

# St John's Carrington Parish Profile 2022





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**St John's Carrington**

The map displays a complex street layout with numerous residential streets and a few larger commercial or institutional buildings. Notable features include the Carrington Sports Ground, Carrington Hall, and Carrington High School. The map is oriented with North at the top, and the surrounding areas are labeled as St. John's Carrington, Blackwood, and Carrington.

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome and thank you for showing an interest in our vacancy at St John's Carrington. We exist to worship God and be a hub for our local community. Our mission is:

- To grow and widen our worshipping community
- To deepen the discipleship of our members
- To serve our local community.

- St John the Evangelist, Carrington is an urban parish two miles north of Nottingham's city centre with a population of 9,185. The community has much of the buzz of an exciting modern city culture, and the parish borders with the vibrant, multi-cultural Forest Fields and Hyson Green, the more suburban but still diverse Sherwood and Sherwood Rise, and the mixed housing, light industry and green spaces of Basford.

We are a diverse church in many ways, with members from a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The congregation is drawn from across Nottingham and beyond, with many coming to us because of our distinctive Anglo-Catholic style of worship and commitment to inclusion. We have loyal members of many years' standing, newer faces who have found their way to us and made a home here and regular newcomers who want to find out more about faith.

**1**



Our parish, divided by Mansfield Road, has a significantly higher percentage of the demographic in the age range 18-44's (51%). Because of our identity as an inclusive, Anglo-Catholic church, over half of our regular worshipping congregation is drawn from outside the Parish.

We have ambitious plans to grow and develop our presence in the local community, reaching more people with the message of Jesus Christ and providing them with spiritual nourishment and support wherever they are in their life or their journey of faith.

In this profile we have sometimes used the word "vicar" even though we recognize that technically, it is a priest in charge. The intention is that we will achieve the mission priorities and the post becomes permanent.

We welcome any further questions you may have, or if you would like to arrange a visit prior to your application, please contact one of our Churchwardens.



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# THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM

## GROWING DISCIPLES WIDER, YOUNGER AND DEEPER

**A statement from the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Reverend Paul Williams and Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Venerable Phil Williams**

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 142 stipendiary clergy and licensed lay workers.

In 2016 a refreshed diocesan vision was embraced across the diocese, recognising the imperative for **'Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper'**

- **'Wider'** in that we will seek to grow disciples in every part of the diocese, with no retreat from any community: urban centre; outer estates; rural villages; or market towns.
- **'Younger'** in that we will seek fresh ways to harness the boldness and creativity of children, students and young people across the diocese, not least in Nottingham which is the 4th youngest city outside London.
- **'Deeper'** as we grow in knowing Christ, so that as his disciples we can be an increasing blessing to the people among whom we live and serve in the workplace, family and community.



Compelled by the love of Christ by 2023 we are seeking to:

- Welcome 7000 new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church;
- Commission 1000 younger leaders (especially 15-30 year olds) equipped and inspired to serve the purposes of God in the Church and society;
- Plant or graft 75 New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) across the diocese to increase our reach in telling the story of Jesus to all;
- Grow 25 larger Resource Churches with clear commitment to develop leaders, plant New Worshipping Communities, and disciple the young;
- Serve and pray together as one Church contending for the gospel in every community and sphere of public life in our city, county and region.

If you would like to understand our approach to new worshipping communities, please visit:

<https://southwell.anglican.org/new-worshipping-communities>

where we share some of our stories. It is possible to apply for a grant to assist the costs of setting up a new worshipping community.



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 wider, younger and deeper.'**

This may include identifying the opportunities to reach new people within the parish through a new worshipping community. The diocese has a 'Growing Disciples Fund' so that each parish can apply for up to £2000 per year to support its Growing Disciples Plan.

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in a full-time post at Carrington with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met:

- **Grace** (local ministry team equipped and inspired, not dependent on stipendiary leadership)
- **Growth** (clear numerical growth)
- **Generosity** (financial sustainability, at least meeting direct ministry costs by 2027).



**Bishop Paul Williams**

*"It is my hope that each worshipping community 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 priest in charge of Carrington 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."*



**Archdeacon Phil Williams**

*"The parish of Carrington offers so many opportunities, where the priest in charge can draw on all that is good and valued, while leading the church into a renewed focus on numerical and spiritual growth reaching out to younger demographic that is characteristic of the parish."*



## OUR DEANERY

Nottingham South Deanery is a large, densely populated multicultural area spreading from relatively prosperous suburbs to the west with a tradition of strong, independent (largely evangelical) congregations, through areas heavily shaped by the presence of the Universities of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent, to more socially deprived urban areas, Nottingham city centre and business areas.

