
ANNUAL REPORT

Holy Trinity, Ashby de la Zouch

Report for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,
April 2024, on the calendar year 2023.



Image
by Caleb Lucas on
Unsplash

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report on 2023.

Please use the table of contents (at the beginning of each section) to give you an overview of our church's life. Please dip into the areas you know less about, as well as those that are particularly close to your heart.

There is so much to give thanks to God for. He is at work amongst us, and this report is a testament to his faithfulness in many of its forms. Much is not revealed in this report, not least the hidden acts of kindness, prayers and generous gifts of all kinds.

APCM

Annual Parochial Church meeting

Please do join us if you can at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday 21 April 2024 for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in our church building.

with love in Christ

Tim Phillips
Vicar of Holy Trinity Ashby
Team Vicar in the Ashby and Breedon Team,
serving The Flagstaff Family of Churches

p.s. If you are reading this report on screen, the page numbers in the Table of Contents function as links to the relevant page. Each section of the report also has a table of contents, which is also interactive. The words "Annual Report on 2023" in the top right corner of each page are also a link that returns you to the table of contents.

CONTENTS

Annual Report

Introduction		2
APCM		2
	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	
Contents		3
A. Discovery		
Men's Film Night (MFN)		7
	<i>Phill Taber</i>	
Ashby Men's Breakfast		7
	<i>Geoff Richman</i>	
Men's Steak Night (MSN)		7
	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	
Christians Against Poverty		7
	<i>Katie Johnson</i> <i>Lynda Flower</i>	
Pathways Café		9
	<i>Gill Richardson</i>	
JEL / JPG group		10
	<i>Katie Johnson</i>	
Trinity Fellowship		10
	<i>Jean M Harrison & Janet Onions</i>	
Alpha		11
	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	
The Garden Room		11
	<i>Sarah Phillips</i>	
B. Discipleship		
Confirmation Candidates		13
	<i>Rev Stephen Brook</i>	
Connect		13
	<i>Stephen Brook</i>	
Eden		14
	<i>Revd Stephen Brook</i>	
Fig Tree		15
	<i>Sarah & Tim Phillips</i>	
Men's Bible Study		15
	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	
Mothers' union		15
	<i>Rachael Bull</i>	
Refresh		16
	<i>Diana Saunders</i>	
Sunday Night Bible Discussion Group		17
	<i>Bob Onions</i>	
TLC (Tuesday Ladies Church)		17
	<i>Elizabeth Rudin</i>	
C. Children and Youth		

JAM (Jesus and Me) Club	<i>Rachael Bayliss & Jay Atubra</i>	19
Kids Brunch	<i>Denise and Phill Taber</i>	19
School Governors	<i>Tim Phillips and Stella Brook</i> <i>Tim Phillips</i>	19

D. Serving Locally

Pastoral Prayer Team (PPT)	<i>Noreen Mewies</i>	23
Ashby foodbank	<i>Rev Catherine Booton</i>	23
Ashby Street Pastors	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	24

E. Serving Elsewhere

Link Missionaries	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	26
Ride and Stride	<i>Bob and Janet Onions.</i>	26

F. Worship

8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Service Music	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	28
Musical Worship Group (10:30 a.m.)	<i>Ian Harris</i>	28
Audio and Visual Team	<i>Mark Johnson</i>	29
Sunday @ 10:30 coffees	<i>Gill Richardson</i>	30
Service Leaders and Preachers	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	30
Care Home Worship	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	30
Flagstaff Family of Churches	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	31

G. Governance

Communications	<i>Diana Saunders</i>	33
Church Warden's Report	<i>Phill Taber</i>	34
Fabric Report	<i>Phill Taber</i>	34
Church Terrier	<i>Phill Taber</i>	35
Building Sub-Group	<i>Martin Mawby</i>	35
Church Organ Project	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	36

Electoral Roll		36
	<i>Janet Onions</i>	
Grants Group		36
	<i>Michael Phillips</i>	
PCC Secretary's Report		36
	<i>Charlotte Day</i>	
Trinity Link People (TLPs)		39
	<i>Diana Saunders</i>	
Church Administration		40
	<i>Emma Harris</i>	
Safeguarding		42
	<i>Charlotte Day</i>	
Holy Trinity Clergy (HTC)		42
	<i>Tim Phillips</i>	
North West Leicestershire Deanery Synod		42
	<i>Noreen Mewies</i>	
Financial Statement		
Accounts for 2022		46

A. DISCOVERY

Men's Film Night (MFN)	7
Ashby Men's Breakfast	7
Men's Steak Night (MSN)	7
Christians Against Poverty	7
Pathways Café	9
JEL / JPG group	10
Just Enjoy Lunch	
Just Playing Games	
Trinity Fellowship	10
Alpha	11
The Garden Room	11

MEN'S FILM NIGHT (MFN)

Meeting at Swadlincote Odeon and often in the Tall Chimney (Hungry Horse) for fellowship prior to the showing. MFN is an informal meeting where men can share fellowship and an interest in cinema.

Phill Taber

ASHBY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Ashby Men's Breakfast group continues to meet monthly on the second Saturday to enjoy Breakfast at The Shoulder of Mutton (Wetherspoons) followed by a talk by invited speakers in the Methodist Church Hall. The speaker's topics are varied and always well received by those attending. A few new members have joined the group during the last year.

Geoff Richman

MEN'S STEAK NIGHT (MSN)

Meeting somewhere around 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at The Shoulder of Mutton (Wetherspoons), MSN is an informal evening where men gather to eat steak (or something else) and have a drink.

Tim Phillips

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Ashby CAP Debt Centre, in the last 13 years has gone into 296 homes and seen 68 families go debt free. As a team working with head office in Bradford, we have supported those families with their budgets to pay off or write off through insolvency £1,139,025.36 - which is utterly amazing.

In the last 12 months we have been very busy and have extended our service to include a help desk at our drop in weekly at our Pathways Café, where any one can come along and ask questions and be signposted to other services and clients can bring in paperwork.

In addition:

- We have continued our long-term support of 16 families on debt management plans or going through our resolutions teams.
- We've gone into 15 new homes in 2023, working with those families with very complicated needs
- We saw another 4 families go debt free this year
- We ran our first of the new money coaching courses (in fact it is going on right now), which has 2 delegates attending weekly

- Fresh start support remained in place for those struggling with addiction, again with one-to-one coaching happening on a monthly basis
- The weekly drop-in at Pathways Cafe has been extended to have a helpdesk there, and we've been able to signpost or support 12 people in the first month!!! In fact, we have seen 72 enquiries in the first 5 months of this being opened (Aug-Dec 2023)
- We also helped 16 families so far this year with emergency needs (that's double the number from last year) through our connection with ACTS 435

The cost of running this vital service is fully funded by generous donations, from regular givers, grants and charitable groups like yourselves. The cost of running the CAP services in 2023 was £21,947.31p, and we brought in £25,073.57p (this included a £5000 grant for a new Debt Coach in 2024).

The average cost of supporting a family to go Debt-free with us is £800. Ashby CAP Services

At the end of 2022, the UK had been experiencing the highest rates of inflation for decades, and things were getting more difficult for those living in poverty. The Food Foundation reported that 7 million adults missed meals in April 2022 due to rising costs.

The rise in energy caps means fuel bills are becoming unaffordable for many.

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, at the end of 2021, 3.8 million people on the lowest incomes had fallen behind in paying bills. Across the UK and locally, there are people living in the middle of very real poverty; we recently helped a retired person in Breedon to get a fridge so she could make the best use of her £37.50 a month food/ household budget - the astute among you will realise that's just £8.70 per week - for food and toiletries

At the end of 2022, 17 years since Ashby CAP Debt Centre first opened, we visited 281 homes, helped 64 families go debt-free, and saw £1,086,843.78p paid off or written off in debt at that time. As a debt service, we saw many new families in 2022, most of whom were offered an insolvency route out of debt due to their very low disposable income and high unmanageable debt owed.

No Fresh start courses were run in 2022, however several people have been supported on a one-to-one basis and the hope is a full course can run in 2023.

CAP Money ran online and face-to-face in the church in 2022, with 4 people attending courses and saying that they felt more in control after the course

Katie Johnson
Ashby Christians Against Poverty Services Director

Lynda Flower
Fresh Start Manager

PATHWAYS CAFÉ

We have another good year at Pathways.

On average Thursday mornings we have 15-30 a mixture of volunteers and clients/users. We still have CAP and Local Links Co-ordinator coming in for their drop-in sessions. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Housing Matters for good.

We have Citizen Advice coming in on a fortnightly basis helping people in the Ashby community including some of our clients. If you, or anyone you know, requires any help, please come into the drop-in sessions you can have a nice cuppa and chat. These services are free.

Many of the service users love coming to Pathways it's a way of communicating, meeting seeing one other on a weekly basis all helping their mental wellbeing and networking with other services too.

Remember we have free hot drinks and a hot snack e.g. toast and crumpet, chocolate biscuits and cakes.

We have now set up a craft table on a weekly basis which is manned by the volunteers, guests have enjoyed doing these crafts at Pathways. We made an Easter Garden again, handmade cards and potted some bulbs for Mothering Sunday. We would like to do more this coming year too.

We have sometimes had a games table instead which makes a change.

