What are you hopeful for? Cont.**And also:**

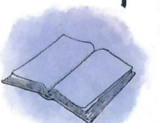
- to be able to share in meaningful collaborative leadership rather than just be visited by a flying clergy-person now and again.
- such allocation of ministry that we shall be able to maintain our services and activities and expand on them
- increased partnership with the village school, offering increased opportunities for the school children to come into church, to be joined in their Christian teaching in the school, and to take part in fun activities with the church.
- the ability to develop further our outreach to children generally
- praying more openly and compassionately for the needs of the villagers when they are in difficulties and for the needs of our church and the wider world
- developing opportunities for the men of the village to get together
- developing connections with groups of young people in the village, perhaps through their clubs and societies or specific events
- developing links with Christians in Ashby and perhaps sharing opportunities for being with and helping our young people as they gravitate away from Packington School towards the outside world.
- to be in closer partnership with other churches who appear to struggle more than we do, e.g. Normanton-le-Heath
- more of our congregation being willing to undertake roles within the church e.g. on the PCC, regularly setting up for events, reading with the school children, leading intercessions
- that a new Rector will be appointed in response to the advertisement just about to be issued, who will help us to discern God's will for our future.



1 Church name: St Andrews, Prestwold with Hoton		Date: 09/10/2023
<p>Who are you?</p> <p>We are a beautiful small rural church serving four villages sited in the grounds of Prestwold Hall. It has a number of monuments of significant importance.</p> <p>We are part of the Wolds group of churches and a service is held here most Sundays.</p> <p>We have between 24 to 28 weddings a year as couples tend to have their reception at the hall and many couples bring their children back to be baptized.</p> <p>In recent years we had reordering to the West End to provide disabled access and toilet and gallery seating.</p>		<p>Where have you come from?</p> <p>In 1987 St Leonards Church in Hoton closed and we became a single parish.</p> <p>We have worked closely with the other churches in the group and have developed a new service pattern.</p> <p>We have a static congregation that is aging and depleting and this is supplemented by the wedding couples. Burton on the Wolds has grown to over 1,000 but the church is located away from the village, so it is difficult for people living there to identify us as their parish church.</p>
<p>Where are you going?</p> <p>Looking to capitalise on opportunities with wedding couples. Aim to build stronger links within the Wolds Group.</p> <p>Aim to target the extensive new builds particularly in Burton in the Wolds.</p> <p>We have seen extensive growth in Ordained and Lay ministries but looking to continue to develop the ministry team and lay ministers.</p> <p>Developing outreach opportunities through events at the church, engaging with the local countryside e.g. Wildflower walks.</p> <p>Registered as Inclusive Church and working towards Eco Church and Fairtrade recognition.</p>		<p>What are you doing now?</p> <p>Outreach work – monthly coffee and cake event at Burton on the Wolds with thirty plus people attending.</p> <p>Developing links with Burton Village school and increasing involvement.</p> <p>With the Wolds group we have developed the ministry team and number of lay ministers.</p> <p>Extensive wedding ministry including two marriage preparation days at Prestwold Hall.</p>



2 Church name: St Andrew's Church, Prestwold with Hoton		Date: 19/10/2023
<p>Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?</p> <p>We see the Kingdom of God emerging from our schools, wedding couples and baptisms.</p> <p>Increase in lay ministries.</p> <p>Our outreach work.</p>		<p>What are you fearful about?</p> <p>The financial future and a considerable repair bill for quinquennial works to the tower roof.</p> <p>The declining congregation numbers.</p> <p>Losing our identity as a small rural church within the larger structure of a Minster Community.</p>
<p>What are you hopeful for?</p> <p>Continuing to develop the outreach work and links with the wider community.</p> <p>Working in partnership with a minister community to develop mission and grow in depth of discipleship</p> <p>The increasing number of outside bell ringers that visit the church.</p>		<p>How can others pray for you?</p> <p>For us to transfer successfully into a Minister Community that can support and help us to develop. For us to be able to continue making meaningful connections with wedding couples, the school and the wider community.</p>



Who are you?

