



EMMANUEL
Loughborough

AP CM

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting**



8 April 2025



WHO

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

I am once again very grateful for the mission and ministry of Emmanuel and for the many people who commit their time sacrificially to serve the Lord. This booklet reminds us that we are a busy church that is full of activity however we also need remind ourselves that Christ is at the heart of all that we do.

I am especially grateful for the ministry of Ali Walton who retired at the end of March. Her contribution to our mission and ministry has been significant as she has overseen the Discipleship Groups, Pastoral Care, line managed some of the staff as well as many other areas. Steve's teaching ministry has also been hugely appreciated and we wish them the Lord's blessing as they have moved to the Cambridge area.

The next 12 months will see significant change as the Shaped by God Together process begins to come into effect as well as other members of clergy, Kat and Matt, will move on. Our minster community will consist of parishes from Rothley to All Saints Thorpe Acre and will hopefully have a church planting focus. We need to pray for discernment and wisdom as we engage with the new Minster Community.

Rev Michael Broadley

WHO

EMMANUEL Loughborough

Rooted in Christ | Growing like Christ | Planting for Christ

WHAT

We grow disciples, plant churches, and plant again

- IN OUR COMMUNITY -
- WELCOMING EVERYONE -

WE SOW SEEDS

- BY CONNECTION -
- BY SCRIPTURE -
- BY CONNECTION WITH EACH OTHER -

WE ARE WATERED

HOW

- LIVING OUT THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT -
- SHARING GENEROUSLY -

WE GROW FRUIT

WE ARE ROOTED

- IN THE FATHER'S LOVE -
- IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP -

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
we seek the **growth** of God's Kingdom on earth:
in Loughborough and beyond

WHY

WHO WHAT HOW WHY

Our vision statement is key to the heart of Emmanuel and our main focus is to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in order for us to plant churches that plant churches to reach those who don't yet know Christ.

After our Church Weekend in October 2024 we felt as though we needed to consider our next steps which includes revisiting our vision statement. A small group met in February 2025 and we will see what emerges in the near future. Discipleship needs to be at the heart of all that we do.

Growing in numbers, in the depth of discipleship as well as loving service to the world.

WHAT

RESOURCING CHURCH OVERVIEW

The Resourcing Church Partnership consists of Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd and St Barnabas Grange Park. The most important question for us as a Resourcing Church Partnership is **what next and where next?**

We had a wonderful church weekend led by Rev Martyn Taylor who challenged us to think about the “Where Next”? The Resourcing Church project funding comes to an end in June 2027 however we need to continue to see how we can church plant as we move forwards. In February 2024 three families planted into the Good Shepherd and have become part of the worshipping community. The Good Shepherd continues to grow and strengthen their ministry. St Barnabas now has a congregation of 95 adults with 35 children. So, overall, we have the capacity and the resources to pray and discern where we plant next.

Rev Michael Broadley



RESOURCING THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In February 2024, three families were commissioned to go from Emmanuel to the Good Shepherd as part of our Resource Church Partnership. It came about after hearing the talks at the Flourish Church Weekend about being rooted in a local worshipping community, and sharing resources to grow churches, particularly intergenerationally.

Over the last few months the families have settled in well and the Good Shepherd congregation have been very welcoming. It has been lovely to have more children around and we've set up a weekly Sunday group during the services. The number of families in the morning service has increased since February and more people have been integrated into the life of the church in terms of rotas, PCC etc.

The Fold; Families at 4 continues to be a place of deepening discipleship for families and is slowly and steadily growing overall in terms of numbers. The Diocese of Leicester commissioned a video in May 2024 which gives a good overview and is available to watch on the Good Shepherd website and social media. We are now looking, praying, and visioning how we continue to grow and develop as a church and as part of the Resource Church Partnership.

Rev Kat Marjoribanks

LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP

The Loughborough Churches Partnership is now into the final part of the 3 year vision statement. Over the past couple of years we have prayed and been a presence in the community. We have now moved to the proclamation phase of the 3 year vision. As an expression of this we are committed to delivering a copy of Luke's Gospel to every house in Loughborough whilst engaging the residents in conversation. One of the first areas that are going to target is the Shelthorpe Estate and we will need volunteers who would commit to delivering copies of the gospel in this part of the Good Shepherd Parish.

Rev Michael Broadley



HOW

CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Strengthening Faith

As I reflect on 2024, I am really encouraged by the ways that we have seen God at work within the Children's, Youth and Young Families' ministry. Throughout the year we saw a number of the children and young people take significant steps in growing and strengthening their faith, we reached out to more children than we have done previously through our schools work, we have welcomed new families to church and have increased our volunteers teams. It is exciting to see all that God has and is doing within this area of Emmanuel.

Sunday Morning Children's and Youth Groups

Our Sunday morning youth and children's groups have continued to grow throughout 2024, as we have continued to welcome a good number of families at the 11am services, and an increasing number of teenagers during the 6:30pm service. We continued to run Climbers and Explorers (2-7s), Discoverers (7-10s) and Pathfinders (10-14s) groups weekly on Sunday mornings, and 14-18s twice a month on Sunday evenings. We have followed a pattern of teaching using the Energize resources, studying the Old Testament in the Autumn Term, Jesus' life and ministry in the Spring Term, and some key people in Early Church in the Summer Term.

In addition to running children's and youth groups on Sunday mornings, we have also continued to hold all age services at various points throughout the year, and more frequently in the school holidays. We also introduced 'service bags' which were designed to help children engage with all-age services. After successfully trialling these during the summer, we decided to make them available for every intergenerational service going forwards. The self-service crèche area was moved from the back to the side of the church, which has helped families with babies and toddlers to feel more part of the whole congregation and continues to provide a warm and popular welcome to young families. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children and young people during the Sunday groups. Many are keen to ask big questions about faith and what it means to follow Jesus.

