

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual report and summary of accounts 2023

A celebration of the year 2023 at St Leonard's.



St Leonard's Vision and Values Statement.

Our Missional Vocation:

Living for Jesus

Our Vision:

Our vision is: To be a joyful and vibrant church empowered by the Holy Spirit, committed to sharing God's love with the wider community, welcoming partnership with others, so that all may be drawn in to the abundant life of Christ.

Our priorities in mission:

- Building the next generation of church
- Building relationships with people who find themselves in marginal and vulnerable situations
- Building authentic community

Foreword

In 2023 we continued to focus on the priorities which we set in 2022 as we emerged from the end of the period significantly affected by COVID-19. We saw God drawing new people into a number of ministry teams, using their gifts and experience to enhance the life of St Leonard's and contribute to our mission. Of course, we also had good reason to thank God for the faithfulness and perseverance of long-standing volunteers. We will continue to pray that God will raise up others to various roles within the mission and ministry of St Leonard's.

Under Lindy Jones' oversight as Families and Children's Development Minister the children's ministry continued to grow stronger. A small but committed team supported this vital area of ministry throughout the year. The numbers of families and young people regularly worshipping as part of the core church community remained lower than we would have hoped for. However, through Messy Church, opportunities to be present in the local schools, Parents and Toddlers, and Dads 'n' Kids relationships were deepened with a significant number of others in the younger generations. Sally Smith and the Messy Church team, Anne Scothern and her volunteers in Parents and Toddlers, and Carol Charmbury with her Schools Team worked hard over the year. We saw God at work in conversations with parents and children, and in the relationships between families beginning to be deepened. The priority of building the next generation of church will remain a focus as we move forward.

During 2023 we also remained committed to following up some of the initiatives which flowed from our participation in the Diocesan program, "*Building a faith-sharing culture*". We sought to include more sharing of the faith stories of members of St Leonard's as part of our worship together, and to keep a regular time of silence in services to encourage all of us to listen to what God might be saying to us – as individuals and as a church community. The practice of "Praying for 5" was also emphasised through the year as we kept our focus on praying for God to draw people to faith in Jesus Christ.

As a relatively wealthy church we contributed to the wider mission of the church through our Diocesan Share, and the donations made to a range of local and overseas mission organisations. The immense difficulties and hardships faced by all too many, in our own country and around the world, remind us of the blessings we enjoy, and at times take for granted. As we continue to live for Jesus we are challenged to keep looking outwards to the world. As a Christian community we are called to take the opportunities we have to proclaim the good news about Jesus, and to pray and work for God's kingdom of justice and peace.

Our annual report reminds us of many different ways in which we have seen God leading us during 2023. I hope it encourages us to be thankful for the ways in which we have experienced God at work, and to pray with hope and expectancy as we look forward to what God has in store for us.

Revd Canon Tim Pullen

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 26th May 2024

In St Leonard's Church at 12 pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer and Dwelling in the Word
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2023
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Notification of any matters to be raised under any other business (to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary by the previous evening to ensure an informed response)
6. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2024/25
7. Presentation of Electoral Roll Erica Bailey
8. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council (**see blue pages**)
9. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 and budget for 2024 Lisa Smith
10. Appointment of Auditor
11. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church Val Sutton and Mike Smith.
12. Summary of Reports from Team Leaders
13. Report from Deanery Synod
14. Report from Diocesan Synod
15. Elections: There are 3 places to be filled on the PCC for a 3 year term.
16. Election of sidespeople and welcomers and votes of thanks (see white pages)
17. Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting: with the agreement of the annual meeting to be decided by the new PCC.
18. Any other business
19. Rector's review and closing prayers Tim Pullen

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ending 31st December 2022.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 23 April 2023 in St Leonard's Church Community Centre, Wollaton at 12.00 pm. (*unconfirmed*)

Presenting: Tim Pullen (in the chair) and Ian Hall.

Attendees: A copy of the register of the 36 attendees is available on request.

Minute taking: Gillian Moore.

Documents provided included hard copies of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022 (also available in large print).

A1/23. Opening prayer.

Tim Pullen (TP) greeted everyone in the community centre. There was an opening prayer and then TP invited Malcolm Stacey (MS) to read John 4: 4-14. Those present engaged in *Dwelling in the Word*.

A2/23. Apologies for absence.

Kate Breckles, Jenny Eaton, Gordon Fletcher, Patsy Fletcher, Alison Hatton, Trevor Hatton, Graham Hick, Hilary Howes, Lindy Jones, Liz Norris, Robbert Norris, Sarah Norris, Peter Price, Audrey Prudham, Derek Prudham, Lisa Smith, Mike Smith, Rosemay Summers, Noreen Thomas, Emma Twissell, Kevin Twissell, Jan Walsh, Philip and Alison Brooks

A3/23. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2022.

The minutes were read and approved. The Rector will sign the minutes after the meeting.

A4/23. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.

A5/23. Any other business.

David Martin (DM) wished to raise an item on thanking those who gift monies to St. Leonards and how communications might be improved in outlining how those gifts are used. This was considered under item 9 of the agenda – Financial Statements.

A6/23. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2023/2024.

Election of Church Wardens to serve to the end of May 2024. Two nominations have been received.

Val Sutton, proposed Hilary Howes, seconded by Carol Charmbury. All in favour (36).

Mike Smith, proposed by Sally Smith, seconded by Lindy Jones. All in favour (36).

TP thanked Mike Smith (MS) and Val Sutton (VS) for all their work as churchwardens during a disruptive and challenging period. VS was also thanked for her work on the Annual Report in the absence of an Hon. Secretary. MS was thanked for his work on safeguarding.

A7/23 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Erica Bailey (EB) provided the following update on the Electoral Roll:

At the APCM 2022, there were 292 people on the electoral roll.

EB reported that there are now 281 people on the electoral roll. There have been 14 deaths and 3 additions.

The electoral roll was formally received and accepted by the meeting.

TP thanked EB for all her work in keeping the roll up to date.

TP noted the sad loss of so many long-standing members of St. Leonard's close community. He acknowledged their legacy and though we are saddened by the loss of so many familiar faces, TP reminded those present that those individuals are not lost to us but are resting in peace and will rise in glory.

A8/23. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council.

The post of Hon. Secretary is currently vacant. VS kindly put together this entry for the Annual Report.

The report of the Hon. Secretary is on page 2 of the Financial Report, there were no comments.

David Martin (DM) asked for clarification on the acronym SCART. TP confirmed that this refers to the Standing Committee and Resources Team (SCART). TP also provided a summary of the work undertaken by this group and its interface with the PCC.

TP thanks VS for putting this entry together. It was confirmed that minutes from meetings will be made available on the St. Leonard's website. Members were reminded that these remain unconfirmed until received and approved at the subsequent meeting of either the PCC or SCART as appropriate.

A9/23. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022 and budget for 2023.

