

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual report and summary of accounts 2024

A celebration of the year 2024 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

Reflecting on 2024, we can feel hugely encouraged by the many signs of God at work among us. Our annual report is a reminder of how many good things are going on that strengthen our community and help us to share God's love more widely. It is also a reminder of how we have been blessed with so many willing volunteers who make this all happen. As we look ahead, we do so with a sense of hope and anticipation.

We trust that God will continue to lead and guide us as we seek to live for Jesus, sharing His love and proclaiming the good news. May this report inspire us all to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to embrace the opportunities that lie before us.

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 18th May 2025
In St Leonard's Church at 12pm
AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2024
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 2025/26
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 2024 and budget for 2025 Lisa Smith
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner / Auditor
11. Reports
 - a) Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church Mike Smith & Mienieke Vine
 - b) Summary of Reports from Team Leaders
 - c) Report from Deanery Synod
 - d) Report from Diocesan Synod
12. Elections: There are 2 places to be filled on the PCC for a 3-year term and a Deanery Synod election for a 3-year term
13. Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting: with the agreement of the annual meeting to be decided by the new PCC.
14. Update on Appointments Process
15. Any other business
16. Closing prayers

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ending 31st December 2023.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 26 May 2024 in St Leonard's Church, Wollaton at 12.00 pm.

Presenting: Tim Pullen (in the chair) and Treasurer Lisa Smith.

Attendees: A copy of the register of the 44 attendees is available on request.

Minute taking: Gillian Moore.

Documents provided included hard copies of the Annual Report and Accounts 2023 (also available in large print).

A1/24. Opening prayer.

Tim Pullen (TP) greeted everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting. There was an opening prayer and then TP invited Mike Smith (MS) to read 2 Corinthians 5 verses 16-21. Those present engaged in *Dwelling in the Word*.

A2/24. Apologies for absence.

Kate Breckles, Robert Breckles, Ralph Buckingham, Graham Birkett, Jenny Eaton, Elizabeth Norris, Peter Price, Anne Scothern, Sally Smith, Elaine Thompson, Emma Twissell, Kevin Twissell.

A3/24. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2023.

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

A4/24. Matters arising from the minutes.

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

A5/24. Any other business.

There was no AOB.

A6/24. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2024/2025.

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

Hermine Vine, proposed Elaine Thompson, seconded by Karen Dinsmore. All in favour (44).

Mike Smith, proposed by Elaine Thompson, seconded by Erica Bailey. All in favour (44).

TP thanked Mike Smith (MS) and Val Sutton (VS) for all their work as churchwardens during 2023. It was noted VS has come to end of her term of office and is to stand down with immediate effect. VS was thanked for her excellent work as Churchwarden over the past few years. Tony was also thanked for the support he had provided in that time. VS responded that it had been the most wonderful job and she had been humbled by the many people the role had brought her into contact with. MS was thanked for the additional work he had undertaken as vice-chair of the PCC.

A7/24 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

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

At the APCM 2023, there were 281 people on the electoral roll.

EB reported that there are now 264 people on the electoral roll. There have been 13 deaths, 11 removals and 7 additions. A full revision of the electoral roll will be undertaken in 2025.

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.

A8/24. 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 10 of the yellow Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document, there were no comments or questions.

TP thanked VS for putting this entry together.

A9/24. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023 and budget for 2024.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements, prepared by our accountants Haines Watts, have been reviewed and approved by the PCC and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Lisa Smith, presented the finance report, having taken over the role from Ian Hall in the previous year. She began by thanking Ian for his two decades of service as treasurer, setting up governance, overseeing projects and steering us through the pandemic. She went on to thank Liz Norris, our financial administrator, for managing the day-to-day financial operations and her significant support during the handover.

She provided a summary of the church's financial position:

- The **2023 actual** operating income of £150,000 and expenditure of £181,000, resulted in a **deficit of £30,000**.
- The **2024 budget**, set before the results of the planned giving campaign were known, anticipated a potential deficit of **£36,000**.
- Following a **successful Planned Giving Campaign**, projected income for 2024 increased by £28,000 (with a full-year equivalent of £33,000), reducing the expected deficit to **£12,000**.
- Additional giving via appeals and events raised **£20,500** for various charities, including Ramallah, Christian Aid, and Refugee Roots.
- The **Restricted Fund for the Families and Children's Development Worker** remains in good health, supported by one-off donations and legacies, with a year-end balance of approximately **£40,000**.
- Lisa highlighted the church's **reserves policy**, which requires six months of running costs (~£100,000) to be held. The current reserves stand at **£220,000**.

She closed by expressing gratitude for the generosity of the congregation and encouraged continued review of giving to maintain financial sustainability.

Questions were invited from the floor.

Barbara Lynes (BL) asked about the £2K budget set for fundraising and asked whether it is appropriate to retain this entry in the budget given that no funds were raised during the year. LS confirmed that it has been removed. LS and TP also confirmed that steps are being taken to review the system to allow for live information to be provided on financial matters.

BL asked an additional question regarding the issue of legacies and how they might be encouraged more widely from within the St. Leonard's community. MS responded by confirming that a working group had been set up in March 2024 to consider the issue of external and one-off funding.

