
W E L C O M E T O



S T S W I T H U N ' S
C H U R C H
R E T F O R D

ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

A statement from the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams and Archdeacon of Newark, the Venerable Tors Ramsey.

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 St. Swithun's Retford 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 full ministry costs)

BISHOP PAUL & ARCHDEACON TORS

A STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM, THE RT REVD PAUL WILLIAMS AND ARCHDEACON OF NEWARK, THE VENERABLE TORS RAMSEY.



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 of St. Swithun’s 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.”



Archdeacon Tors writes, “We find ourselves at a crucial moment for the church in relation to a changing culture. The good news of Jesus Christ is as important and life-giving as it has ever been. There are many opportunities to serve the people of Retford with the gospel of hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The proposal, supported by Strategic Development funding, is to revitalise St. Swithun's and to establish it as a thriving resourcing church with the remit to plant and graft new worshipping communities and to be a hub for training and resourcing in the local area. Under the leadership of a new Incumbent and team, there will be a focus on reaching a younger age-profile across the town .

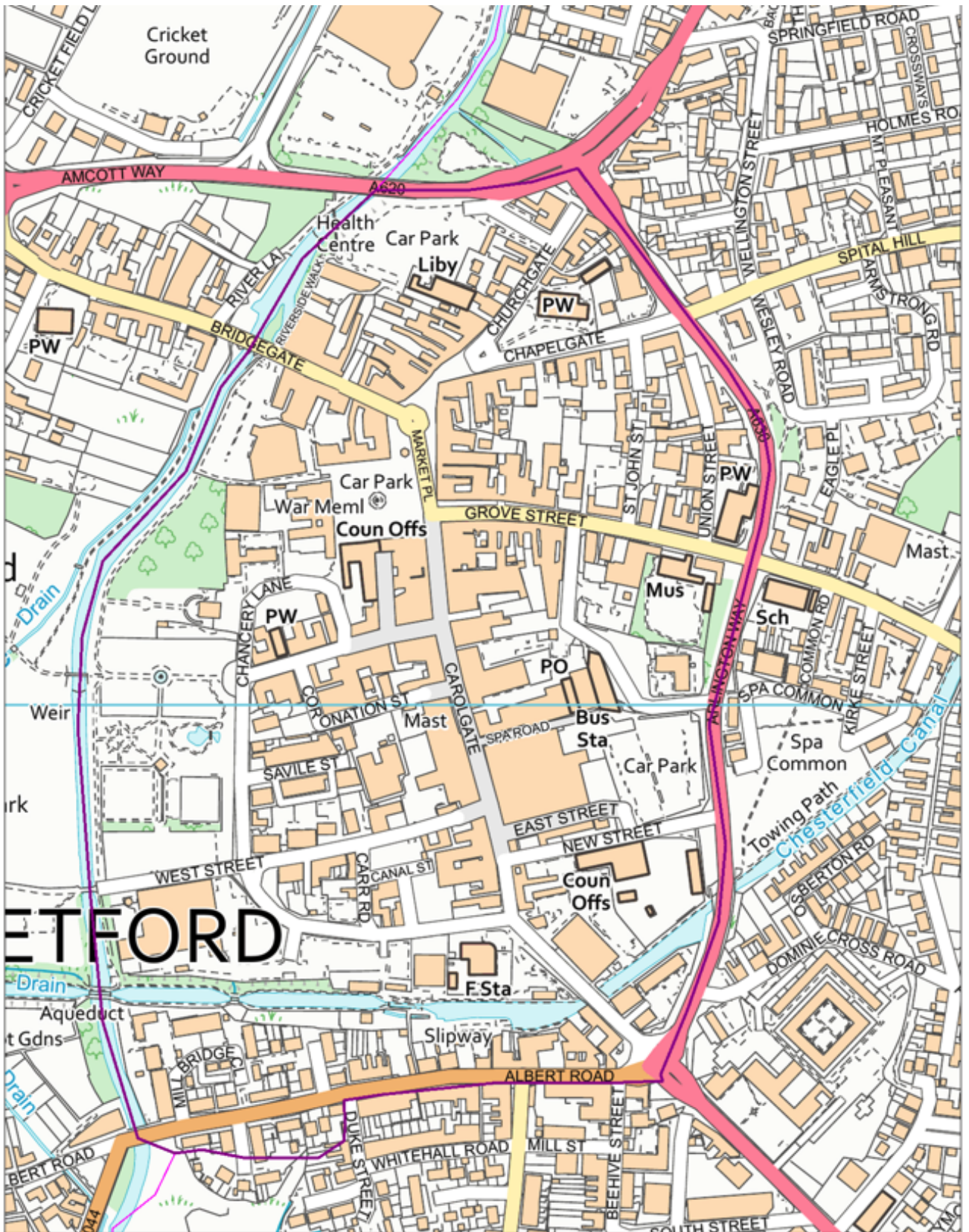
The central location of the church provides an opportunity to deepen the engagement with those who are drawn to the town centre, by its shopping, heritage and night-time economy. Historically, St Swithun’s has been the civic church of the town.

