

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY & ST JOHN ROTHLEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1133832

Details

Other names ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-01-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Phone 01162302626

Email welcome@rothleychurch.org.uk

Website www.rothleychurch.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL.

Activities: Rothley Parish Church offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition, maintains a village-wide pastoral care role, supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement, maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups, co-operates and works with the other three Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£211,148	£183,654	-	-
2024-12-31	£332,036	£214,202	-	-
2023-12-31	£181,804	£212,886	-	-
2022-12-31	£254,446	£178,771	-	-
2021-12-31	£152,525	£172,715	-	-
2020-12-31	£153,760	£194,484	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ROB GLADSTONE	Chair	2013-09-16
Alison Sellar Parkinson		2020-10-15
Christopher John Garnett		2021-04-18
Elizabeth Anne Barker		2020-10-15
Helen Gillian Jones		2025-04-06
Irene Margaret Gregory Leverment		2021-04-18
Linda Poole		2015-03-29
Lisa Kathleen Cook		2025-04-06
Margaret Ann Rouse		2021-05-30
Nigel Robert Willey		2023-04-02
PROF DAVID JACK WILSON		2012-05-09
Raymond Prince		2019-04-07
Richard Leslie Croker		2025-04-06
SUSAN PINKUS		2015-04-16
SUSAN WILSON		2017-04-02
Sneha Ninan		2025-06-29

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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Cover picture: Baptism by immersion at our joyous Confirmation Service in November 2025

VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2025

2025 opened with about thirty people attending Hope Explored, and the Christmas celebrations were a joyful climax to end what has been a very busy year in the life of the Church. For all of us it has been a great joy to welcome Sneha as our curate, together with Dan, Lara and Diya. Already Sneha has had a great impact on the life of the Church, especially our lay training, on Shine and All Age services and in our ministry to Broadnook. This year has seen our largest group of families take part in a residential at St George's House, Devon, and the largest numbers accessing Christian conferences, such as the Midlands Men's and Women's Conventions and the Keswick Convention. Towards the end of the year we hosted a Deanery Confirmation service with the Bishop of Leicester and witnessed our first full immersion baptisms in the Church for a generation.

25 years ago, when I became vicar here, I chose the following passage as one of the readings: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5: *When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and great trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so*

that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but God's power. Since then, and continuing to the present day, I have sought to trust God's Word to do God's work, by the power of the Holy Spirit, as Sunday by Sunday, and in all manner of meetings, proclaiming Jesus Christ from all the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments. This is the bedrock of all that is detailed in the following pages as we seek to follow Christ and glorify him day by day.

In this I have been greatly supported and encouraged by a wonderful and evolving ministry team - lay, ordained and in training; by dedicated and diligent pastoral and administrative support; by deeply committed Churchwardens, organist and musicians, leaders and helpers of a wide range of ministries. None of what has been achieved would have been possible without the willing and faithful service of so many in the Church family, each offering their gifts in a huge variety of ways.

Being in ministry impacts home and family life, and none of what I have done would have been possible without the patient, loving and faithful support of Sarah.

Rob Gladstone

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2025

In taking on the role of Churchwarden it is clear to us as to the range of duties and time given by our retiring Wardens, Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath. We would therefore like to record our

thanks for their advice and guidance as we took over this mantle.

It is also prudent to thank Ray Prince, who retired as our Church Building

Manager after 4 years' service. His dedication to the maintenance of this historic church building has been invaluable. At the time of writing this review we are awaiting the Quinquennial Inspection Report from Simon Bird (Architect). However, all the indications are that the building is in good order and has been well maintained. We would also like to thank Marion Whitby in her support to Ray during this time.

By way of some detail, the churchyard was inspected by a member of the Charnwood Borough Council Open Spaces Team during 2025 who confirmed that it is well maintained and in very good order. In February work started on the refurbishment of the Garden of Remembrance. This included planning a new yew hedge, which is protected by posts and rope for the time being. This work has been possible by a generous donation from a member of the church. In April the lychgates were refurbished, again by a donation. In July a new safety rail was installed in the bell chamber and improved access to the 6 bells and tower roof was carried out. Each month a health & safety inspection, alongside programmed checks, is carried out. Any issues are reported to the PCC and rectified as appropriate.

As we embark on the long-awaited church building improvements, the installation of toilets and improved servery will, we trust, improve the welcome and fellowship in this place. Indeed, as the church is not only used for regular services, but also other associated events such as the Macmillan coffee morning, Saltmine Theatre production of Red Riding Hood and Rothley Primary School

assemblies/productions, these improvements are most welcome. Furthermore, the church is also open during the summer months for visitors, to not only admire the historical architecture, but to have the opportunity for quiet reflection in this busy and often confusing world.

In order to make the above happen, we are grateful to the many people who contribute, often unseen, to the effective running of this church building. These include our Assistant Wardens: Chris Garnett, Jean Johnson, Margaret Rouse, Fred Sleath, Simon Taylor and Marion Whitby; also Richard Neill & Richard Yates, our Vergers, who look after the arrangements for weddings and funerals; to Kath Pepall for her conscientious cleaning and Ian Sanders for ascending the church tower to fly flags on various occasions. Our thanks also go to audio-visual operators, coffee makers, flower arrangers, brass cleaners, bell ringers, church yard clearers and all others who enable the life of the Church to function. We also acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Linda Poole as our Old School Rooms Manager.

It is a privilege that as Wardens we can serve as part of such a vibrant and outward-looking fellowship. It is a blessing that services continue to be well attended and improved numbers coming over the Christmas period should be an encouragement to us all. Indeed, our Church is more than bricks and mortar, but a place where the gospel is preached and the risen Christ proclaimed.

Lisa Cook & Nigel Willey

SAFEGUARDING

Helen Jones is the safeguarding coordinator who reports to the PCC. She is assisted by Ruth Whalen. Together they work to ensure the Church of England's safeguarding policies are in place and that these are followed through within our parish. They also ensure that they feed back any safeguarding inquiries or concerns to appropriate people within the diocesan safeguarding team or the Church. All such communications are handled in the strictest confidence.

Helen and Ruth are incredibly grateful for the engagement that they have received from the parish over the past year on safeguarding matters.

All training can be accessed via the Safeguarding Training Portal (safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org). Alongside the training, a valid DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check is required for some roles. This is additional to the training. This is a nationally-run service which ensures the people we are recruiting to work in our children's, young people's and vulnerable adults' groups do not have a history of criminal offences.

Helen and Ruth will arrange sessions for church volunteers to assist in the completion of their online training to ensure that training records are up to date.

Readers will appreciate that safeguarding is an area that has received more attention from the Church of England in recent years. As a result, the role of safeguarding coordinator within the parish necessitates much paperwork and

ongoing checking of the parish safeguarding dashboard. Helen and Ruth are pleased to report that the parish's safeguarding dashboard is currently in good shape and is regularly monitored at PCC meetings. Any safeguarding improvements or concerns can be raised confidentially with Helen and Ruth.

The Safeguarding Coordinators' plan for 2026 is to work with the PCC and to maintain a safe, supportive, and caring environment for all.

Helen Jones and Ruth Whalen

CHURCH BUILDING

As in previous years, regular maintenance of the church building was carried out.

As the churchyard is closed, Charnwood Borough Council maintains the churchyard for us. This includes cutting the grass, looking after the headstones, paths, trees and walls. A member of the open spaces team from CBC visited the churchyard in 2025 and made the comment that it is well maintained, tidy and in very good order.

In February, work started on the refurbishment of the Garden of Remembrance. This involved cutting back overhanging tree branches, removing the old dead box hedging and replacing with a new yew hedge. To help and protect the new hedge, the posts and rope will remain for the time being. This work was made possible by a generous donation from a church member.

In April, the 2 lychgates were repaired, refurbished and repainted. Again, this was made possible by a donation.

In July, a new safety rail was installed in the bell chamber. At the same time extra work was carried out to make it safer to maintain the 6 bells and access the tower roof to raise the flags on top of the tower.

Ray Prince stepped down as Church Building Manager on 31st May after 4 years. Marion Whitby, who helped Ray, also stepped down. Thanks to Marion for all her help.

Each month a health and safety inspection is carried out in the church. If any issues are found, they are rectified and the PCC notified.

Every 5 years the PCC has a church Quinquennial Inspection. This is when our church architect, Simon Bird, spends a day inspecting the church and churchyard. He produces a report with recommendations. The latest inspection took place on 8th October 2025. Simon will produce his report for the PCC in early 2026. From initial discussions with Simon, we are pleased to report that the church is in general good order.

Nigel Willey & Ray Prince

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

I finished last year's report by hoping that the project would be completed by the end of 2025! Sadly, that didn't happen, and neither was it started. This

was due to a number of technical difficulties and circumstances beyond our control. However, I can now say with confidence that our Architect sent out documents inviting tenders for the work during November and we should be in a position to appoint a Contractor early in 2026 and hopefully at least the first and main phase of the work, notably the alteration of the Choir Vestry to incorporate Toilets, a Creche Room, stairs with stairlift to a new Meeting Room above, will be started and completed within 12 months from now, and hopefully the rest of the plan too. Obviously, it is anticipated that costs will have risen since our initial fundraising efforts, but hopefully we will be able to qualify for more grants from registered charities once the work has started, and, by God's grace, that church family members will consider further fundraising and personal contributions towards the work too, whether or not they were able to do this at the time of the initial funding launch at the start of 2024.

Fred Sleath

MINSTER COMMUNITIES

Our Parish is now well engaged in the Shaped by God Together process in which all parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to form groups to work together for the sake of the gospel. These are called Minster Communities.

The shape of our emerging Minster Community has become clear. We will be working alongside Thorpe Acre, Emmanuel, Shelthorpe and Grange Park in Loughborough, Mountsorrel, Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave. This

grouping has emerged with a shared understanding of the Scriptures; a joint commitment to the role of the local church in serving its community; and a commitment to develop new worshipping communities at the heart of the rapidly expanding new developments within the area.

Over the next year we expect the Minster Community to be inaugurated and for us to begin informal collaboration between the parishes where it will serve to enhance our mission.

Rob Gladstone

COMMUNICATION

In an ever-changing, fast-moving world, we endeavour to keep up with trends in communication to reach the wider community and invite them to come and join us as we meet together and follow Jesus. We also try to keep up with communication to our own church family, which again becomes more and more difficult in a world competing for our attention!

However, **the main and most productive invitations are the personal ones**, so we do encourage everyone to invite a family member, a neighbour, a friend or an acquaintance to our events and services, via a variety of fliers and communications produced for this purpose.

We continue to use our Church Facebook page to publicise the times and nature of our Sunday services, along with special events, particularly those aimed at families. We also use local social media sites and Instagram, particularly for one-off events and

family activities, and, of course, traditional noticeboards in the village.

We have had a total renewing and updating of our Church website this year. We rely on leaders to supply updates for their own areas of responsibility and Eric Hissett makes the changes. The Church Diary on the website shows what is happening in the church building, and The Old School Rooms page also shows its booking diary.

Our AV system in church continues to be a blessing generally, but occasionally a blight! However, everyone works hard to overcome any problems, to save paper and enhance worship, and to livestream at least one service every Sunday. Thanks to the team involved with this and the service leaders. Next year we hope to look at overhauling all our technology, including software for putting together orders of service, improved synchronisation and more smooth running of words and pictures on the screens!

I continued to produce the "Fellowship Post" weekly during the last year, except during the school summer holidays when it was fortnightly as there was less news to publicise. Those who read it regularly can keep up to date with what is happening and when, what to pray for and how to get involved in running or attending our events. I still email this to the majority of church family members on a Friday afternoon and send out about 23 printed copies to members who don't have computer facilities.

We are also getting increasing feedback that our Easter and Christmas cards stir people to come to our services and

events, so thanks to all who have delivered these in all weathers – it's worth it!

Liz Sleath

OUTREACH

Evangelism Group

This small group meets regularly to discuss how we can encourage and facilitate evangelistic events and projects in our community.

These include picnics, carol singing, coffee mornings and other occasions where people from the wider community are invited to join us in fellowship and are given the opportunity to hear the gospel and to find out about the church, what it is, who we are and what we believe.

In 2025, we did not have a picnic, although one is planned for 2026. We hosted a coffee morning in the church building in aid of the Macmillan charity and were pleased that this attracted a good number of people who would not usually come into the church. Carol singing around one of the estates was well received too.

The group does not intend to organise all the initiatives, but we aim to encourage our church family to be aware of their neighbours and to find ways in which we can all share our faith with others. There are many people in Rothley - and, now, in Broadnook - who need to meet us, and who need to meet Jesus. We need to create the opportunities for them to do it.

Little Fishes

Little Fishes is our amazing Monday morning, term-time baby and toddler group run exclusively by church members – a huge dedicated team, setting up the room on the day before, providing the refreshments, and putting on the actual group on Monday.

The focus is on a welcoming group where parents/carers can meet other families and build relationships. Those who volunteer chat and mingle, with the refreshment team putting on tea/coffee and toast. The play equipment for different ages provides lots of opportunity for open play and fun. Half-way through the session the group gather for a drink and biscuit, songs and a short child-friendly Bible story. Responsibility for everything – set up, refreshments and on the day team are rotated by mini leaders.

This is an amazing opportunity to talk of God's greatness and love and to demonstrate it through service to our community. It is amazing to see some of these families attend other church events through the year, noticeably Shine. The team share notices of what's going on in general church life through a quick shout out or flyers.

Everyone from our church feels this is an absolutely great outreach to our community. There is much commitment shown from many church members and collective prayer to make sure this group runs smoothly and effectively.

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

Following the resumption of the Men's Group in 2024 after the Covid pandemic, 2025 has been the first

complete year of events. Once again, we have had a mixture of predominately Christian guest speakers and socials, some of which have contained, where possible, a Christian testimony during the evening. Well-attended events started with Fred Sleath, followed by skittles, Andy Whittaker, Rev Nigel Elliott, a summer walk, a Pétanque evening, a Harry Longman hosted BBQ, Squadron Leader Mike Setterfield, an Albert Greaves quiz, Mr Jonathan Goddard and we rounded off the year with a fish and chip supper.

We have been very encouraged again this year by the continued support received by men from within our Church family and beyond.

Wednesday Lunches

Now in its 26th year, this gathering continues to flourish. Over the years the staff have changed, and we do thank God that we can still find willing volunteers; and the clientele too. We remember birthdays, party at milestones and celebrate the lives of our much-loved regulars.

Where once there was a lengthy list of choices and different prices for each item (requiring a maths genius to calculate – at speed before the next customer came along wanting something totally different), now there is a fixed price menu with, usually, a couple of puddings to choose from. There is a hot meal provided from October to the end of March and cold meat and quiches with salads and potatoes for the summer months. And whilst the cooking is hardly cordon bleu, the food is generally quite tasty.

So, if you're bored with the sight of your own kitchen walls and fancy a meal in convivial company in a warm and friendly atmosphere, look no further. We're always ready to welcome new guests, and food allergies and intolerances can easily be met.

The start time is noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month and the cost is a modest £5 for two courses followed by coffee or tea. Bookings are made by phoning or emailing Sandra on 07941 951265 or sandra.shawpearce@gmail.com up till noon on the Monday.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026, Sandra and the team.

Care home links

We have enjoyed another year of ministry at Cedar House, once a month and at other times like a Carol Sing at Christmas, and sometimes I have the privilege of helping a family with the loss of a loved one. David Hodgson continues to support us with his keyboard and his vast repertoire of hymns. We share the service and chat with the residents, who love to hear of our lives now and long ago!! They love it and so do we - just ask Jean J, Margaret H, Eva S, Caroline E, Jeff H, Sandra SP and Margaret O. Come and join us on the first Monday of the month.

The monthly service at Mountview Care Home is led by a great team who are very gifted at getting alongside the residents. It continues to attract many of the residents and has resulted in a wider ministry involvement with the Care Home, supporting those who are ill and families through bereavement. The

regular service is very much appreciated by the residents, many of whom had strong connections with their local church in the past. The number of incidental pastoral visits has increased greatly over the past year as a result of a number of members of Rothley Parish Church becoming residents.

Bereavement Support

Our aim is to provide friendship and support for those bereaved who have had funeral services taken by our ministry team.

Within our church family there are good networks/groups for those needing support. Outside the church family we have not been called upon for visiting this year, but another of our tasks is to acknowledge the anniversary of the death of a loved one and cards are sent to mark this occasion.

The main focus is the memorial service for those bereaved at the end of November. This is an important occasion in the life of the church to make contact with families again and many have drawn comfort from coming together in this way.

BROADNOOK GARDEN VILLAGE

Rothley Parish Church's involvement with Broadnook began around ten years ago, when Rob was first approached by the landowner about plans for the development. As these plans progressed, the church was invited to become involved, particularly with a view to helping build community within the new development.

It has been exciting to see these long-term plans finally take shape. Construction began and residents started moving in from autumn 2024. The first welcome event was hosted by Rothley Church in the Davidsons' show home in December 2024, with three families attending. Since then, we have gone on to host a number of further welcome events, working closely with the newly-formed Broadnook Community Trust (BCT), of which Rob is a trustee.

Activities have included distributing Easter eggs, a bring-and-share picnic, a Sparklers and S'mores event, and carol singing in December. Altogether, more than a hundred people have dropped in to these events. BCT has now established an Events Subgroup to help plan, organise and deliver future welcome events. Rob and Sneha are part of this group, alongside volunteer residents and organisations such as East Goscote United Football Club. Volunteers from Rothley Parish Church also help at the events. In addition, a prayer team has been formed, praying specifically for Broadnook, particularly in the lead-up to events.

When completed, Broadnook will be home to around 2,000 households, and there is a clear opportunity for a new worshipping community to develop, serving the spiritual needs of those who live there.

Sneha Ninan

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Sunday School (for 3 to 11-year-olds) continued much as in recent years, with

two age groups meeting fortnightly during the 11 am services. Numbers are rising, particularly with younger children preschool and just starting school, which is great, and they all seem to enjoy their time with us. Towards the end of the year we introduced a singing time at the beginning of our sessions while we are all together, which makes them feel bonded as a group before we split into separate groups.

Grid for 11 years upwards, has met sporadically as numbers for this can be as low as one during 11 am services, due to a low number of teenagers in our church family and a number of them involved in sports activities on Sunday mornings. However, in the Autumn there was a short course held leading to Confirmation of one teenager who recently came to faith and started coming to church, and this was followed up with an evening social for our young people just before Christmas, with hopes of doing more of the same early in 2026.

Shine! continues as our all-age family event on the afternoon of the first Sunday of most months, generally in church but with a BBQ on Bunney's Field in September. There is a small but enthusiastic group of leaders who have run a variety of themes throughout the year, usually including worship, Bible reading, a short talk and practical activities in church, with a Bible verse to take home, followed by a free (usually hot) meal together in The Old School Rooms, as well as further family activities there on the same theme. We now have a regular, willing catering team, who provide visitors with a warm welcome and delicious food. Thanks to them all. We have seen some new families joining in with Shine over the

last year, including a few resulting from invitations sent out via School or Little Fishes, those who are interested in their children being baptised and those friends and neighbours brought along by other regulars.

Easter was again a great opportunity for outreach. Instead of April Shine! we set up an **Easter Trail** with 12 activity stations, starting in the churchyard and moving to the Fowke Street recreation ground, where there were Bible readings with pictures, practical activities and souvenirs telling the Easter story, along with a chance to look for a letter of the alphabet at each station, which when worked out entitled the family to claim chocolate Easter eggs and a leaflet telling the Easter Story from church, where refreshments were also served. 70 children and their families attended the afternoon, which was amazing, and the sun shone, which was also a massive bonus!



We repeated the one-day **Easter Holiday Club** during Holy Week, based in The Old School Rooms and the church building. Less children attended this year, perhaps because there are so many all-week activities available elsewhere for working parents to sign them up for! However, those who came enjoyed themselves and can have been in no doubt of the message of Easter and, as before, had plenty of souvenirs

to take home as a reminder of that message and invitations to other Easter events. Thanks again to the team of helpers and supporters from the church family, without whom this event could not have happened.

We also repeated the “**Jerusalem Journey**” on Good Friday, meeting in OSR for “The Last Supper” and then on to Gethsemane in the churchyard and finally to Calvary inside church. Then we enjoyed drinks and hot cross buns together in OSR. A few families attended this, along with others from our church family and the wider community.

There was a further trip to **St George’s House**, a Christian activity centre in Devon, led by Rob & Sarah, with 35 children and adults attending as families, enjoying taking part in a variety of physical activities and spending time having fun together over the Spring half-term holiday.

Some social nights open to all women within the church continued during the year under the title *U-nite*.

Liz Sleath

SCHOOL

One of the Diocesan priorities for all churches and Minster Communities to adopt is ‘Growing Faith’. This refers explicitly to work amongst children and young people, with a particular focus on schools. Whilst all churches struggle with Sunday-based children’s work, through our Church School we have access to over 600 children every week and many opportunities to minister to their families too.

In the past year, we have given training to all the staff on the Christian ethos of the School and on Spirituality. We have a team, David Wilson, Alison Godfrey, Sneha Ninan and Rob Gladstone, who visit the school every Wednesday morning to conduct Collective Worship. As a Church, we host, every six weeks, an act of Collective Worship, led by the pupils, focused on a Christian value and attended by all the parents of that year group.

Through the year the church also hosts the school for a number of Christian festivals and for the Year 6 Leavers Service.

Lynne Bragg visits the school once a week to encourage the children to explore Christian faith and prayer and provided a special transition morning for the Year 6 leavers.

The Church supported the school in hosting the Saltmine Trust to lead a day of activities for the children

Through governance, we continue to hold the School to account to uphold the Christian ethos and to support the teaching staff as they lead and deliver RE and Collective Worship. In the latest SIAMS Inspection the school was awarded the highest grade and the Foundation Governors meet regularly to monitor this and continually seek ways to improve on it.

Rob Gladstone

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus. Paul’s vision of discipleship in Ephesians 4 vv 7-16 continues to be our church vision for

this, as we focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, through meeting in smaller groups and through personal prayer, Bible study and reading of Christian literature.

The discipleship working group of the PCC continues to work on strategic leadership and now provides weekly prayer points for the Fellowship Post to give thanks for those working in areas of church life related to discipleship, alongside points for intercession. In 2025, the working group promoted the reading of Christian literature through a summer bookstall and a whole Church recommended book for Advent.

Housegroups: We thank God for our nine housegroups. These meet regularly, usually in homes, for Bible study, discussion and prayer, providing a safe space where we are able to care and share with each other as we pray and study God's Word together. 2025 has seen the creation of a new group led by Richard Croker and Nigel Elliott, meeting on Wednesday evenings. In addition, a number of new people have joined other groups. Housegroups help us to better understand our faith and provide us with resources to live it out in our daily lives; they enable us to ask questions in an unthreatening, friendly environment and grow together as Christians. The caring dimension of the groups has particularly come to the fore in 2025, for which we praise God. A particular thank you to the housegroup leaders for their dedication; their enthusiasm and commitment is of the highest order and we praise God for all that they do to enable all who attend to learn and to share their faith, as well as to care for one another.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group:

This group exists to encourage men in faith and discipleship, with studies in 2025 from John's Gospel and Proverbs. Meeting monthly on a Saturday, the group regularly draws between 6 and 12 men, and were delighted to welcome new members during the year. Members consistently expressed how much they value these sessions for pointing them to Jesus and deepening their walk with Him. In August, a walk over the hills with the Rothley Church Men's Group was a great time of fellowship and connection. In November, several members attended the Midlands Men's Convention, an inspiring day on the theme of Biblical Masculinity.

Bible Reading Notes: Whilst we endeavour to facilitate group Bible study through our many church groups, we also strongly encourage personal Bible study as part of a daily quiet time with God. For those who wish to have daily Bible reading notes in a printed format, we continue to arrange the procurement and distribution of many different Bible reading books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media (see the church website). In 2025, several individuals moved from the printed format of daily Bible reading to online providers, with 27 individuals continuing to use five different titles of printed books. Rafe Cherry coordinates.

Monthly Sunday evening prayer meetings:

Every fourth Sunday evening, 12 to 20 people gather in church to pray specifically for evangelism, in and through all the various events that we know are coming up, through our own lives and with a particular focus on what

is taking place in Broadnook Garden Village.

Mothers' Union: MU is a Christian organisation working through membership to support families and communities around the world. Rothley branch meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and include prayers, a speaker and time for chat and refreshments. Prayer and faith are central to the organisation and include an allocated 'Wave of Prayer' day. The group look out for each other and help each other.

In 2025, we continued to support Bradgate Mental Health Unit at Glenfield Hospital, collecting 314 cream eggs for Easter and 133 chocolate bars for Christmas for the patients. In the summer we delivered shampoo and body wash for use as prizes when they have quizzes. All these items were much appreciated. Other initiatives supported included Prison Advice and Care Trust for prisoners and their families, the initiative against modern day slavery and the MU campaign Rise Up against domestic abuse in UK and Ireland.

Money was raised through MU and church members filling Smarties tubes with £1 coins, by hosting a coffee morning, a strawberry tea and a harvest supper, helping with a church concert and having a bring and buy table at meetings; this was shared between the Leicester MU Diocesan Fund, MU Mary Sumner House, Homeless in Leicestershire, MU Away From It All holiday scheme (when needed) and Rothley Parish Church. Donations were also given to the MU Summer and Christmas appeals.

Prayer Circle: The 12 members of the prayer circle (nine anonymous and three named contacts: David Palmer, Jean Arkley, Valerie Joyce) commit themselves to pray for a week, or longer as requested, for any person or situation. In 2025, there were 69 requests, with several lasting many weeks. The circle continues to be valued, as to know others hold us before our Lord is a comfort and a strength.

Pastoral care: The church is encouraged to follow Christ's example of kindness and compassion. The role of Pastoral Coordinator as a reference point has enabled people in the fellowship to ask for help for themselves or others and enabled ongoing liaison with the Vicar and Ministry Team. Importantly, there has been a continuing willingness from people in the church fellowship to be involved with the ministry of pastoral care, whether formally as a designated pastoral visitor or informally.

The housebound, those physically and mentally ill at home and in hospital and the bereaved, isolated and lonely have been visited and supported. Contact has also been maintained by phone calls, texts, emails and cards. 2025 saw an increased number of people being housebound, sick at home, in hospital, or having operations. For those diagnosed with dementia, there is a particular need for support for them and their carers, in what can be trying circumstances. A growing number of elderly church members have moved permanently into care homes and are supported by regular visits by members of the church fellowship, in addition to monthly services at Mountview and Cedar House.

Many people in the church and in the community have found that prayer by members of the church fellowship has supported and comforted them. The distribution of the printed 'Fellowship Post' has continued to provide a vital link with the church for those without access to modern technology, distributed by volunteers who also chat with and check on the well-being of the recipients. The provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' continues to demonstrate the church's love and care for those going through difficult times.

A transport coordinator organised volunteers to enable visits to medical appointments, vaccinations, and church services. Volunteers have also helped with shopping, posting letters and collecting prescriptions.

In the wider community, the Soar Valley Community Food Project continues to be actively supported by the church. The average number of food parcels given out per week was 51 in 2025. On behalf of the local authorities, the project has also administered an energy 'top-up' scheme. The project employs a Financial Coach who visits the distribution centres to support people with their personal and family budgets. Church members volunteer at the food bank, and the fellowship has given generous donations of food and money. One of the trustees is a church member.

Alison Godfrey

SEND

Our aim is to send out and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus, and seek to be a church

with God's heart for the nations. We therefore support a variety of organisations, some local, some in working in other countries. It is important for us not only to be concerned about our own spiritual life and witness, but to be outward looking in our prayers and our giving.

Giving Every year we give a tithe (see details on page 38), which is 10% of our church's donations and tax recovery income. From this we give to:

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) who support churches in the UK and Ireland, providing resources for leaders, children and young people's work, run Christian holiday camps and are patrons of Rothley Church. They are crucial in appointing the vicar in Rothley.

Crosslinks who work to spread the gospel in many countries. Specifically, we support Jirka and Keira Kralovi who work with students in the Czech Republic, and also Brada and Yatza Radanovic in Serbia. In both these countries there is very little general awareness of the gospel message.

Tearfund who work with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty. They work in church communities, refugee camps where those displaced by war and unrest have multiple needs, and with victims of disasters where emergency aid is needed. Tearfund also have a role in lobbying regarding climate change and pollution.

The Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto, Tanzania which have been linked with Leicester Diocese since 1982, and we actively take part in this link.

Local charities The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough, and Triangle, Leicester,

help and support the homeless and also provide residential addiction services. Both charities have a strong Christian ethos.

15% of our tithe is reserved for discretionary giving. In 2025 we supported:

Mothers' Union

Paul and Cathy Middleton, working in health care and aviation transport in Southern Africa

The Oakes Holiday Centre

Soar Valley Community Food Project

CPAS School Ventures

Serena Cook in her work for UCCF in Aberystwyth and Lampeter

We also collected for Christian Aid during their appeal week, and donations of food, toiletries and clothing were collected throughout the year for the Soar Valley Food Project and Triangle, the homeless charity based at Holy Trinity Church in Leicester.

Information and Prayer An essential part of our support is in praying, and to this end we facilitate information to stimulate our interest and inform our prayers. Every week one of the above organisations is featured in the Church Fellowship Post, usually as half a page of up-to-date information and specific topics for prayer. This year we also featured information and prayers on behalf of the persecuted church, modern slavery and the environment.

Our link mission partners with Crosslinks, Jirka and Kiera Kralovi in the Czech Republic and Brada and Yatsa Radanovic in Serbia, regularly send newsletters which are distributed via email to members of the congregation, together with hard copies, as are

occasional links to Tearfund and to Christian Aid.

Hearing directly from people and representatives of organisations we support is always a very valuable experience, not only enabling us to pray with greater understanding, but also in challenging us to likewise be active in our witness and service to God.

In the autumn term 2025 one of our past church members, Serena Cook, commenced employment with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF), supporting Christian Unions and students in Aberystwyth and Bangor, where a year ago she worked as a relay worker. Her role was in strengthening faith, and in mission, reaching students with the good news of Jesus. She regularly sends emails with her news and prayer requests to those members of the Church who have requested them, and many members have also contributed to her financial support. We are also contributing as a Church from our discretionary tithe.

The speaker we had booked from Tearfund in 2024 was unable to come, but we were very glad that Pete Dawson was able to visit in September this year and preach at both services telling us more about the work of that society in fighting poverty through local churches and their Transforming Communities programme. We were challenged to see how a local church can be a catalyst for change, "punching holes in the darkness".

We also support local charities, and invited a speaker from Triangle. Our speaker, Bridget Patel, was unable to come in person, but sent us a video of the work which was shown at services

in October. We support them regularly in prayer, and members of the church send a considerable quantity of men's clothing and other requested items such as a Christmas gift shoeboxes and hampers.

Our link with the church in Tanzania was strengthened through the Mothers' Union when Bethuel, the new Bishop of Kiteto, and his wife, Agnes, visited Leicester after attending training for new bishops in Canterbury. Our Mothers' Union supported the coffee morning arranged at The Church of the Martyrs, Leicester, when both Bishop Bethuel and Agnes spoke. We have been specifically supporting the Mothers' Union in Kiteto in their campaign against child marriage and FGM which are still widely practiced in certain communities.



We trust that in these ways we have all been made more conscious of the needs of the world and about the work of God locally in Leicestershire, in the UK, and in the wider world, and that this has stimulated our prayers and involvement.

Margaret Leverment

CHOIR AND MUSIC

As we reach the end of another full and energetic year of worship, it's a pleasure

to reflect on the music that has supported, strengthened and lifted our church family throughout 2025. Our music continues to be a blend of the familiar and the fresh: traditional hymns alongside more contemporary songs, each chosen with care to support the theme of the service and the spiritual journey of our congregation. That mix has always been our hallmark, and this year has been no exception.

We have continued to lean on the timeless beauty of our traditional hymns - pieces that feel like home the moment the first chord sounds. They anchor us, steady us, and provide that deep sense of continuity with all who have worshipped before us. Alongside these, we have also introduced a number of newer songs throughout the year. As ever, this has brought moments of excitement... and moments of challenge! New music can sometimes cause uneasiness when people arrive at a service expecting to sing something familiar, only to face a song they've never heard before. I fully understand how that can feel; none of us like to feel out of step or unsure of what's coming next. But, as we've seen time and time again, those very songs that raise eyebrows in week one often become firm favourites by week six. Once they settle into our repertoire, they begin to do exactly what they were brought in to do: speak into our worship in a fresh way, open up Scripture from a new angle, or give voice to something we didn't realise needed saying. It's a reminder that, as a church, we're always learning - not just musically, but spiritually too. Growth sometimes means stretching a little, and music plays a remarkable role in gently moving us forward.

One thing I've noticed more and more as the years go by is how the **meaning** of the words we sing can suddenly leap off the page. A phrase that we've sung hundreds of times can suddenly strike with real force - almost as if hearing it for the very first time. This has happened to me countless times this year, and I suspect many have felt it too. It's one of the gifts of church music: it meets us differently depending on the season of life we're in. The same hymn can comfort us one year, challenge us the next, and bring tears to our eyes the year after that. Before looking ahead, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in our music this year: to the choir, whose commitment brings depth and colour to so many Sundays; to our instrumentalists, who add texture and a real lift to our 11.00am services; and to the music-planning team, whose unseen work shapes the flow of each service - your contribution is invaluable. You each play a vital part in helping our worship come alive, and I'm very grateful.

Looking ahead to 2026, my hope is that we continue building on this healthy blend of old and new. We'll keep cherishing the classics that define our worship tradition, while also offering occasional new pieces that expand our repertoire and allow us to express our faith in fresh ways. I'll always ensure that new music is introduced sensitively, with enough repetition to help it bed in, and always with the aim of enriching - not disrupting - our worship together.

So, as we close out 2025, I hope everyone feels encouraged by the direction of our music ministry. It continues to be a source of joy, unity and spiritual nourishment. Here's to

another year of singing together - familiar words, new expressions, and the steady reminder that music remains one of the greatest gifts in our shared worship.

Simon Murphy

Handbells

The Rothley Handbell Ringers are delighted to be back ringing and would be happy to welcome new members.

This year we have been ringing our original set of grid music and very much enjoyed practising Christmas carols for our performance at the Rothley village light switch-on.

Prior to COVID, we had more members and were able to play a greater range of pieces from sheet music using our 3 octaves of bells.

We are actively working on building our numbers back up so that we can again extend our range of music. We are then hoping to go out into the community and play in retirement homes, care homes and schools.

We meet every Wednesday in church at 7pm and anyone interested is welcome to come along to see us and have a go.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

The past year has continued the positive trend set previously - very few occasions when it has not been possible to ring for services due to lack of numbers and also an excellent camaraderie within the Tower. Inevitably there have been some changes during the year, with a couple

of ringers moving away (although one of whom returns when they can) and others giving ringing a rest.

Under the guidance of our Ringing Master, the key message has been one of continual improvement, especially the methods 'Plain Hunt', 'Grandsire' and 'Bob Doubles'. Emphasis has been given to listening and positioning, with improvements coming in small increments. All the ringers have set themselves specific goals for improvement in the next year.

CONDITION OF BELLS

The bells and the frames on which they are hung, were inspected by Taylor's Bell Foundry early in the year in their annual contracted inspection. With some tightening of bolts etc, they were given a clean bill of health, other than a minor issue on the treble pulley box.

During the summer the tenor (heaviest) bell was noted to be requiring more physical effort to ring than should be the case. Bell Hangers from Taylor's visited and identified that the bearings on that bell required attention – either repair or replacement. This work will require the use of heavy lifting equipment. In view of the length of time since the bearings on all the bells were last thoroughly inspected, Taylor's recommended that it would be financially sensible for all the bells to be lifted from their frame for the bearings to be examined and repaired/replaced as necessary. This would stand the bells in good stead for decades to come.

A 'List B' Faculty giving the Archdeacon's approval to these works to be undertaken has been submitted and approved. A funding package is in

place to enable the works to be undertaken in the new year.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Following health and safety reviews, a contractor replaced the rope rail across the bell chamber from the door to the metal ladder which gives access to the top of the tower and flagpole. This is a more substantial and weight bearing solution.

More foot and hand holds have also been fitted in the bell chamber, which, along with a pair of lightweight step ladders, enable people to access each bell and bell pit more easily and safely. Finally, some floor planks in the bell chamber which had been loose or missing have been repaired/replaced.

TOWER OPEN FOR VISITORS

We have continued an 'Open and Welcome' approach for visitors, whether that be visiting ringers, others who are interested or just curious, or friends and relatives of members of the band. A number of curious visitors came up the tower on 'Ride and Stride' day. Amongst visiting ringers we also have two longstanding ringers who come when they are able to offer their support during practice nights. In all cases visitors are very welcome.

TURRET CLOCK

The Church clock is located in the belfry and wound by ringers. Unfortunately, it has not been functioning correctly for several months. The Parochial Church Council has agreed, in principle, for necessary repairs to take place and also, if possible, for the manual winding process to be replaced by an electric winder. This work will require a full Faculty and the Church Council has also

asked that grant funding be pursued. This is underway.

A final word of thanks to both our team of ringers and also to the congregation member who 'scales the heights' to fly the union flag on appropriate occasions.

Charles Poole and Harry Longman

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS (OSR)

The Old School Rooms remain in regular use, both for church-initiated activities, and by local organisations. This year in particular, there has been an increase in use by village organisations for one-off events, mainly due to the closure of the Rothley Centre. One of our new clients is the monthly Film Club, who, although only a temporary booking at first, have said that they want the Old School Rooms to be their "permanent home".

Bookings for birthday parties have remained constant, but with additional bookings comes the need for more maintenance. Both plumbing and electrical work has been needed – one of the dimmer switches in the main hall has been replaced; also the outside light above the main door (due to its age and the replacement bulbs no longer being available); the outside light in the yard has been replaced for a more powerful one; the radiator pipe in the kitchen sprung a leak; the dishwasher needed a major replacement part. All this was in addition to the regular servicing of items such as fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, boiler, cooker, gas heater and room dividers and PAT testing of electrical items.

Fortunately, the building in general is in good condition, but the rear doors still need attention.

We endeavour to demonstrate God's love to our clients, by giving them a warm welcome, keeping the hall clean and well presented, and providing a link between the church and the wider community.

The usage is somewhat limited, with a maximum capacity of 60 (due to fire regulations) and the lack of a dedicated car park. Special hiring rates are available for church members using the hall for private events. All bookings can be made by email at: osrenquiries@gmail.com and the availability can be viewed in the diary on the church website under 'About Us' and then 'Book Old School Rooms'.

Linda Poole

DEANERY AND DIOCESE

The Diocese of Leicester's Bishops and Archdeacons, along with elected clergy and laity from across the diocese, make up the Diocesan Synod. Its role is to act as a forum for debate; to formulate policy; and to advise the Bishop of Leicester, where requested. Its meetings begin with worship and there is a Presidential Address from Bishop Martyn. A significant proportion of the discussion takes place relatively informally around tables and this helps all members of Synod to make a contribution to issues under consideration.

As last year, financial challenges have loomed large. The November 2025 diocesan synod ended up agreeing a large deficit budget for 2026 (£1.155m),

albeit at a slightly reduced level from the previous year (£1.5m). Sadly, this means there will be a reduction in stipendiary clergy across the diocese from 92 to 90 for 2026. The Diocesan Secretary was, however, optimistic that a pending sale of land owned by the diocese could provide some light at the end of the tunnel. Time will tell!

The hugely important issue of safeguarding was discussed in some detail at our May Synod with Rachael Spiers, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, making a comprehensive presentation about both national policies and the ways in which safeguarding is a responsibility for all, not simply for the few. This is a topic which appears on every PCC agenda here at Rothley Parish Church, given its central importance. Safeguarding must never be seen as an optional extra. The May Synod also received a report from the Diocesan Board of Education, including their Annual Report and Accounts. The Diocesan Director of Education emphasised that, while a range of external indicators about attainment levels are highly important, the importance of character development based around Christian values must always remain a priority for Church of England schools.

The September 2025 Diocesan Synod was devoted to the highly divisive Living in Love and Faith proposals, which were sent down from General Synod to all diocesan synods for further discussion. There were a number of presentations about specific elements of LLF, but most of the time was devoted to informal round-table discussions. No formal vote was taken. There remains firm opposition within the diocese to proposals which are seen

to undermine the historic and global Anglican view of marriage and sexual ethics. The February 2026 General Synod will discuss this topic further; the outcome remains uncertain.

The advent of Minster Communities across the diocese has been monitored by Synod. By the end of 2025, only two such Communities were up and running. Others, however, are in the pipeline for consideration in early 2026, including the Minster Community in which Rothley will be located. A final decision by the Bishop and the Diocesan Board of Trustees is likely before Easter 2026. It is fair to point out that the process accompanying the transition to Minster Communities has generated a good deal of heat, especially in small rural communities. Levels of anxiety have often been high, but there is now a momentum to complete the process right across the diocese in the next year or so.

Rob Gladstone remains Area Dean for Goscote Deanery, a post he has held since 2006. Given the large number of vacancies in the Deanery, Rob's workload as Area Dean has been particularly demanding in organising cover for services along with a wide range of associated pastoral, administrative and governance responsibilities. New linkages are developing which cut across deanery structures. Having said this, there will be a continuing need for Goscote Deanery to remain in existence for the immediate future because it is the legal entity for elections to both Diocesan and General Synod. The deanery highlight in 2025 was a wonderful service of baptism and confirmation at Rothley, led by Bishop Martyn, which included candidates from across the

Deanery. It was a service full of praise, thanksgiving and rejoicing, a service that filled us all with new life and new hope!



David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two church services, of different style, are held every Sunday, with, in addition, a choral evensong once a month and a prayer meeting once a month. We continue to livestream one service each Sunday for the benefit of those who are not able to attend in person. Our weekly newsletter and service sheet, sent electronically or delivered to every church member, includes the order of service for the livestreamed worship.

In addition to the pastoral care provided by our Vicar, our Pastoral Co-ordinator also remains responsive to the needs of church members and other contacts in the village. Lifts are also offered to medical appointments and the like, and these are co-ordinated separately. Two groups of church members focus their pastoral support on the residents of the two care homes in the parish, through monthly services. A small bereavement visiting team is available to provide support, as appropriate, and an annual memorial service is held in church to particularly remember those who have died during the past year. Many church members provide pastoral care to neighbours and other church members, either under the auspices of the Pastoral Co-ordinator or informally. The pastoral care provided in the community is greatly valued by those who have been helped.

Rothley Parish Church has a close relationship with the village school. Our Vicar supports the staff as they teach Religious Education, plan Collective Worship and embed the Christian ethos of the school. A team of four take turns to lead assemblies at the school each week and the pupils themselves lead assemblies in the church several times a year. We have also been pleased to welcome children and parents for class visits, special events and productions in the church. A church volunteer provides a weekly extra-curricular Christian activity group in school. The Growing Families WhatsApp group continues as a helpful forum for local families to be informed about church events.

A wide range of activities for all age groups took place week by week throughout the year. The narrative reports which form the first half of this Annual Report document provide details of these activities.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Outreach project, particularly its foodbank ministry, continued to be very important during 2025, as energy and living costs remained high. We ask for donations of food or money at our Harvest Festival each year, but church members generously give food, funds and volunteer time to this ministry throughout the year.

Every year we organise the village Remembrance Day service in church, followed by wreath-laying at the village war memorial. At the end of November, we partner with the Baptist Church in providing entertainment when the village Christmas lights are switched on.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is recognised as a priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment has been invaluable, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the first time in at least 12 years, we recorded a significant deficit in the General Fund at the end of 2024, and we expected 2025 to be similar, if not worse. Indeed, income lagged behind budget until the very end of the year, when a very generous one-off donation was gratefully received. The end result was that 2025 General Fund

income exceeded 2024 by £2,219. General Fund expenditure was £3,587 lower than 2024. However, this was not sufficient to prevent a further deficit in 2025 of £4,869, but this was £5,806 lower than 2024 and considerably lower than the budgeted £13,641.

The Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). We remain grateful for the continued support and commitment to regular giving shown by our church members.

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430, 57% of our General Fund expenditure in 2025), which supports all administration and ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually. However, in recent years the Diocese of Leicester has seen its total Parish Contribution income decline and is itself in deficit and going forward parishes, or groups of parishes, will be expected to contribute sufficient funds to cover the cost of their clergy. The Parish Contribution paid by Rothley Parish Church already more than covers the cost of our own clergy.

We continue to tithe our donations and associated tax recovery and distribute this to local, national and international Christian work, as detailed on page 40.

We made a low-key appeal for increased general giving in July. This had limited response, most likely for two reasons: the continued challenging financial environment and the ongoing appeal for improvements to our church building.

2025 has, at last, seen significant progress on the plans to improve the church building, by installing toilets, servery, upstairs meeting room, improved entrance porch and outside resurfacing. We received Faculty permission for the work during the summer, subject to local authority permission being granted for the external resurfacing work outside the porch. Our application for a Lawful Development Certificate, submitted in July 2024, was eventually refused in the summer of 2025 and we were advised that we needed to apply for planning permission. This application was made in August 2025, and we wait to hear the outcome. We were able to go out to tender for the project in the autumn, with the results due in January 2026. The potential cost of the project has been rising during this time of waiting and further fundraising may be necessary for this project, so we remain unable to adequately address the issue of giving to the General Fund.

The contactless card machine, installed in the church in 2024, has proved popular and useful for general church donations as well as giving to the Church Building Improvements Fund and other specific causes at special events and funerals. The transaction costs are recorded as fundraising costs in the General Fund.

Having six people working together as a treasury team provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living.

We are particularly grateful for special donations from church members during 2025 for the refurbishment of the Garden of Remembrance and the lychgate; for Bibles for presentation to children at baptisms; and for additional cushions for the church pews.

FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £509,058 at 31 December 2025, made up as follows:

Fund Overview	31/12/2025 £	31/12/2024 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	68,090	72,697
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	135,097	130,496
Church Maintenance Fund	1,227	(283)
Heritage Events Fund	-	307
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	75	72
Organ & Music Fund	13,812	12,741
Parish Evangelism Fund	75,329	75,181
Training Fund	10,942	10,525
Total Unrestricted Funds	304,572	301,736
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	16,475	14,428
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	180,308	157,816
Goscote Deanery Fund	972	989
Youth Fund	6,732	6,593
Total Restricted Funds	204,487	179,826
Total funds	509,059	481,562

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Donations	119,677	116,187
Tax recovery	23,718	26,031
Special donations	394	-
Grants	623	1,185
Trading & fees	3,760	2,213
Old School Rooms	6,994	6,506
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	8,633	9,436
Other income	-	21
Total income	163,799	161,579
Expenditure:		
Fundraising costs	56	513
Tithe for mission	14,339	14,222
Parish Contribution	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	18,658	17,740
Clergy & staff expenses	3,189	2,301
Mission & evangelism	985	355
Church costs	20,455	24,234
Church utilities	3,749	3,710
Old School Rooms	10,206	12,180
Governance	600	570
Total expenditure	168,667	172,255
Surplus/deficit of income	(4,868)	(10,676)
Net transfers to/from other funds	262	(356)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	72,696	83,728
Balance at 31 December	68,090	72,696

General Fund income amounted to £163,799 in 2024, £3,131 above expectations and £2,219 more than the 2024 total, due to a very generous one-off donation at the end of the year.

General Fund expenditure was £168,667, 2.1% (£3,588) lower than in 2024 and 3.2% below budget expectations. While most expenditure items rose slightly, operating costs for the church and Old School Rooms were £5,753 lower than in 2024.

Although encouraging, the increased income and decreased expenditure did not prevent a further deficit in 2025, albeit much smaller than expected. The 2025 deficit is £4,868, compared to the anticipated £13,641.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2026

The budget for 2026 is, again, a deficit budget, but smaller than the actual deficit in 2025. The most significant factor is the reduction in the Parish Contribution offer that we felt able to make to the Diocese for 2026. We have paid £96,430 each year since 2020, but since 2024 we have been spending far more than our income and we need to work towards a balanced budget each year. The Parish Contribution is part of our regular general expenditure, so it needs to be sustainable year on year. Future Parish Contribution offers are likely to need to be coordinated with the other churches in the Minster Community that we are due to join because, between us, we will need to ensure we can cover the costs of the stipendiary ministers in our group of churches.

General Fund Budget for 2026	£
Income:	
Donations	116,783
Tax recovery	24,239
Trading & fees	3,307
Old School Rooms	6,219
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	6,871
Total income	157,419
Expenditure:	
Fundraising costs	53
Tithe for mission	14,102
Parish Contribution	85,755
Staff salaries/payments	20,110
Clergy & staff expenses	3,715
Mission & evangelism	1,638
Church costs	20,726
Church utilities	3,140
Old School Rooms	10,462
Governance	626
Total expenditure	160,327
Budgeted surplus/(deficit)	(2,908)

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned

expenditure in line with long-term strategy. In 2026 the amount required in the General Fund is £49,588, which includes £2,909 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2025 the PCC held £68,090 in the unrestricted General Fund, £9,586 of which is remaining legacy funds to be used for repair work on the church bells in January 2026. Discounting the legacy balance, there remains £58,504 in free reserves in the General Fund at 31st December 2025, which is sufficient to meet our Reserves Policy.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

We hope that our long-awaited church building improvements will come to fruition in 2026. However, rising costs during the period we have been waiting for the necessary permissions mean that funding will be a challenge.

The Diocese of Leicester is restructuring its patterns of ministry for all churches. During 2024 and 2025, discussions were held with clergy and laity from nine other local Church of England churches, with a view to forming a Minster Community. The Diocese describes a Minster Community as *a community of parishes who work together in mission (without losing their individual identity)*. During 2026 we expect these proposals to be formally presented to each PCC in the group in order to decide whether we form a Minster Community together.

Rothley Parish Church has been encouraged to become involved in the new Broadnook Garden Village adjoining the boundary of Rothley since building began in the second half of 2024. The encouragement has come from the developers and from the other two parishes that have a border with the new development but are separated from it by road or railway. Our vicar has become a member of the Broadnook Community Trust, and he and our curate are now members of its Events Subgroup whose role is to arrange activities to build a sense of community in the new village. Our ultimate aim is to establish a Christian gathering there too and we are praying that this will happen.

We continue to be challenged to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to an increasingly secular society.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational

- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC.