We have had volunteers making us cakes this time especially for Christmas. We try to celebrate Christmas and have a Christmas Party with a quiz organised by one of the members. We gave out Easter eggs and a Booklet of Mark with the Easter story. One of the volunteers explained that Easter is not just about a chocolate egg.

We have had a very kind gift of £1500, £500 over three years which is lovely and what a surprise. An amazing gift to us. Thank you, God, for this. Using the donation we have brought some more smaller tables. Which have helped us to serve our members etc. We hope to get some new tablecloths that will be kindly donated by HIB who come into to help. Their help is invaluable which means the volunteers have more quality time speaking to the members etc.

We hope to do another outing to the Furnace this summer, which is nice and enables fellowship between the members of Pathways to grow.

I really like to thank my volunteers for their support and ministry with Pathways, without them I could not manage Pathway on my own. Thanks also to others from the church who support us.

The volunteers that serve are me; Gill Richardson (main leader), Michael Phillips, Sarah Phillips, Sandra and Mike Crow, Pat, Linda Flower, Joyce McAlister, Lee and Jason Pinneger, Beverley Clifford and Heather Hearth

'In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight'.

Gill Richardson
Pathways Coordinator

JEL / JPG GROUP

Just Enjoy Lunch

Just Enjoy Lunch was an initiative started on June 18, 2023. It runs on the third Sunday of each month and is a way to bring our church family together for a community-shared BYO lunch. We have it in the Church Hall after the main 10:30 service at 12 p.m., and the first two months have been well attended by church members.

Since then, we have found the same 3 families plus a lady who comes to Pathways, staying regularly for a packed lunch, with the odd extra family from church joining us.

Just Playing Games

Just Playing Games runs after JEL in the Church Hall and we have 5/6 families (including 2 not generally Sunday attending families) coming each month to play games, plus others on occasion.

It is great fun and a fabulous opportunity to get to know people better and have fun as families each month.

At both events, we have been able to share about our faith, including to an atheist (ex-Muslim) and have given out Christian material, too, when asked.

Katie Johnson

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

Trinity Fellowship have met at 2pm on the last Tuesday of the month in church since the last AGM. Sadly, as the numbers have declined over the year it has been decided to stop the afternoon meetings and to think of different ways to meet together. A time to wait and listen to what God has in store for us individually or together. We do hope to meet for lunches or something similar.

We give thanks for all that has gone before and for so many whom we have had fellowship with over the years. Special thanks go to Margaret Weston for her years of leadership and faithfulness to the group.

We once again organised the Advent Carol Service in 2023 with the help of Ian and Emma Harris. Thanks goes to them and the worship group for their support.

Our speaker was the Rev. Canon Sue Field of St Helens. Members of the Flagstaff Group of Churches read, together with members of local organisations.

Some residents and carers from Newlands House intended coming but unfortunately the weather prevented them. The collection was taken in support of the home. We enjoyed coffee and mince pies afterwards and thanks to those who supplied the mince pies.

Thanks to all who have supported us over the years, we have had some good times. Thanks be to God.

Jean M Harrison & Janet Onions

ALPHA

During 2023, we had two in-person courses, one hosted by Tim Phillips with Sarah Phillips and Jo Prosser and the other by Tim Phillips with Alison Hayes and Karen Pacey. Both courses drew people into the discipleship and the life of our church fellowship.

Tim Phillips

THE GARDEN ROOM

The Garden Room is a community gardening project, rooted in the life of Holy Trinity Ashby.

Since the seeds of the project were planted during the pandemic, the project has continued to develop, putting down deeper roots in our life together and seeing more shoots grow out into the local community.

We believe in growing together.

We connect plants and people, growing flowers and food to share with others.

We aim to get outside together once or twice a week, as we are able. We sow, plant, water and weed - cultivating the ground God has given us. By welcoming people of all faiths and none to join us and join in, those of us who follow Jesus get to spend time alongside people who wouldn't call themselves Christians.

Together, we get to do something that is life-giving for each one of us - and be part of something bigger than ourselves.

In 2023, we grew flowers and food across two spaces in Ashby: a small secret garden behind Holy Trinity and a larger plot of raised beds down at the allotments, where we have a partnership with Ashby Allotment Association.

Over the last twelve months, we have given away lots of jam jars filled with flowers across Ashby and the surrounding villages. We have also been able to share armfuls of seasonal fruit & veg, via a free fresh produce table at Pathways Cafe, on Thursday mornings.

During 2023, we ran another series of Saturday morning events, inviting people from our community to donate and take-home seeds, bring and buy plants and make jam jar bouquets to share with family, friends and neighbours. Alongside other plot holders, we also took part in the Ashby Open Gardens weekend down at the allotments.

With others, we are embracing the adventure of growing together through the year. Through the colder and darker months, we continued to get out when the weather allowed; our outdoor

sessions often including a hot cup of tea and a homemade flapjack. We also enjoyed getting together indoors once a month, to enjoy a soup & bread lunch and begin planning the growing year ahead.

We have a small-but-mighty team of volunteers, surrounded by an extended community of supporters, who help out in different ways in line with their availability and interests.

We are so grateful to God and for them: for the gift of one another - and the gift of another year.

We have made some exciting connections and had some moving conversations over the last 12 months. We are looking forward to more adventures in growing together in the coming year.

Sarah Phillips

B. DISCIPLESHIP

Confirmation Candidates	13
Connect	13
Eden	14
Fig Tree	15
Men's Bible Study	15
Mothers' union	15
Refresh	16
Sunday Night Bible Discussion Group	17
TLC (Tuesday Ladies Church)	17

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The North West Leicestershire Deanery Confirmation Service took place on the Sunday afternoon of the 1st October 2023 at St Laurence's Church Measham and was presided over by Bishop Saju. Five candidates were presented from Holy Trinity Church following a short preparation course led by one of our retired clergy. They were Rev. Graham and Mrs Helen Heath who have recently joined our church after retiring from the full-time ministry at Ashby Baptist Church; Josiah Taylor, one of our younger members, who was also baptized and two ladies who had recently completed the Alpha Course at our Church: Jaqui Williams and Marie Palmer.

The 2024 Deanery Confirmation Service is due to take place at St Helen's Church in Ashby at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 14th July. Contact Rev Stephen Brook for further information about Adult Baptism and/or Confirmation.

Rev Stephen Brook

CONNECT

CONNECT is a welcoming open discipleship Community within Holy Trinity Church which meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings in Church at 7.30 p.m. Our Aim is to make 'connections', both

with one another as we seek to grow and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ, as well as with those in the wider church and beyond who are looking for a place to belong and explore what following Jesus is all about.

The group has an average attendance of about 20 people and provides a place where friendships can grow and gifts can be discovered and developed. All have a part to play in a typical evening gathering which usually includes – prayer and worship, a bible talk, small group sharing, sharing news and testimonies and an informal refreshment time.

Meetings during 2023 have all been based on Bible Teaching Video Courses, the first two of which were given by David Ingall from the “Burning Heart” resource. For the Spring Term of 2023 we used his course on the Book **of Deuteronomy**, then in the Summer Term we had Bible teaching on the theme of **Judgement**. The Autumn Term saw a big boost in our numbers as we used the popular Bible Society Course on **The Book of Romans** which most considered the best resource we had ever used. The year concluded with a joint **Christmas party** with the Eden group and members of the current Alpha Group on the 14th December.

For regular updates of our meetings contact Stephen Brook at revstephenbrook@gmail.com

Stephen Brook
Connect Coordinator

EDEN

EDEN is a weekly Wednesday morning ‘open’ fellowship group within the life of Holy Trinity Church. The aim is to help those who attend to grow as mature disciples of Jesus Christ. We recognise that this process depends on being committed to a caring group, where each one is valued, listened to and helped to develop their gifts. Following refreshments, the pattern of the meeting involves WELCOME (with an ‘ice breaker’ discussion on the theme), WORSHIP (normally from YouTube) WORD (Group Bible Study using one of the SU “Life Builder Study” booklets –) and WITNESS (which includes prayer for members in challenging life situations).

During the course of 2023 we have covered a varied mixture of Bible Study topics including, ‘Distorted Images of God’, ‘Marriage – God’s Design for Intimacy’, ‘Singleness-A life Grounded in Love.’ and ‘Coming of the Saviour’ The year concluded with a joint Christmas with Connect on a Thursday evening in December

Do join our mailing list for current details of our 9.30 a.m. Wednesday term time meetings in Church. Our active membership includes about 18 people.
Further details from Jo-anna Garner-Prosser(trinityashby-g-ciswxhzc@in.churchsuite.com)

Revd Stephen Brook

FIG TREE

During the New Wine summer festival, we began to discern the leading of God towards church planting at Holy Trinity and an invitation to start sowing the seeds of a new church community.

We returned from New Wine having had some early but meaningful conversations with others, including with those connected with Myriad, a national programme of development and support for church planting. Myriad is part of CCX, a leading centre for church multiplication in the Church of England, led by Bishop Ric Thorpe.

On returning to Ashby, Tim shared our sense of Gods leading with the church council and with their permission, we have begun a two and a half year process, to help us explore how God might be leading us towards planting a new church community.

Towards the end of 2023, we invited Denise & Phill Taber to join us in shaping and serving a new worshipping community and have settled on the name Fig Tree. We are so grateful to have them with us on this journey, as we seek God and begin to clarify the purpose and vision for this church plant.

