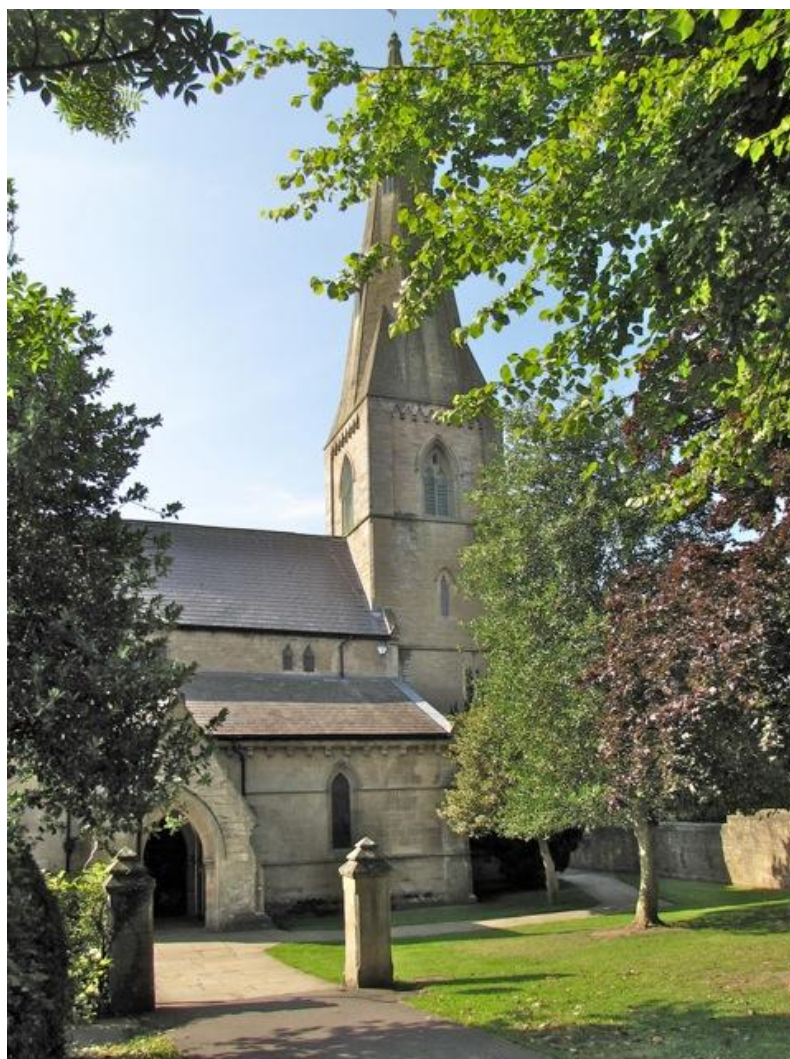


Holy Trinity Church Southwell



PAGM Reports 2025/26

Vicar's Foreword

'Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him... For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.' – Psalm 33:1,4

As we come to this year's PAGM, I am struck by how much there is to give thanks for. This has been a year where momentum has begun to build - quietly at times, visibly at others - but always with a sense that God is gently deepening the life of our church.

One of the most significant developments has been the shaping of our new vision which I am looking to launching fully following the PAGM. We have felt led to the vision that at Holy Trinity we are to be, 'A Deep Well of God's Healing for Southwell and Beyond.' As well as a statement of where we want to 'go' the heart of this vision is also already being reflected through the ministries that are described in the following pages.

As you read through the reports in this booklet, I encourage you to do so with gratitude. You will see signs of growth, creativity, and faithfulness across our ministries - new families arriving, prayer deepening, worship strengthening, pastoral care widening, and connections with our community continuing to open up. You will also see the dedication of volunteers who have poured themselves into serving Christ and blessing others. These reports are not simply updates; they are testimonies of God's grace at work in and through His people.

This has also been a year of preparing for what lies ahead, one which I am hopeful for and energised by. Last year at the PAGM I spoke about Joshua's action before entering the promised land of 'getting provision ready' and expressed that I felt we were in a season of preparing the ground. As I look forward to this year, it feels like the time to move forward with new vision, new ideas for groups, events, and initiatives, and seeking new people to join us on the journey through recruitment. It is an exciting time for us as a church!