Throughout the year, we have endeavoured to try and encourage families and young people to be involved in the services by leading prayers,

readings, drama, giving young people the opportunity to share their musical talents in the worship band, or their technical skills on the visuals desk, or play a part in our hospitality and welcome. We have also enjoyed having several young people help with the children's groups and activities as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering. We hope to continue to encourage families and teenagers to consider how they can serve on a Sunday or mid-week during 2025.

Throughout 2024, 14-18s continued to study the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course' in their sessions, which has helped them to understand more about the bigger picture of the Bible, to grow their relationship with Jesus Christ, and to better understand how they can apply it to their lives. We also offered prayer spaces for the young people at various points during the year, particularly during the exam seasons to help them to take time out of their busy schedules and spend time listening to God.

Pathfinders and 14-18s have also taken part in several of the Diocese of Leicester's Listening Exercises, which aim to listen to and gather the thoughts and opinions of children and young people on important, significant or topical issues. These are reported back, along with responses from other school and church groups of children and young people, and then Bishop Martyn creates a video response which is shared with the Bishop's Leadership Team and the groups who took part.

Church Weekend

At the Church Weekend in the Autumn, a number of children and young people from Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd and STB came together to worship and explore what it means to grow in Christ and share the faith we have with others. We are very grateful to the teams who came to run the groups, from Rothley Parish Church, SOaR and Open Heaven.

Outreach

We have continued to welcome new families to church on Sundays and at our mid-week groups and activities, as well as at various socials and special events throughout the year. In November, we held another escape room event called 'Rescue at Sea' as an alternative to Halloween, and welcomed a number of families from Loughborough Church of England Primary School (LCEPS) and other local schools. At the event, families were invited to solve

puzzles and complete a series of challenges leading them to discover more about who Jesus is, and about God's faithfulness to Paul when he was shipwrecked. There was also an opportunity to get creative and enjoy some light refreshments. It was lovely to see several families enjoying spending time together in church for a while after they had completed the activities.

Youth Club and Townwide Youth Work

For teenagers, the main part of our outreach is through the Wednesday evening Youth Club for 11-17 year olds. At Youth Club, young people enjoy catching up with their friends over a game of cards, Wii, pool, table tennis or table football. Each week there is also a game or activity for all of the young people to join in with such as a wide game, food activity, or team challenge. The evening finishes with a short time of Biblical reflection and discussion, during which the young people enthusiastically share their opinions on the topics and how this relates to their lives. Throughout 2024, as a result of our ongoing work with Loughborough C of E school, we welcomed some new young people from Year 6 to the group.

Over the course of the year, the group have been on several trips locally, including to Loughborough Fair and McDonalds. A group of young people also attend the Townwide Youth events which happen periodically throughout the year, hosted by Open Heaven, Elim, New Life and Emmanuel churches. The biggest of these events is the annual Townwide Youth Away Day which is usually held in the Autumn Term at Emmanuel. This year, the event was postponed and will be held on 8th March 2025. Preparations for this popular event have begun already. During the day, young people will worship together, listen to short talks, engage with workshops, eat together, make new friends, and enjoy various social activities such as laser quest, wide games, photo challenge, etc.. This is always a very popular event drawing young people from many churches within the Loughborough Churches Partnership, and their friends.

School's Work

The majority of our outreach work to children is done with local primary schools, particularly with Loughborough Church of England Primary School (LCEPS). Our links with LCEPS have continued to grow over the year as we have welcomed the school to Emmanuel for various seasonal services and events such as Easter, Leavers Service, Harvest and Christmas, as well

continuing to lead assemblies, and run a weekly Spark Bible Club, where we welcome approximately 20 children each week, across school years 3-6. At Spark Club, the children have the opportunity to explore the Bible through crafts, games, prayer, Bible stories, food, and other activities.

We were pleased to be able to invite various classes from LCEPS, Mountfields Lodge, Hardwick House, and Nanpantan Hall schools to church for an array of Christmas and Easter visits, the majority of which we ran 'in-house', and a couple of which we worked in partnership with either Holy Trinity Church in Leicester, or the SOaR Project.

In addition to this, we ran an outreach event in May at lunchtime for the whole of LCEPS to celebrate Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come week. Later in the summer term, we created a Transition Prayer Space for Yr 6 children, in partnership with SOaR and other local churches, to help the children to prepare for moving to secondary school in the Autumn. We were delighted to receive very positive feedback from all of the events, services, visits and clubs we offered to the schools, and very much look forward to continuing this work throughout 2025.

Little People

Little People has continued to grow over the last year. It continues to be a safe haven for many parents and grandparents on Friday mornings while their little ones enjoy playing, craft, snacks, singing and stories. We often have new families contacting us to enquire about Little People, and are beginning to see an increase in families coming as a result of word of mouth. It was wonderful to welcome a number of new babies to the group over the last year too. We have noticed recently that family habits are changing, and we now see more families less frequently, rather than previously seeing less families more frequently. Some of the families that we meet at Little People have also joined us on Sunday mornings or for special seasonal services throughout the year. It was lovely to welcome back some families whose children used to attend Little People, before starting school, at our Christmas and Easter services. Some of the adults at Little People are beginning to ask big questions about faith and what Christians believe. We hope to be able to explore this further with them throughout 2025. During the year, we also held several special sessions such as a Christingle, Christmas party, Easter celebration, and Teddy Bears Picnic, which always prove to be popular with families.



Volunteers

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of many church members who regularly give up their time, energy and resources to support and volunteer within our children's, youth, and families' ministry. Over the course of the year, we have said goodbye to some core leaders and families, as they have moved to the Good Shepherd as part of the church plant, or taken a step back from serving due to a change in their personal circumstances, or moved away. Whilst it is sad to say goodbye to these people, and we are very grateful for their service, where some have stepped down, it has created spaces for others to step in and step up.