We are looking forward to sharing more about Fig Tree in 2024.

Sarah & Tim Phillips

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings. We meet over a cup of coffee, and often there are times of silence. Again and again, we leave sensing that God has spoken to us through his Word. During 2023 we've had Steve Clowes, Vernon Bayliss, Pete Hyland and others are most welcome.

Tim Phillips

MOTHERS' UNION

Our MU branch enjoyed a fruitful 2023. We had 2 successful fundraising coffee mornings which encouraged all members of our community to come and enjoy homemade cakes and fellowship. We were blessed by other MU members from neighbouring branches to join us.

We continued to celebrate baptism families by giving each a Baptism Gift Bag. These bags contain a personal baptism card, a handmade 'Prayer Square' (kindly made by a friend of our MU) and a copy of MU Hand in Hand booklet. This booklet gives the family easy and accessible ways to add a little bit of Christ thinking and doing into everyday family life.

In September we held a Modern Day Slavery Awareness event, our speaker was Margaret Rouse, a member of Christians in Leicester and Leicestershire Against Modern Day Slavery (CLLAMS) and is involved in The Clewer Initiative. The event was well attended, and we all left with a new sense of understanding to the issues and challenges, and hopefully more equipped to spot and report if needed.

RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. Our aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days a year and not just during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November and December. The letters of RISE UP stand for **R**espond, **I**nform, **S**upport, **E**mpower, **U**nite and **P**ray.

We again joined MU across Leicestershire as they teamed up with PACT (Prison Advise Care Trust) by donating easter eggs and craft activities for children visiting their father in prison over Easter. PACT is a national charity that supports prisoners and their families by providing rehabilitation and sustaining family relationships during the period of incarceration.

We also collect items for 'Baby Basics Leicester', and help raise MU funds by collecting printer cartridges, mobile phones, cameras, tablets computers, iPods, unwanted UK and foreign notes or coins, jewellery, and watches (including broken) and used stamps and albums. For full details of items needed please contact Rachael Bull, who is happy to collect and pass on donations.

We are looking ahead to planning our meetings, speakers, and events for 2024 and will keep you informed.

Rachael Bull
Holy Trinity Mother's Union Branch Leader

REFRESH

Refresh at Holy Trinity Church is the 'Wrap around care that we show for our Church family. We hope all members of the Congregation will support anyone who may be going through a difficult time or who may perhaps be struggling to get to Church very often. We take notice if a regular member of the Congregation is absent for a while and we make enquiries to make sure they are well.

On Mothering Sunday, we provided a plant for each lady in Church at the 8.30 and 10.30am services, as a token of our appreciation.

Refreshments are provided at special services. especially at services such as the Carol services when we welcome a large number of visitors in Church.

It is a priority at Holy Trinity that everyone is made to feel welcome and valued.

With kindness and support there is always a way to show God's love.

Diana Saunders

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP

We meet at 7pm for about 1 hour on Sunday Evening on the Main Church 'Zoom' to discuss and reflect on YouTube videos (and associated bible passages) we have watched during the previous week or on the night. During the last year we have looked at videos by 'David Pawson' part of his 'Unlocking the Bible' series and video series by 'Burning Heart .org' who produce material on Prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Bob Onions.

Bob Onions

TLC (TUESDAY LADIES CHURCH)

TLC is a fellowship and discipleship group comprising nine ladies of our congregation, meeting from 9:30 to 12:00 on Tuesday mornings.

The aim of the group is to get to know, love, trust and serve the Lord better, to grow as disciples of Jesus, support and encourage each other, and support the wider congregation and community both practically and with prayer. Many TLC members are also involved in other groups that serve our congregation and the local community, and we provide practical and prayer support for those groups too.

Our meetings include a catch-up time, a worship time, intercessory prayer, and a video- or book-based study. In our WhatsApp group we share thoughts that help us keep our eyes on Jesus, post requests for and answers to prayer, and generally keep in touch daily. We are very grateful for all the ways in which the Lord has blessed our group and are mindful of Psalm 9:1:

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."

Elizabeth Rudin

C. CHILDREN AND YOUTH

JAM (Jesus and Me) Club	19
Kids Brunch	19
School Governors	19

Ashby Church of England Primary School

Other Schools

JAM (JESUS AND ME) CLUB

From January, the Jesus & Me Club met in the vestry twice a month during term time at the 10:30am service. It was a space for our youngest members of the congregation and occasional preschool visitors to share stories, craft, songs and games. As very small numbers joined us on a regular basis (typically only one or two) we took the decision in December to change the running of JAM from January 2024 onwards to a space at the back of church during the third Sunday of the month (the Deeper service). In doing this we hope that JAM Club will be a bit more accessible and allow parents/carers as well as our leaders to be present in the service while young ones have our usual activities to keep them engaged.

*Rachael Bayliss & Jay Atubra
(JAM Club Coordinators.)*

KIDS BRUNCH

Kids brunch runs the 3rd Sunday of every month during the 10:30am service and occasionally on a 5th Sunday during the Flagstaff service, for young people in KS1 through to KS3 (age 4-16). Kids Brunch has been running since May 22 led by a team of volunteers and on average around 20 young people join the team each month.....Praise the Lord!

Young people enjoy being served a tasty Brunch which differs month to month from sausage sandwiches to pancakes, fruit platters and mini muffins.

During Kids Brunch a short video bible study is shown, an opportunity for prayer and it's always ended with a few games. The vision for Kids Brunch is to provide a fun and friendly environment for young people to have fellowship with each other and explore faith together.

Denise and Phill Taber

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Ashby Church of England Primary School

"You have filled my heart with greater Joy" Psalms 4:7
A Journey of Joy

Inspiring everyone to:
Achieve their full potential
Challenge creative minds
Encourage and nurture talents
Through our Christian values of "Compassion, Endurance, Forgiveness, Friendship,
Trust and Wisdom."

“At Ashby C of E Primary, the whole school community is encouraged to follow their dreams so that everyone succeeds and every day is a step to success. Our school allows all to blossom and discover life within a solid Christian Foundation, providing a supportive and guided way through all aspects of life”

We do this by:

- Ensuring our school's Christian values are at the heart of all we do and are taught implicitly through every aspect of school life.
- Developing independent lifelong learners who grow in confidence and self-esteem and are equipped to overcome life's challenges within our school and the next stages of their education.
- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum where high quality teaching and learning is delivered in a vibrant, supportive learning environment.
- Creating a culture of achievement that celebrates, challenges and nurtures the talents of all our children. Enabling children to appreciate the diversity of cultures and religions that make up our society, and treating everyone with tolerance and respect in preparation for life in modern Britain.
- Promoting spirituality, health and well-being in an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and cared for.

The role of a school governor is very rewarding and well worth the efforts put in to the role.

We currently have two foundation governors - Tim Phillips and Stella Brook with Helen Health well on the way to formally joining the governing body.

Foundation governors are responsible for safeguarding and developing the school's religious ethos in addition to their general responsibilities as governors.

Our role as school governors, as part of the governing board, is to ensure high standards of achievement for all children in the school by:

- Setting the schools, vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the school's and its pupils' educational performance.
- Overseeing the school's financial performance and ensuring its money is well spent.

To fulfil our role, we are expected to make regular visits to the school to gain a good knowledge and understanding of how the school is run, meet the staff, and get to know the pupils. We each have a designated class within the school, and getting to know our special teachers and pupils is a joy.

Please pray that the links with the Holy Trinity will continue to be strong.

Tim Phillips and Stella Brook

Other Schools

Members of Holy Trinity Ashby serve on various other school governing bodies, particularly at Newbold School (in St Matthew's Worthington's parish), where Tim Phillips, Emma Garrett, Helen Heath, and Paula Holbrook hold various roles. In 2023, Paula took on the role of Chair of Governors for the school.

Tim Phillips

D. SERVING LOCALLY

Pastoral Prayer Team (PPT)	23
Ashby foodbank	23
Ashby Street Pastors	24

PASTORAL PRAYER TEAM (PPT)

The Pastoral Prayer Team consists of Tim Phillips, Paul Harris, Janet Onions, Christina Walmsley Kathy Hart and Noreen Mewies.

We meet monthly, currently a mix of in person and Zoom:

- to pray for anyone, who is in particular need of prayer at that time
- to support each other in giving pastoral care to those with various needs

The PPT is separate from the Prayer Chain although we include people from the Prayer Chain requests in our prayers. We mainly pray for anyone who has a close connection with Holy Trinity and St Matthew's, Worthington. The names of the people for whom we pray are kept confidential; as are the reasons for prayer.

Noreen Mewies

ASHBY FOODBANK

We continue to be busy at Ashby foodbank and are helping people from around our area who are struggling for food in the current cost of living crisis. Our figures as shown below, are a little lower than the previous year, but we are still providing a vital and important service to those who need us.

We have 4 distribution sessions per week (2 in Ashby, 1 in Measham and 1 in Swadlincote (which has recently moved from Woodville) where we meet clients, offer help and assistance and give out our food parcels.

We are blessed with a good team of volunteers ranging in age from 15 to 85, who all work together in a range of ways (from donation collection, labelling and storing, through parcel packing, to meeting with clients in our distribution centres) to achieve a positive experience for the clients. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our offering – including using new signposting software which helps to match the client to services which may help them and the possibility of having a CAB worker on site to offer advice.

