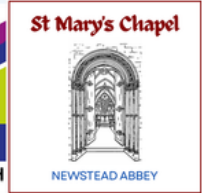


RAVENSHEAD PARISH

We are a worshipping community with a mission to share the love of God



St Peter's Church & The Centre



Chapel of St Mary, Newstead Abbey

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We are a worshipping community with a mission to share the love of God



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OUR DIOCESE

Growing disciples of Christ with compassion, confidence and courage.

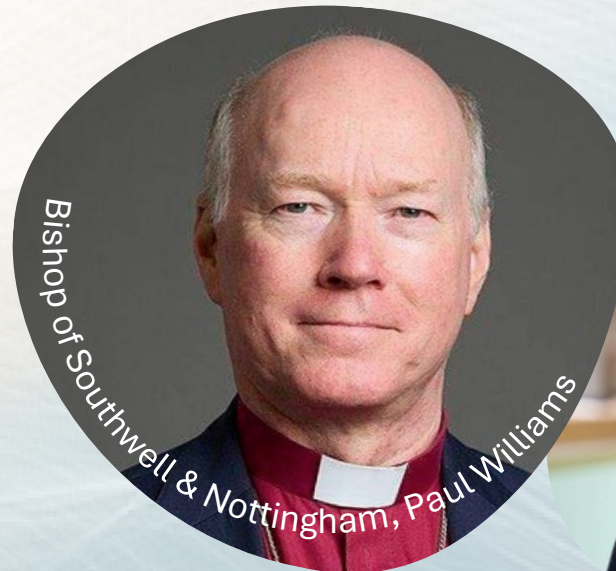


The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 119 stipendiary clergy and 228 licensed lay ministers.

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 vicar will have the creative leadership and imagination to develop discipleship, plan for growth and reach out to the unchurched of all ages in its locality. As you consider the role of Vicar of Ravenshead parish, 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 Vicar to join us on this faith-filled journey.

Bishop Paul



Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, Paul Williams



Suffragan Bishop of Sherwood, Andy Emerton

OUR DEANERY

Growing disciples of Christ with compassion, confidence and courage.



We find ourselves at a crucial moment for the church in relation to a changing culture. The good news of Jesus Christ is as important and life-giving as it has ever been. There are many opportunities to serve the people of Ravenshead with the gospel of hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. This parish has a vision to grow the church younger and to continue to build on its kingdom work for the future. 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 of Jesus Christ with compassion, confidence and courage. I look forward to supporting the congregation of Ravenshead in its mission and welcoming a new Vicar to lead and implement the vision for the parish.

Tors Ramsey

Archdeacon, Tors Ramsey



Area Dean, Lee Gordon



Newstead Deanery is a healthy and supportive group. Colleagues meet regularly at Chapter for support, encouragement and prayer as well as to receive information. Chapter is well attended by all clergy, where there is lots of positive energy and a growing level of trust, as praying for each other is a core value of Chapter. We try to meet socially a couple of times a year and to include family members as appropriate. The Deanery works in four clusters, some of whom meet weekly for prayer. Others work together in different ways. A number of very generous retired clergy are involved in many areas of ministry – not just service cover. Ordained and lay members of Deanery Synod work collaboratively and are excited by what God is doing here. Synod meetings are focused on strategy and prayer. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming the new Vicar of Ravenshead, who will be joining us at an important time in the life of the Deanery.

Lee Gordon

Welcome from our Churchwardens

We are delighted that you are considering joining us as our new Vicar. We represent a church family that is deeply committed to God, to one another, and to the thriving parish of Ravenshead.

As a PCC and as a congregation, we have spent time reflecting on our journey and praying about our future. We celebrate the many things that make our church life special—while remaining realistic about the areas where we need fresh energy and attention.

Our vision is to be a welcoming presence at the heart of this community. We are looking for a leader who can walk with us as we navigate our various distinct, but equally valued, styles of worship. We strive to remain relevant in today's society, always seeking ways to further our vision of becoming a more vibrant and growing church.

We hope to fill our two churches with people of different ages and backgrounds, sharing our Christian life together; aiming to work with, and for the community in order to draw people into a knowledge of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are a people with many gifts waiting to be nurtured. We are praying for a Vicar who reflects the character of 1 Timothy 3: someone respected, gentle, and wise, with a heart for those both inside and outside our walls.



Maureen Smith and Patrick Griffiths

OUR VILLAGE

Ravenshead is a large village set in the countryside twelve miles north of Nottingham. It has expanded considerably over the years, now housing about 6000 people with a diverse population of professional, retired and skilled workers and serves as a commuter village to Nottingham and surrounding areas. The Parish includes Ravenshead village, Harlow Wood to the north and the grounds of Newstead Abbey to the west. Ravenshead benefits from excellent amenities and good transport links, the M1 and A1 is easily accessible.

Within The Precinct there are numerous shops including a Post Office, Pharmacy, Library, Hairdresser, Dentist and Doctors Surgery. There are four Pubs and a variety of local restaurants and takeaways are also available.

There are two Primary Schools and a Nursery within the village, one being a Church of England School where we are represented as Foundation Governors. Just up the road at Harlow Wood there is Fountaindale School for children with profound learning difficulties and Portland College which caters for adults with learning difficulties. There are several Secondary Schools in the area to which the children are bused.

There are many organisations in the village offering activities in either the Village Hall, The Centre at St Peter's next to the church, or the Leisure Centre. There is a local volunteer bus service and also Ready Call, an organisation providing lifts to people requiring transport to essential appointments.



OUR CHURCH LIFE

We are a parish seeking to grow our spirituality and presence within Ravenshead. St Peter's and the Abbey Chapel are the only churches serving our community of 6000 and we aspire to offer vibrant and varied styles of worship where people of different ages and backgrounds can share their Christian life together.

- Vision & Values: In keeping with our Diocesan vision of Compassion, Confidence, and Courage we support a strong pastoral care network rooted in prayer and practical assistance
- We boast strong Home Groups, rooted in the Gospel. Our PCC, Worship Team and Staff meetings are grounded in prayer fostering a culture where we listen well, effectively serving one another.
- Our gifted congregations are ready to grow. With the guidance of our new Incumbent, we want to expand our horizons, deepen our work with schools, colleges and local businesses.

Within the local community there are many opportunities for outreach that would grow our congregation and reach a demographic of young families. Our churches are poorly represented in the 30-50 age bracket and by prayerfully working to meet the needs of this age group we could strengthen our church family. To this end, we have identified some areas where we could seek to be a more visible presence.



OUR CHURCH LIFE Continued

We have an energetic group of volunteers who work enthusiastically with many groups in the community including scouting, schools, young families, local organisations – we are seeking someone who can provide leadership to work with us to turn engagement into active participation; transitioning those who attend local and church-led events into becoming new disciples in our church community.

Local Opportunities for Engagement:

- Community Hubs: Promote a more visible presence in locality and through activities in The Centre (church hall) and Village Hall.
- Practical Outreach: Utilising the Village Precinct for outside worship, attend Village community events and promote our services and activities in the monthly Ravenshead Newsletter.
- Education: Develop the strong links with two local primary schools, a nursery and uniformed organisations providing a vital bridge to young families.



OUR TEAM

•We have a retired Priest with permission to officiate. Two candidates for Licensed Lay Ministry have been accepted to train from September 2026. We have three Authorised Lay Preachers and one Authorised Leader of services.

•We have two dedicated Churchwardens at St Peter's and a strong PCC with a PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer in post. We have a full complement of Deanery Representatives. The Abbey Chapel is led by a Council of members who report to the PCC.