The area has a population of roughly 200,000 with 21 parishes and 26 Anglican churches. As well as ordained leadership, the churches have strong lay leadership. The deanery shares the vision of the diocese to grow disciples wider, younger, and deeper and we seek to work out that vision in the diverse contexts and churchmanship of the deanery.

The deanery plays a very significant role within the diocese, having the highest church population and contributing the largest deanery share (which we call 'giving for ministry').

We note, in the Person Specification for this post, the commitment to increasing significantly the Parish's commitment to Giving for Ministry. The Deanery Leadership Team works collaboratively with all our parishes in order to deliver the Deanery Share which is allocated to us by the Diocese, and we look forward to a positive and fruitful collaboration with Carrington.



## **Deanery Perspective on the Parish of Carrington**

The Deanery welcomes the investment being made by the Diocese in funding a full time Transformational Change Appointment for Carrington and we note the significant priorities which are being set for the role, as outlined in the Person Specification.

It is clear that, as the new Priest in Charge of the Benefice, the appointee will need to work collaboratively within and beyond the parish, learning more of the presenting and underlying challenges and opportunities, to enable the growth, across a range of spectra, which is envisioned.

The Area Dean and the Deanery Leadership Team will offer support and encouragement to the post-holder and the parish as the objectives of this Transformational Change Appointment are worked on and delivered.

## **Deanery Expectations**

The Deanery Leadership Team has identified the deanery's emerging values as:

- We are the people of God and we will act as such
- We unite for the good of each other and the wider community
- We see each other as an asset not as competition
- We pray for and encourage one another in the mission of God.

Deanery Synod generally meets three times a year and the person appointed would be expected to attend and to encourage the parish representatives to take an active part. While there is synodical business to be done, we focus on equipping churches for mission and ministry. Chapter meets around nine times a year and there is an expectation that attending Chapter should be a priority for clergy.



# ST JOHN'S CARRINGTON

Our mission at St John's is:

- **Growing and widening the worshipping community:** in our catholic tradition and by developing different forms of worship and ministry, particularly for children, young people and families and supporting people to come to faith;
- **Deepening our discipleship:** deepening the faith of existing members so that we are confident in sharing our faith with those who are enquiring and new to Christ;
- **Serving the community:** using our facilities and resources to welcome groups, organisations and families for all kinds of events, thereby creating a stronger network through which we can invite seekers to take a step towards faith.





We fulfil our mission by being:

- **Sacramental** –we see the sacraments of the Eucharist and Baptism as ‘outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace’, with scripture and tradition being at the heart of our identity;
- **Liturgical** – our main Sunday Eucharist takes the form of structured worship, when we seek to worship God with all our senses - sight, sound, smell, touch, taste, as well as movement;
- **Enquiring** - we seek to discern God through our conversations with one another and people in the community, taking account of people's life experience;
- **Inclusive and diverse** - we celebrate and affirm every person. We welcome all regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, age, physical ability, financial background or anything else that may separate us;
- **Serving our community** - we use our members, church building, community rooms and churchyard as a resource to respond to the needs of vulnerable people and our local community;
- **Transformative** - we expect our faith to make a difference, not only in our lives but in the lives of our parish and community. We are called to be the servants that Jesus refers to, bringing in the Kingdom of God.



# STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In 2021 we revisited the church plan that we wrote in 2019. We consulted with both our congregation and our local community through a survey and a 'community conversation'. This has helped us to identify our strengths and assets:

- our distinctive identity as an inclusive Anglo-Catholic church which serves the needs of people outside the parish as well as within;
- new types of service which engage with people who do not usually come to church (e.g. our Community Eucharist);
- strong lay leadership with high levels of commitment and engagement, bringing a wide range of skills;
- a desire to witness to the community and a local reputation for our openness and welcome;
- our buildings and grounds, including a beautiful re-ordered church, refurbished community rooms and a well-used churchyard frequented by local families and dog walkers that provides a focal point for the community of Carrington.





These give us some exciting opportunities to:

- continue to explore different types of service to meet the needs of local people;
- reach out to our community to grow and support new disciples;
- increase our reach to families and children, including through local schools;
- continue to explore the talents and gifts of members of the congregation to contribute to our mission;
- explore different ways that the church can work in the community and across the wider parish (including Mapperley Park);
- use digital technology and social media to engage the community more widely;
- increase the use of our building and community facilities to bring more people into the church building and generate income for the parish.

Following from the survey and the community conversation, we identified priorities in five areas:

- Worship and Faith
- Children & Families
- Community
- Church
- Income Generation.