The full accounts to the end of 2022 are to be found on page 3 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements document drawn up by accountants, Haines Watt. They have been checked and approved by the PCC and sent to the Diocese. Ian Hall (IH) reported the following:

The aftermath of the pandemic continues to have an influence on the financial position of all churches. The most obvious direct effect has been a small reduction in our income compared with maximum pre-pandemic levels, although the reduction is less than has been seen by many charities. Encouragingly, income to the community centre recovered in 2022 to pre-pandemic levels. As described in last year's report, the Diocese provided a one-off £20,000 discount on our parish share for 2021, to offset the reduced income seen by the community Centre in 2020, and this means that

the reported overall financial position for 2021 was stronger than would otherwise have been the case: however, there was no reduction in parish share for 2022.

The after-effects of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and continued uncertainty after Brexit made this a difficult year for the markets and resulted in a significant fall in the value of our investments by around £18,000. One would expect this to be reversed in the medium term, but the within year fall has obviously affected the overall financial position at year end. Budget against 2022 forecast In 2021 we paid the set parish share in full, but this included a £20,000 one-off reduction as mentioned above. The total paid in 2021 was therefore £95,940. In 2022 we again paid the parish share in full, the amount though now being £116,196.

In 2022 regular giving remained relatively stable with only a slight reduction (~£1800) compared with the fall of around £15,000 seen in 2020/1. Total income (excluding investments) for 2022 was significantly higher than in 2021 at £231,524 (£193,925 in 2021), due to the recovery in the Community Centre income position, some legacy income and a substantial donation made within year. As discussed above, the total value of our investments fell in 2022 by just over £18,000, which has a marked effect on our overall position as we had a substantial increase in value in investments in 2021 of around £20,000 (i.e., an overall difference of >£38,000 between years). Total expenditure during 2022 rose compared with 2021 to £233,404 (£210,973 in 2021), the vast majority of the increase being explained by the return of the parish share to the undiscounted rate. During 2022 we appointed a Family and Children's development worker which will obviously increase our future salary bill. Otherwise, expenditure in general was in line with the budget.

The 2022 accounts continue to be influenced by the particularly large legacy of £237,959 which came in during 2016 and 2017. The PCC has previously designated £100,000 from this for use over the next few years to support mission, which is in addition to the support already provided to the audio-visual upgrade undertaken in 2018 and 2019. The significant amount of this funding currently remaining in our reserves continues to distort the overall picture. The recent appointment of the Family and Children's development worker will in time utilise part of this funding, although we have also benefited from a specific donation to help support this post.

The net effect of all the factors discussed above was that there was a reduction in overall funds to £909,182 at the end of 2022 compared with £929,448 at the end of 2021. The PCC has maintained registration with the Charity Commission (Charity Number 1134834).

The budget we have set for 2023 shows a continuing significant shortfall, which will have to be supported from reserves unless we receive unpredictable income, but the alternative of cutting activities would probably only further worsen the income position in the longer term. The budget for 2023 is based on the 2022 budget. We have continued to take a cautious view in estimating income, and we will need to monitor expenditure carefully during the year. Any potential additional expenditure from the designated funding for mission described above is not shown in the operating budget.

Whilst the prospect of further Covid-19 restrictions has receded, the war in Ukraine is likely to continue to bring volatility to stock markets. Church services and other activities have gradually increased, and we expect activity in the Community Centre to remain strong during the rest of the year, but income from fund raising events remains low. Otherwise, the main risks for 2023 as in

previous years are increased expenditure on unplanned maintenance and further reduction in planned giving income. Ongoing lead thefts always remain a risk although we continue to mitigate this through a managed security system.

IH reported that this is his final Treasurer's report and he wished his successor Lisa well in her new role: he is very grateful for her taking over the reins. He thanked everyone who has helped with the finances over the past year and indeed the many other years in which he has been involved with the church finances. IH reported that he has continued to receive fantastic support from the clergy and everyone else involved in the financial running of the church and Community Centre. In particular, Roger Alton has worked closely with the Community Centre team to manage the Centre's finances. David Martin has now handed over his role as planned giving secretary, which has been taken on by Liz Norris as part of her work as finance administrator. He expressed huge thanks to David for all his support over the years. The parish office and Community Centre staff have continued to be very supportive. He also thanked Tim Pullen and the Deanery for all their support. He particularly thanked Liz Norris for all her hard work in ensuring things run efficiently. Finally, he added a heartfelt thanks to all in St Leonard's with whom he has interacted over the years. He has received the strongest support from all involved with St Leonard's which has made the job of being Treasurer so much easier than it otherwise would have been.

Questions were invited from the floor.

Barbara Lynes (BL) asked if there was a particular reason that the Family and Children budget is recorded separately from the main budget. IH noted that at the time the situation surrounding the budget was evolving but agreed that 2023 might be a good time to integrate this into the main budget.

Andy Holbrook (AH) asked where the large legacy rests in the accounts. IH responded by confirming that it rests within 'reserves' in the accounts. Malcom Stacey (MSt) asked how people might make financial donations electronically. TP reported that this is in hand and a contactless terminal is on order.

Elaine Thompson (ETH) sought reassurance that monies held in the church bank accounts are secure and protected under the FSCS limits. IH noted that the monies are in secure accounts but agreed that there is a low risk for sums outwith the FSCS limit.

DM asked how those who gift monies to St. Leonard's are thanked and kept informed about how the monies are used. TP reported that the PCC is planning to issue a finance newsletter thanking regular givers to St Leonard's for their support and updating them on how the church finances are being deployed to support mission and ministry. This will also be used as an opportunity to ask people to confirm or update their eligibility for GIFT AID.

IH proposed that the APCM formally receive the accounts.

Agreed unanimously (36).

A10/23. Appointment of Auditor.

IH proposed that we continue with Haines Watt.

Agreed unanimously (36).

TP gave heartfelt thanks for all the work Ian had undertaken during his time as treasurer at St. Leonards. Those in attendance applauded IH for his selfless dedication to the role and wished him well for the future.

A11/23. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.

The Church Wardens' report on the fabric is in the Annual Report at page 12. It was noted that there is a minor typo, the heading should read 2022 not 2018. This will be amended.

TP thanked all who worked on fabric related considerations and reported that a heating specialist company is providing a report to inform the PCC's approach to heating and environmental related challenges associated with the church buildings.

A12/23. Summary of reports from Team Leaders.

Team Leaders' reports: in the Annual Report at page 13. TP thanked the team leaders, Community Centre Management Team and all those involved at whatever level for their work in maintaining mission and ministry activity where possible. It was noted in response to a query from BL that some areas which provided excellent service were not covered in the report. TP confirmed that this was regrettable, but entries relied upon reports being submitted. It is hoped that this can be addressed next year to ensure that all voices are heard. TP thanked all those teams for their hard work and commitment, it is greatly appreciated.

