

EMMANUEL

Loughborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
25 April 2023

2022 REPORTS



WHO

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

First of all I would like to thank you for all your support and encouragement over the past year. The reports in this booklet represent a significant amount of ministry. Of course they only capture a flavour of what has happened at Emmanuel and there is a huge amount of hard work that underpins and lies behind each of these reports.

There have been many encouragements during 2022 including Ali joining us as our Associate Rector in March and Kat ordained Deacon in July. Both Ali and Kat are having a significant and positive impact on our ministry. I am also very grateful to Ali who held the reigns with Katie, Lisa and Dan during my sabbatical. Andrew Overton-Brown moved onto Oak Hill Theological College to begin study to equip him and Charlotte for overseas mission. Meg Ford joined our team to replace Andrew and is settling into her role as Director of Worship. Our Church Weekend, expertly organised by Katie, was very positive and successful.

I would especially like to thank Lisa Collins who is stepping down after 6 years' service as Church Warden. She has been a significant support as well as wise counsel to both myself and the congregation. She was instrumental in us becoming a Resource Church, guided us through COVID and was very supportive through some difficult pastoral issues as well as giving wise advice in many areas of Emmanuel's ministry. Being a Church Warden can be very demanding at times and much of the role is unseen. I am immensely grateful that Lisa was willing to stay on as Church Warden for an additional 3 years and I am also appreciate the support that Shaun has given her to allow her to fulfil this role.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to our mission and ministry during 2022.

Revd Michael Broadley

WHO WHAT HOW WHY

Over the past year we have tried to bed in our Who What How Why. The aim of our visual vision statement is to enable us to deepen our relationship with Christ in order for us to grow so we can plant churches that plant churches.

Our main focus has been on Discipleship and the relaunch of our Community Groups, now called Emmaus Groups. Our Church Weekend also focused on the How, where we enjoyed some excellent input from Glyn Jones.

We will continue to review our Who What How Why and pray that this will continue to be a springboard for us to grow as a church and play our part in impacting Loughborough with the Kingdom of God.

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

WHAT

RESOURCING CHURCH OVERVIEW

In October 2022 I was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Good Shepherd Church. Since then we have been preparing and trying to discern where God is leading us to plant churches that plant churches. Kat has become involved with the Beacon Academy School and other local community groups, and has also developed good relationships with those who run The Fold (in essence a Messy Church).

We are still discerning where God is leading us however we sense that we will look to develop a new congregation in the Good Shepherd as well as grow our links with the Beacon Academy School. STB goes from strength to strength and we will continue to partner with them as we seek to plant churches that plant churches. Christine Harrison, with a team, has also developed and grown the Spark Club (similar to a Christian Union) at the Church of England Primary School in William Street.

We continue to attend various training events as well as the Community of Learning within the Diocese and wider church.

Rev Michael Broadley

ST. BARNABAS GRANGE PARK (STB)

2022 has been a year of growth at STB as we have continued to welcome new people to our church community and deepen our discipleship in Jesus Christ. I can't wait to see what God does in and through us during 2023.

Here are some of the highlights from 2022:

Tanzania It was such a privilege to visit the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro with a team from Emmanuel and STB in May 2022. Seeing church planting in another context was inspiring and reminded me that God's plans are always bigger than ours and

that all we need to plant is faith in Jesus and a willingness to go.

New Wine Summer Conference 30+ people went to New Wine from STB. This was a fantastic opportunity to deepen relationships and receive some great teaching.

Loughborough Streets of Light It was incredible to connect with around 500 people (adults and kids) from the estate during the evening of Halloween. What impressed me the most was that we were distinctively different to all that was going on that evening and people noticed.

STB Kids 'Wake Up' Gathering Wake Up continues to gain momentum and connect with those on the fringes of church and Christianity.

Evening Gathering The evening gathering has finally found its unique style in creating a space to pause and receive. Numbers have grown during 2022 and I sense that this space will be important for meeting and encountering the Holy Spirit.

Carol Service Despite the freezing conditions it was great to welcome the local community, sing some carols and eat lots of mince pies!

Community Acts of Remembrance 2022 was a significant year for the world as we watched in horror the war in Ukraine unfold and grieved the loss of our Queen. It was therefore important that we created a space for people to respond and I am grateful for all those who made these acts of remembrance happen.

Midweek Groups It has been such an encouragement to see new midweek groups emerge during 2022 (Alpha, Midweek Bible Study, Men's Social, etc). I look forward to seeing these grow and multiply as we continue to encounter Jesus, build community and see transformation.

Rev Ben Gardner



LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP

We continue to play a full part in the Loughborough Churches Partnership (LCP). Under the able leadership of Ben Gardner as well as the vice chair, Sneha Ninan, LCP has developed a 3 year vision. 2022 was a year of prayer, 2023 is a year of participation and 2024 will be a year of proclamation. LCP organised several Prayer Walks every week during 2022 and the whole town has been "covered" in prayer. This year we are building up to the June Project in which I hope many at Emmanuel will be able to take part.

There have been several new ministers that have joined different churches in Loughborough however we are united under the LCP vision statement that there is 'One Church in Loughborough with multiple expressions focused on Christ to transform our community for the Kingdom of God.'

Rev Michael Broadley

HOW

CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Strengthening Faith

As I reflect back on 2022, I am really encouraged by the advances we have seen within our children's, youth and young families' ministry. Throughout 2022 we saw a number of our young people take significant steps in growing and strengthening their faith, and particularly enjoyed celebrating with several families as their children and young people were baptised and admitted to Holy Communion. I am also encouraged that some other young people have expressed a desire to be confirmed towards the end of last year, and we look forward to celebrating this with them later in 2023.

Outreach

We have continued to welcome new families to church on Sundays and at our mid-week groups and activities, as well as at the various socials and special events we have held over the course of the year. At the Adventurous Explorers Escape Room, which was held in October as an alternative to Halloween, we welcomed many families from the local community and invited them to take on the challenge of completing a series of puzzles, which led them to solve the clues and discover more about Jesus' light.