# OUR NEXT VICAR

We are looking for a new vicar who:

- Is committed to the Anglo-Catholic tradition with a positive theological attitude to contemporary issues;
- Will lead, inspire and encourage us on our journey of faith and mission, embracing our style and spirituality, but also bringing innovative new ideas on how we can better serve God in our parish;
- Is committed to growing our congregation across all ages, in particular amongst families, children and young people;
- Will inspire and encourage us to deepen our faith and spirituality, individually and collectively;
- Is committed to outreach to the local community and has a concern for those marginalised by society;
- Is a good communicator with a collaborative leadership style;
- Is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.



### ***The priorities of the role will be***

- To continue the recent spiritual growth so that it reflects the age and social profile of the parish population especially reaching young families and young adults [By Year 3 - 50% of people attending Sunday services, enquirers or discipleship groups will be under 45];
- To increase the usual Sunday attendance [from 33 (30 adults 3 children - emerging out of COVID in 2021) to 45 adults, 6 children in Year 1, 58 adults 18 children in Year 2 (equal to pre-COVID levels), 75 adults 25 children in Year 3];
- To increase the number of children and young people attending church-led activities to 10 (Year 1), 20 (Year 2), 40 (Year 3);
- To be focussed on mission through prayer, worship, evangelism, social transformation and whole-life discipleship [creating a Growing Disciples Plan that expresses this mission by the end of Year 1];
- To reach a younger and more diverse demographic from the parish, by growing the main Eucharistic service and developing alternative styles of worship [experimentation of different styles in Year 1 and 2 before adopting into new pattern of services alongside the main Eucharist in Year 3];
- To make the most of all opportunities, for example, through occasional offices, online engagement and create a strategy to develop the stages from first enquiry through to full participation and integration in the church [including a social media strategy, regular enquirers course including opportunities for people to ask questions, increase of 5 new fellowship groups, identifying new fellowship group leaders, plus clear opportunities for lay leaders to take on positions of responsibility];
- To grow a leadership team that reflects a younger, locally diverse demographic including the development and mentoring of local missional leaders [4 members of the PCC under 40 by Year 3, 4 under 40s leading other aspects of church life];
- To increase the number of regular church givers from 43 to 48 by year 1, 53 by year 2, 58 by year 3;
- Increase total church income on a trajectory to achieve direct ministry costs but with a review of the parish share trajectory in 2025 to determine targets for the following three years. This will be achieved through a range of initiatives including an increase in regular planned givers and levels of giving. Parish share commitments would be at least 2022 (£25,797), 2023 (£31,260), 2024 (£37,890), 2025 (£44,520).

## ***Person Specification for the Transformation Change Post as the Priest-in-charge of St. John's Carrington (Time-limited interim)***

The parish, deanery and diocese are looking to appoint a person who has

- A personal devotion to Jesus Christ reflected and rooted in prayer and sacrament;
- An incarnational vision for, commitment to, and experience of, evangelism and church growth across all ages;
- An aptitude, experience and gifts in exercising strategic leadership, especially towards vision and implementing plans for growth;
- A commitment to the Eucharistic tradition nourishing mission in, and service to, the parish;
- Excellent relational skills, emotional intelligence, tenacity and resilience;
- The ability to relate to, and inspire, children, young people and young families;
- The ability to discern, develop and deploy the gifts of others in mission and ministry;
- The ability to work collaboratively to build and sustain life-giving teams;
- The ability to lead, enjoy and develop a variety of worship and musical styles, including traditional and contemporary expressions;
- The ability and commitment to foster, encourage and grow everyday faith and discipleship;
- The ability to see new missional opportunities and implement them.

*This post is an interim Priest-in-charge post offered under section 29 (1) (j) and (7D) of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of service) Regulations 2009 as amended. As a result, before the end of the first three years there would be a review involving the postholder, PCC and diocese to assess progress against the priorities outlined in the person specification section of the profile. This review could lead to a further extension of up to three years. The post could be made permanent after the maximum six-year period.*





# OUR SERVICES

Like all other churches, our services were disrupted by the COVID pandemic. We streamed services from the start of the pandemic, and to ensure we were able to continue serving our community, we invested in a new Hilltop Audio-Visual system. We have continued to stream our services since we returned to worship in person. Prior to the pandemic and being in vacancy our weekly pattern of services was Sunday Parish Eucharist with Evensong once a month, Tuesday morning prayer and Wednesday Said Eucharist.

Currently we are just holding one service a week which is 10am Parish Eucharist on Sundays, as well as our additional services at All Souls, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter. With a vicar in post, we would be looking to re-introduce additional weekly services.

In September 2021 we introduced the Community Eucharist at 10am on the second Sunday of the month. Through the Community Eucharist we aim to connect liturgically with people in the community who do not normally attend church, and it is welcoming and appropriate for families and children.