A13/23. Report from the Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod report can be found in the Annual Report at page 24. No comments received. TP highlighted the challenges facing many of the parishes located in some of the communities with particular social deprivation issues, and asked those present to pray and seek guidance from God to find a way to meet these challenges.

A14/23. Report of the Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Synod report can be found in the Annual Report at page 25. No comments received. TP reported that mission remains a priority and St. Leonard's is committed to playing its part.

A15/23. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.

Elections: Tim Pullen thanked all PCC members. TP advised members that a number of nominations had been received. They are noted below:

PCC membership* *One Year:

Matthew Green. Proposed by Carol Barber, seconded by Barbara Lynes. Duly appointed FOR ONE YEAR.

Jan Walsh. Proposed by Val Sutton, seconded by Carol Barber. Duly appointed FOR ONE YEAR.

PCC membership Three Years:

Lisa Smith Proposed by Malcolm Stacey, seconded by Carol Barber. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS.

Penny Ball Proposed by Barbara Lynes, seconded by Carol Barber. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS

Roger Owen Proposed by Matthew Green, seconded by Charlotte Bolton. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS

Reader Representative:

Elaine Thompson. (Standing down from the PCC as an elected member and appointed as Reader representative) Proposed by Val Sutton, seconded by Sally Smith. Duly appointed.

Deanery Synod:

Erica Bailey. Proposed by Carol Barber, seconded by Elaine Thompson.

Emma Twissell. Proposed by Erica Bailey, seconded by Charlotte Bolton.

Sally Smith. Proposed by Jo Pullen, seconded by Anthony Wright.

TP thanked those who had agreed to stand and those continuing in post. TP also thanked John Withers and Kate Breckles who are standing down.

A16/23. Date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The meeting agreed this would be decided by the new PCC.

A17/23. Any other business.

None.

A18/23. Rector's review and closing prayers.

Tim Pullen thanked everyone who has been involved in maintaining the life and ministry of the church during another challenging year. He encouraged those gathered to continue the journey even if, at times, the path isn't clear. Jesus will guide us.

Finally, TP thanked his wife Jo for her support for which he is immensely grateful.

VS thanked TP for all his work and support during the year.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Item 7

Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

The year 2023 opened with 295 names on the Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll is revised annually for the APCM and was 281 at the April 2023 APCM (205 resident and 76 non-resident).

At 31/12/23 the ER was 281.

The figure I present at the APCM will be the newly revised ER which will be different to the figure as at 31/12/23.

Erica Bailey, Electoral Roll Officer

Item 8

Hon Secretary's Review of 2023

The Parochial Church Council met six times in 2023 as did the Standing Committee and Resources Team. Key decisions made during the year included the following: -

- Lisa Smith became treasurer after a handover period shadowing Ian Hall after he had voiced his intention to step down in 2023.
- Four new members joined the PCC, but the PCC still has no Hon. Secretary and no representative on the SCART team.
- It was decided that the serving of alcohol at church events will be discontinued due to safeguarding concerns.
- Our Families' and Children's Minister, Lindy Jones, continues to report regularly to the PCC. Her work with our local schools and the wider community is making a real difference in families' lives and bringing more and more into contact with church.
- The new pay framework for employees of the PCC continues to increase salaries in line with the national real living wage.
- The Council approved the recommendations of the Contact Home and Away Team to increase the giving to CMS by 10% and the sum of £7,850 was agreed for annual giving across 11 groups.
- Mike Smith was formally appointed to Vice Chair of the PCC.
- A Heating Sustainability Survey of the church building and Community Centre was carried out. It reported that costs will be extremely high, so it was agreed to reconsider this as and when our financial position improves.
- A device for contactless giving was installed in June. This has now been removed as it proved unsuccessful.
- It was reported that trees and hedges in the Rectory drive and garden were in great need of maintenance. 3 quotes were obtained, and the work was carried out at a cost of £900. The cost of yearly maintenance (£200 for drive or £400 for drive and garden) was discussed by the PCC. It was agreed to ask the Diocese for help with this. Discussions are continuing.
- A lack of sustainable funding threatens the mission of St. Leonard's. The general pot is running a significant deficit. Ways of reversing this continued to be discussed by the PCC throughout the year. Hence a collection plate was circulated during the

Christmas Carol Service (netting £422-51) and it was decided that a Planned Giving Appeal was to be made in 2024.

There are also two very costly additional factors to consider –

1. Repairs to the falling and damaged masonry around the church building. This is already underway.
 2. Transitioning the church and community centre to sustainable, efficient heating.
- The PCC formally adopted and ratified the two safeguarding policies for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Gillian Moore for her ongoing work as our Minutes Secretary. We couldn't cope without her!

Val Sutton. (Churchwarden)

Item 9

Report of the Hon. Treasurer

Budget against 2023 forecast

The income and expenditure for 2023 in terms of the operating budget has largely stabilised post-pandemic. We have paid the set parish share in full. The amount in 2022 was £116,196 and decreased slightly to £115,944 for 2023. Regular giving remained relatively stable with only a slight reduction (~£900) compared with the fall of £15,000 seen in 2020/1. The budget was set in 2023 showing a significant shortfall. This operating shortfall has been supported from reserves.

Total income (excluding movement in investments) for 2023 £220,802 was improved by the community centre's recovery and continued growth. A generous donation of £12,500 was made to the Family and Children's Development Worker Fund. The relative decrease compared to 2022 (231,524) is due to the substantial £21,000 donation and generous £10,000 legacy income received in 2022.

The value of our investments saw a significant fall in 2022 by £18,386. This year saw a reversal in the markets with an increase in value of £12,966.

Total expenditure during 2023 rose compared with 2022 to £265,460 (£233,404) the majority of the increase being explained by increased operating expenses for the community centre in line with the increase in income; the full year employment of our Families and Children's Development worker (started September 2022); masonry-related costs and the survey assessing the sustainability of heating the church building.

Overall financial position for 2023

The 2023 accounts continue to be influenced by the particularly large legacy of £237,959 which came in during 2016 and 2017. The significant legacy supported the provision of the audio-visual upgrade undertaken in 2018 and 2019. The legacy has supported the significant operating shortfalls of recent years where the gaps were not closed by other generous legacies and donations to the general funds. The PCC has previously designated £100,000 from the legacy for use over the next few years to

support mission, The appointment in September 2022 of the Family and Children's Development worker will in time utilise part of this funding.

End of year position

The net effect of the factors above was that there was a reduction in overall funds to £877,490 at the end of 2023 compared with £909,182 at the end of 2022.

Charity commission registration

The PCC has maintained registration with the Charity Commission (Charity Number 1134834)

Budget 2024

The Budget set for 2024 was based on projections from the 2023 Budget and showed a continuing significant shortfall without a refresh in giving. The planned giving appeal in January resulted in a tremendous flood of generosity from the congregation with 12 new donors and 40 existing donors increasing their giving. The final impact will be known when all the processing has been completed but will have significantly closed the gap in the operating budget. We will need to keep monitoring the operating income and costs during the year.