Sonal Marner (SM) asked if the budget for the work undertaken by the Family and Children Group is still reported separately within the budget. LS advised SM that this area is funded and reported under 'Restricted Funds' at present.

LS proposed that the APCM formally receive the accounts.

Seconded by Sonal Marner.

Agreed unanimously (44).

A10/23. Appointment of Auditor.

LS proposed that we continue with Haines Watt.

Agreed unanimously (44).

TP thanked LS for all her work on the accounts and budget for 2024.

A11/24. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.

The Church Wardens' report on the fabric is in the yellow Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document at page 13.

TP thanked all who worked on fabric related considerations including Roger Howes, Trevor Hatton, Tony Sutton and the two church wardens.

A12/24. Summary of reports from Team Leaders.

Team Leaders' reports and the Community Centre review can be found at pages 13 -25 in the yellow Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document. 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. Erica Bailey (EB) suggested that in future the annual report should list all the relevant groups, not just the ones that submitted reports. It was agreed that this would be actioned.

A13/24. Report from the Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod report can be found in the yellow Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document at page 25. No comments received. TP noted that the next meeting will focus on Living, in Love and Faith and will be an open meeting.

A14/24. Report of the Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Synod report can be found in the yellow Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document at page 26. No comments or questions received.

A15/24. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.

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

PCC membership Three Years:

Matt Green Proposed by Roger Owen, seconded by Kevin Pole. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS.

Christian Morgner Proposed by Carol Barber, seconded by Lindy Jones. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS

Elaine Thompson Proposed by Lindy Jones, seconded by Mike Smith. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS*

Reader Representative:

Elaine Thompson. Appointed in 2023*.

TP thanked those who had agreed to stand and those continuing in post.

A16/24. 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.

A18/24. Rector's review and closing prayers.

Tim Pullen thanked everyone who has been involved in maintaining the life and ministry of the church during 2023. He thanked those who worked as welcomers, in offering refreshments, providing music in services and at events, the technical team and those tending the garden of remembrance. He also thanked outgoing PCC members and those who had offered to stand as new members on the committee.

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

Those present thanked TP for all his work during what had been a personally challenging year.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Item 7:

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The year 2024 opened with 281 names on the Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll is revised annually for the APCM and was 264 at the May 2024 APCM (192 resident and 72 non-resident)

At 31/12/24 the ER was 264

Every six years a completely new roll is compiled. This has taken place in 2025 and this figure will be presented at the APCM on 18/5/25. This will be different to the figure as at 31/12/24.

Item 8:

Hon Secretary's Review of 2024

Regular meetings held Bi-monthly of the Parochial Church Council and Standing Committee and Resources team. Key decisions made include:

- The Church operates with a significant deficit (spending approximately 25% more than regular giving). Efforts focused on increasing planned giving and other fundraising initiatives. Regular giving increased by £23,700 following giving campaign.
- Decisions were made to maintain the parish share at the same level as previous year.
- Major attention was given to building maintenance and repairs following the Quinquennial Inspection Report.
- Ongoing discussions re Rectory hedge/tree maintenance responsibilities.
- Lindy gives regular updates on children and family activities. Challenges faced with volunteer recruitment and the needs of older children transitioning to senior school.
- PCC approved increased hours to develop work with 11-16 year olds. We secured £20,000 in Strategic Development Funding for children's ministry.
- Discussion of England's 'Prayers of Love and Faith' regarding same-sex blessings, with emphasis on careful consideration, awaiting clearer positions at national level.
- Reinstatement of the common cup at Communion.
- Appointment of Helen Robbins to the Honorary Verger role.
- Reinstatement of the afternoon service and update of lay communion assistants.
- 'Connected to Committed' initiative launched to help move people from church connections to deeper commitment to Christ
- Review and formal adoption of Safeguarding policies for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. During the year 2024, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Leonard's Wollaton has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (as amended) to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC continues to focus on sustainable financial management, growing discipleship, supporting families and children's ministry, and maintaining the church building as it serves the community.

I would like to thank Natasha for the amazing job she does in the office to support us all at St Leonards and myself with the APCM Report. Also Gill Moore for her sustained commitment to us as our Minute Secretary we would be lost without her!

Carol Barber (Hon Secretary)

Item 9:

Treasurer's Report for the year 2024

2024 marked a year of continued stabilisation following the challenges of the pandemic years. While financial pressures remain, including a significant operating shortfall, St Leonard's continued to be blessed by the faithful and generous giving by our congregation. Notably, the response to the January 2024 was an especially encouraging sign that we were moving to close the gap which would otherwise have been notably larger.

One significant financial decision this year was to move the cost of our Families and Children's Worker from restricted funds into the regular operating budget. This change reflects our commitment to strengthen and develop ministry with younger generations and reach out to the wider community. By incorporating this role into the regular budget, we are ensuring it is sustained through the ongoing support of the congregation, reflecting our shared commitment to the church's mission.

Overall financial position for 2024

Despite the increased shortfall, the church's overall financial position has been supported by generous legacies from previous years. A £10,000 legacy was received this year, with the expressed wish that it be used for fabric-related expenses.

