



St Giles' Church

West Bridgford

Parish Profile

2022



We are a community of disciples seeking to grow wider, younger and deeper through our witness to Jesus in West Bridgford and beyond

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Welcome from our Churchwardens



*"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.
And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf
is welcoming me"*

Welcome to St Giles!

We have both attended St Giles' for many years, and we are delighted to be serving our church as wardens through the current vacancy.

We hope that this Parish Profile gives you a feel for what our church is about: who we are, what we do, and how we want to develop our faith and our church. Of course, this document cannot tell the whole story so we very much hope you will come to visit and meet us. Indeed, we hope and pray that you might even decide St Giles' is to be part of your own vocational journey of faith; one in which your gifts, skills and efforts can complement ours for the greater glory of God, and the further development of Jesus's work on earth.

St Giles Church is in the heart of our community of West Bridgford. Whilst our church building is very traditional, we like to think we are a broad, welcoming church family that can and should provide a nurturing home for those comfortable with any, or all, strands of the Anglican tradition. We already offer different services and different worship styles, aiming to welcome lifelong Christians and newcomers, but we also recognise that we have more to do in this area.

The diocese recognises St Giles' as a strategic

Resource Church within its ambition to Grow Disciples: Wider, Younger, Deeper. In the last year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have supported a church graft to a neighbouring parish, giving away 16 people from the core of our church family to expand and reinvigorate a nearby church.

As you will see, our church spans the ages: from an active Seniors group for those who are retired to our thriving Children's ministry led by our fabulous Children & Families Worker. There is a busy weekly Youth programme too. We have home groups for people to belong to and a strong culture of pastoral support to those facing challenges.

We recognise there is potential for significant growth across all ages at St Giles; well beyond what we are used to. We are looking for someone who will lead us to achieve that - through reaching more widely into our community and through better harnessing & developing the Gifts of the Spirit within all our existing congregations.

God's work is never done and we know that there is so much more that we could be doing to build his kingdom here in West Bridgford and beyond. Can you help us build a bigger, bolder future?



Our Diocese



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 West Bridgford 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, contributing beyond full ministry costs to parish share)

As a leader of one of our larger resourcing churches, the new Rector of West Bridgford would receive an induction into diocesan personnel, participation on the Bishops' Fireside programme and ongoing support through the diocesan 'larger resourcing

churches' network.

The Archdeacon writes, "The benefice of West Bridgford is one of the diocesan larger resourcing churches that is 'growing to give itself away'. It has recently exemplified this by giving away several church families (14 adults and their youth aged children) support the revitalised ministry at Lady Bay, a neighbouring parish. The next Rector of St Giles will be building on a solid foundation of faithful parochial ministry where worship, evangelism and discipleship is rooted in the West Bridgford community. We look forward to welcoming the new Rector as they bring a new season of numerical and spiritual growth, releasing the laity in their gifting, and inhabiting the role as a significant leader working collaboratively in West Bingham deanery and the diocese."

Bishop Paul has said: "It is my hope that each worshipping community in the diocese 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 Rector of West Bridgford will have the creative and visionary leadership to lead this important ministry into new growth as one of the larger resourcing churches in the diocese, having a heart for evangelism, gifts in growing other leaders, as well as reaching younger to connect with new generations."



Our Deanery



West Bingham Deanery

Parish Map



Our Deanery

The West Bingham Deanery is made up of 23 parishes situated to the south of Nottingham. They comprise a range of diverse contexts including the suburban areas of West Bridgford to the north, the urban development of Clifton and the village of Ruddington across the centre and the more rural villages around Gotham and East Leake to the south. This is a great time to be joining the Deanery as we discern how we can work together more effectively to grow disciples "Wider, younger and deeper". The new Rector of St Giles' will work particularly closely with the neighbouring parishes in West Bridgford and a vibrant and supportive ecumenical community.

Deanery Synod meets at least three times a year to focus on a different aspect of our Diocesan Vision. These are opportunities to learn from each other, to share resources and ideas, to be encouraged by what God is already doing amongst us and dare to pray for new growth. Clergy meet as chapter on a regular basis for mutual support, prayer and friendship.

In the coming years in our Deanery we want to see:-

A deepening heart for prayer seeking God's kingdom and God's will to be done across all our parishes

A few churches growing in generosity as 'resource churches' prepared to serve and support other churches across the Deanery and beyond

A number of 'new worshipping communities' established within the Deanery that serve groups and networks of people that we are not currently engaging with. This includes establishing an effective outreach to areas of new housing.

Every parish working in collaboration with at least one other parish in a way that benefits and challenges all parties.

A growth in lay ministry across the Deanery with a particular focus on encouraging younger leaders.

We would love the new Rector to share something of this shared vision for the Deanery as well as working with the current team to build on the great foundations of mission and ministry in the parish of St Giles.

Mark Fraser - Area Dean



revised 21/09/08

Our Vision for our Church

St Giles is blessed with many loyal, gifted, committed Christians.

It is rightly considered one of the Diocesan Resource Churches in its ambition of Growing Disciples: Wider, Younger and Deeper. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, and 'giving some of ourselves away' in support of a recent and successful church graft, the PCC has a vision and a thirst for regrowth at St Giles'. We want those in our church to truly live for Jesus: releasing our full potential and sharing God's message within our community and beyond.

We want those in our church to truly live for Jesus

Growing Disciples: Wider

We aspire to reach more widely into our community. Through our witness, we want more people to know Jesus – our friends, our colleagues and those who are strangers to us. We believe we should be less restrained by our church building, beautiful as it is!

We envisage more 'relational evangelism' – showing God's love in action in West Bridgford and beyond, from which we can build relationships and introduce more people to Jesus.

We recognise we need a stronger invitational culture,

ensuring our church is as welcoming and as engaging for newcomers as for those who are already part of St Giles'. We want to offer easy and accessible ways in, including specially designed invitational services and events.

We want to use social media more broadly and effectively, to connect with some of those who we are not currently reaching, enabling people to discover more about the life of our church and how we live our faith.

Growing Disciples: Younger

Our children's ministry is already strong; it is well placed to accommodate more children when we draw more young families to St Giles. Our local (non-denominational) schools are keen to have more contact with St Giles' and we see that as another way to reach out into our wider community – and ultimately to help more people to know Jesus.