Risks for 2024

The main risks for 2024 are unplanned maintenance and increasing energy costs. Ongoing lead thefts remain a risk although we continue to mitigate this through a managed security system.

Appeals 2023

Alongside the generous regular giving and donations, there has been considerable support for appeals this year not only financial contributions but also significant time and effort devoted to fundraising endeavours. The figure is not included in the church accounts as the income is not related to church use, however the total amount raised was £20,437 including Children's Society £1,098, Christian Aid £1,350, Christmas Foodbank £650, Ramallah £14,206, Refugee Roots £1,946 and Tearfund Nepal £1,187.

Final Comments

This is my first year as Treasurer. I am incredibly grateful for my predecessor Ian's inspiring example of 20 years of faithful service in overseeing the financial affairs of the church, managing risk, communicating information to clergy and PCC to support them in their responsibility of stewardship. In addition to guiding us through the recent pandemic, he has made a significant impact through many projects that have greatly benefitted both the church and our wider community during his tenure. I would like to also thank Ian for the very generous giving of his time and wisdom to fully support the hand-over.

I would like to thank everyone who is involved in the financial running of the church and Community Centre. In particular, Roger Alton works closely with the Community Centre team as their treasurer to manage the Centre's finances. I would like to thank Tim and the Deanery for all their support over the years. Finally, I would like to thank Liz for her diligence and all her hard work as finance

administrator. This year she took on additional responsibilities as the planned giving secretary. Furthermore, I greatly appreciated the tremendous amount of help she has given me during my onboarding.

Lisa Smith
Honorary Treasurer
May 14th 2024

Item 11

Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2023

It has been quite a busy year for the church this year with a number of issues to be resolved. Whilst a churchwarden's perennial favourite, damp, has still been rising to some extent it seems that the work carried out by Trevor last year has limited the ingress about as well as can be expected. But if the waters are not coming from without then they sometimes come from within, with leaks from toilets and sink units all adding to the fun.

As for the rest of the building, in an effort not to be left out, it has been falling down at regular intervals: ceiling tiles, stonework – in multiple locations - and recently an organ pipe. This has involved quite a few visits by our architect, and Val and I are extremely grateful for the amount of time that Roger Howes has invested liaising with him and helping to resolve these challenges. We are hoping that the rest of 2024 will be a period of more stability!

The substantial repairs to the building have resulted in large costs which are squeezing our finances and forcing the PCC to make difficult decisions about where money can and can't be spent. This has been compounded by the approximate doubling of our utility bills as we slipped from the original fixed rate. This continues to raise the question of long-term sustainability in terms of both our finance and environmental responsibility. We have begun to take steps to address these but, on both fronts, know we need some big changes. In amongst all this very practical and, if we are honest rather mundane stuff, we need to remind ourselves why we care. The building is not an end in itself, but is an important way in which we support community and release ministry. Things that have enduring value. We are thankful for the resources in both time and money that keep us moving forwards. I have mentioned Trevor and Roger already, but we would also like to thank the many who put in time throughout the year to decorate the church, welcome visitors and make St Leonards a great community. We are very grateful for you all.

Mike Smith and Val Sutton.

Item 12

SUMMARY OF TEAM REPORTS 2023

These reports come from each group reflecting on where God has been at work in the past year to enable them to work towards the St Leonard's Priorities. All activities in the church are overseen by the PCC.

Contact Home and Away

In some ways 2023 was a difficult year because two of our members, Wendy Sutton-Pryce and Jan Walsh, both left our group due to house moves. However, we have been fortunate to recruit Ros Johnson, recently moved to Wollaton, who has experience in her previous church of planning giving to worldwide mission and local charities. Our group still only consists of four, and so we need one or two more people.

As in previous years, we thank God for the continued generosity and prayerful support of our congregation in giving to our seasonal appeals. In 2023 these were: Lent (Refugee Roots – a local charity helping refugees in the Nottingham area), May (Christian Aid Week for the people of Malawi), Harvest (Tear Fund equipping farmers in Nepal) and Christmas (Children's Society). In addition to this there was a special appeal for St Andrews in Ramallah in the West Bank, where the church is without heating. This is to support and encourage Father Fadi and the Christian community there, who are living in very difficult circumstances.

Our CMS mission partners were on sabbatical in the UK last summer and a highlight of the year was a visit from one of them. This was arranged to be at a less structured service, where there was plenty of time for them to describe their work, how God is using them and for the congregation to have time to speak with them. We also realised that they, too, are feeling the effects of inflation. Despite difficult economic circumstances, the church has continued its financial assistance for the 11 charities that we regularly support. This year we produced a poster for each charity, and promoted these in church, so that the congregation could become more familiar with each one.

Parents and Toddlers

We meet in term time Thursdays, Community Centre. 10 to 11.30am and 1.30 to 3.00 pm. We provide play sessions for pre-school children, with their carers', finishing with story and singing time.

God has been at work providing a willing group of volunteers. Some come week in week out, others help on an occasional basis. We give thanks for those volunteers who've moved on to bigger and better things. The Lord will provide and has provided, when volunteers have moved on.

Bible stories at the beginning of story time are now well established. We've started using a simple introduction, outlining why a story has been chosen, as a way of showing that these ancient stories are still relevant to our lives today.

We give thanks for closer team work with Tasha in the office. We've also built links with Lindy, who has worked with us to provide discos during school holidays, which are proving very popular. We give thanks for our wonderful and very diverse families, keeping us young and sharing in our community.

We are committed to improving our communication with families.

Dads 'n' Kids

We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month in St Leonard's Wollaton Community Centre.

Dads 'n' Kids provides a welcoming and safe place for Dads to spend some quality time with their children, whilst hopefully releasing Mums to have some time for themselves! The faithful and committed team of volunteers set up the centre with a range of toys, games and craft activities for the Dads and Kids. We seek to build relationships through conversations with those who come and signpost links to other areas of St Leonard's ministry.

We have seen God drawing in new families and enabling the team to create a relaxed and safe context for Dads to develop relationships with each other, and to get to know us. God has opened up opportunities for the team to have conversations about the life of the church and to speak about Christian faith. We believe that God has been at work in the growing positive view of the place of the Christian church in the life of the community. Our hope and prayer is that this might share the way God opens up the door to faith for those who come.

To seek to find practical ways of enabling those who come to find out more about Christian faith and become a part of the church community.

We always need team members with a heart to see families come to faith in Christ – particularly through developing links with the Dads who come along. We also need to work out what pathways we could offer to help those who come to discover more about what following Christ involves. This might be through drawing on other ministries which seek to reach out to Dads/Men, or finding other churches which have found ways of doing this.

Uniformed Organisations

God has given us links with uniformed groups who join us at special services and celebrations during the year such as our Remembrance service. We thank God for the efforts of the Brownies in creating our Christingles again.

