



# 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.

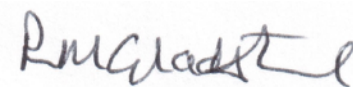
Yet alongside this, there have been gaps - we have been unable to welcome families to baptisms; couples have had to rearrange their wedding plans a number of times; funerals have been restricted to just immediate family; and I haven't been able to spend time in school with the children and their families. 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*

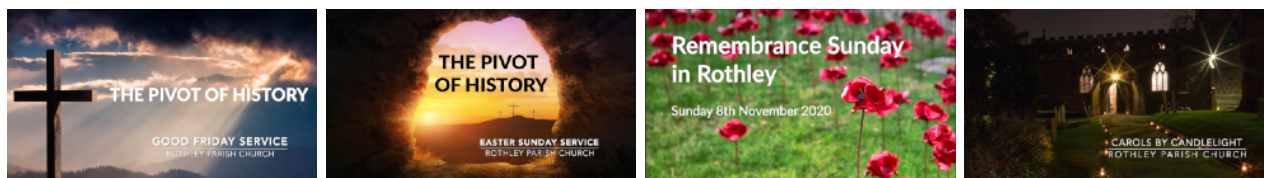
*of the Church is excellent, this Church is well cared for and the approach of the Churchwardens and their documentation, reporting and addressing of issues from the previous Quinquennial Inspection is to be commended, there is nothing major to address in the current recommendations and with the same 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.

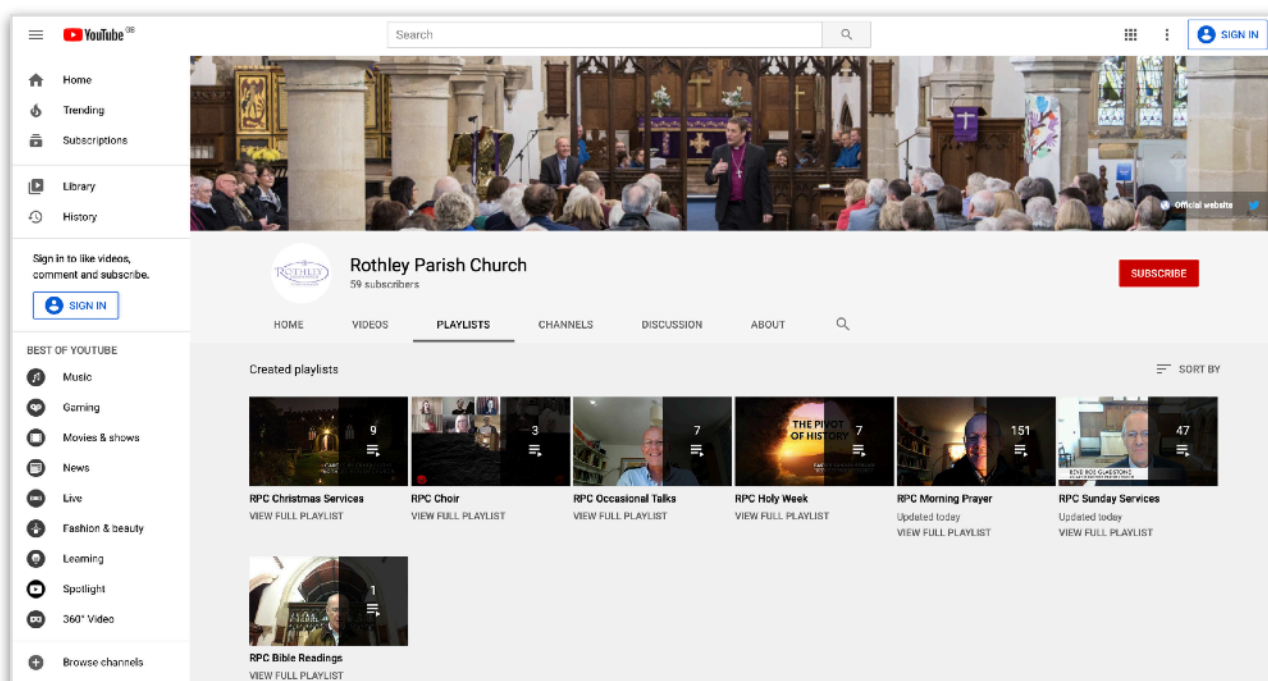
The service recordings can be viewed on a smart phone, tablet, computer or smart TV. Each Sunday service tends to have around 120-200 views on the day, and given that multiple individuals may be watching around a shared device or TV, we estimate that the actual online Sunday audience is probably in the 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

