

EMMANUEL
Loughborough

ANNUAL
PAROCHIAL
CHURCH
MEETING

23 APRIL 2024



WHO

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to the mission and ministry of Emmanuel. The reports booklet once again represents a huge amount of activity which enables us to continue to encourage people to follow Jesus Christ as Lord.

Over the past year we have focused on Discipleship, so we have encouraged and promoted our Emmaus Groups under the capable leadership of Ali. Our links with the Good Shepherd have grown closer and are now bearing fruit. Kat has relaunched The Fold: Families at 4 [Messy style of Church] and around 35-40 people now attend on a regular basis, which is supported by a team drawn from the congregation of the Good Shepherd. Three families from Emmanuel have now planted / grafted into the Good Shepherd. There are so many other areas I could mention however I am so encouraged by the ongoing Alpha Courses and many coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

As we look forwards there are several challenges that are ahead of us. The Diocese of Leicester is currently undergoing a restructure process which is called Shaped by God Together. Parishes are being formed into significant Minster Communities which, over time, will mean a reduction in clergy and increased emphasis on lay leadership. The ongoing discussion and debate on Human Sexuality will also have a significant effect on the Church of England and the Clergy at Emmanuel have hosted four morning sessions to explain our understanding based on four areas of Scripture, Theology, Culture and Pastoral. Let us pray for wisdom as we plot our way forwards over the coming year.

Rev Michael Broadley

WHO

EMMANUEL Loughborough

Rooted in Christ | Growing like Christ | Planting for Christ

WHAT

We grow disciples, plant churches, and plant again



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

Over the past year we have been committed to implementing our Vision Statement. Our main focus for the current season is planting churches that plant churches to reach the 93% who have little or no contact with Christ. To support that we have focused on growing disciples of Christ, both new and existing, via Alpha and our Emmaus Groups. Through our teaching on a Sunday, especially through John McGinley's Book "The Church of Tomorrow", we have tried to imagine and reimagine what the church might look like in the future.

One of the How segments is Growing Fruit by Sharing Generously; we have invested quite a significant amount of time and resource into the Good Shepherd Church.

Let us pray that we will grasp the depths of God's love for us in Christ so that we continue to live for Him in our daily lives.





WHAT

RESOURCING CHURCH OVERVIEW

Over the past year our focus as a Resource Church Partnership has been prayer, worship and committing ourselves to work together as a Resource Church Partnership. We now meet once a term to pray for our partnership. Our Resource Church Partnership Weekend was a huge encouragement and was well attended by our churches. Our main speakers and contributors were Rt Rev Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough, Rev John McGinley, Rev Lydia Corbett and Jessie Tang and they helped us to discern how we can flourish in our joint commitment to plant churches that plant churches to reach the 93% of those who don't know Christ.

The Senior Leadership Team have also attended Church Planting Conferences, Communities of Practice / Learning as well as other events. In the latter part of the year I took on the role of Diocesan Enabler with Sami Lindsey to look at how we can deliver on our commitments as Resource Churches in the Diocese, as well as embedding Church Planting as part of or Diocese.

Rev Michael Bradley

RESOURCING THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Due to Michael now being Priest-in-Charge of the Good Shepherd, we have been able to work more closely with the PCC of the Good Shepherd to share resources and expertise. For example, in spring 2023 we refreshed the vestibule, adding new coffee tables and notice boards. Tea and coffee are now served here after the service, which has resulted in more people staying and talking together after the services.

In autumn 2023 we ran the 24/7 Prayer Course, which 10 people attended (just less than a third of the regular congregation!). It was encouraging and exciting to explore how to pray together as a group.

The Good Shepherd have run a monthly Messy Church for around 4 years, and in April 2023 we gave it a refresh and a relaunch, moving it to a Sunday afternoon every other week. We also invited 2 other families from

Emmanuel to commit to coming along in order to help enhance the sense of community. The service follows a simple pattern of half an hour exploring and learning about Jesus (we worked through Jesus' I Am sayings in the summer term) through interaction, discussion, and songs. Then we move through to the hall for half an hour of activities, games, and craft, before clearing up and eating a simple meal together.

It has been encouraging to see families and different generations engaging in discipleship together, as well as seeing some new families come along and beginning to explore who Jesus is.

The final Fold session of 2023 was our Christingle, which was attended by over 40 people. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Jesus coming as the light of the world, and to show hospitality to all who came with a great party food spread!

Rev Kat Marjoribanks



LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP

The Loughborough Churches Partnership is committed to a three year vision of Prayer, Participation and Proclamation. In 2023 the main focus was Participation. Over a weekend at the beginning of June Christians from churches all over Loughborough, together with our MP Jane Hunt, joined together to serve the local community by litter picking, gardening, painting, decorating as well as many other areas. There were wonderful stories of how these simple, straightforward acts of service spoke to many people of Christ's love for them.