A reinvigorated provision for St Giles' youth should be a key part of our future. The PCC is currently developing plans to increase St Giles's income so we can once again support a paid Youth Worker, perhaps in conjunction with nearby parishes. We also want to ensure the 18-35 age group, present in substantial numbers in our local population, can find a place at St Giles. We envisage re-establishing additional worship and fellowship, open to all, but focused on this age group including the significant local student and young adult population without children." They are, of course, potentially the families of the future, too.

Growing Disciples: Deeper

We envisage a church family where individuals can continue to nurture and develop their faith, through varied expressions of worship and fellowship, but where all are still united by a common core of scripture-based teaching & discipleship.

We want to create a space where we can have confidence to develop, explore and express the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We have a vision for a bold and courageous church family: equipped to act as witnesses to Jesus and comfortable contributing to the life of the church through service or leadership roles.

We want to create a space where we can have confidence to develop, explore and express the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We want to be more collectively prayerful, as a key to spiritual growth, offering people different opportunities to have a more active relationship with Jesus through prayer.

We have no doubt that with ongoing prayer, and further supportive and enabling leadership, we can more fully realise our calling to know Jesus, to do his work in the modern world and to grow new disciples.



Our Vision for our new Rector

We hope and pray that our next Rector will lead our Church family to flourish and grow as Spirit-filled, disciplined individuals, and as a community. We look forward to working with them; we do not expect them to be perfect, nor have the answer to every challenge.

We do hope and pray they will:

- Provide inspiring Biblical-based teaching, discipling and leadership, ensuring we reach a deeper understanding of God's message, how it applies to our lives and how we can support others in that too.
- Be able to connect with and honour the existing, varied worship styles at St Giles - and be comfortable exploring and developing new worship patterns.
- Be approachable and down to earth, able to engage with a diverse range of people, wherever they are and whatever their situation, across generations and traditions.
- Have an instinctive heart for those who are struggling and an ability to stand alongside people at difficult times of life, ensuring that an empathetic heart is central to our church family.
- Foster a culture of spiritually-guided courage and confidence amongst us all, encouraging us to pursue more adventurous expressions of faith and mission.
- Nurture in our church a fuller understanding of the Gifts of the Spirit that we have each been given, those realised and those yet to be discovered; enabling us all to serve God more effectively, when at church and when in the wider world.
- Thrive on the challenge of managing a complex church programme and support and develop our leaders and teams (paid and unpaid). Guide with wisdom when different perspectives arise and act with sensitivity when change is needed.
- Be a leader who will listen attentively, but who knows when to be directive in order to deliver the priorities. Be bold enough to make mistakes, and brave enough to admit to them.
- Embrace the opportunities provided by technology and digital communication methods, and be appreciative of their potential to support us in doing God's work in our church and our community.
- Bring and foster enjoyment, laughter and a sense of fun.

"Dear brothers and sisters, honour those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance."



Our Staff, Volunteers & PCC

Our Team

The current church staff comprises the Children & Families Worker and the Administrator, both part time. In addition, the Worship Band Leaders and the Choir Leader & Organist are also both paid for their time. In the past we have also had a Youth Worker and a Curate, but not currently. The church's other ministry areas are led by our experienced volunteers, including pastoral, safeguarding, seniors, homegroups and prayer.

We have a PCC of 21 people, including two Church Wardens, the Treasurer and the PCC Secretary. The PCC membership spans the different ages from across our church family, and includes those who have been members for several years alongside others who have joined recently.

During the vacancy two retired members of clergy, who are part of our church, are covering most of the services together with the life events (baptisms, weddings & funerals).



Children, Families and Youth



Our local community has many young families and we are blessed to have lots of those families as part of our church. We employ a Children's & Families Worker (28 hours per week) and although in the past we have also employed a part time Youth Worker, we don't have anyone in this role currently (partly due to financial challenges and partly a consequence of rebuilding after the pandemic).

On a Sunday morning (unless it's the monthly All Age service) we run activities for our under 18s - we have

around 50 children and 25 teenagers registered at St Giles. Volunteers and parents are heavily involved in running all these groups, alongside our Children's and Families Worker.

- Junior Church is for primary school aged children and Sunbeams is our toddler/pre-school group. The children learn worship songs to share with the wider church, they engage with the Scripture in creative and sensory ways and have time to pray and listen to God.
- St Giles has a wonderful group of teenagers. The Sunday youth session includes games, teaching videos,

scripture, discussion, and prayer. Our youth also get together midweek - there are small groups for 11-14 year olds and 14-18 year olds and we have Friday Youth Night (a mix of worship nights and socials) when all our teenagers come along and are encouraged to invite their friends. In some of this we partner with Lady Bay Church, sharing hosting and leading with participation from both churches.

We welcome mainly non-church families to our weekly

toddler group. We introduce them to Bible stories and invite them to our monthly all-age services and other special events for children. At Christmas and Easter we hold our toddler sessions in the church building for a joyful celebration.

Children love our special events through the year, celebrating Christmas, Easter, summer, harvest, and our light party. In the recent past, we have also run Messy Church and parenting courses and taken our youth on weekends away. Although we have vibrant Children's and Youth ministries there is undoubtedly potential to do more - there are lots of opportunities for growth! In particular, we would like to have an expanded team to support our youth and be able to make more connections with children and young people in the local schools and community.



Prayer Ministry



"So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding."

Our prayer ministry is committed to building a deeper and more prayerful life in our church.

We have a small team that lead the intercessions in the 9am Sunday service, and the prayer ministry team prays before, during and after the Sunday 10.30 service, for those who seek prayer. We would like to enable the wider congregation to pray together, to draw closer to each other and to God and to lean on God to develop a stronger relationship with Him. We are working to encourage others to seek prayer and for this to be a core part of our church life - to celebrate important events in life as well as seeking help and guidance for difficult times. At times, we use creative prayer stations to prompt conversations with God - during all age services, at church weekends away, at youth worship nights and on women's away days. We are also looking to reintroduce

regular prayer activities that were part of our church life before the pandemic, such as prayer evenings and 24 hours of prayer events.

We are seeking to build a more prayerful life for our church and to support each other in prayer and we would love for there to be a wider number of people from all ages who seek prayer and who pray for one another.



Discipleship Ministry

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

There are eight Home Groups that meet weekly providing an opportunity for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, with currently about 70 people who regularly attend.

Groups mainly meet in the evenings, although there are a couple during the daytime too. Home Group leaders meet several times a year to learn, encourage each other, pray and share resources.