Total income for 2024 was £256,110, 2023 (£219,469). The majority of the increase was due to the increase in regular giving and generous legacies.

The value of our investments saw a modest increase of £3,450 compared with a larger rebound of £12,966 in the previous year.

The Parish Share (£120,973) remains our largest expense, supporting ministry not only at St Leonard's but across the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. This covers clergy stipends, housing, pensions, and training, clergy wellbeing and safeguarding. The Share also funds the training of curates, ordinands, and lay ministers, as well as the intern programme and support for local schools. Additionally, it contributes to diocesan administration, archdeacon costs, and governance functions.

Total expenditure during 2024 rose to £300,079, 2023 (£264,460).

The total increase in expenditure of £35,619 includes the £5,000 rise in Parish Share. The remaining £30,619 related to improvements to the Community Centre (£8,505), including a new projector, screen, and roof repairs. The remainder related to repairs to the church fabric and roof, rising energy costs, increased staff salary expenses, and children and youth ministry costs.

End of year position

The net effect of the factors above was a reduction in overall funds to £839,639 at the end of 2024 compared with £876,157 at the end of 2023.

Charity commission registration

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

Budget 2025

The budget set for 2025 is based on projections drawn from 2024 performance and current trends. It shows a continuing operational deficit. Addressing this will require increased regular giving, careful cost management, and the exploration of additional income sources. As trustees of the church's resources, the PCC holds responsibility for ensuring sound financial oversight and

planning. The continued generosity and support of the congregation will be essential to meet this challenge.

Financial Risks

There are several financial risks to consider. A shortfall in giving could further widen the operational deficit if the increase in planned giving doesn't continue. Unexpected maintenance costs for the church or Community Centre may arise, and rising energy costs could exceed budget estimates. The ongoing risk of lead theft and deterioration of the church fabric may also require additional investment. Finally, continued reliance on reserves is not sustainable.

Final Comments

I would like to thank all those who contribute to the running of both the church and the Community Centre. In particular, Roger Alton who continues to provide expert support as the Community Centre treasurer, working closely with the team to manage its finances effectively. I am also thankful for Tim and the Deanery's guidance, which remains invaluable.

A special thanks goes to Liz, our Finance Administrator and Planned Giving Secretary. Her example of diligence and care in managing the day-to-day finances is something I am extremely thankful for. Finally, I would like to thank the PCC and the whole congregation for your generosity, trust, and commitment to stewarding the resources God has given us, as we continue to support the mission and ministry of St Leonard's.

Lisa Smith

Honorary Treasurer

Item 11 – Reports:

Churchwardens' Report 2024

This year saw the Quinquennial Inspection of our church building. It's a helpful way for us to gauge the general state of the fabric and try and predict what preventative measures may be needed to keep the building in a serviceable condition. A number of issues with particular spots on the roof, flashing and gutters were identified which will need remedial work. This matches with our recent experience in which multiple visits from the roofer have been required to resolve small leaks appearing in multiple parts of the building. We are currently seeking further advice on whether continuing to make small patch repairs are sufficient / cost effective or whether more extensive work is required.

We have been conscious that the accessible entrance currently lacks a powered door. In view of the Church' current financial state, the cost of replacement was deemed prohibitive by the PCC last year (£5k). We have submitted two grant applications, one unsuccessful and one pending, to try and resolve this issue.

A contractor visited to assess the front doors to the church. These are sometimes hard to fully open. The conclusion was that the mechanisms whilst not operating correctly can not now be replaced without a big risk of damage. Some easing was performed which seems to have made the situation workable, but this will need to be monitored.

Our Bellringers have for some time now raised a particular issue with the lighting at the rear of church, which is bordering on hazardous due to some of the ironwork surrounding some graves. This has been a slow process to resolve due to faculty restrictions etc. My thanks go to Roger Howes for doing battle with the paperwork, architects plans etc. If there are no objections to the public notice, this should now get the go ahead for installation.

The churchyard saw a big tidy up this summer thanks to several volunteers. Much of the churchyard was rescued from the encroaching undergrowth, gutters cleaned, paths trimmed and all those things hidden behind the shed removed. Special thanks go to Adrian Stevenson, Helen

Robbins, Ben Straw, Carol Barber for volunteering their time. We also thank PMC powder coating who generously renovated the front gates to church. In addition we thank Derek Verity who continues to mow the lawn and Barbara Lynes who has tended our flower beds.

After some issues with leaks last year the kitchen unit in the corner of church was renovated with a new worktop, shelving and repairs to the cupboard. Our thanks go to Trevor Hatton for carrying out this work and a few other smaller tasks.

Mieneke and I are also very grateful for all the help that we receive in looking after the church: the welcomers, cleaning, flower arranging, the team who organises the shared meals in the Community Centre every other month, the team that organises the activities in the Children's corner and encourage the children to get involved with the activities, the children's groups team, the choir and music groups for enhancing the worship, the leaders of the house groups, general maintenance and thanks to the people who are making sure that the church is open every day. These things require a lot of time and effort and are often not given the praise they deserve. To all the people who have been involved in keeping our church looking smart, thank you.