Schools Work

Several of the families who came to the Escape Room event did so as a result of our increasing work with Loughborough Church of England Primary School (LCEPS). Our links with LCEPS have grown over the year as we have welcomed the school to Emmanuel for various seasonal services, as well as continuing to lead assemblies, and run a weekly Bible Club called 'Spark', giving children in school years 3-6 the opportunity to explore the Bible through crafts, games, prayer and other activities. In addition to this we were pleased to be able to run an outreach event in May at lunchtime for the whole school to celebrate Pentecost, using some of the Thy Kingdom Come resources, and later in the summer term, to run a Transition Prayer Space for Year 6 children,

to help them to prepare for moving to secondary school in the Autumn. In addition to this, we worked with Holy Trinity Church, Leicester to invite the Key Stage 2 children to an Easter Production, helping them to understand the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the end of the summer term, we enjoyed being able to talk to children, parents, school staff and members of the local community as we ran a stall at the school Summer Fair. Following on from the success of previous years, we were also delighted to welcome the whole school back to Emmanuel in January and December to celebrate an immersive and practical Walk-Through Christingle Experience.

Over the course of the year, we have also continued to build on our relationship with Mountfields Lodge School, welcoming them to church for school productions, as well as supporting the school with delivering church tours relating to some elements of the RE curriculum. Furthermore, in the latter part of the year, we began to establish a relationship with Hardwick House and Mountfields House Schools, which are also located within our parish. We look forward to hopefully building on these links throughout 2023.



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 2022. It continues to be a safe haven for many parents and grandparents on Friday mornings while their little ones enjoy playing, craft, snacks, singing and stories. We have a steady stream of new families contacting us to enquire about Little People, and are seeing an increasing number of families coming to us on the recommendation of others. (This happened a lot pre-pandemic, but has taken a long time to pick back up again post-pandemic.) Some of these families have also joined us on Sundays, or connected in with other outreach events such as the Nativity Festival and other seasonal services and events, particularly the outdoor Stations of the Cross activities on Good Friday and the many Christmas services. 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-pandemic), however unfortunately we still don't have a big enough team of volunteers to be able to offer this at present. Throughout the year, we have held several special sessions such as a Christmas party, Easter celebration, and Teddy Bears Picnic, making the most of the opportunity to use the church grounds and the church itself.

Sunday Morning Children's and Youth Groups

Our Sunday morning youth and children's groups have continued to grow throughout 2022 as we have seen 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, looking at Old Testament Bible Characters in the Autumn Term, Jesus' life 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 approximately once a month, and more

frequently in the school holidays. As part of this, we have endeavoured to build on the success of the Family Worship videos created during the lockdowns, whilst also re-imagining it for this new season. Part of this has included trying to encourage families to be involved in these services by, for example, leading prayers, readings, drama, and giving young people the opportunity to share their musical talents in the worship band, or their technical skills on the visuals desk. We hope to continue this in 2023. In addition to this, it is great to see the family relationships that have been established before, during and after the 11am services, through the introduction of the self-service crèche area at the back of the church.

14-18s have looked at a variety of topics over the last year, including finishing Hope Together's "The Youth Wellbeing Journey", exploring some big questions, and beginning to follow The Bible Society's "The Bible Course". We have also explored ways to encourage the young people to grow in and express their faith at home, particularly to help them with the increasing pressure that many of them face with their school work and exams. Towards the end of the summer term, we also tried to equip and support those who left to go to university in the autumn with the skills they needed to find a church, settle well at University, and prayed for them as they entered the next stage of their lives.

Townwide Youth Work

2022 also saw an increased focus on Townwide Youth Work, as we sought to establish a greater relationship between Emmanuel, Open Heaven, Elim, SOaR and, more latterly, New Life Church youth groups. This resulted in several Townwide Youth Events being held at all of the afore mentioned churches. As part of this, Emmanuel held a Summer Social in July, which was very well attended. This was then followed up at the beginning of October with a Townwide Youth Away Day for 11-18 year olds. Alongside our own usual Youth Club of 10-15 young people, we welcomed lots of young people from across the town and their friends, resulting in more than 60 young people meeting together for an incredible

12 hours of fun, food, worship, teaching, seminars, fellowship and community building! This far exceeded even our most optimistic of expectations of how many young people we thought would attend, and has proved to be a catalyst for future events, as we continued to see high numbers of young people at the follow-up event at the end of November (also run by the Emmanuel Youth Team), and more recently at the event at New Life Church in January. It was fantastic to see so many young people worshipping Jesus together, and many came away with testimonies of how they felt the Holy Spirit had touched them and spoken to them at some point during the day. Several more events have been planned throughout 2023, the next of which will be hosted by Open Heaven Church.



Thank you

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of many church members who regularly give up their time to volunteer within our children's, youth, and families' ministry. Over the course of the year, we have said goodbye to some of those who were previously involved in CYF ministry, as they have moved out of the area, or have taken a step back from serving due to a change in their personal circumstances. However, we are delighted to have welcomed some new members to our teams, and look forward to, hopefully, welcoming more new volunteers throughout 2023. We have continued to hold various termly celebration evenings, to say thank you to all those involved in serving in this area of Emmanuel's ministry, as well as ensuring

we are keeping up to date with the latest safeguarding requirements. 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. It is so encouraging to reflect on all that God has done over the past year, and even more exciting as we prayerfully look ahead to what He will do in 2023.

Christine Harrison

Director of Children, Youth and Young Families Ministry

YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club usually meets in the Church Centre every Wednesday during term time and is open to all young people from Year 7 upwards. We meet under Christine's leadership with Tim Marjoribanks and myself alternating as the other adult each Wednesday. Occasionally we have chosen to take the Club out, particularly if Emmanuel has been hired by an outside group. Popular games such as pool, table football, table tennis and small games are a regular feature along with a group game each week and a reflection or 'God Slot' to round off the evening. On a number of occasions we have taken our activity for the evening into the kitchen for a baking session which are always very popular!



