

# Brinsley with Underwood PCC

## Annual Report for the year 2021



*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Romans 12:12)*

*... let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him... So do not get tired and stop trying.*  
*(Hebrews 12:1-3 NCV)*

Look at Jesus. Gaze at Him. Think about Him. Consider the sacrifice that He made and let yourself be transformed!

When things are too difficult, we want to give up, these words remind us: look at Jesus, remember His sufferings. He triumphed over more difficulties than we will ever encounter.

We pray that the people of Bagthorpe, Brinsley and Underwood are blessed by us living and worshipping in these villages.

This booklet contains a report of the activities of the church in the parish of Brinsley with Underwood during the calendar year 2021. It has been a second year of significant change forced by the Covid 19 pandemic: it has been punctuated by lockdowns that have forced us to live differently, fear of infection and serious consequences, and isolation from others leaving our minds numb from a lack of social interaction. Our prayer is that as we fix our eyes on Jesus, as we think about His suffering, as we remember the sacrifice that He made so that we might be healed, freed from oppression and fear and through God's grace these difficulties would not squash us, but that we could see growth and opportunities through them. And so we look forward to how these frustrating difficulties will enable people to see more of Jesus through our lives together as His body.

## Overview

### Vicar's Report

Rev David Stevenson

*David will give his report at the meeting, and it will be added to this document afterwards.*

### Ministry development

Rev David Stevenson

Gayna hall was licensed as a Lay Minister last October. She joins Paul and Rachel Lake focussed on the parish of Brinsley with Underwood, and Jackie Smith who is focussed on Eastwood where Jane Ellis has also now started training as a Licensed Lay Minister. We continue to give thanks that God has called four LLMs from our parishes.

### Growing Disciples and Communications

Rachel and Paul Lake

*Successes, items for praise*

- Two alternative Halloween events and a Christingle were well attended

- Facebook continues to provide a useful platform for information sharing and services
- A diocesan training package Rebuild provided some stimulating, material for youth and children's work

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- Plans for an alternative service (New Worshipping Community) better suited to lively families to be developed alongside the existing service
- Wisdom to put the learnings and resources from Rebuild and other training sessions to good use
- Work ongoing with two local schools to bring every child into school on a learning experience at least once a year.

During the year Neil Peake from the diocese met with Paul to review our Growing Disciples Plan and helped align it with the diocesan objectives of Growing Deeper, Younger, Wider. Having the plan should help us focus on our mission and may help with applications for ministry funding

Paul and Rachel have been attending Local Missional Leader forums as part of their ministry development RealLIFE has been hosted by Paul and Rachel at Eastwood and on Zoom. We are very grateful for those who have supported and contributed.

The Start course advertised in for Jan 2021 had no uptake.

## Public Worship

Rev David Stevenson

*Worship is our expression of love and devotion to our Lord and Saviour. An essential part of the life of a Christian is to join with others to praise and worship.*

#### *Successes, items for praise*

- It was good to be able to meet in person again
- Some new people attended our Christmas services
- The rota has been re-established to allow more people to contribute

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- That Sunday worship will help us live each day as disciples

Sunday services have continued to focus on just one service at 10.30am on Sunday mornings, this alternates between villages. Communion continues to be offered only once a month and by intinction

#### Night Prayer

We are grateful to all of the contributors who enabled us to broadcast Night Prayer with different contributors every weekday evening on a fortnightly rota. Around a dozen people appear to watch each service.

#### Thank God it's Friday worship

We tried a different style of weekly worship through the dark months. In Thank God it's Friday Worship we provided a place to relax and unwind at the end of a week, using contemporary worship videos. This connected with a couple of the young people who came in and asked questions

## Groups and Activities

### Living with Loss

Jane Fletcher

The Living with Loss Bereavement Support Fellowship Group returned to meet after the Covid lockdown period in October 2021 and were able to enjoy their annual Christmas 'fuddle' once again.

#### *Successes, items for praise*

- The group enjoy this time of fellowship and support and very much appreciate returning after the long lockdown period.
- Nicky continues to research new ideas for the craft-based activities which prove to be an enjoyable and encouraging resource and a healing 'focus' for the group.
- The Living with Loss meeting is another lifeline for many members.
- The group continues to increase in members and we are pleased to welcome another male member into the group.