Rev Michael Broadley

HOW

CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Strengthening Faith

As I reflect back on 2023, 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 young people take significant steps in growing and strengthening their faith, and particularly enjoyed celebrating with several families as one young person was baptised in the spring, and five young people were confirmed by Bishop Saju in the summer. Some of these young people have subsequently expressed an interest in mentoring, and starting to serve in some of our Sunday teams. Their example encouraged some of the other young people to begin to explore this too.

Sunday Morning Children's and Youth Groups

Our Sunday morning youth and children's groups have continued to grow throughout 2023 as we have continued to see a significant influx of young families attending on Sundays at 11am. Over the course of the year, we have 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 the start of the 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. As part of this, we have endeavoured to try and encourage families and young people to be involved in these services by leading prayers, readings, drama, and giving young people to opportunity to share their musical talents in the worship band, or their technical skills on the visuals desk. We hope to continue this in 2024 and encourage other families and teenagers to consider how they can serve on a Sunday, either throughout hospitality, welcome, visuals, worship, or helping with children's groups.

The self-service crèche area at the back of church has continued to offer a warm welcome to those visiting with babies and young children. 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. Last year we began to consider how we could help families to engage with faith at home as well, for example by providing some Lent Challenges for Pathfinders. This is something we hope to do again in 2024.

Throughout 2023, 14-18s studied 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 to apply it to their lives. We also ran prayer spaces for the young people at various point 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.

Outreach

During the summer holidays we ran a Youth Worship Week, when teenagers were given the opportunity to explore more about what it means to worship God, alongside expressing their own worship through music, culminating in playing a song during a Sunday service. It was lovely to welcome a wide age range of young people to this, and also to see some young people invite friends who do not usually attend Emmanuel.

At the end of October we held an escape room event called 'Who's the Hero?' as an alternative to Halloween, and welcomed a number of families from Loughborough Church of England Primary School (LCEPS). At the event, families were invited to solve puzzles and complete a series of challenges leading them to discover more about the church and who Jesus is.

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 light Bible/topical discussion, during which the young people enthusiastically share their opinions on the topics and how this relates to their lives. This year, as a result of our schools work, we have also welcomed some new young people from Year 6 at LCEPS to join the group.

Our young people also attend the Townwide Youth events which happen periodically throughout the year, hosted jointly by Open Heaven, Elim, New Life and Emmanuel churches. The biggest of these events is the annual Townwide Youth Away Day which was held on Saturday 7 October from 9am to 9pm at Emmanuel. During the day young people worshipped together, listened to talks and engaged with topical workshops, shared food together, made new Christian friends, and enjoyed burning off lots of energy with a series of inflatables, and a movie photo challenge around the town centre and park.

School's Work

Our links with the Loughborough Church of England Primary School (LCEPS) have continued to grow over the year as we have welcomed the school to Emmanuel for services and events, as well as continuing to lead assemblies, and run a weekly Spark Bible Club, where we welcome approximately 20 children each week. 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 invite the EYFS class for a church visit in February, to run an outreach event in May for the whole school to celebrate Pentecost, and later in the summer term a Transition Prayer Space for Year 6 children, to help them to prepare for moving to secondary school. Earlier in the summer, we worked with the school to produce an opening worship video recording for the Diocesan Synod meeting in May. In July, we continued to raise the profile of the church by running a stall at the summer fair, which provided opportunities to talk to staff, parents and pupils in a relaxed and informal environment. At Easter we invited the Key Stage 2 children to an Easter Play at Emmanuel, produced and performed by Holy Trinity Leicester, helping them to understand the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. In December, Holy Trinity Leicester returned again to bring a Christmas production to Emmanuel for Yr1-6 pupils. Both performances were very popular with staff and pupils



alike and helped us to share the real meaning of Christmas and Easter.

Following on from the success of previous years, we were also delighted to welcome the whole school back to Emmanuel in late November to celebrate an immersive and practical Christingle Experience. The school also visited Emmanuel for various whole school services for the major festivals, and to celebrate the Year 6 Leavers service.

Over the course of the year we have also continued to build on our relationship with Mountfields Lodge Primary School, welcoming them to church for school productions, as well as running a visit for some of the younger children, to help them learn more about God, what Christians believe and why Christians enjoy going to church, supporting the school with delivering church tours relating to some elements of the R.E. curriculum. We look forward to hopefully building on these links throughout 2024.



Little People

Little People has continued to grow over the last year, and we have seen a significant number of families join the group throughout 2023. It continues to be a safe haven for many parents, grandparents, and carers 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. Due to the government childcare offers for three and four year olds, and the financial pressures many young families are facing causing them to return to work earlier, we are seeing less children staying in Little People until they reach school age, so it was wonderful to see the number of families coming with young babies increase towards the end of the year.

Some of the families that we see first at Little People have also visited and joined us on Sunday mornings. It was lovely to welcome back some families whose children used to attend Little People before starting school at our Christmas and Easter services too.

We continue to have a high enough number of families to be able to consider running a second session of Little People each week (as we did pre Covid-19), however unfortunately we still don't have a big enough team of volunteers to be able to offer this at present. We were sad to say goodbye to some of the ladies who have helped to serve the refreshments at Little People for many years, after they stepped down for personal reasons, but we are very grateful for those who have stepped up to help at the start of 2024.