Numbers are fairly stable, with us finding the older youngsters tending to peel off as they approach their exams and younger members making up the majority as the year has gone on. We see both youngsters who have a direct connection with Emmanuel, (in that they worship here) and other young people who they have been invited along, often by their friends from school.

Our key aim is to create a safe and happy place for the young people to thrive where they can enjoy being together and experience the basic understanding and values of the Christian faith. Please continue to pray for our young people as they grow up in a world that constantly offers an alternative narrative to undermine the Christian faith.

Alan Guilder

LOUGHBOROUGH EMMANUEL YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

In 1897 some football enthusiasts came together to form one of the 1st football teams in the town - Loughborough Emmanuel FC. Records show a team still playing under this name in the 1930s, and in 1990 a group of young(ish) men from the Church re-formed this team. At the turn of the century another group of young(ish) men met in the upper room of the new Church Centre and decided to form a youth team. With Leicestershire youth football being entirely Sunday-based, the intention was to give the Emmanuel church youth the chance to play Saturday football. Twenty years on, things have got a bit out of control (in a good sort of way). We have 300 players (male and female) and 60+ volunteers, fielding 17 teams in Nottingham-based leagues and providing training and matches at up to 8 different venues across Loughborough. Last June our academy section, under the custodianship of Chris York, held their annual awards at our spiritual home, Emmanuel Church and thanks to the hard work of former church member, Andy Glover, we operate an established Summer Holiday Club for 80 young (mainly LEFC) footballers with the Christian Charity, Ambassadors Football.

Andy Duxbury

Club Secretary

STUDENTS

One of the highlights of 2022 was undoubtedly the weekend away in February. This was joint event between students and the 20's and 30's group, and we had about 20 people attending. We went to The Faith Mission Centre over in Harby. This was a great weekend of fellowship and teaching, the teaching split between me and Andrew Overton-Brown. Over the course of the weekend we took some modern cultural slogans and thought about them in light of scripture.

The usual pattern for the student ministry in term time consisted of coming together each Thursday evening to study God's word and pray together, after we'd share a meal. In these sessions over the course of the year, we have studied Bible books such as 1 Peter and looked at a range of 'hot-topics' and considered what the Bible has to say on these issues.

As this review covers the calendar year it cuts across 2 academic years. At the end of the academic year 2021-22 we said goodbye to quite a few students, some going on placement for a year, while others were moving on for good as their courses came to an end. Yet it wasn't long before a new academic year started and we were able to welcome in a new group of first years as well as returners who have been with us for a good while. At our Thursday evening gatherings, post September, we've averaged about 9 students each week. Students attending Emmanuel during the first few weeks of university were able to enjoy a free meal after our morning services during October. Thanks to everyone who has helped provide food for students throughout the year - it's a big part of student ministry! It has been great to serve the Lord alongside Barbara Fisher who is much loved by the students. Our students have had the opportunity to meet up 1-2-1 with someone from the church family to read the Bible with and be discipled. Wonderfully this is an opportunity which some of our students have taken up.

James Matthews
Student Lead

SENIORS

I am really happy to report a full year of lunches for our Seniors, our numbers are increasing and we are seeing new relationships developing. Some of our membership are now attending church on a regular basis which is really encouraging and we give thanks for this. Our lunches begin with a welcome and prayer which is given by one of our Clergy and this is greatly appreciated by us all. All our meals are provided by Tim Hulse and his extended team who do a remarkable job and is appreciated by us all.

Along with monthly meals we make special occasions of Easter and Christmas which are celebrated with a traditional Turkey dinner. At Christmas Norman Revell joined us to play carols which everyone sang along to. A number of people shared memories of childhood Christmases which was really special. Unfortunately we have had a number of our members who have died in the past year and they will be sadly missed.

I really appreciate all the help which is given on a regular basis. Those who put up tables, those who provide table decorations, those who help serve the meals, and those who help with transporting people to the meal. All these tasks are valuable for the smooth running of the event. We meet on the last Thursday of the month and all are welcome to this very worthwhile event.

Joan Williams

WORSHIP

2022 was a year which saw change in the worship team, with Andrew Overton-Brown leaving to pursue ministry training at Oak Hill College. I joined the staff team in August as the new Director of Worship.

Highlights of the year include the 'In His Garden' church weekend, which gave us an opportunity to worship together in fellowship outside of the regular Sunday services, and also the Christmas outdoor and traditional carol services in December.

There were many times in the latter half of this year when the team have had to adapt to changing situations, with the incoming of a new Director of Worship, as well as the re-scheduling of the church weekend from September to October and the re-decoration project in November which saw our services move to the church centre for the month. Throughout these times it was encouraging to see the team grow and work together to adjust to the changes and solve any arising problems.

2022 saw an encouraging number of new people joining the worship team and getting involved across music and tech. Over the last few months a number of new people have been encouraged to step up and explore the opportunity of leading the worship team and ministering across the Sunday services.

Since joining in August, I have been so encouraged by what I have seen in the team at Emmanuel, their gifts, their willingness to serve, and their desire to lead people to God through music. Thank you to all those who are involved with Worship at Emmanuel - those who serve in the band and those who serve with the tech, I am so grateful for every one of you. Your gifts and your time and dedication are deeply appreciated. I am looking forward to continue growing together, and excited to see all that will happen within and through the Worship ministry over the next year!

Meg Ford
Director of Worship



PROJECT 5000

The last 12 months have seen significant changes at Project 5000 with a return to meeting inside the building rather than the takeaway hot food at the door of 2021/22. Being able to offer a warm welcome to those that come, as well as food, is a really important part of what we do.