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your willingness to walk this journey together. It is a joy to serve alongside you, and I look forward with anticipation to all that God will continue to do among us.
With love in Christ,

Jon Morley



ALPHA

Following on from our Christmas services we invited people to attend Alpha starting in January. We had 11 guests in total, in two small groups. Over the 11 weeks of the course each guest took steps forward in faith as the group grew in a sense of community and fellowship. The conversations around the tables were rich and helpful, growing in depth from week to week.

Our Holy Spirit away day was hosted in Southwell and provided the opportunity for every guest to be prayed for. There have been significant steps of faith made by some and we've seen transfer from the course to church attendance. Huge thanks to David S, Caro May and Julie Barker for leading the small groups in addition to Sue Hurst who co-ordinated the cooking rota and kitchen team who facilitated such an incredibly welcoming atmosphere of hospitality. Thank you to everyone who prayed and cooked too—it was a great encouraging course with much to praise God for.

Jon Morley

Wardens Report

This year has been one of change and growth. Early in the year our new Vicar was installed and he has settled in well and there has already been a growth in the number of young families in the church.

Regrettably during the year Chris had to stand down from being warden for personal reasons and I thank him for his contributions over the past years to the role.

Unfortunately during the year Trevor Gatie, one of the deputy wardens, passed away and his role has been taken up by his wife, Rose. I wish to recognise their contribution to the smooth running of the 9am services.

During the year there was a renewed interest in the provision of a pedestrian crossing outside the church to give safer crossing for school children, members of the congregation and the general public. This was able to accommodate the limitations of hearses stopping outside the church and so has been encouraged.

The fabric of the church has been maintained and we have also started the process of closing the millennium churchyard following the need to end burials in new plots because of the proximity of the watercourse. This will transfer responsibility for maintenance to the District Council, although we intend to retain control over the areas which will be mowed.

Finally, I am looking forward to sharing the role with a new warden after the PAGM in 2026.

Ian Baird-Smith, Churchwarden



All seven Churches in Southwell support CTiS, which exists to help grow the Kingdom of God by facilitating working together across all the churches. The last year has been a very exciting one, with a range of events including:

Lighthouse Prayer room run 24 hours a day across the 10 days of “Thy Kingdom Come” culminating in the ecumenical “Pentecost Praise” service at the Southwell Minster.

Season of Creation service

Prayer for Christian Unity Week events across multiple churches

Lent Course on the Beatitudes

The Bible Comes to Life Exhibition

Palm Sunday Procession from Our Lady of Victories to the Minster followed by a Palm Sunday service

“The Bible Comes to Life” exhibition was a real success, and a witness to the wider local community, with members of the public as well as school children going to see the exhibits including a model and information about the temple in Jerusalem, the links between the Passover and Jesus was enlightening, a Bible scroll (that didn’t include chapter and verse numbers!) and a tent.

The “Lighthouse” Prayer Room was the first time that CTiS has organised ten days of prayer through the “Thy Kingdom Come” period between Ascension and Pentecost. More than 300 people booked 1 or more hours in the Prayer Room and many experienced God in special ways. The ten days of prayer were followed by the Pentecost Praise service in the Minster. This was the first time that there has been an ecumenical service led by representatives from all seven churches in Southwell. Over 300 people attended the service and both the Pentecost Praise service and the Lighthouse Prayer room have demonstrably fostered closer links between the different churches in Southwell. Preparations are well under way for this year’s Lighthouse (13th -23rd May) and Pentecost Praise service (24th May).

The Lent Course this year was focussed on the Beatitudes. This was the first time that CTiS’s Lent Course material was developed jointly by members from four churches. Over 70 people attended the ecumenical groups across the five meetings during Lent. Following on from the success of this course CTiS will use the same approach to develop next year’s Lent Course.

Across the year that we have been involved with CTiS we have experienced a growing unity and joy as God has chosen to work through His wider body to encourage local Christians and to act as a witness to the wider community.

Peter & Caro May

Connections



Connections continues with a regular group of people and the occasional new people. There’s an avid dominoes table and the crossword rivalry is getting stronger. We were delighted when two of our regulars joined the Alpha course. Our regular cooks have done sterling service, thanks so much to them.

