



APCM'26

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

28 APRIL 2026

EMMANUEL
Loughborough



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 of all that we do.

I am especially grateful for the ministry of Matt Green who moved to the Trent and Derwent Benefice in the Diocese of Derby at the start of 2026. Despite being at Emmanuel for a relatively short time (in order to complete his curacy), Matt's contribution to our mission and ministry was excellent as he oversaw the Discipleship Groups, bringing in a Leadership Development programme and contributed significantly to our Pastoral Care team. His preaching and leading was also really valued by many and he was a great addition to the Staff Team and Senior Leadership Team.

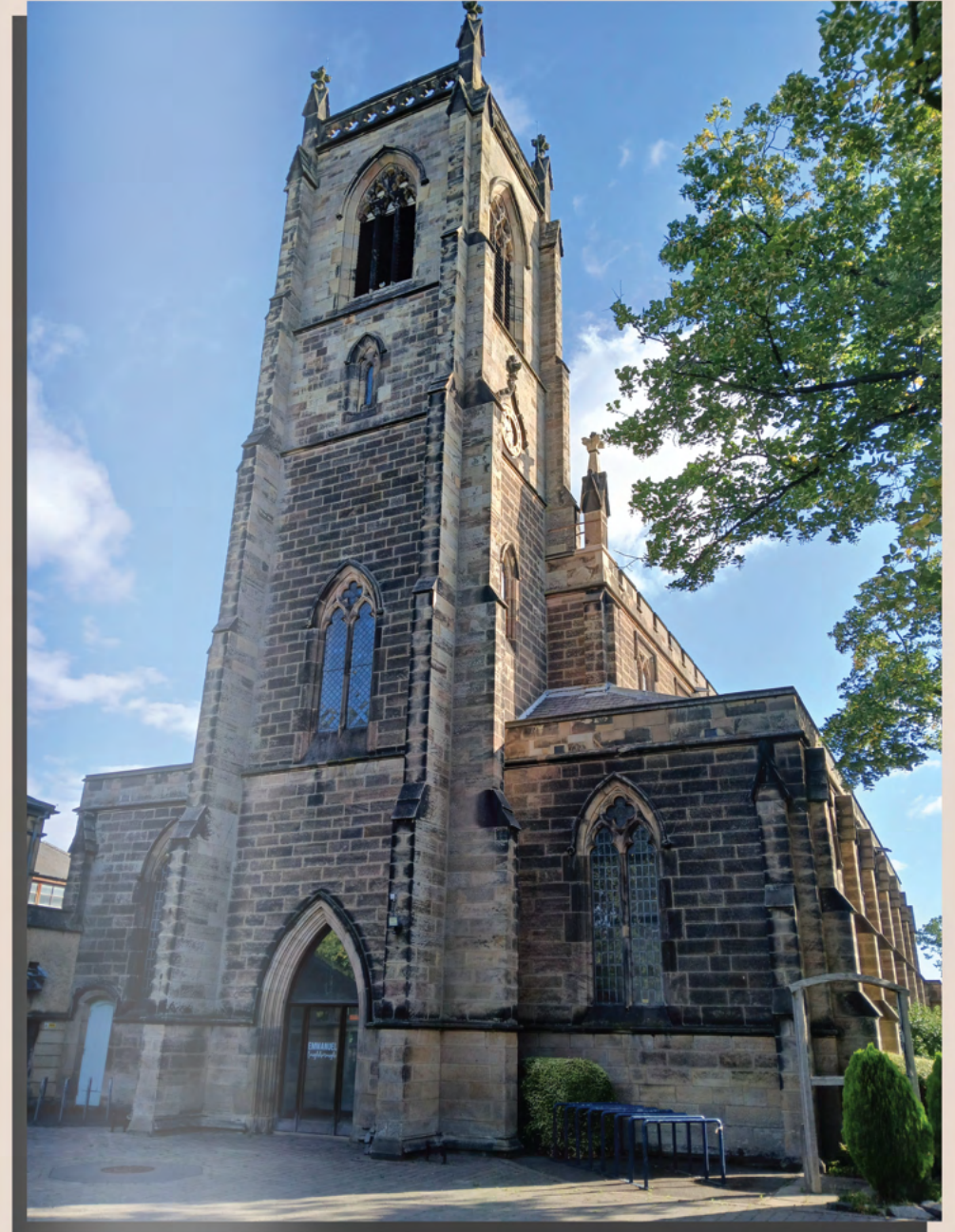
The next 12 months will continue to see significant change as the Shaped by God Together process begins to come into effect and our Minster Community has been agreed. Our Minster Community will consist of parishes from Rothley to All Saints Thorpe Acre and will hopefully have a church planting focus. We need to pray for discernment and wisdom as we engage with the new Minster Community.

I am very grateful for the Senior Leadership, for adapting and supporting me in my two roles in the Diocese and Emmanuel. I need to assure you that my primary focus is still at Emmanuel (with the Good Shepherd), and I am kept up to speed with all things Emmanuel on a daily basis.

Rev Michael Broadley

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. Discipleship must 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 is key to our mission and ministry. We continue to see signs of new growth and life in all of our services. However I feel as though we need a period of focused, communal prayer and reflection to see where God in Christ is leading and guiding us in the future.





WHAT

RESOURCING CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

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 in 2025 led by Rev Joanna Seabourne, who challenged us to think about our discipleship in Christ.

The Good Shepherd continues to grow and flourish as well strengthen in all areas of her life. St Barnabas now has a congregation of 95 adults with 35 children. In September 2025 we planted a first-serve community into the Lift Beacon School. Around 8-10 of us from a pool of about 12-14 meet every other week in the school. We are discerning where God is leading us, and are forming an oversight group, establishing a Christian basics course, discerning how we can serve the local community as well as develop the space we meet in. Play pray for us as we discern the way forward under Christ to develop this New Worshipping Community.

The Resourcing Church Project funding comes to an end in June 2027, and so we need to continue to see how we can church plant as we move forwards.

GOOD SHEPHERD REVITALISATION

It is now two years since we at Emmanuel commissioned three families to move to the Good Shepherd, to be part of the worshipping community there, and to be a part of intentionally growing the church, particularly among younger people and families.

One of the most encouraging things for me at Christmas 2025 was that there were five families from the Good Shepherd who came to our joint Christmas Day service held at Emmanuel.

Over the past few years we have seen more families coming along to the Good Shepherd regularly with people getting involved in various areas of church life such as the Sunday morning children's group, welcome and refreshments and doing Bible readings in the services.