At the beginning of 2024, we were invited to take part in a pilot of the 30K Project resources, which hope to help recruit many more paid and volunteer children's and youth workers across the country by 2030. After taking part in the trial, we were delighted to see an increased interest in children's and youth ministry, and as a result have welcomed lots of new members to our teams throughout the year. I am particularly grateful to Liz Featonby for all of her support in ensuring that our children's and youth volunteers remain up-to-date in their safeguarding training and DBS checks. We look forward to, hopefully, welcoming more new volunteers throughout 2025.

Some of the volunteers who joined the Little People team at the start of 2024, as a result of the 30K Project launch, were filmed by the 30K Project team towards the end of the year, sharing how they came to be involved in volunteering at Emmanuel, and encouraging others to take part too. We were excited to see this released on the Church of England's Facebook page at the start of 2025.

We have continued to hold celebration evenings periodically, to say thank you to all those involved in serving within the children, youth and families' ministry at Emmanuel, as well as providing the opportunity for prayer, planning, spiritual refreshing, and to continue seeking what God is calling us to next.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to say a really big thank you to all

those who have continued to support our children's, youth and families' ministry over the last year. There are many more stories we could tell about the ways we have seen our children and young people grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ over the last year. It is a privilege to be a small part of their journey of faith, and to walk alongside them as they seek to grow deeper in their knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. So, as we reflect on all that God has done throughout 2024, we look forward, with prayerful excitement and anticipation, to what He will do in 2025.

Christine Harrison

Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministry

EMMAUS GROUPS

The mid-week Emmaus groups have continued to play an important part in the life of Emmanuel throughout 2024. A number of people who have joined Emmanuel during the year are now involved in groups, and the Alpha course continues to create a good entry point to these.

The Emmaus groups continue to meet the Emmanuel vision of growing disciples through fellowship, prayer, worship and bible study together. Groups engaged in a variety of study series, with the 24/7 Prayer Course particularly well-received because it was easy to use with plenty of resources to back it up. During the Autumn we followed the booklet 'Making More Disciples' in the BRF Holy Habits course. At other times some groups have followed the series of Sunday sermons, receiving sermon notes from the preacher to prepare study material.

Emmaus groups have also continued to provide hospitality at the 11.00am service on a rota basis. Some groups also took turns in cooking a meal for the Alpha course. The groups also provide an important pastoral support network for members with most groups having WhatsApp groups to keep in touch with each other and to share requests for prayer.

The Chinese Alpha/Bible Study has continued to draw a number of people. One member of the group was baptised in the summer. The group continues to be strategically important in Emmanuel's mission and ministry.

Our thanks go to Zhijia Yang who runs this group.

Moving into 2025 we encourage each Emmaus group to identify some form of community engagement in order to strengthen Emmanuel's ability to look outwards in mission.

Rev Ali Walton

STUDENTS

Firstly thanks to all who served the student ministry earlier in 2024 including James and Jemima. We started in the summer and met the existing students, as well as others around church who were interested in joining in with the activities. In the Autumn we represented Emmanuel on the campus and we went out to meet as many new students as possible, with a desire to see growth, new people and a better balance of male and female students. It was a very busy start to the academic year, including so many events in Oct/Nov: our church weekend, the Alpha course as well, as well as student lunches after church. We invited students to Alpha and other events as well as our main student evenings. It was a blessing to know the students who continued this year, as well as meeting all the new students who started joining us each week.

Our main meetings are on Thursday evenings - often there was food (what a blessing so many times we received leftover food from another event!!) and the "bean bag" room was often filled to capacity. We would have worship, bible studies, pray for events on the campus, and time for students to share with each other. We had a young lady from Iran who shared her strong faith experiences and she went on to be baptised but sadly had to move to another town, she really appreciated the friendships she had here. We had contributions from the students some weeks: Sam shared his experience from Tanzania visiting the church there. Tom shared about his summer baptism in the sea in Sweden etc.

It's been exciting seeing the students develop and also serve in the church including sound/visuals desk, the worship team, children's ministry, readings or prayers in the services and helping to set up for the evening cafe church. And very encouraging that students brought their friends or housemates along to church events or services!

God has been working in a new way, and we have really loved being with this group, and love the buzz chatting after the services or Thursday group!

Paul + Ana Hanson
Student Ministry Leads



SENIORS

Another year has slipped by and I have the opportunity of giving my thanks to a wonderful team of helpers. The lunch is prepared and served by Tim, Jane Hulse along with their helpers. Tables are laid and set for the lunch to be served by 12.30.

As you can imagine, all this cannot happen without a lot of help, and I appreciate all the volunteers who give freely of their time. I would also like to give a big thank you to the office staff who give a lot of support to us with all the administrative work. I can honestly say that this group is thriving and we are now close to welcoming up to 60 people.

I would like to reinforce my heartfelt thanks to the helpers for giving so freely of their time to support me. We are a team which work well together, and I really appreciate everyone's effort. The time we spend together creates a strong bond of fellowship and gives us the opportunity of sharing Gods love with all who join us.

Joan Williams

WORSHIP

2024 was a very encouraging year for the worship at Emmanuel. Over the past year the worship team has seen wonderful growth with new volunteers across both the music team and the tech team. We have also been able to introduce many new worship songs that have ministered to the church in many ways across all 3 service congregations.

Services that are worth highlighting from the year are the Easter services; the Good Friday service and time of reflection were both valuable times of worship and reflection before the joy of Easter Sunday. Over the Christmas season we had many chances to worship together in a range of styles, highlights from this season were the Advent reflection service, the Christmas Eve services, and also both the carol services. The contemporary carol service this year featured an electric guitar, saxophone and cello in the band, and the traditional carol service was again led by a string quartet and the organ, though very different in their style both services were incredibly joyful!

