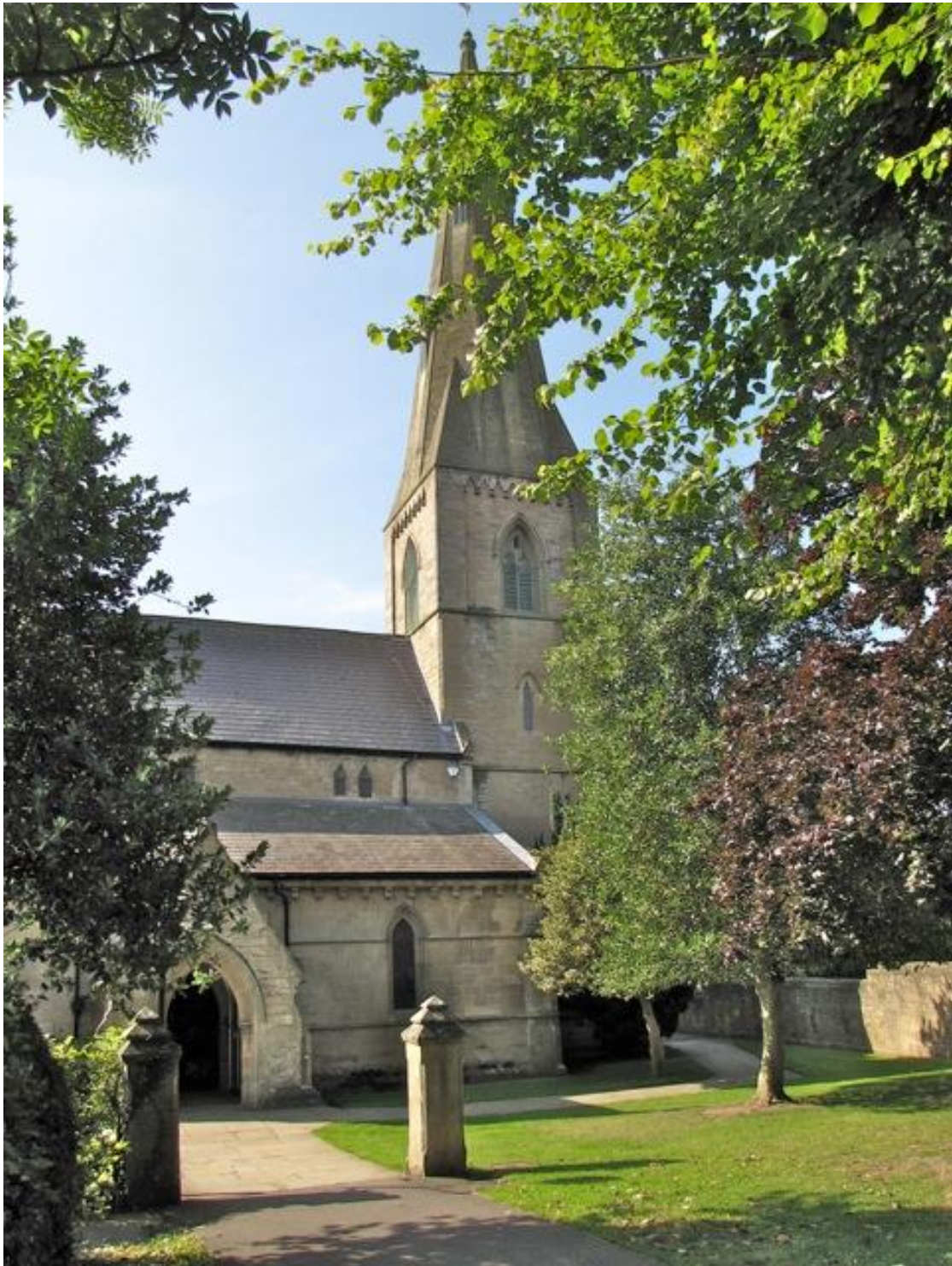


# Holy Trinity Church Southwell



**PAGM Reports 2023/24**

# Churchwardens Report

## **2023 - a year of changes.**

Our 9.00 Sunday service is well supported by those who like to receive Holy Communion regularly and also by those who appreciate being able to worship at an earlier time if they have a busy day ahead of them. Thank you to those who preside at Holy Communion and lead and preach at our services and to our instrumentalists and singers - music makes such a difference. Being able to mix and mingle over coffee between our services is an added bonus.