As we look towards the next year, it would be great to build on the faith element of our service to the guests and also to broaden the helper base. Praise God for the positive feedback we get from our guests and may we all be inspired to find creative ways to disciple the guests.

Moments on the last Wednesday of the month is mostly the same people, but there are a few who only come to this session, thank you to the team who provide this and to Ann Stafford who leads them.

Ian & Shelagh Baird-Smith, Co-ordinators

Diocesan & Deanery Synods

Deanery Synod meetings give the Deanery the opportunity to gather, support each other, share good news and pray about any challenging things that are happening in the Deanery churches. They give safeguarding updates, parish share communications, and any Diocesan and Deanery Updates. The Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods form part of the communication network.

Parish Share: In 2025 the Deanery contributed £613,915 (of which Holy Trinity contributed £77,988) an increase of £71,822 on last year.

At the **March Synod**, Richard Kellett talked about ‘Developing Leaders and Enabling Commitment’. Sarah Patten shared on the Rural vision.

At the **November Synod** Peter Huxtable shared his experiences on church growth from the Woven model. Woven is a cluster of 8 churches in the suburbs of Nottingham in a deprived area. An update was given from the Diocesan Synod.

Clergy Chapter: 4 joined (including our Jon), 2 left (including Deanery Chair Sarah Patten).

Vacancies: Clusters 2 & 3 are in vacancy, also the East Trent Benefice.

Peter Harris , Deanery & Diocesan Synod Rep.

Eco Church

This group is shortly due to be reformed under the leadership of Steve Jenkins, in order to maintain our Silver Status as an Eco Church. The only event we have had in the past year was another very successful, well-supported Bring and Take event which a lot of people benefitted from, and it also raised money through donations for the Farming Community Network, which supports agricultural workers who are struggling in these stringent times. So, it is a case of ‘watch this space’.



Suzanne Dent



Holy Trinity Infant School

I have continued as Chair of Governors at the school and have been supported by Chris Cross and Jon as church members on the Governing Body. It has been an important year for the school as Marie Thompson left to pursue a role in School Improvement within Mitre. There was also an Ofsted inspection this year which gave a Good grading with excellence in three of the five areas.

Leanne Evans was appointed to her first headship at the school and started in September. She had a difficult first term because of illness in the already small teaching staff, but Leanne weathered it well and has settled in. She is a teaching head, so teaches for 2 days per week as well as her head's role. Church members continue to run a collective worship in school once a week and the school visits Connections and Toddlers in church on occasions.

Ian Baird-Smith, Chair of Governors



There are currently 10 Home Groups in Holy Trinity, meeting on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, mostly in the evening. These Groups are attended by 111 people where there is a safe environment in a context of confidentiality where the Bible is studied, personal problems can be shared and where individuals pray and support each other. We try to mirror St. Paul's teaching in his second letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:16)

“The Bible is God breathed and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. It serves to equip believers for good works, correcting wrong beliefs and guiding behaviour.”

We would like to encourage anyone who is not in a Home Group to consider joining a group. We would be very happy to talk about Home Groups and to find a suitable Group.

Marjorie and Anthony Hustwayte co-ordinate the Home Groups. We offer prayer support and help find suitable study material/resources for group leaders. We have occasional get-togethers of Home Group leaders where we can pray, listen and support each other.

marjorie@hustwayte.co.uk 07740 778549 anthony@hustwayte.co.uk 07710 431071

Kids & Families Fun Time

These missional monthly events have taken place mostly on Sunday afternoons at 4pm for an hour or so, with games, activities, food, and some gentle evangelism. The vision is for them to provide people with opportunities to ‘collide with the gospel’, and to be a ‘next step’ bridge for fringe families as well as our own growing church families. To this end those connected with Toddlers, Youth Café, and our school are all invited.

We are very thankful for a committed team of helpers, and for Jon who regularly provides some spoken input, and for Ella Morley, who has taken over the role of producing attractive flyers and raising the profile on social media. Our December Fun Time was a scratch Nativity and it proved to be a real highlight, when we welcomed 24 children and almost 80 adults. In April we again moved it to Holy Saturday, at 2pm, with Easter-themed activities including an egg hunt. Numbers fluctuate; hiring a bouncy castle always augments them! But on average we get some 20 or so children and assorted adults.