•We have one Licensed Lay Minister whose ministry is leading our Pastoral Team, who, alongside this, has responsibility for funeral administration, bereavement care and taking communion to the housebound.

•We are fortunate to have a paid Parish Administrator who works five mornings a week in the Church Office, supporting all aspects of administration and communication.

•Our church music at St Peter's is led by a Choir Master and a robed choir. We don't have a permanent organist at present, but there are some we can call on for occasional services. We have individuals who play keyboard and saxophone for informal services. The Abbey Chapel is served by a regular pianist.

•Our Worship Team meet regularly to decide on preachers, leaders and the shape of each service.

•St Peter's has reached Silver Eco Church status and is working towards Gold. We have an enthusiastic Green Team who steer our various eco initiatives.

•We have a thriving Children and Family Team, catering from newborn to secondary school age and their carers. We run services and other activities for children such as a Youth Group and offer a Holiday Club in the summer for Primary aged children.

•There are strong links to Uniformed Organisations who attend activities at Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday and of course Christmas.

•'The Centre' is our 'church hall' which is used regularly both by the Parish and the community. We have a paid Centre Coordinator who has caretaking responsibilities and also runs the bookings system.



OUR BUILDINGS - St Peter's

St Peter's was built in 1972, replacing the Mission Church established in 1948. It is a modern Church, unusual in design and architecture, boasting a large foyer area, a lounge, a small kitchen, toilets with disabled access, two vestries and an office. As we are dedicated to St Peter, various aspects of our building draw on images of a fisherman's life and work.

Our versatile building means we can use the site for a variety of Church-led activities. The acoustics in the main church area are excellent and lend themselves not only to rousing worship, but as an event and concert venue.

We have a blend of informal and traditional styles of worship, which we would like to maintain and develop. We currently have a main service at St Peter's every Sunday morning and a midweek service every Wednesday held in the Lounge. We also offer a baby and toddler service twice a month and a children and families service once a month.

We welcome uniformed organisations to join our services, especially for Remembrance Day and both Primary Schools visit us at Easter or Pentecost for special activities, their Year 6 leavers' service and other events throughout the year.

St Peter's Gilbert and Sullivan Society provide a yearly concert and in recent years we have hosted a Christmas Tree Festival, encouraging participation by local businesses and organisations.

We look forward to a new Vicar with vision and discernment to lead us in our next phase of witness.

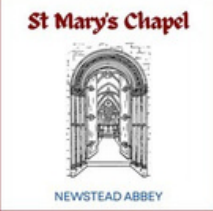


Chapel of St Mary, Newstead Abbey

The Abbey Chapel, as it is affectionately referred to, is located in the converted Chapter House at the Nottingham City Council owned, Newstead Abbey site. The Abbey has been a place of Christian worship since the 12th Century and historical home to Lord Byron. The Chapel has been a place of public worship since 1860 and was transferred to Ravenshead Parish in 2015.

The Chapel has a small, dedicated congregation. The Chapel Council meets every couple of months and reports back to the PCC. Two services per month are held at the Chapel, both using the Book of Common Prayer. There is a service of Matins on the second Sunday of the month and of Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday of the month. The Chapel is also available for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and more of these occasional offices would be welcome.

The Council kindly allows the Parish to use the forecourt around the West Front of the original Abbey for our annual Sunrise Service on Easter morning and the Chapel is the venue for a candlelit Carol Service at Christmas time.



The congregation at the Abbey Chapel are seeking to grow in witness and in numbers and look forward to a new Vicar who will support the traditional worship style, help to consolidate communication with Newstead Abbey colleagues and work with the congregation to increase the presence of the Christian faith in the surrounding community and with visitors to Newstead Abbey.



The Centre

In 2015, the adjacent St Peter's Centre was opened, which is a purpose-built hall with excellent facilities including a professional catering kitchen. The main space can be divided into different rooms and is used by a wide range of organisations from within the Church and the Community.

The Vicarage



Front Aspect



Rear Aspect



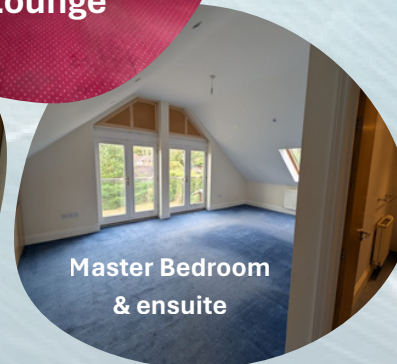
Office



Kitchen Diner



Lounge



Master Bedroom
& ensuite



The current Vicarage was built in 2005 and is accessed down a driveway near the Church. It has four bedrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen and a study with separate access. There is a double garage and a private garden to the rear.

OUR PRIORITIES

To guide our next chapter, we have identified several key areas where we feel God is calling us to grow.

The following priorities will guide the first phase of the new ministry:

Bridge the Generational Gap

Finding new ways to reach children, young people, and the 30–50 age group in our community with a target of increasing their regular attendance from around six to at least twelve in the next year.

Worship Vision

Expand our service pattern to encourage a greater variety and depth of worship within traditional and informal styles to suit our existing congregation whilst being mindful of drawing in new members.

Children and Youth Programme

We currently run groups and services specifically for toddlers, young families and Secondary School aged children. These groups are thriving separately, but we recognise a need to develop transition initiatives.

Community Presence and Christian Witness

Being a visible, active Christian witness within our local schools, businesses, and the many civic clubs that make Ravenshead so active, by offering focussed services for families, schools and other groups, with the aim of targeting a specific group each term in accordance with our Growing Disciples Plan.



OUR NEW INCUMBENT

We hope for a spiritual and prayerful leader to guide our welcoming, all-age community; someone who will nurture our congregation, drive numerical and spiritual growth, and inspire us to live out our vision rooted in the Diocesan values of Compassion, Confidence, and Courage.

Our ideal Vicar will have:

- Strategic Leadership: The ability to develop and implement our "Growing Disciples" plan.
- Missional Heart: A drive to reach the "hundreds we don't currently see," particularly the 30–50 age group and their families.
- Relationship Skills: Someone with the ability to relate to and engage with all ages and backgrounds, and an excellent communicator; 'a people person'.
- Collaborative Spirit: The capacity to develop new initiatives in collaboration with our existing teams.
- Versatility: The ability to lead both contemporary and traditional eucharistic worship with belief and commitment.
- Together with the PCC, lead the parish in appreciating the generosity of God in his provision and ensure the church is on its ten year trajectory towards parish share through inspirational teaching and as part of whole-life discipleship.

These attributes, together with 'Our Priorities' should be seen in the context of the long-term strategic focus. You will find here a supportive PCC and a congregation hungry for "something more." If you feel called to lead a church that is ready for transformation and eager to see many more find a home in Christ, we would love to meet you.