The new congregation will work in close partnership with St Saviour’s and St Michael’s who offer more classical inherited forms of ministry, within the evangelical and catholic traditions respectively.

We anticipate that in order to develop the building as a centre for community and civic engagement, as well as the home for a new congregation, it will be necessary to appoint an Operations Manager and Worship/Youth Minister to work alongside the new Incumbent.

I look forward to supporting the congregation of St. Swithun’s in their mission and welcoming a new Incumbent to lead and implement the vision for the parish and to grow into the role of resourcing church for the town.”

PARISH MAP)



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THE DEANERY

The furthest north in the Diocese, the Bassetlaw and Bawtry deanery is made up of 46 parishes, working together as 15 benefices, with both rural and town locations. In the main, the deanery matches the local government district of Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire but also includes one part of South Yorkshire in the benefice of Bawtry with Austerfield. There are three MPs: Brendan Clarke-Smith (Bassetlaw), Nick Fletcher (Don Valley), and Robert Jenrick (Newark).

Our Deanery serves a population of approximately 120,000 people, with a variety of backgrounds including farming and industry. Located adjacent to the Sheffield City Region and Doncaster, these conurbations provide the main employment opportunities. Connected by the A1 road, the East Coast Mainline and Lincoln/Sheffield railway lines, and nearby Doncaster/Sheffield Airport, the Deanery has ready access to London in just an hour and a half, alongside various local and international destinations.

The Deanery has churches with larger and smaller numbers of attendees, vibrant market town churches, estate ministries, with many commuters working in the surrounding cities, and rural contexts. All, though, are well connected to their local communities through schools, occasional offices, community projects and a growing number of New Worshipping Communities, as well as many iconic church buildings.

The churches in our deanery cover all traditions and the area is rich in Christian history with a number of churches boasting links to the Mayflower Pilgrims. With Worksop being the Gateway to the Dukeries, the four historic ducal seats of Worksop Manor, Welbeck Abbey, Thoresby Hall and Clumber House are all close by and provide ample space for walks, days out and historical fact finding.

The clergy chapter works closely together and offers support to each other through regular meetings, praying together, socials and fellowship, and encourages input from the wider Diocesan leadership team with regular speakers. Deanery Synod meets three times a year with lively discussion and information sharing.

All parishes within the Deanery have embraced the Diocesan vision of creating disciples, wider, younger and deeper and fully engaged with our objective of achieving an extra 7000 disciples by 2025. To this end a number of New Worshipping Communities have begun in the deanery as well as ongoing local activities and innovation.

The Deanery has an administrator, who is employed by the Diocese, and, together with Area Dean and the Lay Chair, they provide incumbents and parishes with practical and pastoral support. We would encourage you to consider our deanery as a great place to work and further your ministry. For further information about the Deanery and parishes please contact our Area Dean, Dave Gough.