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- We hope that the leaders are able to continue to run and support this group.
- It is important to be able to recognise the needs of each other and to encourage other bereaved people, with sensitivity and understanding, to see if they would like to join the group.

### Pie Club

Bob Tyers

#### *Successes, items for praise*

- Meeting together when we could for boules, barbeques or breakfasts
- Some of us meeting online weekly
- For being able to donate over £200 to charity

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- It's been a difficult year to meet, and online meetings don't work for several of us.
- Several of us have found that the isolation has affected our wellbeing

Like many groups 2021 has been a most difficult year. We ceased gathering in our usual haunts and instead went online via Zoom for our Thursday evening banter. When the weather improved, we met a few times in the car park at the Stute for beer, banter and boules. We had a barbeque in St Michael's churchyard which worked well but then we discovered that the Durham Ox had a barbeque set-up so we went back into the garden for the summer.

During the autumn we tried a few first Saturday breakfasts in the yard at the back of the Headstocks Café but eventually had to give into the cold and go back online. This does not suit everyone and while there is a nucleus of 6 to 8 who are still meeting, we are conscious that we are not reaching everyone and that at this time mental wellbeing is a big challenge so we will make changes in 2022 to enable everyone to participate.

In June we changed the way we hold our funds in that we now pay into an account within the church accounts and our donations and other payments out go from the church. We thank the Treasurer for making this possible. We started the year with £137.50 and ended the year with £141.01 having made a total of £210.50 donations to charities.

## Chatterbox Café – Place of Welcome

Mary Simpson-Eyre

### *Successes, items for praise*

- Being able to re-open in the Marquee last summer
- For the people who we continue to support through the café
- For all our helpers, especially Sonia, Pen White, Stewart and Adam and Jenny
- In early 2022 we started another Place of Welcome in St James on Tuesday mornings.

### *Items for prayer, needs*

Chatterbox Café, a Place of Welcome, reopened in June 2021 after a long break. Places of Welcome invite all people to drop in for a drink and a biscuit at no cost; we are grateful that the donations that people make cover all the costs. Please share an invitation with more people, Places of Welcome are great places to find companionship and have a chat with someone.

## Place of Welcome Café – St James

David and Karen Hammond

### *Successes, items for praise*

- The new Place of Welcome Café opened its doors at St James' on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and has been providing a wonderful meeting place every Tuesday morning since then.
- Tea and coffee, together with a variety of wrapped biscuits are provided free of charge. Donations are gratefully received but not expected.
- We have been delighted to 'WELCOME' on average 30 to 35 people of all ages each week, including babies and dogs (with well-behaved owners!)

### *Items for prayer, needs*

A jigsaw puzzle is ongoing for those who wish to partake (Peter Fletcher seems to be the main puzzler), however, the majority of people are keen to meet up with friends and enjoy a good natter and for those who require it, it provides a place of comfort and support.

Thank you to Peter and Jane Fletcher for their support every week, to Nikki Smith who stepped in to help while David and Karen were away and Chris Smith for her help clearing each week. A special "thank you" must go to Hazel Heath who offered her help on a weekly basis but unfortunately had a nasty fall and has been out of action. We are looking forward to Hazel being back on the team.

## Little Angels

Rachel Lake, Sarah Harker

### *Successes, items for praise*

- We were the first activity to reopen in May 2021. Initially we met outside whenever the weather permitted and were grateful for the use of the marquee as shelter in the sun
- The value of the group has been obvious: seeing children socialise when Covid lockdown had denied them these opportunities
- The introduction of a regular Bible story
- Good numbers attending
- The addition of some pretend play toys such as a flower cart and kitchen has been very successful
- The group is valued by grandparents as well as parents

### *Items for prayer, needs*

- Appropriate storage solutions to be agreed in the reordering scheme

- Keeping children’s toys clean from rodents
- Discernment about starting a toddler session in Brinsley

Our term time Tots and Toddlers group continue to meet on a Tuesday afternoon at St Michaels church 1:30pm-3pm. Since September we have been back inside the building

Our session consists of 1 hour of general play time during which a light refreshment is shared with the adults and snack for the children. In the last 30 minutes we do story time on the carpet area. We now do two stories, one Bible story using a toddler-appropriate bible, followed by a short secular story. All the children get a turn with “what’s in the box” and we close the session with a short prayer of thanks.