Through Diocesan resources, the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address our priorities.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC has several sub-committees and working groups, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Church Building Improvements
- Communications
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Send

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address: The Old School Rooms
3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Sneha Ninan	Curate [ex-officio] from 29/6/25
Lisa Cook	Churchwarden [ex-officio] from 6/4/25
Nigel Willey	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Susan Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Liz Barker	
Richard Croker	
Chris Garnett	
Helen Jones	
Margaret Leverment	
Alison Parkinson	
Susan Pinkus	
Margaret Rouse	

The following members served as trustees during part of 2025 only:

Susie Clark to 10/11/25
Wendy Ferguson to 6/4/25
Wendy Lewis to 6/4/25
Fred Sleath to 6/4/25

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

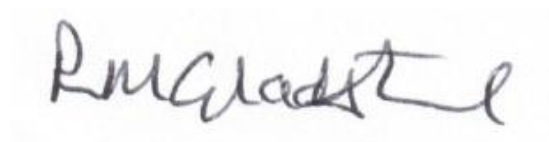
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 9th March 2026.

Signed on its behalf:

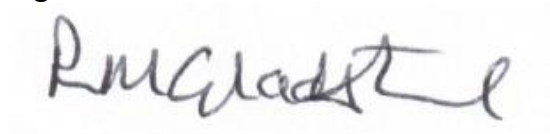
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Gladstone', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025	31/12/2025 £	31/12/2024 £
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	6,934	5,140
Cash at bank and in hand	522,059	494,257
Total	528,993	499,397
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	19,935	17,834
Net assets:	509,058	481,563
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	68,090	72,697
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	135,097	130,496
Church Maintenance Fund	1,227	(283)
Heritage Events Fund	-	307
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	75	72
Organ & Music Fund	13,812	12,741
Parish Evangelism	75,329	75,181
Training	10,942	10,525
Total Unrestricted Funds	304,572	301,736
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	16,475	14,428
Church Building Improvements Fund	180,308	157,816
Goscote Deanery Fund	972	989
Youth Fund	6,732	6,593
Total Restricted Funds	204,487	179,826
Total funds	509,059	481,562

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 9th March 2026.

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2025	Unrestricted funds General Fund £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Income:					
Donations	119,677	5,000	11,685	136,362	208,706
Tax recovery	23,718	1,000	1,092	25,810	47,478
Special donations	394	-	-	394	-
Grants	623	818	4,750	6,191	39,760
Fundraising events	-	-	131	131	724
Trading & fees	3,760	1,600	3,569	8,929	7,232
Old School Rooms	6,994	-	-	6,994	6,506
Investments & Feed-in					
Tariff	8,633	9,102	7,249	24,984	21,609
Other income	-	-	1,353	1,353	21
Total income	163,799	17,520	29,829	211,148	332,036
Expenditure:					
Fundraising costs	56	-	-	56	1,512
Tithe & other awards	14,339	-	48	14,387	14,222
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	18,658	-	-	18,658	17,740
Clergy & staff expenses	3,189	-	-	3,189	2,301
Mission & evangelism	985	3,180	5,121	9,286	9,967
Church costs	20,455	6,636	-	27,091	55,570
Church utilities	3,749	-	-	3,749	3,710
Old School Rooms	10,206	-	-	10,206	12,180
Governance	600	-	-	600	570
Total expenditure	168,667	9,816	5,169	183,652	214,202
Surplus/deficit of income	(4,868)	7,704	24,660	27,496	117,834
Transfers between funds (details below)	262	(262)	-	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	72,696	229,039	179,828	481,563	363,729
Balances at 31 December	68,090	236,481	204,488	509,059	481,563

Transfers between funds 1 January to 31 December 2025	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted Designated funds		Restricted funds
	General Fund	Church Maintenance	Heritage Events	Children & Families Restrict ed
	£	£	£	£

Transfer from Heritage

Events Fund to General

Fund as agreed by PCC

10/3/25

310

(310)

Transfer from General Fund

(legacies) to Church

Maintenance Fund for

outdoor AV equipment as

agreed by PCC 21/11/22

(48)

48

NET

262

48

(310)

-

Location of funds:

£

£

Nat West Stewardship Account:

34,587

Debtors*:

6,934

CAF Bank General Account & cash:

20,254

CBF Deposit Fund:

374,810

Creditors*:

19,935

CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account

11,242

CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account

20,180

CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2

20,321

CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3

20,763

CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4

19,901

Net creditors

(13,001)

Total

509,057

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see page 39.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is **unrestricted** and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:**

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
- **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
- **Heritage Events Fund:** to fulfil our 10-year commitment, which began at the beginning of 2015, to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building. This fund has been wound up in 2025.
- **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
- **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of the PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
- **Parish Evangelism Fund:** for outreach, particularly to the new housing estates in the village and the Broadnook development
- **Training Fund:** for training of church members, particularly in evangelism

These funds are classified as **unrestricted because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.**

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church

- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received into our bank account.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised when it is received.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property, are excluded from the accounts by Section 10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2025 comprise:

- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in October, November and December 2025
- Late payments for hire of the Old School Rooms
- Cash payments for tickets for the Christmas pantomime not banked until after the end of the year

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2025 comprise payments relating to 2025 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until the sum of all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, is established.

2. Analysis of income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations	119,677	5,000	11,685	136,362	208,706
Tax recovery	23,718	1,000	1,092	25,810	47,478
Special donations	394	-	-	394	-
Grants	623	818	4,750	6,191	39,760
Fundraising events	-	-	131	131	724
PCC & activity fees	3,039	1,600	3,569	8,208	6,702
Trading: hospitality, copying, sale of books	721	-	-	721	530
Old School Rooms rentals	6,994	-	-	6,994	6,506
Interest	2,596	9,102	7,249	18,947	15,081
Rental of church field & churchyard					
wayleave	1,383	-	-	1,383	1,380
Feed-in Tariff	4,654	-	-	4,654	5,149
Other income	-		1,353	1,353	21
Total	163,799	17,520	29,829	211,148	332,037

3. Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising costs	56		-	56	1,512
Tithe & other awards	14,339	-	48	14,387	14,222
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	18,658		-	18,658	17,740
Clergy & staff expenses	3,189		-	3,189	2,301
Mission & evangelism	985	3,180	5,121	9,286	9,967
Church costs	20,455	6,636	-	27,091	55,570
Church utilities	3,749	-	-	3,749	3,710
Old School Rooms	10,206	-	-	10,206	12,180
Governance	600	-	-	600	570
Total	168,667	9,816	5,169	183,652	214,202

4. Tithe gifts for mission 2025

Tithe gifts for mission 2025	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,585
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,298
Tearfund (international relief and development)	2,438
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,434
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	717
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	717
Paul & Cathy Middleton (health care in Southern Africa)	535
Mothers' Union (Christian concern for families worldwide)	535
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	535
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	200
UCCF: The Christian Unions via Serena Cook CU Staff Worker	346
Total	14,340

5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

One trustee received remuneration during 2025 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for six funerals and one wedding: £210

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2025 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2025 are listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £600. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2025:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- Two casual employees as sound operator for funerals and weddings
- One casual employee as vergers for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	£	£
Gift Aid & GASDS	6,157	4,178
Funeral fees	-	199
OSR hire	227	337
Feed-in Tariff 2024 quarter 4	-	426
Pantomime tickets	550	-
Total	6,934	5,140

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	£	£
Balance of tithe	10,539	5,522
Accruals	4,089	11,438
PAYE Creditor	167	48
Agency collections	5,140	826
Total	19,935	17,834

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2025 £	2024 £
Rental income	6,994	6,506
Expenditure:		
Utilities	3,376	3,298
Cleaning	3,931	3,744
Maintenance	2,689	4,818
Consumables & other costs	209	320
Total	10,205	12,180
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(3,211)	(5,674)

The Old School Rooms is used extensively by the Church and also let out to the local community when available. It is not intended to make a profit. In 2025 the hall proved very popular with both church groups and outside hirers and brought in an excellent income contribution, which helped significantly towards its running and maintenance costs. The hall is a very comfortable venue and remains a huge asset to the Church. As well as incidental repairs and regular safety checks, the front and rear outside lighting was improved this year.

13. Church Building Improvements Designated Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Grants		704
Bank interest	5,165	4,582
Total income	5,165	5,286
Expenditure:		
Fundraising costs		999
Planning & building inspection applications	564	217
Total expenditure	564	1,216
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,601	4,070
Balance brought forward at 1 January	130,493	126,423
Balance at 31 December	135,094	130,493

In 2024 we were advised to apply for a Lawful Development Certificate from the local authority for the relaying of the tarmac footpath and car parking area around the church which is part of the Church Building Improvements project. The application was submitted in July 2024 and eventually refused in the summer of 2025. We were then informed that we needed to apply for planning permission for this work, which we did in August 2025 and we await the outcome. However, in the summer of 2025 we received Faculty permission for the project, subject to receiving planning permission for the exterior resurfacing, and we were able to go out to tender for the project in the autumn, with the results due in January 2026. As part of the preparation process we had to apply for a Building Regulations plan check in December.

14. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	161	4,743
Bank interest	48	349
Donations for projects (including tax recovery)	6,000	-
Total income	6,209	5,092
Expenditure:		
Architect's fees for Quinquennial Inspection 2020 work	-	1,639
Quinquennial Inspection 2020 work	-	25,182
Equipment for outdoor PA system	48	356
Renovation of Garden of Remembrance	3,810	
Repair of lychgate	888	
Total expenditure	4,746	27,177
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,463	(22,085)
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) for outdoor AV	48	356
Balance brought forward at 1 January	(283)	21,446
Balance at 31 December	1,228	(283)

We were delighted and very grateful to receive a generous anonymous donation to renovate the Garden of Remembrance. The Boxwood surrounding hedge had died and needed replacing. The area was thoroughly treated before a new Yew hedge was planted. The donation also enabled repair of the lychgate. A further small purchase of outdoor AV equipment was funded from legacies during 2025.

15. Heritage Events Fund

Heritage Events Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Bank interest	3	12
Total income	3	12
Expenditure:		
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust event	-	56
Total expenditure	-	56
Surplus/(Deficit)	3	(44)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	306	350
Transferred to General Fund 10/3/25	(310)	-
Balance at 31 December	(1)	306

Having fulfilled our 10-year commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building, the balance in this designated fund was returned to the General Fund to leave a zero balance and the fund wound up in 2025.

16. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Grants	657	128
PCC wedding fees	505	11
Bank interest	530	524
Total income	1,692	663
Expenditure:		
Repair of pedal chest in organ	-	3,156
Tuning and maintenance	622	787
Total expenditure	622	3,943
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,070	(3,280)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	12,740	16,020
Balance at 31 December	13,810	12,740

17. Parish Evangelism Fund

Parish Evangelism Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Donation (barbecue) *	-	20
Income from Christmas pantomime	1,095	717
Bank interest	2,937	2,724
Total income	4,032	3,461
Expenditure:		
Banners & booklets for events	-	437
Picnic (3 in 2023)	-	368
Party in the Park	-	75
Macmillan coffee morning	-	18
Christmas pantomime 2024	84	2,659
Christmas pantomime 2025	2,322	-
Carol singing	-	7
Broadnook	508	83
Hope Explored	149	-
School Saltmine production	660	-
Website	162	-
Total expenditure	3,885	3,647
Surplus/(Deficit)	147	(186)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	75,182	75,388
Transfer to Children & Families Fund (correction) *	-	(20)
Balance at 31 December	75,329	75,182

The activities undertaken in 2025 were: Hope Explored, a Saltmine Theatre activity day for the village Primary School, a Christmas pantomime, various events on Broadnook Garden Village and a new Church website.

18. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Donations	1,225	1,240
Gift Aid tax recovered	306	310
Activity fees	3,569	4,291
Bank interest	585	496
Little Fishes balance incoming	1,353	-
Total income	7,038	6,337
Expenditure:		
Donation to St George's House, Devon	48	-
Mission & evangelism	4,943	5,894
Total expenditure	4,991	5,894
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,047	443
Balance brought forward at 1 January	14,428	13,965
Transfer from Parish Evangelism Fund (correction)	-	20
Balance at 31 December	16,475	14,428

Our Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group historically had its own bank account with Santander until October, when monthly charges were introduced and the group and the PCC agreed that all funds would be handled by the Church general bank account. A balance of £1,353 was transferred in and all income and expenditure is now recorded in the Children & Families Restricted Fund. The PCC Treasurer was already Treasurer of Little Fishes, so the transfer was straightforward. Little Fishes' income and expenditure continues to be separately monitored for the group's information.

19. Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund

Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2025 £	2024 £
Income:		
Donations	10,460	91,259
Gift Aid tax recovered	786	21,137
Grants	4,750	33,000
Fundraising events	131	724
Bank interest	6,365	2,847
Total income	22,492	148,967
Expenditure:	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	22,492	148,967
Balance brought forward at 1 January	157,816	8,849
Balance at 31 December	180,308	157,816

20. Legacies

Legacies	£
Received:	
Legacy from the late Pat Foulds received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment from the late Pat Foulds received 13/7/20	191
Legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett received 25/1/22	72,543
Total received	328,479
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audio-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Audio-visual improvements (2021)	4,520
OSR refurbishment (2021)	6,216
OSR refurbishment (2022)	1,562
Church Buildings Improvements (2022)	125,000
Pew cushions for church (2022)	780
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2022)	1,007
Audio-visual improvements (2022)	3,054
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2023)	55
Removal of boiler house (balance) & Quinquennial 2020 repairs	37,000
Evangelism Fund	75,000
Training Fund	10,000
OSR refurbishment (2023)	7,328
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2024)	356
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2025)	48
Total allocated	318,894
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/25	9,585

The PCC received two legacies, in the period 2019 to 2022. A further small amount has been spent during 2025 on outdoor AV equipment. The balance has been earmarked for the treatment of woodworm in the rood screen and the repair of the church bells in 2026.

21. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2025 was £323. This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John,
Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 that are set out on pages 33 to 47.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Bradford', is positioned above the printed name.

Scott Bradford BSc FCA
Newby Castleman
Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

20th April 2026

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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Cover picture: Saltmine Theatre Company performed their pantomime A Christmas Carol in church in December

VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2024

The life of Rothley Church in 2024 has continued to take place against a very challenging backdrop outside of the parish. The roll out of the Minster Community process and financial challenges of the Diocese, alongside the divisions in the National Church over the Doctrine of Marriage and the various safeguarding scandals all add to the challenges of proclaiming the gospel through the local church in a rapidly-changing culture. These issues have meant that, as Area Dean, a disproportionate amount of my time and energy has been spent away from the Parish in meetings concerning the wider Deanery and Diocese. Alongside this, I have been supporting six other churches who will continue to have no vicar of their own for the foreseeable future. Apart from supporting their life and ministry, a considerable administrative burden has come my way administering five open churchyards and all the applications for interments and memorials.

In the parish it has continued to be a great joy to work alongside Sneha Ninan as a context-based ordinand. Her placement will finish at the end of May 2025 and then, from her ordination at the end of June, she will serve as curate in the parish. We look forward to welcoming her, Dan, Lara and Diya more fully into the life and mission of the Church. Developing lay ministry and training new service leaders and preachers remains very important as we prepare for a future in which the availability of stipendiary clergy will be much reduced.

The service pattern continues to provide new opportunities to develop

all traditions of music and the opportunity for many people to begin to experience leading worship. The variety of styles continues to attract new members to the Church. However, work amongst children and families continues to be very challenging and unpredictable from one week to the next.

This past year has seen the long-planned Broadnook Garden Village begin to be constructed and occupied. At this early stage the developers and those responsible for the governance of the new community have been very open to us holding welcome events for the new residents and are keen for us to repeat and develop these. It is our prayer that from establishing good relationships at the outset, there will grow a witnessing worshipping Christian presence in the new village. In order to facilitate this opportunity, I have been appointed 'Faith Representative' on the Broadnook Community Trust.

None of what has been achieved would be possible without the willing and faithful service of so many in the Church family, each offering their gifts in a huge variety of ways. I would like to thank the churchwardens, Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath, whose support, challenge, advice and encouragement has been so valuable. Alongside them, I would also like to thank Ray Prince for all the work he does behind the scenes to look after our church building; Jean Arkley for all she does to help us give expression to our pastoral care; Liz Sleath for all her work in the Church Office.

Rothley is a community with huge opportunities to serve Christ and proclaim the gospel. That is the reason the Church here exists, and we pray that will remain our focus through all the challenges that may come our way from

society around and from the difficulties the national Church faces.

Rob Gladstone

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2024

This has again been a very busy year in the life of the Church and we have experienced many blessings from God, for which we are thankful. The most obvious of these are the new faces who have started to appear in our services on a regular basis. Alongside this, we see many people spending time in conversation over coffee after the services, which it is hoped will deepen relationships. We are also aware of many unseen acts of caring for each other between church family members which occur during the week.

We have continued with many outreach efforts, both within the church building and the wider parish. The most recent of these has been the Welcome Party held on the new Broadnook development for some of those who have recently taken up residence. This is hopefully the first of a number of such events which will be held as more people move in. Another new departure was the pre-Christmas pantomime performed in church by the Saltmine Theatre Company at the beginning of December. Both of these have given opportunities to forge new contacts.

Another new event was the Macmillan Coffee Morning held in church in September, which again provided a chance for outreach and contact beyond our fellowship. The need to move pews to hold this event

highlighted the limitations of our building to accommodate a wider range of activities here.

A number of us have been involved in the meetings to form a Minster Community with neighbouring parishes under the Diocesan reorganisation plan "Shaped by God Together". This process is taking shape successfully for us, although more widely across the Diocese it is noted that there are difficulties in forming groupings.

We are very grateful to our Assistant Wardens, Chris Garnett, Jean Johnson, Simon Taylor, Marion Whitby and Nigel Willey, for their help in the busyness of this year, particularly within the regular church services; also to Richard Neill and Richard Yates, our vergers, who look after the arrangements for weddings and funerals; Ray Prince for overseeing the day-to-day maintenance and running of the church building; Ian Sanders for ascending the church tower to fly flags on various occasions; and Kath Pepall for her conscientious cleaning efforts. Thanks also to Charles Poole, who has been instrumental in the installation of our contactless machine so that card donations can be made in the church building. Our thanks also go to the flower arrangers, brass cleaners, coffee makers, audio-visual operators and all others who enable the life of the Church to function.

Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath

SAFEGUARDING

"God's call is to speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." Proverbs 31:8



If you have been listening to the national news you will know it has been a difficult time for the Church of England regarding safeguarding, we need to commit this area of church to prayer.

In the parish, with the support of The Diocese of Leicester safeguarding team, we continue to work hard to make sure we are a place in which we all feel safe, secure, confident and cared for. This work is overseen by the PCC appointed Safeguarding Coordinator, Wendy Ferguson, and Lisa Cook, who is responsible for DBS applications. Liz Sleath also provides valuable support.

Following a review of safeguarding within the Church of England during 2024, we now have five new national safeguarding standards for our parish. These will be discussed by the PCC during 2025 and will enable us to consider what 'good looks like' within our church and identify strengths and areas for learning.

Our parish safeguarding **policies** for child protection and vulnerable adults were reviewed and updated in November 2024. These are available on the noticeboards in church, in the Old School Rooms and on our website.

Training and safer recruitment remains a priority. Most of the training courses are now online, although limited training is sometimes available face-to-face. Members of PCC and all those involved in children's groups and activities that could include our more vulnerable adults must complete basic and foundation training every three years. The training protects us all, is straightforward and interesting. All training can be accessed via the [Safeguarding Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](https://cofeportal.org). Alongside the training, a valid **DBS** (Disclosure and Barring Service) check is required for most roles. This is additional to the training. This is a nationally-run service which ensures the people we are recruiting to work in our children's, young people's and vulnerable adults' groups do not have a history of criminal offences.

If you have any thoughts about how we can improve safeguarding within our church or any concerns which you wish to confidentially discuss, please do talk to the Safeguarding Coordinator. She is available to offer support and has further resources on hand if required. We are currently looking for help for this important work. If you feel led to get involved with safeguarding, or want more information please talk to us.

The Safeguarding Coordinator's plan for 2025 is to work with the PCC to make sure we deliver and understand the new national standards, which in turn will help us to maintain a safe, supportive and caring environment for all.

Wendy Ferguson

CHURCH BUILDING

As in previous years, regular maintenance of the church building was carried out.

The work required from the Quinquennial Inspection Report of October 2020 was started in January and completed in March 2024. This work was delayed due to COVID-19 and the removal of the boiler house. The work involved internal works, and work to doors, windows, walling, parapets, copings and the roof. Repairs to the stained-glass windows were also completed. This work was completed within the budget. At the same time, the contractor completed other small building works including cleaning the solar panels. Our next Quinquennial Inspection is scheduled to take place in 2025.

In February the 5-year Electrical Installation Condition Report was satisfactorily completed. In June the memorial Roll of Honour inspection and professional cleaning took place.

As the churchyard is closed, Charnwood Borough Council maintains it for us. In 2024, the Council carried out and paid for work to repair the north boundary stone wall. The PCC agreed for three wildflower meadows to be started. Seeds were sown in July. A member of the Open Spaces team from the Council visited the churchyard recently and made the comment that it is well maintained, tidy and in very good order.

In September the PCC authorised a new Fire Risk Assessment for the Church and Old School Rooms. This was last done in 2015. Three actions were

required for the church and four actions for the OSR. Some of these actions have already been completed; the remainder will be completed in 2025. This will include new Fire Warden training.

In November the PCC adopted a new Health and Safety Policy which covers the church and OSR. This was last done in 2018. This is required by our church insurance company and will now be updated every year.

I would like to thank Marion Whitby who helps me with Faculties, the monthly safety check and the annual churchyard check.

Ray Prince

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

This year has been very mixed: great blessings and deep frustrations.

The scheme reached its final design which was approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

We launched our funding appeal early in the year, which has been very successful in raising most of the monies needed to reach the £320,000 target.

I wish to pay a most heartfelt tribute to the many members of our fellowship who have contributed to this outcome. In connection with this, I would further like to mention specifically two people who have been instrumental in this achievement: firstly, Charles Poole, for his work of guidance to individuals for their giving arrangements; secondly, Clive Jackson, who has most assiduously sifted through a vast

number of charities to identify those to whom it has been appropriate to apply for grants.

However, just as it appeared that we were all set to proceed with the works, the DAC required us to obtain a Lawful Development Certificate from Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department for the lowering of the path levels outside the North porch. This has led to an extended delay, due to them not processing the application in due time.

Coupled with this, it appeared that the scheme deeming no liability for VAT on works to Listed Buildings may end at the end of March 2025, leaving us with the need to raise a further £60,000 to cover such charges.

However, as we move into 2025, we are hopeful that the permission will be granted imminently and that the VAT non-liability scheme will be extended.

Therefore, I am hopeful the works will be largely completed by the end of 2025.

Fred Sleath

MINSTER COMMUNITIES

Our Parish is now well engaged in the Shaped by God Together process, prompted to form groups of parishes into functioning units with teams of at least four ministers, some ordained and some not, to co-ordinate the advance of the gospel in villages, communities and schools throughout the Diocese. These groups are to be known as Minster Communities. This will mean a

significant change from the traditional stand-alone parishes being overseen by individual clergy, or groups of parishes as benefices, also being overseen by individual clergy. The shape of our emerging Minster Community has become clear. We expect to be working alongside Thorpe Acre, Emmanuel Loughborough, Shelthorpe, Grange Park, Mountsorrel and Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave. This grouping has emerged with a shared understanding of the Scriptures and a joint commitment to the role of the local church in serving its community. A significant aspect of our shared mission will be to the rapidly-expanding new communities within the area.

Over the next year we expect informal collaboration between the parishes to grow from what is already in place. The issue of Patronage – the right to appoint new clergy – has yet to be resolved.

Rob Gladstone

COMMUNICATION

What's going on and how do people hear about it?

Word of mouth, posters and fliers, church website, WhatsApp groups, emails, Facebook and other social media and local newspapers are all useful ways of communicating with all sorts of people about what we believe and what we do here at Rothley Parish Church. New this year is Instagram, kept up-to-date by Gina for us.

However, the most important is word-of-mouth, so please don't forget to give personal invitations to family, friends and neighbours to anything going on here, especially if you are planning to be here yourself - and keep asking!

I continue to produce the weekly "Fellowship Post" to keep our membership in touch. It includes notices about upcoming services and events, an outline of our live-streamed service for those not able to get to our church building on Sundays, Prayer Pointers to guide us all with our personal prayer during the week, and the very popular letter on the front page, usually written by Rob, but with occasional contributions by other members of our Ministry Team. This is mostly distributed by email, but we deliver about 20 paper copies to those without easy access to computers. There are usually a few spare copies on the welcome table in church for anyone who doesn't have one delivered, but I will happily include you on the list if you get in touch and ask!

We continue to develop the use of our AV system in church and it is proving very popular with occasional visitors, e.g. at weddings, funerals and school events, as well as concerts etc. Live-streamed services (hopefully one each Sunday) can still be viewed via our YouTube channel, accessed via link from Fellowship Post or search "Rothley Church".

Eric Hissett looks after our church website day-to-day and we are still updating our website as quickly as we can. There is a Church Diary that can be accessed from the website, as well as being printed on the Fellowship Post. Rob and I try to meet monthly to update the diary and make sure our forthcoming events are advertised.

We work closely with Rothley Primary School and send invitations to relevant events directly to the school community

via their email system to parents, as well as via groups who meet here e.g. Little Fishes. We also continue to send out Christmas and Easter invitations to the whole parish with details of our services and other events, for which we are grateful to you all for delivering, along with fliers for our Summer Picnics around the newer estates.

Liz Sleath

OUTREACH

Evangelism Group

This group meets regularly to discuss, plan and organise events which reach out to the local community, to include both church and non-church people. This links with the mission of the church and encouraging evangelism to be on individual church members' agendas, whether it be through events organised by RPC, regular church activities aimed at reaching out or individuals reaching out to people they are in contact with in their daily lives. The events planned by this group endeavour to meet more local people, form relationships and give an opportunity to promote activities that the church is putting on. These often free or subsidised events are also an opportunity to serve our community, to interact with one another and put on events of interest and entertainment.

The above is supported in monthly Sunday evening prayer meetings which always focus on evangelistic activities and we also appreciate and value the prayers of individuals focusing on this.

In the summer we held one Open Picnic at the park by Rothley Primary School. The event was well attended by church members, local families, and Little

Fishes families. There were also passers-by who joined in the fun. In 2023 we held three picnics in different village locations. Our strategy this year was to organise one ourselves, leaving two additional dates open for other small groups to organise a similar event. This was to offer event variation and opportunity for others to take on the direction and organisation. Unfortunately, we did not have offers of volunteers to facilitate the remaining dates. On feedback we realise more time and more information readily at hand would have helped encourage people to do this. We will review this for the summer 2025.

We attended The Party in the Park at the Cricket Club on August Bank Holiday Sunday, pitching a gazebo, with organised free games for children and prizes to give away. It was great to engage with the few people who visited our pitch, but the weather was wet and windy, so many people stayed away from the event until later in the afternoon/evening. This being our first venture at the event, therefore will be reviewed for 2025.

Macmillan Coffee morning: the first time the church has supported this nationwide event. Volunteers from church set up the church space, provided refreshments and interacted with those attending. It was very well attended by those in the church and those in the local community. Again, we saw families who we know from Little Fishes.

The Saltmine Theatre company put on two performances of 'A Christmas Carol' on the same afternoon in December. This was put on at a subsidised price to attract families to

attend. It was well attended and provided an opportunity for families to meet and hear the Christian message of Jesus through this professional Christian theatre group. As well as church members, Little Fishes families and the local community were in attendance and this was also an easy promotion to Rothley School families.

Three carol singing evenings in three Rothley locations saw church members singing and giving out sweets to those who came out of their houses to listen - a great festive way to spread the message of the church, who we are and our Christmas events though the month. This was backed up by the Christmas invitation card from the church. We saw many local families and those who Rob Gladstone has met through the school too.

We have also been reviewing and starting to improve the church website, this being a visual and informative directive to people new to the area as Christians looking for a church or those who are interested in who we are through contact with us. It is important to be mindful and considered in our presentation of RPC through our website, making it accessible, up-to-date and visually appealing. It also presents opportunity to promote all our events through the year.

As an Evangelism Group we have also been considering how we reach out to new families and individuals moving into the Broadnook village. This is a venture being looked at by the wider RPC as well as particular individuals.

Little Fishes

Our parent, baby and toddler group takes place in The Old School Rooms on Monday mornings between 9- 11am during term-time. It is an open-to-all group to those in the local community. This group provides a welcoming, safe, friendly environment for parents and grandparents with their babies and toddlers to interact and get to know each other and the church volunteers. There are three groups of church volunteers who underpin these sessions: the set-up team, refreshment team, and the team interacting with families and leading the activities in the morning session. With an optional contribution of £1 per family, we provide tea and toast for approximately the first half hour, then at 10am we gather families, offering a drink and biscuit to the toddlers, we then tell a short-simplified Bible story and sing together a few well-known nursery songs. We often finish the session with a craft activity from 10.30-11am. The OSR is set up with various play equipment so the families can play with their children throughout the morning session.

Responsibility for the activities, story, song, and craft are divided between the church volunteers, the intention being to talk about God through the Bible story and witness through the outreach of the sessions and our interactions with families. We use the opportunity to promote and discuss appropriate services and activities coming up at church. We have seen some of the families attend church events though the year including the summer picnic, Macmillan coffee morning and Christmas panto. It is a privilege to interact with our community, serving

young families and spreading the love of God.

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

2024 has been the year when we can say that we have successfully resumed the Men's Group after the COVID-19 pandemic brought the group's activities to an abrupt halt. After much deliberation and prayer by the committee, a well-attended gathering of men agreed that there was an appetite to start the group again and, as such, well-attended events including a pétanque evening and a walk in the Summer, followed by PC Samuel Pilbeam and Harry Longman as our guest speakers in the Autumn were organised. A social evening in between our two guest speaker events was also held, where one of the Committee gave a Christian testimony during the evening. We rounded off the year with a fish and chip supper.

We have been very encouraged by the support we have received since we resumed the group this year which has given us a solid platform to move forward with our 2025 programme.

Wednesday Lunches

Wednesday Lunches have continued to operate successfully throughout the year on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each calendar month. A regular team of five helpers have served hot two course meals during the winter and salads with jacket or new potatoes over the summer.

Our regular diners, most of whom generally eat alone, enjoy the company and friendship they find here as well as the food, at a cost of only £5. Sadly, we

have lost three much-loved customers this year, latterly our oldest just three weeks short of her 103rd birthday. If you think you'd like to join us come and give it a try: contact Sandra Shaw-Pearce on 07941951265 or 01162302989.

Care home links

The enthusiastic team continue to lead a regular service, usually on the first Monday of each month. We are grateful to David Hodgson coming with his key board and various members of the group who share with leading the service. We shall be sad to lose Val Wadge as she moves away to be near her daughter. Val was the initial inspiration in setting up a regular service for the residents of Cedar House. We will miss her very much. We are happy for others to join us at any time. Please pray for the residents and the staff of Cedar House.

The monthly service at Mountview Care Home is led by a great team who are very gifted at getting alongside the residents. It continues to attract many of the residents and has resulted in a wider ministry involvement with the Care Home, supporting those who are ill and families through bereavement. The regular service is very much appreciated by the residents, many of whom had strong connections with their local church in the past.

Bereavement Support

As a Church, we have now adopted an online database which will be more effective at generating reminders and contact details so that those involved in bereavement ministry, such as Jean

Johnson, can more readily access the details they need.

The annual Memorial Service is always a special service, with its mixture of sadness and thanksgiving; of church and community coming together; freedom to be oneself, to light a candle, hear a loved one's name, shed a tear knowing one is safe and supported; the preciousness of hearing of the love, peace, and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, through Scripture, reflection, hymns, and prayers; and the singing.

Thank you so much to so many in the congregation who support, comfort, care and pray for those who grieve.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Sunday School for children aged 3 - 11 years is held twice a month during the 11am Sunday services. We study the same Bible story, but with age-appropriate activities. We meet together in The Old School Rooms at the beginning of our sessions for a drink and a chat, then split into two groups, divided by ages, soon after. Our numbers are sometimes disappointingly low, but those who come seem to enjoy learning, however young and however few they are.

The Grid for young people in secondary school is held at the same time as Sunday School. This group look at Bible topics, with discussion and occasional games. However, numbers are very low at the moment, with one or two from Year 7 having just come up from Sunday School and many of the older ones having other commitments (sport etc) on Sundays. There are plans in the

pipeline for a Saturday evening group, but this will depend on numbers available.

Shine! is a monthly gathering of an all-age community on the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm, usually in church, but sometimes outside. Here there is the opportunity to meet with regular church families and those who only join us once a month for a short time of worship, prayer and Bible story, age-relevant activities, crafts etc with a time to chat and build relationships afterwards over refreshments or a meal



together. The leadership for the different events varies, but Sneha is ultimately overseeing this activity and bringing fresh ideas to it. Happily, the numbers attending were increasing over the last few meetings of the year and we pray that trend continues. We continue to invite the School community, those who come to Little Fishes and those who have been baptised here, and advertise on local social media sites. Special events last

year included a Family BBQ in September and Saltmine Theatre's pantomime "A Christmas Carol" in December, enjoyed by many.

We again ran a one-day **Children's Easter Holiday Club** in Holy Week, starting in the OSR with a video of the Easter Story, followed by different activities for small groups of children, including making edible Easter egg nests, miniature Easter gardens and an Easter card, clay models etc, then after



lunch we moved over to church. Here we worked through "Colours of Life", hearing from different adults about creation, sin, redemption and living in the light of Christ, taking part in various related activities and finding coloured strips of paper to make our rainbow flags, finishing with a short talk from Rob who shared his Easter egg with everyone! Then it was time to go home, taking a book explaining the Easter Story "Christ Died for me?", a chocolate egg, sweets, their morning creations and an invitation to come back on Good

Friday for our "Jerusalem Journey" and Easter Sunday Family Service.



A group of families from church again took a holiday to Devon at May half term, staying at **St George's House**, the trip being led by Rob and Sarah. There was a choice of outdoor activities, enjoyed by all who took part, as well as time to chill, to pray together and play and eat together.

Some social nights open to all women within the church were organised during the year under the title *U-nite*.

Liz Sleath

SCHOOL

One of the Diocesan priorities for all churches and Minster Communities to adopt is 'Growing Faith'. This refers explicitly to work amongst children and young people, with a particular focus on schools. Whilst all churches struggle with Sunday-based children's work, through our Church School we have

access to over 500 children every week and many opportunities to minister to their families too.

In the past year, we have given training to all the staff on the Christian Ethos of the School and on Spirituality. We have a team, David Wilson, Alison Godfrey, Sneha Ninan and Rob Gladstone, who visit the school every Wednesday morning to conduct Collective Worship. As a Church, we host, every six weeks, an act of Collective Worship, led by the pupils, focused on a Christian Value and attended by all the parents of that year group.

Through the year the church also hosts the school for a number of Christian festivals and for the Year 6 Leavers Service.

Lynne Bragg visits the school once a week to encourage the children to explore Christian faith and prayer and provided a special transition morning for the Year 6 leavers.

Through Governance, we continue to hold the School to account to uphold the Christian Ethos and to support the teaching staff as they lead and deliver RE and Collective Worship. In the latest SIAMS Inspection the school was awarded the highest grade and continually seeks ways to improve on this. In 2025 the school is arranging for the Saltmine Trust to lead a day of activities for the children as a follow up to the Pantomime they performed in the Church in December 2024.

Rob Gladstone

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus. Paul's vision of discipleship in Ephesians 4 vv7-16 continues to be our church vision for discipleship, with a focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, through meeting in smaller groups and through personal prayer, Bible study and reading of Christian literature. The discipleship working group of the PCC continues to work on strategic leadership in this area.

Housegroups: During 2024, each of our seven housegroups met, usually fortnightly, for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. One meets in the morning, one in the afternoon and the others evenings. As in previous years, belonging to a small group has been very encouraging, enabling us to better understand our faith and providing us with resources to live it out in our daily lives. The topics studied vary from group to group, but all are designed to enable us to grow as Christians, to care for each other, and to look outwards to the wider community. These groups help us to get to know people better and also help to build up a sense of belonging within the church. Please contact David Wilson if you are interested in joining a group or simply finding out more.

Men's Breakfast: The Men's Breakfast Group, typically 6-12 in number, meet for breakfast, conversation, Bible study and prayer on the first Saturday of each month and have welcomed several newcomers this year. The group have benefited greatly from the opportunity to share and encourage one another in their faith. This is a diverse group who have a wide range of life experiences,

making Bible studies rewarding. Studies in 2024 were from 1 Peter, 2 John, Proverbs and Isaiah. In November some attended the Men's Convention at Cornerstone Church, Nottingham - one of the highlights of the year and a fantastic opportunity to purchase books and receive teaching and fresh ideas for sharing our faith. In August, a walk over the Charnwood Hills with the Rothley Church Men's Group was rounded off with refreshment in a local pub.

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation working through grassroots membership to support families and communities around the world. The Rothley branch has 36 members. Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and include prayers, a speaker and time for chat and refreshments. Prayer and faith are central to the organisation and include an allocated 'Wave of Prayer' day.

In 2024, we continued to support Bradgate Mental Health Unit at Glenfield Hospital, collecting 405 cream eggs for Easter and 126 chocolate bars for Christmas for the patients. Other initiatives supported included prisoners and their families (via the Prison Advice and Care Trust), the initiative against modern day slavery and the MU campaign Rise Up against Domestic Abuse in UK and Ireland.

Money was raised by hosting an Octave concert, a Strawberry Tea and a harvest supper and having a bring and buy table at meetings; this was shared between the Diocesan Fund, Mary Sumner House, Homeless in Leicestershire, FGM in Tanzania, AFIA holiday scheme and Rothley Parish Church.

Bible Reading Notes: Whilst we endeavour to facilitate group Bible Study through our many church groups, we also strongly encourage personal Bible study as part of a daily quiet time with God to equip us for the challenges of everyday life in our increasingly unstable world. For those who wish to have daily Bible reading notes in a printed format, we continue to arrange the procurement and distribution of many different Bible reading books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media, including "Verse of the Day" (biblegateway.com) and the "Word Live" daily passage from the Scripture Union website, both of which can be found on the Rothley Church website. In 2024, several individuals moved from the printed format of daily Bible reading to online providers but, with new and returning subscribers, 32 individuals use 6 different titles of printed daily Bible reading notes. Rafe Cherry continues to coordinate.

Monthly Sunday evening prayer meetings: One Sunday evening per month between 12 and 20 people gather in church for 40 minutes to pray specifically for evangelism. This is a recognition that whatever we plan to do to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the parish, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts and build his Church.

Prayer Circle: The 14 members of the prayer circle (11 anonymous and the three named contacts) commit themselves to praying for people and situations as requested, usually for a week, though continuing for longer as requested. A newly-designed information card has been given to all members of the church family

explaining how to make contact with the prayer circle; those who are housebound or currently unable to get to church were visited and given a card by one of the contacts. Extra copies are available in church. This ministry is much appreciated, with 68 requests in 2024.

Pastoral care: The church is encouraged to follow Christ's example of kindness and compassion to all whom we come in contact with. The role of Pastoral Coordinator as a reference point has enabled people in the fellowship to ask for help for themselves or for others and has enabled ongoing liaison with the Vicar and Ministry Team. Importantly, there has been a continuing willingness from people in the church fellowship to be involved with the ministry of pastoral care, whether formally as a designated pastoral visitor or informally. Pastoral visiting is important to keep the link between the church and those who are housebound, in hospital, or in care homes and no longer able to come to church. Many people in the church and in the community have found that prayer by members of the church fellowship has supported and comforted them.

The housebound, those physically and mentally ill at home and in hospital and the bereaved, isolated and lonely have been visited and supported. Contact has also been maintained by phone calls, texts, emails and cards. The need is increasing with more elderly people in the church and the community.

The distribution of the printed 'Fellowship Post' continued to prove a vital link with the church for those without access to modern technology,

distributed by volunteers who also chat with and check on the well-being of the recipients. The provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' also continued to demonstrate the church's love and care for those going through difficult times.

A transport coordinator organised volunteers to enable visits to hospital and doctors' appointments, vaccinations, and church services. Volunteers have also helped with shopping, posting letters and collecting prescriptions.

In the wider community, the Soar Valley Community Food Project continues to be actively supported by the church. The average number of food parcels given out per week was 61 in 2024. On behalf of the local authorities, the project has also administered an energy 'top-up' scheme. The project employs a Financial Coach who visits the distribution centres to support people looking for help with their personal and family budgets. Church members volunteer at the Food Bank and the fellowship has given generous donations of food and money to the project. One of the trustees is a church member.

Alison Godfrey

SEND

Our aim is to send out and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus, and seek to be a church with God's heart for the nations. We therefore support a variety of organisations, some local, some in other countries. It is important for us not only to be concerned about our own spiritual

life and witness, but to be outward-looking in our prayers and our giving.

Giving Every year we give a tithe, which is 10% of our church's donations and tax recovery income. From this we give to:

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) who support churches in the UK and Ireland, providing resources for leaders, children and young people's work, run Christian holiday camps and are patrons of Rothley Church.

Crosslinks who work to spread the gospel in many countries. Specifically, we support Jirka and Keira Kralovi who work with students in the Czech Republic, and also Brada and Yatza Radanovic in Serbia. In both these countries there is very little general awareness of the gospel message.

Tearfund who work with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty. They work in church communities, refugee camps where those displaced by war and unrest have multiple needs, and with victims of disasters where emergency aid is needed. Tearfund also have a role in lobbying regarding climate change and pollution.

The Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto, Tanzania which have been linked with Leicester Diocese since 1982, and we actively take part in this link.

Local charities The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough, and Triangle, Leicester, help and support the homeless and also provide residential addiction services. Both charities have a strong Christian ethos.

15% of our tithe is reserved for discretionary giving. In 2024 we supported:

Mothers' Union

Paul and Cathy Middleton, working in health care and aviation transport in Southern Africa

The Oakes Holiday Centre

Soar Valley Community Food Project

CPAS School Ventures

Serena Cook in her work for UCCF in Aberystwyth and Lampeter

We also collected for Christian Aid, supported emergency appeals on behalf of Tearfund for crisis situations, encouraged regular donations of food to the Soar Valley food bank and clothes to Triangle, and also Christmas hampers for Triangle and the food bank.

Information and Prayer An essential part of our support is in praying, and to this end we facilitate information to stimulate interest and inform our prayers. Every week one of the above organisations is featured in the church Fellowship Post, usually as half a page of up-to-date information and specific topics for prayer. This year we also featured information and prayers on behalf of the persecuted church, modern slavery and the environment.

Our link mission partners with Crosslinks, Jirka and Kiera Kralovi in the Czech Republic and Brada and Yatsa Radanovic in Serbia, regularly send newsletters which are distributed via email to members of the congregation, together with hard copies, as are occasional links to Tearfund and to Christian Aid.

Hearing directly from people and representatives of organisations we support is always a very valuable

experience, not only enabling us to pray with greater understanding, but also in challenging us to likewise be active in our witness and service to God.

During the academic year 23/24, one of our church members, Serena Cook, worked as a volunteer with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) as a Relay Worker, supporting Christian Unions and students in Aberystwyth and Lampeter. Her role was in strengthening faith and in mission, reaching students with the good news of Jesus. She regularly gave us updates and showed slides of the work when we saw her in university holidays, and she sent regular prayer letters to those who requested them. We wish her every blessing in her new employment and in her future.

In September Tim Jackson spoke to us at the Mothers' Union harvest supper about the work of the Soar Valley Food Project, which provides on average over 60 food parcels a week to people in the Soar Valley region, together with advice and support services. Tim also preached at both services on the Sunday, illustrating his message with examples of the possibilities for service and the needs of people locally.

The speaker we had booked from Tearfund was unable to come in the end, so Rob Gladstone, our vicar, presented aspects of their work. We hope that a speaker may be able to come in 2025.

We trust that in these ways we have all been made more conscious of the needs of the world and about the work of God locally in Leicestershire, in the UK and in the wider world, and that this has

stimulated our prayers and involvement.

Margaret Leverment

CHOIR AND MUSIC

Rothley Parish Church maintains a good four-part SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass) choir. We have continued to lead worship Sunday by Sunday for the more traditional services. The highlights are always the special services and festivals, each defined in their own way musically, but those services in 'Ordinary Time' are equally as important.

It is good that we maintain a mix of worship styles and the 11am service provides a different musical focus, and it's a great privilege to play the piano with the band in this more contemporary worship.

Rob Gladstone preached a sermon during November 2024, at which he mentioned the need to train and handover the baton to those that will continue our work when we have 'moved on.' This really resonated with me, having been here since 2001. I know that I won't be able to play forever and it would be great to have other people willing to 'have a go'. This has also been a theme within the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) that active encouragement is needed to keep this genre of church music alive. The church organ is a lasting legacy which, in my opinion, needs to be maintained for many years to come. We continue to spend money on this fine instrument to keep it fully functional but this is pointless if, ultimately, there is nobody able, available and willing to play it.

It would be great to welcome new members of any age into the choir. I am also keen to try and rebuild a Junior Choir and there are some avenues to be explored in this respect. I am, however, delighted that a good number of our Junior Choir from years past return to sing in the choir when they are back with us.

I regularly receive comments from members of the congregation to say how much they enjoy walking in through the church doors, typically on a Sunday, to hear the organ playing. I usually start playing at least fifteen to twenty minutes before the service starts and I am glad that this is appreciated. Hopefully, it also puts them into a mood of meditation, prayer and worship as we move towards the beginning of the service.

We look forward to 2025 with renewed vigour despite uncertainties which impact upon all aspects of our lives. We know that we have 'One Church, One Faith and One Lord' as 'Thy hand, O God, has guided' and, through the words of this and many other great hymns and songs, we know that we are safe and inspired in the presence of the Lord.

Simon Murphy

Handbells

For the past two years we have been unable to ring our lovely set of bells due to personal circumstances and illness. This year we will be getting back into ringing all the lovely music we have gathered over the years.

We are a casual kind of group; we enjoy having fun and socialising. We are

hoping to be able to accept more invitations this year to ring at events and care homes to share our love of bell music.

In the new year we will be having an open day to which we will invite anyone over 18 interested in joining us. You do not need to be 'musical', just to be able to hold a bell and count to 4.

If you would like to register your interest, please give call me on 01162374422 or 07708268292.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

This past year has again been very active for the bellringers with great progress being made.

Regular practices have been well attended with the team members stretching themselves week-by-week with the aim of continual improvement. That improvement might be ringing in Rounds, perfecting changes when called, conducting the band, ringing Plain Hunt on a new bell or learning another method, such as Plain Bob or Grandsire Doubles. On Sundays we have put all this learning to good use with some excellent ringing much appreciated by the public.

On special occasions and festivals we have done our best ringing, most recently for Remembrance Day when we rang Plain Hunt on five, half muffled and double spaced. Another highlight was learning and ringing All Hallows Place Doubles for 31st October.

The Band members continue to support each other, both in ringing and also

social activities. This latter element is thanks in part to a Sunday lunchtime gathering, which also included nearby neighbours who hear the bells at their loudest. Also, December saw a trip to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, with the opportunity to ring Taylo's own bells, followed by ringing at Prestwold Church and Barrow upon Soar Parish Church. A convivial meal at Rothley Court Hotel concluded the evening.

During the year we, in turn, also hosted visiting ringing teams from London and Nottinghamshire.

The bells themselves remain in good condition, with an annual inspection by Taylors. The increasing use of the bells is, however, starting to cause some expected wear, notably to the ropes. Also, the half muffles, used annually at Remembrance Day, are now nearing the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced in the near future.

Work has also been undertaken on the risk assessments for the belfry and ringing activities. This included the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service practicing on site with their specialist equipment which helped to identify a methodology for evacuating an ill or injured non-ambulant person from each of the three locations in the tower – the ringing chamber, bell chamber and tower roof.

A final word of thanks to our diligent team of ringers and also to those who week-by-week wind up by hand the church clock, along with the church member who scales both the spiral staircase and iron ladder to raise the flag on the top of the tower to mark both celebratory and sombre occasions.

Charles Poole and Harry Longman

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS (OSR)

The OSR remains well used, and although children's birthday parties have remained a constant source of "business", I am pleased to report that there have been several community groups and individuals finding their way to us this year, with some becoming regulars. Our regular bookers have remained constant, and so we are in the situation that we do not have any "regular" weekly slots available for new enquiries. During the year the hall was hired out 292 times to "paying customers", compared to 226 in 2023.

I reported last year of the misfortune of a ceiling collapsing – this has now been turned into a positive, by taking the opportunity to make a dry storage area, which has reached completion this year, with the addition of shelving units.

The outside of the building was painted during the summer months, but this drew the attention to the condition of the rear doors of the hall. Their condition is not good, and therefore they need to be replaced with the most appropriate material, and also the need for some sort of canopy to house pushchairs for Little Fishes users has been identified, so currently the possibilities are being researched.

We try to demonstrate God's love by giving our users a warm welcome, keeping the hall clean and well presented, and providing a link between the church and the wider community. It is unfortunate that the hall can only

accommodate 60 people, as designated by the fire regulations for the building, and also that significant car parking is not readily available, but nevertheless we continue to do our best with what we have, and local hirers don't seem to have been put off by this during 2024.

Leaders of church groups wanting to use the hall are reminded that they are responsible for booking the OSR. Special hiring rates are available for church members using the hall for private events. All bookings can be made by email at: osrenquiries@gmail.com and the availability can be viewed in the diary on the church website under "Resources" and "Old School Rooms".

Linda Poole

DEANERY AND DIOCESE

Leicester Diocesan Synod meetings in 2024 covered a wide variety of topics. Finance was inevitably an ever-present strand, given the significant ongoing challenges the diocese is facing, with yet another large deficit reported for the past year and a further deficit budget of £1.5 million approved by Synod for 2025. In the light of the above, reductions in the number of stipendiary clergy have regrettably been deemed necessary, something that poses real challenges for the effectiveness of mission and ministry at the local level. It is, however, important to point out that Leicester is not alone - sadly, the majority of dioceses are in similar financial straits.

