

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual report and summary of accounts 2025

A celebration of the year 2025 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

2025 was a year of significant transition for our church. Following the departure of our Rector, Tim, in April, we entered a vacancy with a natural sense of uncertainty about the future. Yet, by God's grace—and despite our own imperfections and failures—we have moved forward as a church family.

This report highlights many of the ways our community has sought to live out our faith through organised activities and groups. However, it is equally encouraging to reflect on the personal, individual steps forward with Jesus that are much harder to capture in a report, but which have been so evident in the conversations I've had with many of you. As a community, we should give thanks to God for His provision, both corporately and individually, over this past year.

As a leadership team, we are particularly thankful for the support we received during the vacancy. To those of you who stepped up to help with the extra work: thank you. In 1 Thessalonians, we are told to "encourage one another and build each other up." It has been a genuine joy to experience this firsthand through your prayers, your consistent encouragement, and your care for our well-being during a demanding season.

We have had a strong desire throughout 2025 to understand more of God's plans for us. A significant part of that journey was the appointment of our new Rector, Mark, in November. This appointment will have a long-term impact on our direction as we work together to live out our faith for the benefit of the wider community.

It is my delight to welcome Mark and Catherine as they begin to make their home in Wollaton. I know you will join me in supporting and encouraging them, holding them in your prayers, and stepping out in faith together with them into this new chapter.



Mike Smith

Churchwarden

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10 May 2025
In St Leonard's Church at 12pm
AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2025
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 2026/27
7. Presentation of Electoral Roll
8. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council
9. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 and budget for 2026 Lisa Smith (Finance Document)
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 3 places to be filled on the PCC for a 3-year term and 3 Deanery Synod places 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. Any other business
15. Closing prayers

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ending 31 December 2024.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 18 May 2025 in St Leonard's Church, Wollaton at 12.00 pm.

Present: Mike Smith (in the chair), Carol Barber (Hon Sec) and Treasurer Lisa Smith.

Attendees: A copy of the register of the 46 attendees is available on request.

Minute taking: Gillian Moore.

Documents provided included hard copies of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 (also available in large print).

A1/25. Opening prayer.

Mike Smith (MS) greeted everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting. There was an opening prayer.

A2/25. Apologies for absence.

Di Asher, Kate Breckles, Robert Breckles, Graham Birkett, Kate Butcher, Jenny Eaton, Andy Holbrook, Lindy Jones, Clive Marner, Sonal Marner, Christian Morgner, Robert Norris.

A3/25. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2024.

The minutes were approved.

A4/25. Matters arising from the minutes.

- (i) It was noted that there is no report on the choir. Mienieke Vine (MV) reported that Peter Price (PP) will be writing a report.
- (ii) Barbara Lynes (BL) asked if there had been any progress in setting up a Legacies Working Group as outlined in the minutes. MS confirmed that discussions had been held with the Diocese over funding, but there had been no immediate progress on the setting up of the working group.

A5/25. Any other business.

There was no AOB.

A6/25. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2025/2026.

Election of Churchwardens to serve to the end of May 2026. Two nominations have been received.

Hermina Vine, proposed Lisa Smith, seconded by Lindy Jones. All in favour (46).

Mike Smith, proposed by Elaine Thompson, seconded by Lindy Jones. All in favour (46).

A7/25 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Erica Bailey (EB) reported that 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 and this is the figure given in the annual report.

Every six years a completely new roll is compiled. This has taken place in 2025 and at 25/4/25 the number on the Electoral Roll stood at 175 of whom 124 are resident in the parish and 50 are non-resident.

EB thanked everyone for completing their form, a few more forms sent in since the new roll was completed will be added to the numbers shortly, so if you forgot to complete your form, please drop the completed form in at the office.

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

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

A8/25. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council.

The report of the Hon. Secretary is on page 7 of the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document, there were no comments or questions.

A9/25. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 and budget for 2025.

The full accounts to the end of 2024 are to be found on page 21 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements document drawn up by accountants, TC Group (formerly Haines Watts). They have been checked and approved by the PCC and will be sent to the Diocese. Lisa Smith (LS) reported on the following:

- 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 Giving Campaign was an especially encouraging sign that we were moving to close the gap which would otherwise have been notably larger.
- A summary of the 2024 finances, noting that the budget for 2024 had Income at £152K and Expenditure at £188K with a predicted deficit of £36K, but with the planned giving campaign the actual figures were Income £177K and Expenditure of £198K resulting in a smaller deficit of £19K.
- The budget for 2025 with a breakdown of income and expenditure. Projected figures were Income 178K Expenditure £222K resulting in a predicted deficit of £43K. Use of restricted funds may reduce the budget.
- Looking ahead to the future.

Lisa thanked Liz Norris for all her hard work managing the day-to-day finances, all the regular givers, those who made one-off donations and our faithful counters.

Clarification was sought on the predicted gap in income and expenditure and how additional funding might be secured to support the post of Family and Children's Development Worker. Elaine Thompson (ETh) also asked why the reserves are declining.

LS proposed that the APCM formally receive the accounts.

Seconded by MS.

Agreed unanimously (46).

A10/25. Appointment of Auditor.

LS proposed that we continue with TC Group.

Agreed unanimously (46).

ETh thanked LS for all her work on the accounts and budget for 2025.