**Pre-Covid Service Pattern**

Day	Time	Service
Sunday	10am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	Evensong on the 1st Sunday of the month
Tuesday	12 Noon	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10am	Said Eucharist



On Ash Wednesday we hold an evening Eucharist service with ashing. Our normal services during Holy Week are:

Easter Services		
Day	Time	Service
Palm Sunday	10am	Parish Eucharist including a procession with palms
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Agape meal, Eucharist and Altar of Repose
Good Friday	12 Noon	Morning Prayer
Easter Sunday	5.30am	Easter Vigil and Eucharist
	10am	Parish Eucharist

Our normal pattern of services at Christmas is:

Christmas Services		
Day	Time	Service
Sunday before Christmas	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10am	Parish Eucharist

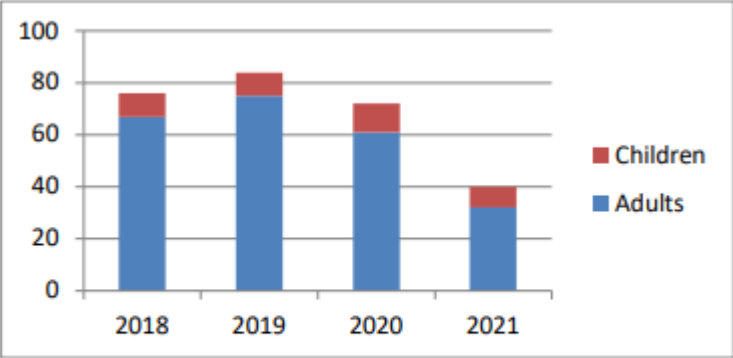
Other occasional services include All Souls' Day evensong, Christingle service, Patronal festival, Harvest festival with pet blessing and Taizé service.



# REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND LIFE EVENTS

Our average weekly attendance has halved as a result of COVID. Around 10 of our congregation also continue to worship with us online and a further seven who do not have access to the internet are sent the pew sheet so that they can worship at home. As concerns about COVID start to ease, we are attracting new members to our congregation although some of our older members have not yet returned in person.

Regular Attendance



2018, 2019 and 2021 based on October average.  
2020 based on January – March due to COVID

Life Events

Life Event	2018	2019	2020	2021
Baptisms	7	2	3	2
Marriages	1	1	1	1
Funerals	3	8	1	4





# MUSIC

We have a committed and long-serving organist as well as a small choir who sing at the Sunday Eucharist. There are additional talented musicians in the congregation who also contribute by leading singing and playing instruments.

Our acclaimed Roger Yates organ was restored and enlarged in 2009, and we have a Steinway grand piano in the nave.







# BUILDING DISCIPLES AND DEEPENING OUR FAITH

Our approach to outreach and building disciples is based on the Road to Emmaus story where the disciples, inspired by the presence of the risen Christ exclaimed 'Weren't our hearts on fire when he opened the Gospel to us?' Our mission, to bring the risen Christ into the lives of those we serve, is put into action in different ways.

First, we aim to reach out to the community and those who may be unfamiliar with church; for example, we have established a community café which takes place in the church and community rooms and draws in people from the local community, especially the lonely and the vulnerable.

The café is run by volunteers who are a mix of church people and community volunteers and serves about 30 people each week. Other examples of our initiatives are hosting a toddler group for carers and toddlers run by volunteers from the local community, setting up a food bank and organising a community festival.

These are not intended to be standalone activities but are part of a wider strategy aimed at enabling people to find ways of starting to engage with faith. For those who want to find out more about Jesus and how he can change lives we offer a Start course. The aim is simply to help people to find out the fundamentals of the way of Jesus.

As well as enabling people who are new to faith to find out more, we believe that it is important for members of the church to engage with faith at a deeper level and to learn from each other in fellowship groups. To do this we organise and run courses that enable church members to learn from each other and develop a mature faith, for example Bible study and Lent courses. A few people in the congregation are currently engaged in Cursillo to develop their faith [www.anglicancursillo.co.uk].

Worship is at the heart of our identity as a church and until recently this has followed a mainly Anglo-Catholic pattern. This will continue to be the staple of our service provision but we continue to explore opportunities to people who might not otherwise go to church. In recent months we have been developing a Community Eucharist. This gives us the opportunity to create worship where the teaching, the music and the liturgy are designed to engage with a more diverse congregation. We are also developing more reflective worship with services following the Taize and Iona traditions.

Through all these activities, through the occasional offices and our regular pattern of worship we are always alert to those who are seeking to engage with faith and are open to the gospel. It is our prayer that through grace and clear leadership we will see the growth that St John's has been preparing for.