Another recurring theme throughout 2024 focused around *Shaped by God Together* and the advent of Minster Communities. Progress has been slow

in creating Minster Communities - to date only one is operational (Launde), although negotiations are well under way in a number of others, including the one which incorporates Rothley. The discussions with other parishes in our proposed Minster Community are currently proceeding well and the next year or so could possibly see our Minster Community up and running, although there are numerous detailed issues that still need to be resolved, notably the deployment of stipendiary clergy, and this might not be straightforward.

The implications of the above for Goscote Deanery - where Rob Gladstone remains Area Dean - are considerable. It is very likely that parishes currently comprising the Deanery will ultimately end up in three or four different Minster Communities. This clearly undermines the traditional role of the deanery, given that parishes will very quickly develop new linkages outside the current Goscote framework. Having said this, there will be a continuing need for Goscote Deanery to remain in existence for the immediate future because it remains the legal entity for elections to both Diocesan and General Synod. Such organisational fragmentation is, however, causing both confusion and anxiety at grass roots level across parts of the Deanery.

Throughout 2024, Diocesan Synod addressed various aspects of *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF). There is a strongly-held view within Synod that the proposed *Prayers of Love and Faith* are

being pursued without adequate provision and protection for those holding to the historic and global Anglican view of marriage and sexual ethics. The fact remains that this topic is highly divisive and 2025 could well see the divisions becoming even sharper as votes are taken in every diocese which will subsequently inform General Synod in its decision making. Sadly, all this has the potential to undermine so much of what we are about, namely looking outward to faithfully present the authentic gospel of Jesus Christ to a needy world.

The November 2024 Diocesan Synod focused on the unprecedented situation in the Church of England resulting from the publication earlier that month of the Makin Report into the horrific abuse perpetrated by John Smyth and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Martyn began the Synod with a Presidential Address followed by a period of discussion in small groups, after the which there was some time for questions and comments. Throughout the morning, the central importance of safeguarding was referred to time and time again. Bishop Martyn repeatedly emphasised that safeguarding is an integral part of the Christian Gospel, absolutely central to what we are about as a church. The clear message is that all of us need to adhere rigorously to what is required of us in our particular responsibilities within the church. Safeguarding must never be seen as an optional extra.

David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two church services, of different style, are held every Sunday, with, in addition, a choral evensong once a month and a prayer meeting once a month. We continue to livestream one service each Sunday for the benefit of those who are not able to attend in person. Our weekly newsletter and service sheet, sent electronically or delivered to every church member, includes the order of service for the livestreamed worship.

In addition to the pastoral care provided by our Vicar, our Pastoral Co-ordinator also remains responsive to the needs of church members and other contacts in the village. Lifts are also offered to medical appointments and the like, and these are co-ordinated separately. Two groups of church members focus their pastoral support on the residents of the two care homes in the parish, through monthly visits. A small bereavement visiting team was formed this year for this specific ministry. Many church members provide pastoral care to neighbours and other church members, either under the auspices of the Pastoral Co-ordinator or informally. The pastoral care provided in the community is greatly valued by those who have been helped.

Rothley Parish Church has a close relationship with the village school. Our Vicar supports the staff as they teach Religious Education, plan Collective Worship and

embed the Christian ethos of the school. A team of four take turns to lead assemblies at the school each week and the pupils themselves lead assemblies in the church several times a year. We have also been pleased to welcome children and parents for class visits, special events and productions in the church. A church volunteer provides a weekly extra-curricular Christian activity group in school. The Growing Families WhatsApp group continues as a helpful forum for local families to be informed about church events.

A wide range of activities for all age groups took place week by week throughout the year. The narrative reports which form the first half of this Annual Report document provide details of these activities. There were four new ventures this year: a group organised games for children at the Cricket Club's Party in the Park in August; a coffee morning for the community was held in the church in September to support Macmillan Cancer Support; Christian theatre company Saltmine performed their Christmas Pantomime *A Christmas Carol* in December; and a welcome event was held in December on the new Broadnook development, where the first residents moved in just before Christmas.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Outreach project, particularly its foodbank ministry, continued to be very important during 2024, as energy and living costs remained high. We ask for donations of food or money at our Harvest Festival each year, but church members generously give food, funds and volunteer time to this ministry throughout the year.

Every year we organise the village Remembrance Day service in church, followed by wreath-laying at the village war memorial. At the end of November, we partner with the Baptist Church in providing entertainment when the village Christmas lights are switched on.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is recognised as a priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment has been invaluable, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the first time in at least 12 years, the General Fund has ended the year showing a significant deficit. In a challenging financial environment, General Fund income fell by £4,384, compared to 2023, mainly as a result of a fall in donations income and tax recovered of £3,881. General Fund expenditure was £8,521 higher than in 2023 and we ended 2024 with a deficit of £10,675. The areas of unexpected significant overspend were the audio-visual system, where we had to replace our wireless microphones and one of our screens during the year; and Old School Rooms gas, perhaps because of increased use of the premises. A large deficit is a matter of concern which will need to be addressed during 2025.

The Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). We remain grateful for the continued support and commitment to regular giving shown by our church members.

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430, 56% of our General Fund expenditure in 2024), which supports all administration and ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually. However, in recent years the Diocese of Leicester has seen its total Parish Contribution income decline and is itself in deficit and going forward parishes, or groups of parishes, will be expected to contribute sufficient funds to cover the cost of their clergy.

We continue to tithe our donations and associated tax recovery and distribute this to local, national and international Christian work, as detailed on page 38.

Progress on the plans to improve the church building, by installing toilets, servery, upstairs meeting room and glass inner doors to the main entrance of the church has, unfortunately, stalled during 2024. Fundraising began in January 2024 and, thanks to the generosity of our church membership and the excellent work of our grant applicant, we now hold £130,496 in a designated Church Building Improvements Fund and £157,816, in a restricted Church Building Improvements Fund, £288,312 in total towards our target of £384,000. We had hoped to submit our application for Faculty permission for the work in February, but the process has been held up waiting for a Lawful Development Certificate from the local authority, the application for which was submitted in July 2024. In the meantime, the likely cost of the project is rising. Some of the external grants we have received are either time-limited or dependent on the entire project going ahead. Until we receive the necessary permissions, we are unable to put out tenders for the work and discover its true cost. While there is the possibility that further fundraising may be necessary for this project, we are unable to address the issue of giving to the General Fund. However, at the beginning of the year we had predicted a potential worst-case deficit of £19,333 for 2024, so the final result is significantly better.

During 2024 we installed a contactless card machine in the church. This has been used for general church donations as well as giving to the Church Building Improvements Fund and other specific causes at special events and funerals. The costs of buying and installing the machine and the transaction costs are recorded as fundraising costs.

Having six people working together as a treasury team provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures. However, we have been stretched during 2024 as the fundraising for the building project has led to an increased workload for us all.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living.

FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £481,137 at 31 December 2024, made up as follows:

Fund Overview	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	72,697	83,728
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	130,496	126,425
Church Maintenance Fund	(283)	21,446
Heritage Events Fund	307	351
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	72	70
Organ & Music Fund	12,741	16,021
Parish Evangelism Fund	75,181	75,388
Training Fund	10,525	10,155
Total Unrestricted Funds	301,736	333,584
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	14,428	13,966
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	157,816	8,849
Goscote Deanery Fund	989	954
Youth Fund	6,593	6,376
Total Restricted Funds	179,826	30,145
Total funds	481,562	363,729

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Donations	116,187	119,329
Tax recovery	26,031	26,770
Special donations	-	100
Grants	1,185	3,159
Trading & fees	2,213	3,000
Old School Rooms	6,506	6,056
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	9,436	7,650
Other income	21	-
Total income	161,579	166,064
Expenditure:		
Fundraising costs	513	-
Tithe for mission	14,222	14,610
Parish Contribution	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	17,740	16,086
Clergy & staff expenses	2,301	2,069
Mission & evangelism	355	654
Church costs	24,234	21,024
Church utilities	3,710	3,100
Old School Rooms	12,180	8,882
Governance	570	528
Total expenditure	172,255	163,383
Surplus/deficit of income	(10,676)	2,681
Net transfers to/from other funds	(356)	(130,021)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	83,728	211,068
Balance at 31 December	72,696	83,728

General Fund income amounted to £161,580 in 2024, just £86 below expectations and, excluding the 2023 special donation, £4,384 less than the 2023 total. £3,881 of this decrease was in donations and tax recovery, which could be as a result of the launch of our building improvements project in January, as well as changes in church members' personal circumstances throughout the year. We received £1,974 less in grants in 2024, which cancelled out the increase of £1,786 in investments during the year.

General Fund expenditure was £172,255, 5.4% (£8,872) higher than in 2023 total, but still 4.8% below budget expectations. The most significant increases were in staff salaries/payments (£1,654), church costs (£3,210) and the Old School Rooms (£3,298). We use the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage to ensure that our regular part-time employees' remuneration reflects any increase in inflation; replacing the wireless microphones and one screen in church, at a total cost of £3,430, accounted

for the increase in church costs; all costs for the Old School Rooms rose and the largest increases were for maintenance (£2,104, but this was planned expenditure) and gas (£656).

The result is that, for the first time in at least 12 years, the General Fund has ended the year with a significant deficit, although this deficit, at £10,675, was considerably less (55.2%) than originally estimated (£19,333).

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

The budget for 2025 is, again, a deficit budget. A slight reduction (0.3%) in income and a 1.2% decrease in expenditure is anticipated, leading to a potential deficit of £13,641. We hope this is a worst-case scenario and that we will achieve a better result at the end of the year.

General Fund Budget for 2025	£
Income:	
Donations	119,968
Tax recovery	26,970
Grants	386
Trading & fees	2,144
Old School Rooms	4,540
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	6,660
Total income	160,668
Expenditure:	
Fundraising costs	46
Tithe for mission	14,744
Parish Contribution	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	18,750
Clergy & staff expenses	2,574
Mission & evangelism	1,304
Church costs	24,273
Church utilities	4,441
Old School Rooms	11,140
Governance	606
Total expenditure	174,308
Budgeted surplus/(deficit)	(13,640)

- The same budget figure as 2024 has been retained for donations and tax recovery income, although this will be difficult to predict until the building project costs are known.
- A small grant has been budgeted from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.
- Income from trading and fees is difficult to budget, as the majority of this income is from weddings, which are usually booked well in advance, and church funerals, which can occur at any time and in any number.

- The Old School Rooms were very popular in 2024, and a cautious, but significant budget has been set.
- Investments are budgeted to reduce in 2025, as interest rates are expected to fall.
- Fundraising costs are expected to decrease, as the 2024 figure included the purchase and set up of a contactless card machine for the church.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned expenditure in line with long-term strategy. In 2025 the amount required in the General Fund is £63,398, which includes £13,641 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2024 the PCC held £72,271 in the unrestricted General Fund, £9,634 of which is remaining legacy funds waiting to be designated for use. Our policy is to use legacies for specific projects, rather than to cover general expenditure. In accordance with correct procedure, the balance of the legacies is held in the General Fund until such time as the PCC designates its use. Discounting the legacy balance, there remains £63,063 in free reserves in the General Fund at 31st December 2024, which leaves us £335 short of the amount needed to fulfil our Reserves Policy. The Finance Committee will review the situation throughout 2025 and report to the PCC for its consideration.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank to £85,000 in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

Delays in obtaining the necessary permissions for our church building improvements meant that we were not able to complete this project in 2024, as hoped. We hope that 2025 will see progress.

The Diocese of Leicester is restructuring its patterns of ministry for all churches. During 2024 discussions were held with clergy and laity from nine other local Church of England churches, with a view to forming a Minster Community. The Diocese describes a Minster Community as *a community of parishes who work together in mission (without losing their individual identity)*. During 2025 we expect proposals to be drawn up by a representative group and then discussed by each individual PCC to see how, and whether, we might link together in mission in this area.

We continue to be challenged to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to an increasingly secular society.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational
- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC.

Through Diocesan resources, the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address our priorities.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC has several sub-committees and working groups, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Church Building Improvements
- Communications
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Send

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role. Since July 2023 we have been using a resource produced by our patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), called *PCC Tonight: Leading your churches in evangelism* during PCC meetings.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address: The Old School Rooms
3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Margaret Rouse	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Fred Sleath	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Susan Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Liz Barker	
Susie Clark	
Wendy Ferguson	
Chris Garnett	
Margaret Leverment	
Wendy Lewis	
Alison Parkinson	
Susan Pinkus	
Nigel Willey	

The following members served as trustees during part of 2024 only:
David Hodgson (to 7/4/24)

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 10th March 2025 .

Signed on its behalf:

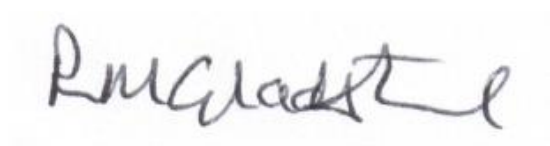
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Gladstone', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	5,140	4,518
Cash at bank and in hand	494,257	369,417
Total	499,397	373,935
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	17,834	10,207
Net assets:	481,563	363,728
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	72,697	83,728
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	130,496	126,425
Church Maintenance Fund	(283)	21,446
Heritage Events Fund	307	351
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	72	70
Organ & Music Fund	12,741	16,021
Parish Evangelism	75,181	75,388
Training	10,525	10,155
Total Unrestricted Funds	301,736	333,584
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	14,428	13,966
Church Building Improvements Fund	157,816	8,849
Goscote Deanery Fund	989	954
Youth Fund	6,593	6,376
Total Restricted Funds	179,826	30,145
Total funds	481,562	363,729

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 10th March 2025.

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2024	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income:					
Donations	116,187	20	92,499	208,706	120,709
Tax recovery	26,031	-	21,447	47,478	27,100
Special donations	-	-	-	-	100
Grants	1,185	5,575	33,000	39,760	7,074
Fundraising events	-	-	724	724	-
Trading & fees	2,213	728	4,291	7,232	7,550
Old School Rooms Investments & Feed-in Tariff	6,506	-	-	6,506	6,056
Other income	9,436	8,563	3,610	21,609	13,215
	21	-	-	21	-
Total income	161,579	14,886	155,571	332,036	181,804
Expenditure:					
Fundraising costs	513	999	-	1,512	-
Tithe & other awards	14,222	-	-	14,222	14,610
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	17,740	-	-	17,740	16,086
Clergy & staff expenses	2,301	-	-	2,301	2,069
Mission & evangelism	355	3,703	5,909	9,967	7,978
Church costs	24,234	31,336	-	55,570	55,875
Church utilities	3,710	-	-	3,710	3,100
Old School Rooms	12,180	-	-	12,180	16,210
Governance	570	-	-	570	528
Total expenditure	172,255	36,038	5,909	214,202	212,886
Surplus/deficit of income	(10,676)	(21,152)	149,662	117,834	(31,082)
Transfers between funds (details below)	(356)	336	20	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	83,728	249,855	30,146	363,729	394,811
Balances at 31 December	72,696	229,039	179,828	481,563	363,729

Transfers between funds 1 January to 31 December 2024	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted Designated funds		Restricted funds
	General Fund	Church Maintenance	Parish Evangelism	Children & Families Restricted
	£	£	£	£

Transfer from General
Fund (legacies) to Church
Maintenance Fund for
outdoor AV equipment as
agreed by PCC 21/11/22

(300) 300

Transfer from General
Fund (legacies) to Church
Maintenance Fund for
outdoor AV equipment as
agreed by PCC 21/11/22

(56) 56

Transfer from Parish
Evangelism to Children &
Families - donation
correction

(20) 20

NET **(356)** **356** **(20)** **20**

Location of funds:	£		£
Nat West Stewardship Account:	46,582	Debtors*:	5,140
CAF Bank General Account & cash:	59,350		
CBF Deposit Fund:	299,486	Creditors*:	17,834
CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account	10,884		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account	19,350		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2	19,486		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3	19,910		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4	19,210		
Net creditors	(12,693)		
Total	481,565		

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see pages 36 and 39.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is **unrestricted** and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:**

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
- **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
- **Heritage Events Fund:** to fulfil our 10-year commitment, which began at the beginning of 2015, to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building
- **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
- **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of the PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
- **Parish Evangelism Fund:** for outreach, particularly to the new housing estates in the village and the Broadnook development
- **Training Fund:** for training of church members, particularly in evangelism

These funds are classified as **unrestricted because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.**

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church

- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received into our bank account.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised when it is due.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property, are excluded from the accounts by Section 10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2024 comprise:

- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in November and December 2024
- PCC, vergers and sound operative fees for a funeral in December 2024
- Late payments for hire of the Old School Rooms
- Feed-in Tariff payment for the final quarter of 2024

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2024 comprise payments relating to 2024 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until the sum of all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, is established.

2. Analysis of income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations	116,187	20	92,499	208,706	120,709
Tax recovery	26,031	-	21,447	47,478	27,100
Special donations	-	-	-	-	100
Grants	1,185	5,575	33,000	39,760	7,074
Fundraising events	-	-	724	724	-
PCC & activity fees	1,683	728	4,291	6,702	6,832
Trading: hospitality, copying, sale of books	530	-	-	530	718
Old School Rooms rentals	6,506	-	-	6,506	6,056
Interest	2,908	8,563	3,610	15,081	8,351
Rental of church field	1,380	-	-	1,380	1,380
Feed-in Tariff	5,149	-	-	5,149	3,485
Other income	21	-	-	21	-
Total	161,580	14,886	155,571	332,037	181,805

3. Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising costs	513	999	-	1,512	-
Tithe & other awards	14,222	-	-	14,222	14,610
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	17,740	-	-	17,740	16,086
Clergy & staff expenses	2,301	-	-	2,301	2,069
Mission & evangelism	355	3,703	5,909	9,967	7,978
Church costs	24,234	31,336	-	55,570	55,875
Church utilities	3,710	-	-	3,710	3,100
Old School Rooms	12,180	-	-	12,180	16,210
Governance	570	-	-	570	528
Total	172,255	36,038	5,909	214,202	212,886

4. Tithe gifts for mission 2024

Tithe gifts for mission 2024	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,555
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,271
Tearfund (international relief and development)	2,418
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,422
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	711
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	711
Paul & Cathy Middleton (health care & aviation transport in Southern Africa)	525
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	525
Mothers' Union (Christian concern for families worldwide)	525
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	350
Church Pastoral Aid Society School Ventures (Christian holidays for children)	208
Total	14,221

5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

One trustee received remuneration during 2024 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for two funerals and one wedding: £90

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2024 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2024 are listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £570. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2024:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- One casual employee as sound operator for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Gift Aid & GASDS	4,178	4,230
Funeral fees	199	125
Sale of Advent books	-	53
OSR hire	337	110
Feed-in Tariff 2024 quarter 4	426	-
Total	5,140	4,518

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Balance of tithe	5,522	4,960
Accruals	11,438	4,392
PAYE Creditor	48	163
Agency collections	826	691
Total	17,834	10,206

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2024 £	2023 £
Rental income	6,506	6,056
Expenditure:		
Utilities	3,298	2,545
Cleaning	3,744	3,401
Maintenance	4,818	2,714
Consumables & other costs	320	223
Total	12,180	8,883
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(5,674)	(2,827)

The Old School Rooms is used extensively by the Church and also let out to the local community when available. It is not intended to make a profit. In 2024 the hall proved very popular with both church groups and outside hirers and brought in an excellent income contribution, which helped significantly towards its running and maintenance costs. The hall is a very comfortable venue and remains a huge asset to the Church. As well as incidental repairs and regular safety checks, the exterior of the hall was painted and a new electrical circuit board was installed during 2024, at a cost of £1,531 and £780 respectively.

13. Church Building Improvements Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Grants	704	
Bank interest	4,582	2,834
Total income	5,286	2,834
Expenditure:		
Fundraising costs	999	
Planning application	217	7,282
Total expenditure	1,216	7,282
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,070	(4,448)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	126,423	130,871
Balance at 31 December	130,493	126,423

During 2024 we recouped VAT under the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme on the investigative excavation of the choir vestry foundations undertaken at the end of 2023. In January 2024 we produced our appeal brochure for the project and held an official launch. In the summer we were informed that we would require a Lawful Development Certificate from the local authority for the relaying of the tarmac footpath and car parking area around the church which would be a necessary part of the project. The application was submitted in July 2024 but the certificate had not been received by the end of the year.

14. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	4,743	3,846
Bank interest	349	363
Total income	5,092	4,209
Expenditure:		
Architect's fees for removal of boiler house	-	1,320
Removal of boiler house	-	23,669
Architect's fees for Quinquennial Inspection 2020 work	1,639	1,770
Quinquennial Inspection 2020 work	25,182	-
Equipment for outdoor PA system	356	55
Sale of Acrow Props from boiler house	-	(125)
Total expenditure	27,177	26,689
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,085)	(22,480)
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) for outdoor AV	356	55
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) for boiler house balance & QI repairs	-	37,000
Balance brought forward at 1 January	21,446	6,871
Balance at 31 December	(283)	21,446

The repairs identified in the Quinquennial Inspection in late 2020 were completed during 2024. In 2025 we intend to apply for a grant under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme to cover VAT on the final invoices for this work. In the meantime, the Fund remains in deficit. A further purchase of outdoor AV equipment was funded from legacies during 2024.

15. Heritage Events Fund

Heritage Events Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Bank interest	12	9
Total income	12	9
Expenditure:		
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust event	56	-
Coronation Concert		159
Total expenditure	56	159
Surplus/(Deficit)	(44)	(150)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	350	500
Balance at 31 December	306	350

An event to mark the 60th anniversary of Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust was held in church in May 2024.

16. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Grants	128	69
PCC wedding fees	11	516
Bank interest	524	353
Total income	663	938
Expenditure:		
Repair of pedal chest in organ	3,156	
Tuning, maintenance and repairs	787	880
Total expenditure	3,943	880
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,280)	58
Special donation designated by PCC for organ repair	-	100
Balance brought forward at 1 January	16,020	15,862
Balance at 31 December	12,740	16,020

During 2024 the repair of the pedal chest in the organ was completed. Donations received in 2022 (in memory of Bessie Grindrod) and in 2023 (from Rothley Park Cricket Club) contributed significantly towards this work.

17. Parish Evangelism Fund

Parish Evangelism Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Donation (barbecue) *	20	-
Donation (picnics)	-	10
Income from Christmas pantomime	717	
Income from Activate events	-	315
Little Fishes contribution to Activate events	-	190
Bank interest	2,724	1,157
Total income	3,461	1,672
Expenditure:		
Banners & booklets for events	437	-
Picnic (3 in 2023)	368	549
Party in the Park	75	-
Macmillan coffee morning	18	-
Christmas pantomime	2,659	-
Carol singing	7	41
Broadnook welcome	83	-
Activate events	-	694
Total expenditure	3,647	1,284
Surplus/(Deficit)	(186)	388
Transfer from General Fund (legacies)	-	75,000
Balance brought forward at 1 January	75,388	-
Transfer to Children & Families Fund (correction) *	(20)	-
Balance at 31 December	75,182	75,388

Using this fund, which was set aside by the PCC in 2023, the Evangelism Group has expanded its range of activities in 2024, with the particular, but not exclusive, aim of reaching out to the new housing developments.

18. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Donations	1,240	1,370
Gift Aid tax recovered	310	330
Activity fees	4,291	3,530
Bank interest	496	292
Total income	6,337	5,522
Expenditure:		
Mission & evangelism	5,894	5,738
Total expenditure	5,894	5,738
Surplus/(Deficit)	443	(216)
Transfer from General Fund (St George's House visit)	-	538
Balance brought forward at 1 January	13,965	13,643
Transfer from Parish Evangelism Fund (correction)	20	-
Balance at 31 December	14,428	13,965

19. Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund

Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Income:		
Donations	91,259	-
Gift Aid tax recovered	21,137	-
Grants	33,000	-
Fundraising events	724	-
Bank interest	2,847	238
Total income	148,967	238
Expenditure:	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	148,967	238
Balance brought forward at 1 January	8,849	8,611
Balance at 31 December	157,816	8,849

We launched our fundraising appeal in January 2024 and are grateful for the very generous response. One member of the project group has had a good deal of success in applying for grants. Unfortunately, the project itself has been held up waiting for local authority approval.

20. Legacies

Legacies	£
Received:	
Legacy from the late Pat Foulds received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment from the late Pat Foulds received 13/7/20	191
Legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett received 25/1/22	72,543
Total received	328,479
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audio-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Audio-visual improvements (2021)	4,520
OSR refurbishment (2021)	6,216
OSR refurbishment (2022)	1,562
Church Buildings Improvements (2022)	125,000
Pew cushions for church (2022)	780
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2022)	1,007
Audio-visual improvements (2022)	3,054
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2023)	55
Removal of boiler house (balance) & Quinquennial 2020 repairs	37,000
Evangelism Fund	75,000
Training Fund	10,000
OSR refurbishment (2023)	7,328
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2024)	356
Total allocated	318,846
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/24	9,633

The PCC received two legacies, in the period 2019 to 2022. Further expenditure has been made during 2024 on outdoor AV equipment. A small balance remains to be allocated.

21. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2024 was £302. This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John,
Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 that are set out on pages 32 to 45.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman
Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

24th March 2025

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2023

The life of Rothley Church in 2023 has taken place against a very challenging backdrop outside of the parish. The churches of the Deanery are being split four ways into different Minster Communities; in the National Church there have been convulsions over sexual ethics and the doctrine of marriage. The controversial decisions of General Synod are having wide ranging consequences in relations between and within churches. While much of the implications of these are yet to filter down to the life of the local congregation, they have meant that, as Area Dean, a disproportionate amount of my time and energy has been spent away from the Parish in meetings concerning the wider Deanery and Diocese. Alongside this I have been supporting six other churches who will continue to have no vicar of their own for the foreseeable future.

In the parish it has been a great joy to welcome Sneha Ninan as a context-based ordinand. Sneha will be with us for two years and is already having a significant impact in various aspects of church life. We have also welcomed Sue and Andy Willetts, Nigel Elliott and Alison Godfrey into our ministry team. Growing this, developing lay ministry and training new service leaders and preachers remains very important as we prepare for a future in which the availability of stipendiary clergy will be much reduced.

The post-COVID service pattern continues to provide new opportunities to develop all traditions of music and the opportunity for many people to

begin to experience leading worship. The variety of styles continues to attract new members to the Church. It has been a particular joy to have the school children in church for so many regular and seasonal services, along with their teachers and parents. The Coronation of King Charles III gave us a unique opportunity to serve the community and to proclaim Christ at times of national celebration.

None of what has been achieved would be possible without the willing and faithful service of so many in the Church family, each offering their gifts in a huge variety of ways. I would particularly like to thank the churchwardens Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath, whose support, challenge, advice and encouragement has been so valuable. Alongside them, I would also like to thank Ray Prince for all the work he does behind the scenes to look after our church building; Jean Arkley for all she does to help us give expression to our pastoral care; Liz Sleath for all her work in the Church Office.

There are many encouragements, but also ahead of us lie very significant challenges for the church locally and nationally – in some respects, the foundations of ministry and doctrine in the Church of England are being shaken. St Jude wrote to the church of his day, urging them to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people, yet confident that God is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.

Rob Gladstone

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2023

At their first meeting, the new PCC proposed that this year we would prioritise evangelism, especially on the new estates which have grown up round the village in recent years. Many people living on these estates are new to the area, and so our first priority was to introduce ourselves and to get to know them. We planned three picnics on the recreation areas at Warren Way, near the school; Sheppard Way/Barwell Drive, off Mountsorrel Lane; and on an open space near Baum Drive. Invitations were sent to every house. The picnics took place on Sundays in July and August and members of the congregation joined in. Food was provided and the PCC invested in games, which proved very popular. Having made the first contacts, we followed up with carol singing in the same areas in December. We aim to maintain the contacts with more events in 2024.

Another picnic was held in May, as part of our celebrations for the Coronation. It took place in the churchyard after the Service and was for our own church family. We were blessed with glorious weather. We also enjoyed a celebration concert and a special service to mark the event.

We have made some changes to the evening service pattern this year. Since the COVID pandemic, numbers have been low, so we now hold Choral Evensong on the second Sunday and a prayer meeting in church on the fourth Sunday. Both are at 6pm. Shine is held at 4pm on the first Sunday. Both the 9.30am and 11am services are very well attended.

The churchwardens are representing the congregation and PCC at the *Shaped by God Together* meetings which have been inaugurated by the diocese. These meetings are to discuss and discover how

the resources of the diocese may be best used. We have held extra PCC meetings to discuss the situation and, at an open meeting in church, members of the congregation were invited to hear about the discussion, to ask questions and to make comments. As your representatives, we are not making the decisions, we are asking your questions and reporting back on the proposals which the PCC will discuss. This is a crucial issue for all of the churches in the diocese and we would appreciate your prayers.

We have continued to plan the improvements to the church. These have involved much discussion and many decisions. The plans, which had to be delayed due to the pandemic, will now cost considerably more than they would have done four years ago and it was a major leap of faith from the PCC and church members to vote to go ahead with them. Everything is coming into place, the appeal will be launched in January 2024 and we hope to see the work completed by the end of the year.

This has been an interesting and exciting year. We are privileged to serve as your churchwardens, but we could not do it without your help and prayers. We are particularly grateful to our assistant wardens – Chris Garnett, Jean Johnson, Angela Neill, Marion Whitby and Nigel Willey; also to Richard Neill and Richard Yates who act as vergers for weddings and funerals. It is a good team which comes together for all the unseen jobs which make a difference to the life of our church. We are also grateful to Ray Prince, who oversees everything to do with the building ensuring our safety and comfort.

Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath

SAFEGUARDING

"God's call is to speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." Proverbs 31:8



The aim is for Rothley Parish Church to be a space in which people feel safe and cared for. Safeguarding is a fundamental part of this and is the responsibility of all within the church. It is overseen by a PCC appointed Safeguarding Coordinator, Wendy Ferguson, who oversees safeguarding within the church and liaises with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Lisa Cook supports in her administrative role, ensuring DBS applications are made and up to date. Liz Sleath also provides valuable support to ensure we are compliant with all safeguarding requirements.

Our parish safeguarding **policies** for child protection and vulnerable adults were reviewed and updated, in line with the model diocesan policies and GDPR guidance in November 2023. These are available on the noticeboards in church and in the Old School Rooms or on our website.

Training and safer recruitment remains a priority. Most of the training courses are now online, although can be accessed as face-to-face training if anybody is unable to access online. The training provides a good understanding of what, why and how to keep our children and each other safe and increases our confidence. It is a requirement for all PCC members, and

all those leading or involved with groups (children, young people, and adult groups involving vulnerable people) should complete basic and foundation safeguarding training every 3 years. All training can be accessed via the [Safeguarding Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](https://cofeportal.org)

Alongside the training, a valid **DBS** (Disclosure and Barring Service) check is required for most roles. This is additional to the training. This is a nationally-run service which ensures the people we are recruiting to work in our children's, young people's and vulnerable adult's groups do not have a history of criminal offences.

The safeguarding coordinator and DBS administrator are available to give advice on the most appropriate training for individuals and whether a DBS is required for a particular role.

Risk assessments have been updated for all our regulated activities.

The coordinator oversees and feeds back any national changes for the reporting of serious incidents and works with Rob if a safeguarding issue arises.

The Safeguarding Coordinator's priority plan for 2024 is:

- To adhere to safer recruitment and, in line with GDPR procedures, ensure all those in positions of leadership and working with our children, young people and vulnerable adults are appropriately trained and have a current DBS.
- To maintain our safeguarding dashboard.

We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming church, offering a safe

environment and protecting all those who worship and share with us.

2023, they carried out work on two trees. In January

Wendy Ferguson

CHURCH BUILDING

As in previous years, regular maintenance of the church building was carried out. This includes a monthly safety check.

In 2023, having obtained a Faculty (Permission from the Diocese of Leicester), the old boiler house was finally removed and the gas meter relocated. This work was completed in February and has eliminated many health and safety risks. In April, having obtained another Faculty, work was carried out to repair the church clock hands and dial motion works. The clock now chimes again on the hour for all to hear. The bell ringers regularly wind the clock and, if necessary, adjust the hands. Our final Faculty was to dig two trial holes in the choir vestry floor. This was in preparation for our church building improvements. The trial holes were dug in early December. The architect, structural engineer and archaeologist were satisfied with the results and the work, depending on obtaining another Faculty, should be completed in 2024.

The work required from the Quinquennial Inspection Report of October 2020 will be starting in January 2024. The work involves Internal works, Doors, Windows, Walling, Parapets, Copings and Roof work. Work to the Stained Glass Windows will be completed at the same time. This also required a Faculty.

As the churchyard is closed, Charnwood Borough Council maintains it for us. In 2023, they carried out work on two trees. In January 2024, repairs to the north boundary stone wall will be done. The Council pays for this work.

The PCC has to authorise all large maintenance expenditure on the church before any work is carried out.

I would like to thank all who have helped to maintain the church during the year, especially Marion Whitby and Angela Neill, who helped with producing the faculty documents. Marion also helped with the church monthly safety checks and the annual check of the headstones for any movement.

Ray Prince

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Our proposed improvements are now progressing well. The design details are being prepared by our architect to enable a faculty application to be made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to acquire the relevant "planning permission" to allow the works to be carried out. If this, together with the architect getting estimates for the work, goes smoothly and fundraising is successful, the works may be complete by the end of 2024.

Having produced our Appeal brochure, we plan to launch our appeal funding amongst the church fellowship, the PCC having already pledged £125,000 to the works. We will also look at possible

charitable trusts and our wider local and business communities for further funding in order to reach our target of £320,000, hoping that we will be able to reclaim the additional £60,000 VAT to which the works will be subject.

Fred Sleath

DIOCESAN REORGANISATION

Our Parish is now engaged in the Shaped by God Together process, prompted to form groups of parishes into functioning units with teams of at least 4 ministers, some ordained and some not, to co-ordinate the advance of the gospel in villages, communities and schools throughout the Diocese. These groups are to be known as Minster Communities. This will mean a significant change away from the traditional stand-alone parishes being overseen by individual clergy, or groups of parishes as benefices, also being overseen by individual clergy. This has met with a wide range of reactions, from parishes like ourselves who are willing to engage in the process, to those who have withdrawn from it and those who are completely opposed to the concept.

A difficulty for Rothley is the question of patronage. Our patrons, the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) offer prospective new candidates to become Vicar following an interregnum. Currently no third parties are involved in this process, however as part of a Minster Community, others may wish to have an input into our selection process. This will be further discussed by the PCC in 2024.

The process is moving into its next phase, when parish representatives will look at the data that has been presented to the Diocese to help in the bringing together of those who can work alongside each other within these communities. For ourselves, this process is reasonably straightforward as we have significant geographical constraints on whom we may become involved and in the light of those parishes which take a similar scriptural view of the gospel.

Fred Sleath

COMMUNICATIONS

Word of mouth, posters and fliers, church website, WhatsApp groups, emails, Facebook and other social media and local newspapers are all useful ways of communicating with all sorts of people about what we believe and what we do here at Rothley Parish Church.

I continue to produce the weekly "Fellowship Post" to keep our membership in touch. It includes notices about upcoming services and events, an outline of our live-streamed service for those not able to get to our church building on Sundays, Prayer Pointers to guide us all with our personal prayer during the week, and the very popular letter on the front page, usually written by Rob, but with occasional contributions by other members of our Ministry Team. This is mostly distributed by email, but we deliver about 20 paper copies to those without easy access to computers. There are usually a few spare copies on the welcome table in church for anyone who doesn't have one delivered, but I will happily include you on the list if you get in touch and ask!

We continue to develop use of our AV system in church and it is proving very popular with occasional visitors, e.g. at wedding, funerals and school events, as well as concerts etc.

Eric Hissett looks after our church website day-to-day and we are still updating our website as quickly as we can. There is a church diary that can be accessed from the website, as well as being printed on the Fellowship Post. Rob and I try to meet monthly to update the diary and make sure our forthcoming events are advertised.

We work closely with Rothley Primary School and send invitations to relevant events directly to the school community via their email system to parents. We also continue to send out Christmas and Easter invitations to the whole parish with details of our services and other events, for which we are grateful to you all for delivering, along with fliers for our Summer Picnics around the new estates.

Liz Sleath

OUTREACH

Little Fishes

Our parent and toddler group takes place in The Old School Rooms on Monday mornings during term-time, providing a welcoming, safe, friendly environment for parents and grandparents and their babies and toddlers to interact and get to know each other and the church volunteers. We provide tea and toast for the first half, then we have a Bible story and group singing alongside children's drinks and biscuits. Several of us take it in turns to tell the story and lead the singing. During the year we held a

couple of social events for the mums, including our Activate "Fish & Chip Night" and a skittles game and food at a local pub.

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

We were intending to start organising events again in 2023, although unfortunately no events were organised. The committee are endeavouring to decide if there is still a need for a Church Men's group in our Church. The committee met in October and have decided that the group should be relaunched, however most likely in a different format. The Committee intend to meet again in the first quarter of 2024 to discuss the future direction.

Wednesday Lunches

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month and have



managed to keep the cost down to £5 for two courses.

On January 24th we'll be celebrating our oldest customer's 102nd birthday, and over the summer months our catering team was joined enthusiastically by Sandra Shaw Pearce's 6-year-old grandson and, on several occasions, by her youngest granddaughter, born in May.



It's a wonderful opportunity to share warmth and friendship over a meal that you don't have to shop for, cook or clean up after yourself. As the regular members of our catering team age alongside our customers, we'd welcome a pair of younger stronger hands to put out the tables and chairs on a regular basis. All offers to Sandra, thanks.

Care home links

We continue to enjoy visits to Cedar House, usually on the first Monday of each month. We are well supported by David Hodgson bringing his keyboard and other members of the team reading

the Bible passage and leading the prayers. We try to link the services to those at Rothley Parish Church the previous day to help the residents feel part of the church family. If you would like to join in do please have a word with Pam Harvey.

The monthly service at Mountview Care Home is led by a great team who are very gifted at getting alongside the residents. It continues to attract many of the residents and has resulted in a wider ministry involvement with the Care Home, supporting those who are ill and families through bereavement. The regular service is very much appreciated by the residents, many of whom had strong connections with their local church in the past.

Bereavement Support

The annual Memorial Service is always a special service, with its mixture of sadness and thanksgiving; of church and community coming together; freedom to be oneself, to light a candle, hear a loved one's name, shed a tear knowing one is safe and supported; the preciousness of hearing of the love, peace, and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, through Scripture, reflection, hymns, and prayers; and the singing.

Thank you so much to so many in the congregation who support, comfort, care and pray for those who grieve.

Activate Your Life

A group of us from church went to an Activate Your Life weekend in March 2023. AYL is a Christian charity which works to encourage, resource and inspire ordinary Christian women to connect with others through friendship evangelism. It was wonderful to be surrounded by so many Christian

women from all over the country. We felt inspired to recreate this to encourage women at Rothley Church and invited AYL speakers, Rachel and Rhiannon, to two events we held in the autumn of 2023, with the theme being 'fellowship, friendship and discipleship'. The first event was a fish and chip and prosecco supper on Friday night aimed at the Growing Families and Little Fishes groups. Under the title, 'Parenting - from Godzilla to Mary Poppins', an informal and light-hearted evening was enjoyed by the mothers who attended. The continental-style breakfast the following morning was a time to eat, meet, listen and talk for women from church of all ages and stages on their Christian journey. Those who attended had the opportunity to:

- Make new friendships.
- Renew and strengthen existing friendships.
- Be encouraged and encourage each other.
- Be challenged to think about our lives, faith and friendships.
- Consider how we can build on existing relationships to encourage women in church and those we meet through our other activities.
- Realise we are all at different stages of life and stages of our Christian journeys, but all are valuable and can be used.
- Be encouraged to be ourselves and connect with others in our own uniqueness.

The team who facilitated the weekend would like to encourage all women to consider how to be active in whatever way you feel you can. This may be through reaching out to make new connections, one-to-one meetings, small groups, or bigger events, as well as ideas about how we as women can

move forward together as part of the whole congregation at Rothley.

The team would also like to encourage women to attend the annual Activate weekend away; some are booked to go in February 2024. It is possible to attend as a day visitor.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Sunday School for children aged 3 - 11 years is generally held on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during the 11am service. We study the same Bible story, but with differing age-related activities and intensity. We all meet together in The Old School Rooms at the beginning of our sessions and split into 3 groups divided by ages soon after.

The Grid for young people aged 11-14 years is held at the same time as Sunday School, currently in a local home due to a shortage of space, but hopefully moving to the new room in church when the building project is completed. This group look at Bible topics and discussion with some games as well. On occasional Friday evenings this year we have been trying to run a group "**Yoof off the Grid**" with games and social activities and outings, to build relationships both between the Grid members and with their leaders.

Shine! is a community who meet generally on the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm, usually in church, but sometimes outside in the churchyard. Here there is the opportunity to meet with regular church families and those who can only join us once a month for a short time of worship, prayer and Bible story, age-relevant activities, crafts and

refreshments, with a time to chat and build relationships afterwards.

In 2023 we ran a one-day **Children's Easter Holiday Club** on Maundy Thursday, starting in the Old School Rooms with a drama from some of our teenagers, followed by different activities for small groups of the children including making hot cross buns, miniature Easter gardens and an Easter card. After lunch we moved over to church to meet several characters from the Easter story who read us a relevant Bible passage and gave us a related hands-on experience or challenge and some questions to answer, finishing with a short summary from Rob and singing a couple of Easter songs before going home laden with souvenirs, including an Easter egg and a booklet explaining the Easter story "Christ Died for me?". A similar day is planned for Holy Week in 2024.

A group of families from church took a holiday to Devon at May half term, staying at **St George's House**, the trip being led by Rob and Sarah. There was a choice of outdoor activities, which seemed to have been enjoyed by all who took part, as well as time to worship and pray together and play and eat together. A similar trip is planned in 2024.

We continue to work closely with **Rothley Primary School**, particularly through weekly **assemblies** led by Rob, David Wilson, Alison Godfrey and, more recently, Sneha Ninan. During last year, **Prayer Explorers** was started by Lynne Bragg. It is a lunchtime club offered to one year group at a time, for 12 children at a time. It involves chat, games and some prayer stations. It allows pupils to

engage in prayer and spirituality in a safe, accessible, fun and creative way.

We again participated in **CPAS Schools Venture** in June, giving an opportunity to 9 children from Rothley School who don't usually come to church, to join in a fun weekend at a centre in Northamptonshire with children from other schools, accompanied by school staff and a church youth group leader, to learn more about Jesus through the activities.

Liz Sleath

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus. Paul's vision of discipleship in Ephesians 4 vv 7-16 continues to be our church vision for discipleship, with a focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, through meeting in smaller groups and through personal prayer, Bible study and reading of Christian literature. The discipleship working group of the PCC continues to work on strategic leadership in this area.

Housegroups: We thank God for our nine housegroups. These meet regularly, usually in homes, for Bible study, discussion and prayer, providing a safe space where we are able to care and share with each other. 2023 has seen a number of new people joining housegroups, and feedback from them has been overwhelmingly positive. Housegroups help us to better understand our faith and provide us with resources to live it out in our daily lives; they enable us to ask questions in an unthreatening, friendly environment and grow together as Christians. We thank the housegroup leaders for their dedication: their enthusiasm and

commitment is of the highest order and we praise God for all that they do to enable those who attend to learn and to share their faith together.

Men's breakfast: The Men's Breakfast Group, typically 5-10 in number, meet for conversation and Bible study on the first Saturday of each month between 7.30 and 9am, rotating the venue around members. The group have benefited greatly from the opportunity to share in confidence and encourage each another in their faith and in sharing their faith with others. Studies in 2023 were from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and Peter's first letter to Christians in Asia Minor – a letter of comfort, hope and encouragement. In November, the group attended the annual Men's Convention at Cornerstone Church in Nottingham - a fantastic opportunity to purchase books as well as receive teaching and ideas from outside our immediate church. Breakout sessions included topics on "Sharing Hope in a Hopeless World", "Teach us to number our days" and "How to be men with a fully-functioning emotional life". The group also met up socially for a summer walk over the Charnwood Hills, rounding this off nicely with refreshment in a local pub.

Bible Reading Notes: Whilst we endeavour to facilitate group Bible study through our many church groups, we also strongly encourage personal Bible study as part of daily quiet time with God, to equip us for the challenges of everyday life. For those who wish to have daily Bible reading notes in a printed format, we continue to arrange the procurement and distribution of many different Bible reading books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media,

including "Verse of the Day" (verse-a-day.com) and "The Word Live Daily Passage" through the Scripture Union WordLive.org website. These can be found on the Rothley Church website under Resources/Recommended. In 2023, one individual moved from using a printed format of daily Bible reading to an online provider; 32 individuals use the printed format, using seven different books. Rafe Cherry continues to coordinate.

Prayer meetings: As a church, we have begun to engage more widely with our new estates, starting with summer picnics. In preparation for these, we started a monthly Sunday evening prayer meeting, specifically concerning evangelism. This prayer meeting is now a regular monthly fixture in our calendar.

Mothers' Union: Regular meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month, are open to members and non-members, and include prayers and a speaker. In addition, in 2023, the international Wave of Prayer was held in church and we hosted a strawberry tea and a harvest supper. Proceeds were dispersed to Mothers' Union Diocesan General Fund, Mary Sumner House, Britain and Ireland Development Fund, Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire fund and the Old School Rooms. Other charitable initiatives supported the Bradgate Mental Health Unit at Glenfield Hospital, who were hugely grateful for the provision of cream eggs at Easter, chocolate bars at Christmas and toiletries to be used as prizes for their quizzes. A display was held in church to promote Mothers' Union and Margaret Rouse gave a short description of MU's role in supporting families and

communities around the world. Unfortunately, we lost some of our members during 2023; we were able to help with the wakes after the funerals.

Prayer circle: Valerie Joyce, Jean Arkley and Trevor West can be contacted with confidential prayer requests. The other 9 men and women of the prayer circle, who commit themselves to pray, are anonymous. Members usually pray for a week, but for longer if requested and according to circumstances. No request is considered too small; it is a person or situation that is causing concern. In 2023, up until November, 75 requests for prayer were received. Many expressed how precious this prayer support is.

Pastoral care: The church is encouraged by Christ's example to care for those in need in our church and in our community. There has been a continuing willingness from people in the fellowship to be involved with the ministry of pastoral care, whether formally as a designated pastoral visitor or informally. The role of Pastoral Coordinator as a reference point has enabled people in the fellowship to ask for help for themselves or for others, and has enabled ongoing liaison with the Vicar and Ministry Team.

The housebound, those physically and mentally ill at home, in care homes and in hospital and the bereaved, isolated and lonely have been visited and supported by the Ministry Team and church members. Contact has also been maintained by phone calls, texts, emails and cards and arrangements made to provide home communion for those who wished to receive it. The latter part of the year has been more challenging with an increased number of people

being housebound, sick at home, in hospital, or having operations. Many people in the church and in the community found that prayer by members of the church fellowship supported and comforted them.

The distribution of the printed 'Fellowship Post' continued to prove a vital link with the church for those without access to modern technology, distributed by volunteers who also chatted with and checked on the well-being of the recipients. The provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' also continued to demonstrate the church's love and care for those going through difficult times.

A transport coordinator organised volunteers to enable visits to hospital and doctors' appointments, vaccinations, and church services. Volunteers have also helped with shopping, posting letters and collecting prescriptions.

In the wider community, the Soar Valley Community Food Project continues to be actively supported by the church. Client numbers have increased, with the average number of food parcels distributed per week 71 in 2023 compared to 54 in 2022. On behalf of the local authorities, the project has also administered an energy 'top-up' scheme. The project employs a Financial Coach who visits the distribution centres to support people with their personal and family budgets. Church members volunteer at the Food Bank and the fellowship has given generous donations of food and money to support the project. One of the Trustees is a church member.

At Christmas, toys were given by the congregation for the Rotary Club's 'Toys on the Table' appeal.

Alison Godfrey

SEND

Our aim is to send out and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus. So we seek to be a church with God's heart for the nations.

We aim to support a variety of organisations, some local, others in the wider world. It is important for us as a church not only to be concerned about our own spiritual life and witness, but to be outward looking in our prayers and our giving.

We are particularly happy that Serena Cook, who completed her degree at Aberystwyth University in 2023, has joined The Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) as a Relay Worker, supporting students in Aberystwyth and Lampeter. This is a volunteer post for a year and we are keen to support her in any way that we can.

In our regular giving during the past year we have supported the following organisations through our tithe, which is 10% of our church's donations and tax recovery income:

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), who support churches in the UK and Ireland, providing resources for leaders, children and young people's work, run Christian holiday camps and are patrons of Rothley Church;

Crosslinks, specifically supporting Jirka and Keira Kralovi who work with

students in the Czech Republic, and Brada and Yatza Radanovic in church ministry in Serbia;

Tearfund, who work with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty;

The Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto, Tanzania which have been linked with Leicester Diocese since 1982;

Local charities **The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough, and Triangle, Leicester**, which provide help and support to the homeless and also addiction services.

15% of our tithe is reserved for discretionary giving. This year we supported:

- Serena Cook (UCCF)
- Paul and Cathy Middleton (health care and aviation transport in Southern Africa)
- Soar Valley Outreach
- Mothers' Union
- The Oakes Holiday Centre
- CPAS School Ventures

We also collect for Christian Aid annually, support emergency appeals on behalf of Tearfund for crisis situations, encourage regular donations of food to the foodbank and clothes and Christmas parcels to Triangle.

We have kept our church family up to date by means of regular information and updates on the organisations we support in the weekly Fellowship Post. Each week there is half a page of news on one organisation, with prayer pointers. We also featured information and prayer requests for asylum seekers, modern slavery, the environment, the persecuted church around the world and Serena's work with students.

Our link missionaries with Crosslinks, Jirka and Kiera Kralovi in the Czech Republic and Brada and Yatsa Radanovic in Serbia regularly send newsletters which are distributed via email to members of the congregation, as are occasional links to Tearfund and to Christian Aid. Serena Cook has sent regular prayer letters to those who have requested them.

In 2022 we had a number of visiting speakers from the organisations we support, after two years of being unable to do so, hence there was less activity in 2023.

Serena Cook spoke to us more than once about her work with university students in Wales, supporting the Christian Unions and individual Christian students in strengthening their faith, and also in mission, reaching other students with the good news of Jesus.



Evangelistic event at Aberystwyth University

Members of the Mothers' Union presented the work of MU to the congregation, both locally in our church branch, and in the diocese and organisation as a whole. MU is an international organisation which undertakes amazing work through its members all over the world.