Mike Smith and Mieneke Vine (Church Wardens)

SUMMARY OF TEAM REPORTS YEAR ENDING 2024

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

Contact Home and Away administers the distribution of PCC annual giving and organises several individual appeals throughout the year. We thank God for the continued generosity and prayerful support of our congregation to the appeals.

In 2024 St Leonards annual giving approved by the PCC was £7000. The group re assessed the organisations receiving help and reduced the number with the aim of making a greater impact. Over half was distributed to our CMS (Church Mission Society) partners who are working in very challenging conditions.

There were four special appeals during the year. The Lent Appeal was for Embrace the Middle East and the Harvest Appeal contributed to Tearfund's South Sudan Transforming Communities work. As usual we supported the Christian Aid appeal in May and The Children's Society in December, through Christingle and the Church Bazaar which was organised by members of the Mothers Union. In total some £8000 was raised by the congregation to the special appeals which we thank God for.

The group in 2024 comprised three members plus the Rector after two long-standing members moved to other parts of the country in 2023. We would welcome new members.

Toddler Group

St Leonard's Parent and Toddler Group meet (mostly) on term time Thursdays in the community centre, offering a morning and an afternoon session of play for the children and socialising opportunities for the parents and carers. The sessions end with a Bible story and singing time. This attracts a diverse group of families from Wollaton and further afield, (approximately 30 families in the morning and 12 in the afternoon). We've held occasional end of term disco's which have proved popular with many families, enabling them to bring older siblings, when held in school holidays.

We've seen God at work caring for our wonderful team of volunteers, through the ups and downs of family life and health issues, we've seen much mutual support.

We had a 'clean and clear' session in August which entailed much painful pruning, but has enabled us to make space to accommodate equipment for the youth group.

One highlight of the year was our support for the bazaar. Thanks to Hilary Howes as the driving force and Natasha for publicity. We held a stall and attracted a younger clientele to the most successful bazaar ever. This was both a social and fundraising success, for the Children's Society.

In the coming year we have a visit planned to observe and learn from a local church run toddler group, with a different emphasis, always looking for inspiration and improvement.

From September we refined our Bible story time, with rhyming stories that are enjoyed by children and adults alike. We display these later in Church in the children's corner, so that the wider congregation can get a flavour of what we do.

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 and support from the Wollaton Scouts with refreshments at Carols round the Pump.

Link Magazine

Link Magazine continues to demonstrate the unity of the churches in our community. With mainly an older congregation of supporters, the printed version, delivered monthly by a team of volunteers, is ideal to carry the Christian message to all. With pages dedicated to reports of clubs and organisations in our area it provides a regular update on activities available to all. Electronic copies are available if preferred though the uptake of the digital format has been slow.

We are delighted to welcome Morag Walder of Grangewood Methodist Church to our panel of editors, replacing David Whelpton who had provided many years of excellent editions but now retired.

We carry free adverts and notices for the religious and community groups with paid adverts for those local businesses offering their services, providing a cross section of information. The price has remained constant for many years at .80p a copy or £8 for a yearly subscription - excellent value for a 12 page publication. To be able to hold this price we ask the churches to continue to promote this their own joint publication as total numbers inevitably decrease and we do welcome new subscribers.

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

We operate two Lunch clubs meeting every Wednesday at The St Leonard's Community Centre and every Thursday at the Vale Community Centre. In addition, most months there is an invitation to another event including trips out or activities held in a community centre and more recently in the Scout Headquarters on Bramcote Lane. We actively encourage those with disabilities to participate and travel arrangements have been made for wheelchair users to get to and from the Wednesday Lunch Club. The City council has in the past provided some funding for room rent, cost of meals and transport but in recent years this has been gradually withdrawn and from April 2025 will cease completely. For the first time we recently applied to the National Lottery Community Fund for some part of our expenses and the grant that we have been awarded is quite

substantial and far in excess of money we receive from bequests and our popular coffee mornings. Our future plans include making more use of the community bus service for outings in addition to help from our volunteer drivers.

Mrs Helen Coxon (Leader)

Foodbank

We maintain a strong link with the foodbank at St Martha's, delivering items every other week. Christmas 2024 St Leonard's donated towards 100 Christmas hampers delivered to the most vulnerable families in the NG8 Broxtowe/Aspley area via St Martha's. This year we had a very generous toy donation brought into St Leonard's for this along with monetary and food donations.

Wollaton Churches Committee

We have four meetings each year at each church in turn.. These are St Leonard's, St Thomas More's, Kingswood and Grangewood where we plan joint activities and share news of each church. We have printed resources and personal recollections.

We have seen God at work in the Good Friday Procession of Witness and open-air service at Bramcote Lane shops is the principal public demonstration of the churches working together, with *Link* providing a monthly witness

As it is exactly sixty years since the Wollaton churches made tentative contact with each other, it is appropriate to review the developments of that period and how the future should be approached going forward.

Children and Young People's Ministry

We meet 2 or 3 Sunday's a month depending on how many weeks are in the Month. The 1st Sunday of the month there is an All-Together service which in 2024 we have seen an increase in families coming along to. The children have enjoyed taking part in different ways. Reading, songs, and prayers. The last Sunday of the month we continued to leave free of groups to encourage families to come to Messy Church. This leaves the 2nd, 3rd and 4th when there's a 5 week month where we have been able to offer groups for our regular church families.