We keep the carpeted area for the babies, away from the more energy play of the older children. Our toys vary from make believe stations like the ice cream and flower market and kitchen set, to the train set, doll house, and general toys. The most popular however are the trikes and cars. A craft/messy activity is always available, always used but not always taken home.

## Youth Outreach

James Spriggs

### *Successes, items for praise*

- Some positive relationships made with young people during the summer through our presence on the recreation ground
- The provision of the community centre which we used from September to March
- Interaction with the young people either through crafts or discussion cards

### *Items for prayer, needs*

- More meaningful conversations about faith
- More volunteers on the team
- Partnership building with other agencies e.g. police, youth service, local schools

The interaction with young people increased when the centre was open during the winter months. We’re grateful for the support of the local councillors and the relationship with the Parish council staff. We're thankful for the new cohort of young people we are getting to know. We appreciate them sharing their fears, hopes and dreams with us. We pray for discernment and the wisdom to speak with them each week. We hope to find opportunities for intergenerational activities such as a summer barbecue. We dream of being able to share worship and outreach activities with a youth ministry team working in the local area.

## Praying for ourselves and others

### Local Houses of Prayer

Bob Tyers

Prayer network      [prayer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com](mailto:prayer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com)

We bless you in the name of Jesus; that He may open your eyes and quicken your hearts to the simplicity and power of a 7-day church scattered. As Jesus said: “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.” (*Matthew 11:28-30, The Message*)

### *Successes, items for praise*

- People around us continue to be blessed as we pray for them

- The number of Local Houses of Prayer have continued to grow through lockdowns
- Bob Tyers has been commissioned as a trainer and network facilitator by Ffald y Brenin

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- For people to continue to join The Blessings Course and to continue to form Local Houses of Prayer.

Local Houses of Prayer (L Hops) are groups of 2 or 3 people adopting a small area to pray for and proclaim God's blessing over. This is leading to God showing Himself to many people. Starting early in the century at Ffald y Brenin, a retreat centre in West Wales, Local Houses of Prayer have spread across the UK and many other nations across the world.

During the year Bob Tyers has been recognised as a trainer and network facilitator by Ffald y Brenin. The area covered by the network that Bob supports now extends from Bakewell to Southwell and Loughborough to Alfreton and is called the "Heart of England Network" of Local Houses of Prayer, we hope that it might grow to exceed 30 L Hops.

It would be wonderful for more of us to explore the principles and extend coverage within our parish.

## Prayer Partners

Jane Fletcher

#### *Successes, items for praise*

- The privilege to pray for others and witness God's healing power at work
- Being able to respond quickly to prayer needs

#### *Items for prayer, needs*

- The number of prayer partners to increase

The Brinsley with Underwood Prayer Partners are a group of 28 people who believe in the power of prayer. Prayer requests are received and circulated as soon as possible by email so that prayer partners can pray. Prayer requests are only circulated with the permission of those concerned.

## Our Management Processes

### Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Andy Palmer

We have held six PCC meetings since the last APCM. The meetings have been face-to-face and have been supported by zoom when necessary (due to high local infection rates of Covid or by an individual's request); Plus, we have held one extra PCC, which was specifically to discuss starting a new service.

### Electoral Roll

Andy Palmer

The electoral roll has reduced from 67 to 63 members.

There have been 3 bereavements; two people have moved away from the parish; and one new addition.

### Statistics for Mission

Covid has knocked all our statistics – as it has in all churches. Since we have been able to meet again, we are welcoming about 30 people to the service on Sunday morning. We are blessed to be able to share our Sunday service online as well where 15 to 20 people usually engage with the video.

- There were 15 funerals, two weddings and no baptisms in the parish during the year.