In these ways our church has been made aware of the needs of the world and about the work of God, locally in Leicestershire, in the UK and in the wider world, in order to inform and stimulate our prayers and involvement.

Margaret Leverment

CHOIR AND MUSIC

We have had the opportunity for much celebration during 2023.

The year started with a joint Choral Evensong in church, where we were joined by the Leicester Cathedral Choir, its Director of Music, Chris Ouvry-Johns, and David Cowen, the Cathedral Organist. It was a truly memorable service of praise, and I was delighted how well the choirs, and all involved, blended to make it so special. Our choir has been invited to join with them again, at Leicester Cathedral, once all the building works have been fully completed.

We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a concert, which had a varied programme and attracted a good number into church. We also had a special Sunday morning service in recognition of this momentous national occasion.

A good number of the choir and congregation joined in the celebration

of one of our long-serving choir members, Dorothy Birkett, who reached the grand age of ninety and who continues to sing Alto within our four-part choir, as well as joining us for the more contemporary services. I know how much her singing and being part of the choir means to her and we are truly blessed to have her with us.

The planning of music continues on a monthly basis with separate meetings covering the 09.30am choir-led services and the 11.00am contemporary services. I am really pleased that the 'band' for the 11.00am service is making great progress and has built-up a good foundation of hymns and songs. I must say a big thank you to David Hodgson for his unwavering support, not only with his keyboard playing, but also in the production, distribution and coordination of all the music used for these services.

I write this report soon after having played for all of the Christmas services and I have many things that struck me (positively!) over this time, but none more so than the quantity of families that attended the 4.00pm Christmas Eve Family Service (originally planned to take place outside the church) and the gathering of around twenty young children around the grand piano as they sang out heartily the words of the lovely carol 'Away in a manger'. It was delightful. I was very keen to sign some of them up on the spot to start a new Junior Choir!

It would be easy to write about everything that we do musically, week in and week out, but I am conscious that there are limits as to how much I am permitted to write. I contend that we do strike a really good balance with our

styles of worship and feel that we are truly adaptive to whatever is needed. The church organ, pianos, double-bass, drums, shakers for the children, all have a part to play and it's a joy when we combine them! Psalm 150, a great psalm of praise, talks very much of the use of the many and varied instruments in the praise and worship of God.

I would like to thank everyone that contributes to the musical life of the church, whether that involves planning, singing, leading or playing an instrument.

Simon Murphy

Handbells

Rothley Handbell Ringers are preparing to start meeting in 2024 and plan to recruit new ringers.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

RINGING ACTIVITY

In addition to weekly service ringing and Thursday evening practice, the past year has been very active for ringing to mark special events.

- **Coronation of King Charles III.**

This was marked by ringing prior to a Pre-Coronation Celebration Concert in church. Before the concert started, a Team-produced video of 'Rothley's Ring for the King' was shown to the audience. Thanks to everyone featured, and particular thanks to those who pulled it all together.

On Coronation Day, along with towers around the country, the bells

were rung to celebrate the Coronation.

- **Weddings.** A team rang for one wedding during the year.
- **Funeral.** By request, a band rang half muffled for a funeral as the widow and her late husband had loved to listen to the bells on Sunday mornings.
- **Remembrance.** The bells were rung half muffled for the annual Remembrance service.
- **Ring out the old year and in the New.** An enjoyable time was had by those able to gather and ring out the old year, leaving the tenor to strike midnight followed by joyous ringing to mark the new year.
- **Visiting Ringers.** A party from Kent, totalling 22 ringers, visited in June as part of their weekend tour of Leicestershire towers.
- **Ring Master's tuition.** Harry Longman, the Tower's Ringing Master, has spent the year teaching all the ringers to improve their ringing skills, and all with patience and good humour.

RINGING MEMBERSHIP

The number of ringers – both new and those returning to the tower – continues to grow. Including those who return at holiday time from work or university, the Register now stands at 20 ringers.

BELLS & TOWER MAINTENANCE

- The annual inspection and servicing of the bells by Taylors has been completed with nothing of significance found.

- The clock has also been out of action for a good while due to the hands slipping. This has now been repaired. Thanks also to those who wind the clock week by week.
- A video camera in the bell chamber, relaying images to a TV in the ringing chamber has been trialled and proved most interesting and beneficial at times.
- A review of Risk Assessments for the Tower highlighted issues associated with evacuating a non-ambulant casualty. This linked with the Fire and Rescue Service using the Church Tower as an exercise location for their aerial platform ladder - a useful event for all concerned.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- The social outing in the summer – with ringing at Hoby Church,

followed by a meal, including partners, at a nearby hostelry, was enjoyed by all.

- The team, with partners, also had a very pleasant gathering at the home of one of the ringers.

COMMUNITY INTERFACE

- As part of the church's Christmas decorations, the Bell ringers again decorated one of the windows in the church.
- Being tucked away up the spiral staircase can mean that the ringers are not easily accessible. It has, however, been very pleasing how many people have ventured up the stairs (mainly by invitation) to see what we get up to. More visitors are always welcome!

THANKS

Finally, my thanks to both the Tower Officers and everyone in the team for their constant support and good humour.

Charles Poole

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS (OSR)

The building continues to be well used as our church office, by several church groups, and also for private bookings by members of the local community, with children's birthday parties and family occasions still ranking highly in the bookings diary. We continue to accommodate several regular bookers, some of whom have enquired about increasing their usage during 2024, and many others are now making return

visits. During the year the hall was hired out 226 times to "paying customers".

During 2023 the Old School Rooms has undergone yet more improvements, not least to the storage area in the office. Following the collapse of the ceiling in 2022, it was felt that, by lining the area with insulating board, painting and adding an extra layer of flooring, a dedicated ladder and handrails to help with access, it would make a good, dry storage facility.

An LCD Projector has been installed in the hall, along with speakers and an electric screen. Those wanting to use the equipment need to use their own lap-top computer, and then the connection is very simple.

We continue to try to demonstrate God's love by giving our users a warm welcome and providing a link between the church and the wider community. It is unfortunate that we can only accommodate 60 people, as designated by the fire regulations for the building, and also that significant car parking is not readily available.

Leaders of church groups wanting to use the hall are reminded that they are responsible for booking the OSR. Special hiring rates are available for church members using the hall for private events. All bookings can be made by email at: osrenquiries@gmail.com and the availability can be viewed in the diary on the church website under "Resources" and "Old School Rooms".

Linda Poole

DEANERY AND DIOCESE

The Diocesan Synods in 2023 dealt with a wide variety of topics including: strategy development, progress towards net zero carbon across the diocese and a review of diocesan governance. However, as in 2022, three topics continued to dominate discussion at both diocesan and deanery levels: *Shaped by God Together*; *Living in Love and Faith*; and diocesan finances. Their dominance, especially at Diocesan Synods, meant that, sadly, discussions about evangelism and outreach inevitably became somewhat marginalised. However, Goscote Deanery Synod (with Rob Gladstone as Area Dean) did manage to spend a significant proportion of its time looking outwards, especially in the context of the new housing developments springing up across the deanery, and the November meeting saw Bishop Saju lead an inspiring evening on the importance of spreading the good news of Jesus in our daily lives.

There is a separate section in this Annual Report on the progress of *Shaped by God Together*, and this will become particularly important for our parish in 2024, as discussions about future organisational patterns develop apace. Only one Minister Community has so far been established (Launde), but a number of others are in the pipeline, including one for the area in which Rothley is situated. The implications for Goscote Deanery are considerable, since it is likely that parishes currently in the deanery will ultimately end up in three or four different Minister Communities. Quite what the role of the deanery will be in the new world of Minister Communities

has yet to be worked out. Complication is likely to be the order of the day!

Throughout 2023 Diocesan Synod has addressed various aspects of *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF), the Church of England's discernment process on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. As befits a very sensitive subject, discussions always took place in an atmosphere of respect and care. The December Synod at Beaumont Leys followed very soon after the November General Synod, which had expressed its support, by a tiny majority, for the continued implementation of the House of Bishops' proposals to change the practice of the Church of England via the introduction of *Prayers of Love and Faith* with regards to sexual ethics and marriage. There is a strongly-held view that these proposals are being pursued without adequate provision and protection for those holding to the historic and global Anglican view of marriage and sexual ethics. The fact is that LLF is highly divisive and is likely to continue to remain high-profile in synods in 2024 and beyond. This has the potential to undermine so much of what we are about, namely looking outwards and presenting the authentic gospel of Jesus Christ to a needy world.

Both Deanery and Diocesan Synods have addressed the thorny issue of finance. The December Diocesan Synod approved the 2024 budget, which authorised a deficit budget of £2.15 million. The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance emphasised, as he had done in the previous year, that this situation is unsustainable long-term. The next few years are likely to see further cuts in the number of stipendiary clergy across the diocese to help address this financial crisis.

Currently, too few churches in the diocese are covering the costs of ministry, hence the need for drastic action, which could be partly addressed by the advent of Minster Communities.

Thus, there are numerous challenges ahead at both diocesan and deanery level. While these issues are clearly

important, it is crucial that the gospel message of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ is proclaimed with confidence, otherwise the danger is that it could all too easily be pushed to the margins.

David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two church services, of different style, are held every Sunday, with, in addition, a choral evensong once a month and a prayer meeting once a month. We continue to livestream one service each Sunday for the benefit of those who are not able to attend in person. Our weekly newsletter and service sheet, sent electronically or delivered to every church member, includes the order of service for the livestreamed worship.

We celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a concert, a special service and a community picnic lunch.

Our Pastoral Co-ordinator remains responsive to the needs of church members and other contacts in the village. Lifts are also offered to medical appointments and the like, and these are co-ordinated separately. Two groups of church members focus their pastoral support on the residents of the two care homes in the parish, through monthly visits. The pastoral care provided in the community is greatly valued by those who have been helped.

School assemblies have continued, both at the school and in the church, throughout 2023. We have also been pleased to welcome children and parents for class visits and productions in the church. The Growing Families WhatsApp group continues as a helpful forum for local families to be informed about church events.

A wide range of activities for all age groups took place week by week throughout the year. The narrative reports which form the first half of this Annual Report document provide details of

these activities. A new venture this year was to organise three community picnic-and-games events on public spaces on the new housing estates in the village. We followed up these with Carol singing visits before Christmas.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Outreach project, particularly its foodbank ministry, remained of high importance during 2023, as the energy and cost of living crises continued. Church members generously gave food, funds and volunteer time to this ministry throughout the year. As part of the partnership, and supported by a joint grant from Leicestershire County Council, we set up and advertised a warm space in our church hall (The Old School Rooms) on one afternoon each week during the winter of 2022/23, but this was little used and closed at the beginning of March.

Every year we organise the village Remembrance Day service in church, followed by wreath-laying at the village war memorial. At the end of November, we partner with the Baptist Church in providing entertainment when the village Christmas lights are switched on.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is given appropriate priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment has been invaluable, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

With rising inflation, exponential rises in energy costs and a new gas contract due in April 2023, the PCC agreed a worst-case scenario General Fund budget for 2023, assuming income below 2022 levels, expenditure higher than 2022 and a large potential deficit of £21,966. In the event, General Fund income exceeded the budget by 6%, as a result of higher-than-expected interest rates and income from the Old School Rooms. Conversely, General Fund expenditure was 8% below budget, hence the potential year-end deficit was not realised and, instead, the result was a surplus of £2,230.

Rothley Parish Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). We are very grateful for the continued support and commitment to regular giving shown by our church members.

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430, 59% of our General Fund expenditure in 2023), which supports ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish

Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually.

The PCC is very grateful for a donation in 2023 from Rothley Park Cricket Club towards a repair needed on the church organ.

Plans to improve the church building, by installing toilets, servery, upstairs meeting room and glass inner doors to the main entrance of the church have progressed during 2023, to the extent that fundraising is due to begin in January 2024 and the faculty application is to be submitted in February. The full cost is now expected to be £384,000. We hope to be able to claim back at least some of the VAT included in that total through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. At the end of 2023, we held £126,425 in a designated Church Building Improvements Fund and £8,849 in a restricted Church Building Improvements Fund. We hope to raise the remaining £184,726 plus mainly through donations and grant applications, possibly supported by interest-free loans.

Having six people working together as a treasury team provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living.

FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £363,729 at 31 December 2023, made up as follows:

Fund Overview	31/12/2023 £	31/12/2022 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	83,728	211,068
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	126,425	130,873
Church Maintenance Fund	21,446	6,870
Heritage Events Fund	351	501
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	70	68
Organ & Music Fund	16,021	15,863
Parish Evangelism Fund	75,388	-
Training Fund	10,155	-
Wednesday Club	-	140
Total Unrestricted Funds	333,584	365,383
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	13,966	13,643
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	8,849	8,611
Goscote Deanery Fund	954	934
Youth Fund	6,376	6,238
Total Restricted Funds	30,145	29,426
Total funds	363,729	394,809

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Donations	119,329	121,831
Tax recovery	26,770	26,715
Legacies	-	72,543
Special donations	100	1,250
Grants	3,159	2,186
Trading & fees	3,000	2,888
Old School Rooms	6,056	4,458
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	7,650	8,126
Total income	166,064	239,997
Expenditure:		
Tithe for mission	14,610	14,855
Parish Contribution	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	16,086	14,844
Clergy & staff expenses	2,069	1,476
Mission & evangelism	654	947
Church costs	21,024	22,401
Church utilities	3,100	2,092
Old School Rooms	8,882	14,432
Governance	528	504
Total expenditure	163,383	167,981
Surplus/deficit of income	2,681	72,016
Net transfers to/from other funds	(130,021)	(132,653)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	211,068	271,705
Balance at 31 December	83,728	211,068

Excluding the special donation received during the year, General Fund income amounted to £165,964 in 2023, 6% above expectations and just £240 more than the adjusted 2022 total.

General Fund expenditure was 3% less than the 2022 total, and 8% below budget expectations. The main reason was that gas costs for the church rose 65% during the year, as we had to negotiate a new contract, rather than the potential 784% estimated in the autumn of 2022 when the budget was drawn up.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024

The budget for 2024 is, again, a deficit budget. A slight reduction (3%) in income and a 11% increase in expenditure is anticipated, leading to a potential deficit of £19,333. This is, however, a worst-case scenario and, in the past, we have often achieved a much better result at the end of the year.

General Fund Budget for 2024	£
Income:	
Donations	119,968
Tax recovery	26,970
Grants	302
Trading & fees	2,226
Old School Rooms	4,540
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	7,660
Total income	161,666
Expenditure:	
Tithe for mission	14,744
Parish Contribution	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	17,895
Clergy & staff expenses	2,469
Mission & evangelism	1,450
Church costs	23,138
Church utilities	5,278
Old School Rooms	19,001
Governance	594
Total expenditure	180,999
Budgeted surplus/(deficit)	(19,333)

- The PCC anticipates a similar level of donations income to the General Fund in 2024, as the cost of living remains high and the Church launches the appeal for its building improvements project.
- The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is assured until 2025, so a small grant has been budgeted for expenditure from the General Fund.
- Income from trading and fees is difficult to budget, as the majority of this income is from weddings, which are usually booked well in advance, and church funerals, which can occur at any time and in any number.
- The Old School Rooms were very popular in 2023, and a cautious, but significant budget has been set.
- Investments are budgeted to reduce in 2024, as almost all of the legacy funds previously held in the General Fund have now been either used or allocated for particular use.
- An increase in electricity costs for our two buildings is anticipated during 2024, as our contract ends on 31st October.
- The largest potential increase in costs for 2024 is on maintenance of the Old School Rooms. Significant unexpected expenditure in 2022 and a 24% overspend on budget in 2023 has led us to allow a sizeable contingency for 2024.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned expenditure in line with long-term

strategy. In 2024 the amount required in the General Fund is £70,469, which includes £19,333 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2023 the PCC held £83,728 in the unrestricted General Fund, £9,990 of which is remaining legacy funds waiting to be designated for use. Our policy is to use legacies for specific projects, rather than to cover general expenditure. In accordance with correct procedure, the balance of the legacies is held in the General Fund until such time as the PCC designates its use. Discounting the legacy balance, there remains £73,738 in free reserves in the General Fund at 31st December 2023, which is sufficient to fulfil our Reserves Policy.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank to £85,000 in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

It is anticipated that the long-planned church building improvements will be approved and completed during 2024. We have worked closely with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to ensure that our plans meet with their approval. We are hopeful that we will raise the necessary funds. However, we will consider our priorities should there be a shortfall.

The Diocese of Leicester is restructuring its patterns of ministry, and Rothley falls into one of the large areas of Leicestershire currently under discussion. This means that in due course we will be expected to work in a group of around ten churches (a Minster Community), sharing four paid clergy or lay posts. This is a new scheme for the Diocese, so the full implications may not be understood for many months, or even a few years.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational
- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC.

Through Diocesan resources, the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address our priorities. However, the generous legacies received in 2019 and 2022 have provided a very helpful resource.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC has several sub-committees and working groups, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Discipleship
- Send
- Communications
- Church Building Improvements
- Evangelism

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role. In May 2023 all members were encouraged to access *PCC Tonight*, an online course provided by our patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS). Since July 2023 we have been using another CPAS course called *PCC Tonight: Leading your churches in evangelism* during PCC meetings.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address:
The Old School Rooms
3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Margaret Rouse	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Fred Sleath	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Susan Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative from 2/4/23
Liz Barker	
Susie Clark	
Wendy Ferguson (also Deanery Synod representative until 2/4/23)	
Chris Garnett	
David Hodgson	
Margaret Leverment	
Wendy Lewis	
Alison Parkinson	
Susan Pinkus (co-opted to 2/4/23; elected from 2/4/23)	
Nigel Willey (from 2/4/23)	

The following members served as trustees during part of 2023 only:

Alison Godfrey (to 2/4/23)
Jonathan Pilbeam (to 2/4/23)

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

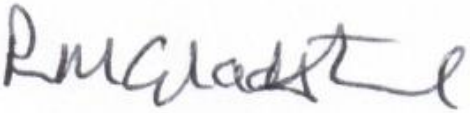
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 11th March 2024.

Signed on its behalf:

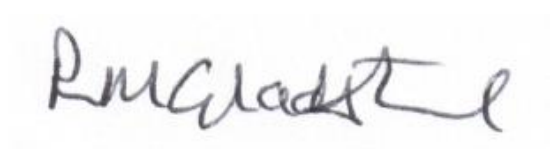
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMC Glaston', is written on a light blue rectangular background.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
	£	£
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	4,518	5,093
Cash at bank and in hand	369,417	399,257
Total	373,935	404,350
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	10,207	9,540
Net assets:	363,728	394,810
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	83,728	211,068
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	126,425	130,873
Church Maintenance Fund	21,446	6,870
Heritage Events Fund	351	501
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	70	68
Organ & Music Fund	16,021	15,863
Parish Evangelism	75,388	
Training	10,155	
Wednesday Club	-	140
Total Unrestricted Funds	333,584	365,383
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	13,966	13,643
Church Building Improvements Fund	8,849	8,611
Goscote Deanery Fund	954	934
Youth Fund	6,376	6,238
Total Restricted Funds	30,145	29,426
Total funds	363,729	394,809

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 11th March 2024

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2023	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income:					
Donations	119,329	10	1,370	120,709	129,321
Tax recovery	26,770	-	330	27,100	27,338
Legacies	-	-	-	-	72,543
Special donations	100	-	-	100	1,250
Grants	3,159	3,915	-	7,074	2,549
Trading & fees	3,000	1,020	3,530	7,550	4,240
Old School Rooms Investments & Feed-in Tariff	6,056	-	-	6,056	4,458
Other income	7,650	4,876	689	13,215	9,507
	-	-	-	-	3,240
Total income	166,064	9,821	5,919	181,804	254,446
Expenditure:					
Tithe & other awards	14,610	-	-	14,610	14,855
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	16,086	-	-	16,086	14,894
Clergy & staff expenses	2,069	-	-	2,069	1,476
Mission & evangelism	654	1,586	5,738	7,978	3,018
Church costs	21,024	34,851	-	55,875	29,508
Church utilities	3,100	-	-	3,100	2,092
Old School Rooms	8,882	7,328	-	16,210	15,994
Governance	528	-	-	528	504
Total expenditure	163,383	43,765	5,738	212,886	178,771
Surplus/deficit of income	2,681	(33,944)	181	(31,082)	75,675
Transfers between funds (details below)	(130,021)	129,483	538	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	211,068	154,316	29,427	394,811	319,136
Balances at 31 December	83,728	249,855	30,146	363,729	394,811

Transfers between funds 1 January to 31 December 2023	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted Designated funds					Restricted funds
	General Fund	Church Maintenance	OSR Maintenance	Organ & Music	Parish Evangelism	Training	Children & Families Restricted
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to Church Maintenance Fund for outdoor AV equipment as agreed by PCC 21/11/22	(55)	55					
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to Church Maintenance Fund for boiler house removal balance and Quinquennial repairs as agreed by PCC 13/3/23	(37,000)	37,000					
Transfer from General Fund to Children & Families Fund (St George's House)	(538)						538
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to Parish Evangelism Fund as agreed by PCC 22/5/23	(75,000)				75,000		
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to Training Fund as agreed by PCC 22/5/23	(10,000)					10,000	
Transfer from General Fund to Organ & Music Fund as agreed by PCC 3/7/23	(100)			100			
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to OSR Maintenance Fund as agreed by PCC 3/7/23	(2,273)		2,273				
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) to OSR Maintenance Fund as agreed by PCC 3/7/23	(5,055)		5,055				
NET	(130,021)	37,055	7,328	100	75,000	10,000	538

Location of funds:	£		£
Nat West Stewardship Account:	12,689	Debtors*:	4,518
CAF Bank General Account & cash:	29,406		
CBF Deposit Fund:	240,123	Creditors*:	10,207
CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account	10,542		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account	19,149		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2	19,282		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3	19,215		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4	19,010		
Net creditors	(5,688)		
Total	363,728		

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see pages 35 and 38.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is **unrestricted** and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds** have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
- **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
- **Heritage Events Fund:** to fulfil our 10-year commitment, which began at the beginning of 2015, to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building
- **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
- **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of the PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
- **Parish Evangelism Fund:** for outreach, particularly to the new housing estates in the village
- **Training Fund:** for training of church members, particularly in evangelism
- **Wednesday Club:** donations from Club meetings to be used by the Wednesday Club

These funds are classified as **unrestricted** because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church
- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received into our bank account.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised when it is due.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property, are excluded from the accounts by Section 10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2023 comprise:

- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in November and December 2023
- Fees for a burial of ashes in December 2023
- Income from the sale of Advent study books to church members
- Late payments for hire of the Old School Rooms

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2023 comprise payments relating to 2023 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until the sum of all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, is established.

2. Analysis of income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations	119,329	10	1,370	120,709	129,321
Tax recovery	26,770	-	330	27,100	27,338
Legacies	-	-	-	-	72,543
Special donations	100	-	-	100	1,250
Grants	3,159	3,915	-	7,074	2,549
PCC & activity fees	2,282	1,020	3,530	6,832	3,706
Trading: hospitality, copying, sale of books	718	-	-	718	534
Old School Rooms rentals	6,056	-	-	6,056	4,458
Interest	2,785	4,877	689	8,351	3,718
Rental of church field & churchyard wayleave	1,380	-	-	1,380	1,383
Feed-in Tariff	3,485	-	-	3,485	4,406
Other income	-	-	-	-	3,240
Total	166,064	9,822	5,919	181,805	254,446

3. Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Tithe & other awards	14,610	-	-	14,610	14,855
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	16,086	-	-	16,086	14,894
Clergy & staff expenses	2,069	-	-	2,069	1,476
Mission & evangelism	654	1,586	5,738	7,978	3,018
Church costs	21,024	34,851	-	55,875	29,508
Church utilities	3,100	-	-	3,100	2,092
Old School Rooms	8,882	7,328	-	16,210	15,994
Governance	528	-	-	528	504
Total	163,383	43,765	5,738	212,886	178,771

4. Tithe gifts for mission 2023

Tithe gifts for mission 2023	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,652
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,360
Tearfund (international relief and development)	2,484
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,461
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	730
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	730
UCCF Relay: Serena Cook	500
Paul & Cathy Middleton (health care & aviation transport in Southern Africa)	448
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	398
Mothers' Union (Christian concern for families worldwide)	348
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	298
Church Pastoral Aid Society School Ventures (Christian holidays for children)	198
Total	14,607

5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

Two trustees received remuneration during 2023 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for three funerals, one wedding, one wedding blessing and one marriage thanksgiving: £180
- Fred Sleath, Sound Operator fees for one wedding: £30

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2023 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2023 are listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £528. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2023:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- 3 casual employees as vergers and sound operators for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
	£	£
Accrued income	-	30
Gift Aid & GASDS	4,230	4,254
Churchyard wayleave	-	3
Funeral fees	125	365
Sale of Advent books	53	232
OSR hire	110	208
Total	4,518	5,092

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
	£	£
Balance of tithe	4,960	6,155
Accruals	4,392	2,479
PAYE Creditor	163	141
Agency collections	691	766
Total	10,206	9,541

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2023	2022
	£	£
Rental income	6,056	4,458
Expenditure:		
Utilities	2,545	1,631
Cleaning	3,401	3,089
Maintenance	2,714	9,581
Consumables & other costs	223	132
Total	8,883	14,433
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(2,827)	(9,975)

The Old School Rooms is used extensively by the Church and also let out to the local community when available. It is not intended to make a profit. In 2023 the hall proved very popular with both church groups and outside hirers and brought in an excellent income contribution, which helped significantly towards its running and maintenance costs. The hall is a very comfortable venue and remains a huge asset to the Church. During the year leaks in the roofs of the outside brick store and shed had to be repaired, at a cost of £1,656.

13. Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund

Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Bank interest	2	1
Total income	2	1
Expenditure:		
Refurbishment	7,328	1,562
Total expenditure	7,328	1,562
Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,326)	(1,561)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacies)	7,328	1,562
Balance brought forward at 1 January	69	68
Balance at 31 December	71	69

During 2023 £7,328 was spent from legacy funds on the following work:

- Refurbishment of the attic storage area
- Installation of an AV projector and screen

The projector and screen are proving very helpful to church and community groups who use the hall.

14. Church Building Improvements Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Bank interest	2,834	924
Total income	2,834	924
Expenditure:		
Church Building Improvements Project	7,282	3,054
Architect's fees	-	211
Total expenditure	7,282	3,265
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,448)	(2,341)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	-	128,054
Balance brought forward at 1 January	130,871	5,158
Balance at 31 December	126,423	130,871

The expenditure of £7,282 in 2023 all concerned the final plans and specifications for the planned building works. In particular, trial holes had to be dug in the choir vestry to ensure the foundations would be adequate to allow for the construction of a new meeting room above.

15. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	3,846	315
Bank interest	363	65
Total income	4,209	380
Expenditure:		
Architect's fees for removal of boiler house	1,320	1,092
Removal of boiler house	23,669	1,007
Architect's fees for Quinquennial Inspection 2020 work	1,770	780
Extension lead for outside PA system	55	261
Sale of Acrow Props from boiler house	(125)	-
Total expenditure	26,689	3,140
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,480)	(2,760)
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) for outdoor AV	55	1,787
Transfer from General Fund (legacies) for boiler house balance & QI repairs	37,000	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	6,871	7,844
Balance at 31 December	21,446	6,871

The removal the old, unsafe boiler house was undertaken in 2023. A further small purchase of outdoor AV equipment was funded from legacies. The process of addressing various non-urgent repairs identified in the Quinquennial Inspection in late 2020 began during the year, with the necessary faculty permissions obtained in order that the work can be undertaken in early 2024.

16. Heritage Events Fund

Heritage Events Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Bank interest	9	5
Total income	9	5
Expenditure:		
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert & Service	-	382
Coronation Concert	159	-
Total expenditure	159	382
Surplus/(Deficit)	(150)	(377)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	500	877
Balance at 31 December	350	500

A concert was held in church to mark the King's Coronation.

17. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Grants	69	48
PCC wedding fees	516	172
Bank interest	353	147
Total income	938	367
Expenditure:		
Church costs	880	702
Total expenditure	880	702
Surplus/(Deficit)	58	(335)
Special donation designated by PCC for organ repair	100	1,250
Balance brought forward at 1 January	15,862	14,947
Balance at 31 December	16,020	15,862

18. Parish Evangelism Fund

Parish Evangelism Fund	2023 £
Income:	
Donation (picnics)	10
Income from Activate events	315
Little Fishes contribution to Activate events	190
Bank interest	1,157
Total income	1,672
Expenditure:	
Picnics	549
Carol singing	41
Activate events	694
Total expenditure	1,284
Surplus/(Deficit)	388
Transfer from General Fund (legacies)	75,000
Balance at 31 December	75,388

This new designated fund was created by the PCC in May 2023 by allocation of money from legacies. It is intended to be used for outreach in the parish, particularly to the new housing estates.

19. Training Fund

Training Fund	2023 £
Income:	
Bank interest	155
Total income	155
Expenditure:	
Total expenditure	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	155
Transfer from General Fund (legacies)	10,000
Balance at 31 December	10,155

This new designated fund was created by the PCC in May 2023 by allocation of money from legacies. It is intended to be used for training, particularly in evangelism.

20. Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Bank interest	3	1
Total income	3	1
Expenditure:		
Paid to Sandra Shaw Pearce for Wednesday Lunches	143	-
Total expenditure	143	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	(140)	1
Balance brought forward at 1 January	140	138
Balance at 31 December	-	140

In 2021, Wednesday Club amalgamated with Wednesday Lunches, and the merger has proved very successful. During 2023, it was decided by the former Committee of Wednesday Club that the balance of funds should be transferred to Wednesday Lunches for the benefit of all the members.

21. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Donations	1,370	1,355
Gift Aid tax recovered	330	339
Activity fees	3,530	1,180
Bank interest	292	121
Other income in memory of Ros Taylor	-	1,620
Total income	5,522	4,615
Expenditure:		
Mission & evangelism	5,738	1,633
Total expenditure	5,738	1,633
Surplus/(Deficit)	(216)	2,982
Transfer from General Fund (St George's House visit)	538	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	13,643	10,661
Balance at 31 December	13,965	13,643

22. Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund

Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2023 £	2022 £
Income:		
Donations	-	6,100
Gift Aid tax recovered	-	275
Bank interest	238	51
Total income	238	6,426
Expenditure:	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	238	6,426
Balance brought forward at 1 January	8,611	2,185
Balance at 31 December	8,849	8,611

23. Legacies

Legacies	£
Received:	
Legacy from the late Pat Foulds received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment from the late Pat Foulds received 13/7/20	191
Legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett received 25/1/22	72,543
Total received	328,479
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audio-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Audio-visual improvements (2021)	4,520
OSR refurbishment (2021)	6,216
OSR refurbishment (2022)	1,562
Church Buildings Improvements (2022)	125,000
Pew cushions for church (2022)	780
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2022)	1,007
Audio-visual improvements (2022)	3,054
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2023)	55
Removal of boiler house (balance) & Quinquennial 2020 repairs	37,000
Evangelism Fund	75,000
Training Fund	10,000
OSR refurbishment (2023)	7,328
Total allocated	318,490
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/23	9,989

The PCC received two legacies, in the period 2019 to 2022. Further expenditure has been made during 2023 on the refurbishment of the OSR, outdoor AV equipment, and the setting up of two new designated funds: the Evangelism Fund and the Training Fund. A small balance remains to be allocated.

24. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2023 was £279. This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 that are set out on pages 30 to 44.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman
Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

 2 APRIL 2024

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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Cover picture: The church choir singing at a community concert held in church on 3rd June 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II

VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2022

2022 has been the first year post-COVID when the life of the church has been uninterrupted by lockdowns. Our new service pattern has become established and both morning services have flourished, with new people joining, new opportunities to develop all traditions of music and the opportunity for many people to begin to experience leading worship. It has been good to mark Holy Week, Easter and Christmas without restrictions and these have been seasons of great encouragement. It has been a particular joy to have the school children in church for so many seasonal services with their teachers and parents.

Since COVID, our occasional offices have seen some change, with a significant increase in the number of baptism enquiries alongside a drop in the number of church weddings and funerals. These latter match national patterns.

We welcomed Saju and his family to Rothley at the start of the year as he took up his new role as Bishop of Loughborough and it has been a delight to support the family week-by-week. The Platinum Jubilee and the death of Queen Elizabeth II gave us a unique opportunity to serve the community and to proclaim Christ at times of national celebration and national mourning.

Beyond the Parish it has been a challenging time in Deanery and Diocese. There are many vacancies in the Deanery, so a significant amount of

my time has been taken up supporting the governance of those churches and supporting them in their regular services. In the Diocese, the new ministry framework of Minister Communities is something we will need to consider very carefully how to engage with in the coming year. A combination of factors means that one vicar/church is now very rare and where it does exist, as in Rothley, it is unlikely to continue into the future.

None of what has been achieved would be possible without the willing and faithful service of so many in the Church family, each offering their gifts in a huge variety of ways. As we come out of the pandemic, I would particularly like to thank my 'cobra' crisis committee (David Wilson, Fred & Liz Sleath, Margaret Rouse, Jean Arkley), whose support, challenge, advice and encouragement through all the changes of the past couple of years has been so valuable. Alongside them, I would also like to thank Ray Prince for all the work he does behind the scenes to look after our church building.

There are many encouragements, but also ahead of us lie very significant challenges for the church locally and nationally. St Peter addresses the church of his day as exiles and strangers in the culture in which they are set, yet alongside that celebrates that the Word of the Lord endures forever and gives us a glorious hope.

Rob Gladstone

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2022

The past year has seen a return to normal, with the removal of the general restrictions and requirements following COVID-19. This has meant coffee after morning services and Communion once again being celebrated, albeit using individual cups rather than the chalice. This requires a more tedious and rigorous washing-up regime for the wardens, but this is a small price to pay for a vital part of our fellowship together. We do, however, need to remain aware that COVID, and indeed other infectious diseases, remain a real issue for some of our church family who have long-term ongoing health issues.

We have kept the new pattern of services that was adopted post-lockdown, which is to be reviewed by the PCC in March 2023. Both the morning services continue to have high attendances, although the numbers at the afternoon/evening said services and second Sunday choral evensong tend to be quite modest. By contrast, the monthly afternoon family Shine services are well supported.

This return to normality has meant that we are now able to hold our Sunday School, and we have also seen the regular diary events of Easter, Trinity, Ascension etc. being marked. Alongside these, there have also been the Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Memorial and Remembrance services and Carols by Candlelight.

We would like to thank all those who have helped this year, particularly our assistant wardens – Jean Johnson, Angela Neill, Ray Prince, Marion Whitby and Alison Parkinson. We are particularly grateful to Ray for maintaining the building on a week-by-week basis and to Ian Sanders who heroically hoists and removes the flag at the top of the tower for our own festivals and national occasions. We are also grateful to Richard Yates and Richard Neill who have taken on the role of Verger for weddings and funerals. Alongside these activities, we have also been well

served by our choir, music group, flower arrangers, bell ringers, brass cleaners and coffee-makers, and all others who have helped in other ways during the year.

In June we marked the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a concert and church family lunch. Sadly, this was followed only a few months later by a period of mourning for her death, during which pages for the National Book of Remembrance were made available and an opportunity for candles to be lit by anyone who wished to mark her passing locally in that way.

The church was again open daily between Easter and the end of October. Thanks to Jean Johnson for drawing up and overseeing a rota of keyholders for this, and all those who helped with the locking and unlocking. Sadly, some damage and theft occurred during the last week (half term), when a number of teenagers entered the building. This has been part of a village-wide problem which is being addressed by the Police, but means we will have to review the Open Church policy if there is repetition of this during 2023.

The short to medium future will see a number of changes in our church life. Rob's incumbency will come to an end in a few years, and we need to be aware that a number of our key leaders are ageing and a process of training for replacements needs to begin. Included within this scene is the impact of Shaped by God Together, the Diocese-wide reorganisation strategy, which is now in its early stages of development and implementation in other areas. Being mindful of this 'landscape', it is essential that all church members consider carefully how they can best serve the fellowship and the wider community through the commitments they make within the Church's life and its effect in the wider village.

Fred Sleath and Margaret Rouse

CHURCH BUILDING

Regular maintenance of the church building was carried out during the year, as usual. This now includes the annual maintenance of the six church bells. Charnwood Borough Council granted planning permission to remove the old boiler house and relocate the gas meter above ground. The Diocese of Leicester then granted a faculty to do this work, which should be carried out in January 2023. Unfortunately, during the regular service of the church clock in July, it was discovered that the clock hands and the dial motion works need repair. Again, this work required faculty permission. The Diocese of Leicester granted a faculty to do this work, which should also be carried out in January 2023. This will then enable the clock to chime again and keep good time. The clock dates from 1847, and is now 175 years old. The work required in the Quinquennial Report of October 2020 should be started during 2023.

The audio-visual system in the church continues to work well and is much appreciated. During the year various small improvements were agreed by the PCC and carried out. The PCC also took out a 3-year maintenance plan in August 2022. This will help with call-out costs and any new equipment required in future.

The PCC has to authorise large maintenance expenditure on the church before any work is carried out.

I would like to thank all who have helped to maintain the church during the year, especially Marion Whitby who helps with producing the faculty documents and with carrying out the monthly safety check.

Ray Prince

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

There have been a number of meetings and discussions with the architect, as well as amongst the Committee overseeing the project. We have now finalised the requirements, which are being turned into drawings which will form the basis of our submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. They have to give approval before the works can be carried out.

The main issue that has been addressed in these later stages is the need to provide additional storage for flower-arranging materials, church music and Christmas-related items, as well as the new outdoor PA system. It is believed this can now be achieved satisfactorily, and the finalised drawings will hopefully be on display by the time of the APCM.

An Appeal Brochure will be produced in 2023, giving a full explanation of the scheme, together with its financial implications for us, the fellowship. Any questions regarding the design should be addressed to me or Ken Arkley, while financial issues should go in the direction of Charles Poole or Sue Wilson.

The application process is quite long and it is not anticipated that approval will be granted until Autumn 2023 at the earliest. Estimates for the cost of the works then have to be obtained, so commencement is likely to be in Spring of 2024 at the earliest.

Fred Sleath

COMMUNICATIONS

I finished last year's report by saying "we are now trying to gather a group concerned with Church communications, both internal and external, high tech and low tech, so we would be grateful for any interest from anyone in any of these areas ..." We have had offers from a couple of people willing to post things through letterboxes and possibly pin up posters on noticeboards, but, apart from that, things are pretty much as they were, apart from ...

With Steve Thomason moving away and others not able to give much of their time to technical matters, we have now involved Eric Hissett in keeping information updated on our church website. This will also involve individuals and group leaders updating relevant information, for which Eric has made requests, and we would be grateful if this could be done soon. Out-of-date information is worse than no information! However, keeping up with communications can be time-consuming, so more help would be appreciated on various levels. Jenny Pilbeam is now also looking at ways of updating our website and other technical communication platforms we can use, using her skills and experience in these areas.

As well as the formal methods of communication, it is also really helpful if all church members can invite family, friends and neighbours to as many of our services and events as possible. It is often far better to give out a personal invitation than a blanket invitation to the whole village! If you are a Facebook user, please do "like" information that is posted by us on the church Facebook page or Spotted Rothley and share it with others if you can.

The "Fellowship Post" continues to keep the church membership in touch with each other and with what goes on here week by week, which we know many people appreciate. I am still grateful to the

volunteers who week-by-week continue to deliver paper copies to about 25 of our church members who don't have easy access to computers. We continue to include the order of service for the livestream each week to help people who need to stay at home.

We have an audio-visual system installed in church, which means that many of the words used in a service can now appear on the screens via PowerPoint slides during many of our services and one of the services each Sunday is livestreamed. We are always keen for offers of help (after training) to operate the sound or vision equipment during services, on a rota basis. There are never enough volunteers, so offers to Eric Hissett please. However, we do appreciate that some people are not able to comfortably look at the screens, so there is always a small number of service orders printed and available in church. We have now also invested in new portable PA system for outside events, such as Remembrance, Lights Switch-on, Christmas Eve Children's Carol Service and summer Shines.

We are aware that there are faults within the delivery of our communications, but we always try to do our best and make improvements where possible. Rob and I now get together once a month to keep the online church diary up-to-date, which can be viewed via the church website, and to see how best to communicate and advertise planned events.

There were some technical difficulties with producing our Christmas card in time this year, and we are grateful to all those who delivered them in a short time frame, and to Susie Clark for her assistance in producing the card. We hope to avoid the delivery rush in future.

Liz Sleath

OUTREACH

Little Fishes

Little Fishes Parent & Baby/Toddler Group continues, on Monday mornings in term time, 9 to 11am, to serve a need in the community and enables us to build relationships with parents and grandparents, babies and children, and to witness to them. We have a team in the kitchen who serve tea and toast from 8.45am and a different team who take it in turns to welcome and host the group, including story and singing time in the middle of the session. The story is usually Bible-based and there is a safe and happy atmosphere in the group. We also hand out invitations to relevant services and events to those that come along. We are grateful to all those who give their time to running the group, including those who set everything out for us on Sundays.

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

We were intending to start organising events again in 2022, although were hesitant to do so with a potential surge in the Coronavirus variant at the start of the year. As such, the only event organised this year was a Petanque evening in the summer which was very well supported and enjoyed by all. The Men's Group Committee is to meet in the first quarter of 2023 to discuss future events.

Care home links

A willing and eager group of Rothley church members continue with a monthly service, usually the first Monday, to encourage the residents to share together what we have enjoyed

the previous Sunday in Rothley Parish Church. We love a good sing and the reading of the Bible with prayers – as well as a brief comment on the reading – but not the sermon!!! It is always a special joy when members of our own fellowship are among the residents, but we are also delighted when we see each month those who have been living at Cedar House for years.

We mark the special national events, sad and happy, as well as the seasons of the Christian year. Both before and after the service we chat with those who have joined us and many a memory and a good laugh are shared. Thanks to Liz Sleath for preparing the service sheets for us in good, clear type - a real blessing.

For the time being, the ministry at Babington Court has come to a close, but any future opportunities will be followed up.

A change of staff at Mountview Care Home has opened up a new opportunity for a monthly service, led by a committed team. This is very much appreciated by the residents, many of whom had strong connections with their local church in the past.

Bereavement Support

The annual Memorial Service is always a special service, with its mixture of sadness and thanksgiving; of church and community coming together; freedom to be oneself, to light a candle, hear a loved one's name, shed a tear knowing one is safe and supported; the preciousness of hearing of the love, peace, and hope in our Lord Jesus

Christ, through Scripture, reflection, hymns, and prayers; and the singing. The choir sang their hearts out, and across the whole church so did everyone. Everyone had their service sheets, but it was the screens where they looked, upward and outward, a little touch of heaven.

Thank you so much to our church's small bereavement support group, and to so many in the congregation who support, comfort, care and pray for those who grieve.

Wednesday Lunches

The Wednesday Lunch club has continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, with a regular take-up of 25 to 30 diners. This year we have together celebrated the 100th birthday of a long-standing attendee, Margaret Foister, the 60th wedding anniversary of Terry and Pauline Sheppard, and in December 36 of us sat down to share a traditional Christmas meal. Newcomers are always welcome, but pre-booking with Sandra (01162302989/07941951265) is essential for shopping purposes. A two-course meal costs just £5 and we meet at 12 noon in the Old School Rooms.

Warm Welcome

Food price rises have produced a significant increase in the number of families using the Soar Valley Community Food Bank this year, and there has been concern that the dramatic increase in energy prices would result in many people not being able to heat their homes this winter. Nationally, churches (along with

libraries, community centres, charities and public buildings) have responded to the energy crisis by providing warm spaces for their local communities. In association with the food bank and the other churches supporting it, a grant has been obtained from Leicestershire County Council to cover the cost of heating the Old School Rooms to provide a warm welcome space.

This has been in operation since mid-November, opening between 2 and 5pm on Friday afternoons, providing free hot drinks, Wi-Fi, games, magazines and areas for quiet or company. We have advertised extensively online, in print, on notice boards, through flyers in the church Christmas service cards and through the school. We have stressed a welcome for everyone, inviting the lonely as well as the cold, in the hope of breaking through the pride which might be a barrier to accepting help.

So far there has been very little response. It could be that there is no need for a warm space of this type in Rothley, that visiting a church building is a barrier, that the timing is wrong or that the financial impact is yet to reach its height. There is still a positive message in our church joining the national response to the energy crisis by offering something to our local community, so we intend to carry on until the end of March. We very much appreciate the support of regular volunteers, those who have dropped in to help provide a welcome and the prayers of the whole church.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Growing Families Group (GF) continues as a WhatsApp group, keeping parents of primary school-aged children in touch with each other and with what is happening at church week by week, and gathering for occasional events. A number of GF parents are now also involved in leading Sunday services, and others now attend the more informal 11am services and “Shine”.

Shine! continues at 4pm on the first Sunday each month and is usually well attended by young families and church members of all ages. We give invitations to the children at Rothley School, through local posters, Growing Families chat and to families whose children have been baptised here recently. Whilst the format varies to include as many forms of activity and interaction as possible, usually accompanied by fun and excitement, we always try to make sure Jesus is at the heart of it. Special events over the last year have included an international lunch in people’s homes followed by a party in church, a shared lunch in OSR following the APCM, a visit from Dave Godfrey in July, Harvest Festival in October, the Light Party in early November and our Christmas Eve service in the churchyard, which this year was led by Sue and Andy Willetts, with a little help from their friend Simon, the sheep (puppet).

Some of the parents with young families continue to lead our **11am services**, when we are joined by a small music group and things are generally less formal and more accessible for families. Once a month we have an all-age service at 11am, which is usually a

Communion or Baptism service, and **Sunday School** has generally been meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Liz Sleath and Margaret Offley now lead the 3- to 10-year-olds, in two separate groups when there are large enough numbers, with regular help from two other church members. Who knows, during the coming year we may even get back to having socials such as the swimming party that we used to enjoy pre-pandemic? However, in June we did manage to take a group of young people - 4 from Sunday School and 4 from Grid - to The Oakes Christian Holiday Centre near Sheffield, as we used to do every year. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with great teaching and lots of fun! We also again tried to make the **Summer Sunday services** at 11am as informal and family-friendly as possible, but numbers of children were very low most weeks.

Just before Christmas we deviated from our usual nativity production, which involves rehearsing with the Sunday School children for a few weeks ahead on Sunday mornings. This year we used an **“instant nativity service”** produced by the Bible Society, so it was adults who needed to be dressed up and organised in advance, with children joining in on the day. There was a great gospel message running through the production and it was interspersed with well-known carols. Unfortunately, there was a lot of illness around at the time we arranged it, so not many children and young families were available to join in. However, a few very willing adults (really good sports!) dressed up and joined us at the last minute and we will try this again next year.

The Grid, for 10 to 14 years olds is run by Mark Baird, Simon Beals & Rashaen Cummings, usually meeting on Sunday mornings in the Spencer family's home next door to church. They have about 10 to 12 members on their register and enjoy Bible study and games together twice a month at the same time as Sunday School.

Breakthrough has been temporarily suspended due to there being only a couple of young people of that age (15 to 18) in the church, but as Grid grow older, or if new young people join, something different may start again.

There were efforts in 2022 to get a regular social evening going for Grid members (Youth Off the Grid!) consisting sometimes of games and food in OSR or films in a local home, or sometimes an outing. However, other activities that children are involved with means that it is difficult to find a common time to meet other than Sunday mornings, so this now only happens occasionally, but is still a work-in-progress.

We have continued to seek to support the Christian ethos of **Rothley Primary School** in whatever ways we can. Rob and David have resumed face-to-face assemblies in school with the children. We now have additional regular class assemblies in church focussed on Christian Values and had a very full programme of nativities in the church building, to which many parents came.

We continue to have many enquiries about **Baptism**, which currently Rob is responding to, encouraging the families to come to our family-friendly services and inviting them to join the Growing

Families group and Little Fishes etc., then fitting them in to our service schedule if they decide to go ahead. However, numbers of enquirers are now significant and it may be time to think about a preparation scheme for parents, that we used to follow previously, or a few group preparation sessions, like we ran at the end of 2021.

Liz Sleath



Shine Light Party 6th November 2022



Children's Carols in the churchyard 24th December 2022

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus. Paul's vision of discipleship in Ephesians 4:7-16 continues to be our church vision for discipleship, with a focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, small groups and personal prayer, Bible study and reading of Christian literature. The discipleship working group of the PCC continues to work on strategic leadership in this area and has produced a poster and leaflets to communicate opportunities for growth in discipleship to the church fellowship and visitors.

Housegroups: The beginning of the year saw the church's housegroups using a variety of ways to keep in contact in line with COVID restrictions, but face-to-face meetings increasingly became the norm. COVID saw groups develop imaginative ways of caring for each other and for those in the wider community; there were some wonderful examples of Christian discipleship in action, and this continued when relatively "normal" times returned. There are nine groups, mostly meeting fortnightly, either during the day or in the evening. With new members joining, there are currently about 90 people meeting in housegroups to study Scripture, discuss, pray and provide care for each other. We thank God for the commitment of the housegroup leaders, who put in a huge amount of work to enable this centrally-important part of church life to develop and flourish.

Men's breakfast: The Men's Breakfast Group, typically five to ten in number, meet for conversation and Bible study on the first Saturday of each month between 7.30 and 9am, rotating the venue around the group's homes. The focus is generally on discipleship and learning how to follow Jesus' example of teaching and sharing God's word in the context of the world we live in. In November members of the group

attended the annual Men's Convention at Cornerstone Church, Nottingham. This was a fantastic opportunity to receive teaching and ideas from outside our immediate church and to purchase books. Breakout sessions included topics such as "Growing as men who pray" and "Race and church in the UK". The group met up socially in the summer to enjoy walks in the Charnwood hills and Cossington Meadows, followed by a drink in the pub.

Bible reading notes: Whilst we endeavour to facilitate group Bible study through our many church groups, we also strongly encourage personal Bible study. For those who wish to have daily Bible reading notes in a printed format, we continue to arrange the procurement and distribution of many different books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media on the Rothley Church website, including "Verse of the Day" (biblegateway.com) and Scripture Union's "The Word Live" daily passage (wordlive.org). In 2022, two individuals moved from a printed format of daily Bible reading to an online format. 33 individuals used a printed format, using seven different books.

