

Fosse Group Benefice Profile

We are five Churches in God
Building Faith, Enriching Lives, Serving Communities

The FOSSE Group

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Our Benefice at a Glance



5 Villages



5 Churches



2 PCCs



'Good' local schools



3 Pubs



Less than 2 hours to London and easy access to the A1



Parish share paid in full for past 3 years



Beautiful rural location



30 min to Nottingham City Centre



2 Bellringing teams and a robed choir



One Vision

Contents

- Welcome — Page 03
- Our Diocese — Page 04
- Our Deanery — Page 05
- Our Benefice — Page 06
- Our New Rector — Page 07
- Our Team — Page 09
- Our Vision — Page 10
- Our Villages & Churches
  - East Bridgford — Page 15
  - Flintham — Page 17
  - Kneeton — Page 18
  - Car Colston — Page 19
  - Screveton — Page 20
  - Eco Church — Page 20
- Our Activities — Page 21
- Our Rectory — Page 23
- Our Finances — Page 24
- Safeguarding & Contacts — Page 26
- Our stats — Page 27

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read our Benefice Profile. We hope it is a source of information and inspiration.

We are a welcoming group of five churches in two parishes with one shared vision. We value everyone's contribution to growing in faith, love and service and are committed to worship for all ages, aspiring to offer a wide variety of services and music. We also worship together regularly as a Benefice.

We believe that our Vision 2030 will enable us to do this by retaining our traditions and our strong sense of pastoral care whilst also reaching to people outside of our usual congregations, grow younger and be future focused.

While we understand the huge challenges of rural ministry, we are excited and motivated by the many opportunities that we see. We look forward to exciting times ahead. We believe the foundations have been laid for something remarkable to happen here and pray you feel called to join us.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an informal visit please contact the churchwardens.



Our Churchwardens (L-R)
Gillian Bignall, Car Colston
Beryl Cottrill, East Bridgford
Debbie May, Screveton
Mandy Beeby, Screveton
James Bignall, Car Colston

Our Diocese

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 1.15million: 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 119 stipendiary clergy and 228 licensed lay ministers.

In 2024 we launched our refreshed vision of Living Hope for the city, towns, villages of Nottinghamshire and beyond. We believe the presence of thriving, growing churches across the diocese is vital for people to discover Living Hope and make the best decision anyone could ever make for their lives; to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. To enable this vision, we are committed to our mission of growing disciples of Christ with compassion, confidence and courage. To support both parishes and the diocese in implementing our mission we have identified seven areas of focus: Inspiring Worship, Reaching Younger, Enhancing Diversity, Growing Leaders, Enabling Commitment, Encouraging Generosity and Nurturing Prayer. This vision is set out in more detail on our website.



Rt. Revd Paul Williams,
Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

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 the Fosse Group 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.

As you consider the role of Rector, may I encourage you to take time to look over and reflect on our diocesan vision as part of your discernment as to whether God is calling you to be part of this diocese at this exciting time.

I look forward to welcoming the new Rector of the Fosse Group to join us on this faith-filled journey.



Revd Canon Dr Richard Kellett,
Associate Archdeacon

The Fosse Group are a well organised and hopeful group of parishes that are focused on growing disciples of all ages: making the most of the many opportunities there are in their communities to encourage people onto pathways of discipleship.

There's a wonderful church primary school to work alongside as well as congregations that are prepared to change to welcome more people into the life of faith. They are looking forward to their new Rector leading them in implementing their vision for 2030 which they have identified around the diocesan seven areas of focus.

Our Deanery

East Bingham Deanery fully supports the diocesan vision of: Living Hope, growing disciples of Christ with Compassion, Confidence and Courage. We value and encourage collaboration amongst our clergy and laity and also those ecumenical relationships which prosper in some of the larger benefices. We look at places and groups across the deanery where there is potential for new worshipping communities or the refreshing and revitalising of existing ones. We are receptive to new initiatives and engage fully with the laity on its response to the diocesan vision. Together we are on a journey of faith as we seek to follow as Jesus leads us. Although our churches are all individually different, we hold a common faith.

We are the largest deanery in the Nottingham Archdeaconry, having 34 open churches with parishes grouped together into 12 benefices. Save for one single-church parish, it is made up of benefices which are either multi-parish or multi-church. It has a mix of full and part-time stipendiary clergy and self-supporting, part-time, House-for-Duty incumbents.

Giving for mission is encouraged and all parishes are encouraged to organise regular giving initiatives with assistance from the diocesan finance team. Oversight of these initiatives and regular teaching on giving is an expectation of all incumbents. All parishes are expected to pay 100% of their parish share, and are encouraged to do this by monthly standing order.

The deanery is led by the Area Dean and Lay Chair supported by a part-time paid administrator. They in turn are supported by a Standing Committee made up of clergy and laity who together form a committed leadership team.

Deanery Synod meets three times a year and encourages all clergy to take an active role in the affairs of the deanery. It looks to its clergy to encourage parish representatives on Synod to do likewise. Our voice is heard through the Area Dean (who is a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee and elected member of Diocesan Synod) and the Lay Chair (a member of the Kinoulton St Luke PCC and elected member of Diocesan Synod), thereby ensuring that the challenges faced by the rural Church are addressed at diocesan level. As well as discussing formal business at synod, we also hold regular 'breakout groups' during which members of synod, both lay and ordained, can discuss together the challenges and encouragements that we have, and to learn from each other. This is much valued, and has led to several deanery initiatives as we learn to work together better.

The Deanery Chapter meets approximately 8 times a year, alternating online and in-person meetings, usually monthly excluding Easter, July, August and Christmas. All clergy, including some of our retired colleagues living in the deanery, are invited to meetings. It holds events to include LLMs and each year also gives a lunch for its retired clergy and LLM colleagues, by way of thanks for their help throughout the year. We think that it is a great deanery to be part of, and we look forward to welcoming you to the team!.

Rev'd Canon Stephen Hippisley-Cox, Area Dean
Lesley Haig, Lay Chair



Our Benefice



Established through a pastoral reorganisation in June 2022, the Fosse Group Benefice stretches across some of Nottinghamshire's most picturesque countryside. Nestled on the edge of the stunning Vale of Belvoir, our benefice is ideally situated, just 3 miles from the bustling market town of Bingham, 8 miles from Nottingham and 10 miles from the historic Newark-on-Trent. With excellent rail connections to London from Newark and Grantham (only 15 miles away), we enjoy both rural tranquillity and urban accessibility.

Our benefice is home to two parishes and five unique churches:
The Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham
The Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