There has been growth across other age groups in the congregation too and most Sundays feel full and vibrant. There has been a warm sense of welcome from the existing congregation, and we are pleased to be entering into

'problems' such as how to have enough leaders for two breakout groups for the children on a Sunday morning!

One of the areas we are focussing on is developing leaders, in relation to the sustainability of ministry in the future. This is being done through giving people opportunities to lead in a variety of ways, mentoring and hopefully, as we continue to grow and develop, through more formal training opportunities.

Rev Kat Marjoribanks



BEACON CHURCH SHELTHORPE (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS BEACON ACADEMY CHURCH PLANT)

In September 2025, a small group of people from across Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd and St Barnabas began to gather once a fortnight in an un-used external classroom at the Lift Beacon Primary School on Woodthorpe Road. This was possible through the openness and generosity of the headteacher of the school who has been happy for us to meet in that space.

As we move forward we are looking for, and praying for opportunities to work in partnership with the school to create a space that can be a community resource for gathering, supporting wellbeing and other opportunities.

We spent a few months simply gathering to worship and pray and wait on God. We have experienced a strong sense of God's presence in that space, and we are excited about where God will take us and where we will see people's lives transformed as they come to know Jesus in that area.

In spring 2026 we are planning to run a pilot of the 321 Course from Speak Life which is a 4 week course hosted by Glen Scrivener exploring the foundations of the Christian Faith. It may be that this then becomes a resource that we can use to invite members of the local community to come and explore Christianity for themselves.

LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP (LCP)

The Loughborough Churches Partnership continues to look outwards into the town of Loughborough. Over the past three years we have prayed and been a presence in the community: we have now moved to the proclamation phase of the 3-year mission. 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.

We need to continue the conversation with our town especially as there are signs of a Quiet Revival/Awakening across all of the churches in the partnership including Emmanuel and the Good Shepherd as well as St. Barnabas.



HOW

CHILDRENS & YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Growing and Developing

Reflecting back over 2025, 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 lots of children and families through our schools work, we have welcomed new families to church and have grown our volunteers teams. It is exciting to see all that God has and is doing within this area of Emmanuel.

Sunday Children's and Youth Groups and Activities

Our Sunday morning youth and children's groups, (Climbers and Explorers for 2-7yrs, Discoverers for 7-10yrs and Pathfinders for 10-14yrs) have continued to grow throughout 2025, as has our 14-18s youth discipleship group on Sunday evenings. It has been really encouraging to see some of these children take significant steps in their faith journey this year, with some now more confident in reading the Bible and praying aloud, some being baptised and several older children celebrating their first Holy Communion in June.

Last year we encouraged and equipped families with resources and activities to bring faith into their homes through activities such as the Lent cross challenge, prayer activity booklets, and Advent bunting. With the older teenagers, we reflected on how we can create holy habits and what that might mean for our discipleship journey. We continued to use the Energize resources on Sunday mornings, studying the Old Testament in the Autumn Term, Jesus' life and miracles in the Spring Term, and some key people in Early Church in the Summer Term. Throughout 2026, we plan to continue encouraging families and teenagers to grow in faith at home as well as at church, and have started this by running Youth Alpha in Pathfinders, creating Bible challenge booklets with 2-11yr olds, and by sending out youth gift boxes to some of the older teenagers to support and encourage them as they sit their exams.

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. Children, young people and families were given opportunities to take part in these services in a variety of ways, including prayers, Bible readings, using their musical gifts in the

worship band, serving on the visuals desk, assisting with welcome and hospitality, joining in with actions to songs and an array of other different activities during the services. We were delighted to have some young people choose to complete their volunteering hours for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with us last year too.

At Christmas, it was particularly special to join together with some children from the Good Shepherd Church to form a children's choir for the Outdoor Carol Service, and in October to welcome children from Emmanuel, The Good Shepherd and St Barnabas for our joint church weekend children's and youth activities. Other special services last year included Christmas, Christingle, Mothering Sunday, and Easter. Alongside this, as a result of our connections made in 2024 with the 30K Project and JOIN resources, we were invited to put together two online services for the Church of England, for Good Friday and National Volunteering Week. Both services were very well received, and we are very grateful to all those who helped to put them together, especially the children's and youth volunteers who shared some of their story of volunteering in the latter service.

The 'service activity bags', which were designed to help children engage with all age services, proved popular again in 2025, particularly the bingo-style activities encouraging children to stay engaged and listening throughout the whole service. Alongside this, the self-service Creche area has continued to be a warm and welcoming space for young families with babies and toddlers. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children and young people on Sundays. Many are keen to ask big questions about faith, what it means to follow Jesus, and to invite their friends to come to church. There is a wonderful sense of family and community developing among our church families.

Throughout 2025, 14-18s continued to reflect on their journey of discipleship through the lens of Acts 2:42-47 and focused on some of the Holy Habits in Andrew's Robert's book "Holy Habits". This 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, to help them to take time out of their busy schedules and spend time listening to God.

During 2025 Pathfinders took part in several of the Diocese of Leicester's Listening Exercises, which are designed to listen to and gather the thoughts and opinions of children and young people on important, significant or

topical issues. Responses from various different churches and schools across the diocese are collated together before Bishop Martyn creates a video response. Last year's topics included: 'poverty', 'safeguarding' and 'do you hear me'.

Light Party

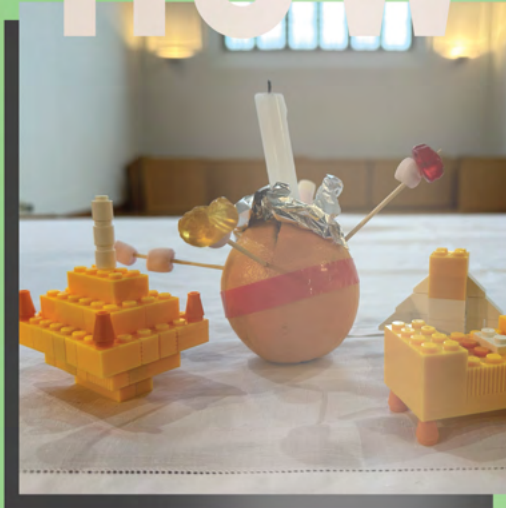
We have continued to welcome new families to church on Sundays and at our mid-week groups and activities, as well as at various special events throughout the year. In November, we held a light party with bouncy castle, crafts, Bible trail, tuck shop and much more, as an alternative to Halloween. Alongside some of our regular families, we were delighted to welcome a number of families from our local school connections.