Prayer & Praise continues to be a time for folk to come together to pray for the life of our church, village and nation. The prayer topics always seek to maintain a prayer-covering over our church's life and growth, its leaders and its various pastoral and practical activities. The 'Praise-time' allows us to thank and praise God at a personal level, and it is encouraging to pray with folk who share a desire to see God at work in our church family and wider community.

Mothers' Union: Regular meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month. In addition, in 2022, the Leicester Wave of Prayer was held in church in July and a harvest supper in October. Five new members were enrolled. Charitable initiatives both within the local community and overseas continue to be supported, including the Away From It All (AFIA)

Holiday which took 10 families away in 2022. Members also made wiggly bags for the paediatric oncology ward at Queen's Medical Centre for use by children undergoing cancer treatment. These were sponsored, with the proceeds going towards Mothers' Union funds. Links with overseas Mothers' Union members in Eastern Zambia, Mombasa and Temotu are maintained and the Mothers' Union members in Gwagwalada and Ekiti-West, Nigeria, regularly prayed for.

Prayer Circle: There are 11 members, of whom Valerie Joyce, Jean Arkley and Trevor West can be contacted by those requesting confidential prayer. The other eight members are only known to each other and are committed to prayer. Requests are usually prayed for a week, though members will pray longer as requested and where people's situations are longer term. The circle had 77 requests in 2022, and the support this ministry provides has been much appreciated.

Quiet Day: 10 people attended 'A Day of Reflection' in October at St Leonard's Church, Swithland, led by Valerie Joyce. There were opportunities to reflect on our experiences of lockdown, what we noticed in ourselves, others and where God was at work. There were times to reflect silently, using Psalm 139 and Psalm 23, to share and listen, to walk and rest, however we felt led.

Pastoral Care: The church seeks to follow Christ's example in caring for those in need in our church and in our community. There has been a continuing willingness from people in the fellowship to be involved with the ministry of pastoral care, whether

formally as a designated pastoral visitor or informally. The role of Pastoral Coordinator as a reference point has enabled people to ask for help for themselves or for others, and has enabled ongoing liaison with the Vicar and Ministry Team.

Following the relaxation in COVID restrictions, those in hospital, sick, bereaved, isolated or feeling lonely have been visited and supported. Where visits have had to be limited for health considerations, contact has been maintained by telephone calls, texts, emails and cards. As many of the elderly do not have access to modern technology and cannot access the on-line services, the distribution of the printed 'Fellowship Post' has continued to prove a vital link with the church. These were distributed by volunteers who took the opportunity to chat and check on the well-being of the recipients.

The provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' has continued to demonstrate the church's love and care for those going through difficult times. Transport by volunteers has been organised by a transport coordinator to enable visits to medical appointments and vaccinations. Volunteers have also helped with shopping, posting letters and prescription collection. Many people in the church and in the community have found that prayer by members of the church fellowship has supported and comforted them.

Alison Godfrey

SEND

Our aim is to send out and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus. So we seek to be a church with God's heart for the nations.

We aim to support a variety of organisations, some local, others in the wider world. It is important for us as a church not only to be concerned about our own spiritual life and witness, but to be outward looking in our prayers and our giving.

In our regular giving during the past year we have supported the following organisations through our tithe, which is 10% of our church's donations and tax recovery income:

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), who support churches in the UK and Ireland, providing resources for leaders, children and young people's work, run Christian holiday camps and are patrons of Rothley Church;

Crosslinks, specifically supporting Jirka and Keira Kralovi who work with students in the Czech Republic, and Brada and Yatza Radanovic in church ministry in Serbia;

Tearfund, who work with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty;

The Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto, Tanzania which have been linked with Leicester Diocese since 1982;

Local charities **The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough, and Triangle, Leicester**, which provide help and support to the homeless and also addiction services.

15% of our tithe is reserved for discretionary giving. This year we supported:

Mercy Air

Soar Valley Community Food Project

Mothers' Union

The Oakes Holiday Centre

CPAS School Ventures

We also collect for Christian Aid annually, support emergency appeals on behalf of Tearfund for crisis situations, encourage regular donations of food to the foodbank and clothes to Triangle, and there is a Fair Trade stall at the back of church.

We have kept our church family up-to-date by means of regular information and updates on the organisations we support in the weekly Fellowship Post. There are weekly prayer pointers, and also links to prayer letters. We also feature information and prayer requests for fair trade, asylum seekers, modern slavery, the environment and the persecuted church around the world.

After two years of being unable to invite speakers from the organisations we support, it was a joy to have a number of visitors in 2022.

In July, Rupert Shelley, the new Director of Mission Partnerships for Crosslinks, preached and then spoke after the morning service about what Crosslinks does and also gave us a helpful account of his visit to our mission partners, Jirka and Keira Kralovi in the Czech Republic. Jirka, Keira, and their four lovely children were then able to visit us briefly for tea in the Old School Rooms on a Saturday afternoon in August. It is always wonderful to see in person those whom we support and for whom we pray; it brings their situations so vividly to life.

Mike Duff, the Patronage Secretary of CPAS, preached at both morning services in September, and spoke and showed slides between the services about the work of CPAS, who are the patrons of our church and give much support to our ministry team and to the youth work.

Paul and Cathy Middleton spoke in two morning services in October about what they have been doing in southern Africa with Mercy Air; Bridget Patel did the same

for Triangle in November, in response to which a large number of practical gifts were given by the congregation.

In addition to these, members of the Mothers' Union met Bishop Isaiah from Kiteto, Tanzania, and his wife at Church of the Martyrs during their visit for the Lambeth Conference in July. They spoke movingly about the evils of child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in their area and what Mothers' Union is planning to do to counteract it.

Billie Thaw spoke to the Mothers' Union in December about the amazing history of the Oakes Holiday Centre, which was visited this year by a group of children from our church.

Two of our young people were involved in Christian service last summer: Serena Cook went with an evangelistic organisation to The Gambia for four weeks and sent regular vivid and challenging descriptions of their work; James Pilbeam worked as a leader on a CPAS Venture holiday for youth. Both gave inspiring accounts of their experiences to the church on their return. We hope that many more young people will be inspired to attend CPAS Venture holidays in 2023.

In these many ways our church has been made aware of the needs of the world outside our walls, and about the work of God in so many areas, in order to stimulate our prayers and involvement.

Margaret Leverment



Serena in The Gambia July 2022



Bishop Isaiah and Ezereda from Kiteto, Tanzania, meet Mothers' Union members and friends at the Church of the Martyrs, Leicester, 22nd July 2022

CHOIR AND MUSIC

As I flick through my 2022 diary at the end of the year, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and pride as I reflect on all that we have achieved with our music provision at Rothley Parish Church. From traditional Choral Evensongs (of which there have been many this year) and Morning Services with organ and choir, to contemporary services with instruments and singers, we have worked very hard to offer a diverse range of musical styles for our congregation.

The music planning team plays a crucial role in selecting music for our services, and we are grateful to them and to those who give their time and talents by singing, both as part of the choir and at the less formal services, and playing various musical instruments. All such contributions play a vital part in our ultimate aim ... to worship God.

In addition to our regular services, we were able to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a memorable concert in June. It is not only during joyous occasions that music plays a vital role in our church. We held a poignant and meaningful Memorial Service for those who have recently lost loved ones, as well as our annual Remembrance services, both in church and at Cross Green, to honour those of our village who died as a result of the conflicts of two world wars.

This year, we were saddened by the Queen's death in September and we marked her passing with a special service. We were also deeply saddened by the deaths of a number of members of our congregation including Ros Taylor, Keith Ridge, June Simpson and Liz Purnell.

While this year was not without its challenges, it is clear that through the dedication and hard work of our team of musicians, choir and singers we have been able to provide meaningful and uplifting

music for our church and for the wider Rothley community, thinking particularly of the services that take place away from the church building, such as at Cedar House.

It has been good to celebrate with couples that were married in church this year and we have had some very inspiring services, especially when celebrating our major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest, but also on many other occasions throughout the year.

During 2023, I would really like to start exploring the processes involved in recruiting and forming a junior choir again and, possibly, a junior instrumental group. Children are the future, and by encouraging more of them to be part of a singing group or musical group, we would go some way in ensuring that we continue to build the church in Rothley. When I look back at my introduction to church, I began as a junior chorister in the church choir at St Phillip's church in Leicester in 1969. Little did I know, all those years ago, that it would lead to me being a church organist and choir master/choir trainer, for what has now spanned a period of over forty-five years. We need to provide the encouragement to children by opening such doors and, who knows, they could become our inspirational leaders of the future.

I look forward, with the choir, singers and musicians, to continue to support the musical provision in 2023. We already have a joint Choral Evensong planned with the choir of Leicester Cathedral in January, and we will be focussing on a series of special events and services to mark the King's Coronation in May.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who makes a point of speaking, or writing, to me, when they have felt the need to express their gratitude for music that has moved them, or, indeed, to offer musical suggestions and improvements for future services and events. It is greatly appreciated.
Simon Murphy

Handbells

Rothley Handbell Ringers have met together and are looking to start meeting regularly in 2023.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

RINGING ACTIVITY

The principal special ringing during the year was associated with HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee and, half muffled, her subsequent death and funeral, along with 'open ringing' for the Proclamation of King Charles III. Most of the team were able to participate in these historic events. Thanks to Steve Mitchell for the commemorative plaques in the belfry recording these activities.

The standard of ringing has steadily improved over the year with more and more rope time and practice. Thanks to Harry Longman for his guidance and bell tutorials and challenges leading to a consequent improvement in striking – both rounds and call changes with method ringing – both Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles on a few occasions.

Pleasingly, with the numbers we now have in the team, Sunday ringing with all six bells has become very much the norm, rather than the exception. Ringing has also been possible at the additional services at major festivals, including Carol Services and Christmas Midnight Communion.

Bells, as usual, were rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday. Also, the happy couples at three wedding celebrations during the year asked for the bells. The bells also rang out the old year and greeted in the New Year of 2023.

We have received a few visitors and it has been beneficial and interesting to meet those from other towers. Three Rothley ringers went to Cossington to ring at their Church's 800th Anniversary celebration,

which was a great experience on other bells.

RINGING MEMBERSHIP

There has been an extremely welcome increase in numbers - a very warm welcome back for some (in some cases after a fairly short absence, for others decades) and the warmest of welcomes to several newcomers. Return visits by university students and past ringers spending holiday time with family has also been much appreciated.

On the Safeguarding front for both Child and Vulnerable Adult protection, the number of ringers who have undertaken C of E online basic and foundation training has increased and key officers have enhanced DBS. Three members have attended a church-organised First Aid course and there are others with First Aid skills in the team.

BELLS & TOWER MAINTENANCE

There is now a formal Maintenance Annual Inspection Contract with Taylors Bell Foundry. A replacement fan heater is now in use, kindly donated by the Rothley Heritage Trust. Thanks to Ian Sanders, who has ensured throughout the year that the appropriate flag is flown on the tower, as required. A Health and Safety Risk Assessment has been drafted for the conduct of tower tours. The Church insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance has been reviewed and we adhere in our activities to the guidance of our insurers.

COMMUNITY INTERFACE

Chiming sessions, to start a bell striking, have taken place with youngsters from Rothley C of E Primary School as they visited to learn about the church, and youngsters from the uniformed organisations have enjoyed a similar experience.

The ringers entered 'Quasimodo' in the village scarecrow competition, which could

be seen above the tower door, bell rope in hand. During the weekend, the tower doors were opened, allowing youngsters (and adults) to chime a bell – something which proved extremely popular. Particular thanks to those who looked after those youngsters and to everyone who helped with both putting Quasi in place and the subsequent removal.

The church was decorated for Christmas by various groups within the church family. The ringers staged a display in a window in the north aisle on the theme of bells. Particular thanks to Nita Armstrong, Angela Spink and Steve Mitchell for their creativity.

THANKS

My thanks to each of the Tower officers for all they do, and not least to Harry Longman for his expertise and experience which he so readily shares. Thank you, also, to everyone in the Team. This year, for numerous reasons, has seen much for which we should be grateful.

Charles Poole



Quasimodo

SAFEGUARDING

"God's call is to speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." Proverbs 31:8



Safeguarding within Rothley Parish Church is the responsibility of all. It is overseen by two appointed Safeguarding Coordinators, Kate Croden (Children and Young People) and Wendy Ferguson (Vulnerable Adults). Lisa Cook supports in her administrative role, ensuring DBS applications are made and up-to-date. We also want to thank Liz Sleath for her support during the year.

Our parish safeguarding policies for child protection and vulnerable adults were reviewed and updated, in line with the model diocesan policies and GDPR guidance in November 2022. They are available on the noticeboard at the back of church and in the Old School Rooms.

Training and safer recruitment remains a priority. It is recommended that all PCC members, all those leading or involved with groups (children, young people, and adult groups) should complete basic and foundation safeguarding training every three years. Most courses are now online. It is also a requirement that group leaders, and those involved with the children's groups should have a valid DBS. The coordinators are available to give advice on the most appropriate training for individuals.

The coordinators oversee and feedback any national changes for the reporting of serious incidents and work with Rob if a safeguarding issue arises.

The church policy on communication and the use of social media and images has been

recirculated to the PCC as a reminder about our responsibility within the church.

The Safeguarding Coordinators' priority plan for 2023 is:

- To adhere with safer recruitment and, in line with GDPR procedures, create and maintain a register for those working within relevant groups, to ensure DBS and training information is up to date.

We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming church, offering a safe environment and protecting all those who worship and share with us.

Kate Croden and Wendy Ferguson

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS (OSR)

The Old School Rooms have been in constant use since the beginning of the year, unlike the previous year. Church groups, e.g. Lunches, Mothers' Union, Little Fishes, have all managed to meet throughout the year, and housegroups and Prayer & Praise have used it on several occasions. We have also had some interesting one-off bookings, while our Children's Birthday Party and Family Occasions market has continued to be as popular as ever. We have lost one of our long-standing regular bookers, but gained a new regular customer, with even more new regular users booked in for 2023.

Regular maintenance work has continued and, following a 5-year inspection of the roof, repairs to the gullies and gable ends were carried out.

After more than 20 years both ovens and hob decided to give up at the same time, with both thermostats becoming unreliable, so two new electric ovens and a new gas hob have been installed. Not wanting to feel excluded, the water boiler also ceased to operate, and following a diagnosis and quote for repair by Burco, it was felt that

the best option was to replace it with a new one.

In anticipation of increased heating costs, a Hive thermostat/time clock has been fitted – the result being that the thermostat actually works, and the timings can be controlled much more easily than with the previous time clock.

The most surprising event of the year was when part of the ceiling in the store cupboard in the church office collapsed, leaving the office covered in a very thick layer of dust and debris. As a consequence, the church administrator had to de-camp to the choir vestry until the clean-up and repairs were done and it was safe for her to return.

Since the middle of November the hall has been used as a "warm space" for members of the community to use, rather than heating their own homes.

Meanwhile, we strive to demonstrate God's love by giving all our users a warm welcome, whatever their needs, as the hall continues to be used on average 5+ days per week. The Old School Rooms can be seen as a link between the church and the wider community.

Leaders of church groups are reminded that they are responsible for booking the OSR if they require it, and special hiring rates are available for private use by church members. Availability can be viewed on the church website under "Resources" and "Old School Rooms". Bookings can be made by email: osrenquiries@gmail.com

Linda Poole

DEANERY AND DIOCESE

Three topics dominated both Diocesan and Deanery Synod agendas in 2022: “Shaped By God Together”; “Living in Love and Faith”; and Diocesan finances. Their dominance meant that, sadly, outward-facing debates about evangelism and outreach inevitably became somewhat marginalised.

The “Shaped By God Together” project has at its core the development of some 20 to 25 new Minster Communities across the whole diocese. In 2022 three pilots were initiated: the first is situated in the area around Launde Abbey, the second is located in North West Leicestershire, and the third is in North East Leicester. These three pilots mean that the diocese is gaining experience in facilitating the formation of Minster Communities in rural, urban and suburban areas. The whole diocese is scheduled to move into the Minster Community framework by 2026. This reorganisation process will inevitably impact upon Rothley Parish in the next few years but quite how is, as yet, unknown. A presentation, with opportunity for discussion and questions, was given at Goscote Deanery Synod in late 2022.

The September 2022 Diocesan Synod at Beaumont Leys was largely given over to a discussion on “Living in Love and Faith”, the Church of England’s discernment process about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. As befits a very sensitive subject, the

discussions took place in an atmosphere of respect and care and each speaker was listened to attentively. Debate is ongoing, with the bishops of the Church of England and, in February 2023, the General Synod of the Church of England, expressing their views about possible ways ahead in this highly contentious area, one which has at its core divergent views about the authority of Scripture.

The third focus in 2022 was Diocesan finance. Both the September and the late November Diocesan Synods heard from the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance that there was a deficit of well over £1 million, despite cuts to central staffing levels. Levels of Parish Contributions have not kept pace with overall costs and, unless this changes in 2023, there are liable to be further cuts in the number of stipendiary ordained ministers. This is already biting locally: for example, at the end of 2022 there were only three stipendiary ministers for the whole Goscote Deanery (for which Rob Gladstone remains Area Dean). This is the context in which “Shaped By God Together” is being played out; there are, therefore, plenty of financial and organisational challenges ahead in 2023 and beyond. Whilst such issues are clearly important, it is crucial the gospel message of God’s love for the world through Jesus Christ is proclaimed with confidence, otherwise we will simply be overseeing an exercise in managerial decline.

David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2022 has seen the resumption of all church activities, following two years of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Having taken the opportunity, during that period, to try different timings for church services, a new settled pattern was established during the year which also includes a variety of styles of worship. We still aim to livestream one service each Sunday for the benefit of those who are not able to attend in person, and this is very much appreciated. However, the audio-visual equipment is sensitive and complex and there are occasions when livestreaming does not work. We are always looking for more expertise within the congregation to help in this area. Our weekly communications and service sheet, sent electronically or delivered to every church member, includes the order of service for the livestreamed worship.

A concert and a special service and community lunch was held to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Her death in September was marked in our Sunday services and the church was open during the weekdays for personal remembrance and the signing of condolence sheets.

Our Pastoral Co-ordinator remains responsive to the needs of church members and other contacts in the village. Lifts are also offered to medical appointments and the like, and these are co-ordinated separately. Two groups of church members focus their pastoral support on the residents of the two care homes in the parish, through monthly visits. The pastoral care provided in the community is greatly valued by those who have been helped.

School assemblies, both at the school and in the church, have been able to take place throughout 2022. We have also been pleased to welcome children and parents for class visits and productions in the church. The Growing Families WhatsApp group continues as a helpful forum for local families and they continued to organise lively events during the year.

Our Sunday School, youth and adult groups in the church all met throughout 2022. On the three occasions during the year when there was a fifth Sunday in the month, the whole congregation was invited to stay for lunch after the church service.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Outreach project, particularly its foodbank ministry, has increased in importance in 2022 as the energy and cost of living crises have hit more and more people. Church members generously gave food, funds and volunteer time to this ministry throughout the year. A new initiative during the autumn and winter has been to collaborate in providing warm spaces for the village community. Our contribution is Warm Welcome in our church hall (The Old School Rooms) on Friday afternoons, aiming to provide warmth and company to anyone in the community. Hot drinks, games, jigsaws, Wi-Fi and a quiet area for reading or studying are all made freely available.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is given appropriate priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment has been invaluable, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

With inflation rising during 2021, the PCC set a worst-case scenario General Fund budget for 2022, assuming income below 2021 levels, expenditure higher than 2021 and a potential deficit of £9,400. In the event, General Fund income (excluding a legacy and a special donation received during the year) exceeded the budget by 14.5%. General Fund expenditure was also above budget, by 8.7%, but the year-end deficit was considerably less than budget, at £1,777. This is the first time the accounts have shown a deficit since 2015.

Rothley Parish Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). We are very grateful for the continued support and commitment to regular giving shown by our church members.

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430 in 2022), which supports ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to

pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually.

The PCC is very grateful for a legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett, a special donation in memory of the late Bessie Grindrod and donations to our work with children and youth in memory of Ros Taylor, all received during 2022.

Plans to improve the church building, principally by installing toilets and a servery, were recommenced during 2022, following a two-year delay as a result of the pandemic. The full cost is expected to be at least £250,000 and during the year the PCC set aside half that amount, £125,000, from legacies towards the project. At the suggestion of the donor, the PCC designated the special donation to the Organ and Music Fund as a significant contribution towards an organ repair due to take place early in 2023. The donations towards our work with children and youth were paid directly into the restricted Children and Families and Youth Funds.

Having six people working together as a treasury team provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living.

FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £394,810 at 31 December 2022, made up as follows:

Fund Overview	31/12/2022 £	31/12/2021 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	211,068	271,705
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	130,873	5,161
Church Maintenance Fund	6,870	7,843
Heritage Events Fund	501	878
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	68	68
Organ & Music Fund	15,863	14,948
Wednesday Club	140	138
Total Unrestricted Funds	365,383	300,741
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	13,643	10,661
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	8,611	2,185
Goscote Deanery Fund	934	925
Youth Fund	6,238	4,624
Total Restricted Funds	29,426	18,395
Total funds	394,809	319,136

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Donations	121,831	113,594
Tax recovery	26,715	25,398
Legacies	72,543	-
Special donations	1,250	
Grants	2,186	293
Trading & fees	2,888	2,926
Old School Rooms	4,458	1,869
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	8,126	5,701
Total income	239,997	149,781
Expenditure:		
Tithe for mission	14,855	13,899
Parish Contribution	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,844	14,018
Clergy & staff expenses	1,476	908
Mission & evangelism	947	103
Church costs	22,401	14,847
Church utilities	2,092	1,511
Old School Rooms	14,432	5,743
Governance	504	480
Total expenditure	167,981	147,939
Surplus/deficit of income	72,016	1,842
Net transfers to/from other funds	(132,653)	(10,727)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	271,705	280,590
Balance at 31 December	211,068	271,705

Excluding the legacy and special donation received during the year, General Fund income amounted to £166,203 in 2022, 14.5% above expectations and £16,422 (11%) above 2021 levels. Increases occurred in the following areas:

- Donations and tax recovery increased by £9,554 (6.9%). £1,770 of those donations were one-off, rather than congregational giving.
- As well as the Listed Places of Worship grant of £604, which effectively repays VAT on certain repair and maintenance work, the church also received a £495 Warm Space grant towards our initiative on Friday afternoons and a Church of England Energy Grant of £1,087.
- The Old School Rooms was in use throughout the year, having been closed for the first half of 2021, hence the increase in income.
- Investments and Feed-in Tariff income increased by £2,425 (42.5%) as a result of the rapid rise in interest rates and a good year of sunny weather.

General Fund expenditure rose £20,042 above 2021 levels, an increase of 13.6%, and 8.7% above budget expectations. The main increases were seen in the following areas:

- Our tithe gifts for mission, 10% of our donations and tax recovery income, increased in line.
- Church costs rose by £7,554 (50.9%): £2,562 on maintenance, including taking out a contract, and repairs for the audio-visual system; £3,444 on church maintenance, largely accounted for by £1,134 for repair of a roof leak and £1,968 advance payment for repair of the church clock
- Old School Rooms costs increased £8,689 over 2021 levels. This was largely accounted for by a roof repair costing £6,060; £1,440 costs to clean up and repair a partial collapse of the ceiling above the office store cupboard, which was not covered by our insurance policy; £707 for a new water boiler, plates and oven shelves.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2023

The budget for 2023 is concerning, but realistic, at a time of high inflation and high energy costs. It will be vital for the PCC to carefully monitor income and expenditure throughout the year.

General Fund Budget for 2023	£
Income:	
Donations	119,968
Tax recovery	26,970
Trading & fees	841
Old School Rooms	2,400
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	6,070
Total income	156,249
Expenditure:	
Tithe for mission	14,694
Parish Contribution	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	16,301
Clergy & staff expenses	1,933
Mission & evangelism	1,450
Church costs	22,501
Church utilities	12,173
Old School Rooms	12,177
Governance	556
Total expenditure	178,215
Budgeted surplus/(deficit)	(21,966)

- The PCC anticipates a fall in donations income to the General Fund in 2023, as inflation and energy costs continue at high levels and the church launches an appeal for its building improvements project.
- Trading and fees are difficult to budget, as the majority of this income is from weddings, which are usually booked well in advance, and church funerals, which can occur at any time and in any number.
- The Old School Rooms income remains cautious, despite the excellent results for 2022.

- Investments are budgeted to be less in 2023, as it is hoped that interest rates will fall during the year, and a further bumper income from the Feed-in Tariff cannot be guaranteed.
- We are anticipating an unprecedented hike in the amount we pay for gas, as our contract ends on 31st March 2023. We have so far been shielded from the energy crisis, but our church utility costs could rise by over £10,000 in 2023.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned expenditure in line with long-term strategy. In 2023 the amount required in the General Fund is £71,866, which includes £21,966 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2022 the PCC held £211,068 in the unrestricted General Fund, although £139,373 of this amount is legacy funds waiting to be designated for use. Our policy is to use legacies for specific projects, rather than to cover general expenditure. In accordance with correct procedure, the balance of the legacies is held in the General Fund until such time as the PCC designates its use. Discounting the legacy balance, there remains £71,695 in free reserves in the General Fund at 31st December 2022, which is just £171 short to cover the projected deficit in 2023. A further £154,315 is held in designated funds, whose designation could be changed by the PCC if it became necessary.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank to £85,000 in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining reserve funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

Detailed drawings of the plans to improve the church building, principally by installing toilets and a servery, are being prepared by our architect. At the same time, an appeal brochure is being written to use to raise the balance of funds that will be required for the project. Building work is not expected to begin until 2024.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational
- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC.

Through Diocesan resources the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address our priorities. However, the generous legacies received in 2019 and 2022 are proving a very helpful resource.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC has several sub-committees and working groups, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Discipleship
- Send
- Communications
- Church Building Improvements

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address: The Old School Rooms
3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Margaret Rouse	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Fred Sleath	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Wendy Ferguson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Liz Barker	
Susie Clark (from 3/4/22)	
Chris Garnett	
Alison Godfrey	
David Hodgson	
Margaret Leverment	
Wendy Lewis	
Alison Parkinson	
Susan Pinkus (elected to 3/4/22; co-opted from 9/5/22)	
Jonathan Pilbeam	
Susan Wilson	

The following member served as a trustee during part of 2022 only:
Jennifer Pilbeam (co-opted to 3/4/22)

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

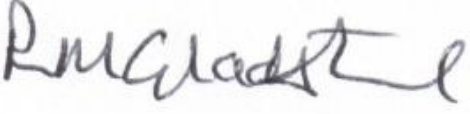
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 13th March 2023.

Signed on its behalf:

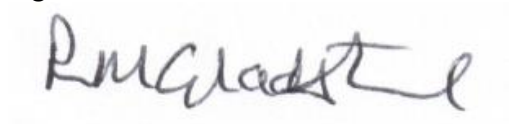
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RMC [unclear]', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	5,093	2,513
Cash at bank and in hand	399,257	328,504
Total	404,350	331,017
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	9,540	11,881
Net assets:	394,810	319,136
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	211,068	271,705
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	130,873	5,161
Church Maintenance Fund	6,870	7,843
Heritage Events Fund	501	878
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	68	68
Organ & Music Fund	15,863	14,948
Wednesday Club	140	138
Total Unrestricted Funds	365,383	300,741
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	13,643	10,661
Church Building Improvements Fund	8,611	2,185
Goscote Deanery Fund	934	925
Youth Fund	6,238	4,624
Total Restricted Funds	29,426	18,395
Total funds	394,809	319,136

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 13th March 2023

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2022	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Income:					
Donations	121,831	-	7,490	129,321	114,914
Tax recovery	26,715	-	623	27,338	25,728
Legacies	72,543	-	-	72,543	-
Special donations	1,250			1,250	-
Grants	2,186	363	-	2,549	330
Trading & fees	2,888	172	1,180	4,240	3,794
Old School Rooms Investments & Feed-in Tariff	4,458	-	-	4,458	1,869
Other income	8,126	1,143	238	9,507	5,890
			3,240	3,240	-
Total income	239,997	1,678	12,771	254,446	152,525
Expenditure:					
Tithe & other awards	14,855	-	-	14,855	13,899
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,844	50	-	14,894	14,018
Clergy & staff expenses	1,476	-	-	1,476	1,027
Mission & evangelism	947	332	1,739	3,018	1,075
Church costs	22,401	7,107	-	29,508	22,388
Church utilities	2,092	-	-	2,092	1,511
Old School Rooms	14,432	1,562	-	15,994	21,887
Governance	504	-	-	504	480
Total expenditure	167,981	9,051	1,739	178,771	172,715
Surplus/deficit of income	72,016	(7,373)	11,032	75,675	(20,190)
Transfers between funds (details below)	(132,653)	132,653	-	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	271,705	29,036	18,395	319,136	339,326
Balances at 31 December	211,068	154,316	29,427	394,811	319,136

Transfers between funds 1 January to 31 December 2022	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted Designated funds			
	General Fund	Church Building Improvements	Church Maintenance	OSR Maintenance	Organ & Music
	£	£	£	£	£
Transfer from General Fund (Pat Foulds legacy) to OSR Maintenance Fund for refurbishment as agreed by Business Committee 7/4/22	(238)			238	
Transfer from General Fund (PF legacy) to Church Building Improvements Designated Fund as per PCC resolution 4/7/22	(125,000)	125,000			
Transfer from General Fund (Pat Foulds legacy) to OSR Maintenance Fund for refurbishment as agreed by PCC 4/7/22	(1,324)			1,324	
Transfer from General Fund to Organ & Music Fund as agreed by PCC 19/9/22 (special donation)	(1,250)				1,250
Transfer from General Fund (Pat Foulds legacy) to Church Maintenance Fund for pew cushions as agreed by PCC 21/11/22	(780)		780		
Transfer from General Fund (Pat Foulds legacy) to Church Maintenance Fund for outdoor AV equipment as agreed by PCC 21/11/22	(1,007)		1,007		
Transfer from General Fund (PF legacy) to Church Building Improvements Designated Fund for microphones as per PCC resolution 9/5/22	(3,054)	3,054			
NET	(132,653)	128,054	1,787	1,562	1,250

Location of funds:	£		£
Nat West Stewardship Account:	12,046	Debtors*:	5,093
CAF Bank General Account & cash:	43,152		
CBF Deposit Fund:	257,562	Creditors*:	9,540
CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account	10,440		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account	19,016		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2	19,148		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3	19,016		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4	18,878		
Net creditors	(4,447)		
Total	394,811		

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see pages 34 and 37.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is **unrestricted** and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:**

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
 - **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
 - **Heritage Events Fund:** to fulfil our 10-year commitment, which began at the beginning of 2015, to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building
 - **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
 - **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of the PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
 - **Wednesday Club:** donations from Club meetings to be used by the Wednesday Club
- These funds are classified as **unrestricted because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.**

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church
- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received into our bank account.

- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised when it is due.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property, are excluded from the accounts by Section 10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2022 comprise:

- A donation for use of the church
- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in November and December 2022
- Churchyard wayleave payment for 2022
- Feed-in Tariff payment for the final quarter of 2022
- Wedding fees from a late December wedding
- Late payments for hire of the Old School Rooms

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2022 comprise payments relating to 2022 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until the sum of all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, is established.

2. Analysis of income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations	121,831	-	7,490	129,321	114,914
Tax recovery	26,715	-	623	27,338	25,728
Legacies	72,543	-	-	72,543	-
Special donations	1,250	-	-	1,250	-
Grants	2,186	363	-	2,549	330
PCC & activity fees	2,354	172	1,180	3,706	3,525
Trading: hospitality, copying, sale of books	534	-	-	534	269
Old School Rooms rentals	4,458	-	-	4,458	1,869
Interest	2,337	1,143	238	3,718	1,060
Rental of church field & churchyard wayleave	1,383	-	-	1,383	1,380
Feed-in Tariff	4,406	-	-	4,406	3,449
Other income	-	-	3,240	3,240	-
Total	239,997	1,678	12,771	254,446	152,524

3. Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Tithe & other awards	14,855	-	-	14,855	13,899
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,844	50	-	14,894	14,018
Clergy & staff expenses	1,476	-	-	1,476	1,027
Mission & evangelism	947	332	1,739	3,018	1,075
Church costs	22,401	7,107	-	29,508	22,388
Church utilities	2,092	-	-	2,092	1,511
Old School Rooms	14,432	1,562	-	15,994	21,887
Governance	504	-	-	504	480
Total	167,981	9,051	1,739	178,771	172,715

4. Tithe gifts for mission 2022

Tithe gifts for mission 2022	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,714
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,417
Tearfund (international relief and development)	2,525
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,485
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	743
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	743
Mercy Air (aviation for humanitarian aid & mission)	578
Mothers' Union (Christian concern for families worldwide)	450
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	500
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	400
Church Pastoral Aid Society School Ventures (Christian holidays for children)	300
Total	14,855

5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

Two trustees received remuneration during 2022 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for three funerals and one weddings: £120
- Fred Sleath, Sound Operator fees for one funeral and vergers fees for one funeral: £60

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2022 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2022 are listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £504. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2022:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- 3 casual employees as vergers and sound operators for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2022 £	31/12/2021 £
Accrued income	30	372
Gift Aid & GASDS	4,254	2,141
Churchyard wayleave	3	
Feed-in Tariff	365	-
Wedding fees	232	
OSR hire	208	
Total	5,092	2,513

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2022 £	31/12/2021 £
Balance of tithe	6,155	9,399
Accruals	2,479	1,582
PAYE Creditor	141	171
Agency collections	766	729
Total	9,541	11,881

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2022 £	2021 £
Rental income	4,458	1,869
Expenditure:		
Utilities	1,631	924
Cleaning	3,089	2,964
Maintenance	9,581	1,791
Consumables & other costs	132	65
Total	14,433	5,744
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(9,975)	(3,875)

Page 24 details the additional repair and maintenance costs in 2022. In addition to the costs of maintenance and repairs, a further £1,562 from legacies was spent on the following refurbishment work:

- Noticeboards
- Curtains, poles and tie backs
- Hive Active Heating Control
- New hob and two ovens

The hall was in use throughout the year by church groups and outside hirers. The hall is a very comfortable venue and remains a huge asset to the church.

13. Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund

Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Bank interest	1	31
Total income	1	31
Expenditure:		
Non-routine repairs	-	1,205
Refurbishment	1,562	14,939
Total expenditure	1,562	16,144
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,561)	(16,113)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacies)	1,562	6,216
Transfer from General Fund (Old chairs for use in church)	-	180
Balance brought forward at 1 January	68	9,785
Balance at 31 December	69	68

14. Church Building Improvements Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Bank interest	924	16
Total income	924	16
Expenditure:		
Audio-visual equipment	3,054	4,520
Architect's fees	211	-
Total expenditure	3,265	4,520
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,341)	(4,504)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	128,054	4,520
Balance brought forward at 1 January	5,158	5,142
Balance at 31 December	130,871	5,158

Further purchases, totaling £3,054, were made from legacies to cover additional items required for the audio-visual system:

- Microphones and amplifier
- Mic stand cable management
- Reroute camera signal

Mounted drawings were produced by the architect for the relaunch of the Church Building Improvements project. In July 2022 the PCC designated £125,000 from legacies to this project.

15. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	315	-
Bank interest	65	34
Total income	380	34
Expenditure:		
Architect's & planning fees for removal of boiler house	1,092	-
Outdoor AV equipment	1,007	-
20 pew cushions	780	-
Display boards	261	-
Non-routine repairs	-	2,734
Total expenditure	3,140	2,734
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,760)	(2,700)
Transfer to OSR Maintenance Fund (Old chairs for use in church)	-	(180)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	1,787	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	7,844	10,724
Balance at 31 December	6,871	7,844

The process to remove the old, unsafe boiler house commenced in 2022 with planning and faculty permission received late in the year. The work will take place early in 2023.

Outdoor AV equipment and additional pew cushions for the church were funded from legacies.

16. Heritage Events Fund

Heritage Events Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Bank interest	5	3
Total income	5	3
Expenditure:		
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert & Service	382	-
Organ Centenary Concert	-	213
Total expenditure	382	213
Surplus/(Deficit)	(377)	(210)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	877	1,087
Balance at 31 December	500	877

A concert and a special service were held in church to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

17. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Grants	48	37
PCC wedding fees	172	688
Bank interest	147	47
Total income	367	772
Expenditure:		
Church costs	702	287
Equipment	-	119
Total expenditure	702	406
Surplus/(Deficit)	(335)	366
Special donation designated by PCC for organ repair	1,250	
Balance brought forward at 1 January	14,947	14,581
Balance at 31 December	15,862	14,947

18. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Donations	1,355	1,320
Gift Aid tax recovered	339	330
Activity fees	1,180	180
Bank interest	121	32
Other income in memory of Ros Taylor	1,620	
Total income	4,615	1,862
Expenditure:		
Mission & evangelism	1,633	679
Total expenditure	1,633	679
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,982	1,183
Transfers to General Fund (glue sticks & posting error)	-	(9)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	10,661	9,487
Balance at 31 December	13,643	10,661

19. Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund

Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Donations	6,100	-
Gift Aid tax recovered	275	-
Bank interest	51	7
Total income	6,426	7
Expenditure:	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	6,426	7
Balance brought forward at 1 January	2,185	2,178
Balance at 31 December	8,611	2,185

20. Youth Restricted Fund

Youth Restricted Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Income:		
Donations	35	-
Gift Aid tax recovered	9	-
Bank interest	57	15
Other income in memory of Ros Taylor	1,620	-
Total income	1,721	15
Expenditure:		
Mission & evangelism	106	79
Total expenditure	106	79
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,615	(64)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	4,625	4,689
Balance at 31 December	6,240	4,625

21. Legacies

Legacies	£
Received:	
Legacy from the late Pat Foulds received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment from the late Pat Foulds received 13/7/20	191
Legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett received 25/1/22	72,543
Total received	328,479
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audio-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Audio-visual improvements (2021)	4,520
OSR refurbishment (2021)	6,216
OSR refurbishment (2022)	1,562
Church Buildings Improvements (2022)	125,000
Pew cushions for church (2022)	780
Outdoor audio-visual equipment (2022)	1,007
Audio-visual improvements (2022)	3,054
Total allocated	189,107
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/22	139,372

Having received a legacy from the late Lady Isobel Barnett in 2022, the PCC now holds funds from two legacies in the General Fund. Further expenditure has been made during 2022 on the refurbishment of the OSR, pew cushions for the church, outdoor audio-visual equipment and audio-visual improvements in the church. In addition, the PCC designated £125,000 to the Church Building Improvements project, which has been picked up again in 2022, following delays as a result of the pandemic.

22. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2022 was £267. This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 that are set out on pages 29 to 42.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

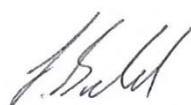
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman
Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

 15 MARCH 2023

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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Cover picture: 'Walls of Jericho' march around the church building during Sunday morning service 22nd August 2021

VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2021

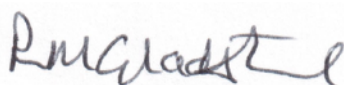
I want to begin this review with a huge thanks to the whole Church community for the way they have worked together and made sacrifices to enable us, through all the challenges that the pandemic has brought, to sustain and rebuild the life of the church. Because of this, through all the ever-changing guidelines and directives, we have been able, under God, to give expression to what it means to be his church in this place - making disciples, growing in our discipleship and showing God's love to the world. This has required us all to make compromises, to be willing to experiment, to take risks and to be gracious and patient with one another when things don't work out or do not suit our convenience. That willingness, grace and patience have been shown in abundance.

There was a time that many of us will remember, when across the whole nation, we watched the same TV programmes at the same time on the same day and talked about them at school or work the next morning, in the full knowledge that more than likely everyone knew what we were talking about. In recent years, especially exacerbated by the time people have spent alone during lockdowns, that shared narrative of life has been particularised, fragmented and shattered with each person accessing their own preferred live streams/podcasts, box sets, music streaming/news channels. As we go forwards, we want to build a pattern of Church activity that will, on the one hand, be accessible to as many people in the parish as possible and, on the other hand, enable all the current church family to participate and flourish. This trend of particularisation and fragmentation affects the whole of our lives and makes planning a pattern of Church activity that will suit everyone like the quest for the holy grail. Churches across the whole nation are being forced to recognise that established patterns

rarely suit the new situation we find ourselves in. We are seeking to discern the best way forward and are in the midst of a period of experimentation in which many new things are flourishing and older patterns have been revitalised. Alongside this we have continued to seek to give people the opportunity to explore what God is calling them to, to develop gifts and try out new ministries. All of this will be essential in equipping the church for whatever lies ahead.

We owe Mike Ferguson and Angela Neill, Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath, who have been our Churchwardens through this year, a great debt of gratitude. They have been a constant support and have offered wise advice as we have adapted to the changing regulations, and they have worked on risk assessments - and together with Ray Prince - ensured that we could meet in the building as much as possible in a safe and responsible way.

I would also like to thank David Wilson who has provided invaluable support and wise counsel and taken on significant extra work in serving this church throughout the pandemic.



Rob Gladstone
Vicar

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2021

2021 has seen some positive changes after the disruptions of 2020. It has been good to be able to celebrate Communion again, although we are not using the chalice at present; and to be able to hold weddings and funerals in church again. Unlike last year, we were able to gather for Festivals, and the Memorial and Remembrance services were well attended and much appreciated. There were two Carols by Candlelight services, ensuring that the number of attendees remained within comfortable limits. The pattern of weekly services also helps to ensure against overcrowding with virtually equal attendances at the 9.30 and 11am services. There has been a steady increase in numbers at both services, although there is some fluctuation in response to outbreaks of COVID-19. It has been good to see the *Growing Families* and the monthly *Shine* services develop, and the team have also run events, such as the Light Party at the end of November, which are attracting families from outside the church. There have been several baptisms this year. Following consultation, the PCC agreed to continue the two morning services and also that there will be a 4pm service during the winter. This pattern will be reviewed in 2022. One service, usually the 9.30am, is live streamed each Sunday and this is very popular with members who cannot come to church.

As churchwardens, we have spent a good deal of time coming to terms with changing regulations as we aim to keep us all COVID-free.

Fortunately, we have a large medieval building which allows us to give people more space and through which we can allow a through current of air. The clerestory windows are opened before services, all three main doors are opened and, where possible, left slightly ajar. Initially, we placed cards on the pews indicating where people should sit. We do not use these now, but request that everyone is aware of other people and leaves appropriate space. It is now mandatory for everyone to wear a face covering, unless medically unable to do so. At present, we

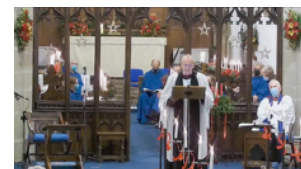
cannot serve coffee, although we did manage to do this for a few weeks during the Summer and Autumn. We have maintained a Track and Trace system from the first opening of the church. The app is available and a written list which is retained for as long as necessary.

Mary Macrae has now retired from acting as vergers for weddings and funerals and we would like to thank her for her faithful service over many years. Her steady, competent presence has helped and reassured many brides and she was a source of real comfort to mourners. We also wish to thank Derek Houghton who continues in that role and Richard Yates who has joined him; the assistant wardens Jean Johnson, Alison Parkinson, Ray Prince and Marion Whitby; Ken Arkley, who, although he has stepped down as assistant warden, still helps us when we need him; Angela Neill who is our new assistant warden. We are also very grateful to Ray Prince who has taken on the responsibility for anything to do with the church building – from light bulbs to Quinquennial reports; to Marion Whitby who oversees the electoral roll and other documentation; to the choir who have kept going through all the changes; and to the many other people who contribute to the life and smooth running of the church and the services – welcoming, reading, leading prayers, arranging flowers, serving coffee, delivering Fellowship Post and other jobs too numerous to mention here. You are all very much appreciated. Thank you.

As churchwardens we meet with Rob every month and attend PCC and Business Committee meetings. It has been encouraging to be able to meet face to face instead of on-screen. Hopefully, we shall be able to continue with this. We are grateful to God for all His blessings this year and, as we look forward to more changes and new challenges in 2022, we place our trust in Him that we shall be able to meet them.

Fred Sleath and Margaret Rouse

COMMUNICATIONS



Pre-recorded online events: Holy Week reflections, Easter Sunday service; live streamed services: Remembrance Sunday, Carols by Candlelight

During this last year we again used technology widely to communicate to the Church congregation and wider into our community with the gospel message, seeking to encourage and give hope during these COVID-19 times.

Pre-recorded services

In 2021, we published 32 pre-recorded services and events (including Lent Talks, etc.) before switching to live streaming from the 23rd May when in-church services resumed. We are very grateful to Paul Parkinson for the many, many hours producing these services every week, not just in 2021 but also for the majority of 2020.

Live streaming

Thanks to our new sound and video facilities we have attempted to produce at least one Church service every week as a livestream which can also be watched later. Thanks to Sue Jackson for making sure the settings are correct before each recording and ensuring that our hymns and songs which are still under copyright are compliant with our CCLI copyright licenses and YouTube copyright policies.

YouTube

All our livestream services and Rob's Morning Prayer are available on the [Rothley Parish Church YouTube channel](#). The graph at the bottom of page 6 shows views for 2021 (equivalent to the one in the 2020 Annual Report). This shows that the total number of channel views in 2021 (13,024) was lower than for 2020 (15,907). The most popular services were 'Thy Kingdom Come - Ascension Day' (299), 'Hail Glorious King - Good Friday' (281), 'Pentecost Sunday' (243) and 'Easter Sunday' (225). The prominent spike on the 13 July was for the *Rothley School Leavers Assembly* (445 views). The most popular devices for watching

were (in order) computer, mobile phone, tablet, TV and games console. Half of the viewers accessed the videos directly on the RPC YouTube channel, and the remainder via other websites/links (e.g. church website, Facebook, etc.). The total number of RPC YouTube channel views since inception is currently 27,903 (up from 15,600 a year ago).

Website

Our website www.rothleychurch.org.uk, has continued to get over 10 views a day with visitors locally, from across the country, as well as some from overseas. In total we had 3,963 visits, down from 4,932 last year. 15,283 pages were viewed, down from 27,105. The top five pages visited (2020 figures in brackets) are:

Home Page	6,714	(11,202)
Webcasts	2,721	(6,477)
Old School Rooms	793	(515)
Services	719	(857)
Who's Who	531	(776)

There were only three pages that saw an increase in visitors from last year: The *Old School Rooms* has been shown above; *Babies and Toddlers* increased to 129 from 87 visits and *Children and Families* increased to 114 from 67 visits. 45% of visits to our website were from mobiles, 40% from a desktop and 14% from a tablet.

Facebook

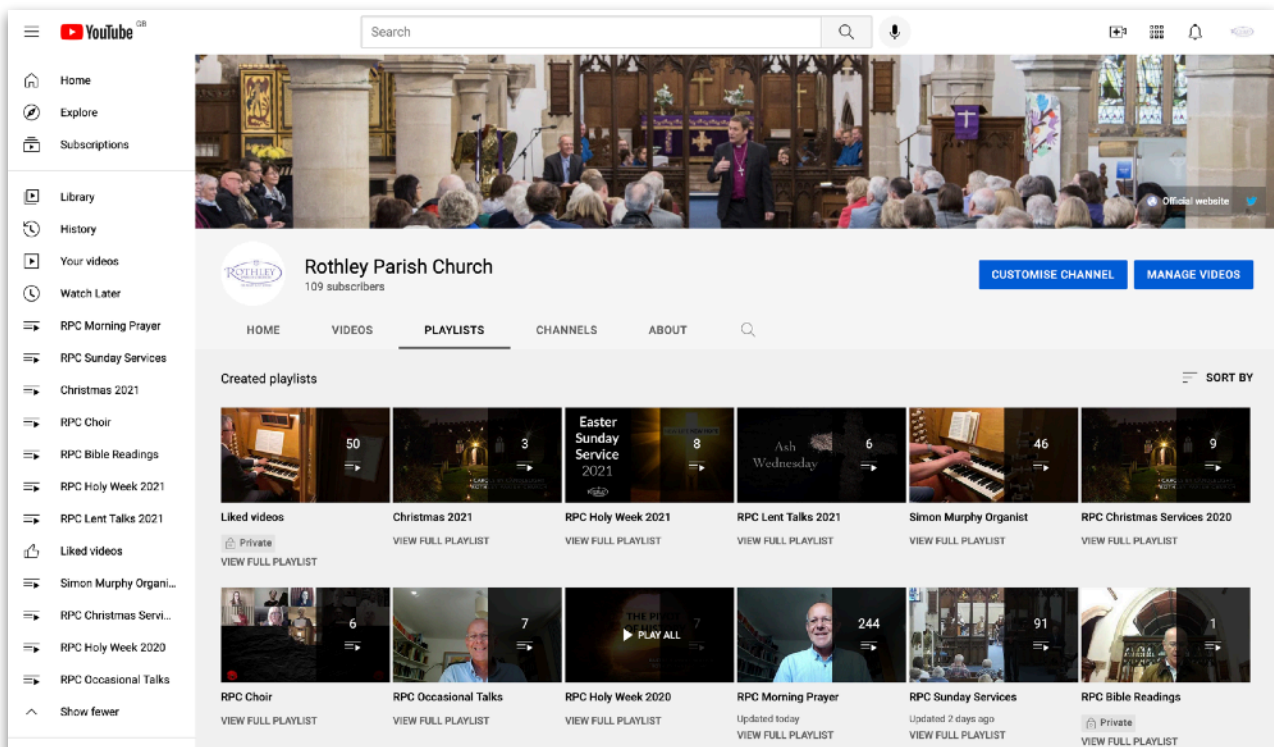
The [Rothley Parish Church Facebook group](#) is used for sharing news, views and information and has also provided a link most mornings to *Rob's Morning Prayer*. We now have 155 followers, up from 56 in 2018. We have forwarded invitations to special services as an outreach to the wider community through the Facebook group *Spotted Rothley*, our thanks to them for reposting out our message to over 9,700 followers each time.