There is much to build on and the vision going forward is to see more engagement with the gospel through such things as conversations and invitations to other church events.

Suzanne Dent & Shelagh Baird-Smith

Ladies Group

The highlights of the past year have been led by informative and varied talks, often from our wider church fellowship. We have also enjoyed social and relaxed activities together as a group, deepening our commitment to each other in friendship and support.



Our continued vision for the future includes further encouragement and support for our membership, invitations to new friends and church members to join us and, in all, to continue as a fellowship to explore God's plan for us and for our place in our homes and the local community.

Rosemary Gatie



This group meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month in church, in the context of church already being open for Connections or Moments. Its aim is to be a place of listening and support for any who are affected by any kind of loss, but at present it is mostly a valued space for those who have been bereaved.

Currently most of the people who come along are from the church family or Connections, although two new people have started to come following our Service of Light in early December. It is the first time that such a service has been held, and it proved to be a real highlight which will surely be repeated. Led by Jon, some 40 people came, from inside and outside the church community. It provided a wonderful space for people to remember loved ones, in the context of the wonder and hope of the Christmas story – Jesus, God coming to be with us, which we long for everyone to know the reality of. Anyone is most welcome to join us for a season, or as long as they feel the need.

Suzanne & Phil Dent

Men's Breakfast

We have continued to provide a full cooked breakfast followed by a talk for around 20 to 30 men. The talks have covered a range of subjects, but have a common thread running through of how God has worked through the speaker. We aim to grow the team and to increase the depth of the conversations and are open to contributions towards this aim.



Ian Baird-Smith & Breakfast Team

Mission

Mission group meets infrequently, but our mission support keeps on in the background. We have supported T and M through Church Mission Society, Church Pastoral Aid Society and Lira (Uganda) Projects and the Holy Trinity Mission Fund. Each of these is given a quarter of the 10% of regular giving which is designated for mission giving.

We have had visiting speakers or a video from the CPAS and CMS partners and regular updates about Uganda Christian Institute. The group meets at intervals to give amounts from the Mission Fund to various suitable causes during the year and requests will be considered against the principles of values, need, Christian ethos and whether secular funding is readily available.

Ian Baird-Smith

Pastoral Care



Pastoral care is an important and often invisible area of Trinity's ministry. Compassionate support is often evident in the work of small groups, Connections and other groups within the fellowship, but the Pastoral team are able to offer additional help and support where necessary.

Julie Payne, Co-ordinator

Prayer Ministry

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven'

We have a stable team of 15 people who make themselves available to pray during the social time between services and during and after the 1030am service. We supported the recent Alpha course and will be part of a churches together team offering prayer ministry to the general public on the 2 Saturdays during "Thy Kingdom Come."



It is such an amazing privilege to partner with God in His transformative and restorative work in people's lives. We joyfully celebrate breakthroughs and stand alongside those in 'the valley of darkness'. Those who feel called to join the team are most welcome : training is provided. We really need a few more men especially.

I would like to thank all the team members for their mutual encouragement and making themselves available to others.

Prayer Ministry Co-ordinator: Julie Barker

Safeguarding

A highlight of the year has been the Diocesan Safeguarding Conference in July, which some PCC members attended. There were two thought provoking Keynote Speakers, the first was Richard Kubon from the Police Fraud Unit who delivered a talk on raising awareness of fraud and online scams. He has since been to Connections, where he gave a very comprehensive talk to members. The second talk was about how we could make our church more inclusive for neurodivergent children.

PCC include Safeguarding at every meeting, but we have carried out two specific pieces of work this year in line with the National Standards. We have explored how we can create a healthy culture within our church, so that we can make everyone safe, secure and valued. Also, we have looked at how we can promote the welfare and voice of children and vulnerable adults within our context. Good discussions were had on both occasions, with some actions identified.

Over the next year I hope to continue to lead us through implementing the National Safeguarding Standards (a copy is on the Safeguarding Notice board) to ensure that we are compliant by 2027 which is the requirement of the Church of England.