Some headlines – we served over 1000 meals, gave 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 are also really grateful to all those that donate tins and packets, 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 in reading this you feel called to come along and take part? If so, please get in touch via the church office. Please continue to pray for the work of Project 5000 with some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Chris York

TITHE COMMITTEE

As a church we tithe our income which enables us to support a range of charities and individuals at home and abroad. In 2022, we were pleased to be able to donate a total of £21,150.

Here are a few examples that show the breadth of our giving:

Individuals Ben & Katy Ray in Tanzania, Charles & Frances de Roemer in Belgium

Local projects Street Pastors, SOaR, Exaireo, Friends International

International Projects The school in Taloha, Tanzania; the Tithe committee rounding up the generous support raised by the congregation to £3,000

The Bible Society Who translate, produce, and distribute bibles world-wide (including providing bibles to troops and citizens in war-torn Ukraine).

To see the full list of the donations made in 2022 please see the Tithe notice board in the concourse. Here you will also find more information on all the charities we support.

If there is a Christian-based charity that you would like Emmanuel to support and are willing to act as an advocate for that charity, we'd love to hear from you. If you are thinking of undertaking a Christian-based activity and would appreciate some support, please get in touch with us. In both cases, all you need to do is fill in a brief one-page application form. For more information or for an application form, please contact the Tithe Committee through the church office.

Thank you for your support.

Mary Cajkler

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 32 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.

Many, but not all, of our volunteers, come from local churches and Emmanuel and St Mary's churches have also made significant donations towards our running costs. If you have one free Saturday afternoon every six weeks and a warm heart, why not join our team of volunteers?

It's interesting to think that by now the first families we helped could have enjoyed a further 32 years of relationship. However, we need some new Trustees if we are to keep this initiative going. If you or someone you know could bring some experience in any of marketing/communications/website management/social media/strategy we would be desperate to hear from you.

Andy & Helen Duxbury
Centre Coordinators

VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to 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 2022 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!

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who so dutifully serves on rotas, teams, and in response to last-minute calls for help!

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director

CHARNWOOD LISTENERS

Following a time of considerable change after the pandemic and the general economic crisis our country is going through, it will be of no surprise to read that this listening service has been used well. Individuals can access our service by contacting us directly via the Charnwood Listeners' phone or email address. The NHS is recognising more and more the value of listening, and so we receive referrals via GPs and social prescribing. As professional listeners we undertake to listen for up to one hour per session, and up to 5 sessions free of charge either by telephone or face to face.

In order to maintain our high standards we continue to update our skills by regular supervision, training and practice. We are grateful to Listening Matters for their skillful training events and have been particularly helped with the recent day course - 'Listening to Stress'. We now ask for formal feedback on our listening; one client has reported that the listening she had experienced prompted her to want to train to become a listener with us.

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, then do get in touch with us. Or maybe you know someone who might value being listened to in total confidence.

Jancis Barlow

MOTHERS' UNION

During the year we have met regularly on a monthly basis. In 2022 we were able to recommence our Holy Week Combined Ladies Communion Service after a 3 year gap due to the pandemic. This was greatly appreciated by all ladies.

In June we held a strawberry tea. As usual this was greatly enjoyed by our members, and also organised our 'Wave of Prayer' at the end of June which was held in the side chapel in church.

After our summer break, we recommenced our meetings and towards the end of the year were able to hold our Annual Christmas Lunch during December in the church centre. We all enjoyed this special occasion.

The spiritual side of things is always very important in the Mothers' Union, especially in promoting the values of Christian family life. As a leader, I have gained much more from our members, over the years, in the fellowship we are able to share together. As Branch Leader I would ask you all to prayerfully support the Mothers' Union here at Emmanuel. Though sadly rather low in numbers now, we all gain a lot from our time spent together. So if there is anyone in the Parish who would like to join our fellowship, or just come along occasionally, maybe just as a guest, do speak to me.

Jane Hulse

GARDENING TEAM

Last year proved to be a difficult year for gardeners across the country because of the long period without rain. Although our new water butts helped conserve water when it did rain, it was quickly used up trying to keep our shrubs and flowers alive, particularly the new trees we had planted, and we only used the hose when it was absolutely essential. As a result the flower beds weren't as colourful and fresh as we would have liked and we will no doubt find that some plants have not survived. In the autumn we planted more bulbs, especially in the Garden of Remembrance, so we hope we'll soon be seeing some spring colour appearing.



Being an Eco-Church we participated in 'A Count for Nature' during the year, leading us to think more about the trees, grasses and plants, birds and insects that inhabit our bit of God's Acre here at Emmanuel. We also look into aspects of biodiversity and possible wildlife habitats around the church grounds, and we are developing our composting systems. After last year's drought rain water conservation and sustainable gardening will be a major concern for us in 2023.

Alwyn Lane

BEREAVEMENT VISITORS

We held our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving with Carols in December. The lead up to Christmas can be a time when people particularly miss their loved ones, and again this time, attendance was good. People like to have a chance to remember by taking time out and coming into church. Prayers are said, names are read out and participants are able to light a candle. Afterwards tea and cake is offered, people are pleased to stay and we are privileged to hear their stories and remembrances.

We are a small team of trained listeners and are willing to visit anyone who has had a loss and would like to tell their story or are finding it hard to adjust to a new way of life.

Gill Bayley

ALPHA

The Alpha Course ran from autumn 2022 to February 2023, watching the amazing Alpha talks on video. They were modern and engaging, and gave us all plenty to think about and discuss. Alpha talks are traditionally preceded by a full meal, but for ease, we decided to serve puddings. Excellent puddings were provided by members of the congregation, and the standard was very high! We had two alternatives each night, many delicious puddings

were made including trifle, banoffee pie, Dutch apple tart and chocolate orange cheese cake!

During the course we had some extra activities including a very frosty walk (finishing with coffee and cake) and Burns Night gave us an excuse for a celebration supper, playing games whilst eating haggis!

