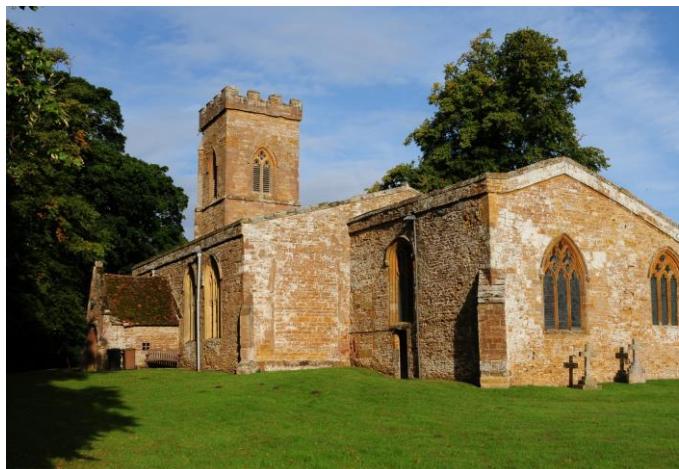
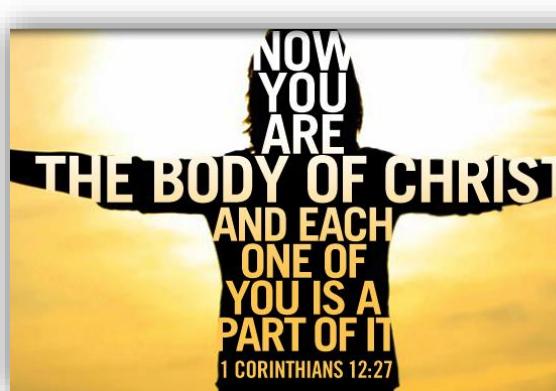


Parish Profile 2022



The churches of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
and St. Leodegarius,
Ashby St. Ledgers; All
Saints, Braunston and
St. Martin's, Welton.



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to look at our profile.

We are looking for a Vicar to lead our Benefice of three churches - All Saints' in Braunston, St Martin's in Welton and The Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Leodegarius in Ashby St Ledgers. We are three different churches working together for the glory of God. The new incumbent will have the support of two retired clergy with permission to officiate, a licensed lay reader and a strong lay leadership team.

We are an active and vibrant group of people who are open to opportunities, but we need a leader to channel our energies.

This is an exciting opportunity to build a vision to take our three churches forward, harnessing our energy and enthusiasm.

Our churches are part of the Daventry Deanery, situated in the beautiful countryside of West Northamptonshire which has good road and rail links to the rest of the country. The Grand Union and Oxford canals cut through the landscape which together with local footpaths and Daventry Country Park provide good opportunities for walking and leisure. It is an easy and pleasant drive between the three villages which are only a few miles apart.

There are two Church of England Primary Academies in our parishes (one in Braunston, the other in Welton) both of which have been graded Outstanding. There are a range of Secondary Schools in the wider area.

The rectory is a spacious 4-bedroomed house, conveniently situated across the road from All Saints' Church at the west end of the village of Braunston, with a large garden and wonderful south-facing views over the canal and local countryside.



The Rectory and Rectory Garden

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Recent History

Our three churches have shared a vicar since 2016, but it is only recently that we have established closer links, worshipping in each other's building. We are still on a journey to being one Church with three buildings and three villages.

There have been several changes over the last five years which some people have found difficult, however others have embraced the developments and opportunities. There have been losses, e.g. a reduction in the number of services in all three villages, some of the children's work and other activities. There have been gains, e.g. closer working between the three churches, some new activities and a growth in the number of baptisms due to the work of "Tiny Treasures" toddler group. We are looking for someone who is experienced in managing change and can continue to shape the way forward.