A11/25. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.

The Churchwardens' report on the fabric is at page 9 of the Annual Report.

A12/25. Summary of reports from Team Leaders.

Team Leaders' reports and the Community Centre review can be found at pages 10 -19 in the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document. MS 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. He noted that all the contributions to the life of the church were greatly valued. MS also took the opportunity to thank Helen for all her often-hidden hard work.

A13/25. Report from the Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod report can be found in the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts document at page 20. No comments or questions received.

A14/25. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.

Elections: MS advised members that several nominations had been received. They are noted below:

PCC membership Three Years:

Carol Barber Proposed by Elaine Thompson, seconded by Kim Holbrook. Duly appointed FOR (*additional*) THREE YEARS.

Hannah Kingman Proposed by Lisa Smith, seconded by Mike Smith. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS.

Rachel Higginson Proposed by Emma Twissell, seconded by Carol Barber. Duly appointed FOR THREE YEARS

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

A15/25. Update on the Appointment Process.

MS outlined the process undertaken thus far. The PCC had sought and received feedback on the sort of individual that members of the St. Leonard's congregation are seeking. A meeting has been held with the Archdeacon to discuss the person specification/appointment further. This has been challenging as there have been some staffing changes which have impacted upon this consultation process. The PCC is working to produce a parish profile for those interested in the vacancy. The document has undergone several revisions. A meeting is due to be held with Richard Kellett (standing in for the Archdeacon who is now on sabbatical) to consider the document. Once this is finalised the post will be advertised, then there will be a shortlist and finally an interview. MS advised those present that it is important to get the right person, so it is possible that an appointment will not be made at the first attempt.

A16/25. Any other business.

None.

A17/25. Thanks, and closing prayers.

ETH thanked MS and LS for all their hard work particularly during a period of significant change.

MS spoke of his vision for a joyful church filled with love and generosity. The meeting closed.

Item 7:

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The year 2025 opened with 266 names on the Electoral Roll (281 in 2024).

Following a full revision prior to the APCM, the roll stood at 175 at the May 2025 APCM (125 resident and 50 non-resident).

Item 8:

Hon Secretary's Review of 2025

2025 opened with the news of Tim's retirement after 12 years of dedicated leadership. Throughout his ministry, Tim brought calm wisdom, creativity, and a steady hand to every challenge. His early years saw thoughtful changes: removing some pews to create space, relocating the font, and introducing a beautiful portable altar crafted from redundant pews.

Tim and Jo revitalised Connect Groups, helping us deepen our faith and grow as disciples. Youth Alpha, the SCART team, and Café Church at the Centre all flourished under their guidance. PMC was central to Tim's vision, profoundly shaping the spiritual life of St Leonard's. Jo's gift for hospitality gave rise to our much-loved shared lunches.

Tim oversaw the transition to a new AV system, moving us from hymn books to high-quality visual worship. He navigated the challenges of Covid-19 with clarity, energy, and a strong sense of God's leading—pioneering worship on Zoom and guiding us into a renewed post-pandemic church life.

He also mentored curates and readers, supported retired clergy, and initiated the role of Families and Children's Development Minister in 2022. Beyond our parish, Tim served the wider church and community through Bishop's Council, the Diocesan Education Committee, his work as Area Dean, and close relationships with local schools and outreach.

We are deeply grateful for Tim's leadership, his many gifts, and the way he helped us recognise and grow our own.

Regular bi-monthly meetings were held by the Parochial Church Council, the Standing Committee and Resources Team (SCART), and quarterly meetings with the St. Leonard's Community Centre Wollaton (SLCCW) committee. Key decisions and activities during this year included:

- **Financial Management & Stewardship:** The PCC tried to address the ongoing operational deficit and erosion of reserves through various initiatives designed to encourage church members to review their giving. To modernise and reduce costs, the accounting system was transitioned from SAGE to a new, more cost-effective platform (Xero).
- **Parish Giving & Grants:** The Parish Giving Scheme was formally adopted to streamline gift aid and inflation-linked giving. Additionally, the PCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Strategic Development Fund (SDF), securing an initial £10,000 with a further £10,000 pending for intended ministry purposes.

- **Diocesan Relations:** Following constructive discussions with the Diocese regarding the church's financial position, it was agreed that Parish Share would reduce in real terms for the next year.
- **Rector Appointment & Interregnum:** Much of the year's focus was on seeking the Lord's guidance for a new Rector. This included consultation with the wider church through a discernment programme, preparing the Parish Profile, conducting interviews and appointment of the Revd Mark Fraser.
- **Families and Children's Ministry:** The PCC approved a five-hour weekly uplift for the Families and Children's Minister to support her Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) training. `Forest Church`, an outdoor activity for young children, and their families was also launched as a monthly initiative.
- **Fabric & Building Improvements:** Significant maintenance work was agreed, including window and bell tower repairs, which will be carried out in 2026. The PCC also applied for the regularisation of the Children's Corner in the North Aisle, including the installation of new carpeting.
- **Personnel & Employment:** A comprehensive Employee's Handbook was developed, formalising policies on pensions, sickness, and maternity/paternity. It also widened pension entitlement to all employees regardless of income.
- **Community & Safeguarding:** The PCC formally adopted and ratified the two safeguarding policies for Children and young people.
- **Mission:** The PCC ran an Alpha course to support those exploring faith.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Natasha for her continued excellence in the office, especially in navigating the complexities of the interregnum. My thanks also go to Gill Moore, whose dedicated work as our Minute Secretary has remained invaluable to the smooth running of the PCC.