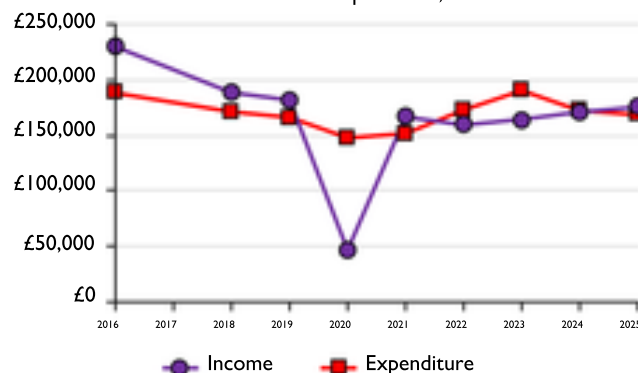
With prayer and anticipation,

Ravenshead Parish

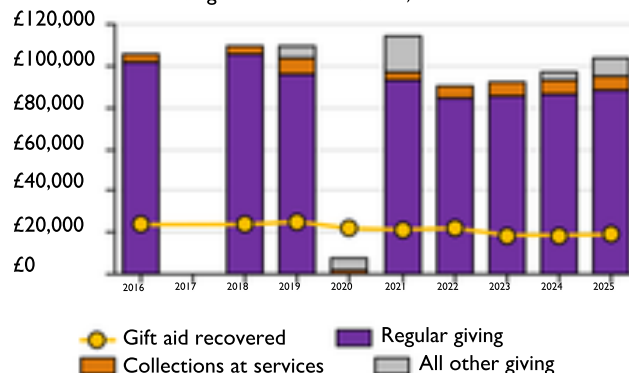


Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Ravenshead in the Deanery of NEWSTEAD

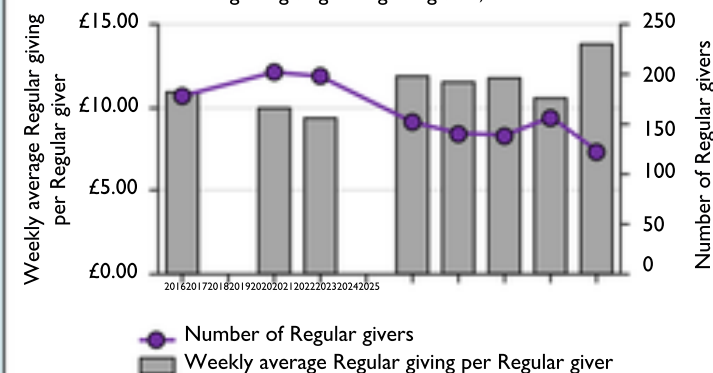
1. Total Income & Total Expenditure, 2016-25



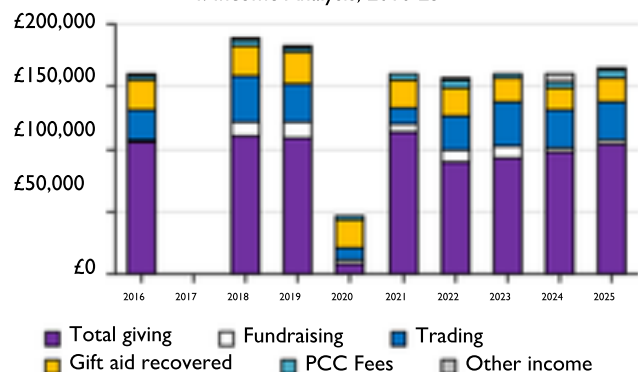
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered, 2016-25



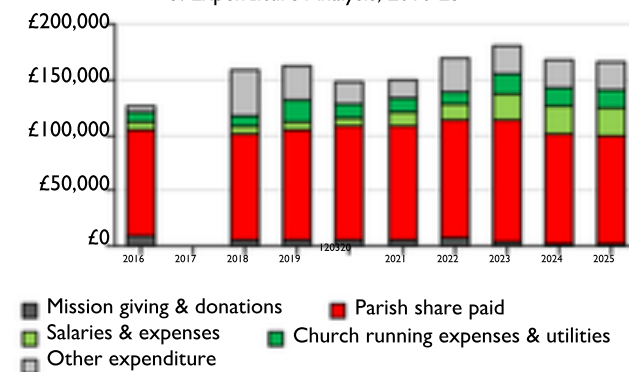
3. Regular giving & Regular givers, 2016-25



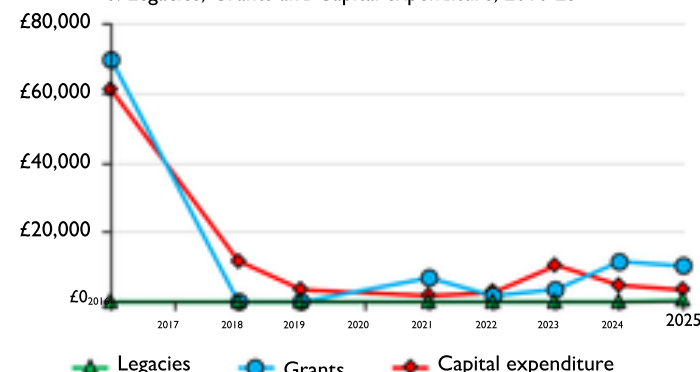
4. Income Analysis, 2016-25



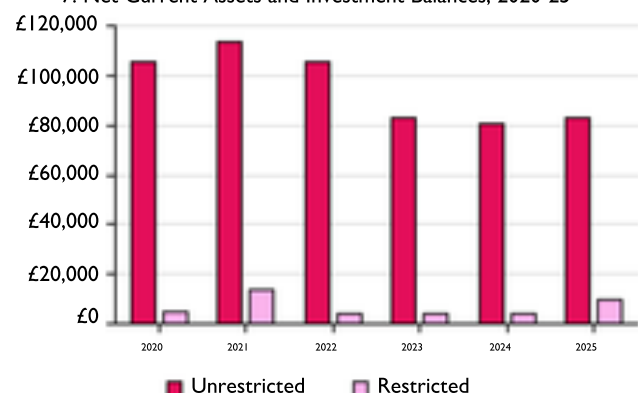
5. Expenditure Analysis, 2016-25



6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure, 2016-25



7. Net Current Assets and Investment Balances, 2020-25



Weekly average Regular giving per Regular giver (2025)

Parish: 13.75
Diocese: 24.14

Number of churches in parish (2025): 2

Parish code: 380038

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.

Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.

Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.

Graph 4: **Total giving** = Regular giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals

Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.

Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.

Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.

Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.

Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.

For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Variations 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: 2016 2; 2018 2; 2019 1; 2020 2; 2021 2; 2022 2; 2023 2; 2024 2; 2025 2.

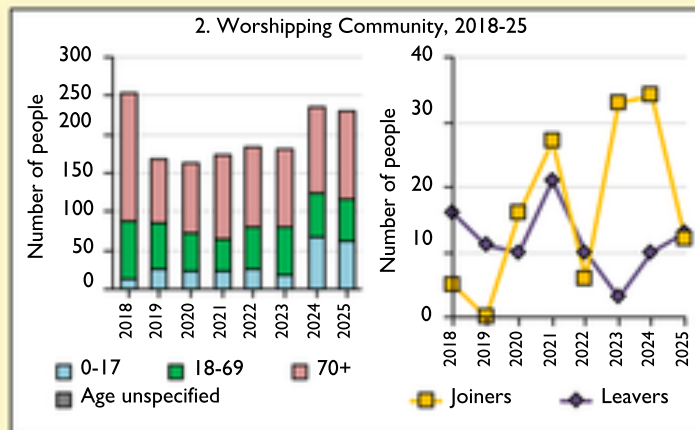
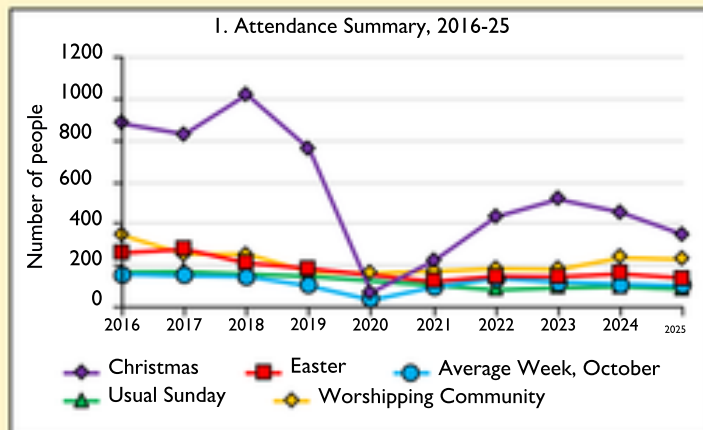
Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 12/07/2026.