The numbers at the 10.30 service remain stable and while Cafe Church is not for everyone, those who attend clearly appreciate it. The Kids and Families Services have been interesting and fun and the teas have been a big success but sadly numbers have remained low. Our Sunday morning children's group is a cause for concern. Tim, our Youth and Children's Worker, moved on to his new post in the summer and then we lost four more leaders over the autumn term. By the end of 2023 we were only able to offer one group on a Sunday morning. We miss Tim in all sorts of ways but we are grateful for all he achieved whilst he was here. He leaves a legacy of excellent paperwork and Youth Cafe 1 and 2.

Andrew's departure was sudden and unexpected. We thank Andrew and Cathy for their years of faithful service, their willingness to innovate and their unfailing good humour. They have been warmly welcomed at their new church and are enjoying the challenges of getting to know a new place and people.

Please take some time to pray and consider what time and talents you can offer to support the various ministries at Trinity now that we are in vacancy.

*Helen Geeson and Chris Stead*

## Churches Together in Southwell

Churches Together in Southwell is evolving. Last autumn, Frank McKenzie, Co-ordinator of CTS, announced to the CTS Forum that he plans to move to Sheffield, and I announced that I was relinquishing my roles within CTS after 13 years. Members of the forum were very keen that CTS continue; both the regular activities and the capacity to instigate responses and initiatives as required. In order for this to happen, folk needed to step forward to take on the various roles.

Whilst the formation of a small co-ordinating team is ongoing, other roles have been taken up by various people, as follows:

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – Eddie Adams, of Southwell Methodist Church, arranged for 6 of the churches to host lunchtime sessions of prayer and reflection, followed by soup & roll. These were well attended by up to 30 people at each.

**Southwell Supporting Newark Foodbank** – Karen Edginton, of Southwell Minster, organizes an annual rota of volunteers who collect donations from shops and churches each week and take them to Newark.

**Season of Creation service** – Usually held in September, a small group organizes this each year.

**Christmas Card** (Delivered with The Bramley) – Sue Hartley, of Southwell Baptist Church, will design and produce this from December 2024.

**CTS Welcome Scheme** – The scheme endeavours to give a welcome gift, on behalf of CTS and the Town Council, to new residents of Southwell. The group who organizes this comprises Peter Harris, Marian Welham, Marjorie Hustwayte, all of Holy Trinity Church, and Wendy Adcock, of Riverside Church.

**CTS Website** – Barry Westbury, of Southwell Baptist Church, has taken over maintenance and updating.

**CTS Forum planning** – Trisch Thornton, of Southwell Baptist Church, now arranges forums and agendas. These will now take place every 2 months, with each of the 6 larger churches hosting one annually.

**Email communications** – Carolyn James, of Holy Trinity Church, has taken on the task of maintaining email groups and contacting them as necessary.

**CTS Treasurer** – A new treasurer was appointed on 4<sup>th</sup> March. He is Laurence Cunnington, and the new counter-signatories are Patrick Sills and Wendy Adcock.

The new CTS Representatives of Holy Trinity Church are Carolyn James and Julie Barker.

*Marian Welham*

*Former Representative for Holy Trinity and former Treasurer*

*Churches Together in Southwell*

*[www.southwellchurchestogether.org.uk](http://www.southwellchurchestogether.org.uk)*

## Connections

Connections meets every Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00pm for coffee and cake as well as activities, games, occasional films and crafts etc. This is always followed by a light lunch (optional) between 12 and 1.00pm.