Messy Church came to an end in July 2024 which left the 4th or last Sunday of the month free of activities and so we added in an additional group for the under 8's from September.

I would like to thank Sally Smith and her team of volunteers who have run and lead messy church for over a decade. We will be praying for what comes next and God will help us to see what and where we need to be placed for our community moving into 2025.

The 2nd Sunday of the Month we continued with Sporty Church (Term-time only) This was reviewed after seeing numbers drop as the children attending had moved on to or were heading to senior school so we paused Sporty church in Sept 2024 and in its place launched a "Youth hangout" the first gathering was October 24 and we had 6 older children attend and since then we have had 4 regular children. The format of the youth hangout is simple. We start with Food and prayer, a short discussion based on the church theme that day and then free play of table top games, puzzles and crafts. We meet monthly after the all together service and this is to create better relationships with the older children and walk alongside their faith journey.

We still run the two Sundays groups "Connect time" for this age group which is a 30-minute session with a song, a story and a craft. We have a wonderful cohort of children in this 4-8 year old. We run "Energize" for the over 8's which is a smaller cohort of between 2 and 4 children each session.

We continue to be welcoming families into church and have seen 4 new families come to church on a regular basis in 2024 which has been really exciting. One family was a baptism family.

Firbeck school

There have been lots of changes at Firbeck over 2024 but thankfully St Leonard's has still be active in school. I would like the thank our school volunteers for their support over 2024 and in particular mention Jon Webster who has been volunteering at school for many years who has had to step down due to health reasons. School sent him a lovely card and box of biscuits as a thank you. Below shows the activity for 2024.

- Weekly Coffee morning – 5-8 parents attend regularly. This was moved to bi weekly in Sept 2024. School wanted the Senior Leadership team to come along and be visible and they only wanted to commit to bi weekly.
- Weekly talk time for children having difficulties with emotional and social circumstances.
- Weekly reading. Thank you Sally Smith for her commitment with this.
- After school provision was removed all together at the start of 2024 so I asked the head if we could run a monthly “Church” after-school club. We got the go ahead and so in April 2024 we launch “Energize Church” where we have been exploring the Fruits of the spirit alongside church festivals. We have between 6-12 children come each month.
- 6 Re curriculum visits to church including an Easter & Christmas Experience.
- Christmas concert
- Transition workshop for year 6

Our current resources:

Coffee morning includes 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 C has an amazing team but we always need 4-6 helping on these as we support Fernwood primary with curriculum visits too.

Fernwood School

We are building foundations with the new Head at Fernwood and are excited to see where this goes in 2025. We are planning to run a new year 6 drop in after school once a week. We are hoping to start this is early 2025.

We have continued to offer Christmas and Easter visits and curriculum visits for mainly early years and infant classes. A big thank you to Carol Charmbury who coordinated these for St Leonard's.

Middleton School

One of our Toddler Mum's got a job working in Middleton school and wanted us to coordinate a WW2 day for their pupils. We did this right at the start of term and went really well. The children came dressed as evacuees and had new identities for the day church stamped them in and then they learnt about what happened to them. Malcom, Mary and Carol C were able to share their own parent's stories of having evacuees staying with them.

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.

We would like to focus on Baptism families and deepening our relationships with our church families and how we can support discipleship at home. Creating spaces to come together and share our faith will also be a priority for 2025

We would like to raise more volunteers in 2025 to make being a volunteer easier. We would like people to consider their gifts and where possible prioritise Children and we continue with 10 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.

Our groups are either held in church or at the community centre. Our aim is to help the Children learn about Jesus and how they can be his friend.

We have seen God at work:

- We have seen 4 new families attend regularly.
- God is at work with us as we plan and lead the sessions.
- God has been at work through our committed, encouraging, and dedicated CYP leaders and helpers who have amazing gifts. The children are always engaged and have fun.
- God has been at work in our communities and families as we have 20 children who come regularly to children's groups throughout the month.
- School events and visits have been a success with 480 children in church over Easter and Christmas.
- God has been with us as the leadership team have continued to work towards a faith sharing culture and we have seen members of our church family talk about their faith on a regular basis and we have been using our 'all together' services as a way to do this.
- Being involved in the Wollaton Arts Festival this year we went big. Hosted a community concert where we saw schools, dance groups, music groups and choirs come together to share an amazing 2 hours of performances. We were honoured to have our very own church hand bells perform and Recorder consort play as part of the afternoon.
- Hosting our 3rd Light Night event on Halloween. We didn't have big numbers but those that came were very grateful to have a church presence.
- Children's prayer stations in church for Thy Kingdom come.
- The pool of volunteers grew in Sept 24 to 3 volunteers which was mainly for the school work. We are grateful for our volunteers but we always need more.. please pray for more volunteers in 2025.
- Energize by urban saints has continued to help us to have a more developing focused discipleship for our 8-12's. We have had a life style themed this year called 10/10 which has focused on life themes and how Jesus fits into our life.
- Supplemented the Toddler offering by hosting Toddler Disco events in the school holidays. These have been well attended up to 70 children and 40 adults.
- God has helped us to achieve our 2024 target of setting up gatherings for our emerging youth.
- We have created a new worshipping community after-school at Firbeck.