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

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Ravenshead in the Deanery of NEWSTEAD

Report	Field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Total Income & Total Expenditure	Income	£229,710	-	£188,421	£181,747	£46,811	£166,512	£159,341	£164,360	£171,013	£175,429
	Expenditure	£188,022	-	£171,181	£166,096	£147,723	£151,575	£172,795	£190,270	£172,170	£168,535
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered	Regular giving	£101,539	-	£105,138	£95,932	-	£93,460	£84,854	£85,423	£86,159	£87,949
	Collections at services	£4,084	-	£4,517	£7,779	£2,147	£3,848	£5,108	£6,706	£6,636	£7,008
	All other giving	£0	-	£0	£5,506	£5,298	£16,570	£0	£0	£4,012	£8,345
	Gift aid recovered	£23,755	-	£23,840	£25,135	£21,871	£21,351	£22,066	£18,713	£18,700	£18,969
3. Regular giving and Regular givers	Weekly average Regular giving per Regular giver	£10.97	-	£10.01	£9.32	-	£11.82	£11.57	£11.82	£10.55	£13.75
	Number of Regular givers	178	-	202	198	-	152	141	139	157	123
4. Income Analysis	Total giving	£105,623	-	£109,655	£109,217	£7,445	£113,878	£89,962	£92,129	£96,807	£103,302
	Fundraising	£1,399	-	£12,618	£12,080	£3,943	£6,753	£8,593	£10,881	£3,409	£4,143
	Trading	£23,937	-	£36,403	£30,815	£9,271	£12,668	£28,151	£34,590	£30,478	£30,515
	Gift aid recovered	£23,755	-	£23,840	£25,135	£21,871	£21,351	£22,066	£18,713	£18,700	£18,969
	PCC Fees	£3,995	-	£5,063	£3,587	£4,049	£4,852	£5,748	£3,147	£4,343	£5,948
	Other income	£1,260	-	£842	£913	£232	£70	£3,071	£1,275	£5,644	£1,856
	Mission giving & donations	£9,394	-	£5,355	£5,663	£5,918	£5,151	£7,193	£3,296	£2,433	£1,493
5. Expenditure Analysis	Parish share paid	£95,952	-	£94,752	£98,028	£102,948	£103,546	£106,140	£110,364	£98,508	£98,008
	Salaries & expenses	£7,002	-	£7,640	£7,560	£6,390	£11,422	£13,820	£22,551	£24,496	£25,591
	Church running expenses & utilities	£7,860	-	£10,179	£19,792	£13,458	£13,178	£12,456	£18,799	£17,000	£15,273
	Other expenditure	£6,708	-	£41,458	£31,588	£19,009	£16,518	£30,561	£24,726	£24,965	£24,735
	Legacies	£0	-	£0	£0	-	£0	£0	£0	£0	£375
	Grants	£69,741	-	£0	£0	-	£6,940	£1,750	£3,625	£11,632	£10,321
	Capital expenditure	£61,106	-	£11,797	£3,465	-	£1,760	£2,625	£10,534	£4,768	£3,435
6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure											
7. Net Current Assets and Investment Balances	Unrestricted					£105,610	£113,740	£105,448	£83,128	£80,901	£82,641
	Restricted					£5,118	£13,915	£3,901	£4,026	£4,240	£9,392

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Ravenshead in the Deanery of NEWSTEAD



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 6085

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	19%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	20%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	37%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	23%	14%	14%
% Christian	51%	43%	46%
% non-Christian religion	4%	7%	11%

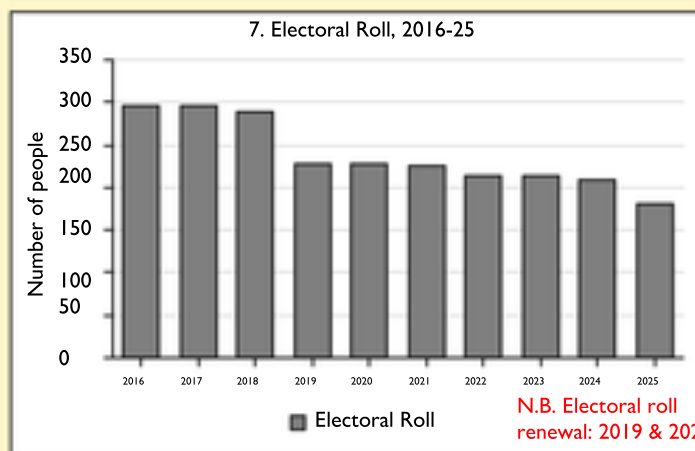
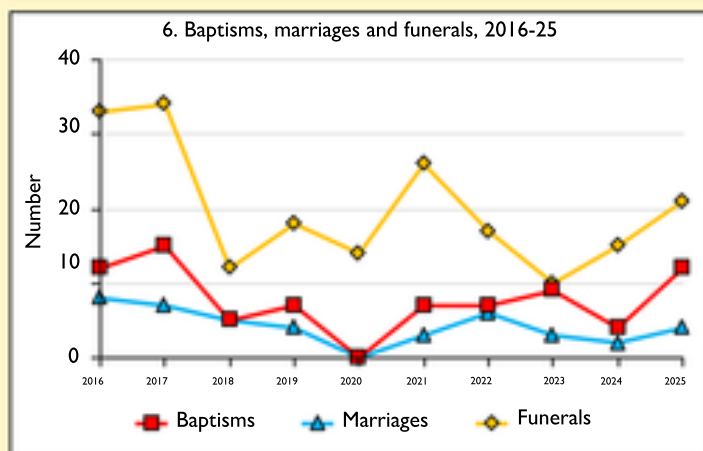
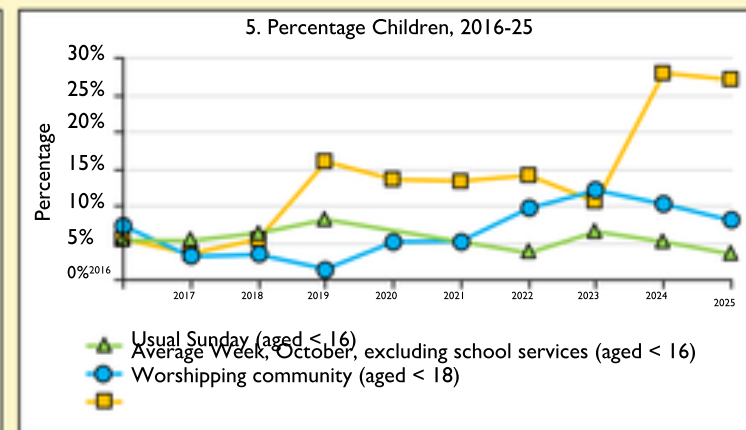
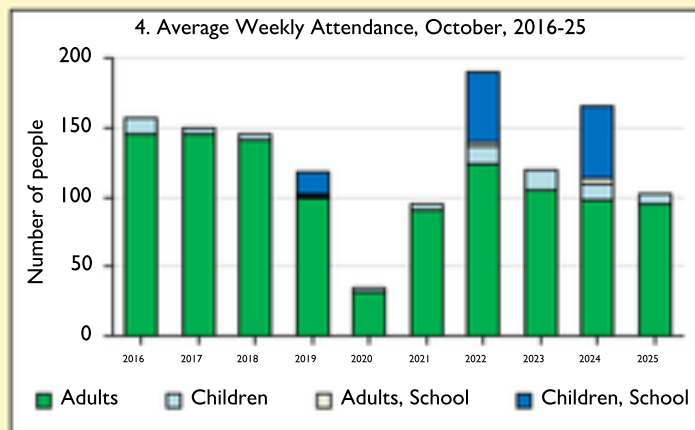
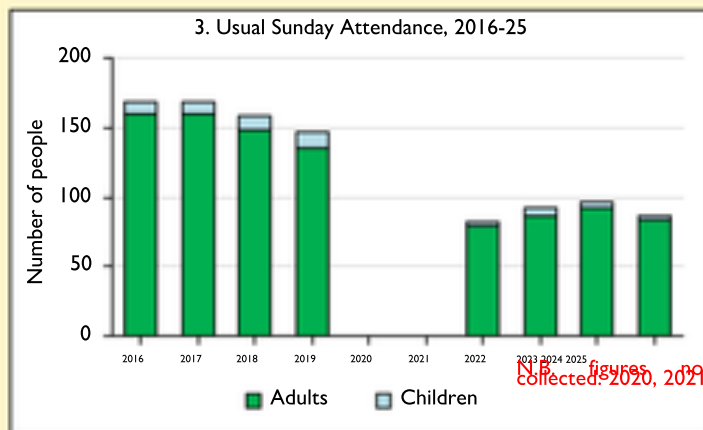
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2025): 11987

