

Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys PCC

Registered Charity Number: 1188113

Annual Reports for 2022

St Luke's, Stocking Farm

Christ the King, Beaumont Leys

Food Bank @ Christ the King

Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys PCC

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Our thanks to everyone who produced the reports.

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1. Parish Organization

Background

The Churches of St Luke's and Christ the King within the Parish of Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys have the responsibility with the incumbent in promoting, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This report covers the activities of the churches from Jan 2022 to Dec 2022.

Charity Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a Registered Charity (number 1188113)

Membership

Members of the PCC's are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative Rules.

PCC Membership

PCC Members who served from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Revd Rob Hinsley
Pastoral Assistant:	Liz Smith
Wardens – St Luke's	Mary Whitehead
Wardens – Christ the King	Dennis Hemsley, Gloria Wright [PCC Secretary]
Deanery Synod Representatives	Dennis Hemsley, Trevor Hesselwood [PCC Treasurer], Brenda Shepherd
Ordinary PCC members:	Elizabeth Dixon (from April 2022), Claire Gordon (from April 2022), Sue Hesselwood, Pat Harrison (to April 2022), Chinonye Ndukwe (from April 2022), Uche Ndukwe (from April 2022), Paul Smith (until 7 March 2022), Brian Whitehead, Katie Wray

Hall bookings at Christ the King are organized by Katie Wray.

Hall bookings at St Luke's are organized by John Harrald who is now Deputy Church Warden at St Luke's

The Food Bank and related activities are organized and run by Katie Wray.

Trevor Hesselwood

2. Church Attendance, Weddings and Funerals

There are 87 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 24 are not resident in the parish.

	2021	2022
Average attendance	50	48
Christmas	65	47
Easter	42	56
Worshiping community	61	74
Children	9	7
New members	8	1
Baptisms	2	14
Marriages	1	0
Funerals	6	5

Trevor Hesselwood

3. PCC Report

The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as amended in 2020. As a registered charity PCC members are automatically Trustees of the charity and are listed on the Charity Commission website.

During 2022 the PCC met a total of 6 times plus an away morning which was held in February at St Margaret's Leicester where we discussed and agreed our mission and outreach objectives for 2022. Each meeting begins with 'Dwelling in the Word' and includes a 'Good News' story from each church.

Sue Hesselwood decided it was time to relinquish the role of minute secretary during the year and in the absence of any willing volunteers the minutes have been taken by Rob.

The PCC has covered a variety of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Safeguarding
- Finance
- Replacement External Notice Boards for both churches
- Minor Repairs to the buildings
- Planning for Major Festivals (i.e. Easter and Christmas)
- The work of the Food Bank
- Regular review of the Mission Priorities
- Updates on our work with schools and Nursing / Residential Homes
- Consideration of the redevelopment of Stocking Farm

- Membership of Inclusive Church
- Shaped By God
- Restoration of the Chalice at services
- Kintsugi Hope
- The future of the St Luke's Flat
- Authorization for the administration of the Bread and Wine and administration of Communion to the Sick and Housebound.
- Communication

If anyone would like to consider joining the PCC as a member, or observing one of our meetings then please speak to Rob who will explain our role and what we do.

Rev'd Rob Hinsley

4. Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a standing agenda item at each meeting of the PCC. During 2022 we approved the Model Safeguarding Policy which was subsequently signed and displayed in each building. The PCC also agreed to the adoption, printing and display of the 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster, these include the contact details for Rob as the Vicar, Katie Wray as the Parish Safeguarding Officer as well as the Safeguarding Team at St Martin's House. These were in fact done twice, as shortly after they were displayed for the first time they were amended by the national Safeguarding Team. Other suitable posters aimed at a wide ranging audience were also printed and displayed.

In November the PCC adopted and agreed a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy for the PCC and a request was made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer for face – to – face training for PCC members, those who work with children and vulnerable adults and volunteers at the Food Bank; in addition Rob was registered to be able to process DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. Rob, on behalf of the PCC also gained access to the 'Safeguarding Dashboard' this allows the PCC to monitor how effectively we are fulfilling our responsibilities and duties in this area.