Schools 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 such as Easter, Leavers Service and Harvest. Alongside this, we have continued to go into LCEPS to lead assemblies, run the weekly Spark Bible Club, where we welcome approximately 25-30 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, drama and other activities. Towards the end of 2025, we welcomed Abbie Bateman (Children's Worker from Open Heaven Church) to the help expand Spark Club and replace some volunteers who stepped down. We were also able to offer a Year 6 Transition Prayer Space, and a whole school outreach event for Thy Kingdom Come during the summer term.

In addition to this, 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, Easter and standard church visits and concerts. We are very grateful to the volunteers who gave up their time to support these activities with Key Stage 1 and 2 children. We were delighted to receive very positive feedback from all of the events, services, visits and clubs we offered to the schools during 2025, and very much look forward to continuing this work throughout 2026.

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During the year, we 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, some of our core leaders have stepped down due to a change in their personal circumstances, moving away, or taking up other roles within the church. Whilst we were sad to say goodbye to these people, we are very grateful for all that they contributed to our CYF ministry. This created spaces for others to step up, and we were delighted to see some new volunteers join our team last year. I am particularly grateful to Liz Featonby for all of her support in ensuring that our volunteers remain up-to-date with their safeguarding training and DBS checks.

As we begin 2026, we are still short of leaders, particularly in our Sunday morning groups, and so hope to welcome others to the team to fill these gaps and also to provide cover for the groups during the summer months when I will take a three month sabbatical. In order to continue to support new and existing volunteers, in Spring 2026 we will be running the Children's Ministry Essentials Course, and will continue to hold volunteers' social evenings 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

Finally, 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 share 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 2025, we look forward, with prayerful excitement and anticipation, to what He will do in 2026.

Christine Harrison

STUDENTS

During the latter part of the previous academic year, we had much encouragement: Jan to June 2025 we were blessed to have more new students walking into church, or being invited by friends and joining our student activities. We've found students coming late in the academic year, and also sometimes even if they are in their 3rd or 4th years of being here and having the desire to connect with God and a spiritual community.

We continued to meet on Thursdays - also with students running more parts of those meetings including leading worship. Many weeks we have been blessed when food has kindly been provided. Also we had some socials, and games nights and met at Alan and Denise's home. We had Jane speak during some of our evenings too.

In February we had a "Student and 20-30s" Friday and Saturday hosted in Emmanuel church - we had worship and Steve Walton preached at several sessions through during the Saturday.

Students have ministered at church helping on the sound desk, children's ministry, readings, prayer and the worship team.

In June we prayed for the students leaving us at the end of their course and for those going on a placement year. We ended the academic year with a summer BBQ garden party.

Then this current academic year started in October 2025 and we welcomed many new students who were searching for a church, some of the new first years have stayed with us and have also joined our Thursday evening meetings. We have had students lead more of the meetings, including the Bible study and members of Emmanuel lead certain evenings too.

Some of the students have made a commitment to get baptised soon. We are currently planning for another Student/20-30's weekend and have an ex-Emmanuel student coming back to lead some of the sessions as well.

It's always been a joy and privilege to be involved with this ministry and we love to see people grow spiritually and as well as new people coming in too.

Paul & Ana Hanson



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SENIORS MINISTRY

Another year and I am recalling the last Seniors Lunch of the year, our Christmas event, which is the culmination of another successful year for the Seniors Ministry. Alongside the regular members we have several new people – raising our numbers to 60+. We have created a welcoming venue where everyone mixes well and enjoys singing Christmas carols and stories of past Christmases, while sharing a meal.

Of course, none of this would be possible throughout the year without a lot of help from the team of people who come beforehand to prepare the meal under the direction of Tim and Jane Hulse. In addition, there is another team that set up the tables and chairs as well as serve the meals. There are also small, but important tasks, such as flower arrangements for each table, as well as money collection, which helps everything to go smoothly. In addition to the catering team, I would like to thank all the office staff who support us with the administration requirements which makes the day a success.

When all this has been done the important act of fellowship begins and everyone is able to enjoy conversation with each other. I really appreciate the generosity of everyone who gives so freely of their time. The time spent together creates a strong bond of fellowship and gives us an opportunity to share God's love with all who join us.

Joan Williams

EMMAUS GROUPS + DISCIPLESHIP

Throughout 2025, the Emmaus discipleship groups have continued to play a central role in the spiritual life of our church, offering spaces where people can grow in faith, deepen relationships, and explore what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Many of our groups engaged with the Romans Course and The Bible Course by Andrew Ollerton. These resources provided a shared biblical foundation, helping groups to explore the big story of Scripture while also engaging honestly with questions of faith, doubt, and discipleship. Other groups worked through The God Story by Alain Emerson and Adam Cox, which complemented the preaching series at our 6:30 services and helped people reflect more deeply on how God's story shapes our own lives.

Alongside the life of the groups themselves, we have sought to support and encourage those who lead them. Emmaus leaders were invited to take part in a leadership course run by the SLT, designed to equip, encourage, and sustain small group leaders as they nurture discipleship within their groups. This has been an important investment, recognising both the joy and the challenge of leadership, and affirming the vital role leaders play in the spiritual health of the church.

Leaders have also been encouraged to explore ways their groups might serve the wider church and their local communities. While this has looked different from group to group, it reflects a shared desire to see discipleship expressed not only in learning and prayer, but also in loving service and practical care.

Our Flourish weekend, with its focus on discipleship, was a particularly significant moment in the year. It gave the whole church an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reimagine how we deepen our relationship with Jesus and with one another, and it has helped to shape ongoing conversations within Emmaus groups.

Alongside the Emmaus groups, a new point of reference called the Discipleship Resource Hub has been created to support individual discipleship. Soon to be available on the church website, it signposts people to resources rooted in ancient Christian practices. This is very much a growing resource, and we hope to continue developing it over time with input and feedback from the congregation.

Taken together, these strands reflect a year of steady, faithful discipleship, rooted in Scripture, shaped by community, and open to growth as we continue to follow Christ together.

Rev Matt Green



VOLUNTEERS

An integral part of our discipleship is serving each other, both inside and outside of church. Every area of church life mentioned in this report, and more, happens through our volunteers and we are very grateful for their time, skills, commitment and sacrifice in serving.