People in home groups appreciate the value they find from growing their faith in a small group setting, but

there are many in our church family who are not yet part of a home group. We would like to encourage more to reflect on the opportunity for their faith to be nurtured and deepened within a small group. In recent years we have also struggled to find leaders confident enough to host and run these groups. We hope that our next Rector will be able to address these challenges, inspiring and equipping people to invest more time and energy in helping themselves and others to grow in their faith.

Pre-Covid, we ran Alpha once a year but often

struggled to know how to support fledgling Christians afterwards, other than them joining established home groups which didn't always work. The last Alpha we ran was a daytime course and we felt prompted by the Holy Spirit that the group should continue to meet as a home group with a focus on understanding the fundamentals of Christianity and growing faith; this has worked well. We aspire to have a more established route for new Christians to develop their faith in a supported environment at St Giles.



Pastoral Care

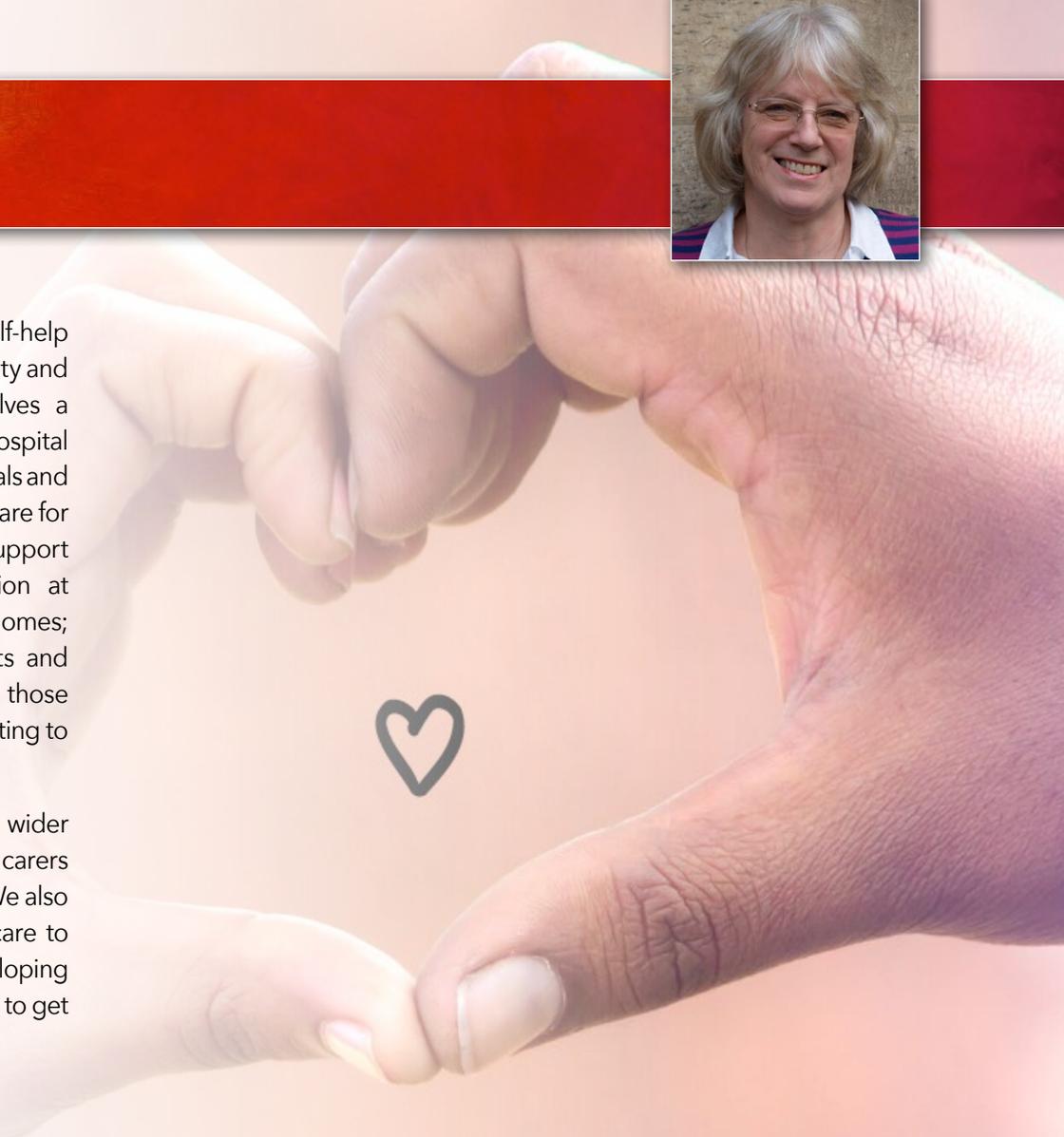


Pastoral support is an expression of our Christian care and love for each other.

It is not something carried out only by our Rector, but s/he retains an overview and responsibility for it. The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator facilitates support and liaises frequently with the Rector. Our home groups provide an important role in pastoral care while members of the congregation have considerable professional expertise in social care and medicine and can therefore provide helpful information or support. Members of the congregation may be supported by a group, or by an individual with a particular area of expertise. Pastoral care is an integral part of our very active seniors' ministry. We aim to continue to be a church where it is OK not to be OK and to be open about

mental health. We hold a monthly self-help group for people who live with anxiety and depression. Pastoral support involves a wide range of activities, including hospital and home visits; support for individuals and families in need or crisis; end of life care for members of our congregation and support for their families; Holy Communion at private homes and residential care homes; transport to worship, church events and hospital appointments; meals for those recovering from operations or adjusting to life with a new baby.

We would like to provide an even wider range of activities and support - for carers and for the bereaved, for example. We also wish to extend our welcome and care to new members of our church, by developing our welcome practice with follow-up to get to know newcomers better.



"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."



Seniors' Ministry



We have a thriving seniors' ministry at St Giles' with about 70 over 60s who regularly take part in our activities.

Each month we have Coffee and Chat at a local Garden Centre, and also an organised event- a visit to a place of interest, a boat trip, a meal out or a film show after lunch in church. We have members in most of the local residential complexes who encourage new residents to come along to events and many now attend St Giles' regularly. The Wednesday Midweek Communion service is mostly attended by seniors and is valued for the fellowship it offers.

Seniors are active in many varied parts of church life - welcoming on Sundays, stewarding events, helping with upkeep of the churchyard, singing in the choir, flower arranging and acting as Sacristans setting up before services.