Link

LINK continues to reach the parts that other church communications don't reach. Delivered by hand to nearly 400 homes in the parish (and by email to several others) its reach far exceeds anything achieved on line. Financially sound it has recently been able to move £6000 from its reserves to support the work at Emmanuel House which helps those in Nottingham facing or suffering Homelessness and with no recourse to Public Funds. As the years pass we lose readers and LINK needs to be frequently mentioned in our churches to enrol a new generation to provide additional comfort and guidance to our Christian family. Using the resources of "Parish Pump" (when required) we maintain a 12 page full colour edition every month produced by the editorial team drawn from all four churches. Printed locally in Wollaton and now managed by Natasha in the St Leonard's office LINK continues to spread the Word of God and faithfully record the Christian life in our united fellowship.

Wollaton Care Group

Wollaton Care Group has had another busy and successful year. Our clients have enjoyed a varied program of events, including a river trip, afternoon tea and a trip to Trowell Garden Centre which were enthusiastically enjoyed. Our two lunch clubs are thriving and continue to serve hot meals and provide companionship to those attending. We enjoyed two successful fundraising coffee mornings which assisted with the general running of the group. Our volunteers continue to be a tremendous asset to us and we thank them for their continued support.

Foodbank

The current economic situation with the cost of living rising sharply means that the work of foodbanks is more crucial than ever. This is especially true in the area served by the foodbank we support at St Leonard's, namely the one based at St Martha's, Broxtowe. We know that the food is well used, for instance at Christmas when they distributed over 80 hampers. Members of St Leonard's are encouraged to add a little more to their grocery shop and leave it inside the side door of the church. Every fortnight volunteers take this to St Martha's, where it is gratefully received by their lovely 'Hope' team who help unload and offer coffee. It is good to meet their Vicar, Peter Huxtable who leads this encouraging work.

Weddings

Four couples have been married at St Leonard's this year.

WOLLATON CHURCHES COMMITTEE Annual Report for 2023

In July the Wollaton Churches said Goodbye to the Revd Christine Fox, the Methodist Minister. Christine had become a good friend to all the churches and she will be greatly missed. Her place was taken by the Revd Tony Malcolm who has quickly established himself as a strong supporter of ecumenism and has become a familiar figure at all the united events. Shortly after his arrival he led a Wollaton Churches service at Grangewood, which was a good opportunity for everyone to get to know him.

During the year the churches took turns to host services as usual. The service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at Kingswood. This was much appreciated by those who attended, but the numbers were disappointing. The Palm Sunday service at St Thomas More's was excellent. On Good Friday the customary Walk of Witness with the cross ended at the Bramcote Lane shops where around seventy people took part in a service led by St Leonard's. This is an opportunity for the combined Wollaton churches to be seen prominently on this important day. The service at Pentecost took place at St Leonard's and in One World Week at Grangewood. There is a warm relationship amongst the churches and a willingness to collaborate which shows a united presence in the area.

Children and Young People's Groups

We meet 2 or 3 Sunday's a month depending on how many weeks are in the Month. The 1st Sunday of the month is an All-Together service which we encourage families to come along to and we have found this year some families have committed to taking part in different ways with readings, songs, prayers, and AV. The last Sunday of the month we leave free of groups and encourage families to come to Messy Church. On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays (and 4th when there are 5 Sundays in the month) we offer groups for our regular church families. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, we have Sporty Church (Term-time only), attendance has varied from 8-18 each month. We offer Children's Groups on the 3rd Sunday too which is usually organised for those who are in primary school ages - under 5's stay and play.

We have introduced in Sept 23 a new "*Connect time*" for this age group which is a 30-minute session with a song, a story and a craft. We continue welcoming families into church and have seen 3 new families come to church on a regular basis in 2023.

At Church we encourage children and young people to learn about Jesus and provide opportunities to encounter God by sharing stories and role modelling holy habits.

Groups are either held in church or at the community centre. We use a variety of resources from Scripture union, Fischy Online and try to use the Christian Calendar with special services and festivals. Sporty church encourages the fruits of the spirit and helps children to learn about what it's like to be like Jesus, learn scripture and experience different ways to connect with God.

Firbeck school

Since January 2023 we have had a regular rhythm of activity in school.

- Weekly Coffee morning – 5-8 parents attend regularly.
- Weekly talk time for children having difficulties with emotional and social circumstances.
- Weekly reading.
- After school provision weekly from Jan- July 23 and then twice a week from Sept- Dec 23 – this was a well-being club which evolved into supporting wrap-around care when school lost their regular partner for this.
- Assemblies at Harvest time.
- 6 curriculum visits to church including an Easter & Christmas Experience.
- Christmas concert and supporting gifts for the children.
- Support with their winter and summer fairs.

We are very much a part of the school community serving in many ways in the name of Jesus.

We have seen God at work:

- as 3 new families attend regularly.
- as we plan and lead the sessions.
- through our committed, encouraging, and dedicated CYP leaders and helpers who have amazing gifts - the children are always engaged and have fun.

- in our communities and families as we have 15 families who come regularly to children's groups throughout the month which gives us up to 20 children in total. They do not come every week. Sporty church seems to be the most popular of the weeks the children continue to invite their friends along.
- In supporting communication and collaboration with Scripture union, Kick Academy and Nottingham Christian Youth Holidays. We took 4 children away for the weekend for the first time in Feb 23. They had a great time and there were lots of opportunities to encounter Jesus, and to explore and share faith.
- God has been with us as the leadership team has been part of a Diocese-wide initiative "*Building a faith-sharing culture*". As this came to an end in 2023 we have continued to meet and explore ways we can encourage a culture change around confidence around sharing faith and having a deeper relationship with God.
- in our involvement in the Wollaton Arts festival.
- in holding our second Light Night event on Halloween. The numbers were not large but all who came were very grateful to have a church presence.
- in the use of Children's prayer stations in church for Thy Kingdom come.
- as our pool of volunteers grew in Sept 2023 to 10 so we are grateful for the 4 new volunteers which meant we could do more intentional discipleship ministry with the 5's and under in church.
- in the use of a new resource *Energize* produced by Urban Saints which is easy to use and saves volunteers time in planning. This has also helped us to achieve our 2023 goal of developing more focused discipleship for our 8-12's.
- in supporting the Toddler offering by hosting Toddler Disco events in the school holidays. These have been well attended by up to 70 children and 40 adults.
- in welcoming 1000 children inside our church with school visits throughout the year.

At Church we are committed to developing more around our children who are moving onto secondary school. Year 5-9. We don't currently offer anything heading into the youth age and 2024 will see us address this and come up with some ideas to support this age group with their faith journey.

At Firbeck School we would like to move from after school care to a more intentional St Leonard's gathering in school. We are excited to report that this is already in planning as I write this report.

Our mission is to continue to have our regular community events throughout the year which means we have a presence in the community for most of the year.