As in most other churches, we are always looking for more volunteers to join all of our teams: please prayerfully consider if you could volunteer at Emmanuel and let one of the Senior Leadership Team or Staff Team know if you feel God calling you to a particular area of ministry.

Katie Fletcher

WORSHIP

As I reflect on the past year of worship at Emmanuel I am greatly encouraged by the ways it has continued to grow and flourish, with new opportunities and challenges; recording worship for the Church of England YouTube channel and forming a choir for traditional carols have been but a few of the highlights!

Easter this year saw us recording an online service for the Church of England YouTube channel for Good Friday, as well as shortly after recording another video for their 'National Volunteers Service'. Faced with this new challenge and the need to balance a variety of music styles, the team stepped up and led worship with professionalism and humility: thank you to Jeremy, Jamie and Sam for being so involved! As always, Easter saw a multitude of services across Holy Week, from midweek services, to the Good Friday reflection and Easter Sunday celebration. Similarly, the Christmas period was filled with worship and carols played in a multitude of styles. With thanks to Jeremy Kimber, both these times of year saw the musical worship at the reflective services, on Good Friday and at the Service of Thanksgiving, led by the organ, the piano and a range of instrumentalists.

This Christmas' Contemporary Carols Service saw the band grow once again, with string instruments, saxophone, piano, drums and guitars all coming together in worship. The Community Carols on the Green included singing from the Loughborough Singers, and a specially-formed children's choir on the green in front of the church, which I know many people got great joy from! A spectacular highlight of the last year though was most

certainly the Traditional Carol Service. Masterfully organised and conducted by Jeremy Kimber, the music was led by the organ and six string players, as well as a trumpet player. The service was sung through by an almost 20-person choir drawn from across all the Emmanuel congregations, many of whom did not know each other before but came together to join in joyful song! Thank you to all who were involved with these services, I look forward to growing them even more in 2026!



Another highlight from the last 12 months was Fudge joining the church as a New Wine Discipleship Year student and joining the worship team; she is an incredible musician with a heart for worship. Fudge has grown in her musical ability and in her courage over the last few months and has stepped into the team with excitement and a real desire to learn and grow in leading worship.

As Director of Worship, I have also been given opportunities in the last year to grow in my leadership through attending a worship leaders' conference last March, as well as by having the opportunity to teach about a 'lifestyle of worship' to the young people who attended the Townwide Youth away day in 2025.

Over the past year the worship and tech teams at Emmanuel have grown in volunteers; new people have stepped up and stepped into new roles, and it has been incredible to see the dedication and heart for serving Christ through this ministry shining through each of the volunteers. It has been a privilege and a joy to worship alongside this team over the last year, and I am so grateful for every person who is involved in any way.

Reflecting upon 2025, and looking forward to the year ahead, I am incredibly encouraged by all that I have seen and I look forward with excitement to the continued growth of the worship ministry at Emmanuel in 2026, as we grow together as disciples, glorifying and seeking Christ in all we do, and leading people to know Him more through musical worship!

Meg Ford

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Over the past years we have developed a range of events and gatherings as women across the different services and communities at Emmanuel. It is a blessing to meet together and get to know women from other services. To encourage one another, pray together and often accompanied by food!

We have enjoyed a Movie Night watching the inspiring film Six Triple Eight, which prompted some poignant discussions. We had two retreat days - one to Cross Hills Baptist Church and one outside at Bradgate Park. Both of these days offered an opportunity to step back from the busyness of the world and spend some time being quiet, reflecting on God's Word, praying together and having time to pause. They were so widely appreciated that we will certainly be doing something similar again!

Just before Christmas we hosted a craft evening which was very enjoyable! It is special to gather together and do something creative no matter what level of experience or skill someone might have.

These events enable friendship and fellowship to form, and for a community to develop of kindness, support and encouragement as we go about living our lives as followers of Jesus.

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team meets every 4-6 weeks and compliments the ongoing pastoral ministry of Emmanuel, as well as acts on behalf of the clergy team in the cure of souls for the parish. The work of the Pastoral Team is invaluable for visiting, encouraging and supporting different members of our congregations many of whom, but by no means all, are unable to attend Emmanuel Sunday by Sunday yet have faithfully served Christ and the church over many years.

Members of the Pastoral Team also take Holy Communion to those at home. The work and support that the Pastoral Team give to Emmanuel is invaluable and very appreciated.



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BEREAVEMENT TEAM

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 at 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 Emmanuel 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

MOTHER'S UNION

This year, as in most of our recent years, has been much the same in that we have had occasional speakers and special occasions such as the Holy Week Communion Service to which all ladies in the Parish are invited, our Annual Strawberry Tea in the Church Centre when we are given the opportunity of renewing our commitment to Mother's Union for another year and also to go to Ulverscroft to Shuttlewood Clarke each July where we enjoy a special cream tea together with invited guests.

Quite recently we lost a really special lady, Shirley Brown who had been a member for over 20 years. Shirley had moved into a care home in Quorn a little while ago, but I shall miss her personally, in that she had been very supportive of our branch and me for quite some time.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the spiritual side of things as being very important in the Mother's Union, especially in promoting the values of Christian Family life. This year is a very special one as we as an organisation are celebrating our 150th Birthday. Please do pray for us and for the way forward for us as a Christian organisation in the future.

As Branch leader I would ask you all to prayerfully support Mother's Union here at Emmanuel, and if there is anyone in the parish who would like to come and join our fellowship then please speak to me sometime. I know for sure that all the ladies will tell you that the friendship we share are really something quite special indeed.

Jane Hulse

PROJECT 5000

Project 5000 2025 Wrapped: over 1300 meals served, 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 even had a couple of 'guest' volunteers over Christmas. In total more than 650 volunteering hours were given in 2025. 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!). In fact, we gave out more than 650 litres of long-life milk and more than 3000 tins in the last 12 months.

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

PARISH PILGRIMS

Walking together in beautiful places and sharing our lives is what Parish Pilgrims offers, as well as reflections, Quiet Days and eating together.

A long-established group here at Emmanuel, in the past we have held weekend pilgrimages, walking pilgrimage routes and visiting cathedrals and holy places. These days we tend not to travel so far but meet mostly locally twice a month. The second Thursday of the month for a walk of up to 5 miles pausing for a Reflection, and finishing the morning with a pub lunch or maybe in the warmer months a picnic. The 3rd Monday afternoon of the month offers a short walk of up to 2 miles, and finishing with a cup of tea. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Gill Bayley

MONDAY MORNING MEETING

We meet monthly, at Emmanuel in the winter and at St Mary-in-Charnwood in the summer. Exceptions are a visit to Loughborough Grammar School computer lab in January and a Canal Boat trip in August.