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,154=least deprived)

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

Number of churches in parish (2025): 2

Parish Code: 380038



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish of Ravenshead. 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

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For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

approximations.

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: 2016 2;2017 2;2018 2;2019 2;2020 2;2021 2;2022 2;2023 2;2024 2;2025 2.

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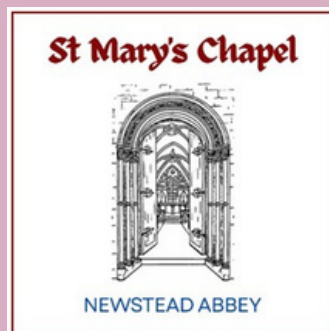
SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Ravenshead in the Deanery of NEWSTEAD

Report	Field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	880	830	1020	760	70	221	433	517	455	348
	Easter	260	277	211	184	-	122	148	145	159	139
	Average Week, October	157	150	146	101	34	95	137	120	110	103
	Usual Sunday	168	169	158	147	-	-	82	92	97	86
	Worshipping Community	344	254	254	169	162	172	184	180	236	229
2. Worshipping Community	Total			254	169	162	172	184	180	236	229
	0-17			14	27	22	23	26	19	66	62
	18-69			75	58	50	42	53	60	58	55
	70+			165	84	90	107	105	101	112	112
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			5	0	16	27	6	33	34	12
	Leavers			16	11	10	21	10	3	10	13
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	159	160	148	135	-	-	79	86	92	83
	Children	9	9	10	12	-	-	3	6	5	3
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	146	145	141	100	32	90	124	105	99	94
	Children	12	5	5	2	2	5	13	15	11	8
	Adults, School	-	-	-	0	-	-	3	-	5	0
	Children, School	-	-	-	16	-	-	50	-	52	0
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	5%	5%	6%	8%	-	-	4%	7%	5%	3%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	7%	3%	3%	1%	5%	5%	10%	12%	10%	8%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	6%	4%	6%	16%	14%	13%	14%	11%	28%	27%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	12	15	5	7	0	7	7	9	4	12
	Marriages	8	7	5	4	0	3	6	3	2	4
	Funerals	33	34	12	18	14	26	17	10	15	21
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	295	295	288	229	228	226	213	213	210	180



Report Booklet
of
Team Work
for the
Annual Parochial Meeting
29th March 2026
[up to and including the year ended 31st December 2025]
of
The Parish of Ravenshead

“We are a worshipping community
with a mission to share
the love of God”



Vicar's Review of 2025

Each passing year is full of the evidence of the goodness of God as we attempt to be a worshipping community which shares his love within and beyond the church walls. It is good to reflect on our church life and give thanks.

I am thankful for all of you who play your part in the ministry of the Church, Chapel or Centre, whether that's up front in a visible role or behind the scenes. Everyone has a significant part to play, which benefits the whole church. Thank you so much.

As I look back at the highlights of the year I am grateful for a wonderful Holiday Rock, which many described as the best ever! It is hard to quantify what or why that should have been the case, except that the Holy Spirit was tangibly at work, touching young people's lives in new ways, including among our large band of young helpers.

Off the back of a successful Holiday Rock a new youth group was started called 'Rock On!'. This too has been a wonderful success, meeting most weeks during the Autumn. A dedicated team has formed to keep this group running creatively and with discipleship built in from the start. Each week there is a different activity in addition to the regular table tennis, board games and tuck shop. A 'pause for thought' gives a moment of reflection and discussion on a Bible theme. In 2026 an Alpha group will be offered to these youngsters. These are exciting times. Please do pray for these young people and their leaders.

Big Night Out, the social event for women, gathered momentum in 2025, and by the end of the year even made it onto the front page of the Ravenshead Newsletter! About 50 women each time enjoy a three-course dinner and quiz on a theme, with optional dressing up and dancing. It has been great to see women from outside the church feel comfortable to come along and we have had a lot of fun together, with friendships forming. We couldn't do it without the help of the men who have run the kitchen on the night while the BNO team look after the front of house.

Towards the end of the year we had a consultation on the service pattern, the hope being to combine the morning services to create capacity to develop the provision to our growing fringe of children, youth and families. The resulting decision was to create one Main Service at 10am in place of the 9.30am and 11.15am services.

As I read the consultation responses I was moved by how many people supported the desire to do more for those on our fringes, being ready to relinquish some of their personal preferences to embrace a fresh unity with one another. The new service pattern started in Advent.

Sadly some of the hoped-for developments have needed to be paused as the church now approaches a time of clergy vacancy and I prepare to leave. As I go, I want to thank you all for sharing with me in the mission and ministry of the church, a precious partnership we have with Christ. I have many things for which I'm thankful but especially the friendships I have made along the way. My prayers are with you as you look to recruit and appoint a new vicar. I hope that he or she joins you soon, but as you wait I have every confidence that the enormous, dedicated team of volunteers offering their contributions to the Church, Chapel and Centre will do a wonderful job as it continues to seek God's kingdom here in Ravenshead.

With my love and prayers, as ever.
Kate

Revd. Kate Byrom - Vicar

Safeguarding:



Back in January, CJ and myself completed a matrix which outlined who among the many volunteers we have in our church needed DBS checks and what training should be completed. This streamlining has helped with keeping records updated and monitoring of the refresher training.

Recruitment for volunteers has been formalized and there is now a process for interviewing, reference gathering and safeguarding training which meets the standards set by the Diocese.

I also began being supervised so the post of PSO is not too onerous. I also meet regularly with CJ to ensure she is not overwhelmed by the amount of work generated by the requirements of being on the team. My own supervision has been taken over by Linda Kirby as part of her role in Pastoral Care.

I began offering training for volunteers working with the children in Holiday Rock as there was not enough time or availability from Jubilee House.