Community

Continue to have our regular community events throughout the year which means we have a presence in the community for most of the year.

Oct-Toddler Disco & Light night

Dec- Carols round the pump and Toddler Disco

March/ April Toddler Easter disco

May- Thy Kingdom Come events.

July – Wollaton Arts Festival will incorporate the family fun day in 2025

Our current resource figures.

Leaders 5

Helpers 5

Resourcing has stayed the same for 2024. 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 offer. Changes in 2025 will see volunteers move away from church so we definitely need more prayer in this area.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers for their commitment and faithfulness to CYP at St Leonard's. A formal and heartfelt thank you from the leadership team to all the CYP leaders and helpers for 2024 we could not bring Jesus into our family's lives without you.

Mission:

Family fun day and festivals- 10-20 volunteers

We are also building relationships with other churches to work together on shared goals such as youth work. Please be praying.

Dads 'n Kids

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

We have a faithful and committed team of volunteers who all support one another in the running of games and craft activities whilst providing refreshments. We see God at work amongst our team and all those who attend, creating a safe connect for Dad's to build relationships in the wider community.

Very sadly, this year we lost two of our big characters, Joan Eaton and John Withers who were a part of Dad's 'n Kids and St Leonard's for many years. Their dedication, kindness, and support left a lasting impact on all who knew them.

GDF

The growing disciples Fund will be drawn down in 2025 and 2026 this will give us £20k in total which we hope will go towards building the team at St Leonard's as well as praying for generous giving to allow the work we do to continue long term.

Flower Arrangers

We meet together at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and afterwards to take the flowers down.

One person in turn is responsible to do a pedestal in church all year round except at Lent or Advent.

We arrange flowers to decorate St Leonard's Church all year round except Lent and Advent.

We have seen God at work when supporting each other and help any time when needed.

We also arrange flowers who are sponsored, by a member of the congregation, in the name of a person, who has died or the anniversary of their death. Some arrangers like to sponsor their own arrangements too.

We are trying to encourage new members to join us, no skills needed.

Over time we like to give advice and teach more people basic flower arranging skills using our pedestals, containers, artificial and real flowers.

We decorate the church to the Glory of God.

Worship Band

It's been another really enjoyable year being part of the Worship Band. We're a small group, and naturally, the line-up evolves over time—but each change brings something special. Kevin's guitar, Christine's cello, and Tristan on keys have all added a beautiful richness and variety to our sound. Pete's solid bass lines keep us grounded, providing a strong foundation week after week. This year, we've also been delighted to welcome Damien, whose percussion, guitar, and vocals have brought fresh energy and leadership—he's been a real asset to the team.

More than just making music, it's a privilege to help create a space where people can come together in worship, connect with God, and be uplifted through song. We're grateful for the opportunity to support the church in this way and look forward to all that's to come.

Music group

It was a pleasure and privilege to have the voices and instrumentalists of the Music Group, St. Leonard's Singers and the choir voices together to lead the worship and praise at the principal festivals and finally at Christmas. Those services were happy reminders of twenty-five years joyfully rehearsing and worshipping together. My personal thanks go to all who shared their time and talents to ensure that what we offered to God was worthy of the trust he had in us with his gift of music.

Peter Price

Bell Ringers

"For bells are the voice of the church; they have tones that touch and search the hearts of young and old."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Six bells and 10 regular ringers; we are 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; the latest being the retirement of

Tim, our Rector. Thursday 7.30-9.00 pm is practice night when we learn new methods (ringing the bells in a different order to create different "tunes") and we try to perfect those we are familiar with.

Bell ringing is fun, rewarding and a great team activity. We have an annual outing, ringing at 4-6 churches in the locality or further afield and have taken part in District events hosting the latest ringing competition at St Leonard's.

If you think bell ringing might be for you or haven't rung for a while do come along, you would be very welcome. Please contact Carol Charmbury for more information.

Handbell Ringers

We meet every Wednesday 7.30 in the Vestry playing handbells with 8 members. We have 28 handbells and lots of music.

We play for pleasure every week and hope to give something back to the community to play at Christmas time and summer concerts, mainly for elderly people in care homes.

We support each other throughout the year and have a close friendship with each other and past members.

This Christmas we played for one hour for Acer Court Care Home and the same for Alder Court Care Home in Nuthall.

This was a pleasure to tell the story of Jesus' birth, in carols, to the elderly of which some have dementia.

Intercessors and Bible Readers

We thank God for our wonderful team of volunteers who faithfully share His word each week reading the Bible and leading us in prayer in a variety of meaningful and creative ways.

AV Team

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated team behind our audio and visual desk, who serve faithfully each week to ensure everything runs smoothly during our services. Their quiet, behind-

the-scenes work helps create a space where everyone can worship, listen, and connect without distraction—and we truly thank God for their time, skill, and commitment.

Pastoral Team

After covid many people did not return to their previous activities having settled into different routines. This has placed more pressure on the pastoral team. Christmas and Easter cards were sent to all those who were no longer able to attend church.