Tel: 01909 570434 or e-mail: stannesvicar@hotmail.com

RETFORD

Retford is a delightful place to live and work. An historic market town, it lies 26 miles east of Sheffield, 31 miles north east of Nottingham and 23 miles west of Lincoln. A general market is held on Thursdays and Saturdays and a Flea Market on Fridays. It has a good range of supermarkets and shops, two theatres, a museum, a library, a beautiful park, excellent primary and secondary schools and medical practices. Bassetlaw General Hospital is just 20 minutes away in Worksop. There is also a very active Civic Society.



The town has a very diverse social and economic mix, and unemployment is only around 1.6% compared with the national average of 4.4%. Strong transport links enable people to commute to Sheffield, Doncaster, Mansfield and Lincoln, and some commute to London. It has a surprisingly young age profile with 7,500 under 30 and 12,000 under 44 in a total population of over 22,000.

Retford is surrounded by fertile farms and charming villages. The River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal both pass through the town centre. There are walks through the surrounding countryside, and the Idle Valley Nature Reserve contains many different habitats and is the largest wetland area in Nottinghamshire where over 250 species of birds have been recorded there making it one of the top birding sites in the UK. Recently two families of Beavers have been released into a special enclosure there.

Retford is known as being at the centre of Nonconformity, with the origins of the Pilgrims, Baptists and Methodism being in this area. The town has three Church of England parishes, of which St Swithun's is one, Methodist, Baptist and Free Church Chapels and a Roman Catholic Church, and they all belong to Churches Together in Retford.

Sports and fitness are well catered for by gymnasia and a swimming pool, a number of football, rugby, cricket and bowls clubs. The University of the Third Age is very strong and helps to keep the older generation physically and mentally fit and active.

Retford is very close to the A1 trunk road, has a main-line station taking people into London Kings Cross (90min), York (40min), Leeds (25min), a cross country service to Lincoln and Sheffield, and easy access to the airports at Doncaster, East Midlands, and Manchester.



OUR CHURCH

From 2002 St Swithun's was part of the Retford Area Team Ministry. This was dissolved in 2019 when Retford was separated into three ecclesiastical parishes, St Saviour's to the east and All Hallows, Ordsall with St Michael's to the west. St Swithun's parish covers the town centre. We have been in vacancy since 2017 and have been served by retired clergy living in the area.

There are 30 on the Electoral Roll, and the Sunday congregation numbers around 25. The midweek service is generally well supported. However, the church plays a significant role in the town, hosting Civic Services, Recitals, Concerts, Art Exhibitions and a Christmas Tree Festival that brings literally thousands of people into the building. It is also significant in the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims and for some years has hosted 'Illuminate' events around the anniversary of the Pilgrims setting sail and Thanksgiving. The church receives significant practical support from the Civic Society. All of these events and connections present huge opportunities as we look towards the next season for our church.

The first record of a church here in East Retford dates from 1258, so the first building must pre-date that! We believe that the oldest part of the present church is an area known as 'The Lady Chapel' which is now converted into a meeting room because the church hall is no longer fit for use. On the arches either side of the central pillar remnants of medieval wall painting can be seen.

The church is cruciform with a central tower. The first tower was blown down in 1651 during a storm causing a lot of damage to the chancel and south transept. It was rebuilt in 1658 on stronger pillars.