Twitter

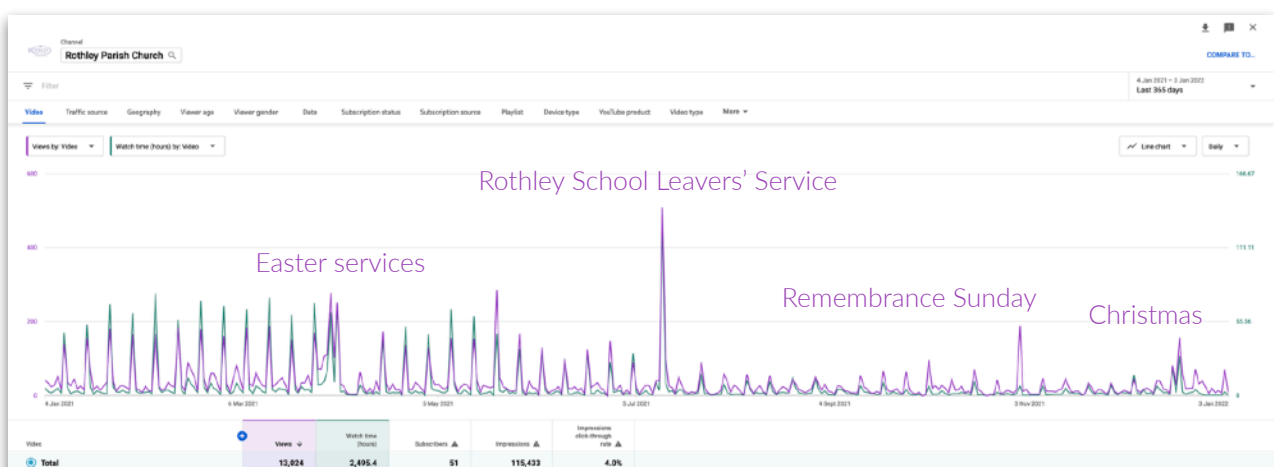
Our Twitter account [@rothleychurch](https://twitter.com/rothleychurch) is also used to promote services and special events, not just to our own congregation but wider into the

community. We have 201 followers, up from 197 in 2020.

Stephen Thomason



Rothley Parish Church YouTube Channel showing playlists for Sunday Services, Morning Prayer and other events



Rothley Parish Church YouTube Channel statistics showing daily views throughout 2021

Low-tech communications

Communication in church life is important - how else will people hear the Good News if we don't tell them where it's being broadcast? We try to embrace as many people as possible in our communications - those inside and outside of our immediate church community, the wider village and those affected by things that happen here in Rothley, such as family and friends who might venture here for events and occasions.

The *Fellowship Post* continues to keep the church membership in touch with each other and what goes on here week by week, which we know many people appreciate. I am still grateful to the four people who deliver paper copies to about 25 of our church members who don't have easy access to computers and mostly knock on their doors to have a quick chat with them too, as well as Fred Sleath who often delivers the bundles to the deliverers. We continue to include the order of service for the livestream each week, to help people who need/prefer to stay at home. However, we are aware that a small number of people don't have access to view the livestreams, but have DVD players, so DVDs can also now be made available to those who ask.

When it has been COVID-safe to do so throughout the last year, we have tried to advertise specific events through paper posters on local noticeboards and lampposts, electronic fliers via the school email network where relevant, emails to our own contacts such as baptism candidates' families etc, and hand-delivered paper invitations too. We have also used our own [church website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#), as well as local social media accounts such as *Spotted Rothley*.

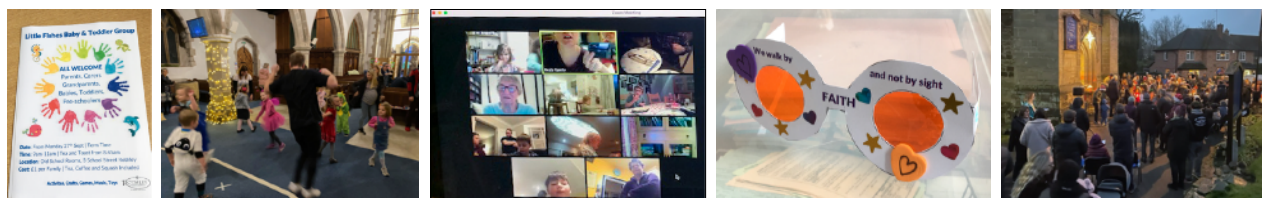
We now have an audio-visual system installed in church, which means that many of the words used in a service can now appear on the screens via PowerPoint slides. However, we do appreciate that some people are not able to comfortably look at the screens, so there are always a small number of service orders printed and available in church. To compile our service sheets and PowerPoints, for a number of years we have used a database called HymnQuest, which gives us access to the words of over 28,000 hymns! However, we are looking into subscribing instead to a database which will enable us to put our PowerPoint slides together in a more co-ordinated way for both hymns and liturgy, and with a better end result. We will be looking carefully at various options available and hope to draw on the previous experience of some of our church members to make the right choice.

We are aware that there are faults within the delivery of our communications, but we always try to do our best and make improvements where possible. I am always pleased to receive thanks for keeping in touch, particularly via the *Fellowship Post*, but equally I would welcome suggestions for tweaks and changes to the content.

We are now trying to gather together a group to be involved with Church communications, both internal and external, high tech and low tech, so we would be grateful for any interest from anyone in any of these areas - you don't have to be highly technical to be involved in it. Please contact me if you have any time or ideas to offer to such a group.

Liz Sleath

OUTREACH



Little Fishes poster; children's event in church; pancake day on Zoom; Summer Sunday service crafts; Children's Carol Service outside church

Evangelism

A key priority for our Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ to every home in the parish. As house building has continued on new estates, most recently on Oaktree Way, we particularly want to reach those who have recently moved into the parish. We recognise that our ministry through the school continues to be critical to building relationships with the many young families that have moved onto these estates.

There are two key aspects to this. The first is in supporting the school in its attempts to develop its premises such that every child in the parish can be offered a place in the school. The second is in having appropriate Foundation Governors to support the school in maintaining and developing a clear Christian ethos.

With both of these in place we can be confident that the children and their families will hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As with the previous year, the ongoing lockdowns and restrictions relating to COVID-19 have at times limited our ability to meet people. We have taken every opportunity as restrictions have been lifted to meet people face to face in the school and community and this has been supplemented by an online presence and social media - both of which are very crowded places and challenging to establish traction.

In the coming year we want to focus on once again establishing evangelism at the heart of our Church life, beginning with the PCC considering how they can most effectively lead the church in this.

Little Fishes

For many years Margaret Offley and helpers ran the church-based toddler group in The Old School Rooms on Thursday afternoons, but she decided for personal reasons not to return to that once lockdown restrictions were lifted. So a group of mums of toddlers and younger school children were encouraged to get together and take on the running of the group, bringing their own style to it. The best time for most of the helpers (who are all busy working mums) was found to be Monday morning, so **Little Fishes Parent & Baby/Toddler Group** was launched.

Mothers' Union wanted to get involved and provide tea and toast for busy school mums, so they do this from 8.45am whilst the rest of the group is setting up for the session. Linda Poole kindly runs a rota of volunteers who help in the kitchen, whilst others meet and greet and host the play area in the main room. Later, everyone gathers together to hear a Bible story or a story from a Christian book and sing nursery rhymes/songs, followed by drinks and biscuits. The main group contact is now Susie Clark. After a few weeks of trial and error the group asked for other church members to help set the toys and equipment out on a Sunday evening and are very grateful for this help. Please do come and visit the group one Monday morning from 9am, where you'll find a warm welcome, noise, mess, tea and toast!

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

2021 was the 25th Anniversary of the **RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)** and we had hoped to have some celebrations to mark the achievement; however, the continuing pandemic

prevented our usual programme of activities taking place. Established as a means to bring the “blokes” together in our Church, there cannot be many Church Men’s groups that have survived this long. Initially called MBA because at the time there was a popular TV programme called *Men Behaving Badly*, we decided that our group should stand for *Men Behaving Acceptably*.

As such the men’s group (MBA and now RCMG) was born to offer the opportunity to all men to meet in fellowship: sharing and learning from life’s experiences and seeking to further develop their understanding of the gospel and its relevance in today’s world.

In the last year we have continued to support each other wherever practical and possible considering the pandemic restrictions, however have chosen not to have any arranged events.

We were intending to start organising events again in 2022, potentially after Easter, however with the surge in the latest Coronavirus variant this may prove to be difficult. So, what will 2022 bring for the men’s group? Only the Lord knows.

Care home links

It has been sad that during this “COVID” year we have been seriously curtailed in our visits and ministry at [Cedar House](#). We were invited to host the BBC Radio Leicester “*Sing Christmas*” and so encourage the residents and staff to sing the carols and listen to the Bible readings which came to us from Leicester Cathedral. Each resident received a personally signed greeting card from our team on behalf of Rothley Parish Church both at Easter and Christmas. We are hopeful of monthly visits on the first Monday during 2022 and our regular team, Pam Harvey, Val Wadge, Margaret Houghton, Jean Johnson, David and Linda Hodgson, remain prayerful and keen.

As with many other activities during the continuing restrictions around the COVID pandemic, it has not been possible for us to meet together at Babington Court. The communal lounge has not been available for our use. Our small group has been depleted by some residents moving to Cedar House or other care homes. So,

at present, a short service such as we had, followed by a valuable time together over refreshments is no longer viable. However, we have endeavoured to keep in touch by sending cards and a little gift at Christmas to those who have moved and to members of our faithful support team. Alan and Viv visited one resident at Babington, with her permission. Margaret Offley is also in touch there, still. Our hope is that, when the warmer weather arrives, we may be able to invite a group to meet together over tea and cakes in a local venue and talk through options for the future.

There are no plans to return to Mountview following the pandemic.

Bereavement Support

We were delighted to be able to hold our annual memorial service, *Celebration of Lives*, in November. This was an opportunity to remember those who had died during the last two years, since we were last able to hold a memorial service, and to offer support to the bereaved. Many had been allowed only small-scale funerals because of COVID-19 restrictions. The service was well-attended and appreciated. The reading of the names of those who had died during the pandemic was helpful and powerful for their families and friends.

Wednesday Club

For six months, the amalgamation of [Wednesday Club](#) with Wednesday Lunches has been operating in the form of a twice-monthly lunch in the Old School Rooms. From the level of chatter and the obvious delight of companionship taking place, the arrangement seems to be popular. We have welcomed new visitors who have become regulars, joined in carol singing at the Christmas lunch and celebrated our first 100th birthday.

All this would not have been possible without the wonderful co-operation of Sandra Shaw-Pearce and her helpers in providing varied menus at a reasonable cost and with a lot of hard work and we do thank them. At the same time, it is appropriate to thank all those who have given time, energy and prayer to the running of Wednesday Club in the past. Many have given

advice and help in organising each of the afternoons, finding speakers – many of whom gave their services free, making cakes, giving lifts to and from members' homes and assisting in outings. The support of the Church and its members has ensured a friendly and thoughtful welcome throughout the many years since its inception as Friday Club in the mid-1990s

Wednesday Lunches

Wednesday Lunches recommenced on September 8th after an 18-month COVID-imposed lockdown. The regular members of Lunches and of the Wednesday Club had been invited and 22 of us sat down to share a humble salad meal. As anticipated, the opportunity to eat in company was much appreciated! We have doubled our output and lunches now operate on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, with take-up remaining constantly higher than before, always greater than 20 and culminating in 35 of us sharing a festive Christmas dinner on December 15th, when David Hodgson kindly came along to play the piano for us to sing a few carols.

Meals follow the same pattern of salad with jacket potatoes from April to October and a hot meal from October to March. Most dietary needs can be met - we already feed two vegetarians, one diabetic, one gluten-free and one low-fat eater among our regular clients. We are excited to be celebrating the 100th birthday (a first for us) of one of our longest serving customers, Margaret Foister, at our next meeting on 26th January 2022, and there will be a Queen's Jubilee party on June 8th 2022.

Wednesday Lunches holds out the hand of friendship to anyone who is fed up of eating in isolation, or is bored with the view of their own kitchen walls. It's no demonstration of cordon bleu cookery skills, but it does offer a warm and friendly atmosphere and there's always a welcoming smile on hand. The only requirement is to pre-book your meal by Monday lunchtime with Sandra so she can shop and cook adequately.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES & YOUTH



Shine: puppets & script for Harvest Shine, pumpkins for light party; Sunday School: Easter garden, Nativity play; Breakthrough pizza party

The Growing Families continues as a WhatsApp group, keeping parents of primary-school-aged children in touch with each other and with what is happening at church week by week and gathering for occasional events and an ad hoc housegroup. A number of GF parents are now also involved in leading Sunday services and many now attend the more informal 11am services and Shine.

In May 2021, it was planned that Pentecost Sunday would be the day when Rothley Church 'opened up again'. Having been lobbied by parents who wanted families to get back to church asap, having not met in church since March 2020, we thought this would be a good day for a family service at 4pm, which we hoped would be outside, with a theme of celebrating all things light and bright, which we decided to call '**Shine**'.

Sadly, it rained and we held it inside, but we enjoyed a very happy atmosphere of "organised chaos". We then decided that this would happen monthly under the banner of *Shine* and it would often be outside to make it a less challenging venue for those new to the church.

We were then challenged to make it different from regular services, so each time we try to do that - sometimes it is formatted like a service with surprise elements, like Harvest with a puppet sketch and a cone of chips each at the end and sometimes it's completely not like a service - such as our Light Party *Sparkle & Shine* with activities all over the church including a disco, hot dogs and cakes! We also had a tug-of-war, planted our painted footprints on a sheet as we prayed, and held an event where we made Christingles together and sang carols in

December (inside!) and then outside again for a family Carol Service on Christmas Eve. *Shine* is held at 4 pm on the first Sunday each month.

The group of parents from the Growing Families Group who started *Shine* were then asked to plan and lead the informal Summer Services for families, including the talks. This led to them leading the first part of the 11am services with Sunday School, and the all-age services which started in September. However, it has now been decided that the laity should regularly lead all the way through the informal services on the days there is Sunday School, and occasionally for the other all-age family services too.

Since September, **Sunday School** has been meeting face-to-face again in the Old School Rooms, but only twice a month. Liz Sleath, Jo Beals and Margaret Offley are now the leaders, with occasional help from parents. All the older group (Explorers) moved up to The Grid, together with their leaders, so now the oldest children in Sunday School are 9 years old. With new children joining, we still have about 24 on our register but weekly attendance varies dramatically.

The Grid is now run by Mark Baird, Simon Beals & Rashaen Cummings, usually based at the Spencer family's home next door to church. They have 10 to 12 members on their register and enjoy Bible study and games together on a Sunday morning, twice a month. We try to follow the same topics in both groups, still using the *Go Teach* books. Grid and Sunday School worked together to produce the Nativity production in church just before Christmas.

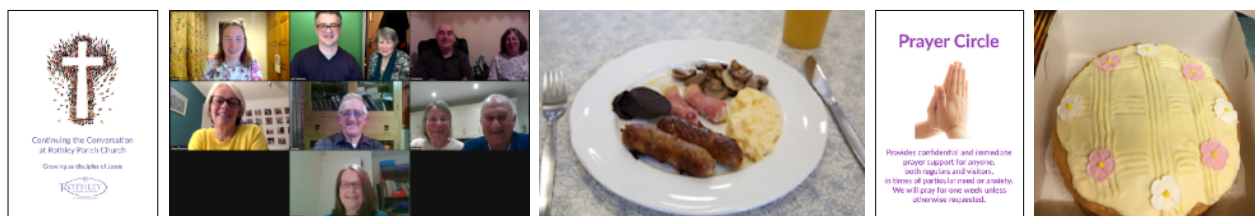
Breakthrough continues as the group for 16- to 18-year-olds. This was run during the last year mainly on Sunday evenings by Fred Sleath and Ros Taylor, initially via Zoom and then face-to-face in each other's homes, with occasional meet-ups for pizza in the village or at the Old School Rooms! They have 4 members who regularly meet.

We have continued to seek to support the Christian ethos of **Rothley Primary School** in

whatever ways we can. Rob Gladstone and David Wilson continued to produce on-line assemblies, some of which were used with individual classes. Since September they were able to take some assemblies face-to-face in school and church, usually with one year group at a time, and these were live-streamed round to the other classes when possible.

Liz Sleath

DISCIPLESHIP



Discipleship leaflet; Housegroup meeting on Zoom; Men's Breakfast; Prayer Circle pew card; Cake Ministry

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus. Paul's vision of discipleship in **Ephesians 4:7-16** continues to be our church vision for discipleship, with a focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, small groups and personal prayer, Bible study and reading of Christian literature. Whilst in 2021 the nature of these discipleship activities was impacted by the pandemic, the report below emphasises the ways in which, as a church, we have continued to grow and support each other as disciples of Jesus Christ. The discipleship working group of the **PCC** continues to work on strategic leadership in this area.

Housegroups: Despite the inevitable upheaval caused by COVID-19, housegroups remain central to the spiritual health and growth of our church; indeed, one new group was formed during the year, for which we thank God - this makes ten groups in all. The group leaders have used different ways to keep the groups together, to care for each other and to learn together. Whilst there have been bumps in the road which meant that some groups stopped meeting for a time, the use of Zoom and regular circulated notes from leaders provided momentum even at the most testing times during the pandemic. Most groups meet fortnightly, on various days of the week, some in the evening and some during the day, for Bible study, discussion and prayer. The pastoral caring dimension of group life has been particularly valued during the pandemic.

Men's breakfast: The men's breakfast housegroup meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study, this year studying the book of Galatians and how it can be applied to our daily

lives. This is particularly important for this group who seek to learn more about how to be Christians in the workplace. During 2021 attendance increased to between 6 and 12, with the group providing much needed mutual and emotional support as the group's members have struggled to balance the unpredictable demands of work with family responsibilities.

In August a walk over the Charnwood Hills concluded with drinks and conversation at the Curzon Arms. This is always a popular event, attracting a number of guests. In Galatians, Paul reminds us that we do not need the many external trappings that so easily distract us from a life in Christ. A modern-day equivalent might be social media. The group had a great day out in November at the **Midlands Men's Convention** where one of the valuable sessions looked at the impact of social media on our Christian lives. The group are planning an informal Sunday service on the theme of Digital Discipleship.

Bible reading notes: We actively encourage Bible study through our many church groups, but we also strongly encourage personal Bible study. For those who wish to have daily Bible reading notes in a printed format, we continue to facilitate the procurement and distribution of many different books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media, including the **Daily Bible Reading** link on the Rothley Church website. In this past year we have had three individuals move from a printed format of daily Bible reading to an online format. 32 individuals use the printed format, using six different books.

Prayer & Praise: During the first part of the year, a bi-weekly 'Prayer & Praise' Guide was issued to all church members, to aid a 'corporate' time of prayer on Tuesdays. Prayer meetings restarted in the Old School Rooms in August. The prayer topics have been varied, but always seeking to maintain a prayer-covering over our church's life and growth, its leaders, and its various events, as well as for our village and nation. The 'Praise-times' allow us to thank and praise God at a personal level and it is encouraging to pray with folk who share a desire to see God at work in our church family and community.

Mothers' Union: 2021 was the 100th anniversary of the death of Mary Sumner, the Mothers' Union founder, and the 145th anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Unfortunately, it was not a year where these anniversaries could be celebrated as would have been the case pre-pandemic. Carolyn, the branch leader, continued to send a monthly meeting letter, with prayers and notices whilst the group has not met in person. Awareness of modern-day slavery continued to be an item of discussion within the Mothers' Union and members continued to pray and keep contact with members overseas. Fundraising activities were unfortunately scaled down, although the achievement by Margaret Rouse and Lin Luce on their sponsored walk of 26 miles around the village over a number of weeks raised over £1000. The Away From It All holiday for 13 families went ahead this year after not being able to take place in 2020.

The **Prayer Circle** comprises 11 people who provide immediate, fast prayer support for anyone in times of particular stress or specific need. Trevor West, Jean Arkley and Valerie Joyce are the contacts who send requests round the circle. The other members are anonymous. All requests are treated with absolute confidentiality. This year 54 requests were received. Whilst normally the group pray for one week, there have been a number of situations which have been ongoing for weeks, and occasionally months. This ministry has been valued, with many commenting they have felt upheld in times of distress.

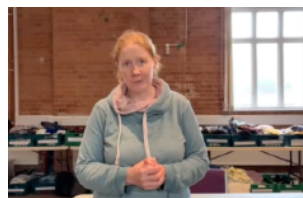
Pastoral Care: The church seeks to follow Christ's example in caring for those in need in our church and in our community. The aim has been to find ways to support those in hospital, sick, bereaved, isolated or feeling lonely. This year, owing to the pandemic, pastoral care has again been challenging, but there has been a real willingness from people in the fellowship to be involved, whether formally as a designated pastoral visitor or informally.

The role of Pastoral Coordinator has enabled people in the fellowship to ask for help for themselves or for others and has enabled ongoing liaison with the Ministry Team. Whilst visits have been limited, contact has been maintained by frequent phone calls, texts, emails and cards. As many of the elderly do not have access to modern technology, the distribution of the printed 'Fellowship Post' has continued to prove a vital link with the church. These were distributed by volunteers who took the opportunity to check on the well-being of the recipients. Provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' have continued to demonstrate the church's love and care for those going through difficult times and maybe on their own. Transport by volunteers has enabled visits to hospital, doctors' appointments and vaccinations. Also, volunteers helped with shopping, posting letters and the collection of prescriptions.

Many people in the church and in the community have found that prayer by members of the church fellowship has supported and comforted them. In the wider community, the Soar Valley Community Food Project has been actively supported by the church. This project has seen a substantial increase in client numbers this year. Church members volunteer at the Food Bank and the fellowship has given generous donations of food and money. At Christmas, toys were given by the congregation for the Rotary Club's 'Toys on the Table' appeal.

Alison Godfrey

SEND



Paul & Cathy Middleton of Mercy Air; Tim Jackson from the Soar Valley Food Project; Bridget Patel from Triangle; Brada Radanovic from Crosslinks

Our aim is to **send out** and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus, so we seek to be a church with God's heart for the nations.

We aim to support a variety of organisations, some are local, others in the wider world. It is important for us as a church not only to be concerned about our own spiritual life and witness, but to be outward looking in our prayers and our giving.

REGULAR GIVING

During the past year we have supported the following organisations through our tithe, which is 10% of our church's donations income:

- **Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)** which supports churches in the UK and Ireland, providing resources for leaders, children and young people's work, runs Christian holiday camps and is the patron of Rothley Church;
- **Crosslinks**, specifically supporting Jirka and Keira Kralovi who work with students in the Czech Republic, and also Brada and Yatzat Radanovic in Serbia;
- **Tearfund**, which works with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty;
- **Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto**, Tanzania which have been linked with Leicester Diocese since 1982;

- local charities (**Y Advice Centre** and **Triangle**, Leicester and **The Carpenter's Arms**, Loughborough) which provide help and support to the homeless in Leicestershire and also drug addiction services.

DISCRETIONARY GIVING

15% of our tithe is reserved for discretionary giving. This year we supported:

- **Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund**
- **Mercy Air**
- **The Oakes Holiday Centre**
- **Soar Valley Community Food Project**
- **CPAS School Ventures**.

We also collect for **Christian Aid** annually. There have been emergency appeals on behalf of Tearfund for crisis situations; there are regular donations of food to the food bank and clothes to Triangle; and there is a Fair Trade stall at the back of church.

We have kept our church family up to date by means of regular information and updates on the organisations listed above in the weekly Fellowship Post. There are weekly prayer pointers, and also links to prayer letters. We also feature information and prayer requests for fair trade, asylum seekers and the persecuted church around the world.

Usually, we have speakers from organisations we support in church services several times a year, but this has not been possible in 2021. However, videos have been shown from

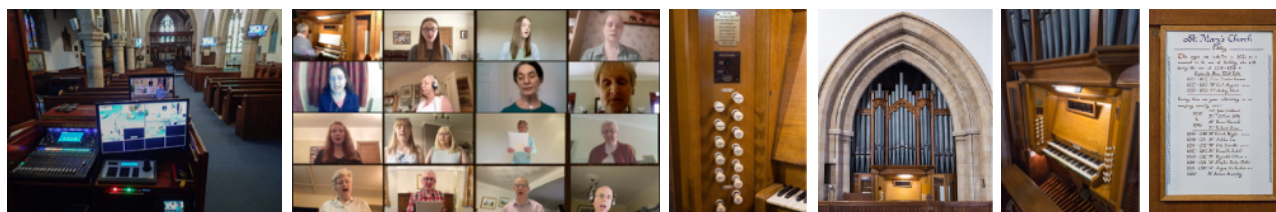
Mercy Air, Christian Aid, Crosslinks, Tanzania, Triangle and our local food bank.

In addition, the sermon series *Caring for God's Creation* coincided with the COP26 conference in November and brought to our attention issues affecting, not only ourselves, but more especially those in developing countries which are a particular concern of Tearfund and other organisations we support.

The 'Send' group meets regularly throughout the year to consider the current needs of the societies, how best to raise awareness of the organisations we support, to keep us updated and to encourage prayer. We have greatly benefitted from the untiring and enthusiastic work of Ros Taylor who was chair of our meetings and represented Tearfund with great commitment.

Margaret Leverment

CHOIR AND MUSIC



Audio Visual equipment and video screen; choir in Easter Sunday online service; centenary of the church organ

This year, 2021, we marked the centenary of the installation of our fine church organ with a concert held on Saturday 9th October. The instrument was originally installed in 1921 as a lasting memorial to the men of Rothley who fought and died in the 1914-1918 Great War. This concert was a real highlight and enabled us to rededicate the organ to the service of God for many years to come.

The organ has provided the musical 'backbone' to the majority of services since 1921 and this year, despite lockdowns, it has continued to play its part. Sadly, when we were not able to meet in numbers due to UK Government restrictions, we did manage to attain a degree of continuity through the combination of audio-visual and internet technologies. I know that, whilst most of us were not able to be physically seated in church, this technology did provide us with a real sense of being there and being together. It brought Rothley Church into people's own homes and, I'm sure, removed the sense of isolation being separated from the church building and, more importantly, the church family.

It felt so good to get back to a sense of normality when we were able to re-open the church building and gradually build from the weekly recordings, to a small choir lead at the front (with no congregational singing), to a full choir and resumption of singing for all.

For so many of us, this year has been a very tough one. We have had to deal with all sorts of changes to our lives that we genuinely never thought possible. I am so grateful that I continue to have a strong desire to lead the traditional part of our church music with the organ and

choir, as well as contribute to the more 'experimental' services that we have been trialling.

We are blessed to have many singers and instrumentalists who have added their talents and contributions to the new services such as 'Shine' and the informal morning services. I thank everyone who has helped in whatever way with the music in 2021 and must place on record my sincere thanks to David Hodgson for not only supporting me in playing for occasional services, but for the hours spent writing and providing numerous musical arrangements for the hymns and songs sung across all of our services, especially the new and experimental ones. It would be remiss of me not to mention his last verse key changes which have been a revelation!

We cannot foretell what 2022 will have in store, but my sincere hope is that through the struggles and adversity that most of us have felt during the past two years, we can continue, through our devotion, to bring more people to faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, through Scripture, prayer and across our different styles of worship.

Simon Murphy

Handbells

Rothley Handbell Ringers have not yet started to meet again.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

At the outset of 2021, like the remainder of the Church family, the Tower Bell Ringers were subject to the COVID-19 restrictions. This stopped all the bells being rung together until 24th June 2021. During that period, however, a small group of ringers gathered on one occasion, within the 'lockdown' constraints, on 17th April 2021 to toll the tenor bell for a period prior to the funeral service in Windsor of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. This was in response to a request to all towers.

The extended time during which the bells were not able to be rung meant that it was necessary for Taylor's Bell Foundry to undertake a safety inspection prior to full ringing restarting. Taylor's have also subsequently undertaken a periodic service visit.

Since recommencing there have been two further short pauses in ringing – one caused by a very old wooden rope guide (on the 4th) breaking and needing to be replaced and the other caused by concern about a possible piece of masonry dislodging from the tower.

On 5th July the Parochial Church Council agreed and adopted an updated Constitution for the Bell Ringers. This included provisions to ensure that the Church's Safeguarding Policies for both Vulnerable Adults and Children and Young People are fully integrated into the Belfry activities. This was subsequently formally adopted by the Bell Ringers at their Annual General Meeting on 1st September 2021. The following Tower Officers were also appointed:

Tower Captain: Charles Poole
Secretary: Steve Mitchell
Treasurer: Graham Hall
Principal Trainer / Instructor: Harry Longman
Safeguarding Officer, Vulnerable Adults, Children & Young Persons: Lisa Cook
Steeple Keeper: Charles Poole

As often happens, membership of the Bell Ringing team has fluctuated over the year. We have been

delighted to welcome two people new to both the village and to ringing and both of whom are progressing very well. Young people learning ringing skills are also essential for the long-term future and we have been fortunate to have a number of such ringers. However, school and university studies deplete the team in term time and emphasise the need for further new ringers (or returners) – of all ages. To this end, an open afternoon event is planned for the spring, when the purely curious or keen to learn of any age between 9 and 90 can visit the belfry, see the bells and also have a supervised first pull on the ropes. It will also give an opportunity to climb the highest spiral stone staircase in the village – 34 steps to the ringing chamber with further steps up to the bells – and inspect the mechanism of the turret clock whose hands are on the outside of the tower. But if reading this sparks your interest, please do not wait!! Speak to any of the ringers and come and have a look, no commitment, but beware – you may well get hooked!!

All ringers are learners throughout their career as there is never an end to new skills and methods (many of which have most unusual names!). With our current band, we ring 'rounds' [1.2.3.4.5.6] and 'call changes' – varying the order of bells periodically. (As a team we are partial to 'Rounds/Queens' [1.3.5.2.4.6] call changes which give a lovely lilt to the ringing.) We frequently also ring 'Plain Hunt' on four or five bells. On a good day we also ring a touch of 'Bob Doubles' (on five with the tenor covering as the last bell) and an occasional 'Reverse Canterbury Doubles'.

Finally, two further thanks: firstly Steve Mitchell, often accompanied by Graham Hall, who wind the church clock by hand each week and also Ian Sanders who, although not a ringer, kindly scales the heights to the roof of the church tower to raise the Union flag or flag of St George as required.

Charles Poole

SAFEGUARDING

"God's call is to speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." Proverbs 31:8

Safeguarding within Rothley Parish Church is the responsibility of all. It is overseen by the two appointed Safeguarding Coordinators, Kate Croden (*Children and Young People*) and Wendy Ferguson (*Vulnerable Adults*). Lisa Cook continues as Administrator for DBS applications, ensuring they are completed and up to date.

Our [parish safeguarding policies](#) for child protection and vulnerable adults were reviewed and updated in November, in line with the model diocesan policies and GDPR guidance. These are available on the noticeboards and on the Rothley Parish Church website.

Training and safer recruitment remains a priority. Safeguarding training has been reorganised and has predominantly moved online. All safeguarding-related courses can be found on the Diocese of Leicester website [Safeguarding Training and Events page](#), with information about church roles and requirements for training. All PCC members,

and all those leading or involved in face-to-face work with groups (children, young people, and adult groups) should complete safeguarding training.

The Safeguarding Coordinators' priority plan for 2021 was signed off by the PCC. The key actions are:

- Ensure our new ways of worship (live streaming and online worship) are compliant with our safeguarding policies.
- Continue to adhere to safer recruitment guidance and GDPR procedures.
- Maintain a parish database for those working within the relevant groups, ensuring DBS and training is up to date.
- Maintain our parish dashboard.

We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming church, offering a safe environment and protecting all those who worship and share with us. The Safeguarding Coordinators and DBS administrator are available to answer queries or respond to concerns.

Kate Croden and Wendy Ferguson

CHURCH BUILDING

During the year regular maintenance of the church building was carried out as usual. Unfortunately, the gas pipe from the boiler house into the church had to be replaced due to corrosion. As the churchyard is "closed", Charnwood Borough Council is required to keep the churchyard in good order. In 2021 they carried out work to the north boundary stone wall, checked all the headstones, making four of them safe and carried out work to four of the big lime trees. The PCC authorised our church

architect to apply to Charnwood for planning permission to remove the old boiler house. This work should be carried out in 2022. Most of the recommendations from the 2020 Quinquennial Inspection Report should also be completed next year. At the same time the two bottom sections of the church tower will be checked for any signs of loose pointing between the stones. If required, the pointing will be redone.

Ray Prince

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS



Old School Rooms: exterior, interior, Sunday School, external bookings calendar on church website

The year started with strict government regulations meaning that we should not be taking any bookings, but this gave the opportunity for more renovation work to be completed without any disruption to hall users.

First was the “pillar” by the passageway entrance door, where a crack had emerged. During the repair work, it was thought that this piece of brickwork had “never been tied to the rest of the building”.

The internal painting of the hall and office were completed, and eventually, after hold ups with wet weather, the external painting was completed, but the toilet area still needed some re-plastering work. Eventually, seven plasterers later and delays through lack of materials, it was completed in November and painted in early December. Meanwhile new flooring (carpet tiles and an area of durable floor) was laid in the hall and office, and a more hard-wearing “door mat” type carpet in part of the passageway. New chairs completed the project.

Bookings did not begin until July, but since then the hall has been very well used. Several of our own housegroups have used it as a temporary alternative to meeting in homes during the pandemic, as it was felt to be a safer environment where members could have extra space. There have been many enquiries and bookings – mostly by local families for family celebrations, but others from local organisations as well as corporate businesses for one-off meetings. A regular weekly pilates class and a choir workshop meet currently, and the Brownies continue to meet during term time, but other regular bookings have been declined due to our own groups using the hall on alternate weeks or once a month.

Leaders of church groups are reminded that they are responsible for booking the OSR if they require its use and special hiring rates are available for church members. Availability can be viewed on the [church website](#) under the menu *Contact, Old School Rooms*, and bookings can be made by contacting Linda Poole via email at linda.poole25@gmail.com.

Linda Poole

DEANERY AND DIOCESE

Discussions about new patterns of ministry, under the title *Shaped by God Together*, dominated the work of both Goscote Deanery Synod and Leicester Diocesan Synod in 2021. In October 2021, Diocesan Synod voted in favour of establishing 20 to 25 “Minster Communities” right across the *Diocese*. Essentially, this means a designated group of parishes, fresh expressions of church, and schools being brought together collectively for mission, resourced through the leadership of a diverse ministry team comprising clergy, licensed lay ministers and headteachers. The aim, following a small number of pilots in 2022, is to roll out the programme across the diocese by 2026. Rothley will ultimately become part of one such Minster Community, but we have no information, as yet, beyond that expectation.

The new pattern has obvious implications for Rothley, which currently is a one-church parish in its own right, with its own PCC and Vicar largely determining the direction of travel. There will be far more sharing with neighbouring parishes, fresh expressions and schools and there are likely to be exciting opportunities as well as challenges in such an organisational pattern. In the October 2021 Diocesan Synod debate *Bishop Martyn* promised that the legal rights of parishes remain “*absolutely central*” and that any changes “*will be done by agreement together*”. The pilots which are scheduled for 2022 will provide some valuable insights into how these Minster Communities are to be created and what role individual parishes and local schools will play in shaping the end product.

The unsustainable financial deficits of the Diocese in recent years have been a significant - but not the only - driver behind the changes, which will see around 20 less full-time stipendiary ministers operating across the diocese by 2026. Both Diocesan Synod and Goscote Deanery Synod have spent considerable time discussing possible ways forward in the light of the various challenges thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is quite possible that deanery synods as we currently know them will disappear once the *Shaped by God Together* strategy is fully implemented, but in the meantime our Vicar, Rob Gladstone, remains Area Dean of Goscote and the Deanery Synod (which includes four elected representatives from Rothley) plays an important role in sharing information and ideas and providing mutual support where appropriate.

There is, therefore, a significant organisational change agenda for all levels of Diocesan life and, while I don't want to underplay the significance of these changes, at the end of the day our faith is not in a particular organisational pattern or management structure, but in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and for ever, and, while there are likely to be challenges associated with the new pattern, there will undoubtedly be exciting missional opportunities as we work more closely with neighbouring parishes to spread the good news of Jesus Christ further afield.

David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 has, again, been a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The year began with the church, again, closed for Sunday services, a situation that continued until 23rd May as we responded to the local situation in Leicester and Leicestershire. However, our well-established online services and our communications and pastoral care systems ensured that Rothley Parish Church maintained its ministry in the parish throughout 2021.

After our return to the church building on 23rd May, we began to live stream one service each Sunday so those who did not attend in person could still access a Sunday service. This has continued for the rest of the year, along with online Morning Prayer four days a week. Similarly, our weekly communications and service sheet, sent or delivered to every church member, and our offers of help with shopping, prescriptions or lifts to medical appointments have all continued. This excellent team effort by a large number of people has ensured we have maintained contact with church members throughout the year and the support has been very much appreciated. We have been delighted to welcome church members back to the building in good numbers and look forward to the time when the prevailing situation will be such that everyone will feel able to return.

Since 23rd May we have experimented with different times and styles of church services in order to respond to the needs of our members and the wider parish.

Online assemblies were provided for the village school during the first two school terms until in person assemblies could be conducted from September. The Growing Families WhatsApp group has been a helpful forum for local families and they have taken every opportunity to organise lively, safe outdoor events during the year.

Many of our Sunday School, youth and adult groups in the church were able to maintain contact and activities online or by email during the first half of the year. From September, all groups were very happy to be able, at last, to meet again in person, including some that had not met since March 2020. Some of our groups have also taken the opportunity to make changes to their activities or times of meeting to better serve their members.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Community Food Project has been increasingly important over the last year as demand for its support continues to grow, not only in Rothley, but throughout the Soar Valley area. Church members generously gave food, funds and volunteer time to this ministry throughout the year.

One highlight of the year was a concert in October to celebrate the centenary of the church organ, which was built in 1921 as a memorial to those from the village who died in the Great War, 1914 to 1918. This was a moving event for all who attended, including families of some of the fallen.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas. However, these have effectively been overridden since March 2020 by the detailed COVID-19 regulations on the use of church buildings.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building. During 2021 the final stages of a major refurbishment of the Old School Rooms were completed, involving internal and external painting, new carpet and new chairs. A laptop and computer software were purchased to enable live streaming of church services when the building reopened in May and two further screens in the chancel area of the church were added to the audio-visual system. All these major purchases were made from the legacy left by late church member Pat Foulds.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is given appropriate priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment during another difficult year beset by restrictions has been exceptional, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The continued financial commitment of our congregation, as well as healthy accumulated reserves, have seen us end 2021 with a surplus, despite the fact that the church was not open for Sunday services for almost five months. An increase in income during the last months of the year saw it end 2% above budget for the year, while expenditure was 4% under budget.

Rothley Parish Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430 in 2021), which supports ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually.

A further £10,736 of the large legacy received in 2019 was been allocated to projects in the church and Old School Rooms during 2021; £198,233 remains to be allocated. COVID-19 has slowed down the progress on other projects, which may need to be reassessed to ensure they are still appropriate. Our policy is to use legacies for specific projects, rather than to cover general expenditure. In accordance with correct procedure, the balance of the legacy is held in the General Fund until such time as the PCC designates its use.

Having six people working together as a treasury team provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living.

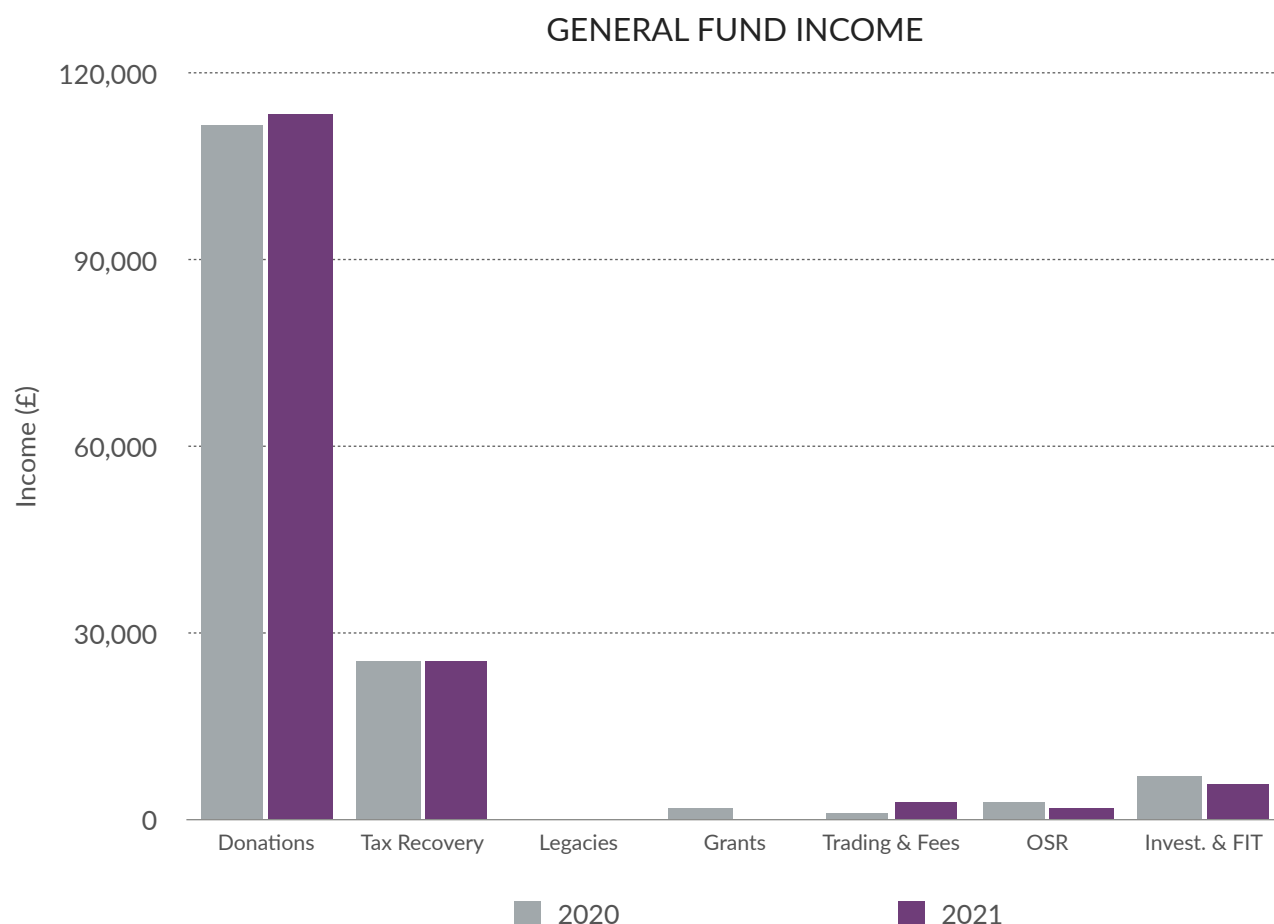
FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £319,136 at 31 December 2021, made up as follows:

Fund Overview	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	271,705	280,590
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	5,161	5,144
Church Maintenance Fund	7,843	10,724
Heritage Events Fund	878	1,087
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	68	9,784
Organ & Music Fund	14,948	14,583
Wednesday Club	138	138
Total Unrestricted Funds	300,741	322,050
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	10,661	9,488
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2,185	2,178
Goscote Deanery Fund	925	922
Youth Fund	4,624	4,689
Total Restricted Funds	18,395	17,277
Total funds	319,136	339,327

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Donations	113,594	111,625
Tax recovery	25,398	25,384
Legacies	-	191
Grants	293	1,726
Trading & fees	2,926	1,254
Old School Rooms	1,869	2,597
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	5,701	7,039
Total Income	149,781	149,816
Expenditure		
Tithe & other awards	13,899	14,451
Parish Contribution	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,018	13,643
Clergy & staff expenses	908	1,718
Mission & evangelism	103	557
Church costs	14,847	13,941
Church utilities	1,511	1,324
Old School Rooms	5,743	5,142
Governance	480	480
Total expenditure	147,939	147,686
Surplus/deficit of income	1,842	2,130
Net transfers to/from other funds	(10,727)	(47,280)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	280,590	325,741
Balance at 31 December	271,705	280,591



During 2021, a further £10,736 from the legacy from Pat Foulds was allocated for further items of audio-visual equipment and completion of the refurbishment of the Old School Rooms, leaving a balance of £198,233 to be allocated to church projects, in line with our Legacy Policy. Overall, General Fund income for 2021 was 2% above budget and expenditure was 4% below, resulting in a surplus of £1,842 at the end of the year.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2022

The PCC has set a worst-case scenario budget, with income slightly below the 2021 budget and £4,578 below the actual 2021 result, and with expenditure similar to the 2021 budget and £6,673 higher than 2021's actual spend. Nationally, inflation is rising so a more difficult year is anticipated in 2022. A better-than-expected result for income could be offset by rising costs.

General Fund Budget for 2022		£
Income		
Donations		111,504
Tax recovery		25,966
Trading & fees		448
Old School Rooms		1,500
Investments & Feed-in Tariff		5,786
Total Income		145,204
Expenditure		
Tithe & other awards		13,747
Parish contribution		96,430
Staff salaries / payments		15,124
Clergy & staff expenses		1,745
Mission & evangelism		1,450
Church costs		16,443
Church utilities		2,350
Old School Rooms		6,819
Governance		505
Total Expenditure		154,613
Budgeted surplus / (deficit)		(9,409)

- Church members' donations were 1% over budget by the end of 2021 and we are very grateful for their commitment. However, for most of the year donations income ran under budget, so the 2022 estimate is cautious.
- A modest budget has been included for trading and fees as we have few weddings booked for 2022. Weddings and funerals have been subject to severe restrictions during most of the pandemic.
- Old School Rooms income was hit by the early lockdown in 2021 so a very cautious budget has been set for 2022.
- Tithe gifts for mission depend on income received as they are fixed at 10% of the income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and additional relief from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned expenditure in line with long-term strategy. In 2022 the amount required in the General Fund is £52,793, which includes £9,409 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2021 the PCC held £73,472 in the unrestricted General Fund (discounting the legacy) and a further £29,036 in designated funds, whose designation could be changed by the PCC if it became necessary, and therefore our General Fund reserves are in line with our policy.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank to £85,000 in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining reserve funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to halt, slow or change different aspects of our activity during 2021. However, our church leaders and congregation have proved themselves to be adaptable and resilient throughout.

Plans to improve the church building were halted in March 2020, waiting for the time when a consultation on the plans drawn up by our architect can be held with the congregation. This is the necessary next step before formal approval can be sought. After such a long delay, we will need to reassess our plans to ensure they are still appropriate.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational
- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC. Many additional Health and Safety requirements have been necessary during the pandemic.

Through Diocesan resources the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address

our priorities. However, the generous legacy received in 2019 and healthy accumulated reserves continue to be a very useful resource.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC includes a mixture of sub-committees and working groups of the PCC, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Discipleship
- Send
- Communications
- Church Building Improvements

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address: 3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Margaret Rouse (from 30/5/21)	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Fred Sleath (from 30/5/21)	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Wendy Ferguson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Liz Barker	
Chris Garnett (from 18/4/21)	
Alison Godfrey	
David Hodgson (from 18/4/21)	
Margaret Leverment (from 18/4/21)	
Wendy Lewis	
Alison Parkinson	
Susan Pinkus	
Jennifer Pilbeam (co-opted)	
Jonathan Pilbeam	
Susan Wilson	

The following served as trustees during part of 2021 only:

Mike Ferguson (to 18/4/21)
Clive Jackson (to 18/4/21)
Angela Neill (to 18/4/21)
Ros Taylor (to 18/4/21)

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

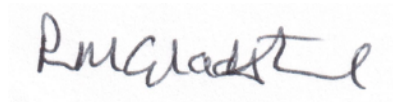
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 7th March 2022.

Signed on its behalf:

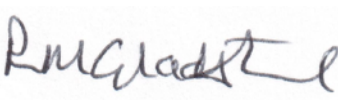
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RM Gladstone', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	2,513	2,342
Cash at bank and in hand	328,504	351,847
Total	331,017	354,189
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	11,881	14,862
Net assets:	319,136	339,327
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	271,705	280,590
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	5,161	5,144
Church Maintenance Fund	7,843	10,724
Heritage Events Fund (formerly Quarter Days Heritage Events)	878	1,087
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	68	9,784
Organ & Music Fund	14,948	14,583
Wednesday Club	138	138
Total Unrestricted Funds	300,741	322,050
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	10,661	9,488
Church Building Improvements Fund	2,185	2,178
Goscote Deanery Fund	925	922
Youth Fund	4,624	4,689
Total Restricted Funds	18,395	17,277
Total Funds	319,136	339,327

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 7th March 2022.