## Our Buildings

### St James' and St Michael's Peter Fletcher, Christine Smith, Mary Simpson-Eyre, Gayna Hall

#### *Successes, items for praise*

- Worship Services resumed in church in April 2021, with numbers gradually increasing since then, although not everyone has returned to church yet.
- St James Weekend: The Annual Coffin Walk was cancelled again in 2021 but an Outdoor Service was held on St James' Weekend, with guest speaker John Pritchard.
- Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Services were well attended, particularly the Carol Services.
- Most bookings have returned to our church buildings since about September
- Thank you to Christine Smith and Mary Simpson-Eyre who have both decided to stand down after serving as Church Wardens for many years. Thank you also to Stewart Simpson-Eyre will stand down as Verger and has also served for many years.

#### Events

- St James was open for the NHCT Ride & Stride Open Church in September 2021, with thanks to Karen Hammond and Rachel Lake for providing cover.
- We Held a successful concert in memory of Howard Leese by the Bestwood male voice choir
- Scarecrow festival this year donated proceeds to the reordering fund.
- We plan to hold the parish Garden Party at St Michael's again this year in June. We will hire Huthwaite Prize band again because people love just to be listening to the band.

#### Environmental Footprint

- We are gradually implementing environmental measures. Covid has forced us to reduce paper usage and the amount of printing we do.
- An item that we need help with is a sensitive issue: we need to reduce the amount of plastic waste and wire in flowers left on graves and cremated remains. This single-use plastic is hard to dispose of, so always has to go into the general waste.

#### Faculties approved:

- Two new weatherproof external notice boards were installed in March 2021 at each church, greatly assisting our connection with the local community.
- to change the Cremated Remains area at St James. Turf will be replaced with granite chippings. This change was proposed by Broxtowe BC who will also fund the work.
- to extend to the cremated remains area at St Michael's.

#### Faculties planned:

- internet connection and permanently installing the TVs and video equipment in St James
- re-ordering St Michael's (see St Michel's Reordering section)
- St Michael's graveyard access, coppice removal and extension

#### Maintenance

- At St James the vast majority of the items on the latest Quinquennial were completed in the past 12 months thanks to help from the Vicar, Andy Palmer, Paul Lake and Peter Fletcher.
- St Michael's has a couple of outstanding maintenance jobs: cleaning out the gutters – our usual contractor has decided not to quote and we are looking for an alternative – and an issue with one of

the new LED lights in St Michael's where we are unable to get the contractor who provided a 10-year guarantee to do the work

- Most of St Michael's quinquennial actions are being included in the reordering that is planned.

Unfortunately we did experience some vandalism to a marquee that we had on loan from Transform Weekend. We had been using it as outdoor accommodation for all our groups at St Michael's. We still have to resolve how we make good this loss.

## St Michael's Reordering

Rachel & Paul Lake

### *Successes, items for praise*

- After lots of work and too-ing and fro-ing we have submitted the faculty for reordering of St Michael's and answered the formal questions that statutory historical societies have asked – we have to consult some of these societies as part of the process.
- Ashfield District Council have approved the part of the project that they need to approve, so we have been granted planning permission to change the entrance and doors to make them more accessible for people with less mobility, for wheelchair users and for parents with children in push chairs.
- While we wait for formal approval, we can now move on to applying for grants for the work.
- We have been given three oak trees by the Barber Estate. Andy Thomas and a group of volunteers have sawn these into planks that will now start the drying process.

### *Items for prayer, needs*

- The project total cost will be around £600,000. We already have about £200,000 and we have promises of about £85,000 leaving us about £315,000 to raise.
- We need to apply for grants for the project
- Final details like the design of the kitchen and storage still need to be finalised with the groups that will use them

## 38 Main Road

Peter Fletcher

We continue to keep 38 Main Road as a rented property. It helps our income by about £4,000 a year.

## Financial Review

Helen Baker

PCC of Brinsley with Underwood: Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 are shown on the last page of this booklet

## Contact Information

As we implement Microsoft 365, some of our email addresses are changing, we hope that this makes it easier for you to remember them!

Rev David's email address is not changing at this time.

