

### Who are you?

- St Peter and St Paul's Church is a centrally placed grade I listed building, dating back to the 13th century with further development in the 1870s.
- A town church of Anglican High Church tradition in the Fosse team, and part of the Goscote Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Leicester. .
- In interregnum for some time and have recently shared a part time non stipendiary curate with St Mary's in Barkby. We have now lost our curate and our links with St Mary's
- A church that holds approx. 250 people, has a bell tower siting 8 bells.
- A church with links with the local school.
- We have a history of regular giving to the local foodbank and Carpenters arms.
- A church with a growing elderly population.

### Where are you going?

- Aiming to make a positive difference in our communities.
- Praying that as a new partnership, our parishes will embrace fresh ideas and opportunities to grow deeper in our faith and to share with others through word, action and example the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- seeking to spread the love of God and make a positive difference in our communities.
- Aiming to engage and encourage younger generations.

### Where have you come from?

- We have shared a part-time non-stipendiary curate with St Mary's Barkby, finishing in June.
- Running without church wardens, we are supported by a strong team of volunteers, progressing the maintenance of the church through a programme of fundraising, from events and grant applications.
- Sustaining regular service patterns of Anglican tradition, through the work of a team of an associate minister, active PCC and pioneer ministers work together with the current curate,
- Variety of groups available for the congregation or community.
- All age worship services and events and at key points in the church calendar.
- Completed Quinquennial inspection April 2023.

### What are you doing now?

- Working with a neighbouring parish, East Goscote to actively seek a team vicar. To preside over our parishes
- Engaging in conversations about joining a minster community.
- Registered to become an Eco church, we are currently working towards this goal.
- There are ambitions to improve the church by providing a refreshments area and accessible toilet facilities.
- Sustaining our community presence by hosting a range of social and fundraising events.
- Sustaining an active link with Churches together.

### Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

- All around us in everything. With us all the time but we don't always recognise it.
- It emerges in church when we all worship together, amongst our loving church family. In loving others within our Christian community.
- Events that include the local community e.g. Tots at 10, and school. In local groups and helping others.
- In the Coronation of the King and his actions.
- Some are struggling to see it emerging, locally and / or in the diocese, feeling it is 'closing down', in our current circumstances:
  - with no priest / dropping of services (8am and family worship).
- Some feel that God is not present.
- We don't need to see God moving forwards, let's concentrate on keeping him here with us now. Please stay.

### What are you hopeful for?

- A strong, vicar, faithful to us, that understands us and is centered in Syston, before we enter a minster community. A shepherd that helps to grow God's kingdom.
- That we can see the Holy Spirit at work and our church invigorated.
- That we won't destroy our slowly growing congregation.
- Direction for our church. That our church won't close.
- A lively community, with increased numbers, especially youth and families attending. This younger community to inspire us in the new minster area, so we can continue to offer friendship, care and prayer.
- Music and worship, developing a sense of community, a living community.
- The church to be open more.
- A more varied worship pattern, for example to suit families – different days / times.
- More social events.
- Improved communication – notices / website / social media.
- Peace and health for all. Peace between and within religions.

### What are you fearful about?

- Church closing, services stopping. Church no longer being used for worship or prayer.
- Lack of priest / leadership / guidance, positivity and clear way forwards.
- Reduced numbers of young people in the congregation, competition with other Sunday activities e.g. sports clubs.
- Not being encouraged and empowered but stifled by tradition and human authority.
- Too much change.
- Losing services, resulting in losing identity or sense of community.
- People drifting away.
- Holy communion being limited locally, resulting in potential transport difficulties.
- Of lack of care for people in need.
- Of destroying what we already have, a very caring congregation.
- The minster community being a cost saving exercise.

### How you can pray for us.

- Silently, boldly and in Christ, will God's will for us.
- Pray for our dedicated groups that are working hard to keep our church welcoming and open for worship.
- For a minster that we can all use.
- Against enormous odds.

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Church name:

Systonby

Date:

April 23

**Who are you?**

*St. Leonard's is a 'Festival' Church, has only 5 services a year. There are 13 the Electoral Roll*

**Where have you come from?**

In the past I understand this Church held fortnightly services but gradually over time, these have reduced. However, when services are held attendance is usually around 25 - 30 persons.

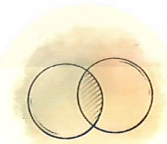
**Where are you going?**

With an ageing congregation and only 8 DCC members we try our best to encourage our faithful attendees to support us.

**What are you doing now?**

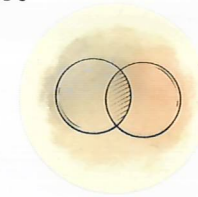
As mentioned previously we have 5 services a year (occasionally we may be lucky and have an extra service). We also try to hold fundraising events.

**Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?**  
Our aim is to offer a warm welcome to our congregation.



**What are you fearful about?**

We do not like the idea of our Church being merged with another.



**What are you hopeful for?**

That we can continue to serve our congregation

**How can others pray for you?**

By helping us to keep this ancient and lovely Church alive for future generations.