This ensured that the holiday scheme ran with all volunteers being DBS checked and trained to the correct level. I have been trying to get on the trainers course for almost six months as this keeps being postponed. However, I do have permission to deliver this training because of my previous career as a teacher and that I know the content of the courses.

The Safeguarding policy was updated as part of the review of policies in church.

In September, I took over as Hub owner - this is the place where we record the progress made and it is highlighted for next steps to be taken. This can be viewed by the Safeguarding team at Jubilee House. I also asked for people to take part in the safeguarding survey which was conducted nationwide for the Church of England. The survey was conducted this January and results will follow once all data has been collated and examined.

The Dashboard has been very healthy this year, standing always at over 90% compliance.

There have been a few safeguarding reports taken to Southwell this year. None of these required police involvement, some offered support from outside agencies or asked us to provide formal support.



Karen Turner — Parish Safeguarding Officer



Health & Safety

At the start of the year there was a fire in one of the LED lights in the foyer. Fortunately, the swift action of members of the congregation who were in church because there was a funeral at that time ensured that the damage was kept to a minimum. They put the fire out using a fire extinguisher and

contacted the fire service who arrived promptly to make sure that the building was safe.

Following the fire the insurance company were informed and arranged for the replacement of the damaged wood surrounding the lights and repaired the smoke damage. Whilst waiting for this to be authorised the lights were deactivated. No satisfactory explanation was found as to why the light caught fire, therefore it was agreed that all the similar lights in the foyer should be replaced to minimise the chance of a recurrence.

During the investigation the electrical inspection was due for renewal and it was decided that this should be done after the repairs were completed and the new heating installed which did is scheduled for February 2026 after delays in the faculty application. The PAT testing was scheduled to take place at the same time.



On Tuesday 29 September, an unannounced short fire safety inspection was carried out by Arnold Station Red Watch and determined that the outcome was tolerable. They raised some advisory comments, such as reviewing the risk assessment and enhancing some of the signs which have now been completed.

There have been three incidents within the church during the year which have been recorded. These were investigated and measures taken to ensure that these do not reoccur. This will be done by careful attention to procedures and highlighted in risk assessments.

Training has been completed for both first aid and fire marshals and those who have gained their certification are recorded in the updated policy document signed by the vicar before she left and approved by the PCC at their meeting in January.

Finally, Kevin Smith has now taken over as the Health and Safety officer and during the vacancy the responsible person will now be the Bishop.

Patrick Griffiths—Health & Safety Officer

St. Marys Newstead Abbey Chapel:



The council met 4 times during 2025, the last being solely related to Kate leaving the Parish.

We now have a number of leaflets and flyers publishing the services and “offices” for the public to take away when visiting the Abbey.

A “Prayer Table” is in place near the door, where anyone can switch on a “tealight” since the Abbey have withdrawn the permission to use “live candles”. This has been a surprising success.

We continue our decision to be publicly visible with placing on display a “where the money goes” poster so that visitors understand the precarious nature of maintaining this Worshipping Community which has existed here for over 800 years.



Our social interaction within our “family” has been improved by the “indoor picnic” in the orangery which was well attended.

Inevitably the Memorial Book has continuing additions which in turn impact on our income stream, but it is rewarding to welcome “new faces” especially those who are becoming “regulars”.



We have been blessed with Lawrence, a young man from Nottingham who plays the piano at our services which lifts us all. He responded to one of our “flyers” and travels by bus to be with us—a true example of being touched by our traditional services; all we need is more attendees who can actually sing so that the Cloister secho again with praise to the Lord.

Twice monthly services continue - (except in August!) - offering traditional worship with an average 18 in attendance. A slight increase on last year.

Other “Offices” have shown a reduction

- 2 Weddings
- 2 Baptisms
- 1 Funeral (memorial)
- 1 wedding blessing, which included two Baptisms.

Witnesses filled the chapel with a service in both English and Chinese and the principles also attended the Carol Service. A demonstration of the strength of our small religious family.

Special Services have also declined in attendance

Sunrise Service	<i>unavailable</i>
Harvest Festival	15
Remembrance Service	18
Memorial service	15
Carol Service	48



Financially – expenditure, limited to parish share, insurance and essential expenses to conduct services.

Balance of account as at 31/12/25 £3069 with £12,000 on deposit.

Overall expenditure exceeds income by £903. Expenses are cut as low as they possibly can be without us not paying our allocated part of the parish share.

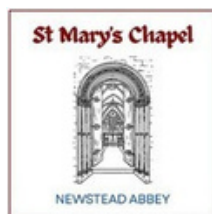
Representing the Abbey Chapel, Gill Cox created a most beautiful tree for the tree festival, with the most appropriate theme 'Gifts from God' reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.



It was decided that since the Chapel is part of Ravenshead Parish it should have more presence in publications relating to the Parish.

This requires an identity Logo to complement St. Peter's logo so several possibilities were viewed which also emphasised the Chapel being located at Newstead Abbey rather than part of Abbey (although it is).

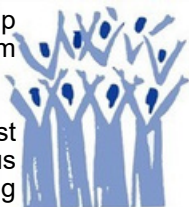
There was a consensus of opinion which has resulted in the current logo incorporated in "Parish headings".



David Owen (Chair) on behalf of the Abbey Council

Worship:

Thankyou to all those who continue to provide worship opportunities in many different styles in our various venues from the traditional BCP services at the Abbey Chapel through to the Little Fishes toddler service in St. Peter's church lounge. We have aimed to make this the most unmissable hour of the week for those who attend our various services. Little Fishes has enjoyed enormous growth, bucking the trend of other services. The chapel and Wednesday services remain steady.



We were sad this last year to see our wonderful organist, Chris Lawry, leave in May. He had made a big contribution to the both the traditional and contemporary music accompaniment and we miss him. We're grateful to those who remain and help keep the musical show on the road, including Peter Hart, Leta Budden, our Choir Director Greg

Place and the choir, Tom Levey who plays the saxophone as well as Charis Byrom who was back with us for a few months. The Christingle Band, coordinated by Jeremy Hill, was again enjoyed by all on Christmas Eve.

2025 AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Weekly services

Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion **39** (43 in 2024 and 47 in 2023)

Sunday 11.15am Informal Worship **28** (32 in 2024 and up from 25 in 2023)

Wednesday 10.30am Communion in St. Peter's Church Lounge **12** (12 in 2024, 13 in 2023)

Twice monthly services

11.15am BCP Services (alternating Matins and HC) at the Abbey Chapel **17** (17 in 2023)

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Service **27** (up from 17 in 2024 and 23 in 2023)

Monthly services

8.30am Quiet BCP in St. Peter's **10** (down from 13 in 2024 and 14 in 2023)

10.30am *Second Sunday Specials* **65** (up from 55 in 2024 and 52 in 2023).

4pm *Sunday @ Four* Children and Family Service in St. Peter's **18** (down from 29 in 2024 and 20 in 2023)



Rev. Kate Byrom—Vicar

Choir:



Hanging on still! I am glad to report that despite recent changes, a Choirmaster doing lots of other things in retirement, holidays, and advancing years have NOT stopped us singing, and always look forward to the thought of increasing our numbers...

We are grateful particularly to Leta and Tom who are accompanying the singing for many services, and Peter on the 2nd Sunday. We were very sad to say goodbye to Chris Lawry last year, but again at Christmas welcomed old friends back to reinforce the Choir once more, resulting in some soaring soprano lines

Musically I have continued to challenge the choir if I can, not necessarily with difficult music (they disagree) but perhaps unusual music, and plainsong has featured slightly more. In Latin, with strange musical notation. So far that seems to have been well received!