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

**Living in Love and Faith** provides resources for Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It is an opportunity for people to engage and learn together, listening to one another, and listening to God to discern a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Our hope is we will:

- hear the voices and encounter the experiences of people who would otherwise have been invisible to them
- learn different ways of reading scripture together well
- find help for everyday Christian discipleship in all its diversity, physicality, messiness and grittiness
- be alert to the interaction between the life of the church and its cultural contexts and equipped to engage in the public square about what it means to be human and sexual.

#### Course arrangements

The course is open to anyone who would like to attend, including people who do not attend St John's. It will be held in-person in St John's Carrington on the following dates:

Monday 7th March - Monday 14th March - Monday 21st March

Monday 28th March - Monday 4th April

Times will be from 7pm to 9 pm.

Venue: St John's Church

For further information please contact Denis Tully at  
ministryteam@stjohnscarrington.org.uk

You can register for the course at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/268406068777>  
where you will also find an introductory video.





# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Prior to COVID we were running a regular Kids' Church each Sunday for children aged 4-11. We used a range of resources including "Diddy Disciples" and "Roots" and included practical activities such as craft and games. We brought the children into the service for the Peace and sat with them at the front so that they could feel fully part of the service. At the end of the service they always stood at the front to tell the congregation what they had learned which they much enjoyed.

We had also appointed a Children and Families Worker on a 12-month contract prior to COVID to develop and grow this work. As a result of COVID restrictions, her time was mostly spent providing invaluable online support to our children and families. This kept them connected to St John's, although the planned development work could not happen. At the end of her contract, the PCC agreed to build and nurture a team from the congregation to establish a solid foundation for the future Children and Families worker to build on. Once we have built this team we will be able to introduce other activities for children and families as resources allow, for example Kids' Church, and then we will recruit another Children and Families Worker to focus on development.

A group of people has worked hard to develop the new the monthly community Eucharist, which is our main offer for children and families for the next 6 months, and which started in September 2021. We promote this service widely to encourage new families to attend.

We host a weekly toddler and carer group in the community rooms which is led by a team of local mothers. Since commencing earlier this year, the group has grown steadily to the point where we need to find more space to meet demand.



# OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY

We have 62 people on the electoral roll of the parish (APCM April 2021) with just under half living in the parish. People attend St John's from outside the parish because it is inclusive, and because of its distinctive spirituality and style of worship which is not available in many other parish churches.

The Parochial Church Council numbers 14 and during the interregnum it has been meeting each month to oversee the running of the church and make decisions.

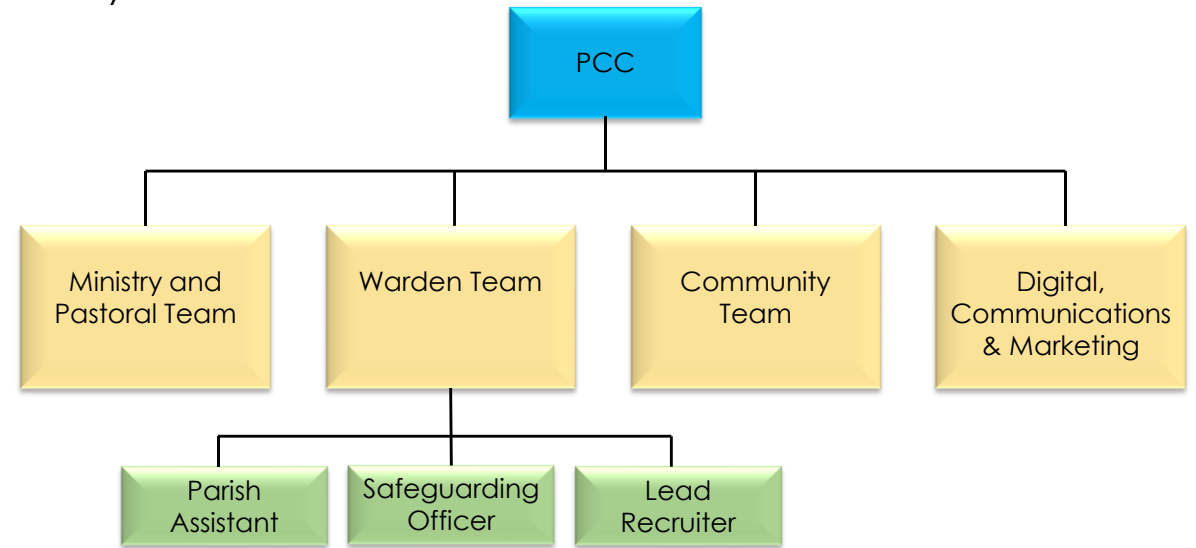
Our ministry team comprises a Retired Priest with Permission to officiate, known informally as our Associate Priest, a Licensed Lay Reader, and a Church Army Evangelist, who all give generously of their time and gifts to St John's and will continue to be part of the Ministry Team when we appoint a new vicar.