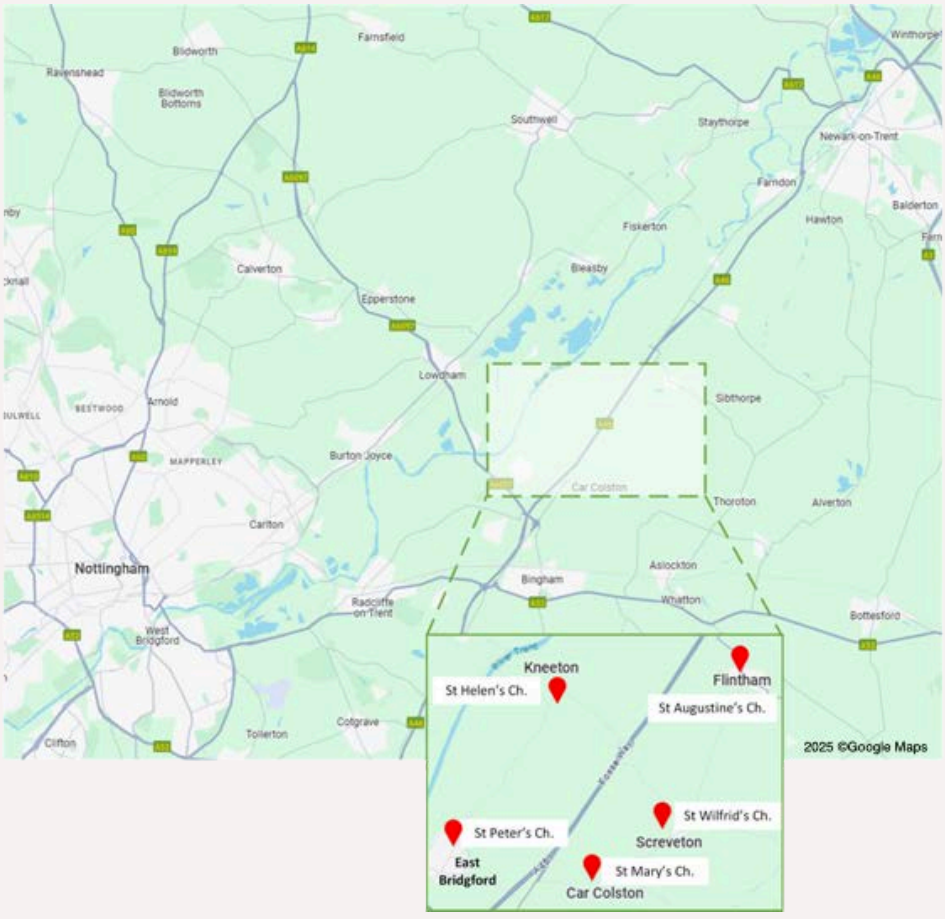
Each church has its own story, character and worshipping community. Yet we are deeply interconnected sharing resources, vision, and support. All our churches are within a 15-minute drive making collaboration both practical and fruitful.

We are delighted with our strong links with local schools. In East Bridgford, we enjoy a particularly close relationship with St Peter's Church of England Academy but also with Flintham Primary School. Nearby, Toot Hill School in Bingham provides 'Good' secondary education and younger children are served by local nursery settings including Southfields Child Care in Car Colston.

Ecumenical relationships are a valued part of our identity, especially in East Bridgford, where we have strong connections with the local Methodist church, fostering unity and shared witness in Christ's name.

Our congregations are growing spiritually and numerically, thanks to our welcoming ethos and broadening worship styles, that foster a deep sense of belonging for all ages and backgrounds.

As we look to the future our vision is focused on growth, connection, and sustainability across the Benefice.



Our New Rector

We are prayerfully seeking a rector who is excited to lead us into the next chapter of our ministry. Someone who brings inspiration, energy and heart to the role. The ideal person will be:

- **At home in rural ministry** - with a personal joy in walking alongside village communities and celebrating the life of the countryside.
- **A disciple-maker** - who nurtures faith in others and encourages every member of the church to grow and play their part.
- **Family-aware** - with a heart for the variety and realities of modern family life, and an ability to engage and support all families.
- **Mission-minded** - able to spot opportunities for outreach and growth, and translate ideas into action with energy and hope.
- **Warmly inclusive** - someone who naturally creates a space where all feel truly welcomed, valued, and at home whatever their age, background, or story.
- **A visionary leader** - unafraid to ask "how can we be better?" and eager to help us grow in faith, depth, and reach.
- **Musically appreciative** - with an understanding of both traditional and modern church music, and a belief that music is a vital part of vibrant worship.
- **A gifted communicator** - both a good listener and an empathetic pastor who is comfortable in homes, schools, and village halls as much as in the pulpit.
- **A confident change-maker** - able to lead with sensitivity and inspiration as we explore new ways of being a Church together.
- **Rooted yet forward-looking** - with a love for the richness of Anglican traditions and an openness to creative, contemporary expressions of worship.







Our Priorities for the Journey Ahead

We are praying for someone who will help us to:

- **Grow churches** that are full of life, full of faith, and full of people of all ages.
- Deepen our **outreach to children, young people, and families**, especially through links with our schools and youth groups.
- Shape a **sustainable and varied pattern of worship** that nurtures discipleship and welcomes newcomers.
- **Encourage the gifts and talents** within our congregations and communities, enabling more people to get involved and grow in confidence.
- Foster a spirit of **collaboration and shared support** across our benefice churches.
- Ensure that **pastoral care** remains at the heart of our ministry to individuals and households in our villages.

What We Can Offer

In return, we offer:

- A **spacious rectory** set within a beautiful rural benefice full of history, heart, and hope.
- **Beautiful, historic churches,** lovingly maintained and appreciated.
- **Friendly and welcoming communities**, keen to grow and eager to support.
- A **delightful rural setting,** with great local schools, transport links, and countryside charm
- **Strong ecumenical relationships**, especially with the local Methodist church.
- **Two supportive and proactive PCCs** who deeply care for their local communities.
- Our **dedicated team**

Our Team



Rev Christine Dolby
Honorary Associate Priest

Chris has called East Bridgford her home for over 30 years. She was ordained in 2001 serving first in the Wiverton Group and later as priest-in-charge in Ancaster. With a nursing background, she found her vocation in chaplaincy at Nottingham University Hospital Trust, eventually becoming Head of Service before semi-retiring in 2018.

Now back in East Bridgford, Chris supports the Fosse Group benefice with pastoral care, services and occasional offices. She also serves as Area Chaplain to retired clergy in the Deanery.

Sarah Hobbs
Families and Youth Worker



Sarah serves as the Families and Youth Worker for a collective of Anglican and Methodist churches in Bingham, East Bridgford, and Flintham. Her role includes supporting local families and young people through both church and school initiatives.

She is passionate about ecumenism and committed to strengthening these ties, focusing on nurturing others' skills to support sustainable growth in the church's mission.



Philip Miles
Director of Music

Philip has directed the East Bridgford Church Choir since January 2025. His passion for church music began in 2013 as a chorister at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.

After studying at the University of Nottingham, he contributed to local parishes as an organist and accompanist and continued this work alongside teaching after graduating in 2022.

Over the year, Philip has come to know and love the five churches in the Fosse Group, regularly leading the choir in rehearsals and a range of services.

Sherry Rudman
Fosse Group Administrator



Sherry has been the Fosse Group Administrator since 2020. She has lived in East Bridgford for nearly 30 years and is deeply committed to serving her local community.

With a 20-year background in Human Resources in the Fire Service, she also edited the East Bridgford Village Magazine for five years.

Our Vision

The Diocese invited every parish and benefice to explore their vision for the next five years. Over the past 12 months we have prayerfully reflected on our current place and where we feel called to grow. This inspiring process provides a strong foundation as we look forward with hope to welcoming a new Rector to help shape our future journey.

Inspiring worship

Where we are

Worship throughout the benefice is mainly rooted in the rich traditions of the Church of England, with services following the Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship liturgies, accompanied by traditional hymns led by the organ. Currently each Sunday a service is held at St Peter's Church in East Bridgford, with additional services rotating weekly among the other churches. Mid-week BCP communion takes place at St Peter's, and a lay-led service is held at St Wilfrid's in Screveton, offering more opportunities for worship and fellowship.

Alongside this tradition, there has been a growing desire to expand worship styles with more contemporary services. Since 2021, St Peter's has offered a monthly Pancakes & Praise service featuring video, modern worship songs, group activities, and interactive prayers, creating a family-friendly and informal atmosphere that attracts families and individuals beyond the regular congregation.

