

Awsworth, Cossall & Trowell

ACT Together



Profile Statement for the Benefice of
St Peter's Church, Awsworth
St Catherine's Church, Cossall
St Helen's Church, Trowell

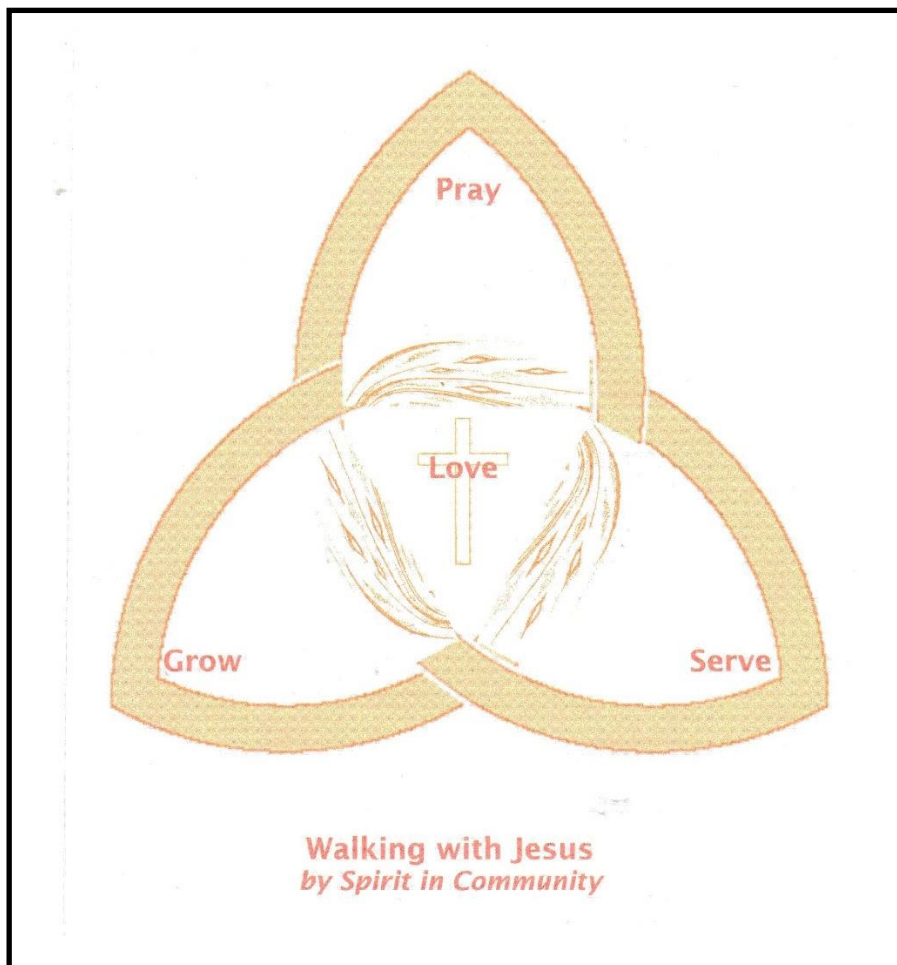
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Welcome to the Profile for the Benefice of Awworth, Cossall and Trowell Villages

The Churchwardens of St Peter's, St Catherine's and St Helen's would like to invite you to read our Benefice Profile. We hope you find it informative and that it gives you an insight into the life of our three churches and the communities we serve. We appreciate your interest in our benefice and warmly welcome the opportunity to show you around our churches and parishes and to answer any questions you may have. We prayerfully ask that you receive God's guidance in knowing where he is calling you to serve.

St Peter's Church	Awworth:	David Morley
St Catherine's Church	Cossall:	Gillian Thornhill
St Helen's Church	Trowell:	Ken Elmer and Julian Ennis





**THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM
GROWING DISCIPLES WIDER, YOUNGER AND DEEPER
A statement from
the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul
Williams
and Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Ven Phil Williams**



The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 142 stipendiary clergy and licensed lay workers.

In 2016 a refreshed diocesan vision was embraced across the diocese, recognising the imperative for **‘Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper’**. (see <https://www.growingdisciples.co.uk/>)

- **‘Wider’** in that we will seek to grow disciples in every part of the diocese, with no retreat from any community: urban centre; outer estates; rural villages; or market towns.
- **‘Younger’** in that we will seek fresh ways to harness the boldness and creativity of children, students and young people across the diocese, not least in Nottingham which is the 4th youngest city outside London.
- **‘Deeper’** as we grow in knowing Christ, so that as his disciples we can be an increasing blessing to the people among whom we live and serve in the workplace, family and community.

Compelled by the love of Christ by 2023 we are seeking to:

- Welcome 7000 new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church.
- Commission 1000 younger leaders (especially 15-30 year olds) equipped and inspired to serve the purposes of God in the Church and society.
- Plant or graft 75 New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) across the diocese to increase our reach in telling the story of Jesus to all.
- Grow 25 larger Resource Churches with clear commitment to develop leaders, plant New Worshipping Communities, and disciple the young.
- Serve and pray together as 1 Church contending for the gospel in every community and sphere of public life in our city, county and region.

If you would like to understand our approach to new worshipping communities, please visit <https://southwell.anglican.org/new-worshipping-communities-a-vision-for-growth/> where we share some of our stories). It is possible to apply for a grant to assist the costs of setting up a new worshipping community.

Every parish is encouraged to create its own ‘Growing Disciples Plan’ so that it can play a significant part in the strategic commitment to **‘Growing Disciples wider, younger and deeper.’** This may include identifying the opportunities to reach new people within the parish through a new worshipping community. The diocese has a ‘Growing Disciples Fund’ so that each parish can apply for up to £2000 per year to support its Growing Disciples Plan.

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in the post at the benefice of Awsworth Cossall and Trowell with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met.

Grace (local ministry team equipped and inspired, not dependent on stipendiary leadership)

Growth (clear numerical growth)

Generosity (financial sustainability, at least meeting full ministry costs)

The Archdeacon writes, “The benefice of Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell offers so many opportunities, where the next Priest in Charge can draw on all that is good and valued, while leading the church into a renewed focus on growth reaching out to younger families. This will include the potential for a new worshipping community based at Trowell CofE Primary School.”

Bishop Paul has said: “It is my hope that each worshipping community will develop a compelling picture of its own future in God’s purposes with an expectation of growing numerically and in the scope of its mission. It is my prayer that the new vicar will have the creative leadership and imagination to develop discipleship, plan for growth and reach out to the unchurched of all ages in its locality.”