For 2023, the focus will be on training, completing DBS checks and the provision of Risk Assessments.

Finally, we would like to remind you that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you wish to know more, have any concerns or wish to speak to us then please do not hesitate to contact either Rob or Katie.

Revd Rob Hinsley (Vicar and Chair of the PCC)
& Katie Wray (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

5. City of Leicester Deanery Synod Report

Tuesday 22nd March 2022 – via Zoom only

A presentation was given by Emily Williams, the Diocesan Disability Advisor. The main theme was ‘What do we mean by Accessible Church?’ Break-out rooms were used to discuss issues on disability in our own churches. Legally, organisations must make “reasonable adjustments” for people with disabilities AND they have an “anticipatory duty” to think ahead etc. Emily then described the Medical and Social models of Disability. THINK: How can your church be changed, physically and otherwise, to accommodate disabled people, if there are barriers to it currently?

Revd Tony Leighton, Master of Wyggestons, part of the West Leicester Mission partnership, gave a fascinating insight into life at Wyggestons and the building developments recently completed, as well as their investments. A lot is going on including partnerships with other, similar organisations.

Wednesday 6th July 2022 – St. Margaret’s Church

Florence Gildea, Social Policy Advisor to the Bishop, presented on the Cost of Living Crisis. Churches are trusted in a way that statutory services are not. The worst affected people are the poorest in society. To address this, there are three steps to social action: Being grounded in God’s vision, Assessing the need and Planning and Planning how you might deliver. Each part was examined.

Philip Leech then presented on Generous Giving - how we finance our Mission and Ministry. There are four principles: Transparency, Trust, Working together and Christ like generosity. The present diocesan financial situation was described and explained, and background given on the current parish contribution system. The Generous Giving team aims to continue building a generous church which includes facilitating the mechanisms and processes for giving, highlighting the impact and importance of giving, and leading on vision, scripture, and discipleship of giving – a key component of the new Minster communities.

Thursday 17th November 2022 – Hope Hamilton School

Revd Liz Rawlings, Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Enabler presented on Vocations within the church. Isaiah 61 vs 1-4 is central to the team and used as their manifesto. All of us are called by God and to be Ministers of the Gospel. The various different courses and roles within ordained and lay ministry, and the discernment process through it all, were explained and the different dynamics of ministry considered in detail. Questions were taken by Liz from the floor of the meeting.

Revd Rob Hinsley gave another fascinating parish update about St. Luke's and Christ the King Churches, including the challenges of working in that particular benefice. The ties and relationships with schools and other groups in the community were highlighted as well as projects happening around homelessness and foodbanks.

Comings and Goings

We wish all the clergy who have left the diocese, and those who have joined us, throughout the year, well in their new ministries or retirement. This includes the Dean, the Very Revd David Monteith, now Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

Future 2023 Synod Meetings: 27th March 7pm St. Andrew's Church Aylestone; 5th July 7.30pm, 7th September (Deanery Social) 7.30pm, 16th November 7.30pm (venues to be confirmed for latter 3).

Qyan Arnachellum Administrator, City Deanery

6. Other Churches Nearby (Ecumenical Churches)

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there the LORD bestows his blessing even life forevermore. (from Psalm 133)

Close to our churches of Christ the King and St Luke's there are three other churches – St Patrick's RC, Epworth Methodist, and Buckminster Road Baptist Church. I'm sure we all want God to bestow His blessing on them as well as ourselves (see the Bible verse above!), and so we try to live together in unity by supporting each other in prayer. We pray for a different one of our churches each month, the details being on the front page of our weekly notice sheet. Some of us also send our notice sheet to each other's churches so we get to know of each other's activities e.g. the Epworth Annual Panto!

Members from all churches joined together to sing Christmas carols in Tesco Mall just before Christmas. Sadly, delays in the post meant that our Christmas cards with details of each church's special services and activities were not available in time to give out.