Not everyone can sing every week but that's fine and I would encourage anyone who wants to join even on an occasional basis to have a word with me any Sunday.

So, we look forward to 2026 with our usual comment..
"there are still vacancies in all voices...."



Greg Place - Choirmaster



Prayer:

There are lots of different ways that we can pray or be prayed for at St. Peters' and the Abbey Chapel some of which are noted below:-

Intercessions in our services: Led from the front by someone from the Intercessors Team and/or the clergy. These tend to cover a number of issues which could be local in the community, in our country, in the world, highlight a need maybe connected with the bible reading/talk that morning and we always remember those named in the Book of Remembrance as their anniversaries come around.

After the 10 a.m. Sunday Service: There is always someone on duty usually this is announced at the front as to who this is. You can ask for prayer for yourself, someone known to you or a particular situation, on a one to one. There are now 11 members on this team including 2 new folk who joined us at the end of the year.

Zoom Prayer Meeting: This happens **most** Mondays from 7p.m.–7.20 p.m. and has been in place now for a number of years. This is to predominately pray for our own churches and its mission to the people of Ravenshead. It has a very small group of committed folk some of whom are happy to lead us into prayer either in silence or out loud. It is hoped to develop this and to add to our focus praying for the Vacancy and all that surrounds the needs of our churches as we move forward into the unknown and seek another Vicar.



Homegroups: Prayers are shared in homegroups sometimes for individuals in the group and for their families. It can be a safe place to share our deepest concerns knowing these will be kept confidential as the group offer prayer support in the meetings and beyond.

Prayer Chain: This has been on the go for some years and is a means of sharing a need quickly offering prayer support for those who ask for it in times of sickness, surgery, bereavement and other stressful situations. *If this is used and not directly for you then permission needs to be sought before communicated and sent round by group email.*

Children and Families:

We have a small team committed to praying specifically for our Children and Families and a Prayer Letter is emailed round approximately every 6 weeks or more frequently if a need is highlighted.

The *Staff Team* meet weekly to say Morning Prayer together or Celtic Worship and this includes prayer opportunities for the community and beyond.

We begin all of our meetings with prayers and I am sure there are many other ways that folk pray but not recorded here. As we end the year and look to another, the hope is that our prayer will be increased as individuals and, in our groups, – *the challenge for us all is can we commit to more prayer?*

When Revd Richard Kellett [Area Dean and Associate Archdeacon] visited us at the end of the year to talk about the upcoming Vacancy he told us that a key priority for the church was to have a Prayer Strategy. He said it was crucial to work out a strategy for prayer during the Vacancy as it is an important factor for success and the Parish needs to take all opportunities to pray to discern God's Will.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

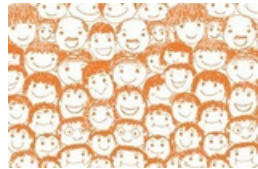
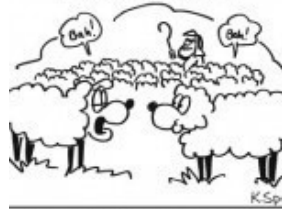
If you would like to know more about any of the above then please do speak to me.

Linda Kirby – PCC Liaison



Pastoral Care Team:

The Core Team has consisted of Revd. Kate, Kathryn Browne [LLM] Linda Kirby [Lay Licensed Pastoral Minister] and Heather Young [Secretary]. Each month we have continued to meet to identify the needs of the church family and where we can the wider community. From this meeting we seek the help of the whole Pastoral Team to help with any follow-up that has been pinpointed at this meeting. This might include a home visit or maybe a telephone call to check on someone we are concerned about - these contacts are much appreciated by the recipients. The members of the rest of the team are: Leta Budden, Kathryn Lumb, Janet Wileman, Maureen Smith and Revd. Richard Kirby.



The Core Team meetings continue to be based on all those whose names are on the Electoral Roll – 2025 saw the renewal of the whole of the Roll and sadly our numbers decreased according to our Electoral Roll Officer by about 10% mostly because of death or people moving away to be nearer family. Our meetings also include looking at Bereavement follow-up, any communions which might be required and any needs in the wider community, we also try and make space for an extended time of prayer for the ministry as a whole.

Home communions to the housebound have continued throughout the year Kate, Richard, Kathryn and Linda going out at Festival times i.e., Easter, St. Peter's tide, Harvest and Christmas and this year we have had a number of regular attenders who are no longer able to attend on a Sunday so we have a list of those who we have been visiting on a monthly basis which has been much appreciated by the recipients and their carers and giving them a sense of belonging to the church family.



The Memorial Service took place on Sunday the 2nd November and was well attended and appreciated by those who came. This year there seemed to be a greater number staying on for refreshments afterwards so good opportunities for a chat with those for whom this is their one service a year they attend.

It might also be the first time they have been in church since the funeral of their loved one. Bereavement follow-up continues as and when we think appropriate with the sending out of first year anniversary cards.

At the end of the year as we learnt of Kate leaving us, we decided to re-arrange the Core Meetings to now include Linda [Lay Licensed Pastoral Minister], Kathryn Brown [Lay Licensed Minister] and Revd. Richard Kirby and at each of our meetings to include our team members to take part.

Heather stepped down as Secretary to the Core Team and we thank her for all that she contributed during her time with us. Although we have a

team in place I continue to be grateful to the people at St. Peter's and the Abbey Chapel who on a daily basis are very good at showing God's love to the church family and beyond to those in our community who are especially in need. Pastoral care also takes place within our home groups where there can be mutual support and prayer for one another. However, we know there are times when we 'miss' someone who does have a need so we continue to be reliant on you to communicate these needs to us otherwise we can be quite unaware. I am always on the lookout for another team member so if you feel God is calling you to this ministry then please have a word with me.

Linda Kirby—Lay Licensed Pastoral Minister

Home Group:



We currently have four home groups within the village of Ravenshead, who meet on a regular basis throughout the year. The home group leaders are *Andrea Lagerberg, Jackie Douglas-Kellie, Kathryn Browne, Heather Young, Val Howell and Paddy Hunter.*

Several of the group's leaders have reached the age when they would like to prepare others to take over responsibility for leadership. Please pray that God will raise up those willing to take on this role and guide and equip them. We are keen to encourage more people in the congregation to join home groups so they can benefit from the love, prayer support, fellowship and a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus.



Most home groups meet fortnightly and enjoy seeing each other socially. Jackie and Kathryn's group meet weekly alternating their home group meeting with a coffee morning. Other groups celebrate birthdays and enjoy sharing meals together.



Many home group leaders have taken on extra responsibilities within the church, making it hard to find a suitable time for everyone to meet. This challenge was thoroughly discussed with Revd. Kate Byron before she left her position. She recommended staying connected during the vacancy by creating a dedicated WhatsApp group. We are currently setting this up.



If you would like to join a home group or just find out more about it, you can be assured you will receive a warm welcome. Please talk to or contact Heather Young (phone number 01623 453161)

Heather Young—Homegroup Co-ordinator

Children and Families:

As you can see from the information below there has been a great deal of opportunities for the church to build links with the community in 2025. With Revd. Kate and her extensive team of volunteers (more would always be welcome) there has been an increase in numbers at Little Fishes and the start of Rock On has been very positive. We look forward to continuing Kate's plan for the parish in 2026.