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 in this ministry. Over the course of the year we have said goodbye to some core leaders, as they have either taken up roles in new churches as they train for ordained ministry, or have moved out of the area, or taken a step back from serving due to a change in their personal circumstances. Whilst it is sad to say goodbye to these people,

it has created spaces for others to step in and step up. We are delighted to have welcomed some new members to our teams throughout the year, and we look forward to hopefully welcoming more new volunteers throughout 2024, particularly as we use the Church of England's 30K Project resources, which is hoping to recruit 30,000 more children's and youth volunteers across the country before 2030. As part of the preparation for this, in the Autumn Term and at the beginning of 2024, we updated our safer recruitment forms and processes, in line with the latest diocesan guidelines.

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 2023, we look forward with prayerful excitement and anticipation to what He will do in 2024.

Christine Harrison
Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministry

EMMAUS GROUPS

The network of small discipleship groups at Emmanuel, known as Emmaus Groups, has continued to flourish throughout 2023. The number of people involved with Emmaus Groups has continued to grow. Two groups have multiplied during the year to create more capacity: one in January 2023 and one in September 2023. The two new groups have settled well and are now firmly established. Each group is encouraged to be involving group members in leading sessions in order to develop potential new leaders.

We have also been able to run a Chinese speaking Bible Study/Alpha group with help from Zhijia Yang. We are grateful to her for her hard work with this.

Our thanks go to Katie Fletcher, Emmanuel's Operations Director, for creating the Emmaus Groups board in the concourse. QR codes on the board have streamlined the process for people to join groups and has made it much easier for people new to Emmanuel to link up with a small group quickly.

Throughout 2023 each Emmaus Group has taken it in turn to serve at the I I am service, covering such areas as welcome, hospitality, doing the bible reading and leading the intercessions. This is very much appreciated in the life of the church. One result of this system is that there has been greater 'cross-fertilisation' across the morning services, with people getting to know each other better.

Some Emmaus groups have also volunteered to cook for the Alpha course on Tuesday evenings, which has been a wonderful gift to the Alpha team.

During the spring of 2023 the Emmaus Groups studied individual Psalms, linking in with the Sunday morning sermon series. This proved to be a fruitful way of creating better linkage between the sermons and the small groups and allowing small groups to engage with the Psalms at a deeper level.

The Emmaus Groups again linked in with the Sunday morning sermons in the autumn, through the use of John McGinley's book 'The Church of Tomorrow: Being a Christ-Centred People in a Changing World'. The purpose of this was to help people to think through what it means to live out Emmanuel's vision of being a church which grows disciples, who plant churches that plant churches. This proved to be thought provoking but also challenging in finding the way around the various resources that accompanied the book.

Looking forward through 2024, it is hoped that we will be able to continue growing the number of Emmaus groups we have, thereby increasing the number of church members who are involved in small groups.

Rev Ali Walton

STUDENTS

2023 was a year of familiarity and change within the student ministry at Emmanuel. We met regularly on a Thursday evening for a meal, Bible study and prayer. Over the course of the year we spent time studying Joshua and Luke's gospel. We also had a handful of sessions for students who are coming to the end of their time at university which hopefully helped to prepare them to enter the world of work as Christians. Regular 1-1 discipleship was also a feature of the student ministry over the course of the calendar year. We were blessed to have a number of students serve in a variety of roles within the church family as they made Emmanuel a spiritual 'home away from home'.

In the spring we held our yearly weekend away, jointly with the 20's-30's ministry, over at the Faith Mission Centre in Harby. Around 20 or so of us went away for the weekend where we spent time hearing from God's word, worshipping, as well as relaxing and hanging out together.

As another academic year ended we said goodbye to a couple of students as their time at Loughborough came to an end. The change in academic year also saw a change in the student team with 2 new volunteers coming on board.

The first term of the 2023 academic year saw the start of a slight change in ministry strategy with the implementation of more socials over the course of the academic year. Incorporating socials into the pattern of the student calendar creates a space where deeper group bonding can take place as well as opening up the opportunity for an easy invite to course mates and university friends of our students to come along and experience something of Christian community.

James Matthews
Student Lead

SENIORS

Once again I am happy to report that our Seniors Lunch Club is thriving! During the past year our numbers have increased to 50 each month, and everyone seems to look forward to coming together - enjoying the fellowship the lunch offers. Some of our members are already worshipping at Emmanuel, and others have been attending initially for the first time. Fortunately they have been given a warm welcome and continue to come each week.