Please pray that during 2023 each of our churches will catch a greater vision of the blessings the Lord will bestow when God's people live together in unity.

Sue Hesselwood

7. Praying with Beads

A small group continues to meet for weekly Prayer on Thursday mornings at St Luke's Church from 10.30 – 11am. New people are welcome to join us and "give it a try". Beads are always available to borrow or purchase.

Brenda Shepherd

8. Ministry of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Throughout 2022 members of the Healing Prayer teams have continued to offer prayer during Sunday services after communion has been received. At St Luke's the team consists of Brenda and Sue who pray on the first Sunday of each month, and at Christ the King – Trevor, Ngosi and Sue who pray on the third Sunday. For those who have never come and asked for prayer, what happens may seem a bit mysterious, so in August 2022 Sue gave a talk about Healing Prayer at Christ the King [*and at St Luke's in February 2023*].

Thank you to all the people over the year who have had the courage to come and ask for prayer and allowed the team the huge privilege of praying for them, thank you to Brenda, Ngosi and Trevor for their faithful ministry, and thank you to God who has always met each person at their point of need. Rob always announces when it is the Prayer for Healing Sunday, so when he does, please consider whether to come and ask for prayer would be the right thing for you to do.

Sue Hesselwood

9. Care Home Visits

Once Covid restrictions were lifted a small group from St. Luke's and Christ the King met with Rob three times during the year to plan services for the residents of the four care homes in our parish. Planned to last about 30minutes they often reflected the season of the year. Familiar hymns from YouTube projected on the large screens available in the homes together with a short Bible reading, a reflection, prayers including the Lords Prayer and finishing with a blessing was the general pattern. Initially A4 copies were given to participants but they often proved difficult for them to manage. Red paper hearts were given to participants to take back to their room when love was the theme. Red paper poppies were scattered on the floor for Remembrance Sunday. Numbers participating varied from one home to another often depending on how well senior staff engaged. Diamond House caring for many with dementia made special efforts to bring residents though the start time could be delayed as people were wheeled from a different part of the home often having visited the hairdresser first. Sometimes relatives of residents were visiting and joined in, one who said her husband had been a trombone playing band leader in the Salvation Army now sadly looking for a care home for his dementia. At Christmas Woodstock School came with children to sing carols at Bradley Hall. George Hythe ended with the Rob – Gloria duo as Heatherbrook School who were due to sing carols were in lockdown with Covid but Children from Mowacre school sang their carols to an almost full dining room of Residents at Diamond House. It hasn't always been easy, but it does feel as if we are making a difference.

Gloria Wright

10. Finance Report

Overall position.

The accounts have settled since the changes in 2020 and 2021 though the Food Bank @ Christ the King now represents a little over one third of our turnover.

St Luke's Church (Income £24,936, Expenditure £80,795)

St Luke's income and expenditure (excluding the major building works) both rose by about £2000. St Luke paid £21,000 as the gift to the Diocese for the cost of clergy. This needed a top up of £17,000 from the legacy fund. In 2023 the gift offered is £10,500. We hope to cover most of this with several new regular rentals from our hall.

The £38,496 for rebuilding the wall around the site and repairs to roof and windows was covered from the legacy fund.

Christ the King (Income £37,248, Expenditure £39,484)

Christ the King income rose by about £6,830, including £2,600 increased giving, £3,000 from increase in regular hall rentals (from August 2022) and a £1087 Diocesan grant.

Expenditure rose by £5,281 included £1,887 was for a new notice board, £1,500 increase in parish gift, £1,500 building maintenance and £2,000 in vicar's expenses and mission costs. This was offset £2,600 reduction in electric bill on fridges and freezers (now paid by Food Bank).

The deficit on the year was reduced to £2,236 clearing the 2021 balance of £1770 and needing a loan of £500 from the St Luke's Legacy fund towards the cost of the notice boards.

Social Action (Food Bank etc.) (Income £41,430, Expenditure £32,026)

There is no meaningful comparison with 2021 as the activities and grants have been so different.