In terms of outcomes for the attendees, the people who completed the course are staying in touch, mostly attending a subsequent coffee club which is held on Monday nights in the church foyer (running until April 2023), a chance to chat with an epilogue. Two participants want to do the Alpha course again! Some participants wish to go over some of the tapes again at the coffee club, to ask more questions that they feel they missed first time around, also to prepare for the next course, how best to serve others.

We have made friends, we have talked and walked together and now we are very much looking forward to the next Alpha course!

Helen Sheldon

EMMA

EMMA is a community of women who meet twice a month on a Tuesday afternoon, and we are a group who have evolved as part of the Emmanuel Church family. We support each other sharing the happy and sad times, as a family does, and for that reason we 'survived' the closure of the church building during the pandemic. The number of members has remained steady with three new members and regular guests.

In 2022 we have been able to, once again, host services, including a Christmas Carol Service and welcomed other Emmanuel groups, congregation and friends, and made donations to Project 5000 and The Peter Le Marchant Trust. Once again we represented Emmanuel Church at the All Saints with Holy Trinity Church

Christmas Tree Festival, having made baubles provided by Margaret Beet. We were also able to have our Summer Communion in the Church Centre and welcomed Rev Ali Walton, who officiated and joined us for a Faith Tea.

As part of Emmanuel Church we have been happy to assist with The Samaritans Purse Project (Operation Christmas Child), preparing the Christingles for the Loughborough C of E School visit, and Mothering Sunday flowers.

We had quite a diverse programme, including speakers on local history, Indian cookery, the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle, and members particularly enjoyed the return of The Shantymen. The most sobering talk was given by Margaret Rouse on modern day slavery which was disturbing but informative. The group enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for the summer outing on the River Soar with lunch at The Plough Inn at Normanton on Soar and a return to Longcliffe Golf Club for Christmas lunch.

It should be noted how grateful the group is to Simone Crew for helping to set up at the start of meetings. Without this help it would have been difficult to deliver the programme.

Diana Millward & Jean Ali

MONDAY MORNING MENS' MEETING (4Ms)

We meet monthly, at Emmanuel in the winter and at St Mary's in the summer. We started the year with our annual visit to Loughborough computer lab in January, and in August we had a canal boat trip to Mountsorrel. Our other meetings continue to involve speakers on a variety of topics. 'Question Time' was held in June, our questions being put to a guest panel which included our MP. Twice yearly mornings of music chosen by a guest presenter are followed by lunch in the church centre. Ladies are invited to these meetings, to the canal boat trip and to certain other meetings as advertised in our programme and church notices.

Our membership is informal, drawn from the wider community

including other Loughborough churches, and all men are welcome to attend any of our meetings.

Martin Hodson

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team continued to meet throughout 2022. The team came together during the pandemic lockdowns to stay in touch with members by Emmanuel through regular phone contact. Since the easing of the restrictions the team has met in person roughly every six weeks. During 2022 the team consisted of Michael Broadley (chair from January to May 2022), Ali Walton (chair since May 2022), Gill Bayley, Ruth Brooker, Sneha Ninan, 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 aim during 2023 is to expand the team and to widen pastoral support across all congregations.

Rev Ali Walton

EMMAUS GROUPS

During 2022 the network of Emmanuel discipleship groups has grown and flourished. Over the summer months after I began work as Associate Rector I visited most of the discipleship groups. It was a wonderful way of getting to know people in the church community and to see the way that fellowship together in small groups is such a lifeline to so many people.

However, there was a sense that a fresh vision for the discipleship groups was needed after a loss of momentum from 2019-2021

with the combination of the church plant at STB and the various Covid lockdowns and precautions.

At the church weekend in October 2022 we re-launched our discipleship groups under the name of 'Emmaus Groups'. The story of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection (Luke 24:13-35) models what discipleship groups are about:

- spending time with friends
- in Jesus' company
- studying the bible with Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- breaking bread together in fellowship
- meeting with Jesus in prayer, recognising him and rejoicing in his presence
- sharing what we discover about Jesus with others in the community around us

Combining Emmanuel's vision of being a church which grows disciples who plant churches, who plant churches, along with the DNA of Up, In and Out with the model in the Emmaus Road story, the activities of Emmaus Groups are broken down into:

UP in Word, Worship and Prayer

- spending time with each other in Jesus company
- studying the bible with Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- meeting with Jesus in prayer, recognising him and rejoicing in his presence

IN Growing in Community

- spending time with friends
- breaking bread together in fellowship

OUT Making Christ Known

- sharing what we discover about Jesus with others in the community around us

Groups are encouraged to include each of these aspects in their programme of meetings.

Each Emmaus Group has its own distinct character. Some may be specific to a certain demographic or language group; some may be longer term, some shorter (eg, the Emmanuel Summer Small Group); some may have a particular focus (for instance the Alpha group). It was decided at a meeting of Emmaus Group leaders that there should be a way of identifying separate Emmaus Groups, and this is done by using letters of the Greek alphabet –Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, etc. This is a good balance of a cohesive identity for the groups overall, whilst allowing each group to be separately identified.

The Emmaus Group year will follow a common pattern:

Autumn All the Emmaus Groups will follow the same theme, but using materials of their choosing and in their preferred style

Spring Both the sermons in church and what the Emmaus groups study will be based on a book to be chosen by the church's clergy

Summer Each group will be free to choose whatever they want to do and how

Since the re-launch of the Emmaus Groups in October 2022 we have:

- run an Alpha course
- started a Chinese Bible Study Group
- multiplied one group into two because it had reached an optimal size
- assigned around 30 people to Emmaus groups not previously involved with a group

The plan moving forward is to encourage more people to join groups in order to grow more disciples and to plant more churches.

Rev Ali Walton

CHURCH OUTREACH

2022 was another busy year for Emmanuel in terms of our community outreach. After our amazing volunteers hand-delivered 3500 Easter cards throughout the parish inviting our community to church, we celebrated Easter on the church lawns, giving public witness as we praised and thanked God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During the year we welcomed a number of Iranian refugees to Emmanuel, and were able to provide Farsi Bibles for them, and support them in both practically and spiritually.