Pebbles:

Pebbles started the new year with good attendance but numbers fluctuate weekly with no indication as to why we are really busy one week and really quiet the next. Having said that numbers average out at around 60 each week. We also lose a number of children at the end of each term when they start F1. However it is encouraging to see that some parents have chosen their child's nursery days to keep Monday mornings free. In addition we are having new registrations on a regular basis. Pebbles is held on a Monday morning during school term times. We run from 9:15-11:15 and starts with free play and always a craft activity. At 10:55 we tidy away the toys and then have 15 mins singing time.

This is an important outreach activity across Ravenshead and builds up relationships and links between church and the community and a good link for Little Fishes.

Little Fishes:

This is our toddler service and has been running now for 3 years. It is held in the church lobby and lounge on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month during term time. We start with free play and refreshments in the lobby until we feel everyone is ready to move into the lounge for singing, a short, visually appealing and interactive story and a short prayer time. The stories alternate between the Old and New Testaments. Each session feels exciting and the team all agree we can feel the Lord's presence. Although numbers fluctuate we had a solid base of around 10 families up until September but this increased going towards the end of the year to a fantastic 15 families. The attendees are predominantly families from Pebbles. We have a large team of volunteers which will allow for flexibility and leadership of the sessions in Kate's absence in 2026.



Sunday @4:



The children and families service is held on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Centre. There is a welcome, short story, prayer and then activities and crafts associated with the theme, before we all enjoy tea together, usually sandwiches, cakes /biscuits and fruit. Allergies and intolerances are catered for, and is enjoyed by all. The decision to move this into the Centre has not had any impact on the number of families attending and these remain low with 3-4 families each session. The team will continue to run these services with each taking the opportunity to lead, and look at ways we can increase numbers.

Shrove Tuesday pancake party:

The party was held in the center on 4th March 2025 with excellent attendance. There were games and activities and of course plenty of 'pancake tossing'. Fun was had by all and provided an excellent link to the community. This will also be held in 2026.



Experience Pentecost:



We welcomed groups of children from the local primary schools to an immersive experience of Pentecost for RE curriculum based work for their years 3 and 4. This is accomplished through a series of immersive stations around the church. Feedback from children and staff was very positive.

Hallowe'en

With so many children and families out trick or treating it was decided that again this year we would serve hot chocolate and sweets from a table outside the church. We had pumpkins on the table carved with crosses or smiley faces. Children and adults alike appreciated the hot chocolate on a cold night. The children were given the choice of a notebook, pen or keyring with a Bible quote on them to take away. It was also another opportunity to connect with the local community.



Christine Richmond—PCCLiaison

Holiday Rock:

Holiday Rock 2025's theme was "David, Giant of Faith".



To begin with, we just had the words "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord" and David followed from there as an example of someone who was close to God's heart.

We had fun when it came to the dramas, with David (Daniel) felling a 9-foot high giant with a ping pong ball and Saul (Bella) flinging his sword at David. There was a mass charge of warring armies around the Church...everyone was safe.

The group times, especially for 10-11 year olds, were very significant. That older group met in the lounge, where God's presence among them was sometimes very real.

On Day 3 we considered Psalm 23. Rev Kate and Daniel enacted the psalm. In groups the children watched silently while their leaders re-told it through small models. Finally everyone chose which aspect of the psalm

spoke to them most and they were able to create that scene from a range of craft materials.

Games were greatly appreciated as ever, along with singing to the band, lots of crafts and the refreshments. Approximately 51 children came over the three days.

One of the highlights was at lunchtimes when 14 young people sat down to eat together across 2 tables placed end to end. From here, and the enthusiasm of the Year 6s, Rock On was born.

Rock On!:

Rock On, without its name, was already a twinkle in our eyes before Holiday Rock 2025. We could see that numbers of teens, or almost teens connected with our Church, were increasing. We had a couple of events: a bus trip to King's Mill Adventure Base and a BBQ and Games Night at



Richard and Linda's.

It seemed obvious that we couldn't end Holiday Rock without inviting the Y6s and the secondary-aged helpers to something more. Kate thought of the name and we were off, starting in September.

We were well out of our comfort zone to begin with, but

gradually evolved a program that seems to be popular. At first we didn't even know how often to hold meetings, but with lots of willing volunteers we have settled on meeting every week apart from the Sundays at the beginning, end and during each school holiday.

Each session ends with hot chocolate and "Pause for Thought".

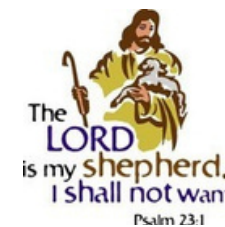
Thank you very much to all those who pray faithfully for Rock On, with some praying for individual young people.

This, I believe, has been and continues to be key.

Helen Lewis - Leader

Ravenshead C of E School:

Neil Brown, Janet Castle and Kate Byrom continued as Foundation Governors at Ravenshead C of E.



global warming caused by human activities and the topic of setting up a Repair Café came up which has been on Eco Team agenda throughout the year. A request for volunteers to make this a reality was made through the Ravenshead Newsletter in December.

The Eco Team met 7 times in the year. Francis Newenham stood down from the team in September, and we are grateful for all he did in so many ways. It was wonderful to welcome Robin Tynen to the team in November.



Andrea Lagerberg—Eco Team Co-ordinator

Communications:

These have continued to be handled by your Church Administrator CJ and Revd Kate. Between them they create flyers and posters for church and school noticeboards, Facebook posts, maintain the websites (A Church Near You being the first stop for up-to-date information). They create the weekly congregational mailing, contribute weekly to the church school mailing and the Ravenshead



Newsletter Church and Centre articles. As Revd Kate prepares to leave David Sneath has kindly agreed to coordinate future Centre articles with help from the Centre Steering Group and Penny Bent (an Abbey Chapel member) joins CJ in coordinating the Church page.

Revd. Kate Byrom—Vicar

The Centre at St. Peter's:

The Steering Group comprises David Sneath, Claire Mackenzie, Eddie Januszczyk and Kate Byrom, with Gemma Bodill (Centre Coordinator) in attendance. It meets monthly to manage the work of the Centre and reports back to the PCC. A larger group makes up the layouts team and is put to constant action in setting up rooms for groups and packing away. I'm most grateful for their dedication and hard work.

The Centre is still in use every day of the week by various outside groups. We are pleased to offer a number of regular events for the community including Pebble toddler group, the Community Breakfasts and Lunches, Big Night Out and now Rock On! youth group. We also had another super Summer Fair again this year run by Sven and Andrea Lagerberg with their large team of willing helpers.

Revd. Kate Byrom—Vicar

Social Events and Hospitality:

Coffee and conversation – this continues to be well attended with a good mix from both services.



Centre Lunch and Breakfasts – continue to do well, we are now having close to 30 regular lunch guests and 30-35 breakfast guests.

We are continuing with the takeaway service for anyone who cannot get to the Centre., as this has kept people connected.

Big Night Out – we have had three events: an Après Ski

party in January, a Night at the Oscars in June and a Back to School party in October, the numbers are slowly increasing and the feedback has been very positive.

The volunteer catering team also provided for 4 wakes during the year, all for families with a connection to the Church.

Church events

Pancake Day Party was enjoyed by about 15 children and their parents

Maundy Thursday Meal: Chicken stew provided by a small team of volunteers and about 40 people enjoyed the meal before the Maundy Service.



On All Hallows Eve we provided hot chocolate from a stall by the side of the road to families who were out trick or treating, much appreciated as it was a chilly night.

Carol Service refreshments worked well with a good proportion of the congregation coming into the Centre afterwards to partake of mulled wine and home cooked mince pies.

Choral Evensong and Afternoon Tea was well attended with about 65 guests (including the choir)

Claire Mackenzie—PCC Liaison

Praise!