Carol Barber (Hon. Secretary)

Item 9:

Treasurer's Report (Finance Document)

Item 10:

Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

Item 11 – Reports:

Churchwardens' report 2025

This past year has been particularly challenging, and I am indebted to a number of individuals who have helped with different aspects of maintaining the Church building. Helen Robbins has quietly made such a difference, not only to the care of the building and grounds but also in reminding me of everything I've forgotten! I would also particularly like to thank Roger Howes who has put an enormous amount of effort into navigating the complexities of the faculty system on several occasions. Mieneke and I also wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the retired Clergy and the many volunteers who keep our church functioning: welcomers, cleaning team, flower arrangers,

those who maintain the churchyard and flower beds, the Pastoral team, who keep in contact with the sick and homebound and those who open and close the Church each day. These contributions, often quiet and behind the scenes, help make sure our parish runs smoothly.

Fabric and Maintenance

Following the Quinquennial Inspection mentioned in last year's report, we continue to face a number of challenges regarding the building's exterior. Small leaks remain a persistent issue which have proved very resistant to solving despite repeated attempts. We are currently managing a programme of repairs which we hope may improve things. There are also plans in motion to resolve the issues with the front doors mechanism and spruce them up a bit.

My thanks to Christian Morgner who has recently offered to take a lead on applying for funding. We do need others to support with different aspects, maintenance, funding applications, planning and liaising with our architect / contractors. It's not glamorous but it makes a real difference to our community. If that is something you feel you could contribute, please chat to Mieneke or myself.

Improvements and Accessibility

Following a successful grant application to the Diocese, we secured the necessary funding to replace the automatic door mechanism. This has improved ease of access for many members of our congregation and visitors.

Children's Corner: We have received faculty approval for the installation of new carpeting in this area. This project is due for completion in early 2026 and will provide a much more comfortable and welcoming space for our younger members. We thank the family of Joan Eaton for this generous gift in her memory. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a regularisation faculty to cover the Children's Corner in general. We remain hopeful that the importance of this dedicated area for families will be formally recognised.

To everyone who has offered their time, skills, or financial support this year: thank you.

Mike Smith and Mieneke Vine (*Churchwardens*)

SUMMARY OF TEAM REPORTS

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 helps with several individual appeals throughout the year.

In 2025 St Leonard's annual giving approved by the PCC was £8900. This was distributed to seven organisations of which over half was to our CMS (Church Mission Society) partners, Beom-Jim and Marie, who are working in very challenging conditions in south-east Asia.

The Lent Appeal for Refugee Roots in Nottingham raised £1700 including Gift Aid while the Harvest Appeal for Tearfund's Middle East appeal raised at least £2,020 with some online donations not specifically recorded to St Leonard's. As usual the church supported the Christian Aid appeal in May and made a specific donation to The Children's Society in December, through Christingle and the Church Bazaar which was organised by Mothers' Union and raised £1100. Support was also given by the congregation to the distribution of Christmas Hampers at St Martha's Broxtowe which led to 106 hampers being delivered to local families in Broxtowe, reaching 401 people.

We thank God for the continued generosity and prayerful support of our congregation to these appeals.

The group currently comprises four members and we welcome others who would like to join us.

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. Electronic copies are available if preferred though the uptake of the digital format continues to be slow.

There are pages dedicated to reports of local clubs and organisations which provides a regular update on activities available to all. We do appreciate the articles on a wide variety of topics that people submit for publication and would like to encourage more.

The team of dedicated Editors each do four consecutive editions followed by a 12 month break. Thanks to them for their continued brilliance and also to our Graphics Designer who translates their articles into a layout that is sent to the printers.

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

The group continues to provide two weekly lunch clubs for elderly people in the Wollaton area. We also have a number of events throughout the year, which are enjoyed by a wider group of local older adults.

Due to financial constraints, we applied for a National Lottery Community Fund grant, which we received a year ago and will cover two years. This grant has been essential in the week to week running of the group, particularly as the City Council funding has now ceased. The grant has subsidised the community bus which enables those less physically able to attend lunch clubs and other events. It has paid for hall hire and supported our activities and events open to the wider group, including, a showing of the Playhouse pantomime and lunch in January at St Leonard's Community Centre. We have been extremely grateful for this grant, without which, we would have been unable to continue in our current form.

We have a many events and outings planned for this year to which all our members are invited. Money raised from our two fundraising coffee mornings also assists with the general running of the group, with the next one on Saturday 25 April at 10am at St Leonard's Community Centre, all welcome.

Foodbank

We maintain a strong link with the foodbank at St Martha's, delivering donated items every other week to support their ongoing work. At Christmas 2025, St Leonard's contributed towards 100 Christmas hampers, which were delivered via St Martha's to some of the most vulnerable families in the NG8 Broxtowe and Aspley area. In addition, we received a very generous donation of toys at St Leonard's, alongside monetary and food contributions, all of which helped support families during the festive season.