Our vision is to combat loneliness and isolation not only for those who are part of our church but also for the senior population of our local community. Our social events are a great way of allowing us to demonstrate God's love and care for all, and for some people this can be a first step in wanting to know more about the Christian faith.

Our vision is to combat loneliness and isolation not only for those who are part of our church but also for the senior population of our local community.



How we Worship

Across the weekly services we have a variety of styles of worship.

- On a Sunday morning the 9.00 service is a traditional setting of the Communion service, following the liturgy of the Church of England's Common Worship with the St Giles' choir.
- The 10.30 Sunday service is more contemporary and informal - worship is led by the band, and there is regularly communion and prayer ministry offered. Each Sunday, between the two services, the congregations join together for coffee.
- Once a month the 10.30 service is an All Age service when all the children stay in church. We look to be creative in how we teach and pray, and our worship band expands to include junior players and singers.
- Twice a month we have Sunday Evening song according to the Book of Common Prayer and led by the St Giles' Choir.

- Midweek we have a traditional communion service on Wednesday mornings.

Our Choir, a four-part robed choir led by our organist & musical director, sings for the 9.00 Sunday Eucharist. They lead the service setting and hymns, and sing an anthem during communion. Their repertoire includes a wide range and style of music ranging from plain chant to Rutter.

Our 10.30 service has a lively worship team of over 20 musicians leading a more contemporary style of worship and our inclusive all age orchestra takes part in several services a year, when children and adults come together to play. Christmas is always a special time when all our musicians join to lead worship as a massed orchestra, band and choir.

During lockdown we made our own 'blessing style' videos, involving our choir and our worship team, and we hope to continue to build on these blended approaches to worship, bridging the musical styles at St Giles.

When we were unable to meet in church during lockdown we recorded live worship every week in a variety of ways which has given us a legacy of worship recorded on YouTube for all to access. Our worship team also supports one off events like women's breakfasts, and youth nights, and has held worship away days, song writing workshops and instrumental training. We are keen too to reintroduce informal worship evenings that were held several times a year before the pandemic.



Worship is a key part of our Children's and Youth ministries, with leaders incorporating worship into their weekly sessions as well as being at the heart of the monthly All Age services. Our talented youth have a strong relationship with the worship team, having grown in confidence over the years to lead youth worship nights themselves from time to time. Last year several of them moved from St Giles as part of the local church graft, graduating to be fully fledged worship leaders in their new church.

We aim to glorify God using our worship times to hear from Him and to prepare us for the mission He calls us to. We want to continue to encourage people in using their gifts in worship, and are continuing to explore the collaboration between the 9.00 and 10.30 worship teams, learning from each other. We want to bring people closer to Christ through worship, deepening their relationship with Him.



Fellowship in our Church Life

At St Giles' we know that our faith is sustained and grows through fellowship and friendship.

Our women's ministry has developed strongly in recent years. Women's breakfasts are held quarterly on Saturday mornings with friends from St Luke's and Lady Bay churches, a great opportunity for women to get to know each other better and to be spiritually refreshed together. Our women's away days and weekends away have been supportive and uplifting times, to deepen both friendships and our relationship with God - on our last women's weekend away 65 women enjoyed the

opportunity for worship, prayer, quiet contemplation and relaxation.

Before the pandemic we also held men's breakfasts from time to time, on a weekday at 6.30am (yes really!), preparing everyone to start their working day with Jesus at the centre.

There are also monthly women's and men's evenings held over a beer or glass of wine in a local pub or bar.

We held our first Church Weekend Away in 2015, which was a time for spiritual growth and a deepening sense

of connection to God and to each other. Since then we have been away together as a church family every couple of years, until Covid caused our 2021 plans to be cancelled. 170 of us went away in 2019 and we hope that we can start planning our next weekend before too long. These are really special times, when we come together to share worship, teaching, food and fun. The weekend affords us the time and space to pause and reflect, and presents a wonderful opportunity to deepen our faith - we really feel the Holy Spirit move powerfully amongst us.



Community, Outreach and Wider Ministry

In our wider ministry we reach out to the local community in a number of ways.

We support the West Bridgford Advice Centre, which is held weekly in the church hall, and also the Friary Drop-in Centre, a local charity working with homeless and vulnerable adults, for which we fundraise and collect donations. The Friary CEO is keen to cultivate the relationship with the new rector, enabling us to work together more effectively for the benefit of the more vulnerable in our local community.

For many years, members of the congregation have volunteered as Street Pastors in Nottingham's city centre. St Giles' is eager to have a greater presence

in and around our local community and a Social and Outreach team has been formed recently to this end.

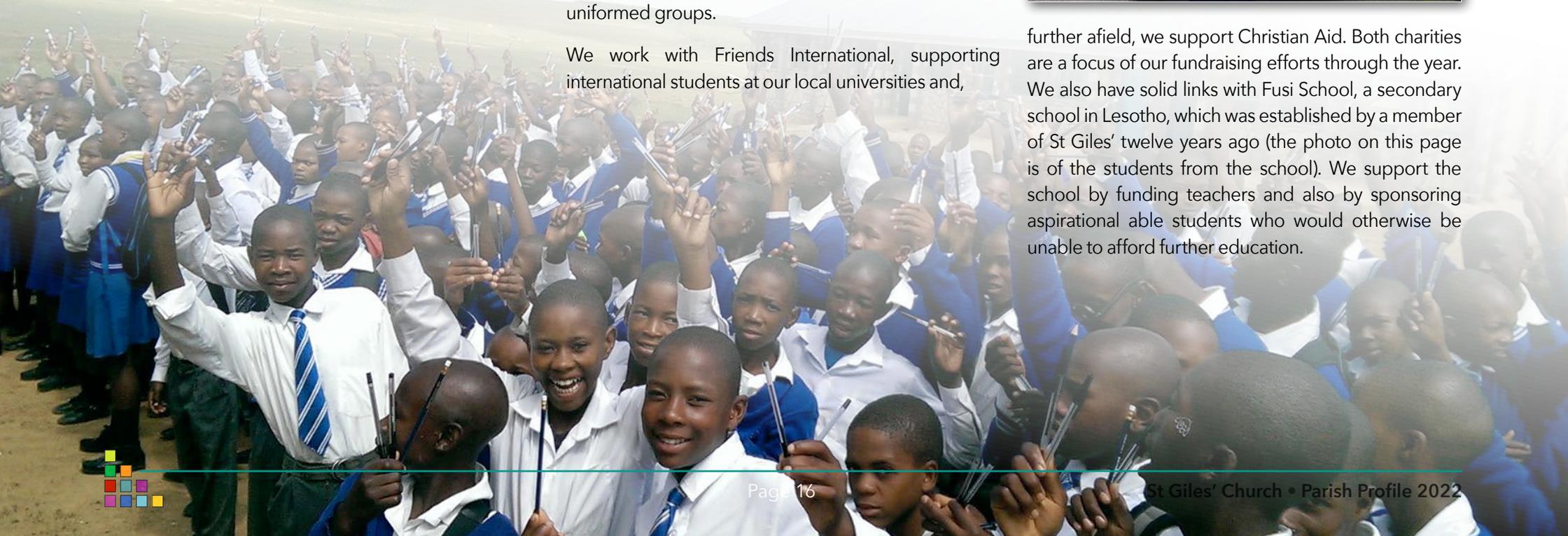
Since Covid we have not resumed our visits to lead worship at our local care homes, except for providing individuals with communion, but there are many care homes and seniors' apartments locally which we see as an opportunity to fulfil our diocese's vision of growing disciples and reaching more widely into our community.