Another year has seen the kitchen team provide excellent meals. The team is organised by Tim Hulse and the food is made to a very high standard, and needless to say very much appreciated by those attending. The event begins with a group of helpers setting up tables, while another group provide flower arrangements, and others very kindly offer lifts to those needing them. The meal opens with a member of the clergy offering a welcome to everyone, and then saying grace. Along with the usual monthly lunches we make special occasions of the Easter and Christmas lunches, with Christmas carols being sung and music provided by Norman Revell and Megan Ford, our Director of Worship. As you can appreciate, all this needs support from the church office and I would like to thank those who support me throughout the year. All their help is greatly appreciated by me and those attending. I would certainly like to thank all who give of their time so freely, I would not be able to do this without them. We meet on the last Thursday of the month and all are welcome to join us.

Joan Williams

WORSHIP

Highlights of 2023 included the confirmation service hosted at Emmanuel in June, and the services at Easter and Christmas, when we had services that featured both traditional and contemporary worship. Another highlight of the year was the opportunity of worshipping with the wider Resourcing Church Partnership at the 'Flourish' weekend in September.

In 2023 the decision was made to increase the regularity of café church to once a month on the 4th Sunday evening, and so to facilitate the service being hosted in the church lounge, and to aid with future outreach, at the

end of 2023 we invested in a new laptop which has proven to be extremely useful already.

The worship and tech team met twice throughout 2023 for vision and team nights, when we discussed our aims as a team, and were reminded of the importance of musical worship. Similarly, over the summer I was able to work with the youth team on a week-long event, encouraging our young people to get involved in worship and teaching about the importance of worship as an overflow of our relationship with God.

Throughout the year I have been reliant upon and incredibly grateful for the volunteers involved in the Worship and Tech at Emmanuel. 2023 saw a few key people from the team move away from Loughborough, but it also saw new volunteers being welcomed into the team and people stepping into new roles. The team has grown and developed over the year and I hope to see it grow further still as we go into this next year.

Thank you to all involved in the worship and tech team at Emmanuel, your gifts and your time are greatly appreciated!

Meg Ford
Director of Worship



PROJECT 5000

Project 5000 may not feed the 5000 each week, but we have again served over 1000 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. We have been blessed with 4 or 5 chefs cooking everything from vegetable curry and samosas (a firm favourite!) to roast chicken dinners; 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. We were also really pleased to receive a 5-star award for food hygiene following a recent EHO inspection.

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 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.

Chris York

LOUGHBOROUGH EMMANUEL FC

It was once said that football is a gentleman's game played by ruffians. In 1897 a group of ruffians came together to form what is now the oldest football club in Loughborough - Loughborough Emmanuel FC. 130 years on Loughborough Emmanuel FC facilitate 300 (junior) ruffians in playing the gentleman's game.

Last May we staged our annual awards at Emmanuel Church when we had the privilege of being joined by professional player, Brandon Thomas Asante and 500 of our players and supporters. The West Bromwich Albion

centre forward shared the highs and lows of his developing football story and reflected on his Christian faith. In August we operated our established Summer Holiday Club for 80 young footballers with the Christian Charity, Ambassadors Football, before then launching into another season...

Andy Duxbury

TITHE COMMITTEE

We tithe our income to enable us to support a range of charities and individuals at home and abroad. In 2023 we were pleased to donate a total of £25,362.

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.

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 for a house to be built in the compound of the church, school and orphanage that we have strong links with in Taloha, Tanzania the Tithe has also continued to support the Munguishi Bible College in our link Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro.

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

Enabling children to see the parent they no longer live with following parental separation can sometimes be a significant challenge. Step forward the Loughborough Child Contact Centre. Every Saturday afternoon we open up the Church Hall to provide a neutral venue where children can meet with the parent 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 facility free of charge and would like to record our thanks to Emmanuel and St Mary's Nanpantan churches for their generous donations. However, we need some new Trustees if we are to keep this initiative going, which was set up 30 years ago. If you or someone you know could bring some relevant experience in any of marketing/communications/website management/social media/strategy, we would love to hear from them/you.

Andy & Helen Duxbury
Centre Coordinators

VOLUNTEERS

A huge part of our Christian life is serving God through the local church, and I'd like to thank all our volunteers at Emmanuel who give their time and skills so graciously and sacrificially throughout the year. There have been lots of key points through 2023 that couldn't have happened without our volunteers – not to mention the 45 hours of volunteer time across 3 services every Sunday!

The volunteers at Emmanuel span every area of ministry and range from those we can see at Sunday services, those whose work we can appreciate as we arrive at church such as the beautiful gardens, to those whose work is 'behind the scenes' but without which the church couldn't function!



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who so dutifully serve on rotas, teams, and in response to last-minute calls for help! If you have passions and skills you would like to use in service to God at Emmanuel please do get in touch!

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director

CHARNWOOD LISTENERS

Individuals can access our listening service by contacting us directly; the NHS recognises the value of listening, and we receive referrals via social prescribing as well as by private individuals from Emmanuel and from the town-wide community. As professional listeners we offer five one-hour sessions free of charge, either by telephone or face to face. We undertake to listen in total confidence within the Safeguarding agreements. In order to maintain our high standards, we continue to update our skills by regular supervision, training, and practice. Formal feedback on our listening sessions enables us to be alert to necessary changes in our training and safeguarding procedures. Such is the value of our listening training that we have been invited to write a course to train a local church to train their newly appointed pastoral team.