Sept - Family Fun Day

Oct - Toddler Disco & Light night

Dec - Carols round the pump and Toddler Disco

Feb - Toddler Disco

March/April - Toddler Easter disco

May - Thy Kingdom come events.

July - Wollaton Arts Festival.

Current resource figures:

Leaders: 5

Helpers: 5

Resourcing has seen some growth in 2023. We have been able to extend our offering in church for our younger members. We only ask our volunteers to commit to a year at a time so this area will need lots of prayer to enable us to sustain what we have created in 2023. We still struggle with extra help for events and support in school. We need to find a way to create and release volunteers on a regular basis but only commit to a term at a time so we can make sure our amazing volunteers also get to have a good balance of retirement and serving our church community. Having two or three teams a year who can rotate round would be ideal. Of course, those who feel they want to give more can and always do but I'm always conscious of pressures and well-being of our faithful teams. We continue to ask for prayers in this area to allow us to offer more to our church families and allow space to reach the children and families that don't yet come to church. We are seeking more support with what will become our youth cohort.

A formal and heartfelt thank you from the leadership team to all the CYP leaders and helpers for 2023 we could not bring Jesus into our family's lives without you.

Our resources at Church continue with 10 volunteers to help and support our regular rhythm of gatherings on Sundays over the different activities over the month. This allows most people to only need to help once a month.

Firbeck/School resources:

Coffee morning: Lindy plus 1 volunteer weekly

Once a month church gathering: Lindy plus 4/5 volunteers.

Youth: Lindy plus 2/3 volunteers per month

School visits: Carol Charmbury has an amazing team, but we always need 4-6 helping on these as we also support Fernwood primary with curriculum visits.

Mission in 2024

Family fun day and festivals- 10-20 volunteers

In 2024 we will look into what an additional paid resource might look like after securing some funding from the diocese in 2023 of £20k. This will take some planning and shaping as we know some of this is to sustain the Families and Children's Minister role but we need more resources to enable us to do more, especially as we engage with Fernwood more. We are also building relationships with other churches to work together on shared goals such as youth work. Please keep praying.

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued to meet once a month throughout the year. We have been looking in particular at how we are a community, and how we worship God together as that community. One aspect of this was looking at how we can support those in our area in need so we now try and remember to bring something for the food banks each month.

We always share a meal together and God has been helping us make connections across the tables. Families sharing the ups and downs of family life together. As a team we have been looking at how we can have greater confidence in sharing the Good News of Jesus with the families we worship with, and God has been showing us how to use the activities we prepare to do this more effectively. We make sure we have time to chat and grow our relationships with the families who come on the Sunday afternoons. Families who are not able to meet up in person have a bag of 'goodies' delivered each month. These are received with excitement by the children, and the parents appreciate a friendly welcoming face on their doorstep. Through this ministry relationships are built and developed with all, and a Bible story is delivered into each household each month.

It continues to be a privilege to provide a safe place for families to explore Christian faith together and to have fun. The core planning team continue to be supported by a gift from God of a great kitchen team (including the washer uppers of course), those who turn up to support each month, those who set up the hall for us and a great group who pray for us. Without all of them and God's gracious gifts we would not be able to do his work of Messy Church.

Light Night

The area around the church was lit up again with God's light as we celebrated Light Night as others were celebrating Halloween. It was great to have the wider congregation involved in carving pumpkins with Christian symbols; some new skills learnt there! Passers-by were welcomed to the area outside church and into the building with a hot chocolate and cake. We were able to chat with people who would never normally go near a church and so we thank God for those early conversations that took place and for his presence and light on what can be a dark night. We also thank God that it was considerably drier than the previous year so people were ready to stay and chat for longer!

Wollaton Arts Festival

St Leonard's had a presence at the Wollaton Arts Festival for the first time in 2023. The church was open during the week and those dropping in helped make a community banner which is now in the Community Centre window. They were also able to explore the church and its history. It was great being part of the buzz of activity around this part of Wollaton one Sunday afternoon and to welcome people in to see the building, hear the history and see the bell tower as well as receive a warm welcome. It was a great way of giving people an opportunity to come through the door and experience the love of Christ.

Worship Band

Another very enjoyable year being part of the Worship Band. We are a small band, which goes through changes, of course. Lovely contributions from Kevin's guitar, Christine's cello, and Tristan on keys give a rich variety of sound. Solid bass line, of course, from Pete, who keeps us nicely anchored.

Thanks too, for the support over the years from Trev, stepping away from the band now, but is there when needed.

The tech support has been amazing, with the new kit installed in the centre, so thank you Anthony, Helen and the team.

Much support and encouragement also comes from some lovely feedback from members of the congregation, so thanks to all of you too.

Bell ringers

On St Leonard's Church Bell Ringers – the happy band who ring the bells each Sunday morning to welcome everyone to the 10 am service. We also ring for weddings and other significant occasions. Thursday 7.30-9.00 pm is practice night when we learn new methods (ringing bells in a different order) and try to perfect what we already know. Bell ringing is fun, rewarding and a great team activity. Do come along if you've ever thought to give it a go or haven't rung for a while; you would be very welcome. For more information please speak with Carol Charmbury.

Intercessors and Bible readers

We give thanks to God for the amazing volunteers who come to share His words each week reading the Bible and delivering prayers in many different styles

Flower arrangers

We are very blessed to have the support of 10 gifted volunteers who decorate the Church building for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and we are always very happy to see new helpers at any time – no skills are needed.

Handbell Ringers

Our handbell group delayed restarting after Covid until May 2023. We now have 10 regular members who meet together. Anyone wishing to learn a new skill is very welcome.

Pastoral Team Report 2023

Many of the normal activities of the Pastoral Team that were curtailed during covid have continued, but with several changes. After covid several people did not return to their previous activities having settled into different routines. Christmas and Easter cards were sent to those no longer able to attend church. Welcomers were working hard all year including those standing at the gate, a friendly greeting and a smile were greatly appreciated. Stewards were also provided for weddings, Christenings and funerals. Come for Coffee has been well supported all year and has a magnificent team of volunteers organised and supported by Viv and Mike Chamberlain. Mother's Union led by

Branch Leader Kate Breckles continued their meetings with many interesting talks and activities during the year. MU are always excellent and maintained contact with their members and ensured that people were not forgotten. Church cleaning goes largely unnoticed, but this group functions very well keeping the church immaculate throughout the year. All your efforts were much appreciated. Requests for visits to those in hospital now have to be done through the Hospitals Chaplaincy Service. They have been wonderful this year and responded very quickly to requests. Pastoral visiting and Home Communion continued with increased numbers of elderly parishioners who found it more difficult to attend church. Prayers were included three times a year for this specific group. The bereavement team continued to make contact with those bereaved and the Annual Bereavement Service was held in November. The Lead Links network continued, but unfortunately the meeting to support the leading names did not take place. Mary Stacey continued to maintain the records and thanks go to her and all the Lead Links who maintained the personal contact with people. This was much appreciated. All these teams have people who organise and plan rotas and rely on willing volunteers. St Leonard's is blessed that all these people give of their time and efforts. You are all much appreciated and valued.