- St Bartholomew's has been a United Anglican Methodist Church for 45 years. As such we offer a wide range of services comprising both Methodist and Anglican traditions, also including fully ecumenical services for all. A richness has been brought by this process, with guest clergy of both denominations, along with services conducted by our Anglican Lay Minister and Methodist Local Preachers.
- We enjoy a high standard of music, with a four-part choir led by our Music Director. We offer services in the full choral church tradition as well as modern contemporary musical arrangements led by our own musicians. We have a peal of eight bells and a team of bell-ringers.
- There is wide lay involvement in all our activities, good leadership and extensive work.
- We, as individuals, consider ourselves to be a welcoming and friendly fellowship church where we are made to feel valued and comfortable. We are fully embedded in the community through involvement in village affairs and use by local groups.
- We hold joint services and family-oriented events with Quorn Methodist Church.
- We work ecumenically with other organisations.

Where are you going?

- We are encouraging more parents, children and young people to be involved in church services and to become involved with the church.
- We are in the process of reinvigorating the provision of pastoral care.
- Discussions are presently in train with a retired member of the C of E clergy who has specialist knowledge in this field.
- We have identified that the administrative burden on the church has increased since our Vicar retired and, as a consequence, we have undertaken a thorough review of our requirements. A plan has been approved to ensure the effective use of appropriate skills and resources.
- The leadership of Quorn United Church comes from the United Church Council, which acts as both Parish Church Council and Methodist Church Council, and its sub-committees. The Anglican Churchwardens and Methodist Church Stewards work collaboratively to provide effective leadership for the church.

Where have you come from?

- St Bartholomew's Church has enjoyed nearly continuous worship for 885 years. The building dates from 1138, and was enlarged in the 13th, late 14th, 15th, 19th and 20th Centuries. The building is Grade I listed and is largely fit for purpose, with modern facilities, and is well maintained. Attached to the building is a private chapel which is the property of a local family and not part of the Diocese.
- St Bartholomew's Church is a solitary C of E Parish with an incumbent Priest who was consecrated in 2021. The church is a United Anglican Methodist shared building since 1983. The church is presently in a state of repair, and is fully supported by the Methodist Circuit.
- Two C of E schools are located in the village, St Bartholomew's Primary School and Rawlins Academy (Secondary).
- The church benefits from a separate Church Hall building which is extensively used by the local community and houses a Pre-School.

What are you doing now?

- We are presently running our own affairs despite being in an interregnum. This includes organising all of our services, both clergy and lay led. We have maintained at least one service every Sunday (including Anglican or Methodist Communion and a monthly ecumenical Family service, together with monthly BCP Sung Evensong) and hold a monthly mid-week morning BCP Communion service. The organisation is undertaken by our internal committees working collectively, with full accountability to the UCC. Baptisms and funerals have continued. We offer a regular monthly theological discussion group and seasonal courses. Events and special services are widely promoted through a variety of media.




Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- a lively led church that we are growing in. Quorn is God working through us. The church community has become much tighter since the pandemic and the commitment of our Vicar.
- We have good links with the two church schools within our parish, Rawlins Academy (Secondary) and St Barts (Primary), with Foundation at both schools. We have regular input into assemblies at St Bar
- Theological Open the Book team and our Methodist and Lay schools hold assemblies in church at key points of the year.
- We support local and national charities: Intercare (a medical charity), Loughborough (for those with housing, finance and food issues), Aid, and The Children's Society.
- The church building acts as a valuable resource for village activities, being open to all members of the community. One particularly popular activity is the Saturday morning Coffee and Chat, which enables residents to develop social links and is particularly valuable for newcomers to the village.
- The church WhatsApp group is very supportive and reinforces the feeling of

What are you hopeful for?

- look forward to reinforcing links with churches of all denominations and creating new ones via the Minister process.

What are you fearful about?

- 
 We will lose our unique dual denominational
 and the autonomy we have developed during
 interregnum, which has been very effective to

 left without a designated successor
 itely, which raises concerns
 inability, as our current leadership teetering.

 We will lose the ability to book local and retired
 for services due to Minister operational reasons
 a dwindling supply of clergy.

Can others pray for you?