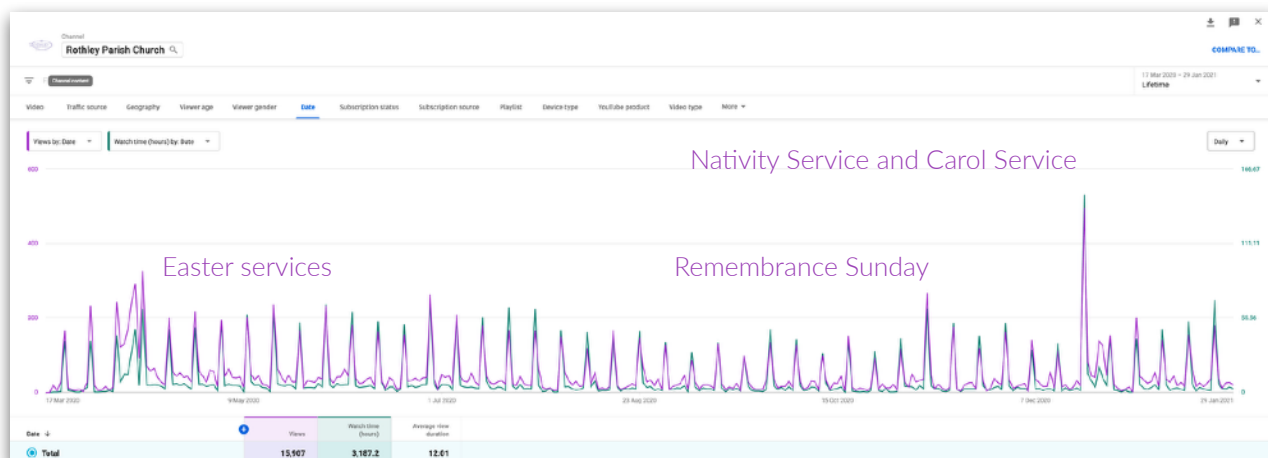


individuals watching these devices is 50% higher or double, this means that the audience for each of these services is well beyond the physical capacity of the church building, so we are reaching a wider community online, in Rothley and further afield.

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

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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 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

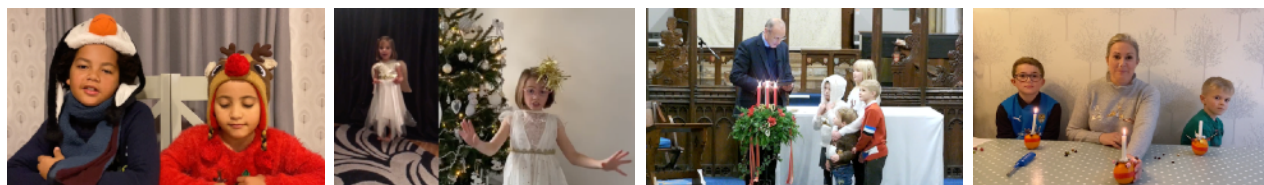
## Wednesday Club

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

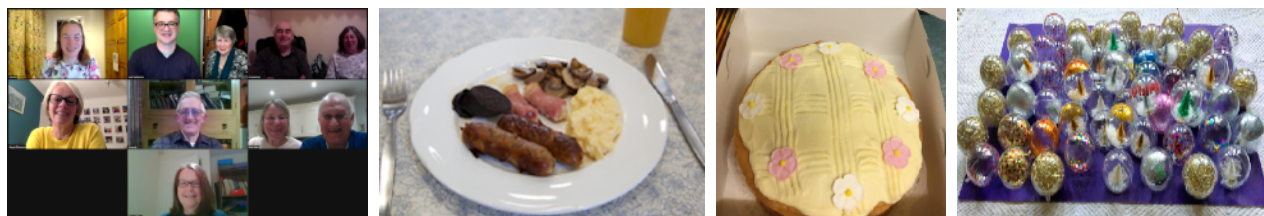
The **Catalyst** group for older youth disbanded in the summer, after many of the group members went to university. Steve and Lindsay Thomason are now starting a housegroup for those of university age still in and around Rothley and they also keep in touch with those away at university.

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.