Like most churches, our buildings were largely closed during the Covid pandemic, however, we continued to play an active role in the local and wider community. We held joint on-line services in different formats either live via Zoom or recorded, on Sundays and mid-week. Weekly Service invites were sent out to over 90 people by email and were also hand delivered. The provision of digital resources helped to strengthen us as a benefice and enabled outreach with our services reaching new and old friends. The churches have also been central to mission and outreach into our communities with huge support for the Food share, local foodbanks and hostels from the villages, via community networks.

There has naturally been an impact on church life, as is the case with most churches. Our current service pattern reflects the views of our previous incumbent as we began to emerge from lockdown. However due to the ill health of the incumbent, we were never in a position to have a fully formed Post Lockdown reopening plan and as a result our current service structure and provision remains in the early stages of development and will most probably remain in place until discussions can take place with a new incumbent. This provides a unique opportunity for the Church to map out the future with the new incumbent as we discern the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit together. We would like to explore and grow digital church to cater for the need for worship and teaching that can be accessed at different times. It also enables equality, diversity and inclusion by allowing everyone to be in church whatever their circumstances.

During the interregnum we have learned to work together more, communicate more effectively, take responsibility for organising services, run other activities and start to explore new opportunities for outreach, such as family outdoor church.

We are working towards a joint Council of churches with one PCC containing representatives from Ashby Welton and Braunston PCCs. Individual PCCs remain for the upkeep of its own church building and finance. This is still very much in the early stages but working very well. As yet, we have not established a common vision and mission statement but want our new incumbent to lead us in this.

Person Specification

We are seeking someone who will grow our ministry and engage with our communities, families and schools. There are exciting opportunities to build the church within our communities. We would like our incumbent to lead us in growing the mission and influence of the church.

Our ideal vicar:

Essential

- Is passionate about the Christian Faith, a clear Bible teacher, who is able to share their faith with people of all ages.
- Can confidently lead worship in a variety of ways.
- Is a team worker and an excellent communicator with all age groups, who wishes to be fully involved in our communities.
- Is a leader who is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit with a vision to grow the Kingdom.
- Listens, engages, and looks for opportunities for people to employ their gifts in the ministry of the parish.
- Can inspire us especially when times are tough and is tolerant when we sometimes get it wrong.
- Is experienced in successfully managing change and has strong pastoral skills in helping people through changes, challenges, and conflict.
- Is passionate about reaching out beyond the walls of the church, with creative ideas for innovative new ministries, programmes, and community engagement.
- Is committed to our CofE Academies, developing their relationships with our churches and villages.
- Is willing to use modern technology to further develop our online presence and church ministry.
- Has transport to travel between the three villages.

Desirable

- Will further strengthen and broaden the culture of our Church and strengthen its place within the Deanery.
- Has good organisational and IT skills.

Monthly Service Structure

A service takes place in one of our buildings each Sunday of the month. Many of our church community travel to where the service is, but there are some who prefer to only attend in their own village.

Parish Communion

This is a friendly middle-of-the-road service of Common Worship Holy Communion. Parts of the service are sung and hymn choices are fairly traditional. Children are welcome although the sermon is generally ‘grown-up’. Refreshments are served before and after the service.

Informal non-communion Service

This is an informal and cheerful service for anyone of any age. We do not celebrate Communion at this service. The music is an eclectic mix of traditional hymns and more modern songs. Our AV screen and sound system in Braunston allow for a more creative approach. This is about enjoyable and enthusiastic worship that gives glory to God and teaches something of the gospel to those who come. There are always refreshments.

Mid-week Communion via Zoom (Wednesdays)

An on-line ‘live’ communion service held via Zoom, which includes a sung hymn supported by the Worship Band, and a sermon.

First Sunday	10:30am – Braunston –Communion
Second Sunday	10:30am – Ashby St Ledgers –Communion
Third Sunday	10:30am – Braunston – Informal, no communion
Fourth Sunday	10:30am – Welton –Communion.
Last Sunday	10:30am – Alternates between the 3 churches
Wednesdays (weekly)	7.00pm – Zoom Communion service

A “no labels” ecumenical worship, with a band, takes place at 6pm on the third Sunday of the month at either Braunston Church or The Holy Cross Church, Daventry.