- Pray for all the people involved with this process, to provide the required guidance, knowledge and feedback from meetings to respective committees and congregations, and for a positive attitude to prevail to achieve the Minster goal for us all.

1 Church name: St Michael & All Angels Church Ravenstone

Date 17th October 2023

Who are you?

We are the Parish Church of Ravenstone
We are part of a village community which is expanding
We are part of the National Forest & Ravenstone Conservation Area

Where have you come from?

The church is medieval regarded as a monument and considered a precious building
It is 700 years since the first Vicar was recorded
The church has always been a focal point of the village
There are many family memorials in our well visited churchyard

Where are you going?

We are engaged in community outreach
We wish to rediscover our community heart
We want to be place where people enjoy coming and be accessible and welcoming to all
We want the building to be well invested for maintenance etc.

What are you doing now?

We are involved with a National Heritage Lottery Project (NHLF)
We are reordering the church to make it fit for purpose
We wish to provide new facilities
We are trying to encourage and attract new people to join us
We seek to promote involvement and a sense of belonging generally

Exploring possibility
of resources
during future
visit to churchyard

eco church
idea of running
a camera at
night to see wildlife
we will explore.

2 Church name: St Michael & All Angels Church Ravenstone

Date: 17th October 2023

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

The congregation is beginning to grow – new faces
The choir is growing in number
Coffee mornings are well supported
The importance of church is slowly being recognized
Elizabeth II, when people needed to come to engage in private prayer and reflection

What are you fearful about?

Not being able to utilise the building effectively
Getting older – lack of young people and the next generation to continue the work of the church
Cost of managing the church – budgets etc
What Minster Community will mean for us

What are you hopeful for?

New life in the church
Aspiration of built to serve and a wish to serve to build
Hope that Minster Community will be beneficial
Hoping to grow spiritually as well as in number

How can others pray for you?

Share our vision – prayerful support
Use the space in church for reflection and for sharing concerns privately as individuals and collectively
See church as a safe place to come to for prayer
Develop a family atmosphere

Who are you?

Rothley Parish Church, a single church benefice with 268 on the electoral roll and average Sunday attendance of 170 plus 25 under 16s. Our congregations are made up of people of all ages, including an encouraging number of young families. There is a wide range of services and small group activity on offer week by week. We have a generous congregation, such that we are able to give significant support above and beyond our ministry costs to the Diocese and also support a range of local, national and international mission societies. We are set in a community that has seen 1,000 new homes in the past decade, with 2,000 more being developed on the southern edge of the parish.

Where are you going?

The church's Patron is the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), an Anglican evangelical mission agency, and our priorities as a church are founded upon an orthodox view of the authority of Scripture. This is the solid bedrock of our preaching and teaching ministry, both in church, in the nine house groups in the parish (attended by about 100 people) and in the Sunday School. Building up the faith of those who are already Christians and reaching out with the love of Christ in various ways to those who don't know Christ is at the heart of what we are about.

Where have you come from?

The church building dates back to 1160, so is deeply rooted in the community. Over the years the church has had an important civic role, pioneered village primary school education, been at the forefront of social reform initiatives and provided a wide range of pastoral support. It remains part and parcel of village life. Most recently, we partnered with the village Baptist Church to establish a foodbank.

What are you doing now?

Evaluation is a current priority and we are exploring new ways to reach people in our rapidly expanding community. The development of new, younger leaders, both in terms of leading and preaching and in children's and youth work, is well underway. Our involvement in the village primary school is well-established, including supporting staff INSET, residentials for disadvantaged children, weekly assemblies, lunchtime club and church services, and is something we are aiming to develop further, along with our work in local care homes. Our aim is to show the love of Christ in tangible ways in the many opportunities that come along.

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

In people coming to faith and in a more evangelistic focus alongside social action. New initiatives for young families in the village are bearing fruit and the weekly "Little Fishes" toddler group is going from strength to strength. The fortnightly Wednesday Lunches and the work in local care homes are meeting needs for older people. Encouragingly, the number of people involved in housegroups for Bible teaching, prayer and fellowship continues to grow, emphasising the enthusiasm of our members to deepen their faith, encourage one another in living it out and in caring for one another.