This year we again hosted the Flourish resourcing church weekend at Emmanuel- worship this year was led by Simon Johnson and a band from across the partnership. I know for many of the worship team this was a brilliant opportunity to be involved and to be refreshed and inspired across the weekend and on the Sunday morning when we joined together as a wider community to worship together.

At the end of 2024 we saw again the growth of café church, with it changing to being held in the main church, because of this change we have been able to grow the evening worship and put in place a vision for growing the variety of worship styles at this service more in 2025.

As always, the volunteers are integral to the worship and tech team at Emmanuel, and I am so incredibly grateful to all who already serve on the team and am so encouraged by the continued growth! Our aim as a team is to be united in praise as we worship together, we aim to lead with the Holy Spirit, with Christ at the centre, advancing the kingdom of God in Loughborough. I am so excited to see all the new things happening in 2025 as we grow deeper together in worship!

Meg Ford
Director of Worship



PROJECT 5000

Food glorious food! The stats are in, Project 5000 have again served over 1000 hot meals this year, given out a similar number of food parcels and opened every Monday evening (including bank holidays) and a few extra days over Christmas (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day). We have a team of around 12 regular volunteers, some of whom come every week, others just once or twice a month. Our chefs have been creative, using donated Pukka pies and Nando's chicken to create a range of meals from curry to a full roast dinner! Many service users comment on how good the food is, thank you to those that work so hard to make sure the food is ready on time.

If you are someone that has donated tins and packets, thank you. These are vital when making up food parcels and if you would like to help there is a box for donations just inside the church centre. Thank you too for all the financial donations, these help us to buy the items we are short of (usually long-life milk and pot noodles!). Maybe reading this you feel called to come along and take part? If so, please get in touch via the church office or speak to me in church (I am usually at the I am service).

Please continue to pray for the work of Project 5000 with some of the most vulnerable members of our community, thank you.

Chris York



LOUGHBOROUGH EMMANUEL FC

Loughborough's oldest football club continues to provide weekly training and match playing opportunities for in excess of 300 players ranging in age from 4 to 52! That equates to something like 15,000 participation opportunities per season! Opportunities to let off steam, stay fit, work as a team, learn new skills, make friends and practice respect. What is there not to like?

In July, 500 children, parents and assorted others came together at Emmanuel Church for our annual awards and in August we staged our annual Summer Holiday Club for 80 young footballers with the Christian Charity, Ambassadors Football.

Girls have featured in our mixed teams for several years but February 2025 saw another first for the club when our girls training group played their first ever competitive match. A super occasion at Carillon cricket club. We are grateful to all of our 60+ volunteers and to the wonderful individuals & organisations that help with funding/sponsorship.

Andy Duxbury

TITHE COMMITTEE

We tithe our income to enable us to support a range of charities and individuals at home and abroad. In 2024 we were pleased to donate a total of £23,795. We aim to support organisations with a link to members of Emmanuel that provide an active advocate relationship and can be praying for their ministry and mission.

This year we have supported local projects including the Loughborough Churches Partnership, Exaireo, the SOAR project, Loughborough Street Pastors, and the Loughborough University Christian Union alongside funding some of the direct mission work of our staff team which takes place outside of our church.

We support charities including the Church Mission Society which works in the UK and overseas working 'at the edges' to encourage individuals and

groups to follow Jesus Christ and the Bible Society which translates, publishes and distributes bibles around the world.

Alongside the fundraising from the Resource Church Partnership in 2024 we used some of the Tithe fund to send funding for new beds and mattresses to the church, school and orphanage that we have strong links with in Taloha, Tanzania. Some members of Emmanuel visited Toloha in the summer of 2024 and saw how God is working in the community there.

If there is a Christian-based charity that you would like Emmanuel to support and you are willing to act as an advocate for that charity we'd love to hear from you.

Martyn Riddleston

LOUGHBOROUGH CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

There are numerous references in the Old Testament to God defending the cause of the fatherless. One million children in the UK are fatherless, not because their fathers have died but because father and child have lost contact following the breakdown of the parental relationship. In an effort to be God's feet in North Leicestershire, Loughborough Child Contact Centre opens up the old Church Hall to provide a neutral venue where children can meet with the parents that they no longer live with. Sometimes grandparents and (step/half) siblings will also take part in the visits.

We are indebted to our army of volunteers. Many originate from local churches; others saw our website or came through word of mouth. We continue to provide our service free of charge and would like to record our thanks to Emmanuel and St Mary, Nanpantan churches for their generous donations.

We are a staggering 35 years old this year but the need for what we deliver is as prevalent as ever. To keep going we need new volunteers. If you can spare one Saturday afternoon every 6 weeks we would love to hear from you.

Helen & Andy Duxbury

VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers at Emmanuel, both to those who do and to those who do not worship here but continue to support our mission and ministry by giving so freely of their time and skills. It is not an exaggeration to say that we could not operate without such generous and servant-hearted volunteers!

Volunteering, or serving others, is an integral part of our discipleship. The Bible has many verses that teach us this; in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats we hear "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35-40) There is a time for us all to be served, and to serve, at different times in our lives – even at different points in the same week! Each Sunday for example, we need around 45 hours of volunteer time across the 3 services (worship, tech, reading, intercessions, hospitality, children and youth ministry, wardens, welcome...) but less than 10% of our worshipping community are on Sunday rotas.

There are many ways to get involved at Emmanuel, both on Sundays and throughout the week, and I am very grateful to everyone who serves both visibly and those 'behind the scenes'. I would encourage everyone to prayerfully consider how they are using their gifts, skills and time to serve the Lord and His people at Emmanuel and throughout Loughborough.