If you would like to know about the method of listening we use, perhaps to improve relationships within groups, families, work place, or to enable healing and reconciliation more effectively - do get in touch with us. Or maybe you know someone who might value being listened to in total confidence. All enquiries are dealt with in complete confidence.

Jancis Barlow

MOTHERS' UNION

It has been a really good year, we continue to regularly meet each month, having occasional speakers and also a few games afternoons. Whilst we learn so much from our speakers, it is also good to have some light-hearted fun and fellowship together. During these occasions we have a great time enjoying and taking pleasure in one another's company. I also have been fortunate enough to enrol 3 new members to our ranks, which is really good, although our numbers still remain fairly low.

One thing worth a mention is that Janet Webster has recently moved away to be nearer her family in Bristol, this is a sad loss to our branch as Janet was involved in so many ways with MU both at Emmanuel and in our deanery over many years. We will miss her company very much.

Lastly I would like to mention the spiritual side of things is always very important in the Mothers' Union, especially in promoting the values of Christian family life. As Leader, I have gained much from our members over the years. As Branch leader I would ask you all to prayerfully support Mothers Union here at Emmanuel, and if there is anyone in the parish who would like to come and join our fellowship, then do not hesitate to speak to me sometime.

Jane Hulse

GARDENING TEAM

Emmanuel's gardens and borders flourished in 2023 helped by plenty of rain and enough sunshine. The long Forest Road border and the smaller beds around the front car park and by the entrance next to the church hall revealed a rich diversity of year-round colour and texture planting including shrubs (some evergreen), climbers, grasses, perennials, and bulbs. In addition, at the east end of the church plot as well as large shrubs we have fruit trees, rhubarb and even potatoes, the produce of which goes to those in need. The Garden of Remembrance at the back of the church is gradually being filled with plants, some given in remembrance of loved ones. Being quite a dry area, we are able to grow herbs and other plants less suitable for the front border. We are lucky to have the use of large areas of lawn which also complement the borders but are dependent on the council for

keeping the grass cut, so they do not always look as neat as we would like! We now have a large composting system built up by John Burnard and the Carpenters Arms' lads at the back of the church, which is tremendous as we can now compost most of our garden waste and look forward to using the end product in the years to come. As we never use weed or insect repellents we are confident that the biodiversity of life on Emmanuel land is flourishing.

As we gardeners are just three elderly souls we couldn't manage without the help of the Carpenters Arms lads to do heavy jobs in the garden, but between us all we managed to be awarded the highest level 5 in last year's Loughborough in Bloom. If anyone would like to join us they'd be very welcome!

Alwyn Lane



ALPHA

Emmanuel has been able to run two Alpha courses during 2023. One took place in spring 2023 and involved about 10 people. The second took place in the autumn of 2023. This course was much larger, when 25 people attended each week. We are grateful to Helen Sheldon in particular, for feeling called to this ministry, and to Tricia Hole for offering admin support for the January course. We would also like to thank those individuals and Emmaus groups who cooked meals for the Alpha course.

From these two courses we have been able to create a new Emmaus group (Rho). Some of those who attended one of the Alpha courses have joined this group, others have become members of other Emmaus Groups.

It has been very exciting to see people come to a new faith in Jesus, and to see others growing in their discipleship.

Rev Ali Walton

EMMA

The Emma group continue to be committed to supporting each other and being part of the Emmanuel Church family, always ready to help Christine when the oranges need preparing for the C of E School's Christingle Service!

We have welcomed a new member and are always pleased to welcome guests. Two members of the committee have organised a varied programme and we have once again hosted a service in September and a Carol Service, attended by guests from Mothers' Union and the Good Shepherd church. Once again, we enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Longcliffe Golf Club. We have been entertained by a Ukelele Group, learned the meaning of our names and had a talk by Fiona Mason on Riding for the Disabled. We had a lively afternoon with the Shanty Folk and with the 12 visitors, there was an audience of 30.

Moving to a twice-monthly afternoon meetings has proved to be a success. If you have a couple of hours free on the first or third Tuesday of the month, and would like to 'try us out', you will be made very welcome.

Diana Millward

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

We started the year as the Monday Morning Men's Meeting (4M), inviting ladies to some of our meetings, such as our two mornings of music followed by lunch in Emmanuel church centre. At our October meeting there was a consensus that all our meetings should be open to ladies and that we should therefore call this the 'Monday Morning Group'. Our schedule remains unchanged; meeting monthly, at Emmanuel in the winter and at St Mary's in the summer.

In January, a visit to Loughborough Grammar School computer lab has become a regular feature, as has our canal boat trip in August. Our other meetings have involved speakers on a variety of topics, including Mercy Ships and the RNIB, which together raised charitable donations totalling £296.20. 'Question Time' was held in July, with a panel including our MP, a representative of the church and an independent - neither political nor

religious - opinion. 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 May 2023 we celebrated 25 years of Lunchtime Concerts. 25 years ago we had a newly re-ordered church building that was little known to the outside community; concerts could be the way to open up. Thus began a success story, only interrupted by the pandemic. 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.