At St Mary's, the recent interregnum and new audio equipment have enabled exploration of contemporary worship with keyboard and guitar-led music, which has been warmly received. With the new Rector's support, the benefice looks forward to growing its worship offerings by recruiting singers and musicians to build a more diverse and vibrant music ministry.

Where we want to be

We aim to further offer a rich and varied pattern of worship across our churches, combining traditional and contemporary styles to engage people of all ages. By working collaboratively across the benefice, we seek to support one another in ministry and mission. Festival services will be thoughtfully planned and rotated to encourage wider participation, supported by clear communication and digital media. Above all, we are committed to creating warm, welcoming spaces where people feel safe, valued, and spiritually supported.



Reaching Younger



Where we are

Across the benefice, a dedicated team actively nurtures faith and builds connections with families and young people through activities like Pancakes and Praise at St Peter's, Messy Church sessions in East Bridgford and Flintham, and an ecumenical youth group that brings together young people from the area.

The team supports local schools with initiatives such as the Bible Explorers Lunchtime Club, experience days, and assemblies. Events like 'Experience the Lord's Prayer' and 'Experience Easter' engage entire school communities in joyful faith exploration, inspiring reflection and spiritual growth. The children's and youth worker leads the 'Bible Explorers Club' helping pupils to explore faith in an age-appropriate way.

Both East Bridgford and Flintham schools, and Car Colston pre-school regularly use the local churches for learning and exploration, fostering a community connection from an early age.



Recognising the evolving landscape of communication in the digital age, we have enhanced our outreach by updating our website and monthly newsletter, as well as establishing active presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Where we want to be

We believe our churches should be places where children, young people, and families feel truly at home. We would like to have dedicated spaces for children in every church and offering fun, faith-friendly activities like church trails to help families explore and connect.

In churches near schools we aim to further develop relationships with the local families through welcoming events and hospitality. Together, we want to shape churches where every generation feels seen, supported, and inspired.

Enhancing Diversity

Where we are

We know our community may not be the most diverse, but we warmly welcome everyone who joins us; whether for worship, community events, or special occasions that bring people together from both near and far.

Where we want to be

We are dedicated to building a church community where everyone truly belongs. We will affirm this by adopting and displaying a clear statement that celebrates ministry from both men and women and welcomes people of every age, background, nationality, race, gender, sexuality, and ability. To deepen our commitment, we'll actively explore the diversity within our parishes and we'll encourage our PCC members to take part in diocesan diversity training.

Growing Leaders



Where we are

We value the active involvement of our congregation, and many are encouraged to take part in leading services and supporting activities within our churches. This includes lay-led worship in some parishes, as well as a dedicated group of volunteers who organise and lead the monthly Pancakes and Praise services at East Bridgford.

In both East Bridgford and Car Colston members of the church community take on a variety of roles, from Tower Captains responsible for bell ringing, to volunteers managing churchyard maintenance, serving as eucharistic assistants, operating audio/visual equipment, and offering a warm welcome to those attending services.

In recent years, our PCC's have expanded and actively encouraged participation from those who haven't previously served, bringing new voices and perspectives into church leadership.

Where we want to be

We are committed to planning for the future by welcoming and encouraging younger members to join our PCCs and become actively involved in church life. We believe church participation is for everyone and aim to involve a broader range of people (especially young people) in contributing to services, whether regularly or occasionally.

We want to expand support for the incumbent across all churches and encourage individuals to explore formal leadership roles such as lay readers. We also seek to train more people to lead intercessions, helping to create a more welcoming and collaborative worship experience.

Enabling Commitment

Where we are

We have offered a variety of courses in the past such as Lent courses, the Pilgrim course, and 'Art in the Church', all of which were well received and appreciated by those who attended. These sessions not only provided opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection, but also created space for meaningful conversation, learning, and community building.



We try to build lasting relationships with families before and after key life events. This includes staying in touch around weddings and baptisms, welcoming couples to services where their banns are read, and inviting families to special occasions such as Godparent Sunday. These moments are important opportunities to reconnect and offer continued support as part of the wider church family.

We also have well-established pastoral care systems in place. For those who are housebound or unable to attend church in person, we offer home visits and bring communion to them, helping them remain spiritually connected and cared for. This ensures that no one feels forgotten or left out, especially during times of illness, transition, or isolation.

Where we want to be

We aim to nurture a culture of 'Cradle to Grave discipleship' by supporting faith development at every stage of life. We want to encourage engagement with scripture supporting both independent study and community learning through house groups and accessible, 'bite size' faith exploration sessions. We also aim to widen attendance to courses such as Alpha and Pilgrim to support those wishing to deepen their faith and explore confirmation.

Encouraging Generosity



Where we are

We are committed to strong financial stewardship across our churches, consistently paying our parish share in full to support the wider mission of the Church. Increasingly, congregations contribute through covenanted giving, providing a stable foundation for sustaining our work. We've introduced online giving and donation boxes to make giving easier in today's cashless society.

Beyond regular donations, many churches host fundraising events that raise vital funds while strengthening community bonds. Dedicated fundraising teams work creatively to organise these activities.



Generosity for us goes beyond finances. Hospitality plays a central role; offering warm welcomes, shared meals and spaces for connection and care. Our generosity also extends beyond church walls as we support local and national charities, collect donations for food banks and provide practical help during times of community need.

Where we want to be

We are committed to securing our financial future by ensuring each parish can fully meet its parish share while carefully managing maintenance, development, and mission costs. We encourage generosity through regular planned giving, fundraising events, and expanded digital giving options.

Equally, we value the generosity of time and talents, involving more people in practical tasks like flowers and maintenance, as well as active roles in services. Our goal is to create warm, welcoming church spaces that are well maintained and open for wider community events, encouraging more visitors to engage with and enjoy our churches.



Nurturing Prayer

Where we are

Our approach to prayer is mostly rooted in tradition, with intercessions, prayer books, and formally led prayers forming a core part of our worship. These practices provide a familiar and comforting rhythm for many in our congregations. In recent years, we've also begun to introduce more creative expressions of prayer, particularly during all-age worship, allowing space for different ways to engage spiritually.

We're grateful for the volunteers who help lead intercessions and, more recently, lay-led prayer services, bringing variety and a deeper sense of shared spiritual leadership. Most of our churches also provide resources and quiet spaces to support those who come in to pray during the week, offering an open door to reflection, peace and connection with God.

Where we want to be

We aim to foster a more abundant prayer life across our churches by offering a variety of prayer styles and methods. This includes providing prayer leaflets, creating dedicated spaces for prayer and reflection, and opening morning prayer to all, both online and in person. We aim to establish regular prayer walks and encourage participation in the Deanery Mustard Seed Prayer group and Diocesan prayer days. Additionally, we seek to grow our prayer ministry by inviting more people to lead intercessions during services.

Our Villages & Churches

Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton & Flintham 2025 Electoral Roll – 122







East Bridgford

St Peter's Church and Rectory are at the heart of the vibrant and picturesque conservation village of East Bridgford. With a population of around 1,800, and the addition of more than 120 new homes on the village's eastern edge, there is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new families and continue building strong, lasting connections within the wider community.

The village offers a wide range of amenities including a Post Office and general store, newsagent, medical centre and facilities for tennis, bowls, cricket, and football. A well-used village hall, Methodist church, a popular pub, and a scout hut all add to village life, alongside an array of clubs, societies, and an active group supporting older residents. Surrounded by countryside, East Bridgford offers beautiful walking routes, including the scenic Trent Valley Way right on the doorstep.

The monthly Village Magazine is a vital communication tool sharing local news and events while also raising funds for the church. One of the village's highlights is the East Bridgford Show, first held on St Peter's Day in 1864, which continues to bring the community together in joyful celebration.