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director

CHARNWOOD LISTENERS

The Charnwood Listeners have continued to train and recruit new volunteers to join the team throughout 2024, as they seek to serve the people of Loughborough who may benefit from being listened to. They offer a safe space with time to think and talk free from judgement, and to facilitate a way for individuals to feel empowered in their choices.

We also enjoy supporting the Children and Youth ministry. It is always an enjoyable morning chatting and cutting the oranges for the Christingle Service and preparing the flowers for distributing at the Mothering Sunday service.

We host two services per year and in September we held a traditional Harvest Festival with all donations given to Project 5000. For our Carol Service in December, we sent out an open invitation and was pleased that some of our members husbands attended and a visitor from outside the parish has now become a member.

In December we also represent Emmanuel at the Christmas Tree Festival at The All Saints with Trinity Parish Church. Margaret Beet had the theme idea of Angels and provided the templates. We spent an enjoyable evening cutting and sticking angels for the tree, lots of laughter and of course, food.

We are a very supportive group whether you live alone or not well we make sure help is at hand. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Church Centre.

Diana Millward

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

Our meetings continue to flourish, with average attendance increasing over the past year. In January, a visit to Loughborough Grammar School computer lab has become a regular feature, as has our Canal Boat trip in August, on a Tuesday this time, for lunch at The Plough in Normanton. Our other meetings are held at Emmanuel Church in the winter and at St Mary-in-Charnwood in the summer. In February we had a talk by Keith Linington about 'A Vet's Life'. In March we had a morning of music chosen by Derrick Clarke, followed by lunch in the church centre. Rev. Ali Walton was our speaker in April and Dr David Jewson in May. Question Time in June provided the opportunity to put questions to our guest panel. Richard Harries stood in with a talk about local history in July, creating so much interest that this was followed up with 'part 2' in September. The Two Dave's provided a morning of live music, followed by lunch in the Church Centre in October. In November we had a talk about researching family

history by Jenni Dobson and we rounded off the year with a talk about the House of Lords by Baroness Nicky Morgan of Cotes.

Our membership is informal, drawn from the wider community including other Loughborough churches and none, and everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings.

Martin Hodson

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

In the 2024 season we have put on seven concerts, averaging an audience size of 160 and typically serving 90 lunches before each concert. We provide a simple lunch of soup, roll, and fruit or cereal bar followed by a high-quality concert that lasts about an hour. The lunch is charged for, but donations are invited for the concert itself.

The concerts have been varied: five have been given by professional musicians and two by amateur groups drawn from the local community. The latter have comprised students from the Loughborough Schools Foundation and at Christmas we had the Loughborough Male Voice Choir.

The audience consists of a wide variety of people from the area and beyond. We advertise the concerts through websites, local churches, the Charnwood Museum, Loughborough Library, U3A and so on. A small survey was carried out at one concert where it was discovered that the most common way of finding out about the concert was by word of mouth, so it is the popularity of the event that is the main promoter. Most of the audience tend to be of the retired generation as most people are working on a Thursday lunchtime, but the Christmas concert and the March concert given by the Loughborough Schools Foundation draw in a wider age range. We continue to present music in a Christian context as a soft form of evangelism; we model Christ to the community through our welcome and the level of engagement by stewards and helpers. We help build community within and outside the church by providing an opportunity to socialise by providing a simple meal and listening to music together.

Jeremy Kimber and Norman Revell

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team has continued to provide support for those in need, particularly housebound members of Emmanuel or those who are ill. The team currently consists of Ali Walton, Joan Williams, Gill Bayley and Eric and Rosie Whitley.

The Thursday Holy Communion service, the Lunchtime Concerts and the monthly Seniors' Lunches are important points of contact with church members. Members of groups such as the Mothers' Union, EMMA and the Monday Morning Meetings engage in a huge amount of pastoral work by maintaining contact with their members. The Emmaus groups also keep in good contact with their members, thereby providing important support when needed.

Looking ahead, there is a need to train some members of Emmanuel to take Holy Communion to people at home. There is an increasing need for this as people grow older and less able to be present in church. I would like to thank everyone who is a part of the pastoral support provision at Emmanuel in some way or another.

Rev Ali Walton

BEREAVEMENT TEAM

There's an Elephant in the Room. It is large and squatting, so it's hard to get around it. Yet we squeeze by with "How are you?" and "I'm fine", and a thousand other forms of trivial chatter. We talk about the weather. We talk about work. We talk about everything else, except the elephant in the room.

At some stage in life we all have to deal with the death of a loved one, be it partner, family member or close friend. It can sometimes be difficult to be with someone who has been bereaved particularly as anniversaries approach and in particular Christmas. Here at Emmanuel in December we offer a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembering with Carols followed by tea and cake. People who have had a funeral taken by a member of our clergy team receive an invitation and many take this up and come along, as well as members of the general public, some of whom return each year.

It's a Service which doesn't dodge the subject of death, or refrain from using people's names. As an act of memorial we give thanks for and remember the lives of our loved ones as their names are read out. Following this we are invited to walk up to the altar and light and place a candle. Afterwards we serve tea and cake in the church lounge sitting and listening to each other, their stories and reminiscences. We're always here to listen via the pastoral team or Charnwood Listeners.

A big thank you goes to those who so kindly give up a Sunday afternoon just before Christmas to provide and set up the candles, welcome and listen to people, make and serve the tea and cakes, as well as providing background music and manning the sound desk.

Gill Bayley

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry continues to be a valued and beneficial ministry where people enjoy coming together to pray, socialise, and encourage each other. Over the year we have seen fewer people attending the Saturday breakfasts and so in September 2024 we reshaped things to allow for a wider variety of opportunities to gather. We held a Christmas Craft Evening which was greatly enjoyed and is something we will definitely do more of. Going into 2025 we are planning a film evening, more craft evenings and a half day quiet retreat.