*You  
I can't  
do it  
alone.*

EXODUS 18:18

During 2021 we have set up teams to help us to organise the running of the church and its associated activities, with each team having areas of responsibility and a remit.



The purpose of creating these teams is to build in resilience to the organisation and create opportunities for members of the congregation to participate in the running of St John's, regardless of the time that can be committed. These teams have responsibility for taking forward our priorities.

We also have active lay involvement in a range of other areas with people taking on regular duties on a rota basis to support our services. These include stewards to welcome people at the door; servers; online streaming; readers and intercessors; flower arranging; serving coffee; linen preparation and church cleaning.

We have an active Mothers Union which meets monthly and an Annual pilgrimage every September to Walsingham. Before COVID we had a programme of regular social events, including a Christmas lunch, games nights and quizzes.



# PASTORAL CARE GROUPS AND EMPLOYEES

We have a system of pastoral care groups whereby every member of the congregation who wishes to be involved is linked to a Pastoral Care Group Leader who will look out for them and be a point of contact for support when needed. The Pastoral Care Group Leadership team provides oversight of the Pastoral Care Group leaders.

We employ a part time Parish Assistant to provide administrative support to the church and administer the community rooms and church bookings.

We also employ a part time Caretaker who provides support by cleaning the church, opening the church and community rooms for lettings and other tasks as needed.

And we have many volunteers.







# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## **Farmers' Market**

We host a monthly Farmers' Market in the churchyard on the same Sunday as the Community Eucharist, which means that some people who would not normally come to church come into the church to explore what is happening at the service. It also provides a focal point for the community to come together and mix.

## **Carols at the Gladstone**

This is a popular annual event held at our local pub The Gladstone, where members of the community and the congregation join together for carols and a pint!

## **Community Café**

Since March 2019, we have run a weekly community café which offers a free lunch in a friendly environment for people of all ages and experiences.

By doing this we are helping those in our community who are socially isolated or who struggle to afford food. It is run entirely by volunteers and has won a local community award. COVID meant that the café had to stop, but it has since restarted and has a regular attendance of 30. During COVID when the cafe had to close, we ran a weekly food bank instead to ensure our support of the local community continued.

## **Groups using community rooms**

We hire out our community rooms and church nave to a range of local community groups, including peer support groups, dance groups and choirs as well as private bookings for children's parties and community group meetings.

## **The Nativity**

In December 2019 we staged a dramatic interpretation of 'The Nativity' in the nave.

This was cast from performers across Carrington and Sherwood, from inside and outside the churches. The primary goal of the project was an expression of praise and faith, and an opportunity to communicate the Gospel at Christmas to a wider audience.

It was sold out for two nights and led to a number of new people joining the congregation who are now active members of St John's.

Positive feedback from the event included audience and participants alike stating that they appreciated the chance to reflect and discover faith in a non-threatening way.

We are considering an opportunity to repeat this in December 2022.

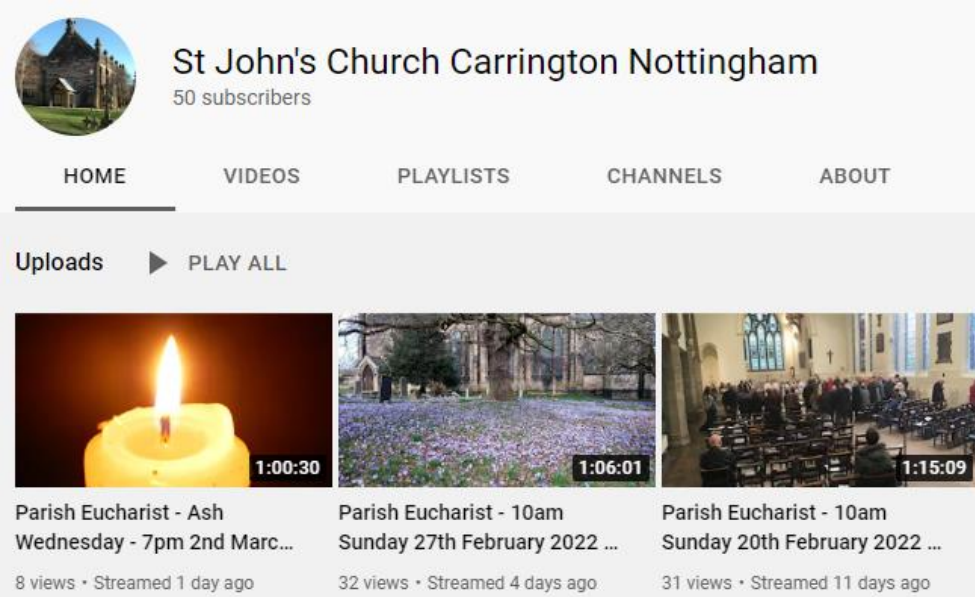
## **Community activities in church and churchyard**