Ann Clark, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Tear Fund Quiz

November 2025—Everyone agreed that once again this had been very successful in terms of fun, numbers, a light evening meal and donations, which on the night amounted to £652.50. An update from Tearfund announced that 500 took part with a total of £129,893 raised. That is equivalent to 43,297 lives transformed. The team thanked us for the huge part we played in helping people lift themselves out of poverty and fulfilling their God-given potential and for our “partnership as we follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest and see lives transformed year after year through the local church”.



We will be holding another BIG QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday, 14th November 2026. Please put the date in your diary, we would love you to be able to join us.

Toddlers



Firstly we should celebrate our fantastic Toddler team who come week by week to support Toddler families.

They work really hard and we receive many lovely verbal and written messages about our service. We continue to feel privileged to do what we do. We now average about 40 plus families each week. Lots of families still come from the outlying villages which is very good.

We have a prayer time at the start of Toddlers for 5 mins. Our prayer time at the end of

Toddlers is very important to us and we pray for Toddler families when they ask us to. We have been thrilled to have Steve setting out our chairs and tables on a Monday as it has really helped us to set out all the equipment more easily. We have enjoyed special themes at the end of each term, Christmas Nativity, Easter and Teddy bears picnic in July – all involving food of course. Fiona has instigated fruit as an extra healthy option and that has gone down well.

What is our vision for the future:-

To continue to be a safe place showing God’s love and care for all who come. To encourage families to join us at K&F fun times. To add in more Toddler based Christian songs and stories to our repertoire.

How in our ministry have we seen the vision implemented ?

We are always looking for ways to engage in conversations and deepen our relationships with our families. We always pray that we can involve more families in church life.

It is necessary to be thinking of new and exciting things to do although we are restricted by lack of accessible storage space.

We have been encouraged by the attendance of some of our Toddler families at the recent Kids and Families fun times on every 3rd Sunday at 4pm.

How do we see it being built upon ?

Toddlers is always at its best when we have enough helpers to chat with people and clear up at the end. Please continue to pray for us, for safety each week, for health and for sharing God's love and care with those we meet and talk to.

Please come and chat to one of us if you think God is calling you to join our happy team.

From Christine and the Team

Worship Group

The worship group gathers each Thursday evening to rehearse, preparing to lead the music for the 10:30am Sunday service. In addition, we also play an active role in special services throughout the year, particularly during the Christmas and Easter periods.



Over the past year, one of the most rewarding aspects has been working closely with the wider music team, who continue to support and strengthen the leading of sung worship. We have enjoyed introducing new songs and further developing worship through the addition of a new keyboard and cajon. It has been especially meaningful to witness people connecting with God through music.

At the heart of the worship group is a desire to blend prayer, reflection, and song. We seek to place God at the centre of our worship, inviting the Holy Spirit to move among us as we sing. Our prayer is that worship would help everyone in the congregation, including children, grow in their relationship with God.

We aim, through the worship group, to live out the vision of the church. We hope that music ministry, through creating a space for God's presence, can support our church to be 'a deep well of healing for Southwell and beyond'. It has been truly impactful to see people connect with God through music.

Over the next year, our goal is to continue to introduce songs that deepen our connection with God and explore innovative ways of worship. This includes expanding our repertoire to ensure worship is accessible to all, especially children, through the inclusion of 'Worship for Everyone' songs. Additionally, we plan to attend Christian festivals to discover fresh, inspiring worship songs that we can bring back and incorporate into our services.

Thank you to all members of the worship group for the wonderful work you do, it is greatly appreciated.

Kelly and Andy Wall

Youth Ministry

Youth café has continued on Tuesday evenings to provide a space of safety and fun in which kids have a moment to hear about the Christian faith. The group is for years 3-6 although the decision was made ahead of the Autumn to extend the upper age group, from year 6 to include year 7s too. This was done with the aim of deferring a decision regarding a possible second group for the next age group up, whilst still retaining our links with the current upper age group.

We have introduced game times, crafts and themes for our crash times. Most recently looking at the 'I AM' statements of Jesus and 'Encounters With Jesus.' Numbers have faltered somewhat and the difficult decision was made just prior to the PAGM to draw Youth Café to a close on 19th May. More information as to the reasons behind this decision are available upon request.

A massive thank you to all of the volunteers and especially Tammy and Chris for the time, love and energy poured into Youth Café over the years.

Jon Morley