St Peter's Church is a grade I listed Church dating back to the 11th century and remains in excellent condition. Recent updates include the removal of rear pews to create a flexible gathering space for socialising after services and for holding coffee mornings, together with the addition of a modern audio-visual system to support contemporary-style worship and other events. The latter has been really useful for the Pancakes & Praise services as well as the two Christingle services on Christmas Eve which are regularly filled by local families.

Across each month a range of worship is offered, from BCP communion and Evensong , through Common Worship to the relaxed and informal Pancakes and Praise service.

Ecumenical links are well-established with the Methodist Church and services are regularly shared each year, such as at Harvest time. The church is equipped with an organ, piano, a small kitchen, toilet and an active bell tower. St Peter's Church is always open and is a welcoming and constant presence at the heart of village life.

East Bridgford St. Peter's C of E Academy: A Vibrant Hub of Faith and Learning



Founded in 1864, East Bridgford St. Peter's Church of England Academy has a rich heritage and a strong, active partnership with St. Peter's Church at its heart. Serving the communities of East Bridgford, Kneeton, and nearby Newton, the academy provides a nurturing environment for children aged 3-11.

Beyond the classroom, the school offers an impressive range of clubs, experiences, and wraparound care, including Pre-School and After School facilities, fostering curiosity, creativity, and confidence in every child. The governing body is dedicated and enthusiastic with four foundation governors roles. Our new Rector will join one of our PCC members and our youth worker as foundation governors for the school directing the school culture and ethos.

The school was rated 'Outstanding' in its 2017 SIAMS inspection, which praised the school as "a shining example of Christian values in action." In 2022 Ofsted also commended the Academy, awarding it a 'Good' rating overall, with 'Outstanding' for personal development. The next inspection will be during the 2025/26 academic year which will focus on maintaining Christian Distinctiveness as per Diocesan requirements.

Weekly assemblies led by the previous incumbent have become a cherished tradition, now continued by our Families and Youth Worker in collaboration with the Methodist Church.

St. Peter's Church plays a central role in school life. Pupils regularly visit for special services such as Harvest and Christmas, as well as key milestones including the Welcome to Foundation service in October and the heartfelt Year 6 leavers' celebration in July, where each student receives a Bible as a gift from the church.

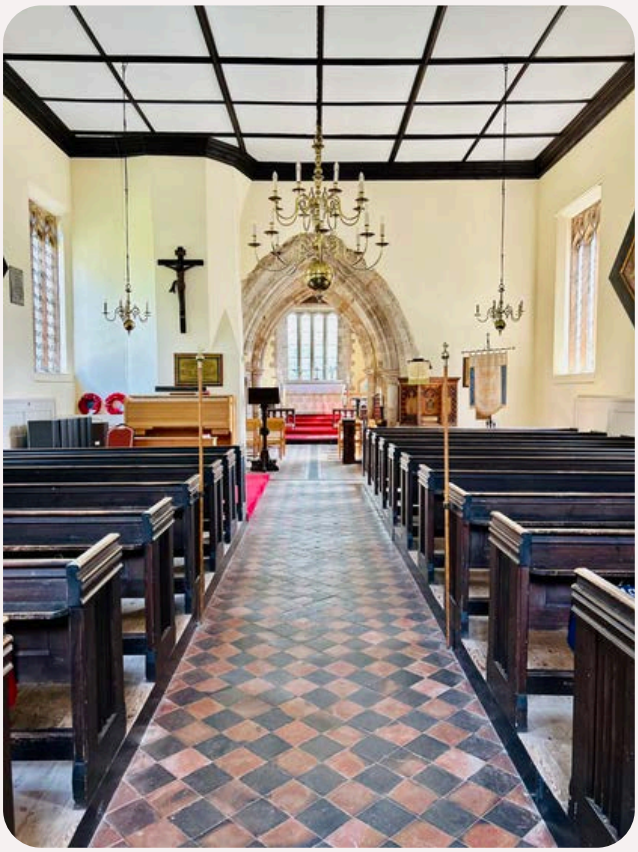


Flintham



Flintham, designated a Conservation Area in 1972, is a well-kept village with around 250 dwellings and 730 residents. It has a primary school, village hall, museum, community shop, pub, and sports ground. Surrounded by open farmland, the village offers scenic countryside walks. Despite its small size, Flintham remains a hub for local organisations, including the Scouts, Cricket Club, Choir, and Museum. A proposed development of 90 homes on a nearby former RAF site could increase the population to approximately 1,000.

At the heart of the village is **St. Augustine's Church**, a Grade I listed building with origins dating back over 1,000 years. Recorded in the Domesday Book, its chancel dates from the 13th century. The church's history is closely tied to Flintham Hall and the surrounding parish. St. Augustine's is supported by both regular and occasional attendees and features a monthly service pattern using Common Worship and BCP liturgies, accompanied by a three-manual Allen organ donated by a parishioner.



Community support includes fundraising events like the annual Bluebell Walk and a well-attended Carol Service followed by a reception at Flintham Hall, hosted by Sir Robert and Lady Lucy Hildyard. Seasonal Messy Church sessions attract local children, and strong links with the primary school include involvement in religious education and school services held in the church. Future growth for the church lies in engaging young families and those unfamiliar with Christian faith, helping to sustain and expand its role in village life.

Flintham Primary School is a nurturing institution for children aged 3 to 11, serving approximately 100 students. While not a Church of England school, it has long maintained a strong, collaborative relationship with the local church and incumbent, hosting a variety of events within the church throughout the year.





Kneeton

St Helen's Church lies at the heart of the peaceful Conservation Area village of Kneeton. Though small, the church plays a vital role in both the spiritual and social life of the community, offering a quiet space for reflection and a hub for village events.

We host regular services with special celebrations at Good Friday, Rogation Sunday, Harvest, and Christmas. The traditional BCP Eucharist continues to shape our worship, although services are currently more varied during the interregnum. Our annual Rogation Sunday Walk is particularly well-loved, drawing families and friends from across the village.

Dedicated volunteers support every aspect of church life, from flower arranging and cleaning to readings and bell ringing. Without a village hall, St Helen's often partners with the wider benefice, participating in events like Lent lunches, concerts, Bible studies, and open church days.

Open daily and lovingly maintained, St Helen's is a spiritual and communal anchor for the people of Kneeton; welcoming, faithful and rooted in shared care.



Parish of Car Colston & Screveton
2025 Electoral Roll – 65



Car Colston

St Mary's Church has stood at the heart of the Conservation Village of Car Colston since the late 12th or early 13th century. The village, with around 170 residents, is surrounded by 24 acres of common grazing land and is known for its warm, close-knit community. Local life thrives with regular events, a village hall, pre-school, popular pub, and an active cricket club.



In 2023, after decades of silence, the historic bells of St Mary's rang out again following a major restoration project. This work included restoring the bells, refurbishing the Bell Tower and the Thoroton Tomb (with support from the Thoroton Society), and installing a new floor at the west end of the nave. The project was made possible through the dedication and skills of many community members.

This restoration highlights the community's deep affection for St Mary's and strengthens its central role in village life. The church now offers a flexible space for worship and events, enhanced by a modern sound and audio system. We hold one monthly service, blending traditional BCP Communion with all-age worship, pet blessings, Rogation walks, Café Church, Harvest celebrations, and special Easter and Christmas services.



St Mary's also features a pipe organ, kitchen and toilet facilities, and a welcoming Children's Corner used by local families and visiting pre-school groups. The church is open daily during daylight hours.