Income included £38,000 in grants (£23,000 for food purchases, £8,000 for running the van and £7,000 for running costs).

Expenditure included (£19,808 for food purchases, £3,954 for running the van, £2,600 to CtK for electric and £5,664 for running costs)

Charity fund Raising

£1,034.78 was collected for various charities.

The events and collections raised £682.04 (£920.21) and we added £108.75 from closing the Churches Together account and £96.29 (£135) from the PCC's own funds.

Tuesday Friends Charity Fund is now closed.

Balance Sheet**Money we have**

	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2021
St Luke's Curate House Fund	56,294.85	55,564.04
St Luke's Legacy (General Funds)	42,404.73	99,514.88
St Luke's General Fund	891.51	871.49
Christ the King General Fund	34.89	1,771.11
Social Action (Food Bank etc.)	10,955.74	1,551.72
	-----	-----
Total we have	110,854.44	159,303.82
Money we owe to others	272.72	(0.22)
Total Remaining	159,265.68	182,032.60

Bank Accounts**St Luke's Bank Accounts**

Current Account	8,413.49	4,985.04
Deposit Account @CBF	35,359.93	94,514.88
Curate's House Investment @CBF	56,294.85	55,564.04
	-----	-----
Total in St Luke's Accounts	100,068.27	155,063.96

Christ the King Bank Accounts

Church Current Account	8,219.04	3,685.78
Deposit Account @CBF	561.36	554.08
Cash in hand	2,005.77	0.00
	-----	-----
Total in Christ the King Accounts	10,786.17	4,239.86
	=====	=====
Total in all accounts	110,854.44	159,303.82

Trevor Hesselwood

11. Food Bank & Gift4Kids

The food bank continues to operate from 10am to 12noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with an excellent team of volunteers both church members and others.

As the need for free and cheap food for those on low incomes has grown there have been changes in the ways the provision operates. The Food Bank @ Christ the King now acts as an emergency food bank for those who have very limited income or a particular emergency in their finances. People must be referred to us and, as well as providing them with food, we will link them to those who can provide financial advice. Other groups around the city, such as the new Community Shop on Marwood Road in Stocking Farm, provide food for a low price to those with better financial resources. People who come to us but who have a higher level of income will be referred on to one of these.

Our basic running costs (mainly electricity for the fridges and freezers) have been covered so far this year by grants. Our thanks to Beaumont Leys Ward Councillors, Abbey Ward Councillors, Magic Little Grants (Postcode Lottery) and Tesco Community Fund for these. We have a small reserve for emergency food purchase and replacement of equipment. The proceeds from our Fun Day (supported by a grant from Beaumont Leys Ward Councillors) and several generous gifts, including one from Epworth Methodist Church, have been added to this reserve.

We are an independent food bank but work closely with other Leicester food banks and are actively involved in the Leicester Food Bank Forum. In April 2022 we took over responsibility for running their van which collects food donations from several companies each week and delivers to several food banks around the city including our own. Dale joined our volunteer team as the main driver for the van. The costs of running the van until September 2023 are covered by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The van is also used to collect bulk food purchases which we make using Government grants delivered though Leicester City Council and administered by Tim Adkins at Reaching People. In 2022 these grants totalled £23,000 and so we have been able to build up a stock of food. To store this we are renting a second container with the one we already own.

The annual Gifts4Kids project (which covers under 18s) ran with the food bank on 12th, 13th and 14th December. As in 2021 it will be initially focused on our regular food bank users. Our policy is to give the parents the choice of the gifts from those we have had donated or those we bought using donated funds. Surplus gifts will be passed on to other groups e.g. Women's Refuge.

Many thanks to Katie, Jasper, Elizabeth, Dennis and Rose as well as all the other volunteers for their hard work.

Trevor Hesselwood, Treasurer Food Bank @ Christ the King

12. Schools work

In 2022 we delivered as a parish Experience Easter to Year 4 at both Woodstock and Heatherbrook Primary Academies and Experience Christmas to Mowmacre Hill Primary School. We also welcomed Key Stage 1 from Woodstock, Barley Croft and Buswells Lodge Schools to 'Experience Church'.