On special occasions there may be a service in all three churches, e.g. Easter Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve children’s services.

Each PCC also arranges some village specific services and details of these are in the sections on each village.

Youth and Children's Work

Tiny Treasures

This group originally met in the Vicarage and was led by the previous incumbent. It is now lay led and has increased its numbers considerably, often with 20 children attending. This has led to an increase in baptisms.

Children's corners in church

Children are welcome at services, however much noise they make! At Braunston there is a children's corner with a variety of toys. At Welton, there is a children's corner with toys and Bible colouring sheets and crafts. At Ashby, lay-led children's activities take place during the service and the children sometimes share a prayer or other things they have done at the end of the service.

School's work

We are active in the two primary schools in our villages, which are both Church of England Primary Schools. Both schools are keen to establish a relationship with the new vicar.

Future Developments

Some families tell us they find it difficult to get to a 10.30am service on a Sunday for a variety of reasons. Plans are currently being developed to increase the lay-led family and children's work through the introduction of a monthly lay-led "forest-style" family outdoor church.

Supporting the vulnerable

Each PCC organises support for the house-bound, e.g. through telephone calls and visits. Home communion is given through church personnel or through a scheme in the wider Daventry area.. There is also informal support from other parishioners and village Good Neighbour Schemes.

Prayer and Study Groups

There is a church prayer list circulated once a month by e-mail to those who have asked to be included. The co-ordinator of this sends out e-mails with any urgent prayer requests.

Bible Study currently happens in Zoom Groups across the three churches.

Safeguarding

Each church has a Safeguarding Officer who keeps records and ensures safeguarding policies are up to date. One of the Safeguarding Officers takes the role of lead recruiter for the three churches, applying for DBS checks, leading training and reporting to Joint PCC meetings.

Available Support

There is spiritual support from the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Daventry Deanery. The Diocese of Peterborough are able to give guidance on legal matters, safeguarding and other practical issues and provide training opportunities.

Ministry is supported by two retired clergy with permission to officiate and a licensed lay reader who are active in leading worship.

We don't want our vicar to spend all their time on administration and want to work with you to establish the best way that we can support you.

Currently, each of the three villages has an active PCC who are learning to work together as a joint PCC. There are three sub-groups of the joint PCC who plan the worship, meet re finance and co-ordinate fundraising. It is not expected that the vicar should be part of every meeting but is always welcome.

Until recently, the churches had an administrator. This was a voluntary position with a small bursary. The administrator retired earlier this year and the work is currently being carried out by the Church Wardens and other PCC members. The joint PCC are reviewing this situation regularly to ensure that the workload on each person is not too great and are eager that our new vicar should be involved in deciding the way forward.

Blessed Virgin Mary and St Leodegarius Ashby St Ledgers



We are committed as a PCC to enable as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community of Ashby St Ledgers.

To promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Our Community

Ashby St Ledgers is a tiny village of around 55 houses situated nearby the villages of Welton, Watford, Braunston and Barby.

It is situated very close to the M1 motorway in Northamptonshire and can be reached directly from both the A5 and the A361. Due to the size of the village, there are very few amenities apart from a village hall and a village pub. There is no regular bus route going through the village and no school, so a car is essential although school buses are laid on to ferry children to school and back.

It is however quite a famous little village due to its connection to the Gunpowder Plot and Robert Catesby who lived at the Manor House next to the church and for this reason we get many visitors from around the world who visit our church, which is open daily.



As briefly mentioned previously, the 'Claim to Fame' at Ashby is definitely the Gunpowder Plot and the link with Robert Catesby who used to live in the Manor House. This draws visitors from around the world which can be noted from our visitors' book in the Church. This coming year we are expecting a few coach parties to the church and we now feature in a book of Places to visit in Northamptonshire

There is no social housing in the village or ethnic groups, but we do have families who own homes and live abroad and people who own more than one house in the village and rent out to others.