What are you hopeful for?

A church that retains a clear focus on biblical orthodoxy and bringing the gospel to every home in a rapidly-expanding community. Further development of our community involvement (a pending church reordering project includes the provision of a kitchen and toilets which will be a major asset). Continued increased utilisation by the local community of our newly-refurbished Old School Rooms (our church hall). Giving evangelism a greater priority in the life of the church. Building a Church that is more fully representative of the whole demographic of the parish.

What are you fearful about?

1. Fragmentation of the Church at national level (and hence a diminution of its impact) if there is a further departure from the Church of England's biblical inheritance and Anglican doctrine by the House of Bishops and General Synod later this year.
2. The weight of organisational change takes energy from our core mission.
3. The external pressures on our young families, which can limit both their participation and their spiritual growth.
4. Increasing challenges in connecting with 16-30s.

How can others pray for you?

1. That our focus on orthodox biblical teaching and on Jesus Christ as The Way, The Truth, and The Life will continue to be central to the life of the parish
2. That our emphasis on looking outward in present Good News will further develop as we look to the Holy Spirit to direct our ways
3. For the ongoing development of lay leaders
4. For succession planning for many of the Church ministries

<p>Who are you?</p> <p>All Saints Seagrave is a small (pop. c.500) rural, evangelical, outward-looking church family and part of a three parish Benefice. We are not <i>conservative evangelical</i> but respect the views of those who are. We are integrated in our village and, as a church, take an active part in village events. We are fortunate that many of Seagrave's residents view the church as an important part of the village and, although reluctant to commit themselves to regular help, are willing to help occasionally and with specific fundraising appeals.</p>	<p>Where have you come from?</p> <p>All Saints church (Grade II* listed) has been the centre of worship in the village for hundreds of years and we are keen to see this continue.</p> <p>We have tried various things to encourage families and younger adults into our church but have yet to find the key. We feel that the Benefice was more integrated in the past with, for example, a family service rotating among the three churches, which no longer happens and which we regret.</p>
<p>Where are you going?</p> <p>We have a reputation for being a welcoming church, for good pastoral care (plus good refreshments!) which we feel is important for fellowship and community engagement and we want that to continue. Our Rector has a new mission plan for the Benefice but, because Sibley's population is rising rapidly, he can only devote limited time to Seagrave.</p>	<p>What are you doing now?</p> <p>We currently have 3 Sunday services each month in Seagrave - a 9.30am Breakfast service, a 5pm Songs of Praise (jointly with the congregation of our sister church in the small village of Cossington) and a 5pm BCP Holy Communion. There is also a monthly joint service in Cossington at 9.30am. In Seagrave, people come for fellowship and refreshments before the service and the welcoming atmosphere has been remarked on by visiting clergy and others. Community activities include Monday coffee hour; Tuesday music and hymns; Wednesday Club for Toddlers and their carers; church bell-ringing training and handbell ringing; Christmas choir; concerts; annual quiz; involvement in village activities such as the annual Fete and The Seagrave Wolds Challenge. We contribute monthly to the Seagrave Village Magazine.</p>

Church name: All Saints , Seagrave

Date: 15th October 2023

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

We are finding this difficult to see at the moment in view of the difficulties we are experiencing with encouraging younger people into the church and with an ageing congregation and shrinking numbers of people to do what's needed. On the positive side, we have practical help in terms of our flower arrangers' rota and daily church opening rota from villagers who are not regular churchgoers. Moreover, the Minster Community process has resulted in several members of the wider community showing increased interest in the church

What are you fearful about?

That there will be insufficient stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy going forward to serve the needs of the Diocese. Some of us fear that Seagrave church will be forced to close, losing all that has been invested by our forebears and the place that has been the focus of worship at the heart of our community for several hundred years. That uncertainty about the formation of Minster Communities, the process of change and the time it is taking will get in the way of achieving its objectives.

What are you hopeful for?

growth of family and inter-generational activity in Seagrave, easing our congregation both in numbers (average 22 in 2022) depth of faith.