There are a number of reasons for holding the lunchtime concerts:

- They are a service to the community, bringing high quality music making to an audience that may otherwise have little opportunity to experience live music
- Music has an uplifting/spiritual dimension to it
- Presenting music in a Christian context is a soft form of evangelism; we model Christ to the community through our welcome and the level of engagement by stewards and helpers
- Supports professional musicians and showcases new talent, including amateurs
- Builds community within and outside the church by providing an opportunity to socialise by providing a simple meal and listening to music together

In the 2023 season we put on eight concerts and have now rebuilt the audience back to pre-pandemic levels. Typical audience sizes are about 150, with about 80 lunches served. The Christmas concert with The8 performing attracted 267 people and 138 lunches were served.

Over the season we aim to make a small profit to help meet overheads.

Jeremy Kimber and Norman Revell

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team has continued to meet throughout 2023, meeting every six weeks. The team consisted of Ali Walton (chair since May 2022), Gill Bayley, Ruth Brooker (for part of the year), Sneha Ninan (for part of the year), Joan Williams, Eric Whitley and Rosie Whitley.

The team has maintained contact with, and supported members of the Emmanuel community who have been unable to attend in person, either long-term or short-term. Support has consisted of phone calls, in person visits to pray with people, taking Holy Communion, praying regularly for people and generally staying in touch with those in need.

The monthly Seniors' Lunch Club, headed up by Joan Williams along with the kitchen team under the leadership of Tim Hulse, has proven to be an important plank in our pastoral support of more elderly church members, as many of them attend these lunches.

Moving the weekly Thursday Service of Holy Communion from 9.45am to 10am has also helped several of our more elderly members. For some it means they can use their bus passes after 9.30am to get to the service. For others, the slightly later start time has made it possible to attend in person with transport from the John Storer Community Bus.

The aim for 2024 is to re-think how the pastoral team operates as the team is now quite small. Members of the team are largely focused on the 9am Service. We need to think through how to provide effective pastoral support for those who attend the 11am and 6.30pm services and who are not members of Emmaus Groups.

Rev Ali Walton

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

We have been continuing to gather bi-monthly for men's and women's

prayer breakfasts over the past year. The men meet at the Toby Carvery for an all-you-can-eat-breakfast followed by a short talk and an opportunity to pray together. Topics this year have ranged from 'competitive games', to 'what success looks like', to 'faith in the workplace'.

The women meet at Emmanuel with a delicious spread of croissants, bagels, fruit and yogurt. After breakfast there is an opportunity for discussion, often looking at a passage of Scripture, and then a time to pray together for our church, local communities, and each other.

Gathering together to eat and pray provides such a good way to socialise, to develop fellowship, and to support and encourage one another in conversation and prayer. It's also a really good way to meet people from across the whole church, as both the men's and women's breakfasts are attended by people from across the congregations.

BUILDINGS

Huge thanks to the Buildings Maintenance team who faithfully worked throughout the year to maintain our church buildings, keeping them safe and secure, warm and welcoming!

2023 saw the installation of the new church carpet, part of the redecoration project that started in 2022. The total cost of the carpet works was £6690, which as per the costs for the repainting works, came from the proceeds from the sale of the Brookfield Avenue house.

Major remedial electrical repairs were made across the whole site at the start of the year, and regular testing of the fire detection system was carried out by the maintenance team. All of the annual tests such as the lightning conductor, the gas boiler services, the fire extinguishers, and the church clock service were undertaken and signed off.

The process of making repairs to the pinnacle on the north-west of the church building were started in 2023, with inspections, reports and quotes carried out by our architect (Simon Bird of Flying Buttress Architecture) and submitted to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) for consideration. Permission was granted towards the end of the year, and the work is due to be completed by mid Q2 in 2024.

In Q3 and Q4 of 2023 we let out the church hall to the NHS for an average of 4 days each week, to host the Loughborough Covid Vaccination Centre. Thousands of people from our local communities were able to access this service, and it was a joy to welcome them to Emmanuel.

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director

EMPLOYMENT GROUP

The employment group met regularly throughout 2023 as a sub-committee of the PCC, and discussed and made recommendations back to the trustees on a variety of matters, including recruitment for the role of Senior Office Administrator, an extension to a fixed-term contract, fluctuating business needs resulting from the hire of the church hall to the NHS, long-term sickness, and salary increases and streamlining their implementation.

John Burnard
Chair of the Employment Group

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend any of our church services or activities was once again high on our list of priorities for 2023. Throughout the year the PCC fully complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and Safeguarding Issues were addressed, as a set agenda item, at every PCC Meeting. My thanks go to Canon Dr Codra Spencer for being the PCC Safeguarding Lead on this. All members of the PCC hold valid Diocesan Certificates in Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, renewable after three years.