Connect Groups

Erica and Hilary: Our group meets once a month usually on a Monday evening. Our venue varies according to which of us can offer hospitality. We usually start with a catch-up on how the last month has been for us and then go on to study the Bible input that we are using. This year we have particularly enjoyed the Bible Course and found it was a refresher but also we learnt new things! At the end of our last meeting the group discussed where we had seen God at work in the last year. The following things were mentioned:

We have seen God present in the ability to be open with each other in the group, sharing fellowship and supporting each other. We have felt God's presence in the way we can be totally honest in our discussions when we share insights into faith. We have learned a lot, both through the material used but also through our discussions. We all felt that we have felt God's presence with us in the worship we have at the end of each evening.

We feel blessed that we have groups like ours throughout the Parish and we would like to encourage people to think about joining a group. This is God at work in our day to day lives, working with, in and through each other.

Jo and Tim: We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday PM at the Rectory and follow the prescribed Connect Group material in line with other Connect Groups. We are currently over halfway through the studies on Romans that followed the Bible course.

There has been a real sense of learning and going deeper with God through the teaching and practical application of both the videos and discussion. Prayer times have varied but there is a deeper level of trust within the group as people share prayer needs and answers. Using different versions of the Bible has frequently highlighted God's word in new ways.

One of the exciting things in the group has been that despite many of the group being Christians for many years, there has been a real sense of learning new things of God and that we never remain static – always more to discover! We shall continue to journey together as we grow closer to God in worship and prayer.

Robert, Liz and Carol: Our group meets fortnightly and have followed the Bible Course and Romans in as detailed and as varied a way as we are able. More recently we have been following St Leonard's sermon series by re-watching a chosen Sunday sermon and have been led by different members of the group in an excellent and thought provoking way.

Our discussions prove to be very fruitful and personal encounters we have met upon our individual Christian journeys are meaningfully shared. We believe this is an encouragement to all who are part of our group to share our stories of faith, how we are blessed and share our struggles, some more poignant than others. We believe sharing our stories leads to valuable pointers for prayer and to pray for each other sensitively using within a sound and safe environment.

Our grateful thanks go to those who plan and lead us each time.

Off the Point

Karen and Elaine: During term time, on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. generally every fortnight. The venue varies depending upon who is able to host.

We are a bible study house group, exploring our faith and offering friendship and fellowship in a relaxed environment.

A prayerful reflection over refreshments during the summer, to consider the future, purpose, commitment and leadership of our group, has ignited a renewed enthusiasm within OTP and we thank God for encouraging us to listen and respond to each other. Knowing that God is working and supporting us, has given us the confidence to readily take it in turns to lead the sessions. This provides a brilliant way of sharing and imparting knowledge in a variety of different ways. We continue to explore our faith and learn more about the bible. During this year we have studied "Unveiled – Women of the Old Testament" and "The Romans Course" by the Bible Society. There have been some challenging sessions and we have valued each other's knowledge of God's word to explore our faith and grow in confidence. We have welcomed two new members to the group again this year and God continues to work among us as we offer each other friendship and fellowship.

We are committed to continue to study God's word and works and grow in faith so that we feel confident in sharing our faith with others.

We have used a variety of providers of material, such as Bible Society, Lent Courses etc and easy-to-lead course material is always welcome. Members within the group are asked for ideas and we also take on board recommendations from the clergy team at St Leonards.

Coffee after 10.00 services

Our time of coffee following the service is always a time when God uses us to share with one another our worries, concerns, joys and fellowship and often a deeper understanding of what God has been sharing with us.

Personal prayer is always available following our service, please reach out to one of the leadership team.

Baptism

Five children have been baptised at St Leonard's this year and three children had a thanksgiving.

Thy Kingdom Come

We joined with Christians across Nottingham and across the world to pray during Thy Kingdom Come in May. There were opportunities for individuals to pray in church during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost using the prayer stations set up by members of the congregation. We had a day of prayer when as a church we were able to devote time to God in prayer and it was great to be able to have people praying in church and at home for the whole day. God's love was shared with the wider community one afternoon as we gave out free cake to people passing the church. This was helped by an event in Wollaton Park meaning there were more people passing than usual, so more of God's love was shared. We were able to explain to some why we were giving out cake and what Christ means to us and had some interesting conversations. We thank God for the increased confidence he is giving in enabling us to do this exciting work. A huge thank you to all who were involved in a fun afternoon and a great week of prayer.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was held on the first Saturday in December during what is fondly called our "*Children's Society Weekend*" since all monies raised at the Bazaar and the Christingle Service held on the Sunday are donated to the Charity. The Bazaar is a happy community gathering as we begin our Christmas celebrations. Donations for the various stalls and offers of help are gratefully received, please see church notice sheets in the Autumn.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union continues to meet on the first Thursday afternoon of every month. We have 20 members and 2 Honorary Life Members. We are very blessed at St Leonard's, so many branches, both locally and nationally have closed in recent years. We would be truly blessed if we could increase our membership, the subscriptions of members in the UK go a long way towards funding vital local and overseas projects. We are a loving organisation open to anyone, and supportive of everyone. We started out as a Christian group to support mothers and families and that remains at the core of our work and guiding principles, but we welcome you to join us whoever you are - you don't have to have children, be married, be a woman, or be a churchgoer. There are different ways to belong depending on what works best for you. Membership of the global movement is open to anyone who supports our objectives and has been baptised in the name of the Trinity. Friendship of the global movement is open to everyone, regardless of belief or background, who wants to support our work. Supporters of the global movement are open to anyone who supports the work we do and wants to be updated with news of our campaigns and programmes.

St Leonard's Community Centre Review 2023

1. Summary

The Centre is running smoothly and bookings are as high as ever, with very few free slots during popular hours. We serve many community groups and individuals across different faiths, ages, and interests. The Centre really is a fantastically well used community-wide resource.

2. Management Committee

The Management Committee continues to meet quarterly. The Committee is made up as follows:- Karolina Atri – Caretaker & cleaner; Kerry Pashley – Office Manager; David Thompson - Chair; Roger Alton – Treasurer; John Tordoff – Community; Manjit Kaur-Jones – Community; Carol Barber – Community; Sonia Bashforth – Community; Tim Pullen – PCC. John Tordoff leaves in April 2024. He has served on the Committee from the Centre's inception.

We are extremely grateful for the many hours he has given, his enthusiasm, and 'can-do' approach. John is a problem solver, and will be missed.

3. Accounting

Our 2023 year-end finances show £58,186 income against £49,254 expenses. These strong results are a result of huge efforts to maximise bookings whilst maintaining the building to a high standard against a very challenging economic backdrop.