During the year we have welcomed a number of new people to our various congregations. Welcomers were working hard all year including those standing at the gate, a friendly greeting and a smile were greatly appreciated. We also encourage all members of the congregation to talk to and welcome newcomers. 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. Coffee mornings have been wonderful for meeting up with friends and raising funds for various charities.

Church cleaning goes largely unnoticed, but this group functions very well keeping the church immaculate throughout the year. New volunteers are always welcome as others retire. All your efforts were much appreciated.

Requests for visits to those in hospital now has 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 Annual Bereavement Service was held in November and cards sent to those bereaved.

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.

Viv Chamberlain & Barbara Lynes

Weddings

2024 saw three couples married at St Leonard's and two other couples renewing their vows.

Baptism

Seven children were baptised at St Leonard's in 2024.

CONNECT GROUPS

Erica and Hilary:

We are a Connect Group led jointly by Erica Bailey and Hilary Howes.

We meet on a Monday evening fortnightly and take it in turns to host the meeting.

We look at a variety of Bible readings, something following a series and sometimes discussing just one topic, ending our meeting with prayer and worship.

God works constantly with our group giving us insights through our sharing of thoughts, questions and ideas. We are always aware of God's presence in our fellowship and concern for each other

especially in times of difficulty for any member of the group.

In 2025 we would like to deepen our faith and offer our fellowship to any who would like to join us. If you would like to do this then please contact Erica or Hilary.

We use a variety of resources some from material we already have available and some from suggestions from other groups or clergy input.

We are constantly looking for ideas that the group would find useful/helpful. Both leaders are open to suggestions from other groups or from our members who would like to suggest themes/ topics they would like to study.

Jo and Tim:

We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening with worship, bible reading, discussing what we have read and how to apply it to our lives and then pray.

We have completed the Romans course by the Bible Society which challenged, inspired and encouraged us as individuals and as a group. It has been a real privilege to walk alongside our group as we've all sought to go deeper into what God want for us all. God has opened hearts and understanding in new ways as we have been more vulnerable with each other.

At the suggestion of one of the members we than moved on to Habakkuk using a Cover to Cover set of study notes. This has been so relevant as we have seen, discussed and reflected on how to live in society and a world which seems so out of control. Time and time again, we have been challenged to re-focus on God and see things from a different perspective. Highly recommend this set of notes.

Robert, Liz and Carol:

We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday and share the hosting of our meetings between the members of our group.

We pray, read the bible using different materials alongside video content with a structure of prayer and worship our songs invariably being led by Kevin.

We have found our recent studies on the Romans Course very thought provoking and has helped to deepen our relationship with God.

God works amongst us in allowing us to share our ups and downs of daily life as we meet together. We feel supported by members in the group and this continues to encourage us in our own personal faith journey.

Off the Point:

Off The Point have continued to meet fortnightly during term time, on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. We meet in a member's house. The venue varies depending upon who is able to host and we are generally a group of between 8 and 10 ladies.

During this year, we finished "The Romans Course" by the Bible Society and also studied a very interesting series from Open Doors called "Dangerous Faith". Concentrating on verses from the book of Acts, we learned about the challenges faced by the many persecuted Christians around the world.

We take it in turns to lead the sessions, which can be quite daunting, but with support from each other, we grow in confidence and it is a great way of sharing and imparting knowledge in a variety of different ways. We have not added to our numbers this year but God continues to work among us as we offer each other friendship and fellowship, a very important feature of our group.

Refreshments after Services

We have a wonderful team of cheerful volunteers who faithfully turn up each week to prepare and serve refreshments after the service. Their commitment helps create a welcoming space where we can enjoy time together in fellowship, sharing conversations, laughter, and a real sense of

community. We're so grateful for all they do behind the scenes to make this part of church life possible.

Christmas Bazaar

We have a team of willing members who meet on a regular bases. We continue to support the aims and objectives of Mother's Union whilst also recruiting new members and support of our Clergy.

We welcome new members and speakers to our meetings and maintain our connection to St Leonard's.

Mothers' Union

We meet every 1st Thursday at 2:30pm. In the small hall of the Community Centre.

We are an international, Christian charity which works towards ending poverty, inequality and injustice. Through parenting, literacy and community development programs, focusing on the rights of women and girls.

Our meeting start with an act of worship, followed by a speaker, a meditative activity or a fun activity.

We have seen God at work at our coffee morning when we raised £800 to support MU projects, at home and overseas.

St Leonard's Community Centre Review 2024

1. Summary

The Centre continues to run smoothly with bookings at record highs. Regular slots are hard to come by during popular hours, and evening 'party' slots need to be booked months in advance. We serve many community groups and individuals across different faiths, ages, and interests. The Centre really is a fantastically well used community-wide resource with absolutely best in class facilities.

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; Manjit Kaur-Jones – Community; Carol Barber – Community; Sonia Bashforth – Community; Tim Pullen – PCC.

John Tordoff left us in April 2024. He has served on the Committee from the Centre's inception and we miss his 'can-do' approach.

3. Accounting

Our 2024 year-end finances show £60,898 income against £60,193 expenses. These results are a reflection of the huge efforts to maximise bookings whilst minimising costs against a very challenging economic backdrop.