We were also pleased to partner with Bags of Blessings during both their Easter and Christmas appeals. Through this partnership, we supported their work in providing essential items and supplies, which are distributed to local foodbanks and families in need within the wider community.

Wollaton Churches Committee

The Wollaton Churches Committee, with representatives of all the churches, meets four times a year to plan joint services and other events, demonstrating God at work in the community. These are happy occasions when there is an opportunity to share information about events in each church and to support each other in our endeavours.

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 St Leonard's. This was much appreciated by those who attended, but the numbers were disappointing. The Palm Sunday service at Grangewood 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 Kingswood and in One World Week at St Thomas More's. For many years the churches have arranged joint weekly meetings throughout Lent, circulating among the churches. In 2025 a book by Jill J Duffield called *Lent in plain sight, a devotion in ten objects* was chosen and created some useful discussions. There is a warm relationship amongst the churches and a willingness to collaborate which shows a united presence in the area.

Heritage

St Leonard's works closely with the Wollaton Dovecote, not only during the annual Heritage Open Days in September, but also when the Dovecote entertains visiting groups who then move to the church for a tour and tea. The church continues to be open every day and casual visitors find ample literature for self-guided tours and self-service refreshments. Mary and Malcolm Stacey, the co-ordinators of this ministry of welcome for the past 40 years or so, are looking to the future when this work could be shared with others. Enthusiasm is obviously desirable and would be backed by training as appropriate. Please enquire if you feel a flicker of interest..

Children and Young People's Ministry

At St Leonard's, we disciple children and young people by helping them learn about Jesus, providing opportunities to encounter God through stories, role-modelling holy habits, and supporting them both in church groups and in our local schools.

The first Sunday of the month is our "All Together" Service, followed by a "Youth Hangout." We see most of our families come to our all-together service and continue to encourage families to get involved in the prayers, readings, and dramas. Whilst the Youth Hangout started as a continuation of the All Together service, most of the young people now meet us at the Community Centre at 11.30am and no longer attend the all-together service.

The Hangout for our youth incorporates food, Bible study, and play. We have seen small but encouraging signs of growth, with attendance now regularly between 4–6, including a few young people from non-church families. A big thank you to Mike, Lisa, and Pete, who are gifted in this area; without them, this group would not run.

On the second and third Sundays (and the fourth when there is a fifth week), we run two groups: one for the under 8s, which is well attended with between 6–10 each week. This is our “Connect Group.” We then run an over 8s group called Energize, which is less well attended but has between 2–4 attending each time. We continue to use our Energize resources to structure our discipleship with our children.

Thank you to our faithful and committed team: Erica, Pete, Lisa, Wendy, Carol B, Carol C, and Rachel.

On the last Sunday of the month, we run Forest Church. This was launched in June 2025. Between 6–21 children attend each month, and it has been a real blessing to have Leonie, who runs this for us, guiding us back to nature to explore Jesus.

We continue to welcome families into church, and four new families have begun coming regularly in 2025, which has been really exciting. Two of the families came after attending Dads ‘n’ Kids and Toddlers. We have also had a new young person join who came after attending Dads ‘n’ Kids. It has been a joy to see new families come to our church and feel welcome.

Firbeck School

There have been continual staff changes at Firbeck over 2025, and we are continually thankful that St Leonard’s has still been active in school. I would like to thank our school volunteers for their support over 2025, as without them we simply could not be in school as regularly as we are.

Sadly, our bi-weekly coffee morning ceased due to the school’s long-term strategy changing and we are still waiting for confirmation of what the parent contact rhythm will look like in school. We saw 5–8 parents attend regularly, so in order to keep contact with them we run a half-termly breakfast where we can come together for friendship and fellowship.

I provide a weekly Talk Time for children having difficulties with emotional and social circumstances. I am in school each Monday for this, and the regular visibility has been great in keeping those relationships going with the children and staff.

Weekly reading continues. Thank you to Sally Smith for her commitment to this. They are always looking for more readers and also for help with their allotment projects. If anyone is interested in knowing more, please let Lindy know.

Energize Church had been running for a year in April 2025 and is now an established worshipping community in school. Since September 2025, we have seen an increase in attendance, with 15–20 children regularly attending. Thank you to our amazing team — Carol C, Carol B, Jan, and Elaine — for your support with this.

I spent some time with Cross Teach this year, and they have begun to support us with their resources and time. Luke has come along to Energize Church and has led our Heroes of Faith theme in the autumn of 2025 and will continue in 2026.

We ran six RE curriculum visits to church, including an Easter and Christmas Experience. A big thank you to Carol C, Jenny, and their extended pool of volunteers: Mieneke, Sue, Patsy, Gordon, and anyone else I have missed.

We held our first parent Harvest Assembly in church in October 2025 and our second KS2 Christmas concert.

Firbeck also played a part in our parish visit day as part of the recruitment process for a new rector.

Fernwood School

We launched our new Year 6 hang out in February 2025 and we saw 5/6 year six come regularly to that. In September 2025 we had a new cohort of year 6's and we have 6 boys who come each month. It was good to get started at the start of term, so we have more time to get to know the children.

Thank you to Carol B and Carol C who are faithful to this ministry and without them I simply could not be there each month.

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.