We have also recently employed a Foodbank administrator who is able to help with some of the admin jobs such as thank you letters, updating referrers information/leaflets, shopping for missing items and other jobs as required.

We are grateful to Ashby Congregational church for their continued support in offering the use of so much of their building for storage and our activities and the other venues, Measham Baptist Church and Emmanuel church Swadlincote, for the use of their rooms for our sessions. We thank Holy Trinity for continuing to provide governance and support too.

Our statistics for the year April 23 – March 24 are as follows (*with the previous year's figures in brackets and italics*)

Number of vouchers (food parcels issued to clients)	822	(936 2022-23)
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People helped	1385 adults / 944 children	//	2329 total
	(1495 adults/ 999 children	//	2494 total 2022-23)
Food given out in parcels	23560 kg		(27021kg 2022-23)
Food donated in	25031kg		(27949kg 2022-23)
Current stock level	4636kg		(3835kg 31/3/23)

*Rev Catherine Booton
On behalf of the
Ashby Foodbank Management Team*

ASHBY STREET PASTORS

Holy Trinity has long supported Ashby Street Pastors, and an ecumenically run group in our town, both with volunteers, including Vanessa Bayliss and Karen Pacey, and financially via PCC funds.

Tim Phillips

E. SERVING ELSEWHERE

Link Missionaries	26
Lea and Petra Williams	
Mark and Rosalie Balfour	
Pete and Andrea Frizelle	
Ride and Stride	26

LINK MISSIONARIES

Lea and Petra Williams

CMS Missionaries the Czech Republic.

Mark and Rosalie Balfour

Our CMS Mission Partners are working with Street Kids Direct Guatemala. Mark and Rosalie were at Trinity College, Bristol, with Tim and Sarah Phillips.

Pete and Andrea Frizelle

Working with YWAM in Guatemala. Pete spent two years with Ashby Youth for Christ over ten years ago.

Tim Phillips

RIDE AND STRIDE

The annual sponsored Ride and Stride took place on Saturday 9th September.

Half the money raised through this event goes to Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and the other half is returned to Holy Trinity.

This year £350.50 was raised by cyclists from Trinity through visiting churches and chapels in Ashby and surrounding villages.

Thanks goes to all who participated which includes those who sponsored and those who welcomed and registered visitors to our church.

Bob and Janet Onions.

F. WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Service Music	28
Musical Worship Group (10:30 a.m.)	28
Audio and Visual Team	29
Sunday @ 10:30 coffees	30
Service Leaders and Preachers	30
Baptisms	
Weddings	
Funerals	
Care Home Worship	30
Lyndhurst Lodge	
Fernleigh Care Home	
Flagstaff Family of Churches	31

8:30 A.M. AND 6:00 P.M. SERVICE MUSIC

8:30 a.m. Service

The 8:30 am service continues to welcome people in the building and on Zoom. The service has been well supported, with over 20 people each week. We are particularly grateful to Sarah Phillips for continuing to host the Zoom room for our morning services.

6:00 p.m. Service

The 6:00 pm service remained in the church building until the dark winter nights closed in when it then returned to Zoom only. At other times the service often has as many on Zoom as in the building. We started using iSingWorship when Mike Everitt and Steve Clowes were not leading sung worship, or benefiting our Anglican Hymns, old and new.

Tim Phillips

MUSICAL WORSHIP GROUP (10:30 A.M.)

While we were still running our 10:30 am services in the church hall, we started our weekly pre-service gathering, Dwell. This runs for 25 mins from 10 am every Sunday. We use contemplative and familiar music to create a reflective atmosphere and invite the Holy Spirit to work in us. Dwell was designed to meet a need for worshippers to be able to unplug from the expectation to sing all the words, to close their eyes and intentionally “dwell” in God’s presence. As we soak in the privilege and intimacy of worship, the Holy Spirit ministers to us. We have had the privilege of hearing encouraging and prophetic words and we are committed to pressing more deeply into practicing and receiving the gifts of the Spirit.

All of our worship and musical response to God’s glory and love is borne from a desire to glorify Him. The phrase we most commonly use amongst ourselves to express this is our desire to be “passionate and authentic” worshippers. That will remain.

Worship: First and foremost, we are committed to being a community of worshippers. Musical worship is one part of that expression but not the most important. In The Westminster Shorter Catechism, we read that: “Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” And in Ephesians Paul writes: “we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.” This is our purpose and our goal; to live worshipful lives by the grace of God and the good gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for God to stir the hearts of those He has anointed for the purpose of musical worship who are not yet involved to step forward and for the discipleship of the whole team.

Music: We will continue to seek the gift of worship; to express the joy and goodness of God and His creation. We value substance over style in our praise and always try to select music that

appropriately reflects the readings and themes of our services. We want our worship to be a place of freedom, lost in His presence and praise.

Our worship band have been working this year on the discipline and joy of practice and preparation in order to “praise him according to his excellent greatness” (Psalm 150:2). We have determined that we will not bring a sacrifice without cost - and that God deserves our best, not just good enough. Our best still falls short of the praise that is due His name and it is His grace that makes up the intentions of our hearts into a pleasing and acceptable sacrifice. But these intentions are for His name to be exalted above all. To this end, we have been working on technical improvements and better musicianship and Emma and I have subscribed the band to an online resource called The Worship Initiative which teaches instrumental parts, foundational skills and apt devotionals for the songs we play.

Please pray for wisdom, creativity and passion for those who lead our preaching, liturgy and worship and for God to raise up new Worship Leaders to join our team.

Not Sundays: We have long considered that a musical response of worship should not just be confined to Sunday mornings. We are open to serving more small groups and “not Sunday” events and would love to be invited. For a while, it has been on our hearts that a longer, informal and more intimate worship event, perhaps monthly, could help meet a hunger for those who want to dwell in the presence of God in the community and experience and practice His good spiritual gifts.

Please pray that this calling is shaped by God to His glory and for opportunities for us to minister to our brothers and sisters in humble and creative ways.

Grace & peace,

*Ian Harris
Sung Worship Group Coordinator*

AUDIO AND VISUAL TEAM

We are pleased that post covid we are back in the church and the team who managed the slides on Zoom are now also within the Church building.

This has been a tremendous help having all of us together and has allowed Tony and me to spread the load.

We are still in discussions and planning over the placement of the new sound desk and equipment.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports the AV team.

Mark Johnson

SUNDAY @ 10:30 COFFEES

This has been hard this year getting volunteers to help, but, more people have come forward to help, which has been marvellous. Thank you, God!

It is a great way of fellowship after church speaking to new people with a cuppa of tea or coffee. And talking to friends that you may only see at church on Sunday, etc.

If you might be able to help and be on the coffee rota for the 10:30 service, please speak to Gill Richardson or Rachael Bull. Our numbers are in ChurchSuite.

*Gill Richardson
Refreshments Coordinator*

SERVICE LEADERS AND PREACHERS

We continue to be served by our clergy: Tim Phillips, Stephen Brook, Paul Harris and our Reader: Steve Clowes, each taking services in a monthly pattern. Beth Lunt was licensed as an Associate Minister and now takes occasional services.

Baptisms

Baptism services form part of our 10:30 am service. For more information about Baptisms at Holy Trinity, see trinityashby.net/baptisms.

Weddings

Tim Phillips and Stephen Brook took our wedding services in 2022. For more information about Weddings at Holy Trinity, see trinityashby.net/weddings.

Funerals

We have a team of ministers who have taken funerals for the church, including Kathy Hart (Pastoral Assistant), Rev Stephen Brook and Tim Phillips. For more information about Funerals at Holy Trinity, see trinityashby.net/funerals.

Tim Phillips

CARE HOME WORSHIP

2023 has seen the return of our Care Home worship services.

Lyndhurst Lodge

In 2023, a team that included Rosemary Whyatt, Janet Onions, Jean Margaret Harrison, and Tim Phillips shared communion with Margaret Weston. This led to a Carol Service (which Diana Saunders and Glenis Garner joined us for) in the lounge of the care home for most of the residents and then to an invitation for us to return for monthly Holy Communion Services in 2024.

Fernleigh Care Home

Thanks to the invitations of the activities coordinator, Hannah Sparey, various members of Holy Trinity Ashby provided activities for the residents in 2023. During the year, Tim Phillips and Helen Heath went into

the home for a monthly Communion Service. This service was a key proving ground for using songs from iSingWorship in a user-friendly way.

The response from the residents and staff has been warm and appreciative.

Tim Phillips

FLAGSTAFF FAMILY OF CHURCHES

In May 2023, we welcomed Rev Canon Sue Field, our Team Rector.

Throughout 2023, we have gathered with others from across the Flagstaff Family of churches for our 5th Sunday services and Team Talk (in Lent).

The wardens from the family of churches have met throughout the year, and it was a privilege to join them and see how they have supported one another and served their churches amidst all the challenges of a vacancy.