Connections has continued to serve our local community throughout 2023, with just the occasional week off for major holidays. A regular highlight is the visit of children from Holy Trinity School each month, sometimes to sing to us or join in with simple craft. The interaction between old(er) and young is lovely to see. Other highlights have been film shows, sing-alongs and, of course, Christmas dinner. Our regular Bible study group on alternate weeks has a small but faithful membership. Moments@Connections each month is always popular too.

The change of leadership has been challenging, but has provided opportunities for others to step up and in. God has been at work among both helpers and those who join us, enabling growth in numbers and skills. We now have a regular rota of cooks as well as people to serve drinks, cake and lunch.

We are aiming to build on our current strengths to develop deeper relationships and would love to encourage new people to join the team. Numbers of people attending have held steady over the year, for which we give thanks, but we always have room for more. Publicity is always difficult, so we aim to place regular articles in the Bramley Newspaper. Cards advertising Connections and Moments will be reissued to the surgery, library and other suitable places.

None of this can happen without our dedicated team of helpers, so thank you all very much for all you do.

*Shelagh Baird-Smith, Co-ordinator*

## Moments

Moments meets on the last Wednesday of the month 10-12.00. Refreshments are provided and a light lunch (optional) between 12 and 1.00pm.



Our aim is to stimulate the mind and memory, with guest speakers, quizzes, puzzles and other activities. Everyone is welcome and enjoys the friendly, loving atmosphere, where they can feel safe and cared for as well as having fun. New activities have been introduced which seem to have gone down well. We are very blessed to have Claire, the NCC Local Area Co-ordinator, for support in the community, and she has helped a number of our members in different ways.

Our goal for the future is to bring more people into our happy, relaxed atmosphere where they can feel comfortable and valued, and to encourage them to chat to us and to each other. We hope that they will feel the love of God shining through us.

*Ann Stafford, Co-ordinator*

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## Deanery Synod

The Newark and Southwell Deanery Synod met three times during 2023, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> October. I am also a member of the Deanery Standing Committee that meets between these times. Please get in touch if there are any issues that you would like to discuss.

### Meetings

The meetings during 2023 gave opportunities to gather, support each other and share about the good news happening in the churches. There were discussions on Parish Share, times to pray for each other, updates on the vacancies in the Deanery, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. Living in Love and Faith was a major item on the agenda at General Synod and this filtered down to the Deanery Synod throughout the year. Parish Share was calculated differently for 2024, following a review by the Diocese, acknowledging it is a huge struggle to give when costs are going up. The Deanery is thankful for the contribution you make during the year.

### Meetings

In March we invited James Halstead, the Principal of School of Discipleship to share with us the Lay Ministry Framework. At the July meeting a new Deanery Synod Triennium commenced with Elections for Standing Committee & Lay Chair. Michael Wilson took the chair again, informing us, it would be his last Triennium. Archdeacon Tors joined us and shared the Vision Refresh Update. Some of our Churchwardens joined us before the start of the Synod and the Archdeacon held a short Admission service. At the October meeting we welcomed James as the New Area Dean and Zoe Ball from 100Homes shared with us the ways we can support foster carers and children in care.

### Clergy Chapter

John Chambers stepped down as Area Dean in March and James Halstead was appointed Interim Area Dean for Newark and Southwell in September, Phil White of the West Trent Benefice retired in May, Georgie Hadley of the Riverside Parishes retired in August and Andrew (Porter) moved to the Benefice in Mansfield Woodhouse in October. Their service to our deanery was warmly recognised. We welcomed Danny Marshall to the Deanery. Danny serves his curacy with Revd Chris Lion at St Mary Magdalene and St Leonard's in Newark.

### Vacancy

The churches in Vacancy - North Western Group (Ollerton Villages), Beck and Trent Group, Riverside Churches, West Trent Benefice and Holy Trinity.