In 2025, we have seen God at work in many ways within our children and young people's ministry:

- 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 21 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.
- We have been involved in the Wollaton community festival and hosted our annual Family Fun Day.
- We hosted our 4th Light Night event on Halloween, inviting people into church, which saw more people stay, talk, and play.
- Whilst our pool of volunteers reduced by three in 2025, God continues to sustain our children's work. We are grateful for our volunteers, but we always need more; please pray for additional helpers in 2026.
- We have supplemented the Toddler offering by hosting Toddler Disco events in the school holidays. These have been well attended, with up to 70 children and 40 adults.
- God has helped us flourish our offering by launching Forest Church.

In 2026, our group is committed to continuing God's work with children, young people, and families, focusing on discipleship, team development, and community engagement:

Church:

- Helping our families grow deeper in faith by offering more parenting-in-faith aspects of discipleship.
- We aim to raise more volunteers in 2026 to make serving easier and encourage people to consider their gifts, prioritising children and youth ministry where possible.
- Youth discipleship will be a priority, using the Diocesan mentoring model to walk alongside our children and young people in a safe and structured way. We recognise that one-to-one discipleship is a fantastic way to support CYP, and we want to establish a standard approach for this in 2026.

Team:

- We will prioritise supporting our volunteer team, providing more opportunities for them to share ideas, as well as offering training and additional support where requested.

Community:

- We will continue to run our regular community events throughout the year to maintain a visible and engaging presence:
 - October – Light Night
 - December – Carols Round the Pump and School Visits
 - March/April – Easter Events
 - May – Thy Kingdom Come events
 - July – Wollaton Community Festival
 -

Resources and Support

In 2025, our children and young people's ministry has been sustained by a committed team of leaders and helpers. We currently have seven volunteers, along with one paid lead for Forest Church. Resourcing has reduced slightly over the year, as we ask volunteers to commit for a year at a time, so this area will continue to need prayer to sustain the work we offer.

A formal and heartfelt thank you from the leadership team goes to all our CYP leaders and helpers for 2025 – we could not bring Jesus into the lives of our families without you.

Looking ahead, additional resources will be needed to support and grow our ministry. In church, we aim to increase our volunteer team by three, bringing the total to ten. This would allow most volunteers to help just once a month, freeing Lindy to spend time with adults and build relationships by being present in the service.

At Firbeck School, monthly church gatherings will require Lindy plus four volunteers, while youth activities will need Lindy plus one volunteer per month. School visits continue to be well supported by Carol C and her team, but we always need 4–6 helpers, particularly as we support Fernwood Primary with curriculum visits.

For mission and community events such as the Family Fun Day and local festivals (this year 4–5 July), 10–20 volunteers will be required. As Lindy will not be available on the Saturday, additional support will be needed for planning and running the day.

GDF

The Growing Disciples Fund of £10k was drawn down in April 2025 and the next instalment will be in 2026 once the annual review is completed.

Dads 'n' Kids

Dads 'n' Kids, which meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at St Leonard's Wollaton Community Centre, continues to be a valuable point of contact with families in our community. We have been encouraged to see some baptism families attending, and one Dads 'n' Kids family has also begun coming to church.

Since setting up a WhatsApp group for toddler families, attendance has increased, with Anne regularly sending reminders and updates. We are particularly pleased to see more new families joining us with a present number of 6-9.

Toddlers

The Toddler Group continued to provide a welcoming space, where we sensitively promote Christian values and practices to a very diverse range of families.

Two of the team went to visit the 'Refresh' toddler group at St Mark's Woodthorpe. It was good to see how another successful group works and be inspired to try new things.

In July we said goodbye to 13 families, including one who had been with the group for forty years, bringing five of her own children, seven grandchildren and numerous other children she'd cared for as a childminder.

We were blessed with an anonymous donation for our wonderful team of volunteers to enjoy a lunch together, which we held in the community centre garden in July.

With Lindy's help a WhatsApp group was formed for the clients. This has enabled us to remind families of upcoming Church events and has been particularly successful in attracting newcomers to the Dad's and Kids group.

Our Christmas disco was enhanced by a toy sale.

Another generous donor ensured that our volunteer team could enjoy a Christmas buffet lunch. Several volunteers shared festive songs stories or poems.

This year we'd like to try and keep in contact with families whose children have moved on to school or other activities.

Volunteering for the group remains very popular. We ask members of St Leonard's to recommend the group to friends or neighbours who care for pre school children.

Flower Arrangers

The Flower Group meets the day before Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and also provides flowers for some weddings and funerals. Throughout the year, members take turns to water the pedestal arrangement in church to ensure it is properly maintained.

We arrange flowers to decorate St Leonard's Church all year round, with the exception of Lent and Advent.

During 2025, God has been at work in our group as we continue to support and encourage one another, always stepping in to help when needed. We arrange sponsored flowers given by members of the congregation in memory of loved ones, often marking the anniversary of their death. We are keen to encourage new members to join us — no prior skills are necessary — and we enjoy sharing our knowledge and helping others learn basic flower arranging skills over time.

In 2026, we remain committed to decorating the church to the glory of God and to teaching more people the basic skills of flower arranging so that the group can continue to flourish.

We already have a range of resources, including pedestals, containers and artificial flowers. The main resources we require are oasis, oasis tape and fresh flowers. The church provides for these, although some arrangers choose to sponsor their own arrangements.