Rev Kat Marjoribanks



BUILDINGS

2024 was a busy year for our buildings! The major works undertaken were repairs to some of the stonework, which in the 2022 Quinquennial Inspection had been identified as eroding and delaminating under the pinnacle at the NW corner of the church. The works commenced in January by AMS Stonemasons Ltd with the installation of scaffolding which allowed detailed inspection of the stonework. A schedule of works was then compiled by Simon Bird of Flying Buttress Architecture Ltd, and the works to the NW pinnacle completed by April. The quality of the stonemasonry was excellent. At the completion meeting we (myself, Simon Bird, and Lee Ashby of AMS Stonemasons Ltd) discussed the recent water ingress issues to the nave and south aisle and Lee suggested using the existing scaffolding to gain access to the roof in order to investigate. Once on the roof and examining the south side of the church building, it was discovered that there was significant movement in the SW pinnacle, which was an immediate fall risk both within church grounds and to the public access on Forest Road. Access to the church was immediately limited to the entrance from Ingle Pingle, and the balcony and under-balcony areas in church were cordoned off until the existing scaffolding could be relocated to the opposite side of the church tower. Huge thanks go to Simon Bird and Revd Rupert Allen from the DAC who worked so quickly to help us with the relevant permissions to undertake this emergency work. The works to the SW pinnacle were completed in September, and again, the quality of the work was exceptional. The total cost of the work was £25,752.19 plus architect fees. The VAT for these works and the architect fees were reclaimed under the government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Our internal Buildings team have also been very busy during 2024, and I would like to thank John Burnard, Simon Lane, Keith Harrold and Ian Faulkner for their hard work and dedication, and for being such fun to work with! They have regularly tested the fire alarms, completed the PAT testing, made repairs around the buildings as necessary, replaced light bulbs and saved the church a lot of money through their diligence and skilled work.

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director



EMPLOYMENT GROUP

The employment group comprises Michael Broadley, Ali Walton, John Burnard, Katie Fletcher and Stephen Adshead. Stephen was appointed by PCC to chair the committee early in 2024. Also in 2024 Cathy Threlfall-Rogers was appointed as committee minute secretary.

The committee meets approximately six times per year to review and set policies, to advise on recruitment and to advise on any specific staffing matters. Notable progress in 2024 has been to approve a new staff handbook, support recruitment of a new office administrator and confirmation of volunteer role descriptions.

SAFEGUARDING

This past year has been extremely challenging nationally with regard to Safeguarding matters. The Church of England has been in the spotlight in a way none of us could have foreseen and the publication of the Makin Report has caused great consternation throughout the church and beyond. This is why Safeguarding has once again been high on our list of priorities as we work together to ensure that our Church and all associated activities are genuinely safe spaces for all involved. I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and office staff for their invaluable support in this. Throughout the year the PCC have fully complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, and Safeguarding appeared as a set Agenda item at every PCC meeting. During the year I was also able to attend the meetings to speak to that item.

All members of the PCC, as well as having enhanced DBS Checks, hold valid Diocesan Safeguarding Training Certificates in Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse.

Safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend any of our Church services or activities is of paramount importance and so anyone who works with any of these groups is required to have an enhanced DBS Check and complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training in both Basic Awareness and Foundations, valid for three years. This requires a high level of commitment and my thanks goes to all those who are willing to serve in this way. Without that dedication and commitment we would not be able to provide any of the services or activities that we do.

My sincere thanks also goes to Christine Harrison, our Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministries, who ensures that all volunteers are recruited in accordance with strict Diocesan Guidelines. She is also a lead Recruiter for DBS Checks and we are in regular contact to make sure that all areas are covered and policy adhered to.

In addition, all volunteers for both Charnwood Listeners and Project 5000 are required to undergo DBS Checks and complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training in both Basic Awareness and Foundations. Charnwood Listeners volunteers then also undertook further training in Raising Awareness of

Domestic Abuse. My thanks goes to Jancis Barlow and Chris York who lead these groups. Once again without the dedication and commitment of themselves and their team of volunteers these valuable services would not be able to continue.

Although Safeguarding is a particular responsibility of the PCC and church leaders, it is also a responsibility that we all need to share, looking out for those around us. If anyone would like to take advantage of the Diocesan Basic Awareness training I would be happy to provide them with a link to access it online, or provide them with details of any future face-to-face opportunities.

The Safeguarding Policies of Emmanuel are both available on our website and also on display in the foyer and old church hall, alongside further useful information and details of how to contact me if necessary. Please do refer to these if you have any cause for concern.

Liz Featonby
Parish Safeguarding Officer



WHY



Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
we seek the growth of God's Kingdom on earth:
in Loughborough and beyond



CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I would like to begin with a big thank you to the Assistant Wardens and all those on the Welcome and Hospitality teams who give their time so freely every Sunday to serve at our services. Your smiles, warm welcomes, and faithful service help make church happen each week.

As a church we extended a huge thank you to Dan Ninan, who finished three years as a Warden in April. Dan was involved in supporting us through so many aspects of church life including being a key part of engaging with the Shaped By God Together process currently underway with the Diocese. We are truly grateful for his leadership providing a listening ear and wise guidance throughout his term as Warden.

Flourish, 24 our Resourcing Church Weekend in October, saw the three churches in our Resourcing Church Partnership (Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd, and St Barnabas Grange Park) come together to learn from inspiring speakers Rev Martyn Taylor, Rev Ben Woodfield, and our own leaders on growth, church planting and delivering ministry in different contexts. It gave us a collective challenge of 'what next?' for Emmanuel which will be a key part of how we discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding us for the future.

My prayer is that over the next year as we all deepen our discipleship, God will continue to provide abundantly as we seek to continue His mission and ministry here at Emmanuel and throughout Loughborough.