Screveton

St Wilfrid's Church in Screveton, nestled just outside the village amid peaceful countryside, is a hidden treasure offering a warm welcome and sacred space for worship and community. We hold two services a month; a traditional Communion and a lay-led service supported by a small, committed team. Special events like outdoor worship, Carols by candlelight, and Harvest celebrations at the local Eco Farm enrich church life.

Our congregation is growing, and financial sustainability has improved significantly, with a recent giving campaign doubling our regular income. Well-supported events such as parish lunches, summer parties, and festive gatherings further strengthen our community.

St Wilfrid's embodies spiritual warmth, nurtured by a generous, dedicated community. We look forward with faith and excitement to welcoming a new incumbent to share in our journey.







Eco Church

One of our key achievements across our Churches in the past five years has been our progress with the Eco Church initiative. Across the benefice, we have earned two Silver Awards and one Bronze, and are working towards awards for all our churches, aiming for Gold in the future.

Our commitment goes beyond the awards. Many churches use sustainable practices like locally grown or Fairtrade foods and eco-friendly flower arrangements. We regularly share environmental activities and encourage parishioners to adopt these at home.

Rooted in our rural setting and connection to the agricultural landscape, our Eco Church journey naturally extends our values, reflecting our ongoing dedication to caring for creation in practical, meaningful ways.

Our Activities

The support for our Churches from our local communities isn't limited to Sunday Services. Many others help maintain or support our Churches in other ways whether preparing floral arrangements or maintaining our buildings. However, here are some of the more structured activities available in our benefice.

Churchyard Maintenance: A Shared Effort

Several of our churches take great pride in maintaining their churchyards, with a strong sense of community at the heart of their efforts. At St Mary's in Car Colston, the churchyard mowing rota has become a much-loved village tradition, culminating each year in a celebratory BBQ hosted by the 'Chief Mower', complete with a hand-crafted trophy awarded for mowing excellence and team spirit.

At St Peter's, the peaceful churchyard includes a Garden of Remembrance and an area left wild to support biodiversity as part of our Eco Church commitment. From March to November, a monthly Churchyard Working Party brings together volunteers of all ages to weed, trim, and care for the grounds; fostering joy, connection, and a shared love for these sacred spaces.





St Peter's Choir

The church choir at St Peter's Church, East Bridgford lies at the heart of worship at St Peter's, at both morning Holy Communion services and monthly Choral Evensong services. Additionally, the choir supports other festival services, Advent and Christmas carol services, and occasionally visits the other churches in the Fosse group Benefice to sing for their congregations.

The choir are a friendly, social group of around 12 singers, and under the direction of Philip have continued to learn and explore church music from a range of styles and periods. We are very pleased to welcome singers to join us, whether chorally experienced or just exploring the possibility of joining a choir.

Bellringing

Car Colston

The refurbishment and addition of two new bells at St Mary's in spring 2023 brought together the communities of Car Colston and Screveton in a shared effort to raise funds and restore the bell tower, allowing us to become the newest band to "Ring for the King." Under the supervision of Taylors villagers re-hung the bells, and a group of 11 began learning to ring, ensuring the sound of bells once again calls people to worship throughout the year.

Our biggest success has to be our popular "coffee, cake and a bit of bell ringing" on a Thursday morning which regularly attracts more than a dozen ringers of all ages, sometimes just dropping in to have a go or competent ringers "tower grabbing".

Since then, we've hosted several visiting bands and welcomed over 200 different people to ring our bells—and as our skills grow, we're now working toward our first Quarter Peal and looking forward to ringing for weddings and other celebrations.





East Bridgford

At St Peter's, we're very pleased to have a warm and welcoming team of bellringers of all skill levels, currently including six dedicated members and two enthusiastic new learners. Our lively Monday evening practices, often joined by ringers from nearby towers, offer a friendly and sociable environment where everyone is encouraged to grow in confidence; whether ringing simple methods or tackling more advanced challenges.

We aim to ring for Sunday services and enjoy taking part in special occasions such as weddings, the Coronation and V.E. Day. With eight beautifully tuned and well-maintained bells, St Peter's is a favourite among visiting ringers. Each month, we host a district 8-bell practice on a Saturday morning and have loved welcoming our local school and scout groups over the past year to experience the joy and tradition of bellringing.

Our Rectory



Modernisation of the East Bridgford Rectory is currently planned with the intention of having this available to our new rector. Based in a vibrant yet rural village high above the river Trent, the rectory is within easy reach of the all the village amenities and the primary school, with the church located across the road.

The renovation plans allow for modern living with:

- Extension to allow large open plan kitchen/diner
- Addition of French doors from living space into the spacious garden
- New entrance porch with WC and separate entrance to Rectory office

On the outside is a spacious garden with views over the fields surrounding the village and large private drive. All that's missing is someone to make this a home.

There is also use of a Rectory at Flintham if needed whilst works are being completed.

Our Finances

The diocese refreshed its vision in 2023 to communicate 'Living Hope in the cities, towns and villages of Nottinghamshire and beyond'. As a result of this vision, it was necessary to explore the financial sustainaibility that would enable numerical and spiritual growth by maintaining the number of stipendiary posts. A major review of parish share was undertaken in 2024 creating a clearer and more transparent understanding of the costs of ministry (For more information, see here).

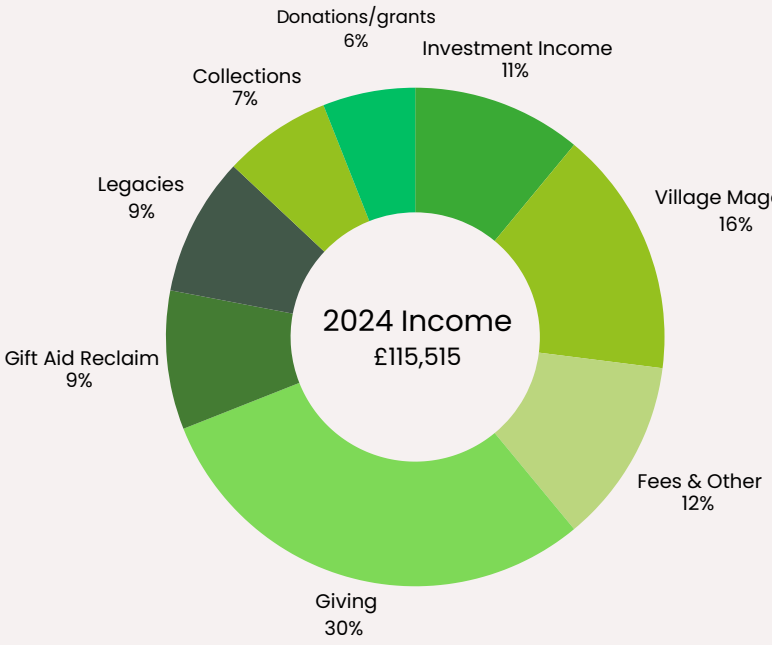
Along with insights from national Church of England reports, the decision was made to take a multi-year approach towards closing the gap between the costs of ministry and the amount receieved in parish share towards that ministry. As a result, each parish has a 10 year trajectory towards full ministry costs by 2035. For the Fosse Group Benefice, this highlights an increase from £75,290 in 2025 to £102, 832 by 2030 to £143,421 by 2035.