We are increasing our hire charges by 5% for 2025.

4. Investments

In February 2024, Hilltop installed the fully automated projector system. User feedback for this has been extremely positive. Combined with our new digital audio system, the projector system means our facilities are unmatched locally, keeping us absolutely 'best in class'.

5. Staffing

There have been no personnel changes since January 2024 when Kurtis Brownson was replaced by Karolina Atri as Caretaker.

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.

Nottingham North Deanery 2024 Annual Report

During 2024 we held three Synods, two in person and one remotely:

- 20 February 2024: Chaplaincy
Our first Synod was held at St Leonard's, Wollaton and we were joined by David McCoulough (Diocesan Chaplaincy Lead), Victoria Mullen (Archway Learning Trust) and Jonah Gorst (Woven Youth Worker). David and Victoria shared about their experiences as Chaplains in different arenas and Jonah shared about opportunities for the Deanery to join with the youth work at Woven.
- 13 August 2024: Elections to Diocesan Synod
We cancelled our July Synod as the key speaker was not able to attend. The sole agenda item of our August Synod was the voting in of Diocesan Synod Representatives. The following people were appointed:
Diocesan Synod House of Laity: Lee Duffield-Simms, Joanna Smith, Pauline Thomas, Paul Ward and James Willis
Diocesan Synod House of Clergy: Nikki Bates, Tim Pullen and Sue Pendenque
- 13 November 2024: AGM and General Synod Report
The meeting took place at St Mary the Virgin in Bulwell. Lydia Corbett brought a report from General Synod, concentrating particularly on the prayers of love and faith.

This was also our AGM and following this meeting the Deanery Leadership Team consisted of:

Ex-officio members: Tim Pullen (Area Dean), Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)

Lay: John Cartwright (Lay Chair), Joanna Smith (Lay Chair), Greg Cowley (Deanery Treasurer)

Ordained: Nikki Bates, Paul Savage

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

This year we have had a number of changes in the leadership of parishes within the Deanery. Rev'd Sue Pendenque was licensed as vicar of Sherwood St Martin, Rev'd Lizzie Osborne was licensed as a mission associate at St John's in Bilborough. Rev'd Emma Rolls began her curacy at Stapleford and Rev'd Jamie Price began her curacy with Woven.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2024. We managed to pay 94% of our share allocation!

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Joanna Smith
Lay Chair

St Leonard's operating budget 2024 and 2025 (excluding legacies, one-off gifts, appeals and SLCC)

Income	2024	2025
Collections and Planned Giving		
Collections	1000	1500
Appeals (special purpose) ¹	1000	
Planned Giving ²	135000	160000
Fundraising	2000	1000
Other income		
Fees for services etc	6050	6100
Parent and Toddlers	2000	2500
Investments		
Investment	5050	7500
Total	152100	178600
Expenditure		
Parish Share ³	117000	121000
Giving		
Overseas ⁴	3000	5000
Home ⁴	4000	3000
Appeals (Specific Purpose)	1000	0
Church Costs		
Utilities	7000	4000
Insurance	3900	4300
Maintenance	3000	7000
Fabric	5000	5000
Security	1000	1500
Staff Salaries and expenses		
Salaries ⁵	22100	23200
Clergy expenses	3000	1000

Family and Youth Worker	26000
Family and Youth Worker Expenses	3000

Worship and Ministry

Worship	2000	2000
Pastoral	200	200
Contact	500	500
Wider links	200	200
Mission and Outreach	1500	1500

Office Costs

Administration	3000	2500
Accounts Preparation and Independent Examination	3000	3000

Other costs

Community Centre Use	4500	5000
Parents and Toddlers	3800	4000
Total	188700	222300

Surplus/(deficit) (36600) (45800)

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

² Based on actuals from 2024. Excludes legacies and gifts

³ 2024 figure for Parish Share agreed reduction from £124,560

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

⁵ Increase for 2025 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 (2024) and St Leonard's Community Centre.

3 The SLCC has a separate budget although accounts are incorporated into the main PCC accounts for accounting purposes

4 The PCC designated £100,000 of legacy income to support missional priorities arising from its recent priority setting work. We employed a new families and children worker from September 2022. This salary was previously not shown in the operating budget as the funding comes out of designated funds. In 2024 the PCC moved this to the operating budget to reflect the commitment to our mission.

Contact Home and Away Giving for 2024

Overseas

Church Mission Society (CMS)	4000
Home Leone	500
	<hr/> 4500

Home

Crossteach	500
Christian's Against Poverty	500
Refugee Roots	500
Notts Clergy Widows	500
Scripture Union	500
	<hr/> 2500

We are very grateful to Tim for his experience and support in leading us. Natasha provides back-up and support for which we are very appreciative.

St Leonard's Wollaton PCC - Special Appeals 2024

Lent Appeal – Embrace Middle East	1070
Christian Aid	425
Harvest Appeal - Tearfund	1330
Children's Society - Bazaar	1310
Christingle	250
Boxes	188
	<hr/> 4573

These amounts are in addition to online gifts made direct by donors to the individual charities. Gift Aid may additionally be claimed by the charities on some gifts.