Martyn Riddleston



ELECTORAL ROLL

This year (2025) is a new electoral roll year, meaning that we 'start again'. The total count for the new roll in March 2025 is 163.

Analysis of the 2024 roll shows us that in the preparation of this new roll:

- 137 applied to be on the new roll
- 76 did not reapply for the roll
- 22 moved away from the area
- 9 left to join another church in Loughborough
- 1 died
- 26 new people applied for the 2025 roll

Analysis of the 2025 roll shows us that 30% live in our parish and 70% live outside of the parish.

PARISH STATISTICS

The total number of people attending services over the year was 1200 under 16s, 9559 adults, and 5397 online views of the livestreamed services. Below is a breakdown taken from the 2024 Statistics for Mission submission to the Diocese:

- Attendance at Advent Services and events: 1856
- Attendance at Christmas Eve/ Day Services: 418
- Number of people attending Easter services: 225
- Number of baptisms: 6
- Number of weddings: 0
- Number of funerals: 7
- Number of services conducted at the crematorium: 3
- Number of interments in the garden of remembrance: 0

PCC REPORT

Our Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met through the year to work with the clergy in promoting the mission of the church. As the board of trustees, the PCC has a strong focus on the responsible stewardship of our finances that God has generously provided, approving our safeguarding action plans, authorising changes relating to buildings and administration, and working through the Shaped by God Together process that will see us working together with other churches in the diocese as a Minster Community. We would like to thank all members of the PCC for their gifts of time, commitment and wisdom so freely and generously given.

Martyn Riddleston

DEANERY SYNOD

The usual 3 meetings were held throughout the year and a summary of the proceedings for each meeting is detailed below.

February 2024: Diocesan Finance Update, Simon Wilson

Simon Wilson, Director of Finance for the Diocese, gave a short presentation to inform us about the current financial situation and to invite views on what the Diocese and parishes could do about this. Expenditure has exceeded income year on year since around 2014. The Diocese has been selling assets to try to balance the books for some time but needs a different strategy as this is unsustainable. Some assets we can't sell e.g. Glebe land, and others are essential to the operation and mission of the Diocese. Simon explained that the deficit has been exacerbated by inflationary pressures that have meant even though we have managed to streamline and make cuts we are not seeing the benefits of this and this has been compounded by parish contributions dropping at the same time. Our income is not increasing following inflation but our costs are subject to it and so keep going up despite cuts.

It was noted that National Church funding is now no longer given for general ministry but targeted at specific strategic projects, making us even more dependent on Parish Contributions to form the main source of our income for our day-to-day running costs. The costs of maintaining ministry

form the bulk of our expenditure at around £6.5m, with Diocese and support staff costing £2.3m, central operating overheads £1.6m, and a smaller amount for Chaplaincy. We now consistently have an annual deficit of over £2m.

June 2024: Loughborough University Chaplaincy, Rev Elizabeth York

Elizabeth York, Lead Chaplain at Loughborough University, gave a short presentation on the ministry of Chaplaincy and the ways in which it supports the university community at Loughborough. She shared the story of St Martin, pictured in stained glass in Leicester Cathedral, who as a young Roman soldier encountered a beggar while returning to barracks. It is said he stopped and sat with the beggar and befriended him, sharing his cloak with him. Later Martin had a dream in which Jesus came to him and told him that as he had clothed the beggar, so he had clothed Jesus as in Matthew 25:36. St Martin is considered the founder of chaplaincy as the first chaplains were given their name (from Latin cappellani) because they were recognised by St. Martin's famous half cape (cappella, derivative of cappa). Chaplaincy is a ministry that happens outside of the Church, walking alongside someone in need, as did St Martin.

At the university, chaplaincy is a shared mission and the multi-faith chaplaincy team support a community that is made up of 20,000 students, 3,500 of which are international students from 135 different countries, and 4,000 staff. 6,000 students live on campus making the university a residential community in its own right and students make up around a third of the population of the town of Loughborough itself. The team supports the university in promoting an inclusive community and works to build partnerships between "town and gown" through different outreach events and their intentional presence on campus. The vision is for "a chaplaincy that is at the heart of the university, inspiring thoughtfulness, enabling conversation, making connections, and celebrating the rich diversity of faith and spirituality that is found within our vibrant community." The aim is to be multi-lingual in terms of speaking the language of the university, the church, society, and the community they serve.

The chaplaincy team help people to pause and take time for reflection, facilitating prayer and worship services, and supporting people through tough times hosting bereavement cafés and peace cafés, library drop-ins,

creative activities and workshops to support mental and spiritual wellbeing, and events such as Holocaust Memorial Day collaborating with Loughborough Council of Faith. They hold regular services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, as well as Catholic Mass, and seasonal worship around Christmas and Easter. They also work to build supportive relationships with 13 different student faith groups and societies, 7 of which are Christian.

October 2024: Intergenerational Communities – Matt Long and the Bishop's Children & Youth Council (BCYC)

Matt Long, Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Communities Enabler, gave a short presentation on the work of the BCYC to engage and listen to younger people across our diocese and to develop intergenerational worshipping communities. The most important thing in thinking about how we might become more intergenerational in our worship and churches is to listen well, especially to young people, children, and families. This isn't always as straightforward as it sounds as each generation almost has its own language. Matt asked us all to think about any slang phrases/ colloquialisms from our own youth and there were some good-natured disagreements about alternative meanings of words from different areas of the country people had grown up in! Matt talked about the current trend for Gen Z/A to string sentences of these words together producing a code we don't always understand. A promotional video from the RNLI using Gen Z language to promote the charity was shown and we were invited to think about how the Church might listen and speak well into this culture. When thinking about why we need to listen to children and young people, Matt spoke about how listening well helps us to understand what matters to them and how it builds worth, confidence and self-esteem (they are worth being listened to!). Such listening is vital in building meaningful relationships of trust and creating a culture of 'being heard.'