The Saturday morning womens' prayer breakfasts continued to grow throughout the year, and in the autumn a mens' prayer breakfast programme also started.

We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in June with a service of Thanksgiving followed by a cream tea, alongside a display of artwork created by our congregations. We then sent the pieces of art to Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately only a few months later, Queen Elizabeth II sadly died – Emmanuel was open all weekend for private prayer, as we thanked God for her long and dutiful life in service to Him.

Due to the death of the Queen, we took the decision to postpone our Church Weekend which was originally scheduled for that weekend. Thank you to everyone who was so flexible with the last-minutes changes to the plans. The Church Weekend was moved into October, where again we used our whole church grounds for the weekend. We welcomed over 100 people from Emmanuel, the Good Shepherd, and the wider diocese as we received teaching on how to plant 'In His Garden'. Closing the weekend we held a festival evening, inviting local Christian organisations to hold stalls to raise awareness of their work and how we might get involved. Thank you so much to Loughborough Street Pastors, Kingdom Bank, The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, Baca, Exaireo, Christian Aid, Friends International, and

Town Chaplains, all who held stalls at the festival.

In November we launched our Christmas 2022 Appeal, raising money to support 3 local organisations: Project 5000, Living Without Abuse, and Loughborough C of E Primary School. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the appeal, we pray that these financial and food gifts were a blessing to all who received them. Many thanks to Tesco Extra and Morrisons for their support, and in particular Pushba and her colleague from Sainsbury's who raised £150 for our appeal through a sponsored silence! In Advent we held a Nativity Scene Festival in church, an open day with displays from our congregations including Spark Club, mince pies and hot drinks, and live music – thank you to everyone who contributed to this event.

Katie Fletcher
Operations Director



WHY



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



CHURCH LIFE

BUILDINGS

Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who serve weekly throughout the year in maintaining our buildings. During the Quinquennial Inspection in the summer of 2022, their hard work and diligence was noted by the architect, especially in respect of the regular fire alarm tests, PAT testing, and record of general maintenance. The Quinquennial Inspection is a legal obligation of the PCC to appoint an architect who will then complete a thorough report on the church's condition. In 2022 the PCC appointed Simon Bird of Flying Buttress Architecture to be Emmanuel's architect for the next 5 years, and his report was thorough and clear. As is to be expected with buildings of age, there are a number of remedial works needed, and Simon continues to be of great support as we obtain quotes from various trades with experience in working on listed buildings.

One of the issues that you may have noticed early in 2022 was that the front door to the lobby had 'dropped' which also had a knock-on effect on the flooring in the lobby. Project-managed by John, the door was repaired by 2 separate companies (joiners and glaziers) and is now serving us well again as we open our doors every day to our congregations and local community.

We received permission from the Archdeacon to plant 2 new trees in the garden of remembrance, in replacement of the tree which fell down in 2021 due to disease: the new trees were planted by a good group of volunteers.

Both the gardening team and GreenChurch group suggested that we build composting bins on site, to handle and reuse our green waste. This required permission from the Diocese, which was granted in a very short space of time. The compost bins were constructed on-site by John, from donated pre-used pallets.

The major buildings project in 2022 was the redecoration of the church, which had not been painted since the re-ordering in the late 1990s. A treatment and paint specification appropriate for listed buildings which produced for us by Keim Paints, and quotes

obtained from 3 different contractors. The quote from Bagnalls Ltd was the preferred quote, and following the successful faculty application, the redecoration of the church was completed during November, finishing just in time for Advent! The redecoration of the church centre followed in January 2023. The redecoration of the church cost £43,497.60, which was entirely funded through the sale of the Brookfield Avenue property in 2021. Our treasurer made a successful application to the Listed Places of Worship scheme, which saw the VAT on the works refunded to us – a sum of £7249.60.

Katie Fletcher & John Burnard



SAFEGUARDING

This past year saw the publication of some very concerning reports surrounding the Church of England and its treatment of historic safeguarding cases that were extremely difficult to read. This is also one of the reasons that we are now called to take extra responsibility for those around us, to ensure that we are in a position to protect the most vulnerable as far as we are able. Throughout this past year the PCC has fully complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

All members of the PCC are required to hold valid certificates in Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic

Abuse, and Safeguarding has therefore been a set item on the agenda of every PCC meeting to ensure that we are keeping pace with what is required of us. My thanks goes to Canon Dr Codra Spencer for being the PCC Safeguarding Lead on this. As Coordinator, I also have attended a PCC Meeting over the past year to speak to a specific concern.

In addition, everyone who works with Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults at Emmanuel, in any capacity, are required to undergo a DBS check and complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training to Foundation Level. As you can imagine this is no small task, and is ongoing, as training requires renewal every three years. My heartfelt thanks goes to Christine Harrison, our Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministries, for facilitating this within that area and meeting regularly with me to check that we are where we should be. Christine has also become a Lead Recruiter for DBS Checks alongside me this past year for which I am very grateful.

Over this past year Mandy Waldron has stepped back from being our lead on DBS checks and I just want to portray my immense thanks for all the work she has done in this regard over the past 13+ years, with DBS checks and arranging training. I wish you well Mandy and thank you for working with me.

Although Safeguarding is a particular responsibility of members of the PCC and church leaders, it is also a whole church responsibility towards each other, ensuring that we have a safe, thriving community here at Emmanuel.

The Safeguarding Policies of Emmanuel are on our website and also on display in both the concourse and the church hall lobby with other useful information including how to contact me if necessary. Please refer to these if you have any cause for concern.

Liz Featonby

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT

Following the closure of the Emmanuel playgroup in July, which occupied the Church Hall every week day during term time and amounted to 50% of lettings income for the hall, we took time to reassess the cleaning hours required at the site. It was determined that we needed to reduce the weekly hours required, and following a number of HR meetings alongside meetings with our caretakers, one of these roles was made redundant at the end of the year.