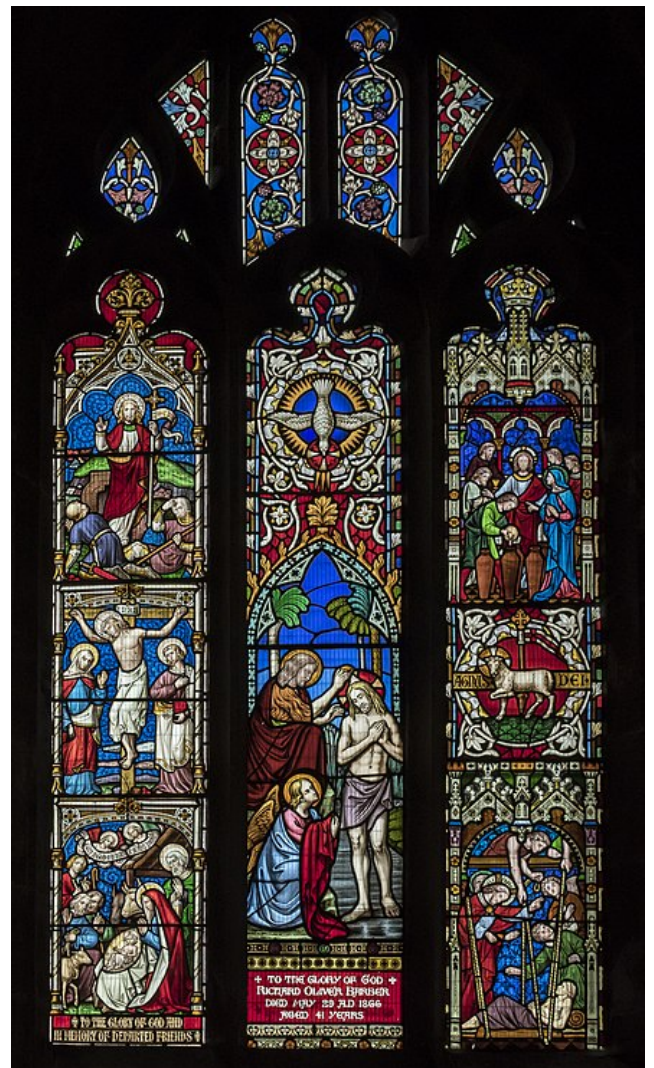
Visitors find a number of features worth looking at. There are 'angels' in the roof of the nave and side aisles. One carries a shield on which are two choughs, the emblem of Retford. Some of the stained glass is very fine. There are also interesting and sometimes amusing memorials to individuals and to people lost during military campaigns. There is a fine pipe organ, built in 1841, enlarged in 1886 and rebuilt in 1980, which is often used for recitals.

Our current pattern of services is:

First Sunday in the month 3pm Evening Worship
Second Sunday in the month 11.00am Holy Communion
Third Sunday in the month 3pm Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday in the month 11.00 Morning Worship
Fifth Sunday in the month we usually have an informal act of worship suitable for people of all ages.

THURSDAYS 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

On Feast Days we hold specially designed services. Our worship is varied in both content and style.