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2021	Unrestricted Funds General Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Income:					
Donations	113,594	-	1,320	114,914	113,065
Tax recovery	25,398	-	330	25,728	25,744
Legacies	-	-	-	-	191
Grants	293	37	-	330	3,076
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	350
Trading & fees	2,926	688	180	3,794	1,336
Old School Rooms	1,869	-	-	1,869	2,597
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	5,701	132	57	5,890	7,401
Total Income	149,781	857	1,887	152,525	153,760
Expenditure					
Tithe & other awards	13,899	-	-	13,899	14,451
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,018	-	-	14,018	13,643
Clergy & staff expenses	908	119	-	1,027	1,718
Mission & evangelism	103	213	759	1,075	1,549
Church costs	14,847	7,541	-	22,388	47,902
Church utilities	1,511	-	-	1,511	1,324
Old School Rooms	5,743	16,144	-	21,887	16,987
Governance	480	-	-	480	480
Total expenditure	147,939	24,017	759	172,715	194,484
Surplus/deficit of income	1,842	(23,160)	1,128	(20,190)	(40,724)
Transfers between funds (details below)	(10,727)	10,736	(9)	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	280,590	41,460	17,276	339,326	380,051
Balance at 31 December	271,705	29,036	18,395	319,136	339,327

Transfer between funds 1 January to 31 December 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds			Restricted Funds
	General Fund	Church Building Improvements	Church Maintenance	OSR Maintenance	Children & Families
	£	£	£	£	£
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund as per PCC resolution 25/1/21	(1,001)	1,001			
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to OSR Maintenance Fund per PCC resolution 10/5/21	(6,000)			6,000	
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund per PCC resolution 10/5/21	(1,740)	1,740			
Transfer from Church Maintenance Fund to OSR Maintenance Fund for chairs			(180)	180	
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund per PCC resolution 27/1/20	(1,778)	1,778			
Transfer from Children & Families Restricted Fund to General Fund (glue sticks)	5				(5)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to OSR Maintenance Fund for refurbishment as agreed by Business Committee 12/1/22	(216)			216	
Transfer to correct posting error 31/12/21	4				(4)
TOTAL	(10,726)	4,519	(180)	6,396	(9)

Location of funds	£		£
NatWest Stewardship Account	8,875	Debtors*:	2,513
CAF Bank General Account & cash	29,242	Creditors*:	11,881
OSR bank	-		
CBF Deposit Fund	204,314		
CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account	10,404		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account	18,930		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2	19,063		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3	18,884		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4	18,793		
Net creditors	(9,368)		
Total	319,137		

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see pages 43 and 44.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is unrestricted and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:**

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
- **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
- **Heritage Events Fund:** to fulfil our 10-year commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building
- **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
- **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
- **Wednesday Club:** donations from Club meetings to be used by the Wednesday Club

These funds are classified as **unrestricted because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.**

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church
- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received into our bank account.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received into our bank account.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised during the period in which it is due.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property are excluded from the accounts by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2021 comprised:

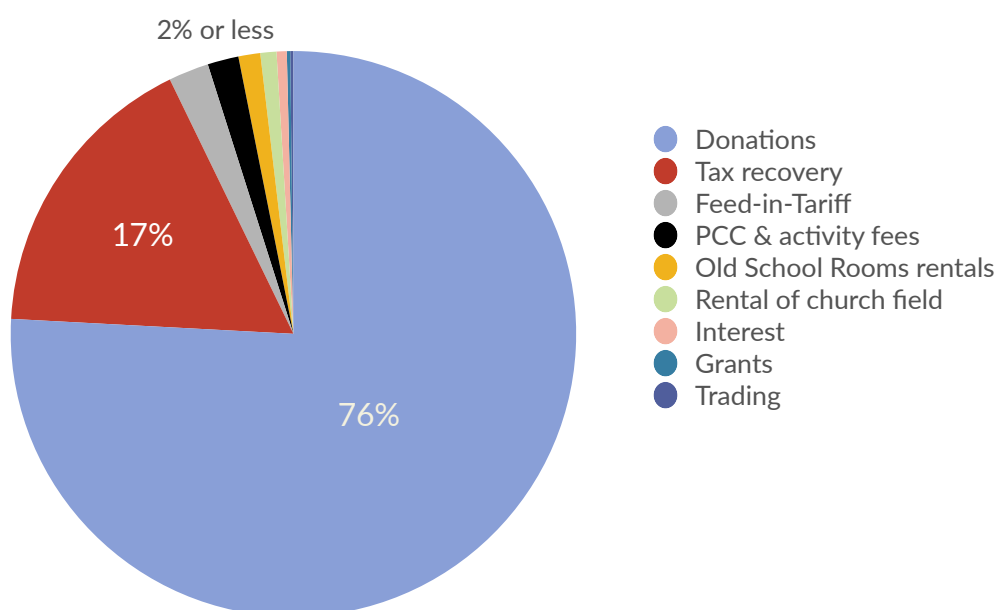
- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in December 2021
- Late payments for hire of the Old School Rooms
- Coffee money from 2021

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2021 comprised payments relating to 2021 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, are established.

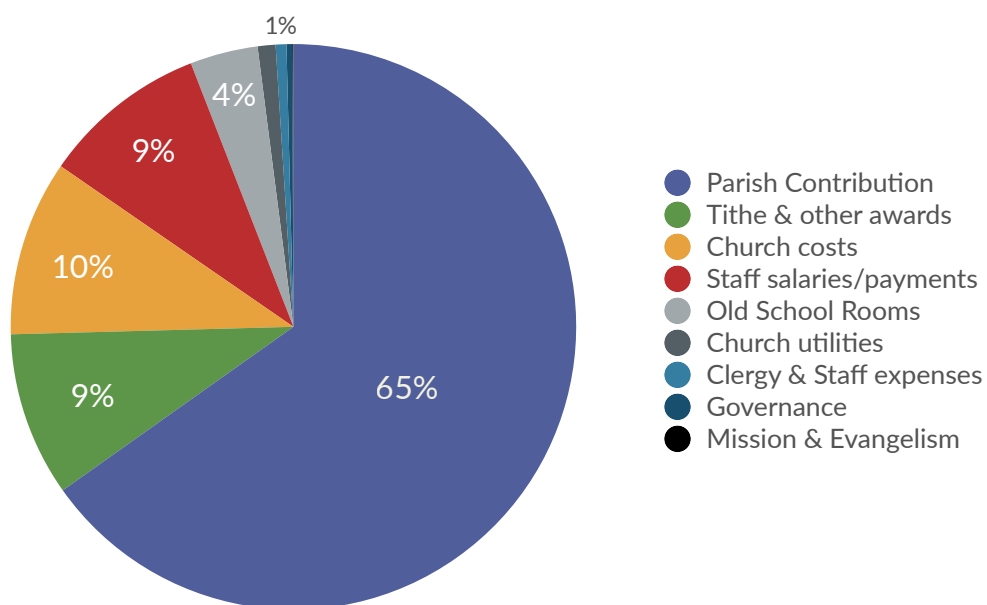
2. Analysis of Income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations	113,594	-	1,320	114,914	113,065
Tax recovery	25,398	-	330	25,728	25,744
Legacies	-	-	-	-	191
Grants	293	37	-	330	3,076
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	350
PCC & activity fees	2,657	688	180	3,525	956
Trading: hospitality, copying, use of equipment/space	269	-	-	269	380
Old School Rooms rentals	1,869	-	-	1,869	2,597
Interest	871	132	57	1,060	1,479
Rental of church field	1,380	-	-	1,380	1,380
Feed-in Tariff	3,449	-	-	3,449	3,834
Total	149,780	857	1,887	152,524	153,052



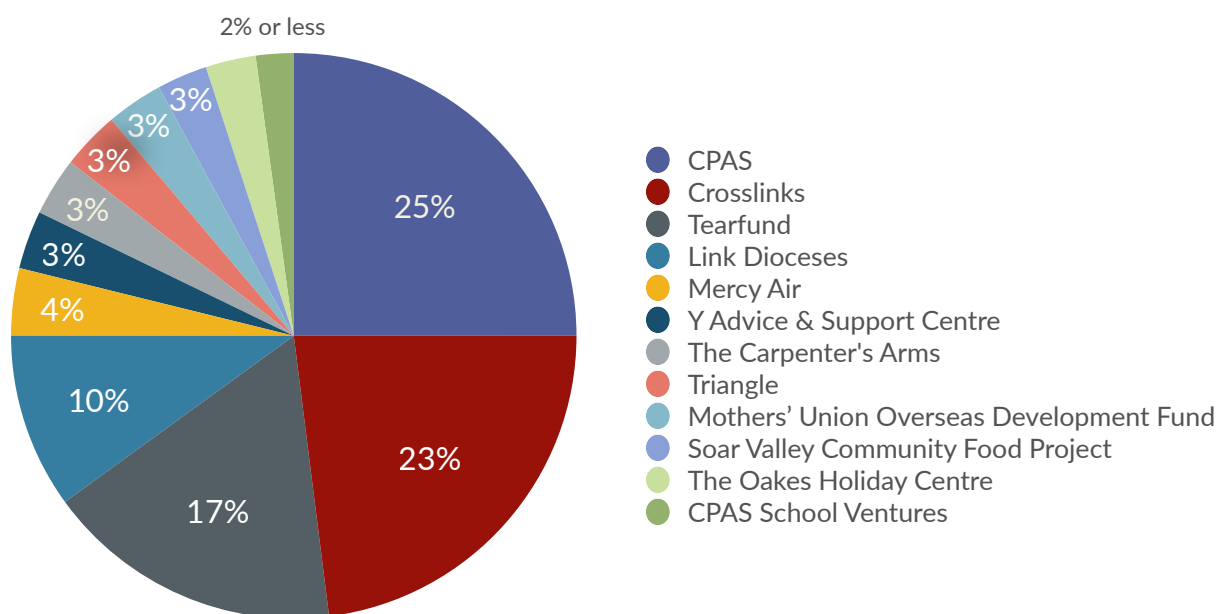
3. Analysis of Expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Tithe & other awards	13,899	-	-	13,899	14,451
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	96,430
Staff salaries/payments	14,018	-	-	14,018	13,643
Clergy & staff expenses	908	119	-	1,027	1,718
Mission & evangelism	103	213	759	1,075	1,549
Church costs	14,847	7,541	-	22,388	47,902
Church utilities	1,511	-	-	1,511	1,324
Old School Rooms	5,743	16,144	-	21,887	16,987
Governance	480	-	-	480	480
Total	147,939	24,017	759	172,715	194,484



4. Tithe gifts for mission 2021

Tithe gifts for mission	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,475
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,197
Tearfund (international relief & development)	2,363
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,390
Mercy Air (aviation for humanitarian aid & mission)	535
Y Advice & Support Centre, Leicester (homeless support)	463
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	463
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	463
Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund (in provinces & dioceses of the Anglican Communion)	450
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	400
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	400
Church Pastoral Aid Society School Ventures (Christian holidays for children)	300
Total	13,899



5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

Three trustees received remuneration during 2021 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- David Hodgson, Organist fees for three funerals: £300
- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for six funerals and two weddings: £240
- Fried Sleath, Sound Operator fees for one funeral and one wedding: £60

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2021 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2021 are those listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £480. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2021:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- 4 casual employees as organist, vergers and sound operators for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Accrued Income	372	-
Gift Aid & GASDS	2,141	2,056
Feed-in Tariff	-	286
Total	2,513	2,342

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Balance of tithe	9,399	9,201
Accruals	1,582	2,180
PAYE Creditor	171	139
Agency collections	729	3,342
Total	11,881	14,862

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2021 £	2020 £
Rental income	1,869	2,597
Expenditure:		
Utilities	924	976
Cleaning	2,964	2,678
Maintenance	1,791	1,369
Consumables & other costs	65	118
Total	5,744	5,141
Operating surplus / (deficit)	(3,875)	(2,544)

In addition to the routine maintenance costs of £1,791, a further £1,205 from accumulated reserves, was spent on removing redundant emergency lighting and repairing a brick pier at the doorway; £14,939, from the legacy and a donation, was spent on the following refurbishment work:

- Internal and external painting
- New carpet
- New chairs
- Notice boards, clocks, radiator covers
- Washing and relaying patio

Rental income was, again, affected by COVID-19 restrictions during the first half of the year, so we were able to take advantage of this to complete the refurbishment during the summer months. From September, use of the hall by church groups and outside hirers restarted.

13. Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund

Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Bank Interest	31	78
Total income:	31	78
Expenditure:		
Non-routine repairs	1,205	11,770
Refurbishment	14,939	-
Equipment	-	75
Office computer upgrade	-	87
Total expenditure	16,144	11,932
Surplus/(Deficit)	(16,113)	(11,854)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	6,216	20,000
Transfer from General Fund (Old chairs for use in church)	180	313
Balance brought forward at 1 January	9,785	1,326
Balance at 31 December	68	9,785

At its meeting on 10th May 2021, the PCC agreed to allocate a further £6,000 from the legacy to the Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund to complete the refurbishment of the hall and yard (see Note 12). 36 chairs were moved to the church building for use when needed and a nominal amount of £5 per chair was transferred from the General Fund. The Business Committee of the PCC agreed on 12th January 2022, but to be effective on 31st December 2021, to allocate an additional £216 from the legacy to cover a small overspend on the original round-figure estimate for the refurbishment. The project has ensured the hall remains in a good state of presentation and repair.

14. Church Building Improvements Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Bank interest	16	38
Total income:	16	38
Expenditure:		
Audio-visual equipment	4,520	21,504
Architect's fees	-	690
Total expenditure	4,520	22,194
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,504)	(22,156)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	4,520	22,303
Balance brought forward at 1 January	5,142	4,995
Balance at 31 December	5,158	5,142

Further purchases, totalling £4,520, were made from the legacy to cover additional items required for the audio-visual system:

- Laptop and basic software
- Software for live streaming services
- Two screens for the chancel
- A stool for the vision operator

15. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	-	1,038
Bank interest	34	60
Total income:	34	1,098
Expenditure:		
Non-routine repairs	2,734	11,328
Total expenditure	2,734	11,328
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,700)	(10,230)
Transfer to OSR Maintenance Fund (Old chairs for use in church)	(180)	-
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	-	4,665
Balance brought forward at 1 January	10,724	16,289
Balance at 31 December	7,844	10,724

£2,734 was spent on small tables for the church and the replacement of a corroded gas pipe running from the meter through the wall to the supply inside the building. £180 was transferred to the OSR Maintenance Fund as a token payment for 36 chairs to be used in the church when needed.

16. Heritage Events Fund

Heritage Events Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Bank interest	3	6
Total income:	3	6
Expenditure:		
Organ Centenary Concert	213	-
Total expenditure	213	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	(210)	6
Balance brought forward at 1 January	1,087	1,081
Balance at 31 December	877	1,087

A concert was held in church to mark the centenary of the church organ, built in 1921 as a memorial to those from the village who died in the Great War, 1914 to 1918.

17. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Grants	37	312
Fundraising events by Handbell Ringers	-	350
PCC wedding fees	688	-
Bank interest	47	82
Total income:	772	744
Expenditure:		
Church costs	287	243
Equipment	119	-
Total expenditure	406	243
Surplus/(Deficit)	366	501
Balance brought forward at 1 January	14,581	14,080
Balance at 31 December	14,947	14,581

18. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Income:		
Donations	1,320	1,440
Gift Aid tax recovered	330	360
Activity fees	180	-
Bank interest	32	51
Total income:	1,862	1,851
Expenditure:		
Mission & evangelism	679	794
Total expenditure	679	794
Surplus / (deficit)	1,183	1,057
Transfers to General Fund (glue sticks & posting error)	(9)	
Balance brought forward at 1 January	9,487	8,430
Balance at 31 December	10,661	9,487

19. Legacy received from the late Pat Foulds

Legacy received from the late Pat Foulds	£
Received:	
Main payment received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment received 13/7/20	191
Total received:	255,936
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audi-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Audio visual improvements (2021)	4,520
OSR refurbishment (2021)	6,216
Total expenditure	57,704
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/21	198,232

During 2021 we have used a further £10,736 to complete the audio-visual improvements and the Old School Rooms refurbishment. A large building project in the church has been delayed by the COVID-19 restrictions, but it is hoped that this can be progressed during 2022.

20. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2021 was £263 (£261 at 31 December 2020). This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 that are set out on pages 34 to 50.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



22nd March 2022

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP



www.rothleychurch.org.uk | 0116 230 2626 | welcome@rothleychurch.org.uk

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

REGISTERED CHARITY 1133832



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VICAR'S REVIEW OF 2020

2020 has been a tough and chastening year for our nation and Church - and the shape of what is to come is not yet clear. Throughout all the ever-changing guidelines and directives in response to the pandemic, we have sought to do all we can under God, to give expression to what it means to be his church in this place - making disciples, growing in our discipleship and showing God's love to the world.

For most of the year this has taken place not only without access to our building, but also unable to meet one another face to face. In many ways this has put us in touch with the experience of our brothers and sisters in nations where Churches have no buildings and are not allowed to meet.

These circumstances have thrown up a whole new set of challenges for us all and the pages that follow detail in a hugely encouraging way how these have been met and the life of the church in Rothley has continued. In this I would especially like to thank Paul Parkinson and his team for setting up our [Church YouTube Channel](#), guiding us through the process of recording material and then doing so much work behind the scenes to present weekly services for us all. Recording a shortened daily Morning Prayer online is something that has also been greatly valued by many people.

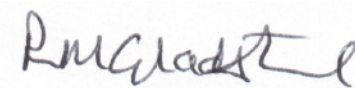
Yet alongside this, there have been gaps - we have been unable to welcome families to baptisms; couples have had to rearrange their wedding plans a number of times; funerals have been restricted to just immediate family; and I haven't been able to spend time in school with the children and their families. Electronic media goes so far, but in the cutting edge of evangelism and pastoral care face to face engagement in building relationships is at the heart of our witness. I have missed this

personal connection with the wider community greatly and speaking to a screen at times has felt very disengaged from those with whom we are communicating - especially in the context of bereavement.

In due course, as the world slowly opens up, it is this focus on building relationships that will be key to the recovery of the life of the Church in the parish.

We owe Mike Ferguson and Angela Neill, who have been our Churchwardens through this time, a great debt of gratitude. When they took office, they sought assurance that they weren't going to be landed overseeing the Parish through an interregnum - well, they got a pandemic instead! The grace and wisdom they have shown in responding to the uncertainties, the changing regulations, the behind-the-scenes risk assessments has been extraordinary. Matched only by their patient dedication in making sure everything is in place for us to be able to open the building whenever it has been possible.

Who dares predict what 2021 will hold as life moves past the pandemic into a post-Brexit future? But what we can be confident of, is that where the gospel is confessed the Lord Jesus will build his church and the gates of hell will not overcome it.



Rob Gladstone
Vicar

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF 2020

As we all know 2020 was a most unusual year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Services in church were suspended when the first national lockdown came in at the end of March. The church was initially reopened in July for a two-hour private prayer session during the week and then a 9.30am 'said' service was introduced at the beginning of August. Throughout the pandemic we were very careful to follow government guidance, as set out by the Church of England through the House of Bishops, so we could play our part in helping to keep everyone safe. Appropriate risk assessments were carried out and procedures put in place so that we could safely re-introduce services in church, including weddings and funerals, when we were allowed. We are grateful to Rob for his strong leadership during this time and wish to thank everyone who has been involved with services in church and online. We also wish to thank everyone in the church family for your patience and understanding.

Although the pandemic caused great disruption to our normal worship in the church building, we were able to make sure all the usual maintenance was done on schedule. Improvements were made to emergency lighting in January with lighting installed over the south and west doors and the vicar's vestry exit. A fire alarm was also installed in the tower to protect bellringers.

In October the required Quinquennial Inspection of the church building was carried out by an architect appointed by the PCC for the purpose, Simon Bird of Flying Buttress Architecture. He found a number of relatively small repairs were needed which will be done over the forthcoming months. However, we were pleased that no unexpected major works were identified. Simon made the following comments in his report: "*The General condition*

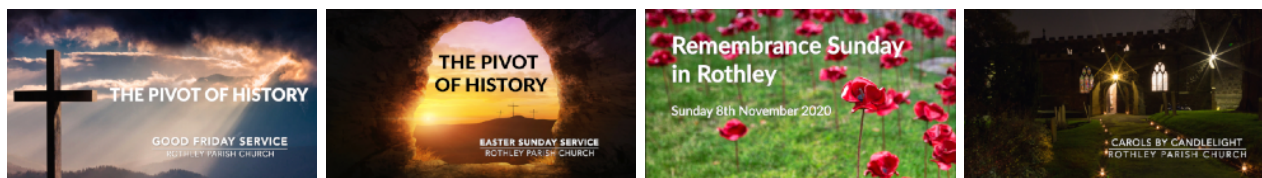
of the Church is excellent, this Church is well cared for and the approach of the Churchwardens and their documentation, reporting and addressing of issues from the previous Quinquennial Inspection is to be commended, there is nothing major to address in the current recommendations and with the same level of diligence the Church will continue to remain in good order. There is a good rolling programme of maintenance and works to the Church as the thorough recording within the Church log book demonstrates, the approach to recording and documenting this information by the Churchwarden team and members of the PCC is to be commended." We would like to thank previous churchwardens, past and present PCC and everyone who has been involved in caring for our beautiful ancient church building. We are confident this will continue in the future.

As always, thank you to all those who have helped us in many and varied ways throughout the year, especially our excellent team of assistant wardens: Fred Sleath, Jean Johnson, Ruth Gilmore and Ken Arkley, along with Marion Whitby and Margaret Rouse who looked after the 9am service before COVID-19 disrupted our usual pattern of services. Clive Jackson became Health and Safety Officer in January and Wendy Ferguson and Kate Croden continue to oversee safeguarding as Vulnerable Adult and Child Protection Co-ordinators.

We met with Rob regularly either in person or via Zoom to talk through implications of changes to government guidance as the pandemic progressed and to plan accordingly. We value the support and encouragement these meetings give and thank Rob for this. We have very much missed meeting with members of the church family in person, particularly after services in church and we look forward to better times in 2021.

Angela Neill and Mike Ferguson

COMMUNICATIONS



Online services: Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and Carol Service

In normal times, the communications team's efforts are focused on mainly using digital media ([Rothley Church website](#), [Rothley Church Facebook group](#) and [Twitter](#)) to promote outreach and publicise church activities. The advent of coronavirus and the subsequent COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns have impacted in-church services, and meant that we needed to be able to rapidly support online services.

There are several ways that online services can be held, this includes: *live events* using video-conferencing software such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, but these take a significant amount of production effort and coordination in order to work well; and also *webcasts* of pre-recorded services on video-sharing platforms such as YouTube.

Paul & Rob experimented using YouTube for *live-streamed* recordings of Rob's talks and morning prayers, and for publishing *pre-recorded* online services; the latter using Apple iMovie to video edit multiple individual video segments recorded by the service leader, preacher and organist on their phones, tablets or computers.

Production of online services

The video editing for each Sunday service depends on the length of the service, but usually takes about 5-6 hours or more each week, plus a couple of hours for YouTube subtitles. We also need to invest time and effort for each service to ensure that our use of hymns and songs which are still under copyright is compliant with our CCLI copyright licenses and YouTube copyright policies.

Special services such as the [Remembrance](#)

[Sunday service](#), [Carols by Candlelight](#), and other involving the virtual choir are much more complex and have taken days to produce. We are particularly grateful to Jenny Pilbeam for her creative and technical abilities on the virtual choir recordings and the nativity. We are also very grateful to Sue Jackson for taking on editing the YouTube subtitles for each service, as well as producing loan DVDs of the services for people who do not have internet access.

Video recordings are of course, much more demanding than the audio podcasts of sermons which usually only take an hour or so to process each week. However, audio-only services during lockdown would not provide the same sense of participation or level of engagement.

Rothley Church YouTube Channel

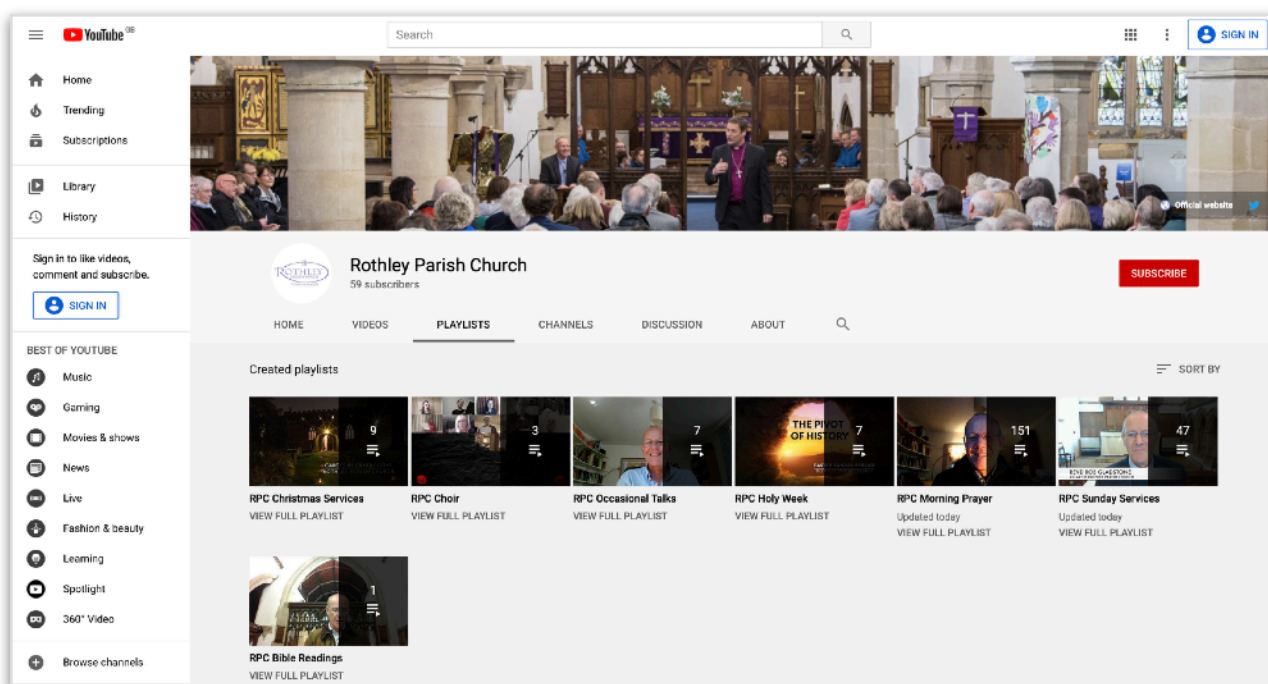
The online services are published on the [Rothley Church YouTube Channel](#) on Sunday mornings, and are accessible from the [Webcasts page](#) on the church website. A link to the service is also posted on the church Facebook group, enabling members to share feedback after the service.

The service recordings can be viewed on a smart phone, tablet, computer or smart TV. Each Sunday service tends to have around 120-200 views on the day, and given that multiple individuals may be watching around a shared device or TV, we estimate that the actual online Sunday audience is probably in the range of 300 to 400 people, or possibly higher.

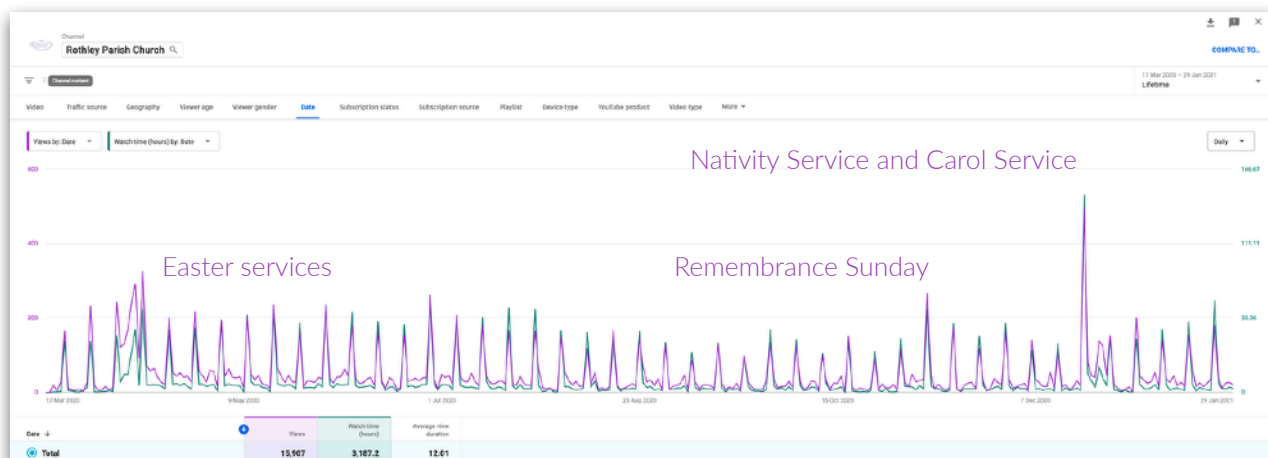
The number of views for special services has been even higher, [Good Friday](#) (438), [Easter Sunday](#) (269), [Remembrance Sunday](#) (239), [Christmas Nativity Service](#) (285), and [Carols by Candlelight](#) (425). Assuming that the number of

individuals watching these devices is 50% higher or double, this means that the audience for each of these services is well beyond the physical capacity of the church building, so we are reaching a wider community online, in Rothley and further afield.

The Rothley YouTube Channel has also enabled Rob to live stream **Morning Prayers** on weekdays, and an **Occasional Talks** series on the Book of Daniel. At time of writing (Jan 2021), we have published 49 online services, 10 talks, 151 Morning Prayers, and the Rothley Church YouTube channel has had over 15,600 views.



Rothley Parish Church YouTube Channel showing playlists for Sunday Services, Morning Prayer and other events



Rothley Parish Church YouTube Channel statistics showing daily views throughout 2020

Church website

In 2020, there was a significant increase in the number of visitors to the church website (4,932 - an increase of 27% compared to 2019), and the number of page views (27,105 - an increase of 87%). Many of these visitors were accessing the Webcasts page to view the online services, but we also had many visitors to [Rob's blog post about current measures under COVID-19 restrictions](#) (which was regularly updated). We also had a 38% increase in visitors to the [Sermons MP3 page](#) even though we only posted new audio recordings of sermons up to March (before we switched to YouTube online services) - this suggests that visitors were listening again to some of the 100 sermon audio recordings from 2019-2020 which are available on the church website.

Social Media

The church Twitter account [@rothleychurch](#) is used as a communication tool with the wider community, and had 197 followers during the year. The [Rothley Church Facebook group](#) is used for sharing news, views and information about the church and its activities, and on Sunday mornings, is used for sharing hyperlinks to the online services on YouTube. The Facebook group became more widely used in 2020, with membership increasing from 72 to 144. We are also grateful to the Spotted Rothley Facebook group who promote our online services each week to its 7,000+ followers.

Life after lockdown

It is not clear how long the current COVID-19 restrictions will continue, or when we will return to more normal patterns of services. However, when this happens, if we are to continue to provide online services for the benefit of those shielding and the wider online community, we will need other people with creative and/or technical skills to share the workload of producing the online services, as the current arrangements are not sustainable for the longer term.

Paul Parkinson, David Salt & Stephen Thomason

Fellowship Post

When we were originally unable to meet in church, the challenge was to provide a means of communication for all in the church family to keep in touch with each other, support each other and worship together and so in my mind the Fellowship Post was born and hopefully we're still getting the balance right.

We established from the recently-updated Contact List those with email addresses - and some who have email addresses even though they aren't published in the Contact List! This left a balance of about 25 people who needed to receive their communications as a printed paper.

Responding to offers of help, I secured three main distributors for the printed copies by geographical area - Scott Cramp, Di Milner and the Cooper family. Two more outlying addresses have theirs delivered weekly by Richard and Angela Neill on their extensive walks. All the distributors have been doing this since March and I am very grateful to them all, but all are still very happy to do it. Furthermore, the people who receive them look forward to their visits each week - most knock and make sure they are ok, having a socially-distanced chat with them and helping them in other ways if required.

Rob and the team decided to record and upload services online, which can be accessed via the [church website](#) or directly via [YouTube](#). I have discovered that even some of the 25 who need printed copies can actually access the services via computers or laptops etc. occasionally, so there are very few who rely completely on the printed word. However, for these people we provide a complete service outline and summary of the sermon each week so they can follow it on their own and read or sing the hymns, say the prayers etc, and I know some like to do this again and again during the week.

Originally Jean Arkley and I collated a list of those who offered to help in practical ways, and we put a few in touch with those who requested help, but there weren't as many requests as we had anticipated. Transport requests are dealt with by Fred Sleath. Jean also sorted through the Contact List and allocated key individuals to

keep in regular contact with groups on the list. Through the Fellowship Post and online services, we also regularly encourage people to contact others by phone, text, email or the church Facebook page.

I am grateful to those who send in articles to go in the Fellowship Post to make it newsworthy and interesting as well as informative – more always appreciated. I am also grateful to Rob for his regular front-page letter to us, usually very

encouraging, which has received very high praise from a number of quarters!

I would also like to thank David Palmer for the fortnightly Corporate Prayer Guides, which he is still producing 10 months on, with music added by David Hodgson. Again, this is mainly sent out via email on the relevant day, with paper copies accompanying the Fellowship Post on the Friday before.

Liz Sleath

Sunday Services
 9.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Morning Family Service
 6.30pm Evening Worship

ROTHLEY
 PARISH CHURCH
 ST MARY & ST JOHN

0116 230 2626
 Email the Church

Home About Church Life Resources Contact Blog

Home > Resources > Webcasts

Webcasts

Due to the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**, we are currently video recording and streaming **Sunday services, Morning Prayer** and **Occasional Talks** on the **Rothley Church YouTube Channel** (which can be viewed on a smartphone, tablet, computer or smart TV). Sunday services are also announced on the **Rothley Church official Facebook group**, so if you are a Facebook user, please join the group for updates and to join the discussions after the service.

Recent sermons and **Lent talks** are also available for download in MP3 audio format from the **Sermons MP3 page**.

You can also view the most recent Sunday services below.
To view a video, click on the red and white play button.
To display subtitles, hover over the video and click on the subtitles icon to the left of the YouTube logo.

Sunday 24th January 2021
Sunday service @ 11.00am: led by Rob Gladstone with sermon on 'The Way of the Cross' from **Mark 9.30-37**.

Sunday Service 24.01.2021
 REVD ROB GLADSTONE
 VICAR OF ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 17th January 2021
 Online service led by David Wilson with sermon by Rob Gladstone on 'Faith & Prayer' from **Mark 9.14-29**.

Sunday Service 17.01.2021
 DAVID WILSON
 LAY MINISTER

Rothley Parish Church website Webcasts page containing online services and other webcasts

OUTREACH



Easter cards; Easter gardens; Men's Group logo; Christmas cards; Village Christmas window competition winner

Evangelism

A key priority for our Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ to every home in the parish. We particularly want to reach those who have recently moved into the new estates around the School, around Bier Way and at Primrose Hill off West Cross Lane. We recognise that our ministry through the school is critical to building relationships with the many young families that have moved onto these estates. The past year has been very challenging in that the restrictions due to COVID-19 have severely limited our ability to meet people, both on the estates and through school. We have therefore relied heavily on an online presence and social media - both of which are very crowded places and challenging to establish traction. We have been helped by the school who have used our online assemblies in such a way that they will be viewed in the family home, rather than just in the classroom. However, we have no means of knowing as yet whether this will translate into lives committed to following Jesus Christ. While we have been able to show the community love and care, enabling people to hear the gospel in terms they can understand and respond to remains a very challenging aspect of our mission.

RCMG (Rothley Church Men's Group)

The **Rothley Church Men's Group** was established in 1996 as a means to bring the "blokes" together in our Church because at that time there was plenty going on for the ladies

but not a lot for the men. After an initial informal evening playing Olympic Sports (Pub Olympics – please use your imagination) we agreed to give it a go! So, the MBA name first. We got clever, some may not agree, and at the time there was a popular TV programme called *Men Behaving Badly*, so we decided that our MBA group should stand for Men Behaving Acceptably. Some thought we were mad because starting MBA had nothing to do with the onset of Mad Cow Disease in 1996. As such the men's group (MBA and now RCMG) was born to offer the opportunity to all men to meet in fellowship: sharing and learning from life's experiences and seeking to further develop their understanding of the gospel and its relevance in today's world.

In the 24 years (yes, next year is the "big" 25 years celebration?) since the group was established, 2020 has been the most challenging year when we found we are not in control. Who is? Answer later – keep reading..... I hope you will recall that Dmitry Lutsenko who was in the 3rd/ 4th year of his curacy at St John's Hinckley, spent time in Rothley and inspired us to join with the Men's Group from St John's Hinckley for an evening of skittles in January. We had a great evening and were looking forward to moving forward for the Lord's mutual benefit. What that meant, we didn't know but.....faith...

In March our guest speaker was to be our David Hodgson who intended to dwell on how God had touched his and his wife Linda's lives and

how he had challenged them and was looking to encourage audience participation in our evening together. Whilst it promised to be a fascinating and enlightening evening, we had to postpone the evening due to the pandemic. Don't worry, when our Lord has sorted out this pandemic, David will get an opportunity to speak to us all and share with us how the Lord has been in his life.

So what will 2021 bring for the men's group? Only the Lord knows. But it will be great!

Care home links

Links with [Cedar House](#) (especially through Pam Harvey, and now through church members as residents) and Babington Court (especially through the Costertons) have continued in an adapted form over the last few months. A group sang carols outside Cedar House and those we have contact with at Babington, through the service that was held monthly until last March, have been kept in contact with and received letters and gifts at Christmas. It has proven to be more difficult to maintain links with Mountview.

Bereavement Support

A question related to the pandemic is 'How do I grieve?' - whether it's the distress at being absent at a loved one's death, not being able to say goodbye, or the restrictions affecting the conduct of the funeral. That key Rite of Passage brings family, friends and community together, with memories, thanksgiving and sadness. In a Christian setting the hope, assurance and comfort of the Lord and the committal of a loved one to him brings a sense of peace, and no restriction will stop that. Post funeral the social interaction, memories, hugs, tears, laughter and reassurance are important, and the need for social interaction and contact is ongoing. That's what has contributed for many to the difficulty in grieving. Ongoing support from Bereavement Support is complimented by the wonderful care from within the fellowship which has blessed so many.

The inevitable cancellation of the Annual Memorial Service in October was replaced by a Bereavement Drop-in at church. In groups no larger than six, people came to sit quietly, to pray, light a candle and know Christ's peace. It was much appreciated, and the sense of space, stillness and peace in church was tangible, an opportunity to remember, give thanks, pray, light a candle and to know Christ's peace. One family said *'It did help. We would have loved it to be a service, but in the circumstances it was done well and safely and was very much appreciated. We were so pleased the church made the time to organise it.'* We look forward in hope and prayer that this year's Memorial Service will be able to take place.

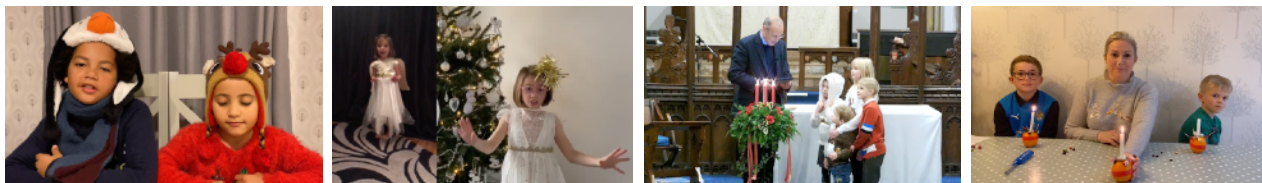
Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club - a group for the retired twice a month in the [Old School Rooms](#) - was not able to meet beyond March 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. The leaders have kept in contact with members by telephone and sent them Christmas cards. They hope to be able to meet again as soon as such meetings are allowed to be held.

Wednesday Lunches

Wednesday Lunches - a two-course lunch served in the Old School Rooms on the second Wednesday of each month - was not able to continue beyond March 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. Sandra Shaw-Pearce sent Christmas cards to all the regular attendees and has also contacted some of them by telephone. As soon as the Old School Rooms is able to open for such events, Sandra will restart the lunches and extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join in, particularly those who might be fed up of their own company and eating alone.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES & YOUTH



Scenes from the Sunday School Nativity; lighting the Advent candles; Christingle step-by-step tutorial

In February 2020 we thought the challenge was going to be getting approx. 30 children to wash their hands on entering, and again on leaving, the **Old School Rooms** for Sunday School without taking up the whole time available - it looked like being our key activity each Sunday morning! However, the new challenge was, and continues to be, how to keep in touch with our Sunday School and Grid children, their parents, and the parents of even younger children and, more importantly, how to keep them in touch with Jesus.

The Growing Families Group continues as a WhatsApp group, keeping parents of primary school-aged children in touch. We have been able to encourage and help each other in practical and spiritual matters, and encourage prayer for those in need, particularly those working as key workers during this last year. We held a series of Saturday evening quizzes online, which helped us keep in touch and have fun together. Through this chat a housegroup began in early autumn, run by Laura and Dan Spencer, first on a walking basis, and now hopefully being continued online, open to anyone and each one looks at a one-off topic, to allow for sporadic attendance! Finally, after discussion, we held an outdoor Christmas service on 19th December in the churchyard, with strict social distancing and limited attendance. 12 families enjoyed this event and were glad to be together apart!

Sunday School has continued in different ways. From Easter onwards, Jo Beals and I sent out weekly written lessons and activities

to all our Sunday School children, based on the lessons we would have been following face-to-face. We also distributed *Table Talk* books to each family, encouraging them to share a short relevant gospel talk over a meal. Some of the children designed or coloured Easter and Christmas cards for the older members of our church family and local care home residents.

Realising that things weren't going to change quickly, halfway through the summer term Rashaen Cummings and Simon Beals set up weekly Sunday morning Zoom meetings at 9.30am for the *Explorers* group (9-11 years) which are still continuing. We delivered activity packs (including sweets!) to all the children towards the end of the summer term and started to Zoom with the two younger groups too, but on a more occasional basis. Some of the younger children are shy and don't settle so well in a Zoom meeting, so we decided in the autumn term to alternate Zoom meetings on Sunday afternoons for the *Scramblers* (3-5) and *Climbers* (5-8) groups together, with a recorded story for them to download on their own during the intervening weekends.

We delivered a Real Advent Calendar to all Sunday School children and also donated some to the foodbank for families. We also facilitated an **online Nativity production** including a recording of *Away in a Manger*, which was also used in the **Christingle video**.

All groups, including **The Grid** (11-14 years), are following the same topics using *Go Teach* books for their age groups. Grid have been

meeting with Mark Baird weekly on Zoom, now on Friday evenings. Susan Pinkus, or one of the parents, also attend the Zoom meetings. Mark has also encouraged the group with games, quizzes, gifts of advent candles and calendars and relevant daily readings. They have five or six regular members.

Breakthrough continues currently as the group for 15 to 17-year-olds. This was run first by Fred Sleath with Steve Thomason and, since the summer holidays when Steve retired as Youth Co-ordinator, by Fred and Ros Taylor, by Zoom on a weekly basis, now on Sunday evenings. They have four members who regularly meet.

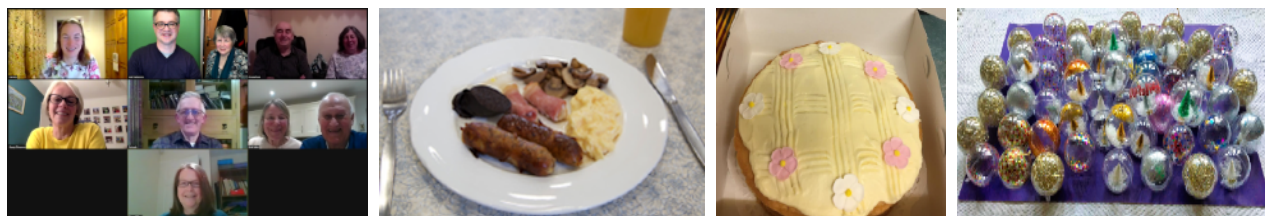
The **Catalyst** group for older youth disbanded in the summer, after many of the group members went to university. Steve and Lindsay Thomason are now starting a housegroup for those of university age still in and around Rothley and they also keep in touch with those away at university.

We have continued to seek to support the Christian ethos of **Rothley Primary School** in whatever ways we can. Rob and David Wilson have produced online assemblies; some have been used with individual classes and some have been sent home for the children to view with their families. Sadly, the CPAS Schools Venture was cancelled and we have not been able to meet with the school in church. We sent all the school children a Christingle candle and invitation to join in and watch [our video on Christmas Eve](#).

We are looking forward to starting the **Parent, Carer & Toddler Group** again as soon as the law and the vaccination programme allows it.

Liz Sleath

DISCIPLESHIP



Housegroup meeting on Zoom; Men's Breakfast; Cake Ministry; Hand-decorated Christmas baubles

Discipleship is about growing in faith as followers of Jesus, becoming more like him. Paul's vision of discipleship in Ephesians 4 vv 7-16 continues to be the vision for discipleship at Rothley Parish Church, with a focus on growing in depth of discipleship through our services, small groups and personal prayer and Bible study. Whilst the nature of these discipleship activities changed with the COVID-19 pandemic, the report below emphasises the ways in which as a church we have continued to grow and support each other as disciples of Jesus Christ. The discipleship working group of the **PCC** continues to work on strategic leadership in this area.

Housegroups: The focus of the groups is on studying the Bible and praying together, alongside caring for each other and for our wider communities and, while COVID-19 necessitated considerable flexibility given our inability to meet in person for most of the year, this did not see a shutdown of activities - far from it. Some groups held regular Zoom meetings, others used alternative means of electronic communications, while a number produced excellent fortnightly electronic/hard copy bulletins. Together, these enabled meaningful contact between group members to continue. Whilst a challenging year, the creativity of housegroup leaders and members meant that 2020 was certainly not characterised by groups simply treading water. We thank God for all we learned in our 'new look' groups and for the caring and sharing that took place within them during the year.

Men's breakfast: The Men's Breakfast housegroup meet on the first Saturday of each month for fellowship and Bible study, with

topics selected based on the group's needs, our mission to become closer disciples of Jesus and to learn how we might introduce Jesus to others. This year the group studied the books of Haggai and 1 Timothy, learning about the author, the context in which it was written, the key characters and how we can apply what we learn to our daily lives. The latter is particularly important for our group who seek to learn more about how to be Christians in the workplace in an ever-increasing secular world. The group normally meets in a home for a hearty breakfast followed by Bible study, but in 2020 we resorted largely to online Zoom meetings and socially-distanced walks. This worked well and still featured full English breakfasts for some! Numbers varied between four and eight and the group provided much-needed mutual and emotional support both through the Bible study itself and through general conversation. This support was particularly welcomed this year as the group's members struggled to balance the unpredictable demands of work with family responsibilities. In previous years, the group organised '**Big Breakfasts**' open to all men in the church and our local community. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this was not possible this year.

Bible reading notes: Whilst at Rothley church we actively encourage Bible study through groups, we also strongly encourage personal Bible study as part of our quiet time with God. For those who wish to have **daily Bible reading notes** in a printed format, we continue to arrange the procurement and distribution of many different Bible reading books, whilst also encouraging the use of online daily Bible reading media, including *Verse of the Day*

(biblegateway.com) and *The Word Live Daily Passage* (Scripture Union), both of which can be found on the Rothley Church website. This year we have had three individuals move from a printed format of daily Bible reading to an online provider; 37 individuals use nine different titles of Bible reading books.

Prayer & Praise: Meeting fortnightly in church on Tuesday evenings until March, this gathering allows participation in informal praise and prayer for the life of our church, village and nation in a style that is free and spontaneous. Whilst some joining the group are not used to this style, they nevertheless enjoy being in the group because they appreciate the freedom, fellowship, and maturity that emanates from this style of praying together. Whilst the group were not able to meet for most of the year, the bi-weekly Corporate Prayer Guide distributed to all church members sought to afford a measure of Praise & Prayer for everyone.

Mothers' Union: During the pandemic, Carolyn Hindocha, the branch leader, sent a letter to members on the first Tuesday of each month, the usual meeting day. This letter generally started with prayer and then any information relevant to members, ending with the Mothers' Union Prayer. Members also kept in touch by email, post or hand delivery and many telephoned each other. Whilst fundraising efforts were badly hit in 2020, our members raised a wonderful £4,500 through making face masks, sales of jam, mincemeat and plants and other ideas. In addition, Christmas cards, diaries and calendars were sold for Mothers' Union.

The **Prayer Circle** consists of 11 members who provide confidential and immediate prayer support for anyone, both regular church members and visitors, in times of particular need or anxiety. Valerie Joyce, Jean Arkley and Trevor West are the contact people to whom the requests are made and then passed round the circle whose other members remain anonymous. 72 requests were received and many expressions of how supported and valued people felt through this ministry.

Pastoral Care: As Christians, the church seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ in caring for

those in need, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

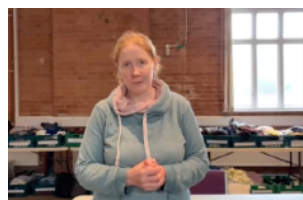
In 2020, owing to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, pastoral care was challenging and at times frustrating. The aim was to find ways to support those in need - those in hospital, sick, bereaved, isolated or feeling lonely due to the restrictions. Whilst visits were curtailed or constrained by the regulations, contact was maintained by frequent phone calls, texts, video calls, emails and cards. As many of the elderly do not have access to modern technology and cannot access online services, the distribution of the printed Fellowship Post proved a vital link with the church. These were distributed by volunteers who took the opportunity to check on the well-being of the recipients and to chat to them. Provision of meals and the 'cake ministry' continued to demonstrate the church's love and care for the housebound and lonely. Throughout the year a transport coordinator organised lifts by volunteers to enable visits to hospital and doctors' appointments, and flu vaccinations. Throughout the year there was no shortage of volunteers and during lockdown they helped with shopping, posting letters and the collection of prescriptions. Many people in the church and in the community found prayer support sustained them.

At Christmas hand-decorated baubles were delivered by volunteers to 60 people living on their own and Christmas cake was taken to 150 households.

In the wider community, the Soar Valley Community Food Project continued to be actively supported by the church. This project saw a four-fold increase in client numbers in the second half of the year. Church members volunteered at the Foodbank and the fellowship gave generous donations of food and money to support the project. At Christmas, toys were provided for families attending the Food Project and for the Rotary Club's *Toys on the Table* appeal.

Alison Godfrey

SEND



Paul & Cathy Middleton of Mercy Air; Tim Jackson from the Soar Valley Food Project; Bridget Patel from Triangle; Brada Radanovic from Crosslinks

Our aim is to **send out** and support Christians here and in the wider world, so that others may hear and know God's love in Jesus, so we seek to be a church with God's heart for the nations.

Each year Rothley Parish Church gives away 10% of its donated income to support Christian work at home and overseas. The Send group (comprising Kathryn Garnett, Rob Gladstone, Margaret Leverment, Ros Taylor, David and Sue Wilson) meets regularly throughout the year to consider how best to use the tithe monies to support the Lord's work overseas and in the UK. This year, we have continued our meetings on Zoom.

We prayerfully consider the distribution of these monies and, by various means, we keep the church informed on the work of the various organisations. In normal times we rely on displays on the coffee area noticeboard as well as prayers on the weekly notice sheet, the bi-annual Send Update and email links to online updates and prayer letters. Since March 2020 we have been unable to use physical displays in church and have not produced the Send Update, but we have continued to keep our church family up to date by means of regular articles and prayer pointers in the Fellowship Post. We have also included prayer letters from our missionary links, and those who use social media will have seen updates from **Mercy Air on Facebook**.

Financial Giving and Fundraising

Full details of the payments made from the Church tithe can be found on page 41.

We also supported the Soar Valley Community Food Project through food collections, harvest gifts and donations, and the PCC agreed an additional donation this year to support the overheads of the Baptist Church premises, which hosts the Project.

Normally we collect clothing for the **Triangle** homeless project, based at Holy Trinity Church, Leicester, but these collections were suspended due to the pandemic.

In May we publicised **Christian Aid Week** but individuals gave online, so we cannot report on total donations.

Our fair trade stall (situated at the back of church by the choir vestry) is regularly supplied with fairly-traded groceries and gifts but was not operational after March. However, Sue Wilson did sell charity Christmas cards and greetings cards from home at the end of the year.