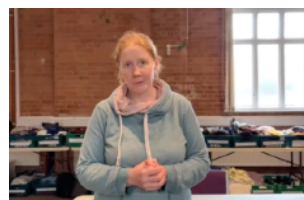
In 2020, owing to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, pastoral care was challenging and at times frustrating. The aim was to find ways to support those in need - those in hospital, sick, bereaved, isolated or feeling lonely due to the restrictions. Whilst visits were curtailed or constrained by 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

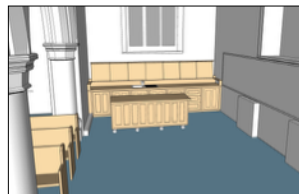
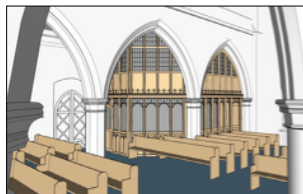
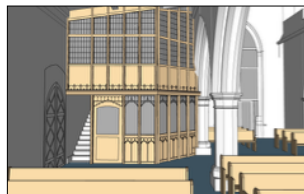
In January we welcomed Heather Dipple from [Tearfund](#) to our 10.30am service. Heather is a retired psychiatrist and has a particular interest in the charity's support for mental health projects in the developing world. After a slot for the children and a brief interview during the service, Heather 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.

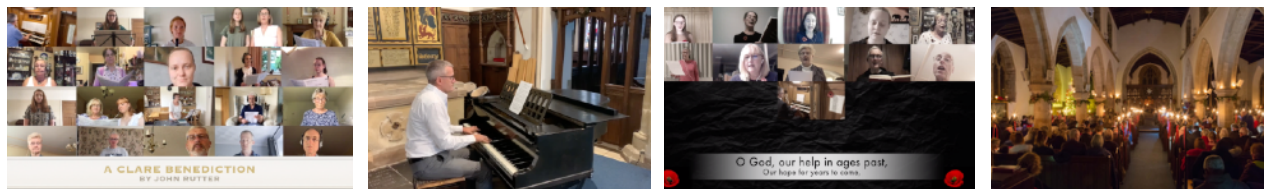
The completed Concept Design for the improvements to the layout of the church building was accepted by the PCC in November 2019. This plan includes improved access to

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:

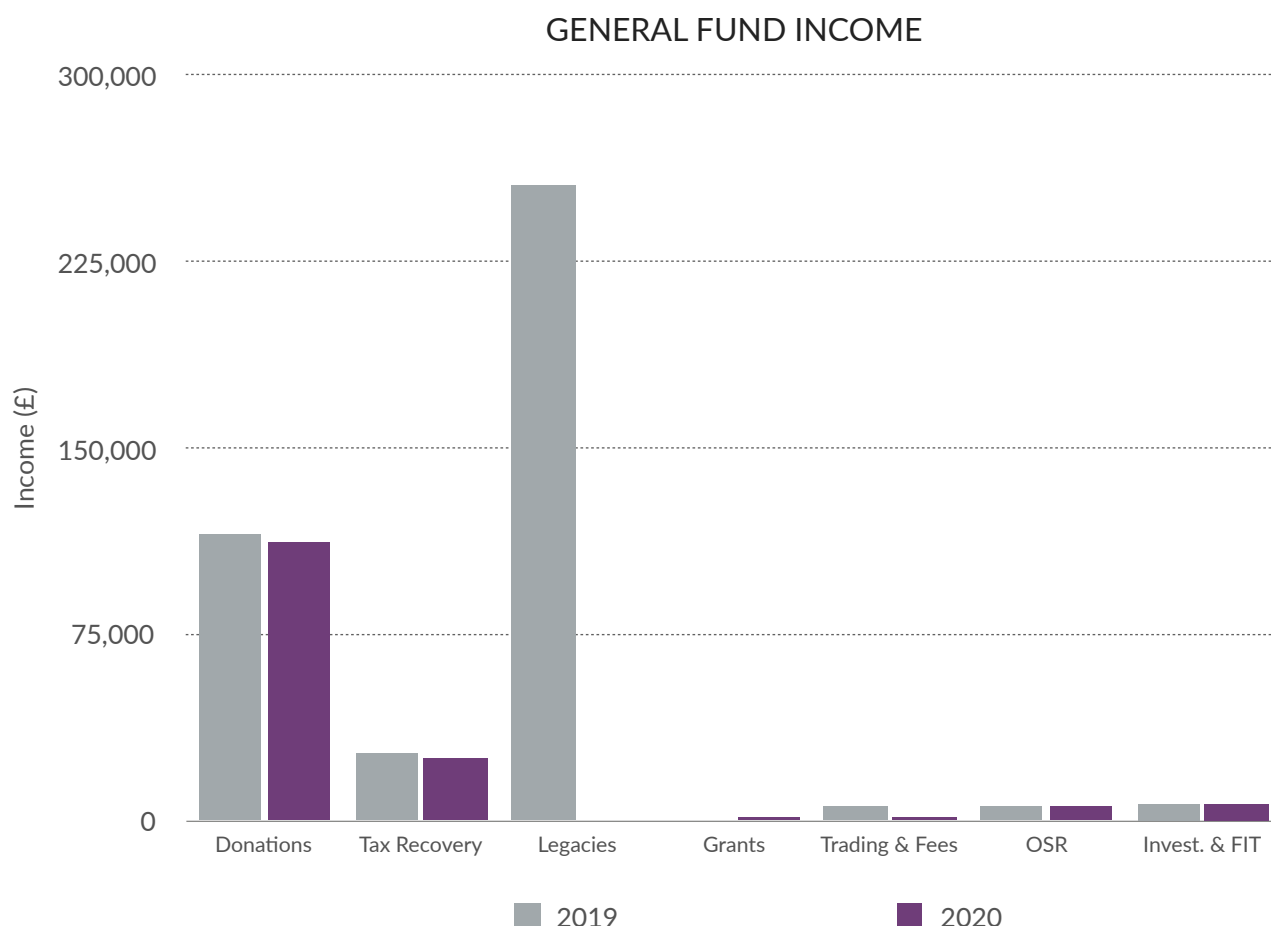
Fund Overview	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Fund	280,590	325,740
<b>(Unrestricted) Designated Funds</b>		
Church Building Improvements Fund	5,144	4,996
Church Maintenance Fund	10,724	16,290
Heritage Events Fund (formerly Quarter Days Heritage Events Fund)	1,087	1,081
Old School Rooms Maintenance Fund	9,784	1,325
Organ & Music Fund	14,583	14,081
Wednesday Club	138	55
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>322,050</b>	<b>363,568</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
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
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>17,277</b>	<b>16,483</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>339,327</b>	<b>380,051</b>

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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>149,816</b>	<b>417,668</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
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
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>147,686</b>	<b>147,968</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit of income</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>269,700</b>
Net transfers to/from other funds	(47,280)	(16,190)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	325,741	72,231
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>280,591</b>	<b>325,741</b>



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		£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations		112,064
Tax recovery		25,480
Trading & fees		-
Old School Rooms		2,500
Investments & Feed-in Tariff		6,580
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>146,624</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
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
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>154,608</b>
<b>Budgeted surplus / (deficit)</b>		<b>(7,984)</b>

## 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

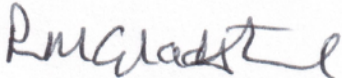
CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

**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 8th March 2021.

Signed on its behalf:





# ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020	31/12/2020 £	31/12/2019 £
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Debtors (Note 10)	2,342	3,068
Cash at bank and in hand	351,847	389,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,189</b>	<b>392,896</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	14,862	12,845
<b>Net assets:</b>	<b>339,327</b>	<b>380,051</b>
<b>Located:</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Fund	280,590	325,740
<b>(Unrestricted) Designated Funds</b>		
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
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>322,050</b>	<b>363,568</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
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
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>17,277</b>	<b>16,483</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>339,327</b>	<b>380,051</b>

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 £
<b>Income:</b>					
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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>149,816</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>153,760</b>	<b>429,953</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
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
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>147,686</b>	<b>45,696</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>194,484</b>	<b>168,289</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit of income</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>(43,648)</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>(40,724)</b>	<b>261,664</b>
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
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>280,590</b>	<b>41,461</b>	<b>17,276</b>	<b>339,327</b>	<b>380,052</b>

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		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(47,281)</b>	<b>22,303</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>20,313</b>

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)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>339,326</b>		