In February Roger Willson told us about 'The Joys of Church Crawling'. Richard Harries presented music linked to historic events at our March meeting, followed by lunch in the Church Centre. In April we heard about the 'Blood Bikes Charity' for which a retiring collection raised £150. Rev David Newman was our speaker in May - 'I Am Not Optimistic But I Am Hopeful'. Question Time in June provided the opportunity to put questions to our guest panel and in July John Elliott gave a talk about storms and lightning; 'it's All Over In a Flash'. In September, Richard Harries spoke about 'Forgotten Engineers of the Canal and Railway Era' and in October a choice of music by Russel Taylor was followed by lunch. Another talk by Richard Harries in November, 'Israel - 3000 Years of Conflict' and in December a talk by Cllr Margaret Smidowicz about her 'Year as Mayor of Charnwood'.

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

EMMA

The EMMA group meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month and are always happy to welcome new members, and this year welcomed Glynis Payne. We were, however, saddened at the passing of Shirley Brown who had been a faithful member of the group for many years.

We continue to embrace assisting with church activities and, again, had a very sociable morning putting together the Mothering Sunday bunches of flowers for the Mothering Sunday service. As usual we represented Emmanuel at the All Saints with Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival, with Santa hat decorations that Margaret Beet had devised. Once again we have hosted an open service in September and a carol service from which the offertories were given to Project 5000.

We enjoy a diverse programme which this year has included an insight of the Rainbow Hospice: our members donated generously to their collection. We love having a singalong with the Quorn Ukeleke Group and The Shanty Folk. We had a keep fit session and are looking forward to our 2026 meetings.

We would like to thank Megan for always being on hand to help with the 'setting up' for our meetings, without whose help it would be more difficult to deliver the programme.

EMMA, a group of women with the heart for caring for each other, the church and the wider community.

Diana Millward

LOUGHBOROUGH CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

The Child Contact Centre operates every Saturday afternoon in the old Church Hall, providing a neutral venue where children can meet with the parent (and sometimes other family members) that they no longer live with, following relationship breakdown. The Centre was originally the initiative of Rev Paul Wimsett, former curate of Emmanuel & St Mary's, and opened 36 years ago.

Families typically come for six months before moving onto their own contact arrangements away from the Centre. Most families are directed to come by the Family Courts, but others are referred by social services and

solicitors. The last year saw a significant drop in referral rates from family courts, due in part to significant backlogs in the family court system.

It's interesting to think that by now the first families we helped could have enjoyed a further 36 years of relationship. We are indebted to our team of willing volunteers, without whom we couldn't deliver this important service.

Helen & Andy Duxbury

LOUGHBOROUGH EMMANUEL FC

In May this year Crystal Palace FC won the FA Cup for the first time in their 160-year history. Their team captain Marc Guehi, Club Captain Joel Ward and Eberechi Eze, the scorer of their winning goal, each thanked God for their victory. Weather permitting (!), each Saturday during the football season, we have up to 19 teams running around assorted East Midlands football pitches enjoying their own FA Cup finals.

If you had been sojourning on the church footpath bench on 31 May and 5 July you would have noticed 500 children, parents and friends coming to Emmanuel Church to celebrate the Club end of season awards. And as with previous seasons we rounded things off in August with the Annual Summer Holiday Club for 80 young footballers with the Christian Charity, Ambassadors Football.

Once again, we have provided our 300+ players with something like 15,000 participation opportunities. Opportunities to let off steam, stay fit, work as a team, learn new skills, make friends, and practice respect. It's strange to think that this is all a consequence of three men at Emmanuel Church holding a meeting in a Church Upper Room, some 25 years ago...

Andy Duxbury

CHARNWOOD LISTENERS

2025 was a year of growth for Charnwood Listeners. Our new recruits have been trained and we are now able to offer both male and female listeners. Most of our Listening sessions are at Emmanuel but thanks to a grant from STB, we are also able to offer sessions at The Arc Community Hub both for listening and training.

We are seeing an increase in clients from across the churches of Loughborough and increasingly, the town wide community through NHS Social Prescribers. Every individual has their unique story but common themes why people access our service are bereavement, anxiety, identity loss, and relationships.

One client gave the following feedback *"The sessions were incredibly helpful at helping me to organise what was going on in my head and hearing it back and the questions asked really helped me to recognise and amend my own issues. The sessions were professional and eye opening"*

To keep pace with demand in our service we are hoping to run a training course to recruit new listeners to our team this year. We have also been approached to deliver listening training to our local Street Pastors. Our affiliations to Christian Listeners International are now visible through a new website, www.christianlisteners.org

We were delighted to be able to share our work with town wide church leaders at an LCP breakfast and continue to pray we become fully rooted and embedded across the Loughborough churches to offer the hospitality of listening. We are grateful to Emmanuel and STB for their generous support to enable this to happen.

Jancis Barlow

BUILDINGS

We are very grateful to the Buildings Maintenance Team, John Burnard, Simon Lane, Keith Harrold and Ian Faulkner, who faithfully give their time each week to complete maintenance tasks and checks. Huge thanks also go to Harry Hall and Garry Rigby for completing the PAT testing, and Martin Hodson who is our drainage expert!

Various repairs were made around the church and centre in 2025, such as to the underfloor heating system and additions to the PA desk to improve visibility from trip hazards. We also had an Energy Audit completed by Arrow Energy, funded by the Church of England, which will inform future decisions regarding our buildings.

In conjunction with our Architect, Simon Bird of Flying Buttress Architecture, we started to look at phase 2 of the QI repairs to the church

building, primarily focusing on the church tower. A Structural Engineering Company, GCA Consulting Ltd, was contracted to complete a report on the current state of the tower roof, and Taylors Bell Foundry also inspected the bells that sit on the roof. This work will continue into 2026.

Katie Fletcher

GARDEN TEAM

The last year has been a difficult one for the church garden. Although we made good use of the home made compost, last year's drought resulted in many annual plants dying as well as perennials becoming stunted, and the established shrubs looked tired and dusty. As well as that we had less regular help from the Carpenter's Arms men so the bigger jobs and the composting weren't as efficiently carried out as usual. At least with the continuous rain in the early part of the new year the ground has had a really good soaking and hopefully this will encourage this year's flowering and growth.