Ashby has changed significantly in a very few years going from a feudal village with most houses being owned by the lord of the manor to a very upmarket village with homes being privately owned and costing far more than the average property in the area. The village is under conservation so no large housing estates can be built in the future which makes it a very desirable place to live. It has many thatched properties and listed buildings the most famous of which are a series of cottages designed by Sir Edward Lutyens which featured recently in a television interior design programme.

It has a great community spirit and on the whole most people join in with village life.



Commerce & Industry

The centre of the village is still a working farm although this has now been split into smaller units. There are a few people who run a business from home but no industry as such in the village.

Schools & Education

We have no school; primary age children are bused to Welton C of E Academy and senior pupils travel all over Warwickshire and Northamptonshire preferring not to use the local secondary school. Many pay for private education.

Health Care

There are no Doctors or Dentists in the village, but people travel to nearby Crick, Long Buckby or Daventry for a Doctor or rely on a home visit if infirm.

Other Churches in Ashby

There are no other churches in Ashby. We have a few catholic worshippers and some Methodist members who occasionally join us at non communion services.

Vision and Mission

Our vision for the future of our church includes the following points.

We aim:

to increase our congregation numbers and reduce the average age of the congregation;
to become more involved in the community and become an asset to the community not a drain;
to improve our financial position and improve our building so that it becomes more user friendly.

We consider ourselves a friendly welcoming congregation and draw people from many local villages who seem to prefer to worship at Ashby Church. Our style of worship is traditional but carried out in an informal way.



The 3-tiered pulpit

In our attempt to be more involved in the community we have a policy of visiting the sick and delivering Get Well cards. Collecting food and taking to the local foodbank. Welcome letters are also sent to new residents.

The right candidate would be reasonably easy going but with a sense of purpose and good with children and families.

Future Direction

Our new relationship of a joint Council with Welton and Braunston is exciting and extremely helpful to such a small parish and although still in its infancy it is looking both exciting and beneficial to all.

We have had new links with the Manor House next door to the Church who are now a wedding venue. This has given us the opportunity to hold more weddings in church bringing in new faces to our congregation and desperately needed funds.

We are also now involved with the VIA BEATA which is a pilgrimage walk from Norfolk to Wales and Ashby is going to become a Way Station. A monument is being discussed which will reflect the struggles between the Catholics and Protestants around the times of the Gunpowder plot and will bring many more pilgrims to our church.

To keep people up to date with our service times and events, we have a monthly newsletter which is emailed out. We also have a Facebook page which is growing in popularity.

We are indebted to the 'Friends' of the church. This is a fund-raising group of people who were formed over 25 years ago to help with roof repairs. Over the years they have since helped in areas to do with the restoration of wall paintings, heating systems, roof alarms; the list is endless. The 'Friends' are in the early stages of setting up a project to conserve/restore the wall-paintings to their former glory and increase the awareness of the Gunpowder Plot, with the financial help from the NHLF. We aim to grow the 'Friends'.

Every year there is a patronal day on the first Saturday in October and a service is held followed by lunch in the village hall. The 'Friends' also offer historical tours and talks with refreshments.

Ashby Specific Services

Services are held at all major festivals. Our Remembrance Day service also involves a laying of a wreath.

Before Christmas we hold a carol service where people are invited to read a lesson. Mulled wine and mince pies always follows and is well supported by the village. Christmas Eve is probably our most well attended event. Our nativity service involves the children acting out a tableau of the birth of Jesus and Christingle candles are lit. Again, refreshments are offered afterwards and it is a good time to get to welcome family and friends to the church.

Ashby is a very small village and most people know each other which makes for a lovely atmosphere at these events.

Last year we didn't have any weddings, christenings or funerals

People are invited to attend church before they get married or have a child baptised for a period of time and welcomed warmly by the congregation.

Organisation.