\*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

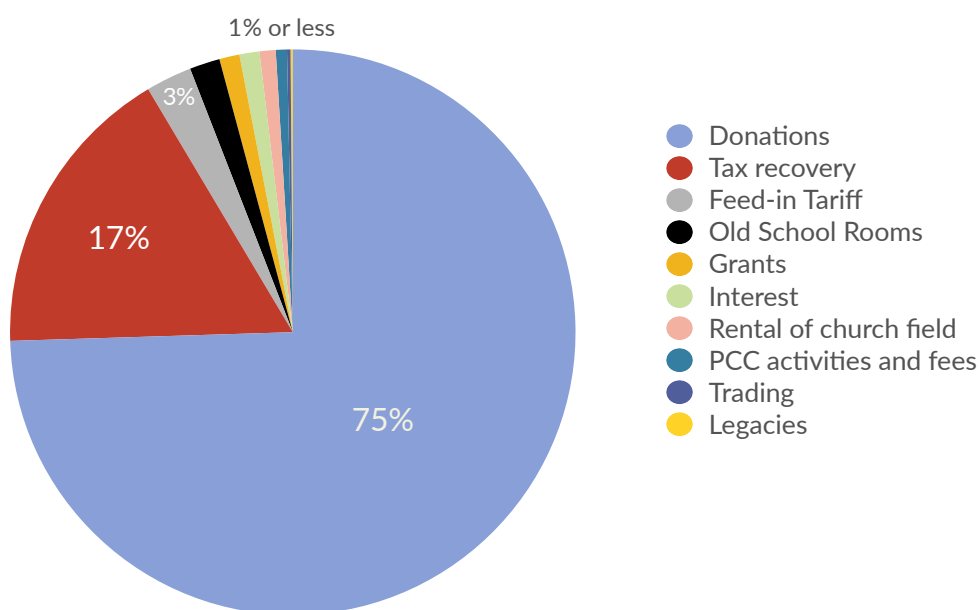
## CREDITORS

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.



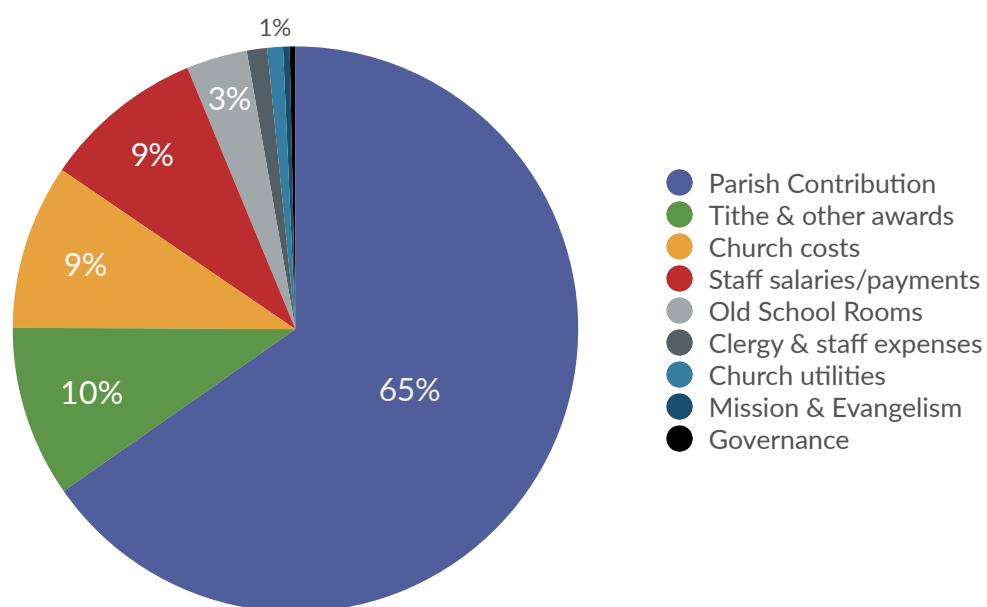
## 2. Analysis of Income

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	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,816</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>153,760</b>	<b>429,954</b>



