

Minster Communities

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

30 April 2024

What is a Minster Community?

'Minster Communities' means a **community of parishes who work together in mission** (without losing their individual identity), and who work closely with their church schools, fresh expressions of Church, and chaplaincies.

The intention is to **strengthen local churches** so they can better serve their own communities. The aim is to **lift some of the administrative burden** and to **fully integrate** the work of **churches, schools, and households** in growing faith.

A very brief history of Minster Communities...

Shaped by God Together started 20 years ago

Financial difficulties were acknowledged just before COVID

A new framework to fund ministry was agreed in 2021

3 pilots were then run across the diocese

The first Minister Community was created at Launde in April 2023

Ongoing roll out across the diocese

The discernment process...



Who are you?

We are a radically inclusive, intercultural, community, gathered at the heart of our diverse University town. We enjoy and participate in a rich long history of worship in our building, emanating from the 12th century. The phrase 'robbed and radical' sums up our approach – blending a traditional Anglican liturgical worship with a theology of radical inclusion concerned with social, racial and climate justice.

Choral, contemporary, and contemplative worship can all be found at All Saints, within a strong liturgical tradition. Prayer forms the beating heart of our community, with daily morning prayer (both in person and online) and prayer at all planned events and meetings. As the historical parish church of Loughborough, we participate in the civic life of the town, taking a lead on the Mayor's carol service and the remembrance day activities through our outgoing Rector's role as RBL Chaplain. We are well-resourced in skills and structure allowing us to maintain good governance and safeguarding practice.

We are intentionally welcoming and hospitable to all who come through the door celebrating and affirming every person without discrimination. We:

'challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.'

This includes advocating for equal rights concerning the marriage of same-sex couples.



Where have you come from?

All Saints has had 37 rectors, since the 12th Century. In this time, we've walked alongside the town of Loughborough, being instrumental to the foundation of the Loughborough Grammar School and Fearon Hall – a major community hub for the town and a spiritual A&E during times of crisis. Our liturgical yet open style of worship has been a common thread throughout, providing a peaceful and contemplative space for all.

50 years ago:

Very strong traditional, liturgical, and choral services with strong links to the Loughborough Endowed Schools. There was a major reordering of the building at this time to create a Nave altar and a new lighting system. Later incumbents acted as community leaders and reconcilers at pivotal moments such as 9/11 and local tragedies.

10 years ago:

Vacancy after our first female Incumbent who had a focus on growth and pastoral care in the community. The vacancy heralded a period of consolidation, with lay leaders stepping to the fore, buttressing areas of strength, though at times pressing beyond the bounds of resources on offer. The strong choral tradition was kept alive during incumbency by a strong-minded choir which maintained a real sense of community, alongside a thriving Children's choir (part of the DioSing project). Despite these positives, there are mixed recollections of this period as either energising or exhausting and the finances ultimately worsened.

5 years ago:

A time of new beginnings and growth. In 2017 we signed up to become an inclusive church, an intercultural worshipping community, and began our eco-church journey. We received a grant for 'mission through music' giving new life to the choir. We started a project to upgrade our sound system and website (now complete) and began to enjoy a blend of w...

Where are you going?

Ultimately we want to follow where we feel God is calling us to. Towards becoming a fully inclusive, intercultural, eco-community that acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. This sometimes means advocating for those traditionally marginalised by the Church or community.

Our direction of travel is towards becoming a community that truly lives out and embodies our values more widely. We want to look outwards, participating in the life of our whole parish through our charitable partnerships, the university chaplaincy and musical offerings, such as our free lunchtime concerts.

We want to extend relations within our Deanery and be involved in the life of the Diocese.

Underpinning our journey is our deliberate liturgical approach, aiming to become representative of the very best examples of the Anglican tradition in our worship, prayer and music.

What are you doing now?