We would welcome ways for the church buildings to be used more effectively by the local community in addition to their current use for concerts, dance classes, fitness groups, local school events and children's uniformed groups.

We work with Friends International, supporting international students at our local universities and,



further afield, we support Christian Aid. Both charities are a focus of our fundraising efforts through the year. We also have solid links with Fusi School, a secondary school in Lesotho, which was established by a member of St Giles' twelve years ago (the photo on this page is of the students from the school). We support the school by funding teachers and also by sponsoring aspirational able students who would otherwise be unable to afford further education.



Our Local Area & Community



With a population of 50,000, West Bridgford is a bustling and vibrant suburb of Nottingham, around 2 miles south of the city centre.

We appreciate the important role that St Giles plays in our community. We appreciate being able to use the church for events such as our Christmas Carol Concert. We appreciate when the church is able to support us with areas of learning such as RE, local history etc

It would be great to have more opportunities mentioned above moving forward. I would love to have regular assemblies, visits/tours to the church for the children, input into RE lessons and so on. This would also help for an open and mutually beneficial relationship where we were able to support each other with community projects. I believe that like a school, a church should be central to the local community and would love to work more closely moving forward.

*James Willis
Head Teacher, West Bridgford Junior School*

St Giles' is on the edge of Central Avenue, which is a destination in itself, home to many shops, cafes, restaurants and bars including Cote, Wagamama, Oliver Bonas, Marks & Spencer as well as numerous independent businesses. By day the Avenue is filled with families visit-

ing the fantastic space of Bridgford Park, the farmers market and gathering for coffee; by night friends meet for meals and drinks. St Giles' is within earshot of the City Ground, home to Nottingham Forest, and of Trent Bridge cricket ground; there's also Notts County just over the river.

There are beautiful walks and cycle rides along the River Trent, literally on our doorstep, and with great transport links you can be on the edge of the Peak District in 45 minutes. There are many sports clubs available locally - take your pick from rowing, canoeing, sailing, rugby, football, cricket, tennis, cycling, swimming, squash and hockey, to name just a few! For culture and music lovers, there are two large theatres in Nottingham, and several small ones too. There is a concert hall, the Nottingham Arena and various other live music venues and clubs, a choice of multiplexes or a couple of independent cinemas.



Although I do not attend church services at St Giles, I have over the years made a lot of friends through St Giles seniors event. On every occasion I have been afforded a very warm welcome. I have been hugely impressed by how friendly everyone is. In my opinion you already engage with the community very well.

County Councillor Gordon Wheeler
Nottinghamshire County Council

The two local senior schools - West Bridgford School and Rushcliffe Spencer Academy - are both Ofsted rated as outstanding and there are several excellent primary schools, all Ofsted rated outstanding or good.

With all this to offer, it's unsurprising that West Bridgford is widely regarded as one of the best places to live in the Midlands.

From a schools point of view the church is historically significant as a traditional church building. This helps us with links to both our history & RE curricula. It provides our children with a good example and understanding of the key Christian festivals and how they are celebrated. We love being able to celebrate in the church. It provides moments of awe for the children a sense of community and connection with families.

The church is always warm and welcoming to us as part of the community. It is important to us that we work in partnership with local faith and other groups.

What would be great is if you were to offer some specific, planned activities for schools to participate in. This could be linked to the RE curriculum. The Methodist church for example do an annual Christmas activity session which varies each year but involves art/story telling etc. We would also be very open to people coming into school for assemblies.

*Fiona Stevens
Head Teacher, West Bridgford Infant School*

Our Church Buildings

The Church Building

St Giles' is a medieval church although little remains from that period; most of the building dates from two major extensions around the turn of the last century. The 16th century bell tower contains a peal of 8 bells that are rung regularly, for Sunday services and weddings. The church is Grade II listed.

Inside the church, there is seating for 400, the majority of which is cushioned chairs that can be moved and stacked to reconfigure the space for different activities, from café style worship nights, to children's workshops and ceilidhs! The George Chapel, at the end of the north aisle, had

a kitchen installed to one side about a decade ago, and this is used for serving refreshments on Sundays and at other times. There is a glazed room at the back of church that we call The Haven - a space for youngsters and their families who need to wriggle or play or feed - it is connected to the sound system so the service can still be heard inside.



The Church Hall

The church hall was built in 1989 and consists of a large hall, a smaller meeting room, a large kitchen and the church toilets. There is also a garden that is used particularly by the children. The hall is used for church activities and is rented out for community use.

The Church Cottages

The church has two cottages adjacent to the churchyard which are rented out to provide income to the church.

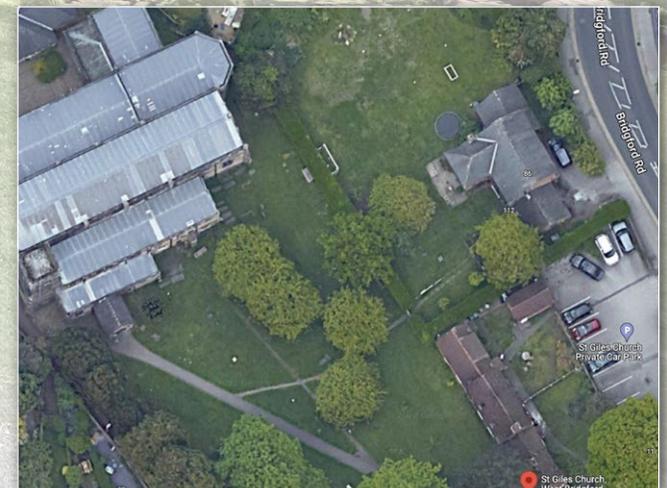


The Rectory



The Rectory

The Rectory is a modern 4 bedroom family home on Bridgford Road, adjacent to the church. On the ground floor there is a large entrance hall, kitchen, separate dining room, large living room, office and downstairs toilet. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The Rectory has a very large garden which backs onto the churchyard from where there is a path leading to the churchyard. There is also a garage and parking for 2 cars on the drive.