Everyone who works with either Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults at any level has been required to undergo a DBS check and complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training to Foundations Level. This requires a high level of commitment, and my thanks goes to all those who are willing to serve in this way. Without you we would not be able to provide any of the services or activities that we do.

My sincere thanks also go to Christine Harrison, our Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministries. She ensures that all our volunteers are recruited according to strict Diocesan Guidelines, is a Lead Recruiter for DBS Checks alongside me and meets with me regularly to check that we are where we should be in all matters relating to our youngsters.

I would also like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and office team for their invaluable support.

In addition, in 2023 all the volunteers for Charnwood Listeners were required to undergo DBS Checks and complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training in Basic Awareness and Foundations. They then determined to also each complete the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Module and three volunteers took the Safer Recruitment and People Management Module. My thanks go to all of them for taking this on board so readily and particularly to Jancis Barlow for leading and facilitating this. A valuable addition to the services we can provide here at Emmanuel.

Although Safeguarding is a particular responsibility of the PCC and church leaders, it is also a responsibility that we can all share, ensuring that we have a family community here at Emmanuel where all can thrive.

The Safeguarding Policies of Emmanuel are available on our website and on display in both the concourse and church hall, alongside further useful information including how you can contact me if necessary. Please 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 WARDENS' REPORT

Our wardens' report for 2023 begins 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 congregation we congratulated Kat Marjoribanks as she was installed as a curate during 2023 following a time of ordinand training.

We extended a huge thank you to Lisa Collins, who wrapped up six years as Warden in April. Lisa was involved in supporting us through so many aspects of change in church life from the Resource Church Partnership to seeing us through the COVID years. We are truly grateful for her leadership, a listening ear and dedication through her term as Warden. As Lisa departed from the role, we welcomed Martyn as a new Warden.

We also expressed our deep thanks to Simone Crew for her service in the church office and we welcomed Amy Conti as Senior Office Administrator. Amy has quickly settled into the team and church life here at Emmanuel.

Flourish, our Resourcing Church Weekend in September, saw the three churches in our Resource Group Partnership Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd, and St Barnabas come together to learn from inspiring speakers Bishop Saju, Rev John McGinley, Lydia Corbet, and Jessie Tang on the topics of Flourishing in Evangelism, Flourishing in Discipleship, Neighbourhoods Ministry, and Welcome with a Worldview respectively. It was a blessed time and one of the many fruits of this weekend has been the families from Emmanuel who were inspired by the Spirit to move to the Good Shepherd church to worship and serve there. This resourcing of the Good Shepherd took place in early 2024, but the seeds were very much sown during the Church Weekend in 2023.

Our 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.

Dan Ninan and Martyn Riddleston

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll count at the 2024 revision is 245, this is 2 down from last year.

The 'movement' on the roll since last year is below;

- 10 added in 2024 revision
- 12 removed since last APCM, broken down as follows:
 - 11 removed – Requested to be removed (moved from area/church)
 - 1 removed – Died

PARISH STATISTICS

The total number of people attending services over the year was 1411 under 16s, 10,998 adults, and 6536 online views of the livestreamed services. Below is a breakdown taken from the 2023 Statistics for Mission submission to the Diocese:

- Attendance at Advent Services and events: 1097
- Attendance at Christmas Eve/ Day Services: 585
- Number of people attending Easter services: 197
- Number of baptisms: 9
- Number of weddings: 5
- Number of funerals: 10
- Number of services conducted at the crematorium: 12
- Number of interments in the garden of remembrance: 2

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 more recently working through the Shaped by God Together process that could see all churches in the diocese move to a Minster Community model. We have also continued to prayerfully consider Living in Love and Faith. We would like to thank all members of the PCC for their gifts of time, commitment and wisdom so freely and generously given.

Dan Ninan and Martyn Riddleston

DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod met three times during the year, discussing various topics. In the February meeting Chris York gave a good presentation about Exaireo, which was well received.

In the same February meeting it was stated financial challenges were greater than they had ever been. Parish contributions from around the Diocese had collapsed. Fewer stipendiary clergy in the future would result in eventual solvency for the Diocese. Clergy are needed to preach the word of God, which will encourage giving. Andrew encouraged all to read the Bishop's letter about the Church's financial position and giving.

The June meeting was about exploring vocations with Sue Willetts and Liz Rawlings who gave a presentation on the diverse vocations and training pathways, both lay and ordained, in our diocese.

The October meeting concentrated on the forming of a new Minster Communities. Rev Andrew Race stated it was noted that it is up to each parish to decide whether to participate but there may be consequences of opting out as future clergy appointments in the diocese will be made to Minster Communities. Andrew noted that there will be choices at almost every step of the process and that we have some freedom to define what

the new communities will look like within the 'wedge' boundaries of our resources (people, finance, and buildings), and the diocesan priorities (growing discipleship, deepening faith, and supporting schools and young people).

Deanery Synods are open to all members of the Anglican Church, and members of PCCs and church congregations are encouraged to attend such meetings.