**Person Specification for the Transformational Change Appointment as the Priest-in-charge
(time limited interim)**

of St Peter's Awsworth, St Catherine's Cossall, and St Helen's Trowell

The parishes, deanery and diocese are looking to appoint a person who has

- A personal devotion to the Lord reflected and rooted in prayer
- A vision for, commitment to, and experience, of evangelism and church growth (leading to a church community that welcomes and includes all people regardless of their gender, race, age, sexuality, disability, mental well-being or income level).
- An aptitude, experience and gifts in exercising strategic leadership, especially towards vision and implementing plans for growth
- Excellent relational gifts, emotional intelligence, tenacity and resilience,
- The ability to discern, develop and deploy the gifts of others in mission and ministry
- The capacity for building and sustaining life-giving teams,
- The ability to lead and enjoy a variety of worship and musical styles, including contemporary expressions.
- A commitment to, and expertise for, engaging biblical teaching and whole-life discipleship
- The ability to relate to, and inspire, children, young people and young families
- The capacity to see new missional opportunities and implement them

The post holder will be

- A visionary leader able to motivate and foster a pattern of shared leadership
- Humble and hopeful,
- Eager to learn and grow in faith and ministry, naturally welcome coaching and mentoring
- At ease relating to all people in the community including those with significant responsibilities in the city and county

The priorities of the role will be.

- To develop the Growing Disciples Plan for the benefice that sets out further ambitious objectives to shape ministry and mission *[By Summer 2022]*
- To create a strategy to develop the stages from first enquiry through Alpha/START courses to full participation and integration in the church. *[Two Alpha/START groups per year, two new discipleship groups per year]*
- To grow the church numerically so that it reflects the age profile of the parish populations *[Usual Sunday attendance for Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell to increase from 112 in 2020 to 125 in 2022, 150 in 2023, 175 in 2024]*
- To instigate and develop two new worshipping communities across the benefice *[One in Trowell C of E school to reach young families and possibly one at Awsworth school]*
- To raise the profile and engagement of the churches with each village including its online communication
- To grow a leadership team that reflects a younger demographic *[4 people under 45 on PCC by 2023, 4 people under 45 in other aspects of lay leadership]*
- Increase parish share payments *[£45,000 in 2022, £50,000 in 2023, £53,000 in 2024]*
- Increase number of regular givers *(80 in 2021 to 90 in 2022, 105 in 2023, 120 in 2024)*
- Increase average giving per regular giver *[By 2024 - Awsworth - £8, Cossall, £8, Trowell £20]*

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in a full-time post at Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met.

Grace (local ministry team equipped and inspired, not dependent on stipendiary leadership)

Growth (clear numerical growth)

Generosity (financial sustainability, meeting direct ministry costs by 2024)

This post is an interim Priest-in-charge post offered under section 29 (1) (j) and (7D) of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of service) Regulations 2009 as amended. As a result, before the end of the first three years there would be a review involving the postholder, PCC and diocese to assess progress against the priorities outlined in the person specification section of the profile. This review could lead to a further extension of up to three years. This post could be made permanent after the maximum six-year period.

- Nottingham North Deanery

This is an exciting and challenging time to be joining in God's mission in Nottingham North Deanery. The Deanery, which has a population of some 180,000, includes parishes which are located in an area running from the south-west of the city centre, up the M1 corridor to Kimberley, and around the north of the city to Sherwood.

The churches serve many of the most socially deprived areas of the City of Nottingham and surrounding boroughs, including several large outer estates on the western and northern side of the city. Over 50% of churches are in the bottom 15% of the CUF deprivation figures; and 30% in the bottom 4%. The area presents significant challenges, as well as offering some great opportunities, for mission.

Around the Deanery a good range of initiatives have emerged in recent years and some exciting missional developments have been established, including the creation of a grouping of 7 churches in the heart of the Deanery, known as "Woven". A number of other initiatives are being progressed in other parts of Nottingham North and there is a genuine sense of hope and expectation shared across the Deanery.

As a Deanery we aim

- to encourage larger churches to act as resource churches for others
- to see curates trained and released to plant or graft new worshipping communities
- to equip church members for a range of ministries to serve our wider communities
- to train younger leaders to contribute to enabling the church to grow younger

Despite the significant deprivation in many parts of the Deanery there is a strong commitment to generous giving, and we have made good progress in contributing to mission and ministry through the deanery share. As a Deanery we are also committed to keeping prayer central and to seeking God's will as we move forward and play our part in realising the Diocesan vision, "Growing Disciples: Wider, Younger, Deeper".

Awsorth, Cossall and Trowell

In the benefice profile statement, you will see the desire we have to see the appointment of a person who will lead the three church communities into growth: refreshing vision, releasing others into ministry and renewing the engagement of each church with its wider community.

The three churches in the benefice have been an important part of the life of the Deanery over the years and we are looking forward with hope and expectation to see what God will do under the prayerful leadership of the person appointed as incumbent.

The Area Dean and the Deanery Leadership Team will seek to offer support and encouragement to the new incumbent in fulfilling the objectives set out in the Benefice Profile Statement, and we hope the person appointed to this exciting Transformation Change Post will be committed to the wider life of the Deanery, including attendance at the Deanery Synod, Chapter and monthly prayer meeting.



• **Our Ministry Team**

Apologies, many of us have lockdown hairstyles!



**Canon Dr
Christina Baxter
CBE**

Reader - retired



**Revd Brenda
Brown**

Retired

Awsorth -
across Benefice



Revd Billy Nelson
Retired

Trowell - across
benefice



**Revd Paul
Whitehead**

Asst Minister in
extra-parochial
employment

Trowell - across
Benefice



**Dr Kirsten
Whitehead**

Reader In training
Trowell



**Revd Canon Joan
Whysall**

Retired

Permission to
officiate
(Wednesday
Church)