Mieneke Vine

Worship Band

It has been a continuing journey of evolution of our worship band over the last 12 months, which has been both exciting and rewarding. Blessed be the Lord, he has given us some lovely voices and harmonies from Mieneke and Noreen, along with Emma and Wendy on occasions. We do seem to have lost Tristan to the world of engineering in Peterborough.

Thanks too, for support from Pete Bass, Kev Guitar, Christine Cello, Damie Cajon and Mieneke on photocopier. Special thanks to Anthony and Helen for mixing and all the heavy lifting. Thanks be to God.

Choir

Following the retirement of Peter Price our small group have continued to enhance worship and we have sung regularly at the 4pm Holy Communion service, as people value and appreciate live music. Now that we have an organist at every 4pm service, we are able to enhance worship by singing in harmony to the glory of God. Our group includes members from the original choir, the music group and the wider congregation, usually numbering between six and eleven. We have also begun singing the Gospel responses and the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God"), which has been made possible thanks to the organists who come from other churches to play at these services. We give thanks to God for their support and faithfulness.

Trevor's enthusiasm has encouraged us all and others to sing at festivals and especially over Christmas.

In 2026, we hope to continue singing at every 4pm service and to build on what has been established this year.

We already have choir robes and music. Looking ahead, we would welcome the possibility of a choir master to provide leadership, particularly at Christmas. At present, there are no choir practices; if we are unsure of the harmony for a piece, we sing in unison.

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 eight regular ringers; we are the faithful band who ring the bells each Sunday morning to welcome everyone to the 10 am Service.

In addition we have rung for three weddings, VE Celebrations in May, and "Carols Round the Pump" .

We have welcomed visiting bands for quarter peals and hosted a District ringing event. We are also pleased to welcome family members of our own congregation who join us on a Sunday morning when visiting.

The tower was open to visitors at the Wollaton Arts Festival in July and we took advantage of the "Open Churches" weekend in September to have an open tower and recruitment drive. Natasha Hart, our Parish administrator, produced some excellent publicity material advertising for new ringers which was posted in the shops and community notice boards around Wollaton.

There was a good response from those interested to see what goes on in the tower, although great disappointment that there was no access to the roof.

Thanks must go to Chris Glenton, the Guild Training Officer, who ensured that everyone who wished to "had a go" at ringing a bell, and for his subsequent weekly training of the three who were keen to take it further. All three were enthusiastic and made good progress; one will soon be ready for Service ringing, but unfortunately two dropped out shortly after Christmas for personal reasons.

Thanks to Richard Dooley, our Ringing Master, we enjoyed an excellent local ringing outing at the end of September. Taking the tram we visited All Saints and St Peter's in the City, and after lunch at the Cosy Club our final stop was St John's at Beeston.

And finally, thanks to all the ringers for their regular commitment, support and encouragement of each other and care of the bells. Bell ringing is fun, rewarding and a great team activity. If you think bell ringing might be for you or haven't rung for a while do come along to a Thursday practice 7.30-9.00 pm, you will be very welcome. Please contact Carol Charmbury for more information.

Handbell Ringers

The Handbell Group meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Vestry at St Leonard's Church, Wollaton.

We play tunes on the church's handbells for pleasure and fellowship, and currently have ten members.

During 2025, God has been at work in our group as we have continued to support one another and maintain close friendships, including with past members. We have enjoyed playing for Grangewood Church's Ladies Fellowship group, St Leonard's Mothers' Union, and at a Carol Service in Beeston in aid of the NSPCC. At Christmas, we also played carols in a local care home, where residents joined in the singing. It was a real joy to share the story of Jesus' birth through carols with the elderly residents, some of whom are living with dementia. One resident even read out his own poem about "Bells," which was a very special moment for us all.

In 2026, we are committed to teaching our two new members how to play the bells confidently, and we hope to play for a variety of groups throughout the year in order to bring joy to others.

We currently have 28 handbells and a wide selection of music. When we had eight members, we were able to play music using 16 notes; now that we have ten members, we can use 20 notes, allowing us to perform a wider range of pieces. At present, we do not require any additional resources.

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

During the interregnum our dedicated team have served faithfully to continue providing audio and visual aids that enhance our services. Our Thursday service congregation have received a similar service thanks to Natasha and those leading services. We have transitioned from Zionworx to a new system of 'Easy Worship' which of course as it says in the title is Easy!

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated members and are looking to further expand our team in due course.

Pastoral Team

This has been a very varied year at St Leonard's with many elderly people struggling at home. We try to keep in touch with as many people as possible and take Home Communion to those who request it. Christmas and Easter cards were sent to all those who were no longer able to attend church. Prayers were included three times a year for this specific group. The Annual Bereavement Service was held in November and invitation cards sent to those bereaved.

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.

Mothers' Union led by Branch Leader Kate Breckles continued their meetings with many interesting talks and activities during the year. Mary and Malcolm Stacey gave a particularly interesting talk about twenty years of the Community Centre. 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. We lost some people who had cleaned for several years and recruited one new person. 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.

The Lead Links network continued, but requires more attention in 2026. 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 by St Leonard's.

Weddings

2025 saw three couples married at St Leonard's and one other couple renewing their vows.

Baptism

Three children and one adult were baptised at St Leonard's in 2025.