All of these are designed to be experiential where the children are encouraged to touch, hear, look and even taste as they discover and wonder about the Christmas or Easter story or what a church is used for. The class leaders are always impressed by the high standard of what we offer and the way it engages the children. We are grateful for the help and support of a small but committed group of leaders but are always looking for additional help and support. We also visited Glebelands pre-school to share the Easter Story and our own First Steps with Jasper II (a puppet) for Easter and Christmas where we were able to welcome parents and carers to share with us.

2023 has seen us develop what we offer and increase the range of schools we work with, including those just across the boundary in the Parish of the Resurrection.

Rev'd Rob Hinsley

13. St Luke's –Worship (warden's Report)

The worship at St Luke's has been a blessing for us all in 2022. We held our usual pancake party prior to Lent and in May we held a 'Big Brekkie' and raffle for Christian Aid. At Pentecost we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee which coincided with a joint service led by Bishop Christopher. We had a Baptism and Confirmation followed by afternoon tea.

We started a pop up café in September and a more somber event saw us get together for the Queens Funeral. In October we were out in the car park giving out hot chocolate and marshmallows on Halloween, a very wet but enjoyable night.

I suppose, along with many other churches, we are dependent on a small army of people offering their services. Serving the tea, in the sanctuary, and to carry out minor repairs, for all their efforts we are blessed and thankful.

John Harrald has recently felt able to take on the duties of assistant Church Warden, he has been a great help in both the church and to me personally. To everyone who loves St Luke's, Thank you

Mary Whitehead

14. St Luke's Buildings (warden's Report)

We are still trying to wade our way through the work identified in the Quinquennial inspection. Although we have had two large legacies left to us if we were to do all the work we would soon be in debt. We have however replaced the window in the west end wall of the hall with bricks, removed the flag pole and repaired the boundary wall. We are waiting for the Archdeacon to approve the repointing around the higher level windows and for planning permission for a new external notice board.

The St Luke's flat was vacated in September and we have decided that it is no longer in our interests to rent it out. We are developing plans for the refurbishment of the hall and former flat into storage.

Mary Whitehead

15. St Luke's Choir

St Luke's choir continues to lead the music during our worship, including learning new songs and hymns. They spread their wings a little this year and joined with a group singing Jazz carols at Swithland Church just before Christmas, a good night was had by all. Their faithful service has enhanced our worship and we are grateful for all they contribute.

Mary Whitehead

16. St Luke's Children on Sundays

Story and activity wallets are provided each Sunday for visiting children, suitable for children aged between 4 and 10 years. They are available from the small table near the Church Entrance Door and although the numbers of children are low the wallets are regularly in use.

Brenda Shepherd

17. St Luke's Hall

The prices of the hall are currently £20 per hour and £10 for half hour for all events hiring the hall. A minimum deposit of £20 is payable at the time of booking when a copy of the booking form is signed. During the last year I have created notices for the hall that have been put in place, asking people to replace the chairs back to the appropriate places and stacked appropriately for Health and Safety. The other notices I have created is the use of the heaters in the hall, reminding them to make sure they are switched off before leaving.

We now hire out the hall to two churches where the majority of worshippers are from Africa. Both Churches use the hall on Sundays, one between 11:00am till 2:00pm and the other from 2:30pm till 4:00pm, with one of them also using the hall on Wednesday evening from 7:00pm till 8:30pm for Studying of The Word.

Most recently I have been asked if I would like to be Deputy Church Warden. I have accepted this position and enjoy the role given. I have attended a few Church Warden meetings being held at the Vicarage and have also attended a Church Warden course with Mary. I have now started to welcome everyone at the start of our church service and also invite people who wish to take communion during our church service.

Also, before being asked to be Deputy Church Warden, I used to help with small tasks regarding the hall and church. This did involve replacing floor tiles, painting the choir vestry and repairing the hall external doors. This was done by helping a member of the church who did these small tasks.