Fortunately we now have some new members in the gardening team, so together with the Carpenter's Arms we should be able to keep all the garden beds and shrubs looking healthy and colourful. We are always grateful for any donations of plants if you have any to spare!

Alwyn Lane

TITHE COMMITTEE

We tithe our income to enable us to support a range of charities and individuals at home and abroad. In 2025 we were pleased to donate a total of £16,755.

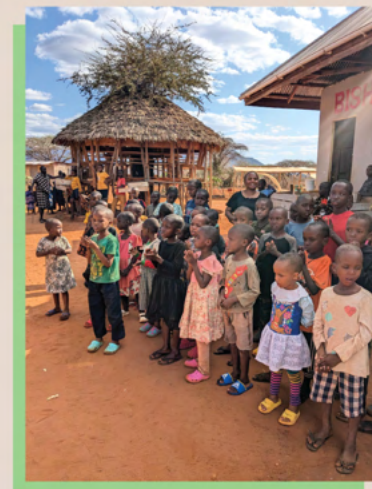
We aim to support organisations with a link to members of Emmanuel that provide an active advocate relationship and can be praying for their ministry and mission.

This year we have supported local projects including the Loughborough Churches Partnership, Exaireo, the SOAR project, 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 also support our linked Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Although not funded from the Tithes fund, through the year we raised additional funds of around £4,800 for the house within the school community in Toloha which is now housing our long-term friends, Mary and Jasper, as they support over 250 children in their school. In the spring of 2026 Michael and Kat will visit Toloha again. We continue to be greatly blessed by seeing 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





CHURCH WARDENS

We 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.

Susannah started her role as a Warden in April. It has been great to return to being a two-warden team and she had made a very significant contribution as we co-ordinate our Sunday services, participate in the wider life of the church and support our clergy in their ministry.

We were grateful to Rev Ali Walton for her ministry with us before she retired in April. She made a significant contribution to our ministry and community and we wish her and Steve a blessed retirement. We also benefited from having Rev Matt Green complete his curacy with us during the year. We wish Matt and Mary well as he begins his ministry in the Diocese of Derby.

Flourish '25, our Resourcing Church Weekend in October, saw the three churches in our Resourcing Church Partnership; Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd, and St Barnabas come together again to learn from inspiring speakers Rev Joanna Seabourne, and our own leaders on growth, church planting and delivering ministry in different contexts.

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.

Martyn Riddleston & Susannah Ashton

DEANERY SYNOD

*Intercultural Worshipping Communities: Emmanuel Trip to Tanzania,
Kat Marjoribanks*

Kat Marjoribanks gave a presentation about a trip to Tanzania taken by a small group from Emmanuel last August. While there, the group were able to visit church plants, community churches, and local schools in the Anglican Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (DMK) and Kiteto, with which the Diocese of Leicester has been twinned since 1982. It was a wonderful opportunity to

see how another culture engages in worship and church, and the group took part in many discussions and theological explorations around cultural differences. Tanzania's official language is Swahili so Kat and the group were accompanied by translators. Kat reflected on having to think about alternative sermon styles (long sentences and complex clauses are difficult to translate!) and how the Holy Spirit intercedes so that it really doesn't matter if we are praying for each other in languages each other cannot understand; God hears all our prayers across the language barrier.

Kat spoke about how evangelists and clergy in Tanzania go out into new communities and set up public screenings of the 'Jesus film' based on Luke's gospel. They then invite people to come forward for prayer and healing, and out of this people often gather and form their own church plants. There is a strong movement of the Holy Spirit in Tanzania with 600 new churches planted in the last five years in DMK alone. The trip was a real opportunity to think about what church planting looks like in Tanzania and what we might learn and bring back to our own diocese.

In the churches and schools Kat visited there was also a strong sense of community, and of community identity. Kat was struck by how people identify as part of their community far more than as individuals. In the schools, sometimes the teachers did not even know some of the children's names because it is simply more important that they belong to us, than that they have a separate identity of their own, which a name defines.

Togetherness is key and Kat was also struck by the real intergenerational worship happening as children are taught to worship alongside the adults and learn by copying and joining in – there is no such thing as a separate Sunday school in Tanzania! Kat especially enjoyed how vibrant and alive the different worship styles were, especially in physical movement and dance; God moves his people in this place – even during the Peace!

Net Zero & Eco Communities: Adam Clarke, Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager

Unfortunately Adam Clarke was unable to be with us, sending his apologies for the meeting due to illness. Instead members were invited to spend five minutes chatting to a neighbour about how their church has approached becoming an Eco-church. Have they begun the process? How are they getting on? What highlights, achievements, or obstacles can we share with each other on the journey?

Ken Rotter – Good Shepherd, Loughborough

The Good Shepherd is a 75-year-old church which remains active in the community. The most ecologically sound thing is to try to maintain our churches without major building work. They have had to install a new ceiling recently and have tried to do so with minimum changes made so as to limit the environmental impact of construction work. It was also felt important to maintain and plant trees in the church grounds.

Paula Freckelton – St James the Greater, Oaks in Charnwood

St James use their woodland for outdoor worship and had received 100 saplings from the Woodland Trust to plant. They also have bat boxes and a bughouse made from pallets various groups have installed. Currently they are facing a challenge of Ash die-back and the PCC is seeking support to deal with this.

Codra Spencer & John Burnard – Emmanuel Loughborough

Emmanuel has achieved one Eco-Church award so far and is continuing to look for changes that can be made to improve. Many good initiatives had been implemented including swapping standard light bulbs for LED ones which, while more expensive to install, are more cost-efficient to run. An orchard of fruit trees including apple, pear, plum, and cherry has been planted in the churchyard and produces good crops used by both the church kitchen and shared with the congregation. Through the 'In your neighbourhood' scheme, they had also set up a system of composting in the church garden using pallets. They don't use pesticides and have installed nest boxes for swifts in the tower to encourage more wildlife. Codra also spoke about 'Creation Care' and how when others can see what we are doing as a church to look after God's creation these activities become acts of worship that are shared, and people take things home and put them into practice in their everyday lives.

Mandy Pieniek Tilley – All Saints, Thorpe Acre with Dishley

Mandy commented that environmental issues are a key priority for young people and they had focused on this in their children's church with eco activities for the children. Bird feeders and boxes had also been installed. All Saints has received its Bronze award and is currently working towards the Silver award.