CONNECT GROUPS

Erica and Hilary:

Our group has 7 members at the moment, 8 when Fion is able to join us. We meet fortnightly on a Monday evening in each other's homes; starting around 7.30 and ending by 9.00. Our meetings begin with prayer, go on to discuss a chosen topic and end with worship.

In 2025 we used Advent to look afresh at the Christmas story from the point of view of Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds. Over the course of the year we have studied a number of Parables, looked in depth at some New Testament characters, had a one off session on Saints in November and are potentially beginning to take a deeper look at the Creed.

Our group is small but we have a strong sense of Fellowship. Our material may not be theologically profound, but always provokes discussion which enables us to learn more about God's purposes and strengthens our faith. If we did not exist we would need to be invented!

Jo and Tim: to March 2025

As Tim and I leave the group, we are so thankful for all the members and the encouragement we have received in our personal walk with Jesus and the sheer kindness of those we have walked with.

Hannah and Lisa:

We meet fortnightly on a Monday or Tuesday at Hannah's home from 7:45-9pm. We have 5 members at the moment and we are keen for a few more to join us! Our meetings begin with refreshments and a couple of songs. We also make time for a general catch up to find out what is happening for one another, and finish our meetings with prayer. We have just finished a series on Proverbs and we are now studying the Talking Jesus course. Discussions are thought provoking and affirming as we support one another on our faith journeys.

Robert, Liz and Carol:

We are a group of nine who meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening; hosting and leading of sessions is shared between us. Our meetings typically begin with refreshments, followed by a time of worship, usually led by Kevin - whose Scripture-based songs are a real inspiration - and prayer for needs within the group and beyond.

As far as resources are concerned, for the first two terms of the year we continued to work through the 'Growing on the Frontline' course produced by LICC, which included some video input, and gave rise to some stimulating discussions. We finished the summer term with a very enjoyable social in the form of a bring and share meal in Carol's garden.

In the autumn, we began a series of studies called "Who Cares? - A Bible Study exploring the Christian God and human suffering", written by Alison (also a member of our group). We felt that group members really responded well to this study, which was inspired by Alison's time as a chaplain at the QMC.

Throughout the year we have been encouraged by the group's openness in sharing experiences and faith journeys and their support for one another through prayer and in practical ways.

Off the Point:

Off The Point is a house group with 10 members. We meet fortnightly during term time, on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. 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.

During this year, we have studied two Church of England Pilgrims courses, The Eucharist and The Creed. We have studied these booklets previously, but a fresh look at them led to some very interesting and thought-provoking discussions. Our final term was spent studying the Talking Jesus course. This course challenged, encouraged and gave us the confidence to share our faith in Jesus in our everyday lives

In addition to exploring our faith through bible study, friendship and fellowship is an important feature of our group. At the beginning of May, our group enjoyed preparing and serving a meal to launch the start of the Alpha Course.

We have not added to our numbers this year, but new comers are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining, then please contact the parish office to find out more about the group.

Refreshments after Services and Shared Lunches

Our refreshments following services are much appreciated and provide a time for good fellowship. A rota is compiled 3 times a year and the congregation are generous with their time to provide this facility. A big thank you to Penny who obtains provisions, organises the setting up, clearing away and generally keeps us all on track.

We try to enjoy a shared lunch every couple of months following the service in the Community Centre but this may not always be possible depending on events in the church calendar. We are very fortunate to enjoy excellent food and fellowship along with a time for invites to the wider church family. We are very grateful to the team who turn up and make this happen and those helping on the day.

Mothers' Union

For 150 years, Mothers' Union has supported communities worldwide. We want to see a world where everyone prospers; we actively pursue this through prayer and faith in action. Our movement seeks to bring about justice, challenge prejudice, and advocate change.

We are a diverse and inclusive community present in approximately 84 countries around the world, working together for a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Our members are not all mothers, or even all women – they are female and male, single and married, parents and grandparents, young adults expressing social conscience and older adults volunteering in their local community.

Mothers' Union provides a network through which they can serve Christ in their community, through prayer, financial support, and actively working in programmes and projects that meet local needs.

St Leonard's Wollaton Branch holds meetings on the first Thursday of every month, at 2.30pm in the Community Centre for prayer, fellowship and refreshments.

Please come along and, hopefully, join us. Contact: kbreckles@hotmail.com 07719707476

The Children's Society.

Every year, the Children's Society helps tens of thousands of children and young people through its support services. Whether they are at risk of exploitation, struggling with their mental health, or in the care system — help is there for them. And, together with those that share the Society's vision, they campaign tirelessly for the big changes that will make life better for millions more. Their impact is clear to see: in young lives transformed, and in the steps taken towards a society built for all children.

At St Leonard's we raise money for the Society every year through the Christmas Bazaar, the Christingle service, and the Children's Society boxes that some of our parishioners have in their homes. We are grateful to everyone who has helped in any way with our fund raising.

St Leonard's Community Centre Review 2025

1. Summary

The Centre continues to operate very successfully, with bookings reaching unprecedented levels. Securing regular time slots during peak hours can be challenging, and evening party bookings often need to be arranged several months ahead. We cater to a wide range of community groups and individuals, representing diverse faiths, age groups, and interests. Overall, the Centre stands out as a highly valued community asset, offering exceptional, top-quality facilities.