OUR NEW INCUMBENT

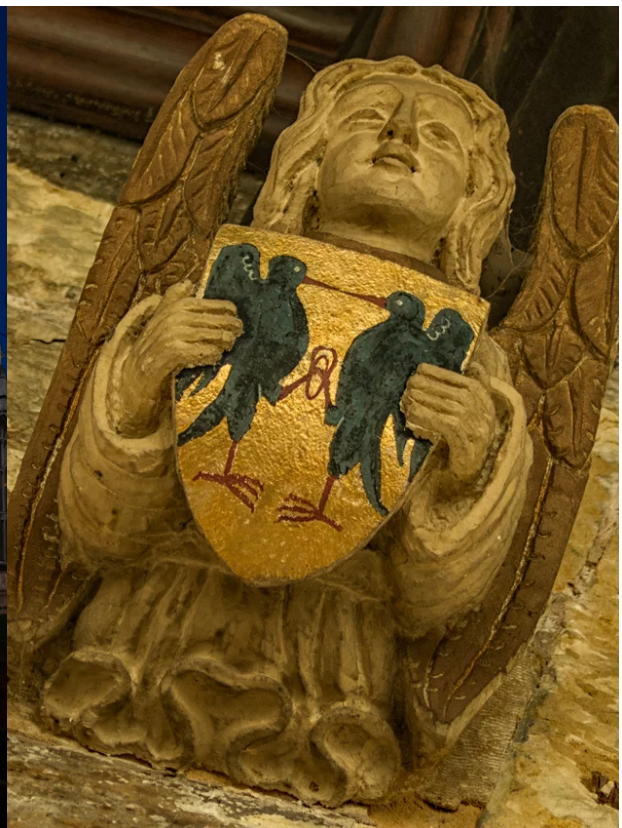
Person specification

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

- A personal devotion to the Lord reflected and rooted in prayer
- Equipped and empowered by, and confident in leading in, the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- A vision for, commitment to, and experience of, evangelism and church growth across all ages
- 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 working collaboratively to build and sustain life-giving teams
- Experience of pioneering new forms of ministry, including planting/grafting new worshipping communities
- Experience of and confidence in leading contemporary expressions of worship
- 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 pioneering and 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
- Friendly, approachable with a sense of humour and full of love for God and people
- Welcoming to all people wherever they are in life, and whatever their needs and means



PRIORITIES OF THE ROLE

- Develop a growing disciples plan (GDP) to set the vision, plan for growth and incorporate the missional priorities .
- To establish and grow a thriving new worshipping community centred around contemporary worship at St Swithun's of 150+ by end of 2026 which will focus on reaching a younger age profile across the town.
- To establish and grow a new worshipping community, such as after school church or similar, reaching out to children and young people around the town and seeing 50+ engaged in weekly worship.
- To establish an easily accessible and hospitable centre for prayer with a 24x7 prayer room, also reaching out to the night-time economy.
- To support and develop the work of the Town Chaplaincy, reaching out to those involved in retail, hospitality and business in the town.
- To enable pathways of nurture for new believers and existing members, and helping newer members, and helping newer members of the Christian community find avenues for service and mission, using their gifts.
- To grow a leadership team that reflects a younger, local, demographic including the development and mentoring of local missional leaders.
- Revitalise the building to help enable mission and achievement of the priorities outlined above by creating a flexible venue for the new worshipping community and as a venue offering outstanding hospitality in the centre of Retford, seeking to incorporate a visitor centre and café, attracting significant visitors every week.
- Create a culture of radical generosity and financial sustainability.
- To focus the resources of the church (financial, buildings and personnel) on the above priorities.
- Develop the church as a resourcing church to the town and beyond.



OUR FINANCES

Full accounts available on request.

St Swithun's Church Retford - Parish Profile - Financial statement

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Planned giving	19,585	18,334	Parish Share	19,752	19,260
Casual giving	2,629	249	Clergy expenses	413	210
Hall lettings	-	2,250	Running Costs	10,104	9,247
Fund raising	2,452	1,111	Repairs & Maintenance	1,847	775
Christmas Tree Festival	7,292	-	Hall insurance	1,180	1,115
COVID appeal	-	8,120	Other hall costs	700	268
Investment income	195	180	Support costs	300	300
Legacies & other	4,500	400	Quinquennial inspection	-	1,008
total income	36,652	30,645	Management & admin	413	642
<i>less</i> expenditure	<i>(35,124)</i>	<i>(32,824)</i>	Fund raising costs	413	-
movement in funds during year	1,529	(2,179)		35,124	32,824
Balances at start of year	34,374	36,554			
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	£ 35,903	£ 34,374			

OUR SCHOOLS

Although there are no schools in St Swithun's Parish, we do welcome school groups for a range of educational visits. One example is a week of 'Time Travel'; a way in which school groups can focus on an aspect of church life or local church history. The history and location of our church lends itself to this sort of engagement with schools and we hope to develop our offer in this regard.

Local primary and secondary schools often request the use of the church for their end of year activities and presentations because of its size.

Below - The Elizabethan Academy Choir with their teachers at a performance in St Swithun's, November 2021



OUR ACTIVITIES (PRE-COVID)

St Swithun's Church is in a prime position in the heart of a busy town centre and during a normal year there are regular events taking place which are well supported by the people of the town and the surrounding area.