**Mrs Dora
Attenborough**

Trowell Verger



**Mr John
Hemstock**

Reader – retired

Awsorth



Mr Dave Dennis

Reader in
Training

Trowell



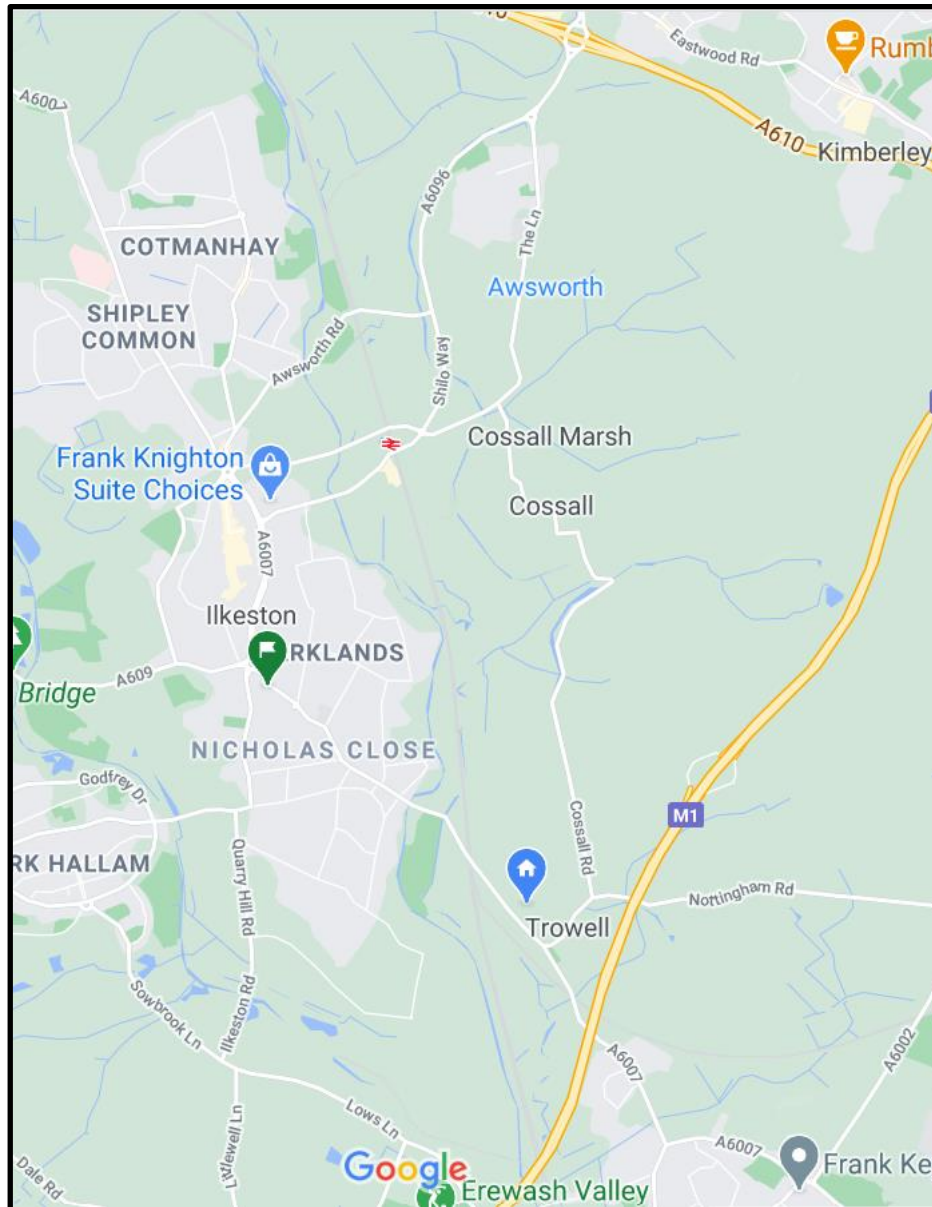
Mrs Cherry Wilde

Reader – retired

Cossall

- Our Locality

The three villages are separated by just a few miles of country road, but it is worth noting that there is no public transport between Trowell and the other two villages. A limited bus service operates between Awsworth and Cossall with none on Sundays. There are miles of footpaths and bridleways surrounding the villages that make for pleasant cycling, riding or walking.



“Map data ©2021 Google”

- **The Benefice**

Is spread across the western boundary of the deanery with Trowell Church at the southern end of a 15-to-20-minute drive which takes you to Awsworth in the north passing through Cossall in the middle: -

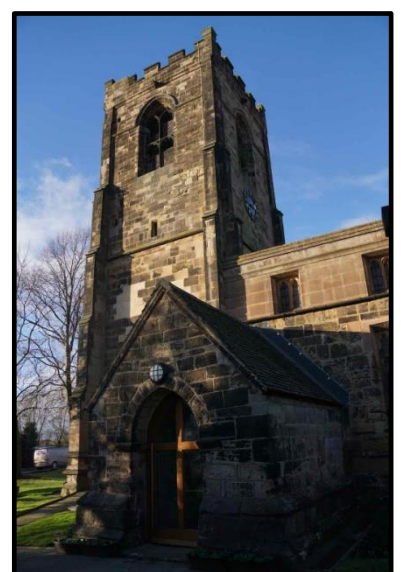
St Helen's in Trowell stands on the corner of a right-hand bend opposite the Festival Inn, 1100yds north of the church is the Church Hall (not to be confused with the parish hall), travelling north takes you over an old canal bridge past the Rectory hidden on the left behind tall trees and hedging. Within seconds you turn left onto Cossall Road, during advent you will be blinded by the array of Christmas lights that adorn the next 200yds. A long straight road takes you out into the countryside and the Erewash Valley canal can soon be seen on your left a couple of times before you cross over it at a nasty left-hand bend. In the wet season watch out for floods, a right turn takes you up an incline to more sharp bends and speed humps, watch out for horses setting out or coming home to the stables. Confronted by some very colourful gardens you turn sharp left and then right. Keep watching the road! St Catherine's is hidden at the next left-hand bend on the right and once round the bend the Old School Room/Cossall Community Hall is again on the right. Keep your eyes on the road, it narrows past the Alms houses..... and the last bend takes you right past some more stables and down a hill towards Awsworth, at the junction (note location of speed cameras) turn right, left would take you towards Ilkeston and up to Cossall Industrial Estate. As you weave into Awsworth you will pass the Nursery on the right, followed by the Gardeners Pub, a few more hundred yards and the Primary school is on the left. Then the parish hall is on the right. As you reach the top of the hill and start to bear left and downhill there is a very tight turning into St Peter's Church car park on open land. If in doubt drive by and come back to it (most do).