4. Investments

Hilltop Audio/Visual installed a fully digitised sound system in April 2023. In February 2024, Hilltop installed the fully automated projector system. User feedback for this has been extremely positive. With these investments, the Centre is absolutely 'best in class' in respect of facility offering.

5. Staffing

Kurtis Brownson left the Caretaker role at the end of January 2024. We have subsequently appointed Karolina Atri. Karolina is familiar with the Centre as she is involved in various toddler activities.

6. Health and Safety

We continue to work to make the Centre as safe as possible for all of our customers. Risk management is on-going, based around H&S exec protocols.

Item 13

Nottingham North Deanery Synod Report

During 2023 we held three Synods:

- 7 February 2023: Renew and Refresh
Our first Synod was held at Christ Church, Cinderhill and we looked at the Deanery responses to the Diocesan consultation on renewing and refreshing its vision.

- **13 July 2023: Vocations and the Environment**
This Synod was held at St Helen's in Stapleford and included the swearing in of some of our churchwardens who were unable to attend the Visitation service in Southwell.
We were joined by Craig Hunt, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Advisor. He shared about the training pathways available in the Diocese and highlighted the resources available on the Learning Hub.
Robert Cleave, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, spoke to Synod about the diocesan commitment to become net carbon zero by 2030 and the various ways it is doing this. He also encouraged churches to work towards eco church status.
- **15 November 2023: AGM and Renew and Refresh**
The meeting took place at St Martin's in Sherwood.
Tim Pullen, our area dean, updated Synod on the renewed diocesan vision that had been shared at the Diocesan conference.
Greg Cowley, the Deanery Treasurer, shared about the change in allocation of parish share in 2024 and the review taking place around allocation from 2025 onwards.
This meeting was also our AGM.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings continued on the first Tuesday of each month at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

This year we have had a number of clergy move within the Deanery and Diocese. Karen Hanford, previously at Stapleford, was licensed as Priest-in-Charge at Awworth, Cossall and Trowell, Emmie Walford, curate in Woven, was licensed as Mission Associate Aspley St Margaret with Christ Church, Cinderhill and Anna Clarke, curate in Woven, was licensed as Pioneer Minister for Students and Young Adults at Trinity Church, Nottingham.

Peter Shaw moved from St John's Bilborough to be Team Rector at Emmanuel with St Paul Plymouth in the Diocese of Exeter.

Sadly, Bridget Baguley Vicar of Sherwood St Martin, lost her brave fight against cancer.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2023. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but we did manage to pay 85% a real achievement in such challenging times.

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Item 14

Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod is the main policy-making body of the Diocese and I would like to highlight three areas where God has been at work in the last year.

The first is environmental sustainability where Synod approved the Diocesan Net Zero Action Plan. The Action Plan focuses efforts on interventions for high-energy use buildings to reduce gross energy consumption and gross carbon emissions, whilst encouraging low- energy-use buildings to take all

reasonable efforts to reduce energy consumption and switch to a green energy tariff. This will have future implications for St Leonard's, where the church building is a major energy user whereas the modern Community Centre is far more fuel efficient.

Secondly, work progressed during the year on the Church's Refresh initiative. The 2016 Diocesan vision of 'Growing Disciples Younger, Wider, Deeper' is to be followed for the period to 2030 by a vision of 'Compassion, Confidence, Courage' and work with parishes on this developed throughout 2023.

Thirdly, the Bishop kept Synod members aware of the national progress on 'Living in Love and Faith' and his stance at different stages of the debate. Living in Love and Faith is trying to discern a way forward for the Church of England in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The inevitable differences in view on this need much prayer and thought from everyone in the Church of England to discern the best way forward.

Item 16

St Leonard's operating budget 2024 (excluding legacies, one-off gifts, appeals and SLCC)

Income	2023	2024
Collections and planned giving		
Collections	1000	1000
Appeals (specific purpose) ¹	1000	1000
Planned giving ²	145000	135000
Fundraising		
Fundraising	2000	2000
Other income		
Fees for services etc	6000	8000
Parent and toddlers	2000	2200
Publications	50	50
Investments		
Investment	5000	5000
Monuments (investment)	50	50
Total income	162100	152100
Expenditure		

Parish share³	117000	117000
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Giving⁴

Overseas	3000	4500
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Home	4000	3500
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Appeals (specific purpose)	1000	1000
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Church costs

Gas	3500	3500
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Electricity	2400	3500
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Insurance	3900	3900
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Maintenance	2000	3000
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Fabric	5000	5000
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Security	1000	1000
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Staff salaries and expenses

Salaries ⁵	18500	22100
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Clergy expenses	3000	3000
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Worship and ministry

Worship	2000	2000
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Pastoral	200	200
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Contact	500	500
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Wider links	200	200
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Mission and outreach	1500	1500
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Office costs

Administration	3000	3000
Account Preparation and Independent Examination	3000	3000
Other costs		
Community centre use	4500	4500
Parent & Toddlers ⁶	2000	3800
Total	181200	188700
Surplus/(deficit)	(19100)	(36600)

¹ Excludes Appeals which are not for specific use of the church

² Based on actuals from 2022. Excludes legacies and gifts

³ 2024 figure for Parish Share not yet available

⁴ Agreed by PCC to be fixed % of regular giving income

⁵ Increase for 2024 to reflect changes to real living wage

Notes to budget

- 1 Any major expenditure on church fabric would need to be the subject of a separate bid against reserves.
- 2 The operating budget income does not include estimates of income from legacies, one-off gifts, Family and Children's Development Worker and St Leonard's Community Centre.
- 3 The SLCC has a separate budget although accounts are incorporated into the main PCC accounts for audit purposes (see note 4 above).
- 4 The PCC has agreed to ring fence £100,000 of legacy income to support missional priorities arising from its recent priority setting work. In addition, we received donations of ~£21,000 in 2022 and £10,000 in 2023 to support children and families work. We have employed a new families and children worker from September 2022, but this salary is not shown in the operating budget as the funding comes out of designated funds. Total expenditure including on costs and associated expenses will be ~£2,000 per annum.

LMKS/ budget for 2024

Annual Giving including Appeals for 2023

Charity	Amount (£)
CMS	3,850
Home Leone	500
Betel Community	500
Christians Against Poverty	500
Cross Teach	500
Framework	250
Messy Church (central funds)	250
Notts Clergy Widows & Dependents Fund	250
Refugee Roots	500
Renew Wellbeing	500
Safe Families for Children	250
Total	7,850

Appeals 2023, including Gift Aid where appropriate

Lent – Refugee Roots	1,946
Christian Aid	1,350 in cash and cheques excluding Gift Aid and online donations
Harvest – Tearfund Nepal	1,187
Ramallah – St Andrews Heating	14,206
Children’s Society Bazaar	773
Childrens Society Christingle collections	325
Christmas Foodbank	650
Total	20437

Contact Home & Away Team – Roger Howes