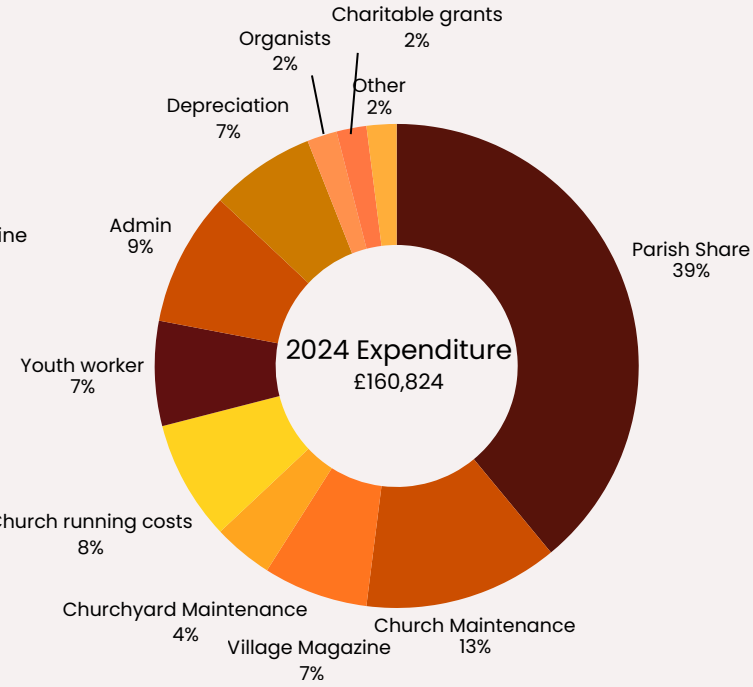
As a result, both PCCs have passed a resolution and have committed themselves to;

- Working with the new Rector to grow the churches of the benefice,
- Create a rolling 5 year financial sustainability plan supported by the Rector and diocesan personnel
- Achieve the year on year increases of the 10 year parish share trajectory through
- Regular biblical teaching on sacrificial giving,
- Increasing the number of planned givers and the average amount given per person
- Engaging their communities through fundraising events
- Continuing to use any historic resources wisely

The journey of generosity is something which all parishes across the diocese are involved in and new resources are being produced to help and support parishes.

Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton & Flintham





As a Parish, we aim to achieve an annual break-even budget, however this has not always been possible as we are committed to paying our Parish Share in full. At the end of the 2024 financial year, our total reserves held by the PCC was £525,353 of which £479,649 was invested with the CCLA. Of these reserves, £106,753 is restricted. Contained in unrestricted reserves is a "ring fenced" amount of £186,322 identified for major future improvements to St Peters church.

Our main source of income is planned giving and donations, which is boosted by the recovery of tax via gift aid. Further income is via service collections and donations including the contactless donation unit which is often used by visitors to St Peters Church in East Bridgford. The PCC is regularly in receipt of legacies, and we claim grants from the Diocese and other organisations to help fund appropriate expenditure.

Our excess of expenditure over income, mainly at East Bridgford, is a matter that has been at the forefront of the PCCs attention in recent times. The Finance Group and the PCC, togther with the diocesan personnel, are working together to address the issues. Despite our current annual deficit we are fortunate in the reserves we hold and every effort is being made to ensure that this remains so for future generations.

In relation to planned giving, there are currently 98 regular givers at East Bridgford, 17 at Flintham and 11 at Kneeton who give an average weekly amount of £5.26, £5.47 and £4.91 respectively. Planned giving adds £34,462 to the income of the parish.

Parish of Car Colston & Screveton

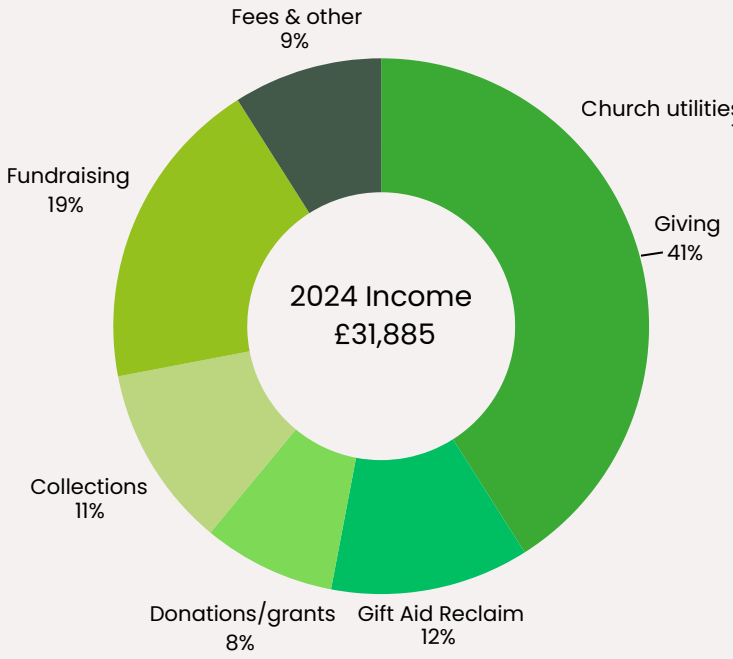
The Parish was established following the 2022 Pastoral Reorganisation. Both churches run breakeven budgets and are committed to paying their Parish Share in full. Both have cash reserves sufficient to cover three months of general expenditure.

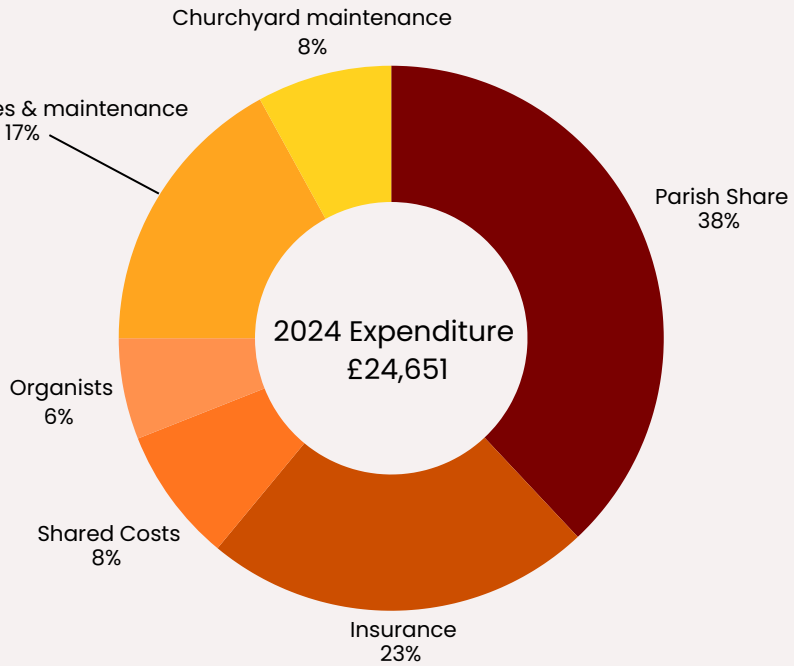
At the end of the 2024 financial year unrestricted funds held at bank by St Mary's were £10,680 and St Wilfrid's £5,563. Restricted funds stood at £76,676 (of which £53,178 held with CCLA) for St Mary's and £14,163 for St Wilfrid's.

The current parish shares – St Mary's £4,938 and St Wilfrid's £4,799 – will be paid in full this financial year and have been paid in full since the Pastoral Reorganisation.

The main source of income for the churches is from voluntary giving through regular giving, collections at services, donations and fund raising. The churches sometimes receive legacies which are usually allocated toward a specific project. In relation to planned giving, there are currently 55 regular givers who give an average weekly amount of £4.55. Planned giving adds £13,500 to the income of the parish.

St Mary's undertook a project to restore and augment the bells and refurbish the west end of the Nave in 2022 to 2024 which accounts for a high level on income and expenditure during that period. The project costs were covered largely by a legacy, individual donations and grants including from the Southwell Diocese and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Payment for the recently installed sound system will be due in 2025 for which funds are allocated.