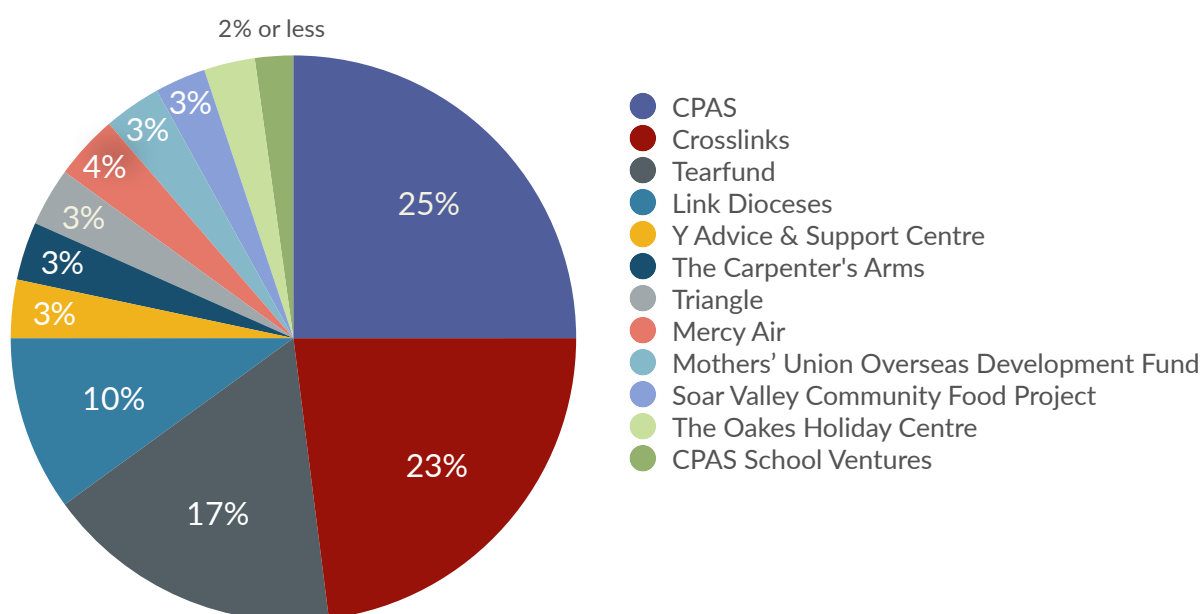
### 3. Analysis of Expenditure

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,686</b>	<b>45,696</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>194,484</b>	<b>168,289</b>



#### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,701</b>



## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>3,069</b>

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,862</b>	<b>12,845</b>

## 12. Old School Rooms

Old School Rooms	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Rental income</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>5,649</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Utilities	976	1,147
Cleaning	2,678	2,592
Maintenance	1,369	4,997
Consumables & other costs	118	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>8,945</b>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(2,544)</b>	<b>(3,296)</b>

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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
Bank Interest	78	14
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Non-routine repairs	11,770	2,422
Staff salaries & payments	75	111
Office computer upgrade	87	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>11,932</b>	<b>2,533</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(11,854)</b>	<b>(2,519)</b>
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	20,000	
Transfer from General Fund (Donation)	313	
Balance brought forward at 1 January	1,326	3,845
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>9,785</b>	<b>1,326</b>

At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
Bank interest	38	52
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Research visit	-	95
Audio-visual equipment	21,504	1,220
Architect's fees	690	4,300
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>22,194</b>	<b>5,615</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(22,156)</b>	<b>(5,563)</b>
Transfer from General Fund (Legacy)	22,303	-
Balance brought forward at 1 January	4,995	10,558
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>4,995</b>

£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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	1,038	363
Bank interest	60	37
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Non-routine repairs	11,328	3,917
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>11,328</b>	<b>3,917</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(10,230)</b>	<b>(3,517)</b>
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
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>16,289</b>

£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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
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
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>5,855</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Church costs	243	1,994
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>1,994</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>3,861</b>
Balance brought forward at 1 January	14,080	10,219
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>14,581</b>	<b>14,080</b>

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 £
<b>Income:</b>		
Donations	1,440	1,560
Gift Aid tax recovered	360	390
Grants	-	415
Activity fees	-	870
Bank interest	51	46
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>3,281</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Children & Families Worker salary & payments	-	(34)
Mission & evangelism	794	3,365
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>3,331</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>(50)</b>
Balance brought forward at 1 January	8,430	8,480
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>9,487</b>	<b>8,430</b>

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	£
<b>Received:</b>	
Main payment received 18/6/19	255,745
Final payment received 13/7/20	191
<b>Total received:</b>	<b>255,936</b>
<b>Allocated:</b>	
OSR refurbishment (2020)	20,000
Audi-visual improvements (2020)	22,303
Dimmer switches on church lighting (2020)	4,665
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>46,968</b>
<b>Balance remaining to be allocated at 31/12/20</b>	<b>208,968</b>

## 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

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