The rest of Synod and my thanks go to the Churchwardens, PCCs and the wonderful Retired Clergy and PTOs who faithfully continue to serve the churches, congregations and parishes during the sometimes long vacancies. The Deanery Treasurer post is also vacant.

My thanks also go to my colleagues on the Deanery Standing Committee for their help and support, to Paula the Deanery Administrator, to Michael Wilson our Lay Chair and Tors, Archdeacon, and James, our Area Dean, for their support too.

*Peter Harris, Deanery & Diocesan Synod Rep.*

# Holy Trinity Infants School

Highlights of the year were

- the raising of sufficient funds to donate a rainwater harvesting system to a school in Uganda in connection with the Global Neighbours project with Christian Aid;
- the dedication of the staff and the way Mrs Haxton-Gregory's maternity leave was effect
- the happiness and enthusiastic atmosphere in the school.



God has been active in the school

- Through the daily activities;
- With vision for the next year;
- To develop the outdoor learning experiences for the children;
- To continue to provide excellent holistic education to all the children.
- In all the regular worship times;
- To gain a very high rating in the impending Ofsted inspection;

*Ian Baird-Smith*

## Home Groups

Home groups are small groups of Holy Trinity worshippers that meet at different times and on different days during the week. One group meets “virtually” for those who are less able to join together in person.



Each group has a different character and demographic. Everyone is encouraged to join a Home Group as they are a fundamental part of the life of the church. Meetings are every two weeks and each group will normally have a Bible study as well as a time of collective prayer and socialising. Home Groups are an essential part of the pastoral care provided by Holy Trinity and will usually be the first place to ask for prayer or help in difficult times.

If you would like to join a Home Group, guidance is available as to which group you might be most comfortable to join.

*Home Group Co-ordinator*

## Ladies Group

Ladies Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.00pm.

Highlights of the past year –

- Informative and varied talks (often from church members);
- Discussion and activity together as a group; Blossoming friendships;
- God at work on relationships within our group over the past year -
- Members' encouraging and supporting each other;
- Warm welcome, befriending and encouraging all new members.



Continued vision for the future -

- Working together to learn more of God's plan for us, for our wider families, for our Christian community, and for the community of Southwell.

*Rosemary Gatie*

## Men's Breakfast

Meets every 2 months on the first Saturday in church for food, fellowship and an inspiring talk. Around 35 men join us each time for great chats and a chance to meet more people.



Highlights:

- Good speakers on a range of widely differing subjects;
- Good food preparation (now being done by an all men team);
- Good numbers coming along with some who do not attend Sunday services.

God has been:

- In amongst the conversations;      • Bringing new people along.

Vision for the future: Increase the reach outside the congregation.

*Ian Baird-Smith*

## Mission

The Mission Group has met at irregular intervals during the year and the main focus has been on arranging Mission Sundays and allocating resources from the HT Mission Fund

Highlights of the year were

- Visits from speakers from CPAS and CMS and updates on the continuing work on the Lira projects in N Uganda.
- Donations have been made to Mission Aviation Fellowship, Wycliffe Bible Translators and SASRA (Soldiers and Aviators Scripture Reading Association)



God has been active:

- Bringing new supporters to Keframa School Build (one of our projects in Uganda).



Vision for the future

- Increase the involvement of the whole church in mission through prayerful support;
- Encourage at least one person to be involved in mission work outside the church.

*Ian Baird-Smith*

## Older Person's Ministry



We are a small team which enjoys working with the older people in our church and wider community.

We open this report with optimism. We have tightened up on communication which means that we can function more efficiently. We are here to help anyone with a need and are always grateful to know of anyone needing assistance.

We visit homes, hospitals, and care homes where appropriate; we also send birthday cards to the over 70's, get well and sympathy cards when needed. We will be introducing 'special event days' instead of 'Getaway days' which we have been holding for 20 years.