Our Finances

St Giles' PCC seeks to operate to an annual break even budget, and to maintain a cash reserve adequate to cover at least three months of expenditure. At the end of 2021 total reserves amounted to approximately £72,000.

The majority of the parish's income comprises regular contributions from members of the congregation and from service collections. With associated gift aid reclaims, this has averaged circa. £190,000 per annum, over the last three years. During the same period St Giles' has typically benefited from 120 regular monthly direct debits. Following a successful church graft in 2021, we saw a number of significant donors move away from St Giles'; our monthly giving levels have thus fallen in 2022. The PCC made changes to its expenditure to reflect that, but is currently supporting a fresh Stewardship campaign within the church family.

One off donations and legacies tend to fluctuate from year to year. When significant amounts have been received, these have historically been used to fund major church projects and building works. Capital investment of £35,000 was made in 2017 to improve and modernise audio visual equipment within the church. The church building has also undergone significant investment over recent years, including a renewal of the entrance area in 2018 costing £22,000

and full replacement of the church's boilers in 2021 costing £26,000; these projects were also further supported by specific giving campaigns.

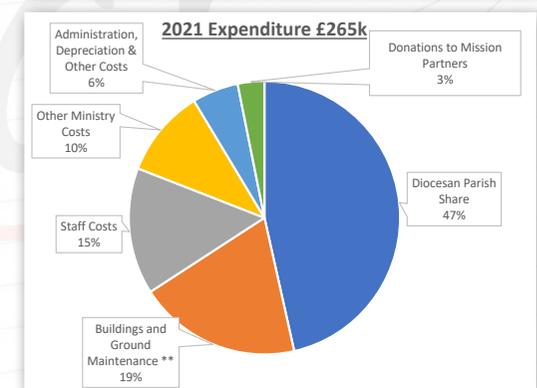
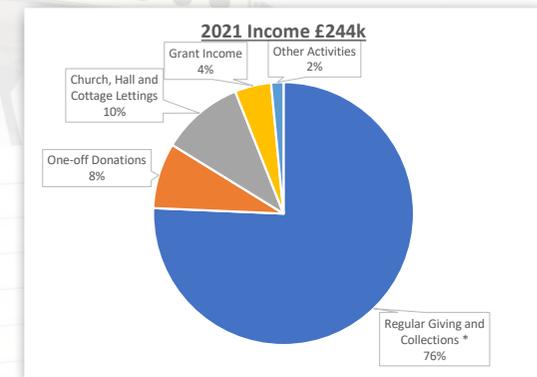
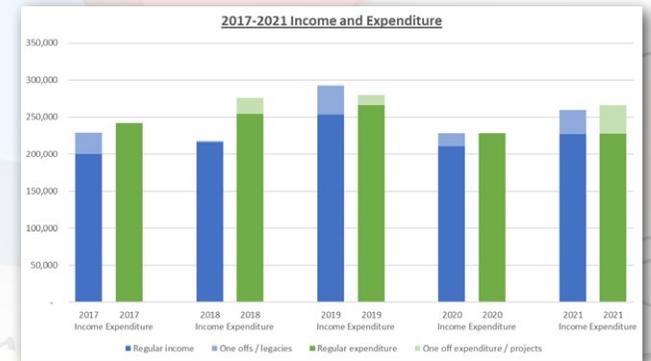
The church also benefits from a successful stream of letting income from the two cottages adjacent to the church, as well as the connected church hall. These provide a combined income of around £30,000-35,000 per annum, although this reduced slightly during the Covid pandemic.

A Diocesan parish share of approximately £120,000 has been paid in each of the last five years, amounting to the single largest item of expenditure for the church, with staff salaries being the next most significant regular cost.

A total of over £40,000 has been given to mission partners over the last 5 years. In 2017 the PCC committed to a target of giving away 10% of its planned giving income, and is continuing to work towards that.

* includes gift aid reclaimable on donations received

** Building and ground maintenance in 2021 includes £26,000 in relation to boiler replacement and £12,000 of costs associated with reopening following closure during the Covid pandemic, funded by a grant received from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church. We are committed to maintaining environments that are safe for all children, young people and adults and to creating nurturing, caring conditions within our church.

St Giles' has a good reputation within the diocese for its safeguarding practices, with an experienced Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) who also acts as Lead Recruiter. Written policies and procedures are reviewed annually.

Across the various children's groups and the two groups

that we have for potentially vulnerable adults, there are about 70 volunteers working. Group leaders manage volunteers day to day and notify any concerns, and the PSO is responsible for contacting existing volunteers when their DBS is due for renewal. When group leaders identify new volunteers, the PSO processes formal applications and confidential declarations, takes up and monitors references and processes applications on the online DBS system. Our focus is on making sure volunteers are up to date with relevant training, that they have current DBS clearance and that all groups have annually reviewed Health and Safety policies, ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe whilst in our care.

Promoting
a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young people & adults



Parish Statistics

The annual Statistics for Mission data is collected by the Church of England and gives an overview of attendance and participation.

Among other things, it outlines the size of the church's worshipping community; attendance church services, throughout the year and at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas; baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We should recognise that the numbers for 2020 and 2021 have been impacted by Covid disruption.