St Peter's



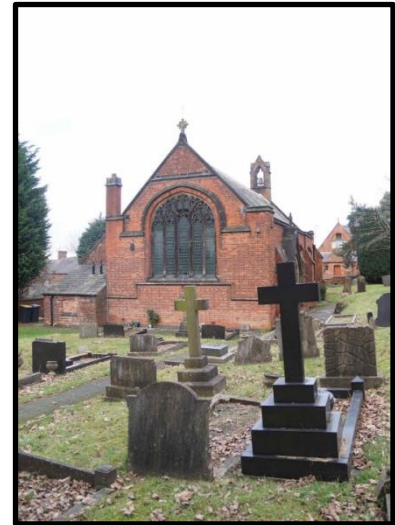
St Catherine's



St Helen's

Awsorth

Awsorth is a suburban village on the western edge of Nottinghamshire, a former brick making and coal mining village in 'D.H Lawrence country', part of the Erewash Valley. There are a few shops and two public houses. There is a good, modern and spacious village hall with a youth centre, which is well used by a range of groups and for personal parties. There are playing fields behind. There are about 1,000 households, and most people commute to Nottingham, Derby, Ilkeston or further afield for work. People are mostly owner-occupiers; there is little social housing, and all types of housing are more affordable than local or national averages. Many of Awsorth's social indicators are average for England nationally and pre-pandemic there was little unemployment



The local council is active and supportive of St Peter's, helping us financially and practically to keep the churchyard in good order. At the northwestern end of the village, between Awsorth and Ilkeston you will find the Grade II listed Bennerley Viaduct which is a disused railway viaduct crossing the Erewash valley. Built in 1877, it ceased to be a railway line 1968, as a result of the Beeching cuts. It was sold to a conservation group Railway Paths Ltd in 2001 and is currently being restored so it can become a public walkway.

It is 1452 feet long standing some 60 feet above the Erewash River, and unusually for railway viaducts it is not brickwork but wrought iron (there used to be iron works locally). Access to the viaduct will be from the canal which runs parallel to the Awsorth bypass; it is a popular area for walking and cycling and is run by the local fishing club.



Cossall

Cossall is a small, friendly village with a good quality of life, a strong sense of community with St Catherine's Church at the physical and spiritual core of village life. It is situated in a semi-rural location on the edge of the Nottingham North Deanery of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. The village overlooks the Erewash Valley – the border between Nottinghamshire and



Derbyshire. Nottingham – six miles to the east, Derby nine miles to the west and Ilkeston one mile away over the county border in Derbyshire. The village is surrounded by beautiful open countryside



but is only ten minutes away from the M1 motorway, making it an ideal location for commuters. The historical core of the village was designated a conservation area in 1972.

Cossall is situated between the two larger parishes of Awsworth and Trowell. There are approximately 245 houses in Cossall, but this could increase by 45% in the next few years as there are two significant housing

developments proposed. At the north end of the village is a nursery with farm shop and cafe and one public house, the Gardener's Inn. There are two large riding stables and several farms. Despite its size there are approaching 50 businesses in Cossall, with 33 located on Cossall Industrial Estate. The disused Nottingham Canal runs through Cossall and is a Nature Reserve with many wildflower species, butterflies, dragonflies and waterfowl. It is extremely popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

There has always been a good community spirit in Cossall which has been enhanced by the Cossall Get-Togethers (more of this in Mission and Ministry) and once a year an Open Gardens Day is held when everyone works together to raise money, part of which goes to the church. In recent years, a group called the Cossall Community Chest has been formed. It seeks to enhance the quality of village life by organising interesting events in the Old School Room/Cossall Community Hall. The proceeds from the events go to aid charities, contribute to maintenance of the old School Room and the church, improve facilities and provide a taxi to enable villagers to attend events for whom it would otherwise be impossible. In the last few years many of the elderly population have passed away so more younger people are moving into the village. We are looking forward to receiving guidance on new ways to reach out to grow disciples.

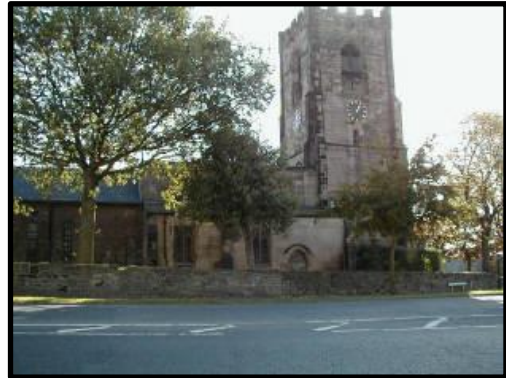


Trowell

Trowell is a suburban/rural village 6 miles from Nottingham, on the border with Derbyshire and on the western edge of the diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. The village consists of mainly private housing and a small industrial estate.

The population consists of mixed aged groups, predominantly white middle class. Workers commute to Nottingham, Derby or other local towns. There are five farms and a small industrial estate near to the motorway.

Prior to 1987 the village consisted of about 700 houses and was divided into two sections by the M1 motorway. In 1987 the Trowell Park estate was built adding approximately 350 dwellings. This development has a mixture of housing. There is a small warden assisted living development at Church Close, adjacent to the church.



There is a new building site on the edge of the village at Field Farm in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire. It is developing the existing farmland for residential use, with the construction of up to 500 dwellings.

Trowell has one public house, the Festival Inn, so named because Trowell was the Festival Village of Great Britain in 1951.



There is a Post Office and another small general store. There are two guest houses and Walkers, a major fishing tackle shop. The M1 motorway service area is on the edge of the parish. There is a large garden centre and a few smaller nurseries in the parish.



The proposed route for the HS2 railway goes right through or rather over the village on a viaduct.

- **Our Schools**

Trowell C of E (controlled) Primary School has good links with St. Helen's Church. We are represented on the governing body by members of the church, including Foundation Governors. Please also see the document included below '[Trowell Church of England Primary School](#)' from the head teacher. Trowell village is in the catchment area of The Bramcote School but some children from all three villages attend the Bluecoat C of E Comprehensive, the St John Houghton Catholic School or Nottingham High School.

Children from Awsworth and Cossall are in the catchment area of Awsworth Primary and Nursery School, then at age 11 they attend The Kimberley School. Both schools are academies and are part of East Midlands Education Trust (EMET). The school has 344 pupils on role and is extremely popular, with many families applying to attend from outside the catchment area. It has a welcoming and caring ethos and has consistently achieved 'good' in all Ofsted inspections. We have a good relationship with the school and their governors were chaired by a member of Cossall PCC until she retired in August 2019. Our retired priest has been invited in to speak to classes about the Church and about her role.

Please also see the document included immediately below, '[Awsworth Primary and Nursery School](#)' from the Deputy Head Teacher.

[Awsworth Primary and Nursery School](#)

The Lane, Awsworth, Nottinghamshire, NG16 2QS

Telephone: 0115 9321926

Email: office@awsworthprimary.org

Message from Dr Ian Baxter, Deputy Head Teacher

We are very pleased to have enjoyed a long and established link with St Peter's Church for many decades. These valued links have enabled us to hold annually a range of services in the church - including harvest festivals and Christmas and Easter services. Given the size of the school population, we usually split these services according to age range, with our F2 and KS1 children gathering first, followed by separate services for our KS2 children. These services have provided many memorable opportunities for the children to celebrate these special occasions and are often attended by as many parents and carers as the space allows. In the past we have been very grateful for the input from the church's ministry team working in collaboration with the school staff to lead these services. In the past there have been occasional Year Six Leavers' services and the school has used the building for at least one dramatic performance.