, that the broader range of people in a Minster Community will bring more ideas, a wider range of resources and new opportunities. That we can increase our (stable) income and continue to meet our parish contribution, develop our mission and maintain the church building. (We have increased our 2024 offer to the level requested by the Diocese and believe we can fulfil this.)

How can others pray for you?

for more people to do things in Seagrave church - practical jobs, as well as membership of the PCC. For wisdom and ideas for our PCC. For the success of SBGT and the formation of our Minster Community. For continuing and growing relationships that individuals in the church family have with the village school and through our Wednesday Club for toddlers and their carers. For more clergy and lay outreach in the community.

1 Church name: Sileby

Date: 14/10/2023

Who are you?
Bible based and led by the Holy Spirit. Bible teaching. Gospel focussed.
Evangelical – the Bible is the word of God.
Welcoming caring, loving, supportive and inclusive.
Small in number but strong in faith.
Freedom in worship. Lay participation in leading worship.

Where have you come from?

Faithful clergy
Used to be more traditional – became evangelical under Alan Turner; initially shrinking then growing, continued under Alan Costerton, becoming more charismatic evangelical, then become more conservative evangelical under Richard Hopkins.
Bible believing
Members working together to form functioning groups and activities
Prayerful – seeking God's leading
Members giving time and money to further aims.
Devotion of members who have grown up here
Hard work and dedication of spirit-filled people

Where are you going?

To seek God's direction for what he wants to show our church
To learn what God's will is through prayer, Bible Study and the Holy Spirit's guidance
To be obedient to do his will
To live by truth
To proclaim the gospel to Sileby
To reach out to others with the gospel
To reach out into the community and we others come into the church family
To show God's love to our wider community
To become more multicultural and welcoming to all people
To be bolder
To see each member using their God-given gifts in church
To restore close friendships that pray together and draw new members in
To do more social events in order to deepen relationships with one another and also to invite the village to eg films, concerts, art exhibitions (faith based), weekend music festival (combine with Hope sings), Sofa chat, Big Questions
Schools open the book

What are you doing now?

Meet every week
On-line service available
Baptisms, weddings, funerals
Support and encourage the disabled
Homegroups
Prayer
Food bank
Well-being café
Lunch club
Youth group – Bible teaching, games, mostly unchurched teens
Momentum
Squeals – playgroup
Ladies' fellowship
Reach out to the community
Hope Explored
Schools visits to church and assemblies
Shoe box (Christmas)

2 Church name: Sileby

Date: 14/10/2023

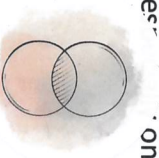
Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Leonard Cheshire Bible study
Opportunities to pray for people at Food Bank and Well-Being café
Toddlers' group
Ladies' fellowship
Lunch Club
Hope Sings
House groups
Prayer Chain
Individual pastoral care



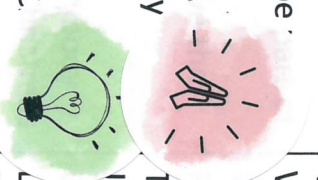
What are you fearful about?

Saying the wrong thing when talking to non-Christians
Getting into the wrong minister community partnership – especially one that is not Bible centred
Managing change well
Step in to the unknown in forming new church groups
Where and when?
That we won't grow and be able to maintain our building and activities
Not having people that are able and willing to do what needs to be done
Our 20-30s not having people to connect with and going elsewhere
Few young children
Older communities limited resources for running services/events



What are you hopeful for?

Strong partnerships
Growth in discipleship and numbers
Growth in gifts
Strength and encouragement from like-minded Christians
New opportunities to further the kingdom
Welcome people into church who will want to return and be our "family of God"
Church growth – more people of all ages who know and love
Lord to love and serve each other and the wider community
Growth
Pooling resources from other church for the benefit of everyone
Reaching to the extremities of the village (eg letter drops, C services/visiting)



How can others pray for you?

Harmony
God's will to be done
Financial viability long-term
Generosity of spirit
Wisdom
Willingness to be open to change
Work in love
People to come to Christ and join with us and be family with us
To work together to see God's purposes fulfilled in and through us
Joy and enthusiasm
Unity on our prayers
Loving support for each other through this process
Draw back people