Outreach.

We are pleased to report that we are now running a homegroup at Moorfield Court every two weeks and at present are studying 'The Bible Course' which is much enjoyed. A service of Holy Communion is held every 6 weeks.

Members of our team are involved with coffee mornings which are run by Churches Together.

Our aim for the future is to be alert for signs of need, to pray for those in our care and to show God's love by making everyone feel cared for and valued.

*Ann Stafford & Jo Macdonald*

## Pastoral Care

With the departure of our vicar and one of our leaders, a much smaller team has endeavoured to keep abreast of the needs of the congregation, and ensured that support is given when needed. We are grateful for all the care and nurture given within our Trinity family - through housegroups, prayer ministry, groups that meet regularly and, of course, through friendships.



We have merged the Pastoral Team with the Older Person's Ministry Team, so the coordinators now are Julie Payne, Phil and Suzanne Dent, Ann Stafford and Jo MacDonald. We hope that there will also be people willing to be called on to offer support on an "as needed" basis.

In many ways this is a holding operation as our new vicar may want changes, but we are committed to "sharing one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ"

*Julie Payne*

## PCC Sub Groups

### **Additional Teaching ministries.**

We were disappointed that Esther Prior was not able to attend our planned Staycation Weekend as speaker last Autumn due to illness. However, we look forward to inviting her again in the future. We were still able to hold the Ceilidh and enjoy the pizzas on the Saturday evening.

During the interregnum we appreciate and are grateful to all those who are helping with our services on a Sunday, leading, presiding, preaching.

### **Eco Church**

Having gained silver status just before the pandemic, we have struggled to maintain momentum. This has particularly been the case over the last year, with the members of the group being highly committed in other areas of church life, especially since the vacancy began. As a result, we have not made progress towards gold status, though we are trying to sustain silver. What is needed is some fresh impetus, maybe from some new members, so it is a case of watch this space.



We are still very keen to be a fully functioning Eco church, and to take our responsibilities to care for God's Creation seriously.

Julie Barker has now undertaken to be the Environment/Creation lead for Churches Together in Southwell.

*Suzanne Dent*



## Welcome & Integration Group

Holy Trinity is a welcoming place on a Sunday. We have a welcome team outside in all weathers, Sue Massey who sets up the coffee at 8.30, all those who take a turn on the coffee rota, the sandwich makers and cake bakers for kids and families and youth café, and all of you who just chat to our visitors. THANK YOU.

Ideas for other social, fellowship events are always welcome.

*Chris Stead*

## Prayer

Prayer is one of the most important ministries in the life of the church and is involved in every aspect of our work and worship.



We seek to share encouragement, answered prayer and to sit alongside those that are struggling. We have strong links to our small groups and the pastoral team through our prayer champions.

The network is working well and now links to the wider church. We encourage each other in prayer, and seek words of knowledge and discernment from God. This is of special importance at this current time as we also work through the vacancy and the additional demands this places on all those in leadership. We give thanks for their service and faithfulness and for God's equipping.

Our weekly 30 minute prayer meetings at 7.00 pm every Wednesdays has had increasing attendance and has been a precious time of unity, encouragement and seeking wisdom and direction.

We have a committed small group available to offer prayer ministry but we would welcome more and especially need more men. If you feel that God is asking you to consider being part of the team I would be delighted if you talk to me.

We have prayer ministry training sessions which are open to all church members.

*Julie Barker Prayer Ministry Co-ordinator)*

## Safeguarding

The highlight from this year, since the last report, has been the Diocesan Conference for Parish Safeguarding Officers, which happened last summer. Although PSO meet termly via zoom for training and updates it was good to meet in person and to be able to discuss together in smaller groups. From this conference WhatsApp groups were set up for each deanery, which has proved to be a valuable place of support and contact. I am also grateful to the diocesan team who are always available to discuss and advise if safeguarding issues arise.