John Harrold

18. St Luke's Thursday Fellowship

The Fellowship now meets on the Second and Fourth Thursdays of the Month. We are a small group but we have an enjoyable social time and also manage to have outings when we can.

New folks are always welcome – Meetings are from 2 – 3.30pm

Brenda Shepherd

19. St Luke's Drop in Café

The drop in Café started at Saint Luke's in the middle of September 2022 with the aim of being a place in the community for members of both churches to meet and for the wider community to find a place of welcome and hospitality. In December we joined the 'Warm Spaces Scheme' which advertises our presence as a recognized place to keep warm due to the increased cost of living.

The Café has been warmly welcomed by members of both congregations but we have yet to make inroads in welcoming the community. We are grateful to the City Council Ward Councillors for their kind donation of £500 which allows us to serve good quality coffee and tea – because people are worth it.

If you haven't been yet, a warm welcome, good coffee and great cakes await you.

Rev'd Rob Hinsley

20. Christ the King Worship & Buildings (warden's Report)

The first thing to mention is to thank Rob for the way he is moving us forward now that he has had a full year with us. Christ the King, with his support and energy has been able to build on the foundations that were laid during the inter-regnum and before. We hope you will read elsewhere of the development of our work with schools and care homes, whilst the links with First Steps have also been strengthened.

We are indebted to Katie Wray who has taken on the overseeing of hall bookings in addition to her almost full time work in the foodbank, where she has reinforced our links to the wider community – all this while undergoing a hip replacement during the year! In the food bank she is ably supported by Elizabeth, Jasper and Rose together with a dozen or so volunteers from outside our Church family, some of whom originally came in need of food help.

It can be difficult for our building to serve the community in other ways during First Steps' term time, but we have successfully introduced a weekly 'pop-up' coffee morning during the holiday periods and prayer candles have been made available for food bank users, to try to closer link them with our building following on from the issue of prayer messages to them in 2020 and 2021.

Turning to the building itself, we have tried to keep pace with maintenance, in particular doors, toilets, heating and wider use of low energy lighting. The garden renovation that had to be put in abeyance in 2020 because of covid is now completed and has made a great improvement, both to the appearance and usefulness of the space for the children (and staff!) of First Steps. We are aware of other things that could be improved, some highlighted by the quinquennial report, some on our wish list, so if you have half a million pounds to spare..... Some previous 'good ideas' have thrown up their own problems, for example the slabs at the front (car park) of the Church were put in to assist with moving food bank deliveries. They were initially protected by troughs of flowers (thankyou Jasper) but unfortunately the troughs were destroyed one Saturday night leaving the slabs vulnerable to breakage by being driven over. A solution is being

sought, but, again, it costs money. Another ‘good idea’ was the shed, to allow storage of bulky items, freeing up space elsewhere and to comply with an insurance company request to declutter the boiler room. This has largely worked, but the shed has been used by a rough sleeper who, unfortunately, left before we could offer help.

Partially outside this review is the installation of new notice boards (we hope that you HAVE noticed them by now). Although the one nearest to the Leisure Centre was done in 2022, for various logistical reasons the roadside one had to wait until 2023 – we’ll try to mention that next in year’s report!

Whilst we are fortunate to have assistance with reading, prayers and refreshments, we will always welcome some new faces. Please think about it, it’s not hard, don’t wait to be press ganged. We will give you all the support you could need. We thank Rose for serving at the altar most weeks and Ngozi for deputizing, but, again, we would welcome other volunteers.

Finally, thanks go to Elizabeth for keeping the Church flowers looking fresh, Louie and others for stacking chairs and closing the screens after our service each week. We gratefully thank everyone who helps our Church look cared for and Elizabeth, Marcie, Luke and Betty who keep us fed and watered after the service.