In addition, we have often welcomed into school the minister from St. Peter's to lead whole-school assemblies – occasions which have provided the opportunity to enhance the children's understanding of a Christian perspective. Further collaboration has been afforded through the school's curriculum delivery and has included the children interviewing the minister to find out about his / her role and calling. We have also visited the church as part of a local study to learn about the role of the church in the community which included interviewing a parishioner about their

faith. The school has also used the church to investigate its historic links to educational provision in Awsworth.

Further links have included the annual collection of food for the harvest festival - involving both the church and the school taking responsibility for the distribution of the produce to local charities and food banks. Most recently, we have been very grateful for the contribution from some St. Peter's parishioners to a school-led community writing project called, '2020 In Hindsight'; this has provided the opportunity for the wider Awsworth community to contribute their written reflections on the events of 2020, supported with related photographs. It is hoped that this community archive will provide a unique collective account of the personal experiences of the past Covid-19 dominated year.

We look forward to being able to work closely with St. Peter's in the months and years ahead in order to make the most of our much-valued links.

Trowell Church of England Primary School

Derbyshire Avenue, Trowell, Nottinghamshire, NG9 3QD



Tel: 01159320962

Email: office@trowell.notts.sch.uk

Trowell C of E Primary School is a happy, thriving school at the heart of the village. There are 7 classes, with 171 children on roll as of February 2021. The school prides itself in developing within children a strong set of moral values, deeply rooted in Christian faith. These values fall under four broad umbrellas, which are known as 'The Big 4', and underpin all aspects of school life, including the curriculum, daily collective worship, and the language in which children and staff speak with one another. These are:

- Love Others
- Aim High
- Believe We Can Do It
- Do the Right Thing



In November 2019, the school was proud to receive a Good judgement during a SIAMS inspection. The inspection report stated that, ***'this is a happy school which lives out Christ's commandment to love one another on a daily basis'*** and ***'The school places a high emphasis on the nurture and wellbeing of all, children and adults alike. This fully reflects Christ's commandment to love one another, the basis of the school's vision.'***

In February 2020, the school was judged to be Good by Ofsted. The inspection report stated that, ***'The school's 'big four' values: love others, aim high, do the right thing and believe you can do it, form the backbone of the school. These values shine through everything. Pupils told us they are proud of their school and enjoy coming each day'*** and ***'Everyone is welcome and well looked after. The school culture is built on respect.'***

- Our Rectory

The present Rectory is a large house set back from the road with two long drives, built in the 1930's. The former parish office and Rector's study are partitioned off from the family quarters. There is a large garden suitable for exercising hospitality. Occasional use of the rectory garden for church events are permitted at the invitation of the incumbent.



• Our Church Life

Church vision... we long with Christ to be churches that:

- Love - seek to grow together
- Pray - continue to be healing places of prayer
- Grow - make disciples growing from the Bible
 - particularly growing children's and young people's faith
- Serve - encourage the ministry of all; walk in mission
 - sharing Jesus & serving those outside the church
 - seeking justice for the world

We aim to be welcoming to a whole diverse society, particularly in relation to age, gender, sexuality, race, disability, poverty, and mental health.

We hope that a new minister will help us refine and refresh our vision for the coming years.

Although people generally worship in the village where they live, we share one another's worship, for instance, folk from Trowell attend the evening services at St Catherine's or St Peter's and people from St Catherine's have become part of the Wednesday congregation at St Peter's service of Holy Communion. In addition, we generally share services at special times of the year; the service in Awsworth on the Sunday after Christmas is for all three churches and during Holy Week, we attend special services which are customarily on one of the churches, so Good Friday's 'Hour at the Cross' is usually at Cossall. We normally have a Lent Course which circulates around the parishes and often includes the Methodists from Awsworth. Lay and ordained ministers normally minister in all three churches.

We meet monthly for a half day of prayer; from 9.30am to 3.30pm in Awsworth during the Autumn, in Cossall during the Winter/Spring. During the summer we meet in Trowell from 4pm to 10pm so that people in full time employment can attend. We chiefly intercede for the mission and ministry of the churches.

Our PCCs normally meet jointly to deal with Benefice policies and general matters and to keep one another informed about challenges and opportunities. This enables the Rector to share information which affects all three churches, and we can make joint decisions. It has also enabled the PCC members to get to know one another better and to share their knowledge and expertise. As all three churches are aware of each other's events and special services it encourages us to plan and support each other more effectively. Once the joint matters have been discussed, we separate into village groups, within the same location, to deal with local PCC issues, asking for the Rector's involvement only in those issues where their input is essential.

Across the benefice, we have a fine tradition of training and developing people into various kinds of ministry, including as readers and priests.

St Peter's

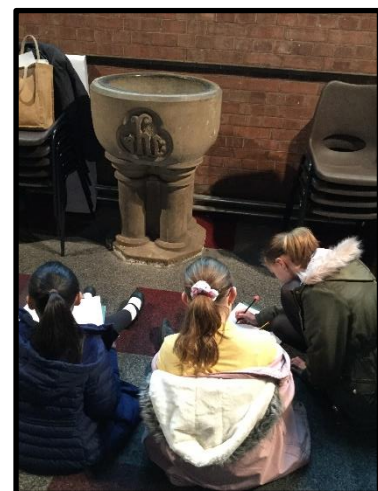
At St Peter's our worship is open evangelical – we have been influenced by renewal. We enjoy a variety of styles, usually following Anglican liturgy and when we have no organist, we use a Benefice music machine which accompanies us well. Very occasionally we have instrumentalists to lead worship which we enjoy.

Our church people...pre-pandemic attended regular worship on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. On Sundays there are occasional Sunday School activities. There are also services of baptism, weddings and funerals (attendance 90-150). We take every opportunity to run special events such as an annual memorial service for the bereaved or a Harvest Festival meal and other social events to invite 'fringe' people and to increase community in the village.



The school also comes into church for services. The Methodists join us in worship occasionally (they no longer have a chapel and worship in the Village Youth Building) and the uniformed organisations also attend worship from time to time. A good proportion of the congregation are willing to read our Bible passages, and some to lead prayers. We have discovered during this inter-regnum and pandemic how well we can work together without a parish minister. There is good mutual pastoral care and prayer for one another.