Our proactive team of church and community volunteers plan and run a programme of regular community events that place St John's in the centre of community life for the residents of Carrington, Sherwood and Mapperley Park.

Prior to COVID we ran the very successful Carrington Festival in July and the Advent Fair around Christmas time. Since summer 2021 when COVID restrictions were lifted we have held a Community Picnic with live music, organised a Remembrance weekend display, offered All Hallows' Eve hot dogs on All Souls' Day and enjoyed an Advent Celebration. Plans for 2022 include a return of the Carrington festival and a Jubilee Big Lunch in addition to the events that were run in 2021. A team of church and community volunteers ensure that the grounds are tended and kept free of litter so that they can be enjoyed by all.







St John's has a significant online presence including social media (Facebook and Twitter), website ([www.stjohnscarrington.org.uk](http://www.stjohnscarrington.org.uk)) and YouTube channel (St John's Church Carrington Nottingham). These channels are managed and co-ordinated by the St John's Digital Communications and Marketing team, made up of volunteers from the congregation.

Our Sunday services are live-streamed and available to watch at any time on our YouTube channel, which holds a comprehensive back catalogue of services, as well as various community activities held in the church and its grounds in recent years.

# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

During COVID we purchased new cameras to support the online component of our service offering, which enables us to continue reaching a varied and remote audience.

Weekly editions of Preschool Praise, aimed at children aged 0-5, were recorded by our Children and Families worker during COVID and are shared on Facebook.

The pandemic encouraged our use of the virtual meeting platform Zoom for sessions including bible study, social events (such as quizzes and coffee), evening prayer, and committee/organiser group meetings (such as the safety advisory group).

We continue to use Zoom for many of these purposes and twice weekly social meetings between members of the congregation, which offers convenience as well as reducing in person contact while Covid remains prevalent in our communities.

Key Digital Statistics are included in Appendix 1.



# FINANCES

Like every church in the country, our financial position was significantly affected by COVID in terms of rental income for the community rooms and church, but lettings broke even in the last quarter of 2021 and should continue to increase as we regain regular and one-off hirers.

Regular Giving has continued at the same level despite COVID. The last Giving campaign was in 2017 and another is planned for 2022. The PCC agreed to reduce parish share in 2020 as a result of reduced income, but the parish share for 2021 was agreed with the Deanery and is expected to be paid in full. Our reserves at the end of 2021 totalled £36,800 (of which £3,500 is community food contributions). There are planned maintenance works on the church building which will draw from the main reserves.

Our community rooms are underutilised currently and there is significant potential to increase their usage which would generate additional income for the parish. We are currently carrying out a review to consider ways of increasing their utilization and increasing our income from hirers over the short to medium term.

Accounts are available on request.

	2019	2020	2021
<i>Including community rooms</i>			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£88,464</b>	<b>£55,931</b>	<b>£54,169</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£67,641</b>	<b>£53,637</b>	<b>£54,722</b>
<b>SURPLUS/LOSS</b>	<b>£20,823</b>	<b>£2,294</b>	<b>-£553</b>
<i>Just community rooms</i>			
<b>Community room income</b>	<b>£27,537</b>	<b>£10,686</b>	<b>£9,482</b>
<b>Community room expenditure</b>	<b>£18,881</b>	<b>£16,595</b>	<b>£14,457</b>
<b>SURPLUS/LOSS</b>	<b>£8,656</b>	<b>-£5,909</b>	<b>-£4,975</b>



**The heart of the parish** – Carrington itself – developed mainly from the early 1900s onwards, built up with high-density terraced and semi-detached housing.

Some small pockets of this area score quite highly in indices of deprivation, but most parts of Carrington have a mobile population of younger and mid-career professionals living in what is now regarded as a desirable urban residential area.

Commercial landlords have bought up a significant number of the larger houses in Carrington for letting, predominantly to students. There is also some recent modern infill housing and a major new residential development on an old industrial site.

The church's large garden, with its grassed areas and mature trees, forms a welcome green centrepiece among the terraces and proved to



# OUR PARISH

be a haven for many local residents during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

Neighbouring Mapperley Park has many large Edwardian villas interspersed with a few more modern, equally substantial houses in pleasant wooded streets. Houses here, built at much lower density than in Carrington, are much sought-after by professionals at the tops of their careers.