You can see more information at our Flagstaff Family of Churches website, flagstaff.org.uk,

Tim Phillips

Vicar of Holy Trinity and Team Vicar in the Flagstaff Family of Churches

G. GOVERNANCE

Communications	33
Church Office	
Church Calendar	
Trinity Notices	
Prayer Chain	
Church Notice Boards	
TrinityAshby.net, ChurchSuite & Lighthouse	
Church Warden's Report	34
Fabric Report	34
Summary of Fabric Repairs, Improvements and General Maintenance Work 2023	
Church Terrier	35
Building Sub-Group	35
Church Organ Project	36
Electoral Roll	36
Grants Group	36
PCC Secretary's Report	36
Trinity Link People (TLPs)	39
Church Administration	40
Office Administration at Holy Trinity	
Safeguarding	42
Holy Trinity Clergy (HTC)	42
North West Leicestershire Deanery Synod	42

COMMUNICATIONS

At Holy Trinity, we all work as a team, and we aim collaboratively to communicate clearly to everyone all that is happening in and throughout our church. Our intention is to provide the level of information people feel they need. We rely on feedback to improve our communication network, so please talk to us.

Church Office

The Church Office is the main hub of our communications network. Emma Harris has her core hours from 09:30 - 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays, taking telephone messages, carrying out general administration for the church, and managing the church diary, bookings, and invoicing. During church office hours, Emma can be reached on 07745 378 155. Please leave a message, and Emma will get back to you. We appreciate her efficiency and hard work. She is an excellent communicator!

Church Calendar

The church calendar shows events taking place in the church building. Other groups can be shown in the diary if requested. The diary is live and can be accessed at TrinityAshby.net/calendar

As the calendar for Trinity, the Church building, and our Zoom Meeting rooms have become increasingly busy, it has been important for us to present this information in more useful ways.

Trinity Notices

The email edition arrives at 7:00 a.m. each Saturday with various short notices and events.

Prayer Chain

This is in regular use and continues to be a valuable communication tool. Requests for inclusion in the prayer chain need to be made to Emma Harris through the Church Office at 07745 378155 or by email to prayer@trinityashby.net. Yousef Diery continues to generously maintain our prayer chain response service so you can send messages to those who have requested prayer.

Church Notice Boards

Rachel Bull (Church Warden) now maintains our Church Noticeboard at the back of the church building.

TrinityAshby.net, ChurchSuite & Lighthouse

Our Church website is a key place for information and provides access to both our Church Database, ChurchSuite and our online community, Lighthouse.

Using the ChurchSuite system, we are also able to provide

- Individual user accounts for those who want to update their information
- Mailing lists for emails and letters
- Rotas for all our services are managed online.
- Electronic reminders for those on rota who want them
- An integrated calendar linking groups, their web pages, and members
- Online registrations and forms.

Diana Saunders

PCC Member Responsible for Communications

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Holy Trinity is a registered charity (Charity Number 1131178), the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are elected, subject to conditions set out in the Church Representation Rules, from among the worshipping community of the church by fellow members for a three-year term.

The PCC members are also trustees of CAP-Ashby and Ashby Foodbank.

By law, we are required to update the information held by the Charity Commission following the AGM each year and submit our Annual Report, including the signed Financial Report. Copies can be found on the Charity Commission website.

The Church Wardens are elected/re-elected annually as the Bishop's representatives, a key role being to support the Vicar.

The Standing Committee meets before PCC meetings to discuss issues and proposals going forward PCC meetings and help to draw up the agenda.

The Church Family at Holy Trinity comes from a wide range of Christian backgrounds, and they share a sense of Trinity as their spiritual home and place of growth.

Emma Harris has continued to serve as Parish Administrator, keeping the church diary updated, producing the weekly notices, and so much more. Emma is available four mornings each week (Monday - Thursday) and may be contacted by email or telephone during these hours.

We continue to give thanks for the invaluable work of Philip Craner, both as Verger and Church Hall Caretaker. His commitment to his work is unstinting, and his assistance to the Church Wardens is very much appreciated.

It was a pleasure to welcome our Ashby primary schools for their Harvest and Christmas Carol services again this year and the Scouting and Cadet organisations during our Remembrance Service.

Phill Taber
Church Warden

FABRIC REPORT

Summary of Fabric Repairs, Improvements and General Maintenance Work 2023

The Quinquennial inspection of the church building was carried out in 2023. This has helped the building Sub-Group formulate a proposed list of works for 2024 which has been approved by the PCC.

Plans for the restoration of the church tower are ongoing, and the building sub-group is seeking advice on the required works.

Annual checks are carried out:

- Fire extinguishers
- Tuning of the church piano
- Clearance of debris from roof, gutters and gullies
- Maintenance of the Church Hall

Routine maintenance of the hall has continued. During this period, the annex was redecorated following the re-felting of the roof, and all the gutters, downpipes, and soffits were replaced.

Maintenance of Church Yard

Ashby Town Council Groundsmen/women have continued to maintain our closed Churchyard. During the period, the trees have been re-pollarded, and patch repairs have been made to the path between the Church and Church Hall. Tasks currently under discussion include the resurfacing of the driveway.

Phill Taber
Church Warden

CHURCH TERRIER

Holy Trinity has a requirement to maintain the Church Terrier, this is a list of land and all items/property belonging to the church. It is also a log book and detailed record of all the alterations, additions and repairs to the church, its land and contents which enables churchwardens to comply with the law, it is continually updated and stored securely.

Phill Taber
Church Warden

BUILDING SUB-GROUP

The Building Sub Group (BSG) has 7 members and is chaired by Tim Phillips. It established a Works Programme for 2023 noting potential cost and priorities. The following projects were completed during the calendar year 2023:

- Church internal refurbishment and decoration
- Chancel stained glass window repair
- New post box in church porch
- Full Tower survey by accredited Civil Engineer
- Replacement disabled access ramp to side door
- Church electrical survey
- Patch repairs to path outside the Vestry and Hall
- Lime trees pollarded along driveway
- 2023 Quinquennial Inspection
- Replacement notice board purchase approved
- Energy provider changed
- A number of minor maintenance repairs

The following projects were ongoing at 31 December 2023:

- Tower stonework stabilisation

- Repairing the clock bell mechanism
- Re-painting the church's blue doors
- Ground-level mortar re-pointing
- Porch re-decoration
- Chancel windows re-seating
- Digital organ faculty
- Boiler House roof repair
- Wired WiFi into the church building
- Church driveway maintenance
- Church Buildings Insurance provider review the upper pane.

Martin Mawby

CHURCH ORGAN PROJECT

The final Faculty permission for us to keep the digital organ has been sought during 2023, following on from the temporary TMRO permission granted in 2022.

Tim Phillips

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the Annual General Meeting on 21st May 2023, it was reported that there were 187 names on the Electoral Roll.

Janet Onions
janet.onions@gmail.com

GRANTS GROUP

The Grants Sub Group have been quiet in the last year.

Only one request for a Grant which we applied for and were not successful.

We will be looking for Grants to repair the stained-glass window in April 2024 when the committee reforms. Mike Crow has agreed to join us as Tim Abbott has left having moved away.

Michael Phillips

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

A brief report of proceedings for the period January 2023 to December 2023 Meetings:

Scheduled meetings took place in:

- January
- February
- March

- April
- May
- June
- July
- September
- October
- November.

Council Membership:

The PCC had total members of 16 members before the APCM and 16 following it.

Ex Officio Members:

- Revd Tim Phillips (Chair) Incumbent
- Paul Harris Licenced Retired Minister
- Stephen Brooks Licenced Retired Minister
- Kathy Hart Licensed Lay
- Minister Steven Clowes Reader
- Ian Johnson Treasurer
- Jean M Harrison Deanery Synod (Treasurer)
- Noreen Mewies Deanery Synod (Lay Chair)

Other members: Rachael Bull, Phill Taber, Lynda Flower, Diana Saunders, Ken Garner, Bob Onions, Ivan Hallam and Charlotte Day

Members standing down at the 2023 APCM: 1 (Iris Holt)

Members elected/re-elected at the 2023 APCM: 3 (Ivan Hallam elected, Ken Garner and Diana Saunders re-elected)

Standing Committee: A small group of members who can make decisions between PCC meetings. The members were: Tim Phillips (Team Vicar), Ian Johnson (Treasurer), Rachael Bull (Church Warden), Phill Taber (Church Warden) and Charlotte Day (PCC Secretary).

Typical PCC Agenda Items:

- Welcome and Prayer
- Apologies for absence
- Review of Minutes from the previous meetings

- Review of Standing Committee Notes
- Prayer for Five
- Specific items or discussion or information
- Reports –Treasurer, Building Sub-Group, Foodbank Steering Group and Safeguarding
- AOB
- Date of the Next Meeting
- Closing Prayer

Key Issues, Decisions and Events:

January

Parish contribution

February

Bishop's document on the doctrine of marriage, concert bookings policy and learning to cook on a budget

March

Annual review of giving, children's groups risk assessment and safeguarding training and updates regarding General Synod, Minster Communities and Team Rector Appointment Process.

April

Typical agenda items, Saturday concert bookings and organ hire fee

May

APCM

June

Safeguarding, risk assessments and sound desk proposal

July

Ramp replacement, Admin laptop, Parish Contribution 2024 and policies and risk assessments.

August

No meeting

September

Prayer Ministry rota co-ordinator, church hall hire review, church noticeboard, EIRC report, Bubble Church, Growing in Hope, Catalyst, organ faculty and painting and repointing.

October

Ashby Foodbank Shed funds, Banquet deposit, appointment to Foodbank Steering Group, QR Code for giving, Christian Aid appointment and approval of an Associate Minister.