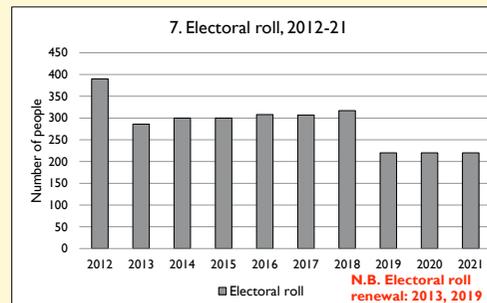
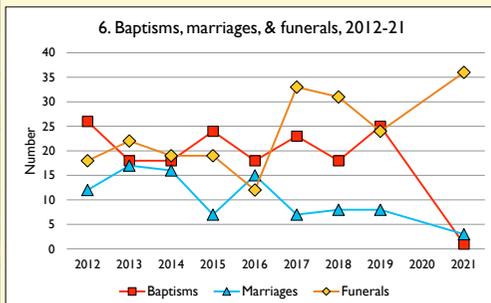
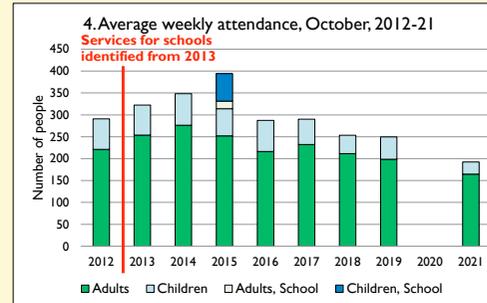
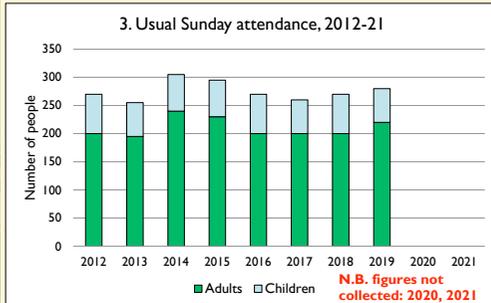
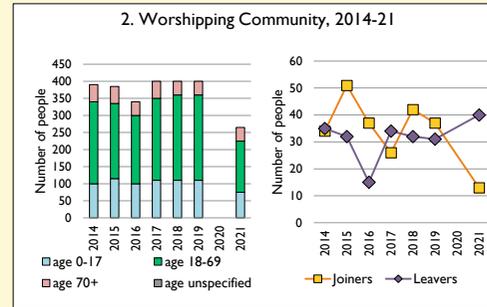
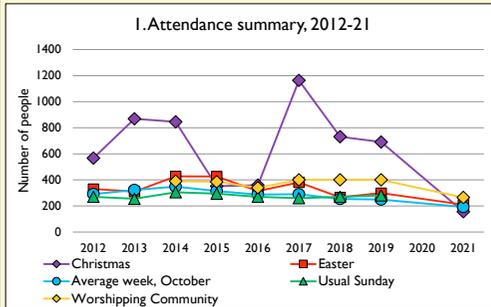
Typical attendances in early 2022:

Sunday services:
 9am: 60 adults
 10.30am: 100 adults plus;
 up to 10
 Toddlers:
 Junior church: 25-30
 Youth session: 10
 Evensong: 10-15 in the choir

Midweek activities:

Younger youth (Monday) ~10
 Older youth (Tuesday) ~12
 Wednesday communion 25
 Tiddlers: around 25 families
 Friday youth night: 5-20

Dashboard for the parish of West Bridgford in the Deanery of WEST BINGHAM



Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2012 1; 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 0; 2021 1.

Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 25/5/22.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Parish census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2018): 16304

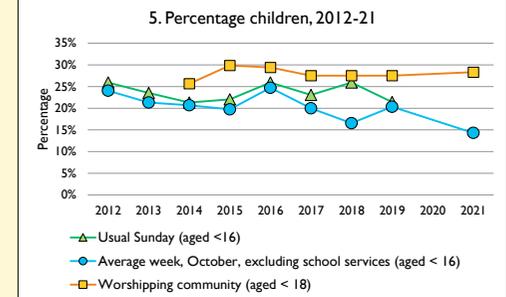
	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	20%	20%	21%
% aged 18-44	47%	38%	37%
% aged 45-64	21%	25%	25%
% aged 65 & over	11%	16%	16%
% Christian	49%	56%	59%
% non-Christian religion	6%	6%	9%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD, 2019): 1 | 1472

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,307=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>
 and <http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>

Number of churches in parish (2022): 1 Parish code: 380236



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2011 national Census and the 2018 population update.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>



Follow us on Twitter:
 @cofestats



Recent Church Members' Survey

Earlier this year, the PCC conducted a consultation survey which gave everyone at St Giles the opportunity to provide their input into the discernment process for the church vision.

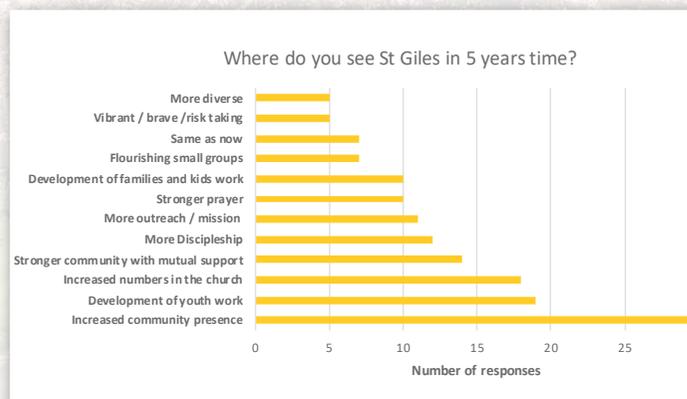
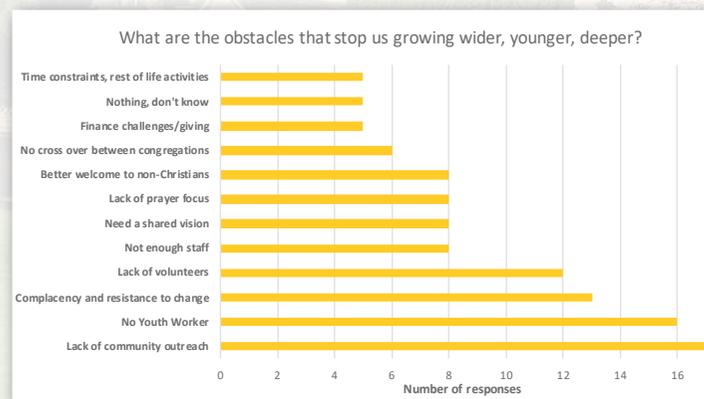
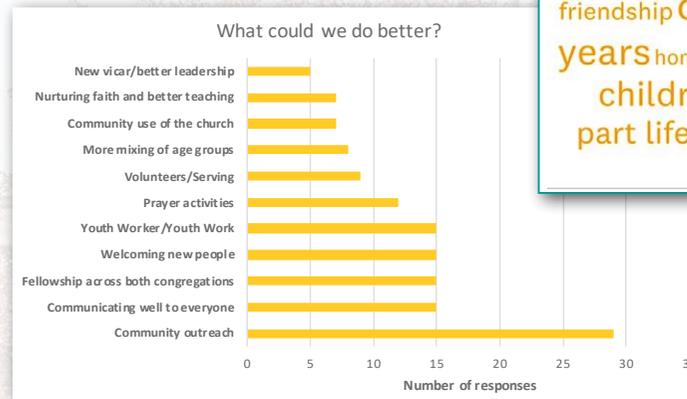
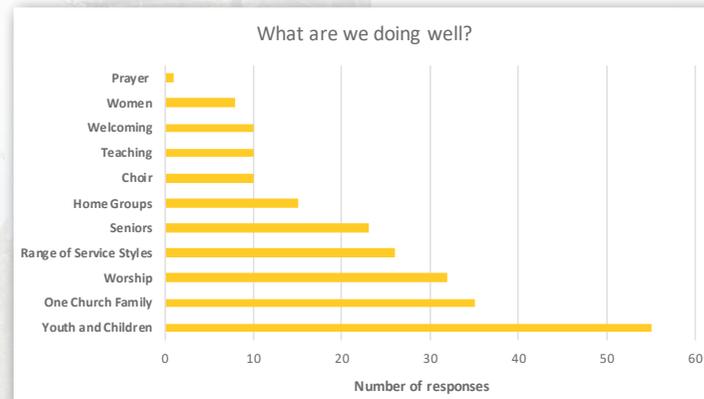
Around 80 responses were received, representing individuals and whole families, with the balance of