2. Management Committee

The Management Committee continues to meet quarterly. The Committee is made up as follows:- Matt Coulson – 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.

3. Accounting

Our 2025 year-end finances show £63,895 income against £68,320 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 3% for 2026.

4. Investments

In December 2025 extensive deep cleaning took place on the hall floor with a return following the Christmas holidays to some very positive feedback.

5. Staffing

The only paid personnel change was in August 2025 when Karolina Atri was replaced by Matt Coulson 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 Executive protocols.

We would like to extend a heartfelt and sincere thank you to David Thompson for his outstanding contribution as Chairman of the Community Centre. His dedication in overseeing the day-to-day operations, along with the invaluable support he has provided to Kerry, has made a real difference. From managing staff to handling the many practical challenges that inevitably arise, his commitment and guidance have been greatly appreciated. A big thank you to David for all his hard work and continued support over many years.

NOTTINGHAM NORTH DEANERY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

During 2025 we held three Synods:

- 18 February 2025: Compassion

Our first Synod was held at St Martin's, Sherwood. We watched James Halstead's talk from Diocesan conference, and discussed in groups what it means to grow disciples with compassion. We said goodbye to both Tim Pullen, Area Dean, and Kirsty Cowley, Deanery Administrator and thanked them for all they have done for the deanery.

- 10 July 2025: Confidence

Our July Synod was held at St Martha's, Broxtowe. Our Interim Area Dean, Peter Huxtable, welcomed all of the parishes and explored how the deanery function has changed. Greg Cowley, Treasurer, gave an update as to what parts of his role are being looked by the diocese, and answered questions around finance. We

explored our Calling and Mission, and groups had an opportunity to share their personal and parish experiences concerning confidence.

- 12 November 2025: Courage

Our November Synod was held at St Helen's, Trowell. We explored the theme of growing disciples with Courage. We were guided through the evening by listening to different videos from the diocesan Living Hope series. We had a finance update from Greg Cowley, Treasurer. We also celebrated our joint lay chair, John Cartwright, who stepped down after serving the deanery faithfully. We thanked him for all he has contributed.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have continued, and are now on the first Tuesday of every other month at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

The Revd Canon Tim Pullen retired from his posts of Area Dean and Rector of Wollaton St Leonards. St Leonard's have been in vacancy and are soon to welcome their new Rector, Revd Mark Fraser.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2025. We managed to pay 94% of our share allocation!

Revd Canon Peter Huxtable

Area Dean

Joanna Smith

Lay Chair

St Leonard's Operating Budget 2025 and 2026 *Note 1*

	2025	2026	
Income			
Collections and Planned Giving			
Collections	1,500	1,800	
Planned Giving	160,000	170,000	
Fundraising	1,000	-	
Other income			
Fees for services etc	6,100	5,500	
Parent and Toddlers	2,500	2,300	
Investments			
Investment	7,500	10,000	
Total	178,600	187,885	
Expenditure			
Parish Share	121,000	118,600	<i>Notes 2 and 3</i>
Giving			
Overseas	5,000	5,000	
Home	3,000	3,000	
Church Costs			
Utilities	4,000	5,200	
Insurance	4,300	4,600	
Maintenance	7,000	4,000	<i>Note 4</i>
Fabric	5,000	4,000	
Security	1,500	1,600	
Staff Salaries and expenses			
Salaries - Admin and Finance	23,200	25,000	
Clergy expenses	1,000	2,000	
Family and Youth Worker	26,000	28,000	<i>Note 5</i>
Parents and Toddlers Salary	4,000	4,100	
Worship and Ministry			
Worship	2,000	3,000	
Pastoral	200	200	
Contact	500	400	
Wider links	200	200	
Family and Youth	3,000	2,500	<i>Note 5</i>
Mission and Outreach	1,500	1,000	
Parents and Toddlers	-	400	
Office Costs			
Administration	2,500	2,500	
Accounts Prep'n and Independent Exam'n	3,000	1,500	
Other costs			
Community Centre Use	5,000	5,000	
Total	222,900	221,800	
Surplus/(deficit)	(44,300)	(33,915)	

Notes

1. Excludes legacies, one-off gifts, and income and costs of St Leonard's Community Centre.
2. Recommended to Diocese that we either keep Parish Share the same or reduce 2025 - 2027 and then revisit after encouragement of congregation to review giving. Diocese have agreed with recommendation to hold the parish share for 2025-2027
3. Parish Share covers 65k Rector Salary, pension and housing; 20k Training; 16k Statutory and Governance, 20k supporting wider the wider deanery
4. Maintenance excludes 75k @ 7.5k per year over a 10 year period for planned upgrade of Heating System for St Leonard's Church building. Figure based on 150k estimate in real terms. Intention is to raise through fundraising
5. Family and Youth Worker Salary and costs will be funded from designated funds 21k and 10k Growing Disciples Fund

Contact Home and Away 2025

	2025	2024
Overseas	£	£
Church Mission Society (CMS)	5,300	4,000
EMBRACE Middle East	600	-
Home Leone	-	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,900	4,500
Home		
Cross Teach	600	500
Christians Against Poverty	600	500
Refugee Roots (formerly Rainbow Project)	600	500
Notts Clergy Widows	600	500
Scripture Union	600	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,000	2,500