Andrew Overton-Brown, then Director of Worship, resigned his post from the middle of August to be able to go to Oak Hill Theological College to undertake further training for overseas mission. Accordingly, we needed to seek to employ a new Director of Worship. Job and person specifications were drawn up and advertising was undertaken during June and July. Interviews were conducted early in August, and Megan Ford was appointed to the post with effect from the middle of August.

Discussions were undertaken at the beginning of November about possible wage increases with effect from April 2023. Lower paid staff are all on the Real Living Wage which is announced each November. With inflation running at about 10% concern was expressed as to what level of wage increase the church could afford for the following April for the other staff. The Diocese recommended a maximum of 5% for its' workers, which members of the Employment Group felt was too low and that they would be happier with the rate between 6% and 7%. The Treasurer was reluctant to make a decision at this time and suggested it would be better to make it nearer the April 2023 start date, to see what the wage increases across the board were being recommended, as well as what the inflation rate was. It was agreed to be guided by these two items, and the decision deferred until March 2023.

John Burnard
Employment Group Chair

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

It has been another busy year at Emmanuel and as ever there has been plenty going on. At this point last year we were welcoming Ali as our Associate Rector and it has been wonderful to see her settle into her Ministry here.

Michael and Catriona were at last able to take their long overdue sabbatical, so whilst we were sorry to be without them for 3 months it was in the knowledge this was a much-needed time of rest, relaxation, and renewal. September saw them return very much refreshed and dare we say, raring to go? Huge thanks have to go to Ali and the rest of the staff team for keeping Emmanuel going during this Sabbatical period.

On his return in September, Michael was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Good Shepherd, so the close working relationship that started when we planted STB continues to flourish today.

In September we unfortunately had to postpone our Church Weekend at the last minute due to the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II and as a nation we paused to thank God for her long life and years of service. The In His Garden Church Weekend went ahead in October and it was a joy to learn from inspiring speakers on topics such as Sharing Your Story, Church Planting, Holding the Vision and Working Well Together; to worship with a live band; and pray together as a Church family all in the beautifully decorated marquee in the green space in front of Emmanuel. The Saturday's events were capped with a fun outdoor festival for all ages including hot food, ice cream, disco dome, live music, a Christian craft market and social action exhibitions.

Finally, before Christmas the long awaited redecoration of the Church took place. Thank you to all who helped, especially those who stayed behind at the Sunday evening service to clear the church, and then those who returned less than a month later to put it all back! Now that the new carpet has also been fitted, the church really does look so much better.

As ever, we have to thank the Assistant Wardens and all those on the Welcome teams who give their time so freely every Sunday to serve at our services. The smiling faces, cheery voices and caring actions are so appreciated by all. Thank you for your faithful service.

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.

Lisa Collins & Dan Ninan
Church Wardens

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll count at the 2023 revision is 247, this is 1 up from last year.

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

16 added in 2023 revision

15 removed since last APCM, broken down as follows:

2 removed – *Clerk in Holy Orders (Kat Marjoribanks and Fiona Barber)*

8 removed – *Died*

5 removed – *Requested to be removed (moved from area/church)*

PARISH STATISTICS

2022 was the first year since 2019 with no Covid-related restrictions affecting worship. The total number of people attending services over the year was 1,619 under 16s, and 11,629 adults.

Here follows a snapshot taken from the 2022 Statistics for Mission submission to the Diocese:

- Attendance at Advent Services: 463
- Attendance at Christmas Eve/ Day Services: 281
- Number of people attending Easter services: 239
- Number of baptisms: 3
- Number of weddings: 6
- Number of funerals: 8
- Number of services conducted at the crematorium: 7

Simone Crew
Parish Administrator

PCC

We have continued to meet throughout the year as trustees of Emmanuel. Whilst a strong focus is always the responsible stewardship of our finances that God has generously provided, we have also focussed on our safeguarding action plans along with a multitude of other areas. We have also taken time to prayerfully consider Shaped by God Together and Living in Love and Faith. We would like to thank all members of the PCC for their generous gifts of time, commitment and wisdom so freely given.

Lisa Collins & Dan Ninan

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod usually meets three times in a year at various churches throughout the deanery. Members of congregations are welcome to come to the deanery Synod meetings, they can observe and contribute to the debate but not vote at the end of their discussions. Below are some of the matters we discussed through 2022.

February We had an interesting talk about eco-church. This was presented by Andrew Hall of St Catherine's Church in Burbage. They received an award from "Project Blossom" which encouraged them to rejuvenate the space around the church. The gardens have been used for prayer workshops and the church has

worked with local groups to support those with dementia and other illnesses. A report was also given from Diocesan Synod which particularly focused on the appointment of the new Bishop of Loughborough and also highlighting the continued work on Living in Love and Faith.

June There were details of the Ukrainian refugee response which was given by Vicky Offin from Trinity Baptist Church in Derby. She reported on the work of the church across Derby, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. Welcome boxes were provided for refugees, containing toiletries etc, and given a personal welcome with a smile and an aim for the strangers to become neighbours. The charity supported the most vulnerable who are living in bridging hostels in Derby; they also have volunteer hosts who provide homes for some of the refugees. The charity also delivered 578 hours of English classes, 56 people attended a summer camp and 204 Christmas presents were delivered. Individual churches could become partners of the charity, group talks could be given, and perhaps some of the Ukrainian refugee response volunteers could be invited to present their work at other churches. Breakout groups conducted vigorous responses which were summarised at the end by Vicky.

October The main talk was given by Adrian Trotter from the parish of Great Bowden in Market Harborough, Director of Leicester Anglican Cursillo which is a community of Christians who come together to support one another in apostolic action. They developed a rule of life which encourage Christians to be empowered to grow in their faith through prayer, study and action, and to embolden us to share our faith with others. A report from Diocesan Synod also highlighted the ongoing discussions around Living in Love and Faith and views were heard from all perspectives around the issue.