Safeguarding

Our parishes are committed to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Protecting everyone involved in church activities is a shared responsibility. We have two Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) and an Assistant PSO, who ensure that all safeguarding policies are upheld, PCC members and other relevant people are trained and DBS checked, and that safeguarding issues are dealt with appropriately. We are actively working towards achieving the new national C of E safeguarding standards.

Patrons

A patronage board was formed during the pastoral reorganisation and consists of the following:

(a) The College of Saint Mary Magdalen, University of Oxford (East Bridgford)
(b) George Lorimer Neale, Kneeton House (Kneeton)
(c) Sir Robert Henry Thoroton Hildyard, Flintham Hall (Flintham)
(d) The Prayer Book Society (Car Colston & Screveton)

Contacts

Thank you so much for reading about our beautiful corner of Nottinghamshire. We hope this has been a good introduction, but more information including recent annual reports and all our policies (including safeguarding) are available on our website www.fossegroup.org.uk.

Please also look on our social media sites:

Facebook
Fosse Group of Parishes

Bingham and the Fosse Families and Youth

Instagram
@thefossegroupchurches

@stmarysandstwilfrids

@sarah_messy_church

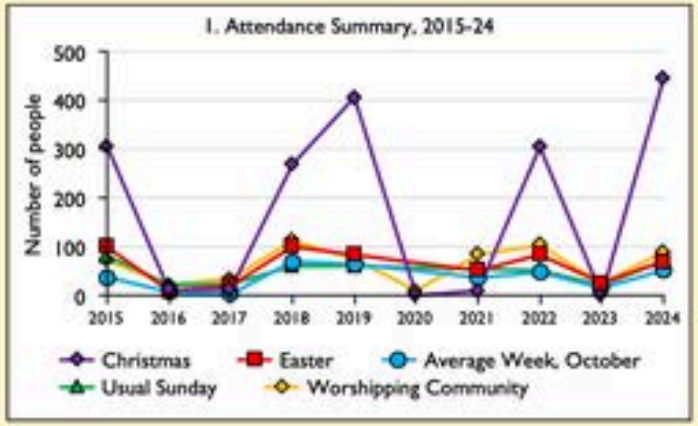
Email
office@fossegroup.org.uk

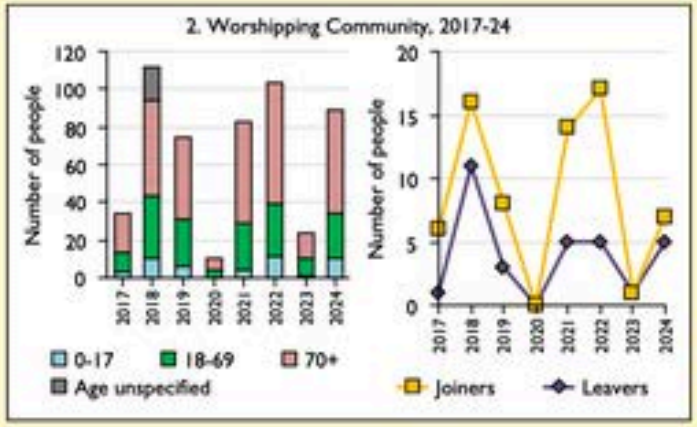
stpeters@fossegroup.org.uk

stmarys@fossegroup.org.uk

stwilfrids@fossegroup.org.uk

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton And Flintham in the Deanery of EAST BINGHAM





Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 2381

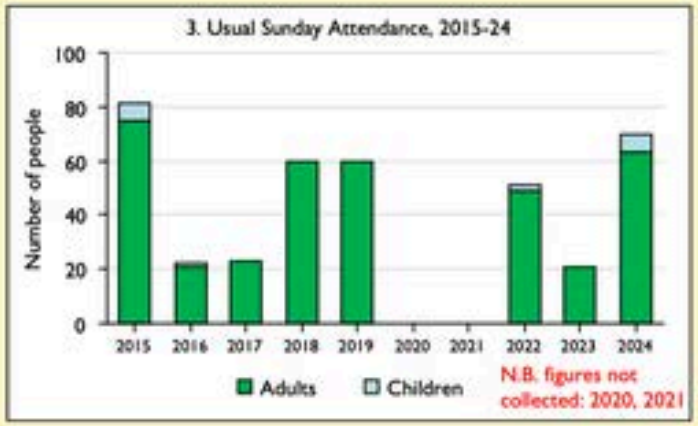
	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	19%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	22%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	38%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	22%	14%	14%
% Christian	51%	43%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	7%	11%

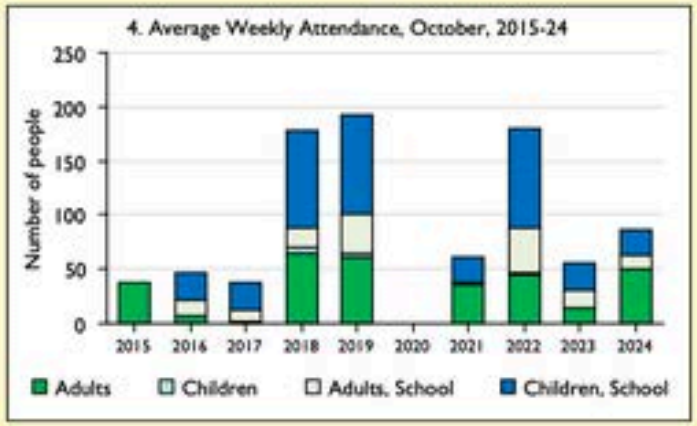
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 11790

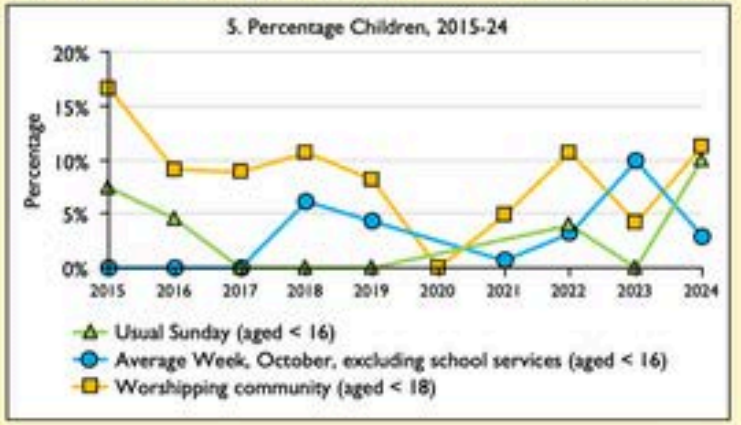
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,161=least deprived)

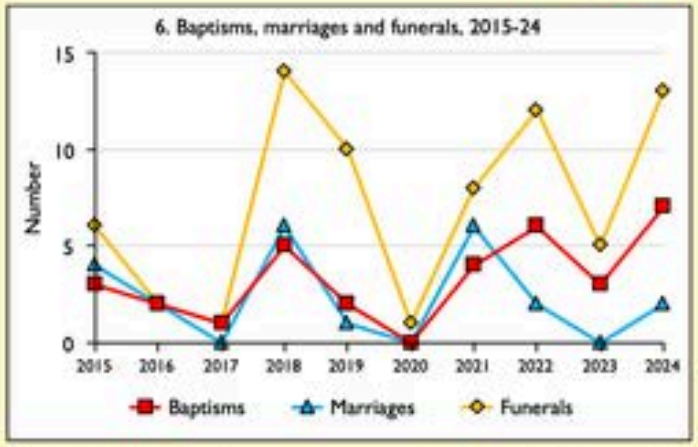
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/ and http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/

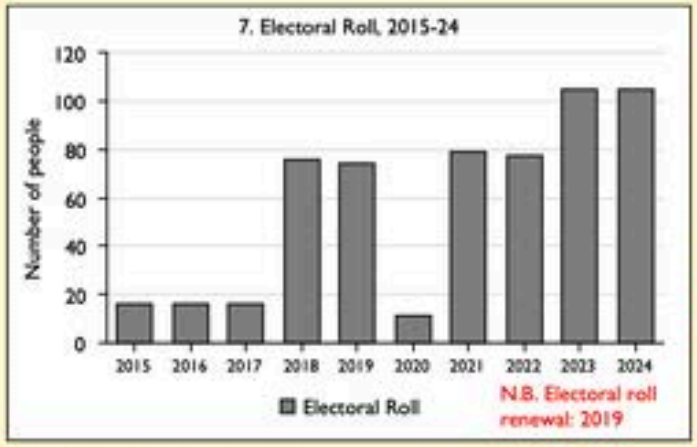
Number of churches in parish (2024): 3 **Parish Code: 380354**











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 2021 national Census.