November

Salary and pension review, Project Iris, conversation prompts, Statement of Faith and Eucharist Ministers

December

No meeting

*Charlotte Day
PCC Secretary*

TRINITY LINK PEOPLE (TLPS)

At Holy Trinity we have a group of people who work to support the many groups who are linked to our church. They are there to support their group in any way they can – offering a trusted confidential ear, if needed, or a word of encouragement or advice.

A TLP will help a group sort out minor problems if that is helpful and be there to help the group celebrate all that is going on. If a group needed financial help, for example, their TLP would take their issue to the PCC. Through regular contact, by way of a phone call or a quick word in church, TLP's aim to build up a relationship with their groups and will encourage their groups to write the occasional short report in the church magazine and to write a brief yearly report for the Church Annual Report.

TLP's will never want to intrude on a group – but simply wish to be there to support their group as and when they are needed.

A list of groups and their TLP's is available on the website.

'We are the Church and together we want to take the love of Holy Trinity out into our community'

Diana Saunders

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Office Administration at Holy Trinity

It has been another busy year in our church office and 2023 marked my twelfth year as Administrator for Holy Trinity Church.

My purpose is to work in a way that honours God and serves His church as set out by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians:

‘...God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating and various kinds of tongues’

1 Corinthians 12:28

Part of my role is to support Tim and the clergy team which in turn frees them of administrative and organisational tasks thereby releasing them to their calling and mission. I provide support to the Wardens and work closely with our Verger, Philip. I am often the first point of contact for members of the church and support for church members and assist those in our benefice with information and coordination.

Here is a window into the life of Holy Trinity’s church office Administrator in 2023.

Occasional offices

Many of the church services that happen during the week are called Occasional Offices. In 2023 there were 2 weddings, 8 baptisms, 17 funerals, 3 interments and 1 Thanksgiving service. All of these events need diary management, coordination, working with families officiants and funeral directors but also include data collecting and recording. During the year there were also seasonal services, school services, concerts, and other church events.

Communications

My work base is a mixture of remote and office based depending on the requirements of the week. I work for 13 hours per week from Monday to Thursday and can be contacted by phone or email from 8.45am to 12 noon.

I have regular meetings with our vicar Tim and regular contact with the Church Treasurer, Verger, Wardens, members of the PCC and PCC Secretary.

Other people that I liaise with during the course of the year include Diocesan staff such as the Diocesan Registrar for obtaining legal advice, the general public, Funeral Directors, other post-holders within the Flagstaff team and maintenance professionals. Regular communications to the wider church family include the weekly Trinity Notices and regular Prayer Chain updates. These are driven from our church website and database system which I administer.

Rotas, Church Diary and Zoom

Administration at Holy Trinity in 2023 continued to include the management of the busy church and hall diaries including concerts and school bookings for Easter, Harvest and Christmas services plus leaver services.

I draft church rotas (26 in total) covering 3 services every Sunday. Over the 52 Sundays in 2023 that meant sorting 1,352 individual rotas. It is a sizeable and detailed task over the year which is helped in part by automation of our ChurchSuite management software but still requires significant manual co-ordination and communication. We are so grateful to all who serve on our rotas.

We have continued to provide services on Zoom and many meetings also continue to use Zoom which involves my coordination of bookings on the church calendar to ensure there are no clashes.

Supply Management and Maintenance

I continue to manage and order supplies for church - anything from candles, communion wine and wafers, to cleaning equipment, batteries, paper, toilet rolls and hand towels.

I oversee the maintenance of church items that require annual servicing. The church heaters, lightning protection system, piano, the hall boiler were maintained in 2023.

Hall & Church bookings & invoicing

We continue to hire the church out to Ashby Concert Band for their rehearsals on Monday evenings. We also regularly rent the church hall during the week to Playgroup, Phoenix Academy of Performing Arts, Army Cadets Force and Trinity Badminton. Many of these hirers have been with us for decades. I am responsible for liaising with these groups over their bookings, I communicate annual hourly rate hire increases determined by the PCC and calculate their invoicing on a quarterly basis. In total £23,657 was billed for hall and church hire in 2023.

Finance & Purchasing

I generate all the invoicing throughout the year for occasional offices (weddings, blessings, funerals, memorial services and interments) and building hire. I work closely with Ian Johnson our Church Treasurer.

Each year the Parochial Church Fees set by the Church of England are updated. I interpret this detailed document each year and draft a fee format for Holy Trinity which includes calculations to pay Ministers with permission to officiate or lay officiants.

I hold the debit card for purchase of any items required for the church and hall which include payment for all our church CCLI and PRS licenses and any tithe payments that must be processed by debit card.

Other Administrative Support

In addition to the above I support St Matthew's Church with administration for weddings, baptisms and a very busy funeral Ministry since St Matthew's has an active graveyard.

Since June 2023 I also now serve in an administrative capacity for our Area Dean, Gill Pinnington at Christ Church, Coalville on a part time basis on Monday through to Thursday afternoons to support the benefice of Christ church which includes the churches of St Peter's Bardonia and St Michael and All Angels Ravenstone.

As the Minster Community process continues to take shape within the Leicester Diocese I look to faithfully serve our churches in an administrative capacity in submission to our church leaders with the gifts I have been given by the grace of God, wherever I am called.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:3-8 New International Version

Emma Harris

Holy Trinity Ashby, Parish Administrator

SAFEGUARDING

OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Holy Trinity has completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and all PCC members have completed their safeguarding training. Charlotte Day is the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Gemma Barber is the Safeguarding Independent Person.

Charlotte Day

Safeguarding Coordinator

HOLY TRINITY CLERGY (HTC)

Meeting regularly on Monday mornings on Zoom, Stephen Brook, Paul Harris, and Tim Phillips met to review our approaches to worship, support each other in pastoral care and pray.

Tim Phillips

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DEANERY SYNOD

Revd. Gillian Pinnington was licensed as Area Dean in 2020, following the resignation of Revd Tim Phillips as Assistant Area Dean in 2023 Tim has been replaced by Revd. Laura Jackson.

Representatives to Deanery Synod may stand for two terms of three years effective from July 2021, the current representatives are all eligible to stand for a second triennial.

Key note speakers at each Synod in 2023:

March

Diocesan Finance

Guest Speakers; Johnathan Kerry – Chief Executive & Diocesan Secretary and Simon Wilson – Finance Director along with David Palmer, Claire Bampton, and Phil Leech.

Gill welcomed our guests; they explained the purpose of their visit was to share information and to start a conversation around the financial challenges the Diocese are facing.

A letter from Bishop Martyn circulated in January 2023 was referred to before a slideshow showing income/expenditure, breakdown of assets, parish contributions and other useful information was presented.

A short time was given to discuss what we had heard and to raise questions.

June

Living Faith; Growing Gifts with Revd. Liz Rawlings

A brief review of the evening.

The heart of the matter

Lectio Divina – Luke 6:12-19

- Jesus spends time abiding in God
- Jesus called together a community of faith
- They minister to the crowd, in word and deed.

The calling of all Christians is to live out our **everyday faith** in the whole of life. This calling begins from being 'in' God, a place of abiding, from knowing ourselves as the beloved.

In God, in community, in the world.

We were then invited to think about:

- How am I attending to abiding in God?

Everyday faith is grown in communities of mutual discipleship and this leads to fruitfulness in the world where we can be salt and light and bearers of the grace of God.

We were given three interlocking circles to look at.

Relational Ministry - How do I live out my faith in and among, my family, friends, networks and colleagues?

Church Ministry – What is my role in the life and mission of my church?

Social Ministry – How does my faith affect, my household, my work, my community, the environment, and social justice?

We were invited to consider and write down:

- What does my faith mean in the various spheres of life I occupy?

The calling of the church

- **In God**- shaped by prayer and worship
- **In community**- a place of mutual discipleship and service
- **In the world**- to bear witness to the Kingdom of God and bless the world.

We were invited to consider and note:

→ What is my role in the life and mission of my church?

PCC member, confidant/listener, schools work, community work and much more.

How does God guide us?

God always calls us into deeper life in him and resources us to live more fruitfully in all spheres of life.

He sometimes calls us to new ways of living out our faith.

How do we know what he is saying?

We were challenged to think about:

→ What does your mind say?

→ What does your heart say?

→ What does your spirit say?

→ What do others say?

Some useful next steps;

→ Talk to someone you trust

→ Life Signs exercises

→ Journey in Faith Course

→ For everyone sessions

→ Spiritual Direction

→ Contact the Vocations Team – liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

Vocation and ministry

All of us are ministers of the Gospel but some are called to particular ministries authorized by the church. These may be:

Authorized Local Minister

Roles could include – children's work, pastoral visiting, welcome and hospitality, volunteering parish officers and many more.

Associate Minister

All licensed laity enable others to grow in faith

Ordained Minister, Incumbent, Priest, Associate Vicar, Chaplain, Ordained Pioneer, Deacons

The Community Examen

→ Where are we seeing glimpses of glory? – what do we reflect on at the end of the day?

→ What is troubling us? – what is weighing heavily on our mind?

→ What are we hoping for? – what would I ask God to do?

We considered and shared a few ideas for each.

October 2023

Parish Commitment – Noreen Mewies

Noreen thanked all the churches for sending their information in, figures showed an overall deanery increase of almost £17,000.

Two questions arose; -

- Will Minster Communities affect Parish Commitments in the future?
- Will there still be a deanery?