Angela Tarry – Loughborough University

Angela agreed that environmental concerns are important to young people and spoke about an interfaith discussion at the university for World Environment Day. Highlights included thinking about how we can encourage

bio-diversity and taking the long view with students planting trees that won't be fully grown until long after they have moved on but which will benefit others longer term.

Beverley Lott – Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar

The Rectory at Barrow has been selected for a retro-fit renovation for Net Zero as it is currently very environmentally inefficient. Solar panels and a heat pump system are being installed and it is hoped the results can be shared across the Diocese to show what improvements can be made to properties as well as our church buildings.

Cathedral Ministry Q&A: Dean Karen Rooms, Leicester Cathedral

We welcomed Dean Karen to the meeting and the following questions were offered from the floor:

Q. What's it like in the Cathedral now the renovations are done?

A. The renovations of the Cathedral have been well received and Dean Karen spoke of ongoing challenges as we learn how to use the building in new ways and make best use of the new learning and heritage centre. There is a real desire to keep momentum going in showcasing the rich heritage of the city and the Cathedral, carrying on the work of the 20-year project which has got us to this point. We are now looking forward to the anniversary of the Cathedral and Diocese in 2026/27, and how that might be celebrated.

Q. How do you balance being a place of worship and a centre for tourism, especially with King Richard III?

A. Always a balancing act. We are governed by the Cathedral's Measure and as such the main purposes of the Cathedral are to be a place of Christian Worship, the seat of the Bishop, and to support the ministry of the wider Diocese. But we are also a tourist attraction and have to be careful not to fall into focussing only on our worship and regarding visitors as secondary, which isn't very welcoming! We have an events team and welcome schools and heritage tours and it is important that we do not split this off from worship as we are all involved in the ministry of the Cathedral to everyone. The whole team sees the Cathedral very much as an access point for people to come and meet with God, and it is important to provide an opportunity for all to meet with Christ through welcome to our space.

Q. How do you recruit and equip volunteers?

A. We have a list of potential roles people can volunteer for, and we use the safer recruitment process and provide safeguarding training. We usually interview and discuss what they want to get out of volunteering at the Cathedral and then try to place them in the best role. We provide other training specific to the different roles and are keen to encourage younger people and students to volunteer with us.

Q. How does the relationship between the Cathedral and Diocese work? And how does Cathedral work with its city neighbours in mission?

A. We work hard to make the Cathedral a place of welcome for all the Diocese and have been blessed to enjoy reciprocal hospitality at other churches, especially while the Cathedral was closed for renovations. We are continuing to visit churches with the Cathedral Choir who are available for evensong or to work with churches to put on fundraising concerts – will sing for cake! Please do invite us to come to support your churches; usually the choir goes out nine times a year on third Sundays of the month.

In terms of the Cathedral itself, we have the Bishop's Christmas and Easter services with the Dean stepping back on major festivals. Though we are funded separately from the Diocese by the Clergy Commissioners and grants there is some cross over with some members of the Cathedral also being members of Diocesan governance, so really we are an independent but binary system working alongside each other.

The Cathedral shares mission to the city centre with its close neighbours but we are not part of Shaped By God Together. We have spent some time thinking about the wider horizon of how we can relate to churches across the whole diocese as a Cathedral for Everyone, as well as how to live well together alongside our city neighbours, which would not be possible if we were part of a single Minster Community.

The three set of meetings during the course of the year were varied and informative. Members of the congregation are invited to our deanery meetings which they would be welcome to attend, but without being an elected representative they would not be allowed to vote.

John Burnard

EMPLOYMENT GROUP

The employment group comprises Michael Broadley, John Burnard, Katie Fletcher and is chaired by Stephen Adshead. Cathy Threlfall-Rogers is committee minute secretary. The committee meets approximately four times per year to review and set policies, to advise on recruitment & pay awards and to support line management on any specific staffing matters.

Stephen Adshead

SAFEGUARDING

Providing a safe space for all those who cross our threshold has been high on our agenda this past year, following on from the concerns of previous years, and the PCC have fully complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

All members of the PCC have enhanced DBS checks and hold Diocesan Safeguarding Training certificates in Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Some also hold Safer Recruitment and People Management Training.

Safeguarding is a set item on the agenda of every meeting, and I have also been able to attend meetings as necessary. The Diocese is continually asking more of PCC Members in all matters relating to Safeguarding and ours have fully stepped up to the mark spending additional time outside of normal meetings discussing various aspects and how they relate to our community.

At Emmanuel we have nine church activities aimed at children, young people or vulnerable adults, all of which are tracked throughout the year to ensure that all leaders and volunteer helpers are fully checked and trained to Diocesan requirement. My thanks go to them for taking the time to complete both the checks and training in Basic Awareness and Foundations, without which we could not run the activities at all.

My sincere thanks also go to Christine Harrison, our Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministries who tirelessly ensures that all groups run smoothly and volunteers are recruited subject to Diocesan Guidelines. Christine is also a DBS Lead Recruiter, and we meet regularly to make sure all areas are covered.

We also have six non-church activities, aimed at children or young people, operating from our premises and my thanks go to our office staff, to Katie, our Operations Director and Sheena, our Administrator who ensure that they all meet the Safeguarding Standards required by the Diocese. They also greatly help me to fulfil my role as Coordinator in more ways than I can mention.

This year has seen the Diocese require volunteers to undertake more Safeguarding Training than ever before and so now our Wardens and Prayer Ministry Team have all completed Basic Awareness Training and our Pastoral Team have undertaken Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Once again, without the commitment of these members, we could not provide these ministries and I thank them for the way they have taken this on board.

Although Safeguarding is a particular responsibility of the PCC and church leaders, it is also a responsibility that we all share and it is greatly encouraging to see more and more members willing to take on roles that require a measure of Diocesan Training.

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

Liz Featonby

EMMANUEL PCC

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 Minister Community. We would like to thank all members of the PCC for their gifts of time, commitment and wisdom so freely and generously given.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Following the Electoral Roll Revision in 2026, the total count on the roll in April 2026 is 167. This is an overall increase of 4 people from 2025.

The revision of the roll: this year includes:

- 2 left to join another church in Loughborough
- 4 died
- 10 new people applied to join the roll

The Electoral Roll at Emmanuel is not an accurate representation of the Worshipping Communities and we would encourage everyone who is not on the roll to join; being on the Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the Church, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. It also enables you to participate and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings, and be able to stand for being a member of the church PCC or other official roles.