Thanks to everyone of you for supporting us so well in 2022

Dennis Hemsley & Gloria Wright

21. Christ the King Children on Sundays

The attendance of families with children has always been unpredictable. Most of the families who had initially lived close by had already moved some way outside the parish. As things have become more normal post Covid many of the children we knew previously have reached their teens, two are at boarding school and one is doing well with football which clashes with service times. We see them very occasionally. However, having said that, one of the girls we have known from infancy was confirmed in 2022 and comes occasionally with her mother and little brother. A teenager soon to sit his GCSEs has been a regular attender and a great asset in the social and pastoral life of the church.

Families with young children have popped up on occasion and while most often they are not regular in their irregular attendance we have provided folders with drawings to colour, and quizzes and word searches where appropriate. The hardest group to cater for are the 9- 11+ year olds who are no longer interested in such things especially if they are boys. One lovely surprise is the family of

Gertrude, a long-standing member of Christ the King have started coming with her two beautiful grandchildren.

To our delight two families with children, we had never met before came to the crib service on Christmas Eve. They enjoyed their visit.

Jasper, the puppet made an appearance with Rob at the First Steps Nursery Christingle celebration when parents came too. (We had provided the staff with materials to make the Christingles with the children) We were able to meet parents briefly for a chat before the “service” and served them tea and coffee in the lobby.

Gloria Wright

22. Christ the King Halls

Our three regular booking continues throughout 2022. The rental rates were for these were review.

We did not take casual bookings until the Autumn but these are building up and are looking good for 2023. Katie Wray has been dealing with these bookings.

Trevor Hesselwood

23. Christ the King Tuesday Friends

Tuesday Friends hasn't changed much since September 2021 when we were able to go inside of the Church again!

We are getting around 10 people a week on a regular basis. Starting at 10am with Tea & Coffee as people come in so they can have a chat when they get in. By 10:30am we start the activities of the day, We do Xbox Bowling, Bean Bag throw, Play your card right (otherwise known as Higher or Lower!) we have a CD player so we sometimes have a music session and people get up and dance, sometimes Graham brings his Tablet in and connects to the internet so we can do music requests (via YouTu we still have the odd quiz and we have a few things like, large rubber dice and the ball darts, then there's the prize bingo every month or so.

We had one trip out in the Mini bus this year (Driven by Rob) we went to Gates Garden Centre and then on to Weatherspoon's in Oakham for Lunch!

Carol Cowper

24. Christ the King Pop up Café

Last summer for the six weeks of the school holidays a café popped up at Christ the King. Open from 10am – 12noon on a Wednesday morning the timing was intended to coincide with the Food Bank. Putting Rob, (famous for his fruit cake) Marcie and Gloria's home-made baking skills to the test, a variety of cakes and cookies and donations given to the Food Bank were offered plus coffee, tea and soft drinks. All the "goodies" were free though donations were invited. Thanks to Louie and Kane screens were opened and tables and chairs arranged in welcome giving the opportunity for people to see inside the church. Easy to do crafts were also on offer to keep little hands busy.

Regulars came from both St. Luke's and Christ the King giving themselves plenty of time for a good natter. Visitors to the Food Bank also came in sometimes taking home "goodie bags" for the rest of the family. One Muslim mum was so pleased to have somewhere to bring her two young children one week she brought a jelly to share. We were happy to see that people of all ages came to give the Pop Up Café a try, sometimes being a bit anxious on the first visit but feeling more at home the next time.

The last morning became a Macmillan Coffee morning and a good sum was raised from donations.

Thanks to the good efforts of all involved it gave the Church a great opportunity to meet a diverse group of people from the community and for them to see our caring face.

Gloria Wright

25. Eco churches

Will you help us? At Christ the King and St Luke's churches the PCC tries hard to have a social conscience. To that end we aim to use only eco-friendly and fairtrade products. This means that our cleaning materials should not contain chemicals harmful to the environment and our tea, coffee and sugar should bear the fairtrade mark. We realise that this excludes most of the 'popular' highly advertised brands, but ask that if you are moved to donate items for use in our kitchens etc. please follow these guidelines.

The planet, wildlife and the growers will thank you.

Dennis Hemsley