It is not yet known how/if Minster Communities will affect Parish Commitments, although finance is a major consideration.

There will still be a deanery but, again, not yet known how this will work. Deaneries will certainly have to work together, but we do already have strong bonds across boundaries.

Laity Meetings

As a consequence of the Deanery Tour, Noreen felt we should not wait until next Summer to talk to people again, and thought it would be a good idea to arrange informal meetings starting in the new year.

This will be an opportunity to hear and share concerns and worries, share good news etc. Both Noreen and Avril will be meeting with the groups

Newsletter

Again, starting in 2024, Synod would like to produce a deanery newsletter. This could include good news, what's happening in our churches, things to pray about etc.

Church reps will be asked to send their items to Avril who would collate the items, it is hoped to do this three times each year.

Summer Tour 2023

Over the summer Gill, Noreen, Jean and Geoff visited all the churches in the deanery apart from Staunton Harold. The group listened, prayed and enjoyed wonderful hospitality. Every church representative had something different to say and they were impressed by the wonderful ministries that are happening in every church community.

There was concern expressed regarding Minster Communities, the uncertainty about the future weighed heavy. We await the meetings in early 2024 which will determine our future path.

Living in Love & Faith

Prayers for Living in Love and Faith could soon be used in church services. Wider discussions are taking place regarding the blessings of marriages of same-sex couples.

*Noreen Mewies
NWL Deanery Lay Chair*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church, Ashby De La Zouch
Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Overall Summary 2023

Receipts	Note	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Planned Giving	1	71,684	0	0	71,684	73,402
Offertories at Services		4,608	0	0	4,608	1,896
All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts	2 & 3	10,205	0	3,037	13,242	51,851
Gift Aid Recovered	4	18,627	0	69	18,696	21,069
Activities for Generating Funds	5	4,578	0	393	4,971	3,436
Income from Investments	6	0	0	0	0	0
Job Retention Scheme	8	0	0	0	0	0
Shared Expenses	7	52	0	0	52	0
Wedding and Funeral Income	9	0	7,393	0	7,393	6,805
CAP Income (Personal Donations)	R1	0	0	12,917	12,917	12,171
CAP Income (Other Donations)	R1	0	0	14,797	14,797	7,402
Foodbank Income	R2	0	0	34,667	34,667	47,118
Hall Income	R3	0	21,996	0	21,996	16,722
Total Receipts		£ 109,754	£ 29,389	£ 65,880	£ 205,023	£ 241,872

Payments	Note	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Charitable Giving	10	9,749	0	0	9,749	9,650
Church Activities	11	5,693	0	0	5,693	3,153
Church Admin expenses	12	6,353	0	0	6,353	6,420
Church Building Expenses	13	21,799	0	0	21,799	13,515
Other Church Expenditure		16	0	0	16	28
Parish Contribution		58,000	0	0	58,000	60,000
Staffing Costs	14	24,672	0	0	24,672	23,254
Wedding and Funeral Expenditure	9	0	7,163	0	7,163	4,149
PCC Designated Accounts Exp.	15	0	228	0	228	191
PCC Restricted Accounts Exp.	16	0	0	9,900	9,900	94,248
CAP Expenditure (Staffing)	R1	0	0	15,869	15,869	14,238
CAP Expenditure (Operations)	R1	0	0	8,249	8,249	5,989
CAP Expenditure (Emergency Aid)	R1	0	0	80	80	449
Foodbank Expenditure	R2	0	0	17,304	17,304	13,241
Hall Expenditure	R3	0	9,877	0	9,877	9,735
Total Payments		£ 126,282	£ 17,268	£ 51,402	£ 194,952	£ 258,260

Net Movement in year	-£ 16,528	£ 12,121	£ 14,478	£ 10,071	-£ 16,388
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

Accounts	Balance Dec-23	Balance Dec-22
Current Accounts	194,038	183,968
Totals	£ 194,038	£ 183,968

Net Fund Movements in 2023

HTA Account	Balance Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Net Change	Carried Forward
General fund	7,482	109,753	126,282	10,476	-6,053	1,429
Restricted - PCC						
Church Building	8,521	334	5,067	0	-4,733	3,788
Ashby Clothes for Children	181	0	0	0	0	181
Childrens work in church	564	0	0	0	0	564
Flower fund	322	11	0	0	11	333
Alpha fund	0	500	275	0	225	225
Soul Café	70	0	0	0	0	70
Tiny Tots	238	0	0	0	0	238
Audio Visual Equipment	2,410	50	2,324	0	-2,274	136
Pathways café	0	612	487	0	125	125
The Garden room	217	614	457	0	157	374
MDMC	113	0	0	0	0	113
Agency Collections	0	1,379	1,289	0	90	90
Designated - PCC						
General Reserve	7,000	0	0	3,000	3,000	10,000
Wedding & Funeral Net income	3,229	7,393	7,163	-1,500	-1,270	1,959
Church Hall	15,582	21,996	9,877	-11,976	143	15,725
Bequests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vicars Discretionary fund	-296	0	228	0	-228	-524
Restricted - Other						
CAP Ashby	19,030	25,074	21,947	0	3,127	22,157
CAP Fresh Start	450	0	0	0	0	450
CAP Emergency Aid	451	600	80	0	520	971
ACTS 435	400	2,040	2,171	0	-131	269
Ashby Foodbank	118,053	34,667	17,304	0	17,363	135,416
Totals	£ 184,018	£ 205,023	£ 194,951	£ -	£ 10,072	£ 194,090

Notes relating to Designated and Restricted Funds

Restricted PCC Funds

Church Building	Money reserved for church re-decoration and improvements.
Ashby Clothes for Children Fund	to help provide clothes for Families with Children in need.
Children's Work in Church	Fund to support children's work in church.
Flower fund	Donations and expenditure relating to flowers in church.
Alpha fund	Donations and expenditure related to the running of the Alpha course in church.
Soul café	Monthly gathering for Women during term time offering fellowship and support.
Tiny Tots	A Weekly parent and pre-school group meeting in church.
Audio Visual Equipment	Maintenance and purchase of Audio / Visual and Internet (On-line church) related equipment.
Pathways café	A café offering support in church open to all.
The Garden Room	A Community Gardening project rooted in the life of Holy Trinity Ashby
MDMC	Make Do Mend and Create - A group committed to recycle clothing wherever possible.
Agency collections	A temporary holding fund for collections made in church on behalf of other organisations. This would normally be at zero as payments are made ASAP to the organisation involved. There is a small surplus this year awaiting the decision of the benefactor.

Designated PCC Funds

General Reserve	The church reserve fund. This has been increased to £10,000 in 2023.
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Wedding and Funeral	Net Income from Weddings and Funerals to be used by the PCC.
Church Hall	Net income from the Church Hall.
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	Money is allocated to the Vicar to give food and provisions to those coming to the Church in need.
Bequests	A Fund in which to place Bequests so they can be spent on meaningful projects, rather than General spending.

Restricted Other

CAP Emergency	Aid Emergency Aid provided to CAP clients.
ACTS435	A Fund used by CAP for assistance to clients in purchasing essential items.

Notes to the Accounts

General Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The activities of the Church Hall, CAP Ashby and of Ashby Foodbank have been aggregated with the PCC accounts.
3. Fixed Assets, consecrated and benefice property are not included in the accounts in accordance with section s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
4. The Church Hall and associated land are not included in the accounts as assets since ownership is unclear and there is no available valuation at the time of preparation of this report.
5. 2022 figures are provided only for comparison by the PCC with the current year.

Funds

- **Restricted Funds** represent income from trusts or endowments, donations or grants received, or money raised for a specific purpose. Consequently the funds may only be used for the purpose specified by the donor or when raised.
- **Unrestricted Funds** i.e. the General fund, is used for ordinary PCC income and expenditure.
- **Designated Funds** are sums set aside out of the General fund for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time if the PCC so decides.
- **Endowment Funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained. Only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used. No endowment funds existed at 31st December 2022.

Notes.

The money in the Bank totals £194,038 at 31/12/2023. The carried over total on page 2 is £194,090
This small difference is explained by a number of unpaid invoices at the end of the year.

Reserves Policy: It has been agreed by the Church PCC to maintain a reserve of roughly 10% of the General fund income. This equates to £10,000 for 2023 and currently stands at £10,000 . The reserve fund is intended only for emergency spending i.e. urgent building repairs or cash flow problems.

Notes on Receipts

1. Planned Giving

Category	2023	2022
Planned Giving (STO)	57,645	56,860
Planned Giving (PGS)	13,039	13,292
Planned Giving (Env)	0	0
Planned Giving (xGA)	1,000	3,250
Totals	£ 71,684	£ 73,402

Regular weekly, monthly or quarterly donations.

“STO” refers to donations direct to the church bank account (Standing orders).

“Env” refers to weekly envelope donations usually in the Sunday collection. The PCC decided to withdraw the envelope payment facility and encourage Standing orders or Electronic payments.

“PGS” – Parish Giving Scheme - is a diocese sponsored scheme where donations are collected and gift-aid automatically reclaimed.

“xGA” indicates donations received from third party schemes that independently claim gift aid so no GA is reclaimable by Holy Trinity.