We normally have a Lent course jointly with the other churches in the Benefice and often with the Methodists and keep Holy Week. We have good attendance for Christmas services, funerals and other special events. We meet monthly for a half day of prayer; 9.30am to 3.30pm in the winter, 4pm to 10pm in the summer (shared with the other churches), to intercede for the mission and ministry of the churches. During the recent COVID-19 emergency we have worshipped on Sundays as normally as possible when safe and legal, but the Wednesday Service of Holy Communion has become an hour of silent prayer. We support the local food bank and last year had a funding campaign – the people of the parish are generous in their giving. We support several charities with coffee mornings, direct personal giving or church gifts.



St Catherine's



The churchmanship is open evangelical. People who come to St. Catherine's often comment on how friendly and welcoming it is. Usually, we use service pamphlets but the Book of Common Prayer for Evensong. All Age Worship services are usually followed with a drink, biscuits and a good chat.

There is Holy Communion at St Peter's every Wednesday which welcomes people from Cossall and Trowell, and people from

Trowell often come to Evensong at St Catherine's. We also hold one or two 'special' services a year on varying themes – Memorial Thanksgiving, Marriage blessing, Pet Service, and, of course, Harvest Thanksgiving either followed by a Bring and Share meal or a separate Harvest Thanksgiving meal held in the Old School Room. On Christmas Eve this year we held a brief service in the churchyard which was attended by over 50 people - fewer than usual but pleasing on a cold night.

During the pandemic we aimed to have a service on the second Sunday of each month taken by Dr Christina Baxter. When the new strain of the virus appeared, it was decided to close completely as most of the congregation were in the most at-risk category and were staying at home. However, those who wished were able to go to St. Peter's or St. Helen's churches or follow the service online. We have kept in touch with parishioners with regular phone calls to ensure everyone is keeping well and to offer support and help if needed.



As part of the church's mission a hot lunch is provided once a month in the Old School Room followed by entertainment. Known as the Cossall Get-Together, this popular event has been running now for at least 13 years and welcomes villagers from Cossall, Awsworth and Trowell. Sadly, it has had to stop during the pandemic. We also hold a Christmas Fair which is well supported and raises money towards church maintenance and charities. In normal times when newcomers move into the village the church gives them a welcome card and plant.

St Helen's

Churchmanship is open evangelical charismatic.

We are a lively, inclusively, welcoming church with a family atmosphere and have a wide range of services and other activities. Morning Services have an all age, family welcome flavour, usually followed with a hot drink, biscuits and a chat.

We support Fair Trade goods wherever possible.

Church Suite has recently been adopted to manage and support the various processes.

Wednesday Church - Wednesday morning a group of generally more senior years (and some younger), hold a cafe style service with tea/biscuits on offer, a group discussion is held led by a rota of those attending and when possible, a monthly communion takes place, pre-covid attendance could be up to 20 but generally 12-15.

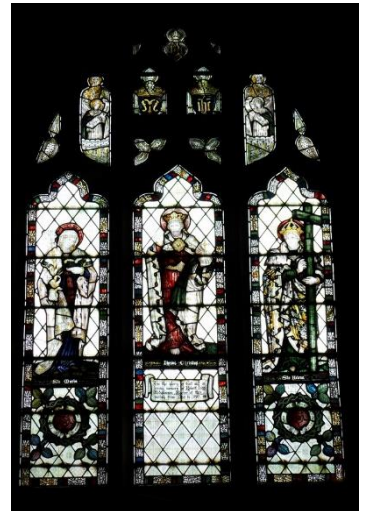
Saturday Cake Club - Is an event that takes place once a month in church to raise money for the refurbishment of the church (Renewal Fund) and is generally well attended with a mixture of regulars and visitors.



Sunday Breakfast - Is another cafe style event which takes place monthly in the Church Hall and offers a free breakfast to all who attend at which there is a Christian theme with activities for both adults and children.

House groups have long been a central part of church life at St. Helen's, and they play a vital role in our spiritual growth. There were recently 26 people who met in 4 different groups.

New Wine Members of the congregation have been linked with the New Wine organisation over many years. Some serve on the teams. Over the years a church group has attended the New Wine Event.



• **Our Worship**

Our usual patterns of Worship (Pre COVID-19 were)

Church	Time	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
St Catherine's	09:30	All Age Worship	Holy Communion	All Age Worship	Morning Prayer	-
St Helen's	10:30	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	All-Age / Village Breakfast	Holy Communion	Morning Worship
St Peter's	10:30	Morning Prayer	Joint Family Service at Methodists	Family Communion	Family Service	Family Communion
St Peter's	15:30 winter 18:00 summer	-	CW Holy Communion	-	Messy Church (Even Months)	-
St Helen's	18:00	BCP Holy Communion	-	BCP Evening Prayer	CW Holy Communion	-
St Catherine's	18:00	-	-	-	-	BCP Evening Prayer
St Peter's	Wednesday 09:30	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
St Helen's	Wednesday 10:30	Holy Communion/ Wednesday Church	Wednesday Church	Wednesday Church	Wednesday Church	Wednesday Church

The above does not do justice to the broad spread of worship that goes on around all the places from holding all age services to include children and those with learning and physical disabilities, to the more formal Memorial Services.

Children's Work:

At St Helen's, our 10:30 morning service every other 3rd Sunday uses the scripture union all age liturgy and explore together resources as a theme mixing children's worship, all age activities, upbeat worship and bible talk for all ages. In St. Catherine's Church there is a Children's Corner where supervised or free activities take place. There is also a box of percussion instruments which the children give out and both children and adults enjoy accompanying certain songs and taking an active part in services.

Since 2013, we have been running Messy Church, initially in Cossall but more recently in Awsworth. Until the pandemic, this took place on Sunday afternoons with sharing of Gospel and food. Families kept in touch using a Facebook page so people were reminded and could exchange news. Most recently this has been lay led. St Helen's in now considering starting Messy Church too.

Youth Work:

At St Helen's, the MiX met every other week during term time. We meet in the church hall and have a theme most weeks with bible teaching through games and activities for about 10 minutes. The rest of the time is filled with chat, snack bar and lots of football as always. This being very much a 'hands on' meeting has been on hold for some time now.

Online

St Helen's, for the benefice as a whole has had a web site for many years, as well as an active presence on Facebook. Notice sheets etc are always published through the web site, as well as on paper. See <https://www.trowellchurch.com/whatsnew.php>. Since the building has had to be closed, these, and service sheets have been delivered by hand to people who do not have internet access.