We are deepening our sense of a housebound, elderly, and marginally some of whom are seeking asylum steadily growing and appointed a contemporary music. We are expanding our church building and other estates ourselves in. Alongside this, we are solar panels. As we enter vacant inclusive mission, building a structure they arise. We are further developing carbon emissions, and looking for

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Recently, we have seen the Kingdom emerging in our growing diversity within the congregation, across generations, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, and education.

The demonstrable love being shared across the congregation and community for each other has been a privilege to be a part of. The newly formed pastoral team has made real connections with those who cannot make our services and other activities.

We're seeing people being affirmed and often returning to church after rejection and often long gaps away. This is especially true of our LGBTQ+ siblings where we are becoming increasingly able to offer a heartfelt and true welcome. Such individuals bring amazing skills and excitement at the invitation to participate in services. As a result, we have found that many in our community have discerned a vocation to ministry, and we have supported individuals in training. This has led to rich and diverse teaching, of a high calibre, as new perspectives on God's word are shared.

As we move into a period of vacancy, it has been exciting to see our PCC, warden team, and congregation be firm in their desire to grow our inclusive ministry. A ministry which has resulted in growing numbers of disciples, financial giving, and a flourishing spiritual life together.



What are you hopeful for?

We are hopeful for growth in all senses. That we will see more disciples in our community and a greater depth of spirituality amongst our congregation and community. We are hopeful that we can find a real sense of abundance through the MC forming process as we come together to reflect on our skills and assets.

We are hopeful that we can learn from others, that we can discern a strong vision for our area, and that the end position is full of grace, generosity and love.

We are hopeful that God will continue working through us to offer a radical, open and inclusive welcome to all who seek Him, and enable us to meet them where they are. We are hopeful that we will become an ever more inclusive and affirming space to everyone we meet and journey alongside, whether they are just popping in to see our beautiful building for ten minutes or if they stay for many years to come.



What are you fearful about?

Generally, we have fears about the vacancy:

- That our leaders and volunteers will become overstretched.
- That we might lose momentum and miss people who could have found a home with us.
- That we will lose our sense of common vision, that our blend of worship styles will lead to disunity, and our progress to embed our values will falter.

We are committed to our shared life as part of the Anglican Communion but are at times frustrated by the tension between that and our desire to be radically inclusive, particularly around the area of same-sex marriage. As a consequence, of the Minster Community process, we are fearful we will not be able to be our true selves; our identity and that our inclusive, intercultural, sacramental church will be diluted.

Alongside this, we are fearful our congregation will feel change has been done to them, rather than with them.

We are fearful that we do not have the resources to maintain a large medieval building, whilst giving priority to the purpose of the Church.



How can others pray for you?

Please pray that we continue to feel affirmation in the Word of God for our vision and direction of travel.

That we might grow corporately and individually in wisdom, grace, and love for one another and the world.

We ask for prayer that our radically inclusive ethos and ministry will be maintained during our period of vacancy and that we can discern and fill our leadership needs well, to fulfil our vision and values.

We pray that God will provide us with a new leader who can move us forward in our inclusive ministry.



Conversation prompt for:

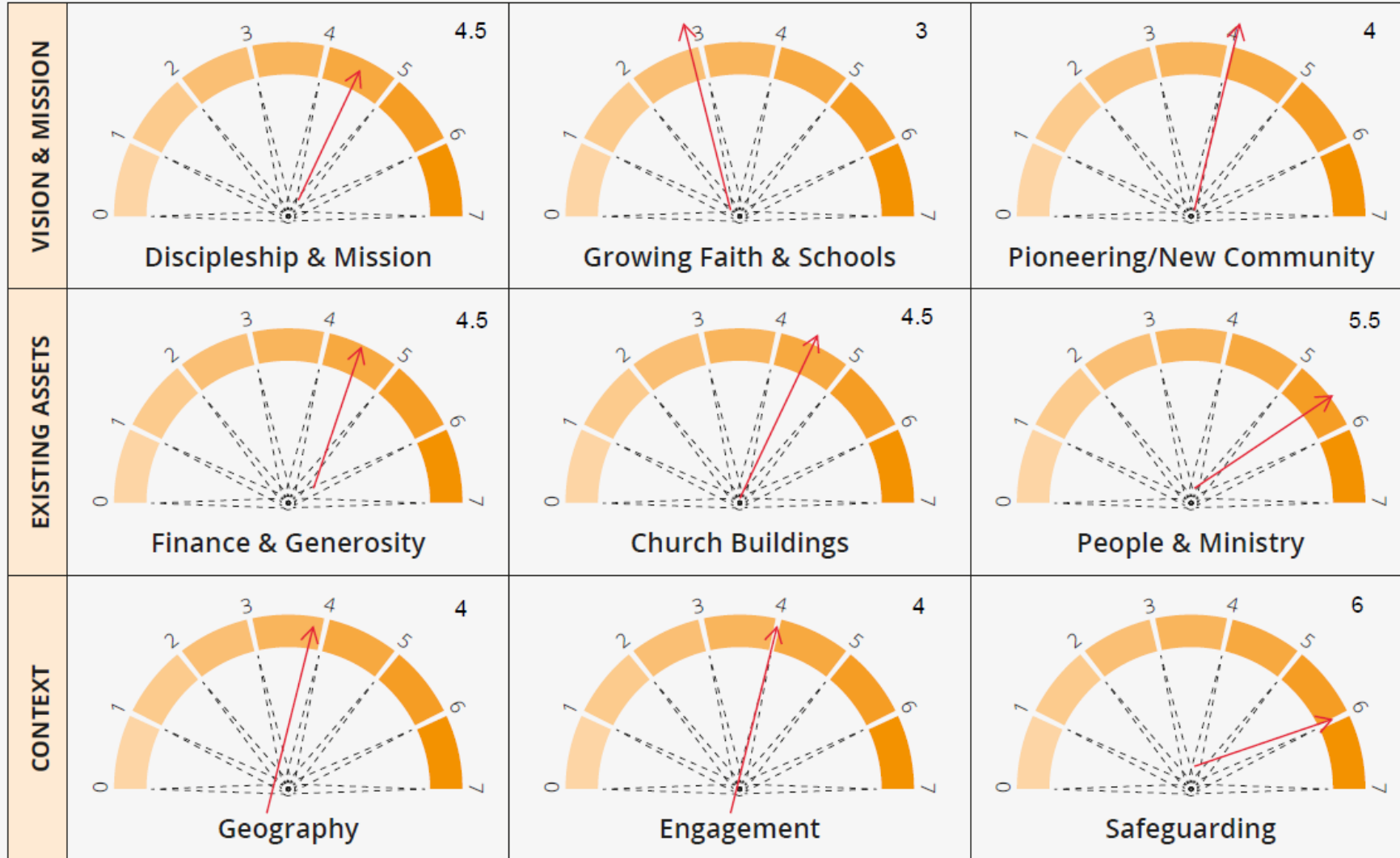
All Saints with Holy Trinity Lboro

Date:

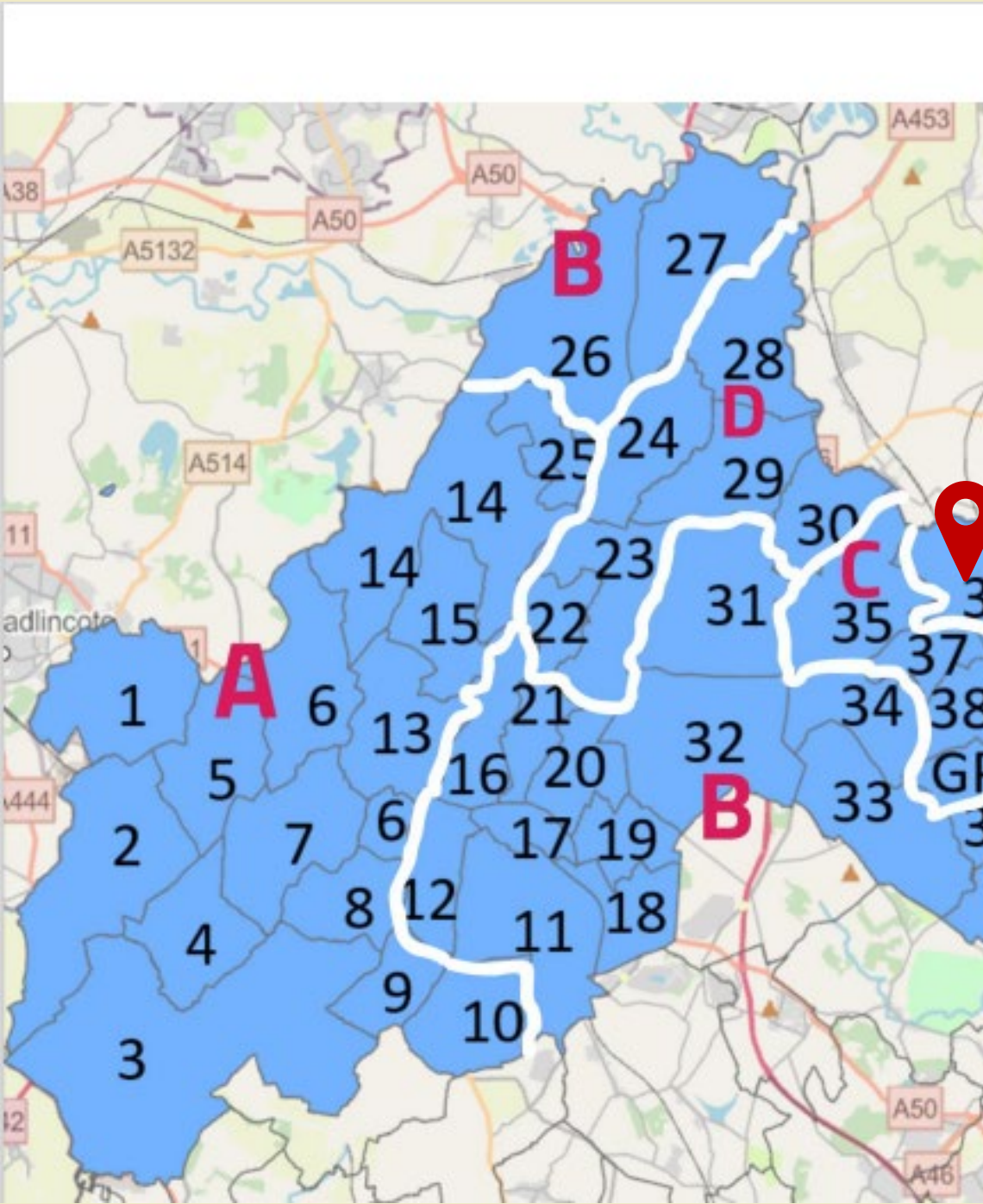
12/1/24

Wellbeing (battery life)

Tired and feeling stretched but resilient.
Congregation holding up during the vacancy.
Smallish number of people doing a great deal so some fatigue
but a sense of excitement about the future.







Area	2024 Parish Contribution Offer	2021 Census Population	2022 Worshipping Community
A	£216,145	50,206	639
B	£353,169	74,147	763
C	£337,860	66,220	986
D	£272,282	43,692	602

36 - Us

- 22 - Osgathorpe
- 23 - Belton
- 24 - Diseworth
- 28 - Kegworth
- 29 - Long Whatton
- 30 - Hathern
- 44 - Quorn
- 45 - Barrow
- 46 - Prestwold
- 47 - Wymeswold
- 40 - Swithland

Questions/Comments

Shaped by God together prayer

Eternal God,

You call your people to fullness of life in you and promise to be with us in all the changing scenes of life;

May we be shaped by You in our lives and communities to refresh the Church,

Transform the world, and building the kingdom, as with thanksgiving for the past, we step out in hope and trust into Your future;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.