Mapperley Park also includes multi-generational and multi-occupancy housing. The busy A60 road runs between Carrington and Mapperley Park, however, and there is a sense of separateness between the two communities. There are an unusually large number of supported residential settings in the parish, which cater for people with a range of needs including elderly people, learning disabled people, those with care needs, and ex-offenders.

At one count there were 34 such settings and developing closer relationships with them is a potential growth area for St John's. There are plenty of shops in Sherwood and Carrington, including a variety of interesting small independent retailers, and the city centre itself is less than a half-hour walk away or about 10 minutes on a very frequent bus.

There are three primary schools in the parish, with which we have developed good working relationships. St John's is situated next to the 'Pirate Park' playground which is used by many local families.



# OUR CHURCH AND VICARAGE

St John's Church was built in 1843 and has had several rounds of alterations since then. The most recent re-ordering took place in 2008 which created a completely new liturgical space in the nave, with an (almost central) stone altar set on a stone sanctuary area, and all-new liturgical furniture. The Lady Chapel was relocated to what was the chancel and at the west end a "minstrels' gallery" was created to house the acclaimed Roger Yates organ which has been restored and enlarged. In the north aisle of the church there is 2-storey development of rooms and community spaces, the upstairs large hall with commercial-standard catering facilities. New toilet facilities and a lift have also been installed and on the ground floor the rooms have access to a kitchenette.

A new entrance to the building has been created providing a new welcoming area along with a parish office. As well as being used for church activities the church building and community rooms are let out for a wide range of regular activities as well as parties, wedding receptions and concerts. The income from room hire is a key component of our income generation strategy to enable us to invest in our facilities and fund mission activities.



The vicarage is located about 200 metres from the church building and is part of a development of houses dating from the 1920s and 30s.

On the ground floor there is a porch over the front door; a large entrance hall with visitors' toilet off; a study; a living room with a modern encased gas fire and patio doors to the rear garden; a dining room; a kitchen with space for a breakfast table; a glass-roofed utility room.

Upstairs there are four good-sized bedrooms (three with large built-in wardrobes); a bathroom with an over-bath pumped shower; and a separate toilet.

The house has modern double-glazed uPVC windows throughout and a new gas combi-boiler provides hot water and heating.

In the small, mature landscaped gardens there is a large double garage (complete with car inspection pit!).





**St Martin's Church  
Sherwood**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# Neighbouring Churches and Organisations

St John's has a long history of excellent working relationships with the local Methodist church, the URC church, and the neighbouring Anglican parish of St Martin's, Sherwood. Joint ventures have included carol singing in local pubs at Christmas and a united service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. These links are currently being re-established following the pandemic.

The Community Team works with and is supported by CTARA (Carrington Tenants and Residents Association) and a church representative attends their meetings. We also have good relationships with SCAMP (Sherwood, Carrington and Mapperley Park Neighbourhood Watch), local police, and City Councillors. The Local Councillors hold annual activity and action days attended by the local community and church members. We are part of the NG5 Area Partnership, meeting online to share information with other churches, charity groups and organisations in area – enabling us to signpost people to a range of services and opportunities. When the church building is used as a polling station, many residents come through the doors and are welcomed by church stewards



# Appendix 1

## Key Digital Data Statistics

### Website

In January 2022 there were 466 site sessions, made up of 82% new visitors (18% returning) and 287 unique visitors over the month.

### Facebook

The church Facebook account has 498 followers, of which 74% are women. The median aged user of our page is 35-44 years old, followed by 45–54-year-olds. The least active users are 18-24.

The current typical reach of the Facebook page is 3,549 individual users per month. The church does not pay for boosting posts, but does share it across 6 neighbourhood groups in Sherwood, Carrington, and Mapperley areas – totalling roughly 23,000 users.

Youtube Views		
Month	Total Views	Total Watch Time (Hours)
<b>2021</b>		
February	423	79
March	417	89.7
April	495	81.9
May	447	53.9
June	275	45.1
July	217	36.4
August	280	42.8
September	342	55.6
October	338	61.4
November	271	35.4
December	301	40.9
<b>2022</b>		
January	242	50.6

Facebook Data		
Posts from March 2021 to February 2022	Number of Posts	Average Views
Worship Service Announcements (incl. Lent/Advent)	51	455
Lent/Advent Worship Service Announcements (only)	8	1438
Community Announcements (e.g., market, health information, community café, foodbank)	17	1882
Children and Family content (e.g., Preschool Praise, Kids Church)	32	221