2. All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts

Category	2023	2022
Grants	334	23,695
Donations (Personal)	11,849	26,314
Donations (GASDS)	574	58
Donations (Not GA)	0	49
Collections (Other services)	29	1,016
Bequests	0	180
Sum Up payments	456	539
Totals	£ 13,242	£ 51,851

Sum-Up payments were to General fund.

3. All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts by Fund

Fund	2023	2022
General	10,205	12,543
Pathways	500	0
Building	334	27,908
Organ	0	10,497
AV Equipment	50	0
The Garden Room	263	813
MDMC	0	90
Flower	11	0
Alpha	500	
Agency	1,379	
Totals	£ 13,242	£ 51,851

4. Gift Aid recovered

Fund	2023	2022
General Fund	18,627	18,263
Building	0	2,620
AV Equipment	0	0
The Garden Room	69	125
Organ	0	38
MDMC	0	23
Totals	£ 18,696	£ 21,069

5. Activities for Generating Funds

Category	2023	2022
Church Hire - Ashby Concert Band	2,178	1,660
Church Hire - Local Community Use	190	145
Other income	2,210	1,422
Fundraising Events	393	209
Totals	£ 4,971	£ 3,436

6. Income from investments

Category	2023	2022
Interest Received	0	0
Totals	£ -	£ -

7. Income from shared expenses

Category	2023	2022
Shared Expenses - General Fund	52	0
Totals	£ 52	£ -

Shared expenses are where expenses such as telephone bills which are shared with other users of the facilities.

8. Income from Job Retention Scheme.

There was no income from this source in 2023 for Church Staff.

9. Wedding and Funeral Net Income

Category	2023	2022
W&F Income	7,393	6,805
W&F Fees to LDBF	-2,096	-1,883
W&F Minister Fees	-1,914	-1,883
W&F Minister Expenses	-244	-44
W&F Organist Fees	-390	-100
W&F Other Costs	-270	-239
PCC Authorised payments	-2,249	0
Totals	£ 230	£ 2,656

W&F Other costs refers to the Sound Engineer charge for use of the equipment at Weddings and Funerals. This is paid to the sound engineer but funded by the undertaker.

The PCC authorised cost was to fund a Roll up Disabled access ramp in July 2023 and a Mac Book Air computer for the Church Administrator in September 2023.

11. Church Activities

Category	2023	2022
General Church Activities	1,613	1,270
Children's & Youth Activities	229	175
Outreach Events & Activities (inc Alpha)	281	21
Welcome, Hospitality & Gifts	501	431
Travel Expenses & Mileage	1,114	279
Books, Training & Conferences	1,955	977
Totals	£ 5,693	£ 3,153

12. Church Admin Expenses

Category	2023	2022
Parish Office & Admin	1,904	1,522
Website (Church Insight - PCC)	1,691	2,803
Telephone, Internet & TV	2,474	1,610
Stationery, Postage & Printing	98	333
Photocopier	27	0
Bank Charges	159	152
Totals	£ 6,353	£ 6,420

13. Church Building Expenses

Category	2023	2022
Church Insurance	4,724	4,162
Gas, Water & Electricity	12,280	6,051
Repairs & Maintenance	4,795	3,302
Church Organ	0	-
Totals	£ 21,799	£ 13,515

14. Staffing Costs

Category	2023	2022
Salaries	20,712	19,824
HMRC NI & PAYE	58	217
Pension contributions	3,902	3,213
Totals	£ 24,672	£ 23,254

15. PCC Designated Accounts expenditure

Fund	2023	2022
Vicars Discretionary Fund	228	191
Totals	£ 228	£ 191

16. PCC Restricted Accounts expenditure

Fund	2023	2022
Agency	1,289	-
Building	5,067	68,656
Audio Visual (AV)	2,324	212
Garden Room	457	1,161
Organ	0	24219
Pathways cafe	488	
Alpha Course	275	
Totals	£ 9,900	£ 94,248

It will be noted there have been large expenditures this year on the completion of the Church redecoration (Building fund) and the purchase of a new Sound desk (AV fund).

Other Transactions Notes.

Agency Accounts.

Agency Funds are monies collected for other organisations collected through Church activities and passed directly on to the intended organisation.

Transfers between Funds.

1. A sum of £10,000 was transferred from Church Hall to the General Fund to balance the large Church Hall Gas usage being paid out of General funds and allow for Hall staffing costs. Also a sum of £476.15 was transferred from Church Hall to the General Fund to allow for the Hall Electricity Bill being collected from the General Fund with change of supplier.
2. A Sum of £1,500 was transferred from Hall fund and a sum of £1,500 from the Weddings and Funeral Fund to the Reserve fund in accordance with the PCC decision to increase reserves from £7,000 to £10,000.

R1 CAP Ashby Income & Expenditure.

CAP Income (Personal Donations)	2023	2022
CAP Donations (Personal)	10,828	10,225
CAP Monthly Giving (GASDS)	121	107
CAP Gift Aid Reclaimed	1,968	1,839
Totals	£ 12,917	£ 12,171

CAP Income (Other Donations)	2023	2022
Acts 435 Income	2,040	990
CAP Church donations	3,900	3,744
CAP Fund raising	1,266	1,767
CAP Grants	5,000	0
CAP Other donations	1,991	301
Emergency Aid	600	600
Totals	£ 14,797	£ 7,402

Total CAP income	£ 27,714	£ 19,573
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CAP Expenditure Operations	2023	2022
Acts 435 Expenditure	2,171	694
CAP Events & Activities	959	1,168
CAP HQ Charge	3,600	3,600
CAP HQ Release groups	0	9
CAP Office & Admin Costs	1,519	518
Totals	£ 8,249	£ 5,989

CAP Expenditure (Staffing)	2023	2022
CAP Staff Expenses	163	24
CAP Staffing Costs	15,706	14,214
Totals	£ 15,869	£ 14,238

CAP Expenses Emergency Aid	2023	2022
CAP Emergency Aid Payments	80	100
CAP HQ Fresh start	0	349
Totals	£ 80	£ 449

Total CAP Expenditure	£ 24,198	£ 20,676
Net Movement in year	£ 3,516	-£ 1,103
CAP Funds Balance 01-Jan	£ 20,332	£ 21,435
CAP Funds Balance 31-Dec	£ 23,848	£ 20,332

R2 Foodbank Income & Expenditure.

Foodbank Income	2023	2022
Foodbank Donations (Churches)	1,105	220
Foodbank Donations (GASDS)	0	0
Foodbank Donations (Others)	15,209	22,315
Foodbank Donations (Personal)	16,024	15,245
Foodbank Fundraising	0	7,677
Foodbank Gift Aid reclaimed	2,329	1,661
Foodbank Grants	0	0
Trussel Trust / Tesco Top-Up	0	0
Foodbank Income Totals	£ 34,667	£ 47,118

Foodbank Expenditure	2023	2022
Foodbank Church Insight	0	0
Foodbank Expenditure	4,250	5,794
Foodbank Premises Costs	10,269	7,058
Foodbank Salaries	1,056	0
Foodbank Staff & Volunteer Expenses	1,369	29
Trussell Trust Franchise Fee	360	360
Foodbank Expenditure Petty Cash	0	0
Foodbank Expenditure Totals	£ 17,304	£ 13,241

Net Movement in year	£ 17,363	£ 33,877
Foodbank Funds Balance 01-Jan	£ 118,051	£ 84,174
Foodbank Funds Balance 31-Dec	£ 135,414	£ 118,051

Foodbank Petty Cash	Balance Forward	Receipts	Payments	Net Change	Carried Forward
Money from account (above)		0	0		
Direct Small Cash Donations		2,203	0		
Food and items Spending		0	3,006		
Totals	£ 841	£ 2,203	£ 3,006	-£ 803	£ 38

Foodbank Petty cash is managed direct by spreadsheet separately from the main accounts. Full records are available for inspection should this be required.

Notes on Expenditure

10. Charitable Giving

Category	2023	2022
Church Tithe	9,749	9,650
Missionary & Charitable Giving (Non Tithe)	0	0
Totals	£ 9,749	£ 9,650

Church Tithe includes 12 standing orders for £225 for AYFC and CAP respectively and £50 for supporting the Frizelles making £6000 total, which is towards the 2023 Tithe.

Tithe Recipients	2023	2022
Ashby Youth for Christ	2,700	2,700
CAP Ashby	2,700	2,700
Hospice Hope	100	100
Street Pastors	250	250
Frizelle - YWAM (Guatemala)	600	600
CMS - Mark & Rosalie Balfour	600	600
CMS - Lea and Petra Williams	600	600
New Wine	500	500
Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)	250	250
King's School Kerala (India)	100	100
Flame International	250	250
SeaFarers	250	250
Tear Fund	250	250
National Churches Trust	100	100
Evangelical Alliance	250	250
CofE Children's Society	250	250
Tithe Totals	£ 9,750	£ 9,750

Some Tithe Recipients were sent in 2024 but were part of the PCC's designated tithe for 2023. The PCC were late in allocating payments for 2023 so most have slipped into 2024. Note AYFC, CAP and YWAM are paid monthly so these payments are on time. Most of the one-off payments have now been made in Early January 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Holy Trinity Church, Ashby de la Zouch, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and it considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect: the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met, nor
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts can be reached.



Date: 2nd April 2024

Paul Lacey ACMA
17 Clovelly Drive
Southport
PR8 3AJ