It was good to have time on Safeguarding Sunday to reflect on the Bible's teaching about safeguarding and the importance of ensuring that we as a church fellowship are all working within the same guidelines. This is being achieved by all our volunteers carrying out the relevant training for their specific role. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has participated in training this year.

We continue to safely recruit volunteers. The PCC follows the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and safeguarding remains a standing item at every meeting of the PCC.

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Next year I would like to aim to get more of the data onto the new Safeguarding hub, which we have recently been given access to. This should make the admin side of things easier in the long term. I will continue to respond to issues as they arise.

*Ann Clark, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## Toddlers

What have been the highlights of the past year ?

Firstly we continue to celebrate our fantastic Toddler team who come week by week to support Toddler families. They work really hard and we receive many lovely verbal and written messages about our service. We continue to feel privileged to do what we do. We now average about 35/40 plus families each week including up to eight Dads/Granddads.



The team have prayer time after Toddlers and that is very important to us, we pray for Toddler families when they ask us to.

At the end of each term we have special events :- Teddy Bear picnic in July, Easter Eggs and Hot cross buns in March/April and our fantastic Nativity (we always have a good angelic host) and Christmas party with scrumptious food, Christmas soft play and a very important visitor who brings gifts !!!!

New initiatives :-

We have reinvented our display table with Christian literature as well as community notices, we hope that some folk will take advantage of the free information. We read Christian stories that connect to the craft activities and they are well received. We are beginning to incorporate Christian songs into singing time.

What is your vision/future aims for the next year ?

To continue to encourage parents/grandparents/carers to come to church social events, quiz nights and Kids and Family services. We are always looking for ways to engage in conversations and deepen our relationships with our families.

To be thinking of new and exciting things to do although we are restricted by lack of accessible storage space.

Toddlers is always at its best when we have enough helpers to chat with people and clear up at the end. Please continue to pray for us, for safety each week, for health and for sharing God's love and care with those we meet and talk to.

Please come and chat to one of us if you think God is calling you to join our happy team.

*From Christine Cross & the Team*

## Worship Group

Worship group meets to practise on a Thursday evening. We are responsible for leading the sung worship at the weekly 10.30am Sunday service. In addition to this, we support special services, such as those over the Christmas period, and have been leading worship at the monthly kids and families' service.



A highlight has been working with the music group who continue to support the leadership of sung worship. It has been great to introduce new songs and see people connect with God through sung worship.

In what has been a challenging year, we have felt that God has created a real sense of community within the worship group. This has enabled us to support each other but also continue to praise him even when things are difficult.

The vision for the next year is to continue to combine prayer, reflection and singing. We want to ensure that God is at the centre of our worship by inviting the Holy Spirit in when we sing. We hope that every member of the congregation can use worship as a way of getting closer to God. We would like to see more people joining the music group to share their gifts and talents.

Thank you to all members of the worship group for the great work you do, it is greatly appreciated.

*Andy and Kelly Wall (Worship Leaders)*

## Youth Ministry

Youth cafe 1 is thriving and we have been blessed with the help of several new leaders so the commitment required can be shared evenly and is not too demanding in terms of time. Numbers attending are very high which is great but challenging, fortunately the leaders energy levels are coping and we are grateful for this. The "crash time" Christian input slot is well received and engaged with and we are grateful to all the helpers who have led these sessions. Our aim is to sustain the numbers moving on to youth cafe 2 as they get older.

Youth cafe 2 varies in attendance between 2 and 13 depending on other commitments. Again new leaders have come forward and are working really well. The main highlight of last year was that we managed to continue with youth cafe 2 and we now include a short Christian interactive session each week.

For the coming years we have several aims:

- to welcome young people moving up from youth cafe 1 into youth cafe 2 this September. We hope that this new cohort will remain engaged with Holy Trinity.
- to explore engaging with young people in the local schools.
- to explore ways of engaging local people in our services.

*Chris Stead and Peter May*

