

Moving towards a Minster Community (28.05.2022)

As a Benefice, what are our strengths/ What are we good at?

- Semi urban and rural
- Different traditions of worship
- Talking
- Some involvement with community e.g., parish council, scouts, WI, guides
- Hospitality
- Good buildings x 4 with flexibility and diversity
- The Bridge
- Some good relationships with preschool children
- Good shared Ministry team – lay, ordained and church wardens
- Good at encouraging senior church members to take on responsibilities (lots of wisdom)
- Working well/ mixing well as a Benefice – good and willing relationships with each other.
- Strong inter church relationships
- Looking outward
- Breathe youth group
- Messy church
- Friendship groups
- Rainbow shop
- Good framework of people skilled in different areas.
- Support and realism around personal wellbeing
- Admin person in place acts as a communicator/facilitator.

As a Benefice, what do we find difficult? /What are our weaknesses?

- Not knowing each other well – communication of who's who across the Benefice.
- Buildings can be restrictive e.g., pews
- Asking for help
- Lack of community/ As a church are we good at being community?
- Villages have become dormitories
- Lack of wider knowledge of what we offer within the Benefice
- Finance
- Succession planning
- Relationships with other organisations (do we utilise existing connections we have and those within the Diocese)
- Breaking out of cliques
- Getting people to come to church
- Schools work – no real contact
- Encouraging younger church members to take an active part
- Where are the 20's-30's?
- Lack of musicians
- We are not good at change

- We could communicate better
- Knowledge of the Word- and understanding of the Kingdom
- The wider community do not know what we are about
- Slow return from COVID

As a Benefice, what do we do with others who are not part of our church?

- Neighbors – embrace - love, accept and care – to be interested in them.
- Friendship teas
- Rainbow shop
- Craft group
- New wine
- Bowls club flower/Christmas tree festivals
- U3A
- Jubilee
- Harvest supper
- Hairdressers
- Leyton beauty
- Choir, music
- Link with Methodists
- Food bank
- Christian aid – rainbow shop
- Litter group
- Funeral ministry open gardens
- Ride and stride
- Some links to Greenfield school but need rebuilding post COVID19
- Pubs
- Local gym and coffee shop – in Countesthorpe
- Health Centre
- Stroke club
- Deanery
- Bereavement visitors
- Occasional services

How would you describe your church's purpose?

- To provides a sense of community – to belong and to support (to give and to receive).
- to reach out to the community
- exists for the benefit of those who do not come.
- It is the Centre of the community.
- Current members are the gate way to those seeking
- To Worship God together/ collective worship of God
- To love God, love our neighbor and build the Kingdom
- To make Jesus known in the community/ To be a witness to the community
- To provide a safe place/focus in times of tragedy/ for those with poor mental health.

- To pray
- To be a place of teaching and developing of faith
- To give and receive teaching to outreach (give and receive)
- To provide weddings, baptisms and funerals
- Supporting anybody in need – a listening ear, the food bank
- To be a place of healing
- To be a sanctuary
- A place to gather together
- Companionship
- Open to people's needs
- Supporting each other
- Making people feel comfortable/familiar with church
- Create /support social initiative's - preschool groups, knife crime, food bank, CAP