Since the Coronavirus issue, we have had a web camera installed and services, weddings, funerals etc are presented online using YouTube. This initially gave members of the congregation an option to attend services online and stay safe but currently it is the only way to do church and is extremely popular indeed. More people attend church through this each week than used to do physically pre coronavirus. Children are included very much as part of the target audience, but it is difficult to measure how successful this is. Typically, there are over 55 views of the weekly Sunday service video.

The PCC have recently agreed to redevelop the web site <https://www.trowellchurch.com/> and are planning to split it into three independent ones for the three churches.

Growing Disciples - Wider, Younger, Deeper

Responding to our Bishops' invitation, we are committed in our parishes to growing disciples.

- Wider: in the year before the inter-regnum, we began to have a group in each of the three terms to enable seekers to find faith, one in each village and at different times of the day, morning, afternoon, and evening each one using different courses - people were encouraged to attend whichever course suited them.
- Younger: determination to increase resources and outreach for children's and youth work. So, we have built good relations with the schools, run Messy Church and the Mix, and taken every opportunity to welcome families in.
- Deeper: Benefice Lent Courses, Home groups at Trowell and other occasional fellowship meetings.

We have a fine tradition of training people into various kinds of ministry, including into music and into the Church. This is continuing through the Covid-19 lockdown, with church members encouraged to lead online services and some also attending online diocese training. There is also a good tradition of teaching sermons in the parishes, and we grow in faith through the various prayer meetings.

Statistics

	St Helen's Trowell		St Peter's Awsworth		St Catherine's Cossall	
Year	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Electoral Roll	53	52		22	25	22
Weekly Attendance Adults	67	67	30	34	11	10
Weekly Attendance Under 16	7	5	14	11	2	1
Annual Weddings	4	5	0	0	2	2
Annual Baptisms	9	3	7	0	4	2
Annual Funerals + Burial of ashes	6	10	8	7+6	4	3
Population	2,378		2,204		602	

Average attendance 13th June to 19th July 2021

	Average Attendance	
	Adults	Children
St Peter's Awsworth	12	0
St Catherine's Cossall	8	2
St Helen's Trowell	21	3
St Helens Trowell On Line	52 views (families gather collectively)	

Average weekly giving per Church Member 2020

	Average Weekly Giving
St Peter's Awsworth	Not currently available
St Catherine's Cossall	£5.83
St Helen's Trowell	£7.04

- Our Church Buildings

St Peter's, Awsworth



The original chapel was built about 1746; a 'Chapel of Ease' added in 1879 becoming the chancel when the nave was built in 1902. St Peter's now comprises a nave, chancel, vestry and side room with a sink so hot drinks etc. can be served. The back of the nave was re-ordered to replace a demolished derelict church hall and a toilet and small kitchen added in 1995. All our

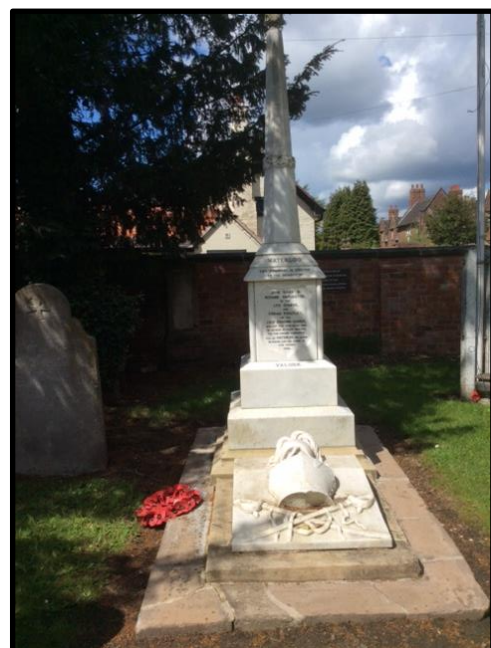
Messy Church, PCC meetings, coffee mornings, Lent meetings take place in the back of the church which is the equivalent of our Hall. Not-yet church members are comfortable coming into that space for events which we hold. It has flexible seating in the space behind the traditional pews.

We have a room where the organ once was sited which we hope to develop in due course into another smaller meeting room. The church is made of local brick. We recently had a new heating system, and last year rebuilt the boiler room wall. We have just had a new boiler room roof (to replace the rotten one!) and urgently need (this summer) to rebuild the retaining wall between our churchyard (still open for burials) and our neighbour's garden.

St Catherine's, Cossall

St Catherine's church has a long and interesting history. It requires regular maintenance although the Quinquennial report reads 'is well cared for and its general condition is good.' All necessary work on the windows has been carried out and all windows cleaned. An electrical survey has been completed. There is a lasting problem with the leaking roof which has leaked ever since it was put on eight years ago and continues to do so despite repeated attempts to rectify the matter. We have funds allocated for essential work to the interior of the building which we are having to put on hold until the roof is watertight. There are strong links between the church and the Parish Council who pay for the floodlighting and have contributed towards church and churchyard maintenance. In the churchyard are two war memorials. One is the well-known Waterloo memorial, classed as a listed building, Grade II, commemorating 3 soldiers who fought in the Battle of Waterloo. There is thought to be only one other similar in England.

The Old School Room owned by the church is close by and was built in 1813. Due to its poor state of repair the church and the community, together with a grant from Biffa, raised funds for its renovation and an extension.



The Hall has retained its character which is in keeping with surrounding buildings but offers modern amenities such as a fully equipped kitchen, toilet for the disabled, storage area, television to show visuals and a large drop-down screen. It is now widely used by the Parish Council, the PCCs, the Cossall Community Chest, the Open Gardens Group, the Cossall Get-Together, regular events put on by the Cossall Community Chest and is available for public hire. It is very convenient to hire after special services – funerals, baptisms etc. The PCC is responsible for the Old School Room but there is a Hall Management Committee which also includes members of the Parish Council and the Cossall Community Chest.

St Helen's, Trowell

The parish church of St Helen's is the only place of worship in the village. The 12th century chancel stands on the site of the Old Saxon building. The nave was added in the 14th century and the tower in the 15th century. The church was restored in the mid-19th century. It is now a Grade II* listed building.



The present church interior was refurbished in 2018 as a renewal project. The building now has a modern discreet economical heating system, a level floor right through to the altar rail giving full disabled access, a crèche area, chairs instead of pews thus making the nave and chancel space adaptable, cleaned up and restored historical features, and a permanently installed Audio/Visual system with loop facility for hearing aid users. *Some of this work is yet not fully complete, including lighting and electrical rewiring of the building. In February 2021 we received a Legacy which will enable this work to be finished.*



The organ which was installed over a hundred years ago is in excellent working order. There is a tower which has six bells, and we have a competent bell ringing team with around eight members. The vestry is at the base of the tower. A disabled toilet and tea bar were installed in 2001. There are stained glass windows on three sides of the church. Following vandalism some of the windows were fitted with exterior grilles in 2003, which are very effective. A burglar alarm system was installed in 2002 and renewed / updated in January 2021.