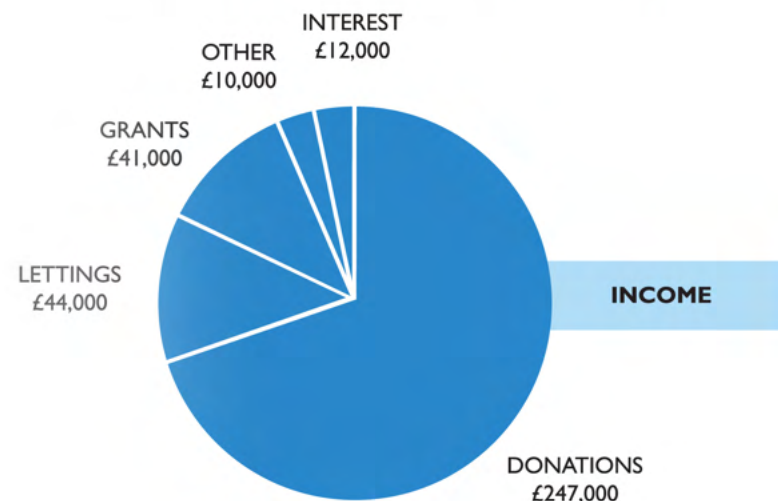
John Burnard

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are grateful for all the donations received by Emmanuel in 2023, thank you for your generosity which helps to fund the activities that happen week by week.

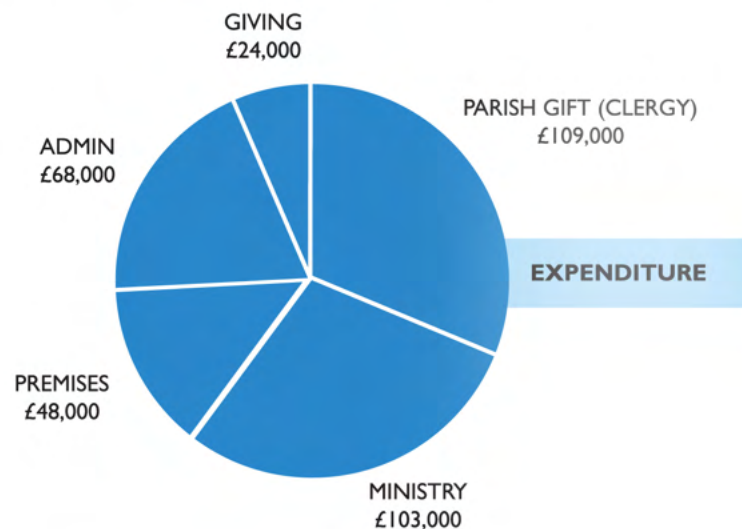
For the first time in several years, I am pleased to report a very modest surplus of £1,748 to our General Fund. This was made possible by your generous regular donations and response to our Thanksgiving Appeal.

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 5,000 are kept separate.



Our total General Fund income amounted to £353,969 which compared with £323,804 in 2022 and a budget of £336,488. Donations and Lettings were up from 2022 but as expected Grants were a little lower due to tapering of funding from the National Church. Interest income is considerably higher due to increased interest rates.

For comparison the figures for 2022 were: Donations £225,000; Lettings £31,000; Grants £51,000; Other £20,000; Interest £4,000.



Our total General Fund expenditure amounted to £352,221 which compared to £340,737 in 2022 and a budget of £336,658. We spent around £7,000 more than budget on Church Activities, mainly salaries with other overspends spread across all areas.

For comparison the figures for 2022 were: Parish Gift £19,000; Ministry £84,000; Premises £62,000; Admin £62,000; Giving £22,000.

In addition to the General Fund, we operate Designated and Restricted Funds. The Designated Fund includes General Reserves, £33,500; Redecoration and Investment Fund, £236,000 and Church Planting £12,300. We utilised £24,000 at the beginning of 2023 to finish the interior decorating. The Restricted Funds mainly consist of Youth Football with £11,500 and Project 5000 with £10,000.

During the year, thanks to your generosity, we collected £6,525 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	Designated & Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	246,860	119	14,059	260,919	234,315
Charitable activities	60,061	2,517	41,367	101,428	103,885
Other activities	34,642	-	-	34,642	31,009
Investments	12,406	-	-	12,406	4,386
TOTAL	353,969	2,636	55,426	409,395	373,595
EXPENDITURE					
Raising funds	39,449	-	-	39,449	37,049
Charitable activities	312,772	24,062	77,509	390,281	387,684
TOTAL	352,221	24,062	77,509	429,730	424,733
Net income/(expenditure)	1,744	(21,425)	(22,082)	(20,338)	(51,138)

The Future

We expect 2024 to bring its own challenges as a little more of the grant money from the National Church tapers away. We are currently forecasting a small deficit but are hopeful of further donations during the year as well as developing plans to increase our trading income.

We are still committed, when possible, to rebuilding our General Reserves which were reduced during the pandemic. 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 www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy These pages provide helpful information and include a FREE online will writing service.

Chris Sheldon
Treasurer

EMMANUEL
Loughborough