PARISH STATISTICS

The total number of people attending services over the year was 1300 under 16s, 11590 adults, and 7165 online views of the livestreamed services. Below is a breakdown taken from the 2025 national Statistics for Mission submission:

- Attendance at Advent Services and Events: 2062
- Attendance at Christmas Eve/Day Services: 516
- Number of people attending Easter services: 265
- Number of baptisms: 7
- Number of weddings: 3
- Number of funerals: 7
- Number of services conducted at the crematorium: 3
- Number of interments in the garden of remembrance: 1



WHY



WHY



TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to the many donors giving to the work of Emmanuel – we are incredibly grateful to those who give both regularly and occasionally. It's your giving which helps fund the weekly activities and ministries that take place throughout the year.

2025 finished with a deficit of £1,871 in our General Fund. Our total General Fund income amounted to £330,321, compared with £340,988 in 2024. Our total General Fund expenditure amounted to £332,192, compared with £339,057 in 2024.

Total income including General, Designated and Restricted funds was similar to the previous year of £395,111 (2024: £396,201). Our regular donations dropped from the previous year, but overall donations increased to £255,907 (2024: £252,116). Income from charitable activities was lower mainly due to grant income significantly reducing. Lettings income increased to £47,343 (2024: £43,258), whereas interest income reduced to £8,269 (2024: £13,199).

Total expenditure including General, Designated and Restricted funds decreased by £40,986 (last year included major repairs of £28,556) to £385,282 (2024: £426,268). Our Parish gift this year was £100,000 (2024: £99,450). Part of the Tithe fund was used again to support the work we undertake in the local Church of England School and surrounding area.

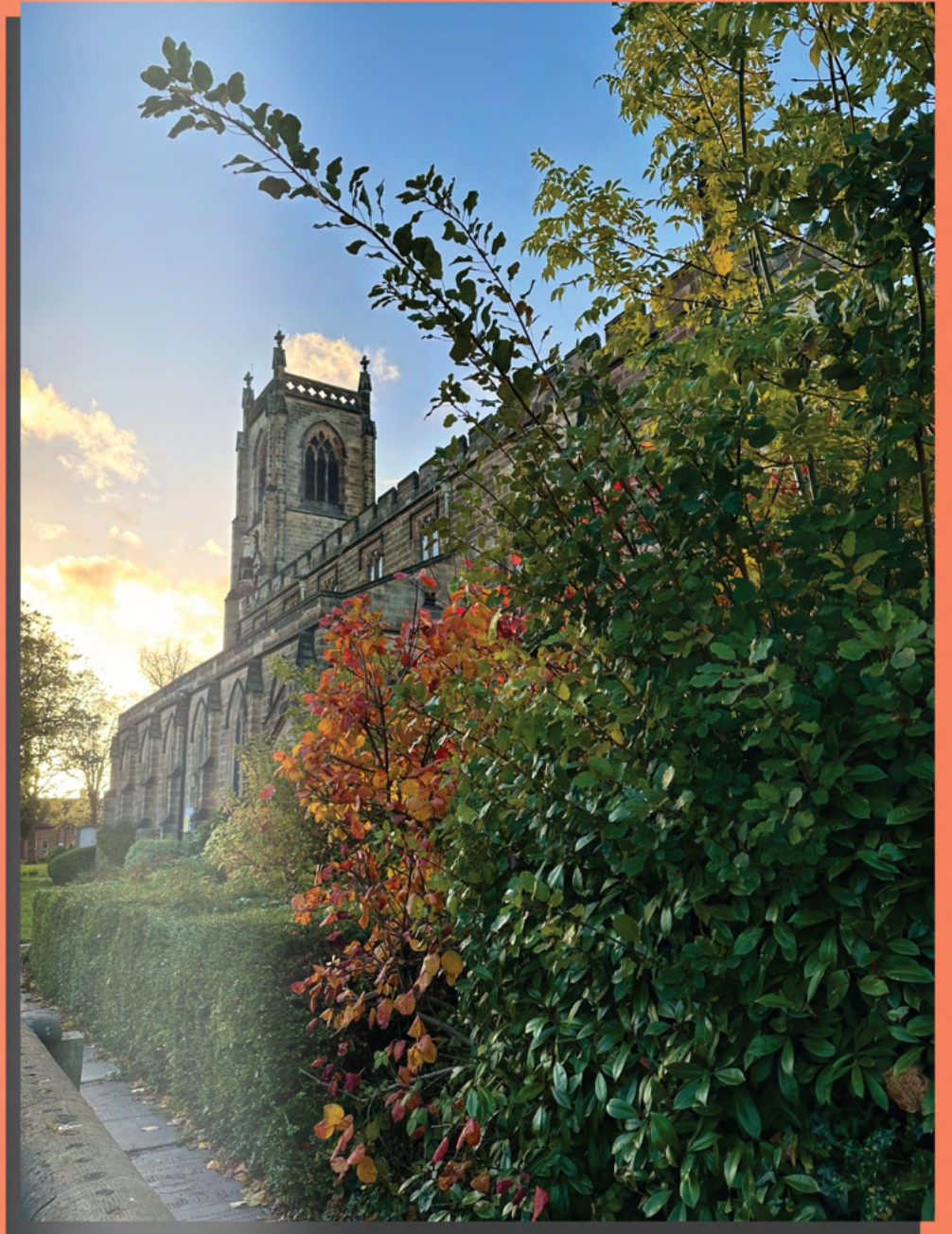
The full details are contained in the Annual Accounts and are summarised here.

	General	Designated	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	247,977	50	7,880	255,907	252,116
Charitable activities	26,732	-	56,860	83,592	87,628
Other activities	47,343	-	-	47,343	43,258
Investments	8,269	-	-	8,269	13,199
TOTAL	330,321	50	64,740	395,111	396,201
EXPENDITURE					
Raising funds	44,055	-	-	44,055	39,319
Charitable activities	288,137	69	53,021	341,227	386,949
TOTAL	332,192	69	53,021	385,282	426,268
Net income/(expenditure)	(1,871)	(19)	11,719	9,829	(30,068)

The Future

Setting the Budget for 2026 was challenging with a shortfall of just over £11,000 being agreed. This was done to allow us to keep providing our current church activities, however without further giving we won't be able to maintain this in the future or explore any new areas. Looking further ahead to 2027, we need to prepare for the known increases in utility costs. Therefore, we will need additional financial support to look to address the expected shortfall for 2026, as well as the increase in costs in future years.







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