The BCYC is around 15 years old and has evolved from a small group on a central council to a diocese-wide network of under-18s. There are now 227 young voices from across the whole diocese of Leicester. Everyone involved works in listening groups to gather feedback from children and young people in their own areas, which is reflected on and reported to the Bishop who then responds. Recent listening reports and responses are available on

our diocesan website along with further information on how to get involved.

Deanery Synods are open to all members of the Anglican Church and members of PCCs and church congregations are encouraged to attend such meetings. They may contribute to the debate but are only able to vote if they are elected Synod members.

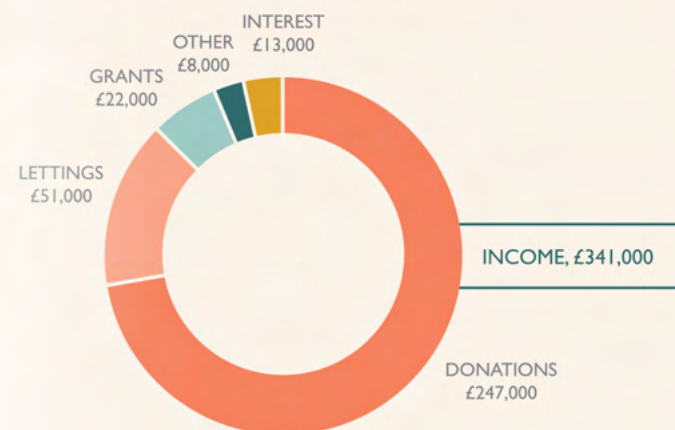
John Burnard

TREASURER'S REPORT

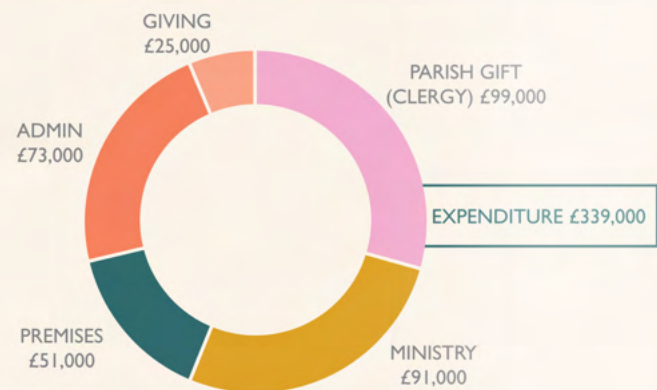
Thank you to all the many donors to the work of Emmanuel, we are incredibly grateful to those who give occasionally and regularly. It's your generosity which helps to fund the activities that happen week by week.

*Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.*

We have had some considerable financial challenges in 2024 and have had to make some difficult choices to maintain the current level of activities. The result of these actions is that we can report a very small surplus in our general spending for the year of £1,929 to our General Fund. The charts below show our General Fund income and expenditure, in addition we have Restricted Funds where the activities of the Emmanuel Youth Football Club and the work of Project 5000 are kept separate.



Our total General Fund income amounted to £340,986, which compared with £353,969 in 2023. Donations were similar to 2023, and Lettings were up but as expected Grants were lower due to conclusion of funding from the National Church. Interest income remained similar. For comparison the figures for 2023 were: Donations £247,000; Lettings £44,000; Grants £41,000; Other £10,000; Interest £12,000.



Our total General Fund expenditure amounted to £339,056, which compared to £352,221 in 2023. This is where our difficult decisions were taken. We reduced our gift to the Diocese, which funds the cost of clergy both here and across lower income areas within Leicestershire. This saved us £15,000 compared to our budget and £9,500 compared to 2023. In addition, we utilised a small part of our Tithe fund (the money we give away for mission) to support the work we undertake in the local Church of England School. This work is very similar to that undertaken by the SOAR project which we support with a donation. This saved a further £5,000. For comparison the figures for 2023 were: Parish Gift £109,000; Ministry £103,000; Premises £48,000; Admin £68,000; Giving £24,000.

In addition to the General Fund, we operate Designated and Restricted Funds. The Designated Fund includes General Reserves, £33,500; Redecoration and Investment Fund, £206,000 and Church Planting £12,400. We utilised £31,000 of the Redecoration and Investment Fund undertaking repairs to the two pinnacles on the Church building. The Restricted Funds consist of Youth Football with £12,500 and Project 5000 with £9,000. During the year, thanks to your generosity, we collected £3,877 which has been sent to our link Diocese in Tanzania for the work in Toloha, Tanzania.

Full details are contained in the Annual Accounts and are summarised here in the breakdown required by regulation.

	General Fund	Designated	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	247,359	80	4,675	252,114	260,919
Charitable activities	37,170	6,344	44,114	87,628	101,428
Other activities	43,258	-	-	43,258	34,642
Investments	13,199	-	-	13,199	12,406
TOTAL	340,986	6,424	48,789	396,199	409,395
EXPENDITURE					
Raising funds	39,303	-	-	39,303	39,449
Charitable activities	299,754	37,078	50,117	386,949	390,281
TOTAL	339,056	37,078	50,117	426,251	429,730
Net income/(expenditure)	1,929	(30,654)	(1,344)	(30,068)	(20,335)

The Future

Setting the budget for 2025 has been challenging and to achieve a balanced figure we have had to keep our gift the Diocese at the reduced level given in 2024 and allocate part of our tithe for work in the local Church of England School.

We still aim to rebuild our General Reserves, which are lower than recommended levels. One of the ways that you can help us is to consider leaving a gift in your will. If now is the time for you to consider this, you only need the Church name and Charity Number (1132853) to add this to your will. For more information about how to make or amend your will, visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy> These pages provide helpful information and include a FREE online will writing service.



EMMANUEL
Loughborough