responses broadly reflecting the numbers attending our various services. These contributions fed into the PCC's vision away day, which was facilitated by Venerable Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham.

The survey highlighted the many strengths that our church family see in St Giles', and also the ways in

What does St Giles mean to you?

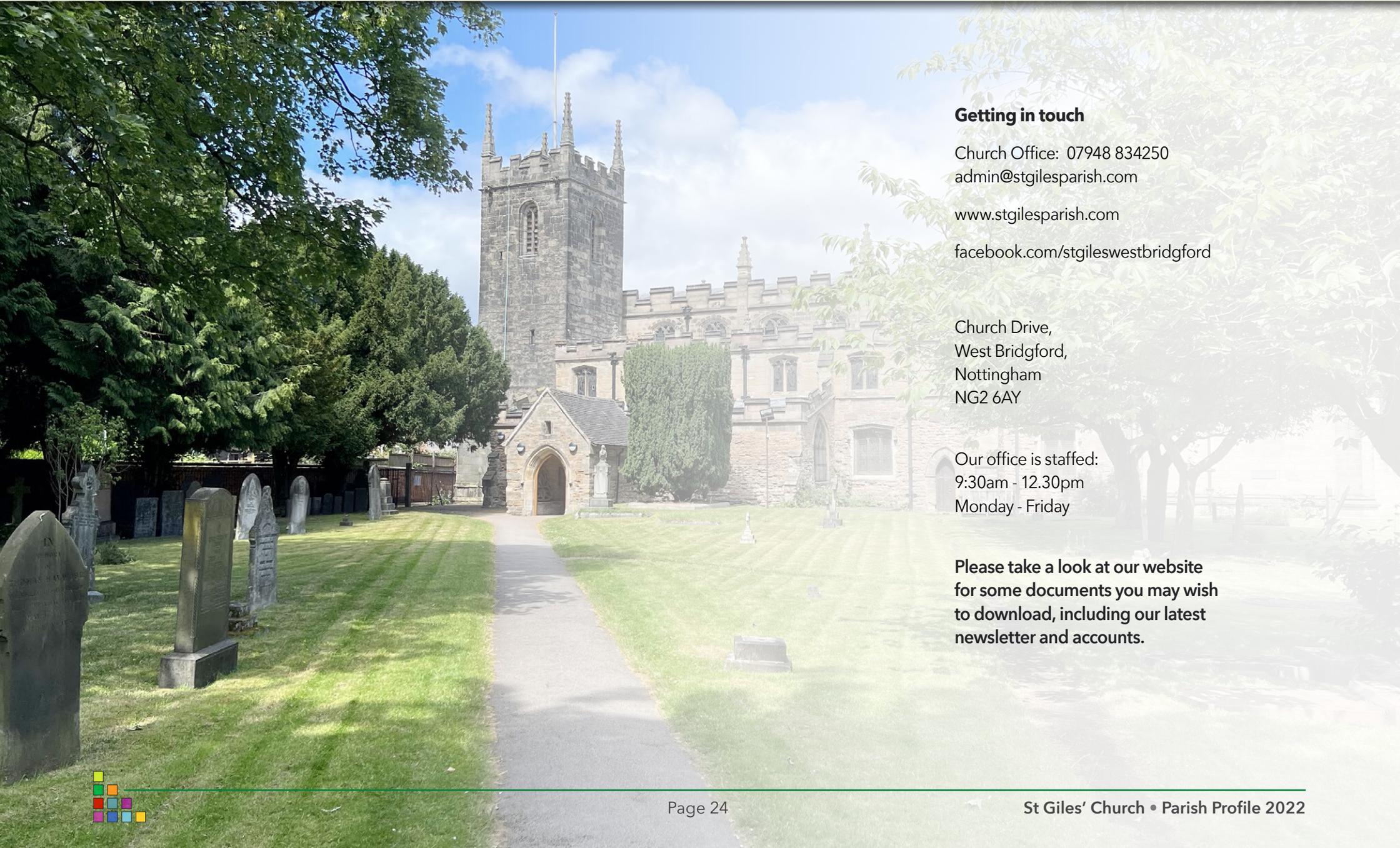
means lot made help much part involved journey group US Christ
 parish church found grown special
 church family strong people spiritual home faith
 made many friends worship God love home place
 serve family live St Giles fellowship church
 friendship community service feel junior church
 years home group support came welcoming will
 children spiritually life meet Christian connection
 part life Everything friends really good keeping helped us
 grow faith



which we see opportunities for us to grow wider, younger, and deeper in our faith, individually and collectively. The strongest themes are outlined in these charts.



Further information



Getting in touch

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admin@stgilesparish.com

www.stgilesparish.com

facebook.com/stgileswestbridgford

Church Drive,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham
NG2 6AY

Our office is staffed:
9:30am - 12.30pm
Monday - Friday

**Please take a look at our website
for some documents you may wish
to download, including our latest
newsletter and accounts.**