In November a small number of church members took part in Tearfund's Big Quiz Night. This was an online event and raised £645 for the charity, both on the night and with subsequent donations.

In a challenging year for everyone, we have been particularly grateful that, through its

generosity, the church family in Rothley has enabled us to continue with our gifts to all these organisations.

Speakers

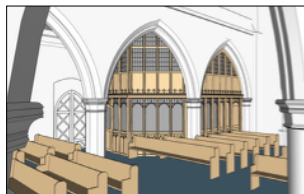
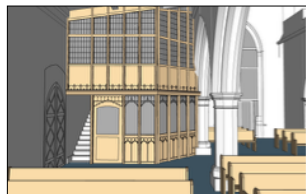
In January we welcomed Heather Dipple from [Tearfund](#) to our 10.30am service. Heather is a retired psychiatrist and has a particular interest in the charity's support for mental health projects in the developing world. After a slot for the children and a brief interview during the service, Heather gave a well-received presentation after the service.

In November, Bridget Patel from [Triangle](#) appeared in our online service to tell us how the charity has continued to reach out to the homeless and vulnerable in Leicester throughout the pandemic. She expressed her thanks for the practical and prayer support that we have given the charity.

During our online services we also showed videos from [Brada Radanovic](#) ([Crosslinks](#)) and [Mercy Air](#).

Ros Taylor

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS



Concept Design by Pendery Architecture and Heritage Ltd

The upgrade to the audio-visual system in church has progressed well in 2020 despite disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Six LED screens were installed in September, with all associated wiring and control equipment, to give significant improvement to the audio-visual system. Fixings and wiring for two more screens in the chancel have also been installed should it be decided they are needed in the future. A camera, positioned above the sound desk, can show the service leader, preacher or reader at the lectern. Visual aids can now be seen in all parts of the church with clear projection of hymn or song words and liturgy during services. Dimmer switches were added to the main church lights to reduce glare at the same time.

There were a few teething problems initially, which is to be expected, but these were ironed out with technical support from [Novum Audio Visual Ltd](#) who did the installation. It has been used to show words of hymns and prayers at the 9:30am services with potential for much more as we gain experience, including the possibility of live-streaming services to the Internet if this is what the PCC decides.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone, especially the sound operators, for their patience and perseverance as we all get to grips with the new system.

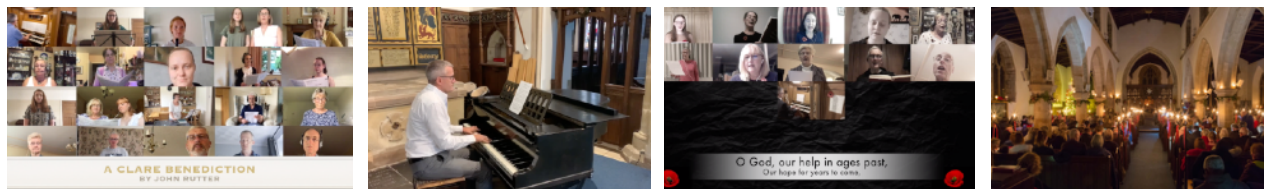
The completed Concept Design for the improvements to the layout of the church building was accepted by the PCC in November 2019. This plan includes improved access to

the church by lowering the north porch floor so that the internal and external ramps can be removed and to install an internal glass door. The coffee area servery is planned to be refurbished and improved through installing a sink, hot and cold running water and associated drainage. Plans to reconfigure the choir vestry to provide two toilets, including one with disabled access, a choir robing room which can also be used by the crèche and a first-floor meeting room above were also approved by the PCC. It is hoped that the old, disused boiler house can be demolished at the same time as, or before, the ground works for the project are done.

The plans were sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for advice and comment just before the first lockdown started in March. Positive feedback was subsequently received, with encouragement to the PCC to develop these plans further. However, the PCC believes that before we can move on to developing the detailed design there needs to be a meaningful consultation with the congregation to canvas opinion about the project. At the time of writing, we have not been able to do this as we cannot yet all meet together in person in the church building due to COVID-19 restrictions. The project is therefore on hold until the pandemic has ended but we are hopeful that progress will be made when we can meet sometime in 2021.

Angela Neill and Mike Ferguson

CHOIR AND MUSIC



Virtual choir anthem; Simon Murphy playing the piano for an online service; Remembrance Sunday hymn; Carols by Candlelight online service

Whilst writing the Music Report for 2019, none of us could have foreseen what was to come in 2020. Perhaps the term '2020 Vision' had more to it than we could ever possibly have thought!

The key for 2020 was to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop us fully in our tracks. Yes, the physical church services all but stopped, resumed albeit to a lesser degree, then stopped again. However, throughout, the church has managed to establish a sense of continuity through the valuable incorporation of online services, accessible to those people fortunate enough to be able to access the [Rothley Church YouTube channel](#) via laptops, smart TVs, mobile phones, tablets and even gaming consoles.

From a musical perspective, we have kept the services fairly traditional with a staple diet of the well-established and, often, favourite hymns, as well as some contemporary worship songs. Sadly, it has not been possible to incorporate the choir within every service due to the limitations of not being together physically, the technical considerations and editing time constraints.

The use of the organ and piano has provided the musical backbone to these services, with the words overlaid on the screen to aid the viewers in either singing along at home, or by contemplating the words as the music plays.

We all know how difficult the period was throughout the bulk of 2020 but, with a bit of ingenuity, sharing files, editing and technical skills, a very high-quality production ensued week after week to ensure that we still felt together as one body in Christ. The ability to comment, communicate and telephone after services (and at other times) has been so important too.

For our traditional [Christmas Carol Service](#), a wonderful production was created using a mix of a previous year's service coupled with additions generated using the Zoom application facilitated by the choir members at their respective homes recording a few carols. All carols were then merged into a seamless production. It felt Christmassy!

It is at times like this that we appreciate, more than ever, what we have in 'normal times' and that, so often, we just take for granted as routine. I sincerely hope that, as we move into 2021, better times lie ahead and we reach the point when we can all safely reunite within our church building and beyond. If we find ourselves still having to run these online services, I would like to think that we could introduce some new songs and have occasions where a solo singer, or duet, could lead with other instruments involved. Let's wait and see.

Simon Murphy

Handbells

Rothley Handbell Ringers have not been able to meet since March 2020 as the group includes some members who are clinically vulnerable. However, they look forward to ringing again as soon as they are able.

Ruth Gilmore

BELL RINGERS

Chairman/Instructor: Richard Thornton

Secretary: Steve Mitchell

Treasurer: Graham Hall

Whilst we are unable to ring for the foreseeable future, I am confident we will have a small group of Ringers on the other side of the pandemic. However, we are short on numbers so if anyone would like to start a new hobby, we would love to see them when the time allows. In the meantime, my son and I continue to keep the church clock chiming.

Graham Hall

SAFEGUARDING

"God's call is to speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." Proverbs 31:8

'The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all,' (part of the Safeguarding Policy statement of the Church of England).

Safeguarding at Rothley Parish Church is overseen by the two appointed Safeguarding Coordinators, Kate Croden (Children and Young People, and Independent Person) and Wendy Ferguson (Vulnerable Adults). Lisa Cook continues to support the Coordinators in her administrative role, for which we are very grateful, ensuring DBS applications are completed and up-to-date. These require renewal every 5 years.

Our parish safeguarding policies for children, young people and vulnerable adults were reviewed and updated, in line with the model Diocesan policies and GDPR guidance, in November 2019. They will be reviewed in November 2021. A copy of each policy is available on the noticeboard at the back of church and on the **Old School Rooms** noticeboard. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item reported at PCC meetings by Wendy Ferguson.

Safer recruitment and training remain priorities. It is recommended that all PCC members, and all those leading or involved with groups (children, young people and adult groups) should attend training sessions or complete online training. Level C0 and C1 training can be accessed and completed online and a number of leaders have completed these modules. Due to the impact of COVID-19, safeguarding training courses are now taking place either online using the **Diocesan Safeguarding Training Portal**, or by Zoom for virtual training, for the foreseeable future. Instructions to access Safeguarding Basic Awareness (C0) and Foundation training (C1) can be found on the Diocesan website. A list of courses will be placed on the noticeboard in

church once these become available again. The coordinators are available to give advice on the most appropriate training for individuals.

Wendy attended the annual Diocesan Safeguarding Conference in October 2019 which focused on aspects of Modern Slavery. She has also circulated the Social Media policy to leaders of groups meeting online.

The Safeguarding Coordinators' priority plan for 2021 is:

- To continue to adhere to safer recruitment guidance and, in line with GDPR procedures, create and maintain a register for those working within relevant groups, to ensure DBS and training information is up-to-date.
- To ensure Risk Assessments are completed for both regular on-site activities and for trips, visits and off-site activities, and that a copy of these is kept in the Church office.
- To maintain an up-to-date computerised 'Dashboard' record for monitoring safeguarding within our Church which can be accessed directly by the Diocese.

We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming church, offering a safe environment and protecting all those who worship and share with us. With many thanks to everyone for all they do to help us towards achieving this.

Kate Croden and Wendy Ferguson

THE OLD SCHOOL ROOMS (OSR)



Old School Rooms exterior; Men's Breakfast; OSR facilities; children's groups

At the beginning of 2020 it looked as though this was going to be a “mega year” for bookings - and then Lockdown came and, following the guidelines from the government and Church of England, we closed for business. Not all bad, as this allowed various planned maintenance jobs to continue, once the contractors were allowed to work. This included damp proofing and re-plastering of the passageway wall, another external perimeter wall was re-pointed and external windows and doors were repaired.

A neighbour reported that the external storage block had received “wind damage” to the roof. On closer inspection, it was decided that this had occurred sometime previously, but not been noticed - an unexpected repair job that had to be completed.

During the summer a crack was noticed in the external wall by the door which was inspected by the architect when he came to the church for its Quinquennial Inspection. We are currently waiting for quotes for this work before the external re-decoration. Indoors the lighting in the main hall has been replaced with LED dimmable fittings, as have the kitchen and outside lights. The passageway and kitchen have been re-painted but, while getting quotes, loose plaster near the toilets was found and needs to be replaced before the internal decorating can be completed.

In September, it looked more hopeful as enquiries for bookings started again, but this

soon declined when tighter restrictions returned.

The internal work has not proceeded as quickly as I had hoped but, with patience, I am sure that we will have a much-improved hall, both for church events and for hiring out by the end of 2021 at the latest.

It seems that other than for the church office, the only purpose for the hall during 2020 has been for the toilets to be available when church services were able to be held - a most necessary asset!

Special hiring rates will still be available for church members - availability can be viewed from the Church website under the menu [Contact -> Old School Rooms](#), or by contacting Liz in the church office. Leaders of church groups are reminded that they are responsible for booking the OSR if they intend to use it.

Linda Poole

DIOCESE AND DEANERY

Diocese

All three meetings of Leicester Diocesan Synod in 2020 were conducted via Zoom. During the year the agendas were dominated by discussion of the emerging *Shaped by God Together* process but Synod also discussed, amongst other things, clergy wellbeing, a revised scheme for Quinquennial Inspections of church buildings, as well as there being a preliminary discussion of *Living in Love and Faith*, something to which future synods in 2021 and beyond will return.

A substantial item of business during the year was the diocesan budget for 2021. Synod ultimately approved a deficit budget of some £500k, something that was necessary to allow time for strategic decisions to be made for 2022 and beyond through the *Shaped by God Together* process. An interim deficit budget was possible thanks largely to the investments held by the diocese.

In the November Synod Bishop Martyn drew on Psalm 122 to reflect on the mixture of weariness and anticipation experienced by pilgrims as they approached the gates of Jerusalem. He believed this was an appropriate image because of the need to pray that we might be the people that God is calling us to be. He repeatedly emphasised the centrality of prayer as the diocese embarks on deciding, and then implementing, an appropriate way ahead via the *Shaped by God Together* process.

Deanery

Goscote Deanery is one of the smallest *deaneries in the diocese*. Rob Gladstone remains Area Dean, and Rothley Church has four elected Lay representatives on the Synod: Wendy Ferguson, Linda Poole, Ray Prince and David Wilson, the first three of whom were elected to Goscote Deanery Synod for the first time at our Church APCM. Alison Godfrey, Margaret Offley, and David Salt decided not to stand for election again - many thanks to them all for their important contributions over the years.

One of the most important aspects of Deanery Synod is the way it serves as a vehicle for the sharing of ideas between benefices and this was a major part of the November Synod, which focused on the above in the context of COVID-19. Each benefice was asked to feed back how it had coped during the pandemic under three headings: one thing that had gone well; one thing that had proved difficult; one hope for the future. There was much to learn from each other; hopes and fears were expressed very openly.

When the *Shaped by God Together* proposals come to Deanery Synod in 2021 there will inevitably be some wide-ranging discussions about future patterns of ministry locally. As at Diocesan Synod, prayer will be vitally important as possibilities for Goscote Deanery are carefully considered.

David Wilson

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Rothley Parochial Church Council (PCC), as set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, is to co-operate with the incumbent, Rev Canon Rob Gladstone, in promoting in the parish of Rothley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Rothley Parish Church:

- offers Christian worship in the Anglican tradition
- maintains a village-wide pastoral care role
- supports the work of the village school through its governors and direct involvement
- maintains teaching and social activities for all age groups
- co-operates and works with other Christian denominations in the village for the benefit of the whole community

Rothley PCC is the guardian and maintainer of St Mary & St John Parish Church, a Grade II* listed building, actively promoting to the general public its significance and history through open events.

In planning and undertaking its work, Rothley PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Rothley Parish Church has adapted and maintained its ministry in the parish throughout 2020.

As a result of government safety measures, the church building was closed for worship from 22 March until 2 August, and again for four Sundays during the month of November. The usual three Sunday services were immediately switched to one online Sunday service broadcast through YouTube from 22 March. Using our existing email network, weekly notices and a full order of service for the online service, including hymn words and sermon, were sent out each week. Printed copies of this document were hand-delivered to the small number of church members with no internet access. In addition, on weekdays Rob recorded and uploaded morning prayers and occasional Bible talks to YouTube. The church reopened, for private prayer only, once a week from 2 July, and from 2 August one said Sunday service was held in the church each week. COVID-19 restrictions meant a maximum of 70 people could attend the service in church, so online services also continued. The provision of online worship was greatly appreciated by church members and analytics show that it was also accessed further afield than the parish.

Church members said the online services helped them to feel connected to the church fellowship. A friendly offer of help to anyone in any kind of need was always included on the weekly news sheet. The volunteers who delivered the paper copies fulfilled a useful contact role as they made their weekly deliveries. Other pastoral contact often had to be by telephone, rather than face-to-

face. We kept in contact with local care homes and sheltered housing and were able to send Christmas gifts. The curtailment of funerals and weddings severely limited pastoral care around those important events.

Closure, followed by tight restrictions, affected our regular contact with the village primary school. Online assemblies have been provided. The Growing Families group maintained its contacts with parents through WhatsApp and held online quizzes and an outdoor Christmas event.

In addition to the online provision for services and Bible teaching, many of the Sunday School, youth and adult groups in the church were able to keep up their activities and contacts online or by email. Although a poor substitute for face-to-face contact, this was still valuable.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in the Soar Valley Community Food Project saw the village foodbank support several other neighbouring villages as well as our own. Church members gave generously of their time and finance to support this ministry throughout the year and the PCC gave additional financial support towards the overheads involved in this use of the Baptist Church building during 2020.

PCC and other committee meetings were conducted over Zoom. We were able to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the church building in October, dispensation having been granted by the Diocese of Leicester for these to be delayed during 2020.

The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are embedded in the Church's procedures and budget for both the church building and the Old School Rooms. Health and Safety is a standing item on PCC agendas. However, these have effectively been overridden since March 2020 by the detailed COVID-19 regulations on the use of church buildings.

The ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan for the church and Old School Rooms is updated annually. Each year we apply to the government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in order to recoup all allowable VAT costs on repairs to the church building. New emergency lighting and a fire detection system were installed in the church building in January 2020. Faculty permission was obtained for improvements to our audio-visual provision in the church, including the installation of eight LED screens and a video camera, as well as the addition of dimmer switches on the main lights. This work was undertaken in September 2020. The Quinquennial Inspection of the church building was carried out in October, with only a number of relatively small repairs highlighted for attention during the next five years.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is given appropriate priority and is a standing item on PCC agendas.

An indication of the scale and importance of the contribution made by volunteers to the work of Rothley Parish Church is evident in the narrative reports of church activities which form the first part of this Annual Report. Their commitment during this unexpectedly difficult year has been exceptional, as has that of our employees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial commitment of our congregation, as well as healthy accumulated reserves, have seen us end 2020 with a surplus. Income was only 2% under budget for the year, while expenditure was 5% down.

Rothley Parish Church's principal source of funding for its general expenditure is the regular donations of its congregation, together with the related recovery of tax through Gift Aid and the additional relief available on cash donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

The most significant regular expenditure is the Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester (£96,430 in 2020), which supports ministry across the Diocese as well as providing funds to pay for clergy housing, stipends and pensions. The Parish Contribution is considered to be a gift offered by the parish and the amount must be decided by the PCC annually.

£46,968 of the large legacy received in 2019 has been allocated to projects in the church and Old School Rooms during 2020; £208,969 remains to be allocated. COVID-19 has slowed down the progress on other projects. Our policy is to use legacies for specific projects, rather than to cover general expenditure. In accordance with correct procedure, the balance of the legacy is held in the General Fund until such time as the PCC designates its use.

Having six people working together as a treasury team also provides the capacity to monitor budgets and contracts, and control expenditure, as well as providing good internal controls in our financial procedures. An Internal Auditor was appointed in 2020 and a review of our internal financial controls was completed. A Treasurer's Manual was produced and this will be reviewed annually.

We continue to base the remuneration of our regular part-time employees on the Living Wage Foundation's Voluntary Real Living Wage, which is considerably higher than the government's National Living Wage and is independently calculated each year to ensure it keeps pace with any increase in the cost of living. By accessing the government's furlough, and flexible furlough, schemes, we retained our two part-time cleaners on full pay throughout the year. Our Church Administrator continued to work her full hours throughout 2020.

FUND OVERVIEW

Rothley Parish Church held a balance of £339,327 at 31 December 2020, made up as follows:

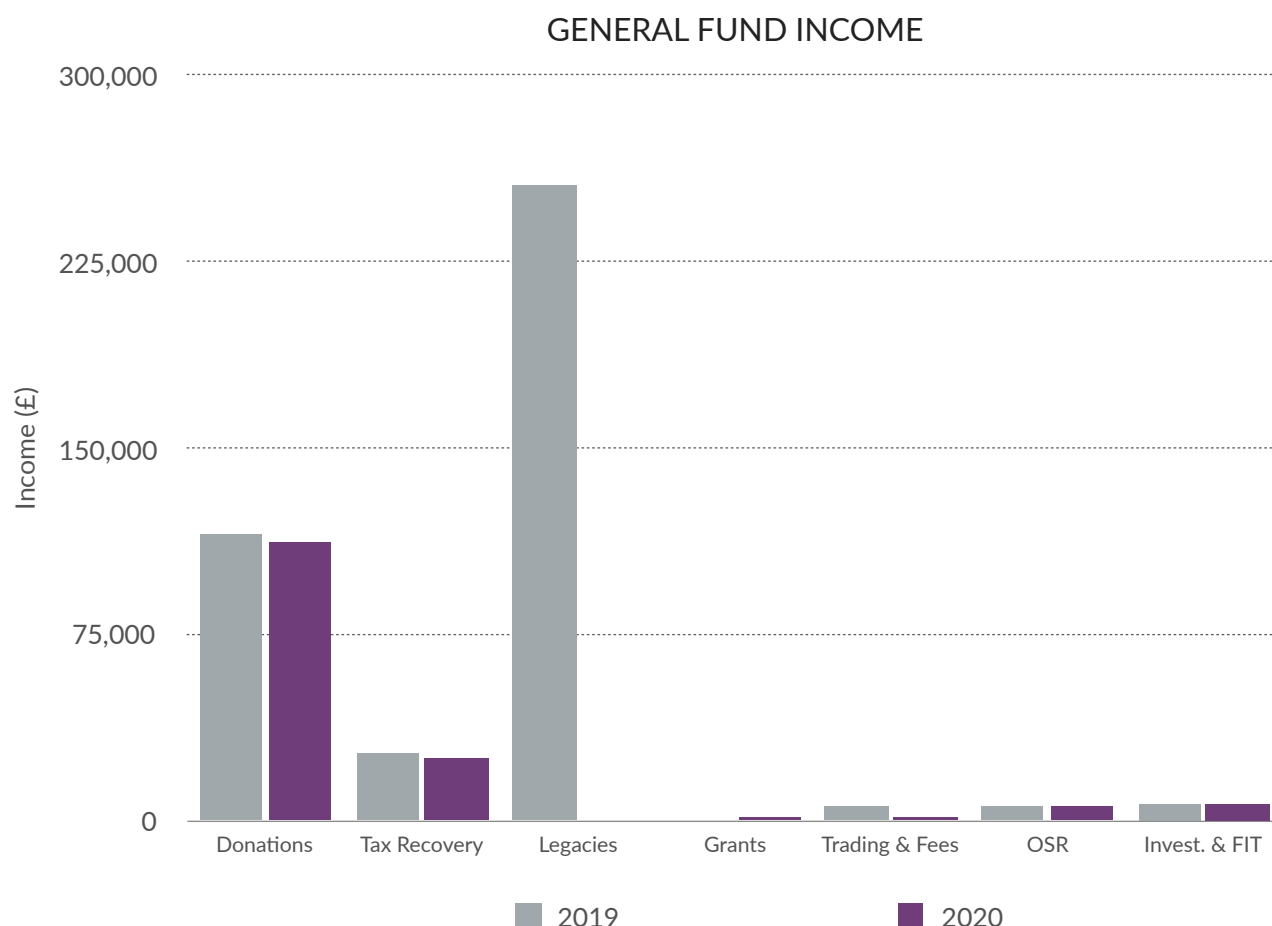
Fund Overview	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	280,590	325,740
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	5,144	4,996
Church Maintenance Fund	10,724	16,290
Heritage Events Fund (formerly Quarter Days Heritage Events Fund)	1,087	1,081
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	9,784	1,325
Organ & Music Fund	14,583	14,081
Wednesday Club	138	55
Total Unrestricted Funds	322,050	363,568
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	9,488	8,431
Church Building Improvements Restricted Fund	2,178	2,166
Goscote Deanery Fund	922	927
Youth Fund	4,689	4,959
Total Restricted Funds	17,277	16,483
Total funds	339,327	380,051

The PCC would like to acknowledge, with gratitude:

- a further, and final, small payment from the legacy of the late Pat Foulds
- an anonymous donation towards the refurbishment of the Old School Rooms

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Donations	111,625	115,699
Tax recovery	25,384	27,010
Legacies	191	255,745
Grants	1,726	951
Trading & fees	1,254	6,191
Old School Rooms	2,597	5,649
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	7,039	6,423
Total Income	149,816	417,668
Expenditure		
Fundraising costs	-	78
Tithe & other awards	14,451	14,321
Parish Contribution	96,430	91,620
Staff salaries/payments	13,643	15,061
Clergy & staff expenses	1,718	2,601
Mission & evangelism	557	1,277
Church costs	13,941	14,594
Church utilities	1,324	1,584
Old School Rooms	5,142	6,412
Governance	480	420
Total expenditure	147,686	147,968
Surplus/deficit of income	2,130	269,700
Net transfers to/from other funds	(47,280)	(16,190)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	325,741	72,231
Balance at 31 December	280,591	325,741



During 2020, £46,968 from the legacy from Pat Foulds was allocated for refurbishment of the Old School Rooms and the installation of audio-visual equipment, and dimmers on the main lights, in the church, leaving a balance of £208,969 to be allocated to church projects, in line with our Legacy Policy. Overall, General Fund income for 2020 was 2% below budget and expenditure was 5% below, resulting in a surplus of £2,130 at the end of the year.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2021

The PCC has set a worst-case scenario budget, with income similar to 2020, but with expenditure just slightly below the figure originally budgeted for 2020.

- Church members' donations have remained strong in 2020, for which we are extremely grateful. Our 2021 estimate is for a very slight increase.
- No budget has been included for trading and fees. Almost all weddings booked for 2020 have been rescheduled for 2021. However, until the severe restriction on the number of guests is relaxed, further cancellations are likely. No estimate has been made for potential funeral fees; only a small number of funerals took place in the church in 2020 as these also were subject to restrictions on attendees.

- Old School Rooms income was down nearly 50% against budget in 2020 so a very cautious budget has been set for 2021.
- Income on savings will reduce as the PCC gradually allocates the legacy, but this is proceeding more slowly than expected because of COVID-19 restrictions; Feed-in Tariff receipts were above budget in 2020, so the 2021 budget has been slightly increased.
- Tithe gifts for mission depend on income received as they are fixed at 10% of the income from general donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and additional relief from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.
- The Diocese of Leicester asked parishes to try to maintain the same pledge for 2021 as they made in 2020 and we have made that a priority.
- A 1.5% increase has been estimated for most expenditure items outside of the PCC's control.
- A surplus at the end of 2020 negates the need for a contingency allowance in the budget for 2021.

General Fund Budget for 2021		£
Income		
Donations		112,064
Tax recovery		25,480
Trading & fees		-
Old School Rooms		2,500
Investments & Feed-in Tariff		6,580
Total Income		146,624
Expenditure		
Tithe & other awards		13,754
Parish contribution		96,430
Staff salaries / payments		15,630
Clergy & staff expenses		2,200
Mission & evangelism		1,451
Church costs		15,239
Church utilities		2,050
Old School Rooms		7,366
Governance		488
Total Expenditure		154,608
Budgeted surplus / (deficit)		(7,984)

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC's Reserves Policy (reviewed in March each year) requires the holding of unrestricted reserves equal to three months' general running costs and an additional three months' salary costs. Any surplus reserves are to be committed to planned expenditure in line with long-term strategy. In 2021 the amount required in the General Fund is £51,217, which includes £7,984 to cover the budgeted year end deficit. At 31 December 2020 the PCC held £71,622 in the unrestricted General Fund (discounting the legacy) and a further £41,460 in designated funds, whose designation could be changed by the PCC if it became necessary, and therefore our General Fund reserves are in line with our policy.

INVESTMENTS

The PCC has opted for a no-risk strategy. The Church holds a 60-day notice account and four 12-month fixed rate saver accounts, one maturing each quarter, with Shawbrook Bank, which runs the accounts on behalf of CAF Bank. The PCC restricts its investment with Shawbrook Bank to £85,000 in order to be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our remaining reserve funds are held in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but has a good credit rating.

FUTURE PLANS

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted, slowed or changed different aspects of our activity.

Plans to improve the church building were halted in March 2020, waiting for the time when a consultation on the plans drawn up by our architect can be held with the congregation. This is the necessary next step before formal approval can be sought.

Improvements to the audio-visual system in the church have been made in 2020, but the full benefit of these may not be seen until the building returns to full use. This work has been funded from the legacy we received in 2019. Refurbishment of the Old School Rooms has also started, funded from the legacy. Some progress has been made in 2020, as and when contractors have been available to work.

Church services have continued in the church when possible, as well as online. The latter have reached beyond our usual congregation. Many of our group activities have continued using various media. Although these have been successful, the PCC looks forward to the time when the congregation will be able to meet together face-to-face once again.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Church, as identified by the PCC, are split into four areas:

- operational
- regulatory
- governance
- financial

Operational risks of Health and Safety, employment and Safeguarding are identified and managed by named individuals or sub-committees who report as necessary to the PCC. Many additional Health and Safety requirements have been necessary during 2020.

Through Diocesan resources the PCC is updated on regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly. The PCC has been able to meet on Zoom for most of 2020.

The PCC recognises that the main financial risks and uncertainties arise from the need to maintain the church fabric and organ, while also investing in the future life of the Church in order to address our priorities. The Quinquennial Inspection of the church building identified a number of small repairs. However, the generous legacy received in 2019 and healthy accumulated reserves continue to be a very useful resource.

Day-to-day risks and uncertainties are managed through the Finance Committee who handle the Church's finances, regularly reporting to the PCC and providing advice as appropriate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rothley PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
- Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is a corporate body with charitable status. It comprises both those elected by members of the Church Electoral Roll and others who sit on the PCC by virtue of a particular office they hold within the Church. The PCC meets six times a year.

The PCC includes a mixture of sub-committees and working groups of the PCC, both of which also draw in other members of the congregation, covering different aspects of the Church's work. At least one member of the PCC usually sits on each sub-committee and reports to the PCC. The sub-committees are:

- Business (which sets the agenda for PCC meetings)
- Finance
- Operations

The working groups are:

- Discipleship
- Send
- Communications
- Church Building Improvements

Each year, soon after new members are elected to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, an induction evening is held to help new trustees understand their role. All PCC members

are expected to attend. Useful written resources are given to trustees as background support to their role.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are spent.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

Registered working name: Rothley Parish Church

Charity number: 1133832

Address: 3 School Street
Rothley
Leicester
LE7 7RA

Trustees:

Rob Gladstone	Vicar (Chair) [ex-officio]
Mike Ferguson	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Angela Neill	Churchwarden [ex-officio]
Wendy Ferguson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Linda Poole	Also Deanery Synod representative
Ray Prince	Also Deanery Synod representative
David Wilson	Also Deanery Synod representative
Liz Barker (from 15/10/20)	
Alison Godfrey	
Clive Jackson	
Wendy Lewis (from 15/10/20)	
Alison Parkinson (from 15/10/20)	
Susan Pinkus	
Jennifer Pilbeam (co-opted)	
Jonathan Pilbeam	
Ros Taylor	
Susan Wilson	

The following served as trustees during part of 2020 only:

Serena Cook (to 15/10/20)
Margaret Offley (to 15/10/20)
David Salt (to 15/10/20)

Bankers:

NatWest
1 Granby Street
Leicester
LE1 6EJ

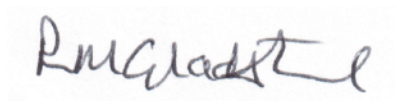
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
Current assets:		
Debtors (Note 10)	2,342	3,068
Cash at bank and in hand	351,847	389,828
Total	354,189	392,896
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	14,862	12,845
Net assets:	339,327	380,051
Located:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	280,590	325,740
(Unrestricted) Designated Funds		
Church Building Improvements Fund	5,144	4,996
Church Maintenance Fund	10,724	16,290
Heritage Events Fund (formerly Quarter Days Heritage Events)	1,087	1,081
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	9,784	1,325
Organ & Music Fund	14,583	14,081
Wednesday Club	138	55
Total Unrestricted Funds	322,050	363,568
Restricted Funds		
Children & Families Restricted Fund	9,488	8,431
Church Building Improvements Fund	2,178	2,166
Goscote Deanery Fund	922	927
Youth Fund	4,689	4,959
Total Restricted Funds	17,277	16,483
Total Funds	339,327	380,051

The accounts were approved by Rothley Parochial Church Council on 8th March 2021.

Signed on its behalf:



Statement of Financial Activities 1 January to 31 December 2020	Unrestricted Funds General Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2020 £	Totals 2019 £
Income:					
Donations	111,625	-	1,440	113,065	120,359
Tax recovery	25,384	-	360	25,744	27,675
Legacies	191	-	-	191	255,745
Grants	1,726	1,350	-	3,076	3,799
Fundraising events	-	350	-	350	400
Trading & fees	1,254	82	-	1,336	9,634
Old School Rooms	2,597	-	-	2,597	5,649
Investments & Feed-in Tariff	7,039	266	96	7,401	6,692
Total Income	149,816	2,048	1,896	153,760	429,953
Expenditure					
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	0	78
Tithe & other awards	14,451	-	-	14,451	14,321
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	91,620
Staff salaries/payments	13,643	-	-	13,643	16,027
Clergy & staff expenses	1,718	-	-	1,718	2,601
Mission & evangelism	557	(110)	1,102	1,549	12,073
Church costs	13,941	33,961	-	47,902	20,620
Church utilities	1,324	-	-	1,324	1,584
Old School Rooms	5,142	11,845	-	16,987	8,945
Governance	480	-	-	480	420
Total expenditure	147,686	45,696	1,102	194,484	168,289
Surplus/deficit of income	2,130	(43,648)	794	(40,724)	261,664
Transfers between funds (details below)	(47,280)	47,280	-	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	325,740	37,829	16,482	380,051	118,388
Balance at 31 December	280,590	41,461	17,276	339,327	380,052

Transfer between funds 1 January to 31 December 2020	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds		
	General Fund	Church Building Improvements	Church Maintenance	OSR Maintenance
	£	£	£	£
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to OSR Maintenance Fund as per PCC resolution 9/3/20	(20,000)			20,000
Transfer from General Fund (Donation) OSR Maintenance Fund per PCC resolution 13/7/20	(313)			313
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund per PCC resolution 27/1/20	(18,396)	18,396		
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated & Church Maintenance Funds per PCC resolution 27/1/20	(7,203)	2,538	4,665	
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund per PCC resolution 27/1/20	(767)	767		
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy) to CBI Designated Fund per PCC resolution 27/1/20	(602)	602		
TOTAL	(47,281)	22,303	4,665	20,313

Location of funds	£		£
NatWest Stewardship Account	3,411	Debtors*:	2,342
CAF Bank General Account & cash	24,928	Creditors*:	14,862
OSR bank	180		
CBF Deposit Fund	238,195		
CAF 60 Day Notice Savings Account	10,311		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver Account	18,677		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 2	18,800		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 3	18,799		
CAF 12 Month Fixed Rate Saver A/c 4	18,545		
Net creditors	(12,520)		
Total	339,326		

*For details of Debtors and Creditors see pages 38, 42 and 43.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accrual accounting method has been used and the financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rothley Parish Church is a public benefit entity, as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as an ongoing concern.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Rothley Parish Church holds both unrestricted and restricted income funds:

- The **General Fund** is unrestricted and may be used for any of the Church's charitable aims.

Some **unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for certain purposes:**

- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for costs incurred in exploring the possibility of improving the inside of the church building
- **Church Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the church building and contents
- **Heritage Events Fund (formerly Quarter Days Heritage Events Fund):** to fulfil our 10-year commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the heritage of the church building
- **Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund:** for non-routine maintenance of the Old School Rooms and its contents
- **Organ & Music Fund:** part allocation of PCC fees from each wedding designated for use by the Organist and Music Leader, particularly to maintain the organ
- **Wednesday Club:** donations from Club meetings to be used by the Wednesday Club

These funds are classified as **unrestricted because the Trustees are able to change their designation if thought necessary.**

Some funds are restricted because their use is limited by the intentions of the donors:

- **Children & Families Restricted Fund:** donations and grant income specifically for ministry among children and families in the parish
- **Church Building Improvements Fund:** for specific donations for the Church Building Improvements project
- **Goscote Deanery Fund:** funds under the control of Goscote Deanery Synod and required to be held under the care of the Area Dean's Church
- **Youth Fund:** donations and grant income for ministry among youth in the parish

INCOME

- Income from church collections, donations and legacies is recognised when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the relevant income is received.
- Additional relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is recognised when the relevant income is received.
- Income from grants is generally recognised when received.
- Bank interest is recognised when received.
- Income from rental of the church field is recognised when the rental is due.
- Income earned from the solar panels on the church roof through the Feed-in Tariff programme is recognised during the period in which it is due.

VOLUNTEERS

Rothley Parish Church acknowledges the vital role of its many unpaid general volunteers in carrying out its charitable activities. Members of the congregation assist in ministry, administration and practical tasks.

EXPENDITURE

- The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester is accounted for as a cost.
- Tithe donations for mission, calculated at one-tenth of the Church's income from donations, Gift Aid tax recovered and GASDS relief, are accounted for when they become due.

FIXED ASSETS

- Rothley Parish Church has complete maintenance responsibility for its church building and church hall, as well as lesser responsibility for its churchyard and vicarage. However, consecrated land and buildings, and benefice property are excluded from the accounts by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 and the costs of their maintenance or improvement are shown as expenditure in the accounts.
- All other fixtures, fittings and equipment are written off as expenditure at the time of purchase.

DEBTORS

The debtors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2020 comprised:

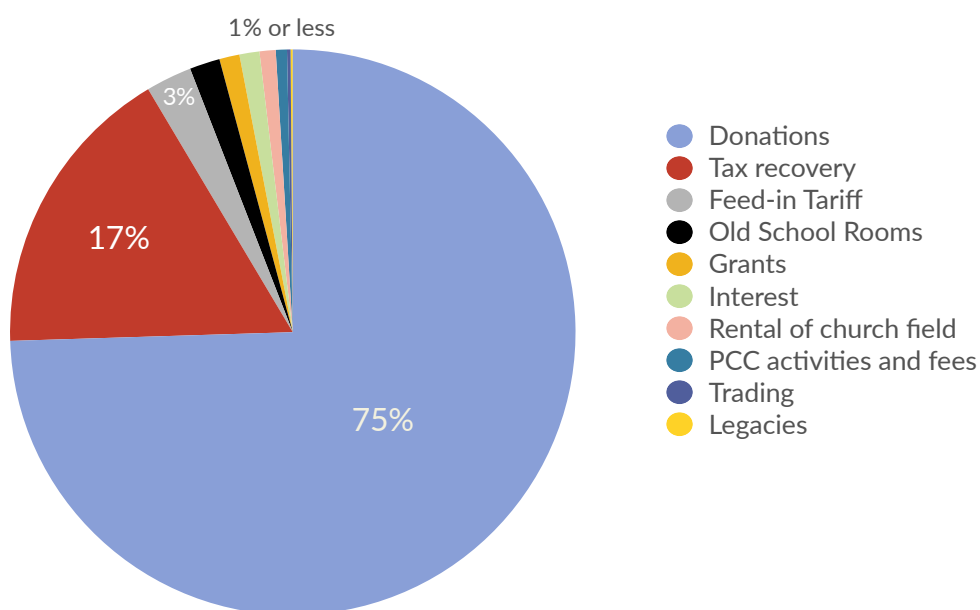
- Gift Aid tax recoverable and GASDS receipts due on donations received in December 2020
- Feed-in Tariff for final quarter of 2020

CREDITORS

The creditors shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for 2020 comprised payments relating to 2020 but invoiced or paid shortly after the end of the year, as well as the balance of our tithe gifts for mission, the exact amount of which cannot be finalised until all donations, tax recoverable through Gift Aid and relief obtained through GASDS, are established.

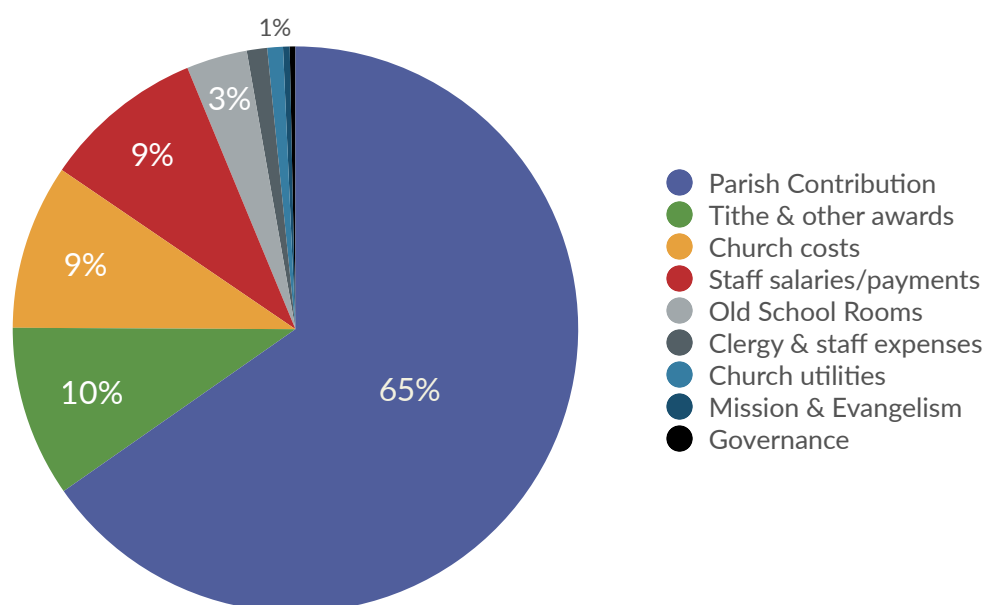
2. Analysis of Income

Income	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations	111,625	-	1,440	113,065	120,359
Tax recovery	25,384	-	360	25,744	27,675
Legacies	191	-	-	191	255,745
Grants	1,726	1,350	-	3,076	3,799
Fundraising events	-	350	-	350	400
PCC & activity fees	956	-	-	956	7,962
Heritage events	-	-	-	0	16
Trading: hospitality, copying, booklets	298	82	-	380	1,656
Old School Rooms rentals	2,597	-	-	2,597	5,649
Interest	1,715	266	96	2,077	1,479
Rental of church field	1,380	-	-	1,380	1,380
Feed-in Tariff	3,944	-	-	3,944	3,834
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total	149,816	2,048	1,896	153,760	429,954



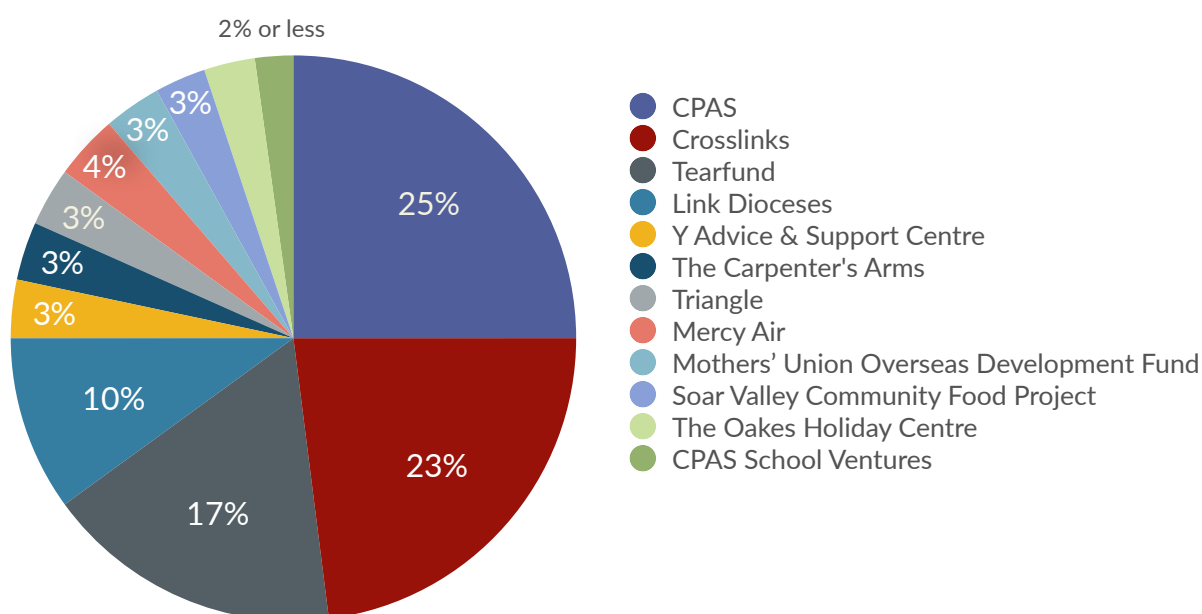
3. Analysis of Expenditure

Expenditure	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	78
Tithe & other awards	14,451	-	-	14,451	14,321
Parish Contribution	96,430	-	-	96,430	91,620
Staff salaries/payments	13,643	-	-	13,643	16,027
Clergy & staff expenses	1,718	-	-	1,718	2,601
Mission & evangelism	557	(110)	1,102	1,549	12,073
Church costs	13,941	33,961	-	47,902	20,620
Church utilities	1,324	-	-	1,324	1,584
Old School Rooms	5,142	11,845	-	16,987	8,945
Governance	480	-	-	480	420
Total	147,686	45,696	1,102	194,484	168,289



4. Tithe gifts for mission 2020

Tithe gifts for mission	£
Church Pastoral Aid Society (mission in UK & Ireland)	3,425
Crosslinks (international mission)	3,151
Tearfund (international relief & development)	2,329
Link Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto, Tanzania	1,370
Y Advice & Support Centre, Leicester (homeless support)	457
The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough (drug & alcohol rehabilitation)	457
Triangle (Christian outreach to homeless people in Leicester)	457
Mercy Air (aviation for humanitarian aid & mission)	505
Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund (in provinces & dioceses of the Anglican Communion)	450
Soar Valley Community Food Project, Rothley	400
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (Christian holidays for children & teenagers)	400
Church Pastoral Aid Society School Ventures (Christian holidays for children)	300
Total	13,701



5. Trustees' remuneration & benefits

One trustee received remuneration during 2020 from employment by Rothley Parish Church as follows:

- Ray Prince, Sound Operator fees for one memorial service and one wedding: £60

6. Trustees' expenses

No expenses have been incurred by trustees during 2020 in respect of their role as trustees.

7. Related party transactions

The only related party transactions during 2020 are those listed under note 5.

8. Independent examination fees

The fee payable to the Independent Examiner for his work on these accounts is £480. This amount has been accrued as a creditor.

9. Employees

Rothley Parish Church employed the following staff during 2020:

- Part-time Administrator
- Part-time Premises Officer for the Old School Rooms
- Part-time Church Cleaner
- 3 casual employees as vergers and sound operators for funerals and weddings

No employees received payments of over £60,000.

10. Debtors

Debtors	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
Accrued Income	-	267
Gift Aid & GASDS	2,056	2,577
Feed-in Tariff	286	225
Total	2,342	3,069

11. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
Balance of tithe	9,201	9,671
Accruals	2,180	1,530
PAYE Creditor	139	173
Agency collections	3,342	1,471
Total	14,862	12,845

12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2020 £	2019 £
Rental income	2,597	5,649
Expenditure:		
Utilities	976	1,147
Cleaning	2,678	2,592
Maintenance	1,369	4,997
Consumables & other costs	118	209
Total	5,141	8,945
Operating surplus / (deficit)	(2,544)	(3,296)

In addition to the routine maintenance costs of £1,369, a further £75, from accumulated reserves, was spent on shelving and storage boxes and £11,845 from the legacy was spent on the following refurbishment work:

- Damp treatment in hallway
- Repair of one wall in the yard
- Repair and restoration of windows and doors
- Upgrading of lighting in hall, kitchen and outside
- Painting of kitchen and passageway

Rental income was reduced by half in 2020 as COVID-19 restrictions prevented use of the hall for most of the year, both by church groups and outside hirers.

13. Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund

Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Bank Interest	78	14
Total income:	78	14
Expenditure:		
Non-routine repairs	11,770	2,422
Staff salaries & payments	75	111
Office computer upgrade	87	-
Total expenditure	11,932	2,533
Surplus/(Deficit)	(11,854)	(2,519)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	20,000	
Transfer from General Fund (Donation)	313	
Balance brought forward at 1 January	1,326	3,845
Balance at 31 December	9,785	1,326

At its meeting on 9th March 2020, the PCC agreed to allocate £20,000 from the legacy to the Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund to undertake a refurbishment of the hall and yard. Good progress has been made during 2020 (see Note 12).

14. Church Building Improvements Fund

Church Building Improvements Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Bank interest	38	52
Total income:	38	52
Expenditure:		
Research visit	-	95
Audio-visual equipment	21,504	1,220
Architect's fees	690	4,300
Total expenditure	22,194	5,615
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,156)	(5,563)
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	22,303	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	4,995	10,558
Balance at 31 December	5,142	4,995

£22,303 was transferred from the legacy balance held in the General Fund to cover the cost of the audio-visual system.

15. Church Maintenance Fund

Church Maintenance Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	1,038	363
Bank interest	60	37
Total income:	1,098	400
Expenditure:		
Non-routine repairs	11,328	3,917
Total expenditure	11,328	3,917
Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,230)	(3,517)
Transfer from General Fund (accumulated surplus)	-	16,190
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	4,665	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	16,289	3,616
Balance at 31 December	10,724	16,289

£4,665 was transferred from the legacy balance held in the General Fund to cover the cost of the installation of dimmers on the main lights in the church building.

16. Organ & Music Fund

Organ & Music Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Donations to replace loan to Handbell Ringers	-	1,000
Tax recovery on donations	-	250
Grants	312	2,070
Fundraising events by Handbell Ringers	350	400
PCC wedding fees	-	2,064
Bank interest	82	71
Total income:	744	5,855
Expenditure:		
Church costs	243	1,994
Total expenditure	243	1,994
Surplus/(Deficit)	501	3,861
Balance brought forward at 1 January	14,080	10,219
Balance at 31 December	14,581	14,080

During 2020 Rothley Handbell Ringers repaid the final instalment of the loan made from this fund in 2018 to enable them to purchase a set of two octave chromatic handbells. The handbells are the property of Rothley Parish Church.

17. Children & Families Restricted Fund

Children & Families Restricted Fund	2020 £	2019 £
Income:		
Donations	1,440	1,560
Gift Aid tax recovered	360	390
Grants	-	415
Activity fees	-	870
Bank interest	51	46
Total income:	1,851	3,281
Expenditure:		
Children & Families Worker salary & payments	-	(34)
Mission & evangelism	794	3,365
Total expenditure	794	3,331
Surplus / (deficit)	1,057	(50)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	8,430	8,480
Balance at 31 December	9,487	8,430

This restricted fund was created in 2016 to hold specific donations for work with children and families in the parish, as well as grants towards this work. A Children & Families Worker was employed from 1 October 2016 to 9 July 2018, including a period of Maternity Leave from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018. Following the departure of the Worker in 2018, the PCC decided to encourage volunteers to continue the work among children and families, using the remaining funds. This has been extremely successful and the fund now supports all our Sunday School, School and young families work in the parish. Some Church members have continued to support the fund financially, hence its buoyant position.

18. Legacy received from the late Pat Foulds

Legacy received from the late Pat Foulds	£
Received:	
Main payment received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment received 13/7/20	191
Total received:	255,936
Allocated:	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audi-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
Total expenditure	46,968
Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/20	208,968

19. Additional small Fund held by the Diocese of Leicester

Chancel Repair Fund

The value of the Fund at 31 December 2020 was £261. This Fund cannot be closed.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St John, Rothley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 that are set out on pages 34 to 47.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



12 MARCH 2021

Scott Bradford BSc ACA
Newby Castleman, Chartered Accountants
6 Forest Road
Loughborough
LE11 3NP