The church has a graveyard which has both closed and open sections and has only sufficient space for burials for just a few years. There is a Garden of Remembrance which is appreciated by people in the locality. The local crematorium is two miles away.

There is also a War Memorial which was dedicated at the Church during the Remembrance Day morning service on 13th November 2011.

Last quinquennial survey - June 2020

Because this inspection was carried out just before Lockdown got serious, very little progress has been made so far, but the PCC will endeavour to ensure that all the work is completed.

The works required are largely minor and some are already in hand. However, it also includes some stonework high on the tower which will involve scaffolding. We have recently taken the opportunity to apply for a Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant to help with this work and the remaining electrical upgrade.

The fire extinguishers, lightning conductor, gas and electric systems etc are all professionally inspected annually.

St Helen's also has a Church Hall

The church hall is situated approximately 200 yards from the church and across a major road. Built over 160 years ago, it was the village school until it was vacated in 1967 and returned to church



ownership. It has three separate rooms with toilets and a kitchen. There is a small car park in front and a large, grassed area to the rear.

Until 2004, the resident caretaker lived in the attached cottage. When they left, the PCC decided to review the situation and investigated the possibility of new uses for the cottage building but decided to prioritise refurbishing the church building. We use it as an office for the three parishes, but only essential maintenance is carried out.



• Our Finances

In 2019 all three churches collaborated under the expert guidance of the Diocesan funding adviser to run three funding campaigns, each quite different, but each succeeding in raising the voluntary giving of the parishes

There is a summary provided here, but with the latest year end accounts in the appendix. Please note the Appendices contain the financial accounts for the year 2020. They have all been satisfactorily audited, but not actually approved by the relevant Annual General Meetings yet. The previous years' accounts can be easily supplied if required.

St Peter's

At the end of 2020 we paid our parish share in full, had carried out repairs to the boiler house, and had £16,000 in hand. From this, two more large repairs are to be done in 2021, to the boiler room roof (recently completed) and to the retaining wall between the churchyard and our neighbour's house, (which has collapsed). These are urgent and likely to cost in the region of £14,000, most of which has already been given. We have regular coffee mornings for charities which we support such as Christian Aid or the Children's Society, though when there are sudden catastrophes, we normally have a 'free will plate' by the door for a couple of weeks so people can donate to that cause. At the start of the pandemic, we leafleted the whole village, so everyone knew that there was a food bank at Eastwood and have been collecting food from Awsworth people ever since and taking it to Eastwood each week.

St Catherine's

We pay our Parish Share in full by monthly standing order. We had a recent successful Promise Programme but regular giving by covenant has reduced, sadly due to three deaths. The General Fund is split into four sub accounts – the Main Church Account, Fabric Fund, Get-Together Fund and the School Room Fund. The last three cannot be used for general church business. We usually donate to five charities a year and sometimes to a disaster emergency fund.

We are fortunate in receiving support from the Parish Council and from the Community Chest. Also, we have been left a legacy which we have used to have much needed and over- due work done on the windows and their guards, the vestry door frame, organ repair, new battery for the alarm system also on other work required by the Quinquennial report. This work is ongoing.

St Helen's

Only six months after the promise project of 2019, the General Purposes Account balance was looking extremely healthy. And would carry us forward well beyond 2020 without major finance problems. However, with the implementation of Covid 19 lockdown in March 2020, it was suddenly necessary to calculate guaranteed income against anticipated expenses to find out how long we could survive with no income from external services. The answer was one year in "strict survival mode", which has proved to be approximately correct. Without a "loan" from the Renewal Account, the General Purposes bank account could hit zero in the next month. Typically, our total annual turnover would be in the region of £73,000, but for 2020 it is only £54,598. However, it is of special note that we were still able to pay 100% of our allotted parish share of £28,272. The PCC decided some years ago that 10% of normal giving was to go to charitable causes. For detail of the spread of these see section 1 (Grants) of the expenditure side of the general a/c in the accounts. We have recently been left a large legacy which will help us to complete most of the outstanding renewal works.

- **Benefice Policies**

Safeguarding

The churches are proactive in ensuring DBS checks, and ensure child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding training is undertaken by all involved in care. The safeguarding lead role was previously the responsibility of the incumbent and during the vacancy is being covered by one of the Church Wardens, Ken Elmer of Trowell with support from Marilyn Reed of Cossall as deputy.

Health & Safety

The Parochial Church Council has ensured that the churches have Health and Safety policies and procedures in place for each church and the lead officer is one of the Church Wardens at each church.

Infant Baptism

We welcome requests from all parents for infant baptism. Baptisms are usually carried out during the main Sunday services.

Holy Communion

The benefice churches invite all visitors who take communion in their own churches to participate in Holy Communion.

Remarriage

The Parochial Church Council supports the remarriage of people where appropriate. Couples are considered on an individual basis.

Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure

The benefice has been served by ministry from both men and women. We fully support the ordination of women and their equality with men within the church. The Parochial Church Council would wish to see appointed to the position of Vicar the best person irrespective of gender.

- **Benefice Vision**

We are now looking forward to welcoming a rector who will enable us to work even more closely together in our shared vision of 'Growing disciples: wider, younger, deeper.

As the population in our communities will grow considerably over the next few years, we hope to explore ways of reaching out to families and individuals bringing them into our church communities.

Our vision is grounded in prayer and faithful listening to the Spirit, and we are receptive to new ideas. We trust in the Lord to send someone with empathy, love and hope for the Church and the parishes we serve.

Appendices:

There are six appendices listed as the web links below. They can also be found, along with other downloads from the web page:

<https://www.trowellchurch.com/whatsnew.php>

Comprising:

Parish Dashboards:

Can be located as named below by using the following URL <https://www.trowellchurch.com/notices/>

[SfM Nottingham North 380162 Awsworth.pdf](#)

[SfM Nottingham North 380171 Cossall.pdf](#)

[SfM Nottingham North 380178 Trowell.pdf](#)

Accounts for the Three Churches:

Can be located as named below with the same URL as above

[St Peters Church Accounts 2020:](#)

[St Catherines Church Accounts 2020:](#)

[St Helens Church Accounts 2020:](#)