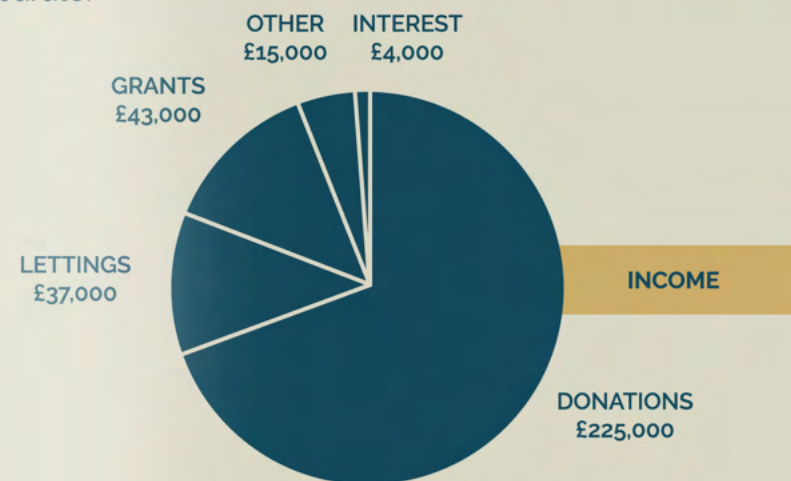
John Burnard

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is always a lot going on in the finance team and we are incredibly grateful to those who give regularly and sacrificially to the work at Emmanuel, thank you. As your new treasurer I have led the team which includes Norman Revell (giving and GiftAid), Anthony Hayes (bookkeeping) and, also new this year, Richard Eade (finance records). Together we process over 200 transactions totaling around £30,000 each month.

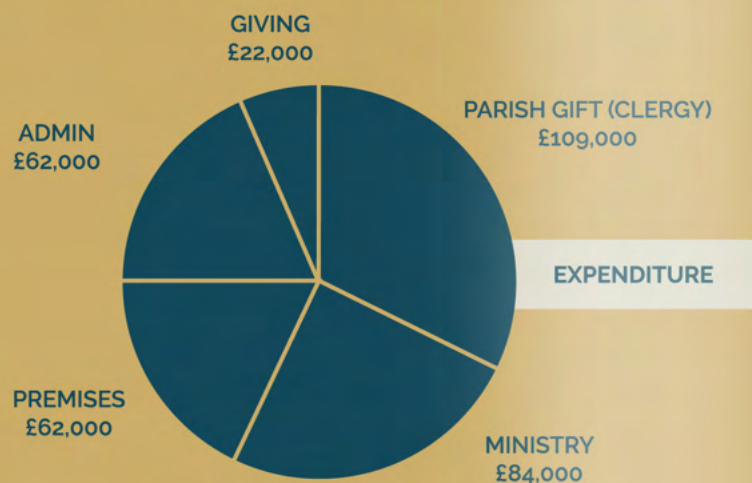
We started the year expecting to make a shortfall as we recovered from the reduced income in 2020/21. We had hoped for a steady increase in donations which turned out to be a little over-optimistic. In October we presented a Thanksgiving Appeal seeking a monthly increase in giving of £2,500. At this stage our shortfall was already £18,000 and expected to rise in the rest of the year. A very BIG thank you to all who responded, as the promised increases amounted to £2,451 per month with many starting immediately and some one-off gifts as well. As you can see below our shortfall stabilized and ended at £16,933.

The charts below show our General Fund income and expenditure; in addition we have Restricted Funds where the activities of the Emmanuel Youth Football Club and the work of Project 5000 are kept separate.



Our total General Fund income amounted to £323,804 which was more than our budget but the extra money came from grants from the National Church and our own unbudgeted activities such as the Church Weekend. Our Donation income and Lettings income were below budget. With the rising interest rates, we received a good level of interest on our savings which mainly consists of the money from the sale of the Brookfield Avenue property. Some of these savings have now been spent on the church redecoration.

For comparison the figures for 2021 were: Donations £227,000; Lettings £31,000; Grants £42,000; Other £3,000; Interest £100.



Our total General Fund expenditure amounted to £340,737 which was slightly above budget. The extra spending was partly in respect of the Quinquennial Inspection and partly because of the costs of the Church Weekend, which were off-set by the income. Most of the other areas of spending were close to budget.

For comparison the figures for 2021 were: Parish Gift £115,000; Ministry £70,000; Premises £51,000; Admin £62,000; Giving £23,000.

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

	General Fund	Designated & Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Donations and legacies	225,118	9,198	234,315	244,355
Charitable activities	63,291	40,594	103,885	80,690
Other activities	31,009	-	31,009	30,194
Investments	4,386	-	4,386	103
TOTAL	323,804	49,791	373,595	355,342
EXPENDITURE				
Raising funds	37,046	-	37,046	35,649
Charitable activities	303,691	83,991	387,681	339,035
TOTAL	340,737	83,991	424,727	374,684
Net income/(expenditure)	(16,933)	(34,199)	(51,133)	(19,342)

The Future

We are so grateful for the tremendous response to the Thanksgiving Appeal 2022 and based on this the PCC have been able to adopt a balanced budget for 2023. This is not without some challenges, and some hoped-for increased donations and lettings during the year. However, we very much hope that this becomes the start of a firm foundation.

The main impact of the shortfall in recent years is that our reserves are now much lower than is sensible for a church of our size. They have reduced to £42,500 whereas we aim to keep at least £60,000 to cover unexpected shortfalls in income and exceptional costs. Currently this is supported by the money from the sale of the Brookfield Avenue house, but we would like to spend this on further premises improvements rather than normal day-to-day expenditure.

One of the ways that you can help us rebuild our reserves 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 registered charity number (1132853) to add this to your will. The Church of England has prepared a helpful leaflet if you would like more information which can be found on our website www.emmanuel-loughborough.org/giving

Chris Sheldon
Treasurer

EMMANUEL
Loughborough