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/about/data-services/

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: 2015 3;2016 2;2017 2;2018 3;2019 3;2020 1;2021 3;2022 3;2023 3;2024 3.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 22/07/2025.

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

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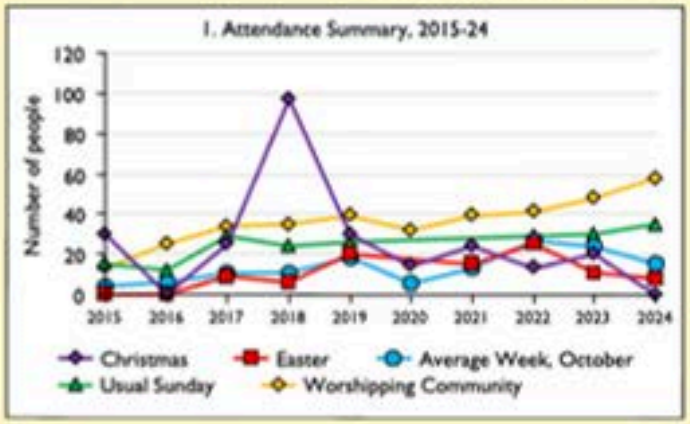
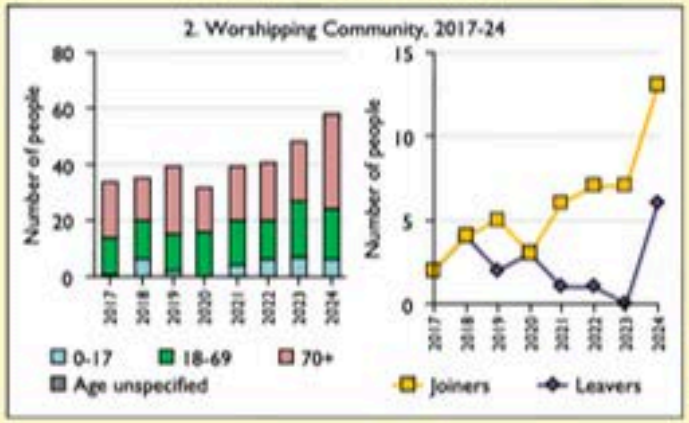
SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Car Colston And Screveton in the Deanery of EAST BINGHAM





Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 329

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	15%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	22%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	42%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	21%	14%	14%
% Christian	60%	43%	46%
% non-Christian religion	1%	7%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 12057

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

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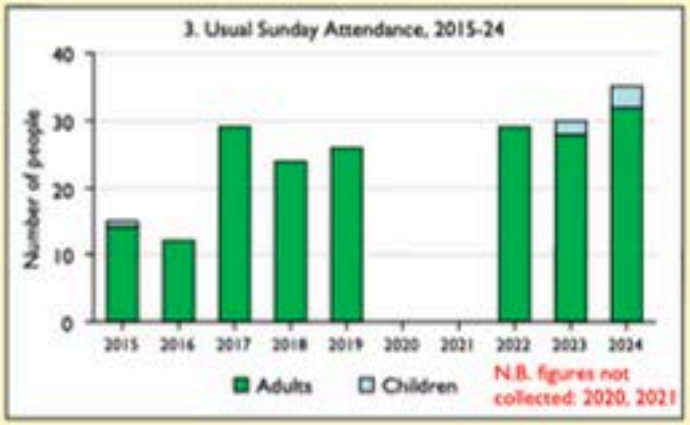
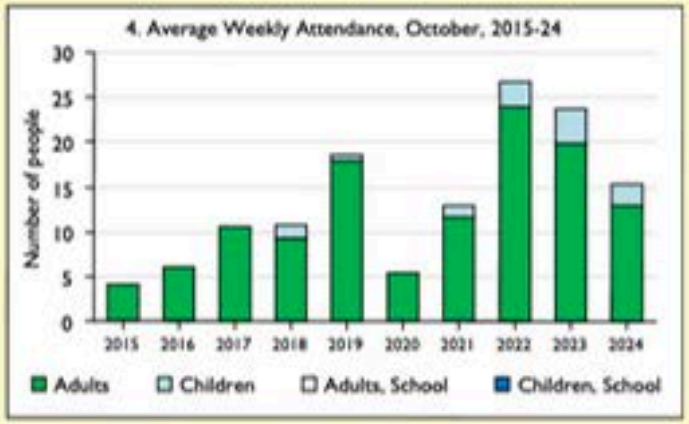
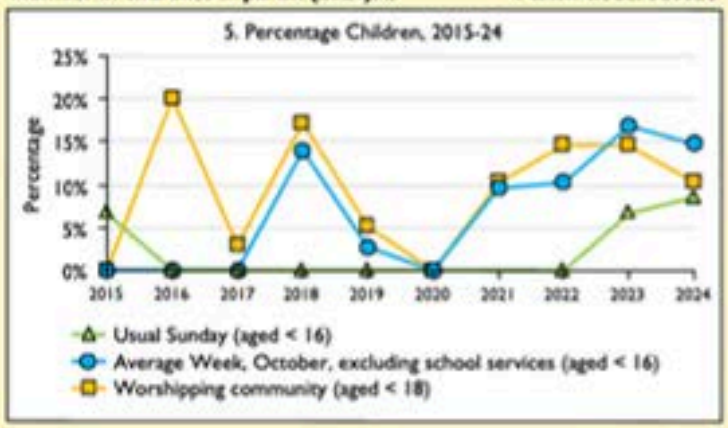
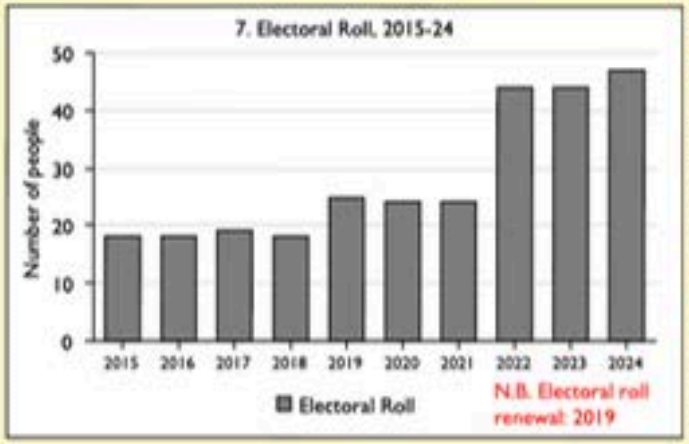
Number of churches in parish (2024): 2 **Parish Code: 380355**











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Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 29/05/2025.

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

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FOSSE
Group