Priest in Charge	Rev David Stevenson	<a href="mailto:RevDavidStevenson@sky.com">RevDavidStevenson@sky.com</a>	01773 710770
PCC Secretary	Andy Palmer	<a href="mailto:PCCSecretary@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">PCCSecretary@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a>	



Treasurer	Helen Baker	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">Treasurer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a>	
Licensed Lay Ministers	Rachel Lake Paul Lake	<a href="mailto:Rachel.Lake@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">Rachel.Lake@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a> <a href="mailto:Paul.Lake@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">Paul.Lake@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a>	077 929 42932 07554 664 831
General Enquiries		<a href="mailto:Admin@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">Admin@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a>	
Prayer Requests		<a href="mailto:Prayer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com">Prayer@BrinsleyWithUnderwood.com</a>	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Receipts	Notes	2021					TOTAL	TOTAL
		General Fund	St Michael's reordering	St James' reordering	Clock	Other restricted funds	2021	2020
Planned giving - Gift Aided		£15,089					£15,089	£15,299
Planned giving - not Gift Aided		£725	£75				£800	£655
Collections - St James		£969					£969	£461
Collections - St Michaels		£1,144					£1,144	£761
Gift Aid reclaimed	2	£850	£217				£1,067	£4,436
Service fees		£14,486					£14,486	£12,336
Chatterbox Café		£496					£496	£321
Community Café		£0					£0	£672
Little Angels		£206					£206	£213
Donations - St Michael's reordering			£1,745				£1,745	£2,044
Legacy - St Michael's reordering			£0				£0	
Donations - St James' reordering				£60			£60	£809
Donations - sundry	3	£6,693				£1,256.00	£7,949	£5,371
Donations - charities	4	£430					£430	£1,112
Magazine income		£0					£0	£840
Printing		£0					£0	£40
Events		£275					£275	£291
Events - St Michael's reordering			£166				£166	£0
Room hire - St James		£425					£425	£2,704
Room hire - St Michael's		£160					£160	£240
Rent - Main Road		£6,300					£6,300	£6,300
Grants		£0					£0	£0
Miscellaneous		£14					£14	£747
Interest		£2	£14		2		£18	£220
<b>Total</b>		<b>£48,264</b>	<b>£2,217</b>	<b>£60</b>	<b>£2</b>	<b>£1,256</b>	<b>£51,799</b>	<b>£55,872</b>
<b>Payments</b>								
Parish share		£30,936					£30,936	£30,768
Officers' fees		£1,811					£1,811	£1,447
Clergy expenses		£411					£411	£393
Organist stipend	5	£1,500					£1,500	£500
Energy		£3,729					£3,729	£6,147
Water		£225					£225	£292
Insurance		£4,659					£4,659	£4,647
Music Licences		£476					£476	£390
Maintenance		£2,884			138		£3,022	£3,395
Main Road		£1,120					£1,120	£1,446
Printing/stationery		£2,180					£2,180	£3,793
Charities	6	£1,704					£1,704	£2,061
Events		£0					£0	£0
Mission		£1,173					£1,173	£1,357
Miscellaneous	7	£588	£6,082			£841.00	£7,511	£2,840
<b>Total</b>		<b>£53,396</b>	<b>£6,082</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£138</b>	<b>£841</b>	<b>£60,457</b>	<b>£59,476</b>
Difference receipts over payments							-£8,657	-£3,606
Balances brought forward							£168,175	£171,781
Balances at year end							£159,518	£168,175

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Statement of Assets as at 31 December 2021

	St Michael's reordering fund	Clock fund	St James' reordering fund	Other restricted funds	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Monetary assets</b>						
<b>Barclays Accounts</b>						
Acc 90197505	138126					138126
Acc 70694851		1644	3323	415	13686	19068
Acc 30694843					4349	4349
Less unrepresented cheques					-2025	-2025
	<b>138126</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>3323</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>16010</b>	<b>159518</b>

Notes to the accounts:

Receipts

1. Other restricted funds - includes donations made for specific purposes, in this case for audio-visual equipment.
2. Gift Aid reclaimed - a claim has been made which will bring in £4000+ will appear in next year's accounts
3. Sundry donations - includes receipts from the Piemen
4. Charities - includes £400 raised through 'Ride and Stride' and which is sent to Notts Historic Churches Trust

Payments

5. Organist stipend - includes £500 owed to the organist from the previous year
6. Charities - includes donations to the charities nominated by the PCC and to Christian Vision for Men supported by The Piemen
7. Miscellaneous - includes Zoom subscription and conference fees for laity