The Church has been open for 3 days a week – when we have had visitors from near and far to call in to see the church, to pray, occasionally to join in the midweek service, and to have a cup of tea or coffee with us. A regular rota is set up for our congregation members to be there to welcome them and be able to show them around. We hope to be open again very soon.

The Town Centre Chaplaincy provides an important link to the businesses and users of the town centre. The Chaplaincy consists of a self-supporting minister, who is passionate about serving the community and the church and acting as a bridge between them. There is scope to develop this team further.

Exhibitions are regularly held by The Retford Photographic Society and The Retford Arts Society (twice a year)

Organ Recitals by some of the finest organists in the country are arranged throughout the year.

The Cantate Ecumenical Choir meets for rehearsals weekly and their concerts in the church and elsewhere are well attended. They also join our congregation for special Choral Services.

Bell ringing – Weekly ringing practices can be heard all over the town, and the bells are also rung for services. We have visiting teams, and peals are rung, often to mark special events.

Thanksgiving/Illuminate/ Candles of Hope Day – events are organised by the Bassetlaw Christian Heritage Committee most years. In November 2021, there was a full day of activities starting with a quarter peal on the bells, followed by organ pieces specially composed for the Mayflower commemorations with supporting narratives from the Bassetlaw Museum Heritage Officer. These were followed by musical performances, videos and talks to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving Meal, held by the Mayflower Pilgrims in North America. Visitors were asked to bring cans to be given to the Bassetlaw Food Bank. Everyone who came enjoyed the day and the Food Bank was very pleased with the hundreds of cans which were delivered the next day.

Annual Christmas Tree Festival 2021 – since it was not possible to have our Tree Festival in 2020 it was a joy to hold it again in 2021. Over 1500 adults plus their families, as well as school groups, came to look at the exhibition and to spend time in the lady chapel enjoying refreshments. This was a real community event with volunteers from the congregation and from other churches, The Civic Society, The WI and Retford Lions Club, looking after the visitors. Students from St Giles Special School helped as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Pupils from other schools visited and sang their Christmas songs in the choir stalls. Musicians and singers performed throughout the week.

The elderly, loyal and faithful congregation has worshipped in church weekly and Sunday Worship has been recorded and made available on a website for people unable to get to church. These have reached a wider audience. Anyone not able to access the internet has received a cd which has been taken to their home for them to enjoy

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

The revitalisation envisioned through this SDF supported project provides an exciting opportunity to establish a new resourcing church for the town of Retford and the surrounding area. The location and space offered by the church will enable a new leader and team to maximise the potential opportunities which are:

- The existing congregation, though small, are committed to the vision for St Swithun's to enter a new season of growth. They are not averse to change – indeed, they long for the church to flourish and to provide a Christian 'centre' for the town.
- Many opportunities to connect with the younger age demographic of the town.
- There is a great deal of goodwill from the community and especially from the Civic Society and local authority.
- The location of the church provides an ideal opportunity to create new opportunities for mission.
- With some reordering, the space could become a centre for worship and learning.
- The PCC have started work with the church architect on reordering plans, something which the Retford Civic Society are supportive of.
- Development of the town centre Chaplaincy - reaching out to the retail, hospitality and commercial businesses, and developing ways of ministering to the night-time community and the homeless.
- Good relationships with other denominations.

It is envisaged that St Swithun's could develop into a resource hub that is the engine for planting and grafting new worshipping communities into other areas and act as a focus for training and development for other parishes and church communities.

THE VICARAGE

The East Retford Vicarage is found at 1 Chapel Gate, Retford, Nottingham, DN22 6PL and is a perfect family home. The house has a large kitchen, a sitting room, a study, a utility room, as well as storage with a generous garden outside. There are four good sized bedrooms with three bathrooms including one en suite.





CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thank you for considering this profile. We hope that it has given you a flavour of the huge opportunities that are here and we would love to invite you to consider if God is calling you to step into this adventure.

If you would like more information, please contact Ven. Tors Ramsey, Archdeacon of Newark at archd-newark@southwell.anglican.org or 01636 817226.