Our PCC consists of eight people (two male and six female), which includes: -

- Two Churchwardens, one who still works and is away with his work regularly and one who has just retired.
- A treasurer also of working age.
- A secretary.
- Our Junior Church leader who is also our safeguarding officer also works.

We hold PCC meetings approx. four times a year, plus joint meetings monthly with Braunston and Welton

Our organist is available once a month and we have one member of the congregation who can infill on the organ when required for which we are extremely grateful.

There is an acting verger and several people who help to lock and unlock the church.

Rotas include the following: -

- Flowers.
- Cleaning.

We also have Eucharistic Assistants who can carry out home communion.

The churchyard is mown and paid for through the parish precept. Volunteers help with other small maintenance jobs such as cleaning guttering and weeding paths.



Youth and Children's Work

Colouring sheets and pencils are available for children to use during usual Sunday Services and we try to involve the children as much as possible with songs and actions and sometimes they take part in the prayers. Before Covid our junior church used to meet once a month and hopefully this will return soon.

A nativity tableau is performed on Christmas Eve with Christingles. The children join in the giving of gifts at Harvest when they bring produce to share with those less fortunate and give thanks to God.

On Mothering Sunday the children also help with gifts of posies for mothers.

Many of the primary school age children attend C of E schools in the area where Religious Education is also given.



Church Groups and Activities

We do not have any specific groups in Ashby at present although some of our congregation join in the joint study groups

We used to hold a breakfast service in the village hall which is sadly no longer taking place. It brought many people who wouldn't attend a normal church service and we would like to resurrect this.

We collect for the food bank regularly and also help with a children's charity at Christmas.

We have 3 people who are able to take home communion to the sick

Our community activities are mainly fund raisers in the way of Coffee mornings, cream teas and the like. They are well supported in the village. One of our main fund raisers involves a brass band concert and picnic in the park. We have also run a Burns Night.

We have a member of the 'Friends' who gives talks about the history of the church and the gunpowder plot. In the past we have held education days for local schools to come and learn about the church.

We are particularly short of male help to do some of the heavier work needed at times and unfortunately most of the fundraising falls to the PCC.



Church Buildings

Ashby Church is a Grade 1 listed building.

It dates back to the 12th century and has many unique features. We have several wall paintings including one of St Christopher and one depicting the Black Death, many brasses, a three tiered pulpit and a rood screen to mention just a few.



Sadly too much of our time is taken up with repairs and restoration and causes us headaches and heartache trying to keep the building dry and sound.

Our last quinquennial was in 2021 and we have the organ serviced regularly along with fire appliances and Pat testing and boiler servicing. We have a person to mow the churchyard which is paid for in the Parish Precept and a person who helps with cleaning the gutters and spraying the path.

We have recently had large areas of the walls pointed in the hope of keeping the damp at bay on the inside of the church and preserving the condition of the wall paintings.



The next large project to be undertaken is the repair of the tower and further restoration of the wall paintings and will need the help of a substantial grant. We also have issues with loose plaster caused by a leak in the roof which is threatening the wall paintings and needs urgent attention.

Finance

We are not a wealthy church and although Ashby is quite an affluent village this is sadly not reflected in donations or covenants to the church. We have not managed to pay our parish share in full for the last couple of years but have paid in full for 2021. We aim one day to be able to pay for this through our planned giving, allowing us to use collections and fund raising money to help with much needed repairs.

It was hoped that by increasing our footfall at services this would also increase our income and to a degree this has certainly helped, but has not been sufficient to ease our constant worry over money. We do aim to do a stewardship campaign shortly and send letters out to the village to encourage people to give regularly.

In 2021 our accounts were as follows: -

- Total Receipts £15,652
- Total payments £10,319

Excess of receipts over payments £5,323

This was mainly due to gift aid collected from 2020 and 2021 and an additional gift of 5000 given for restricted use

Our planned giving has in fact increased by 11% which is very encouraging

We try to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds of around £5,500 to keep the flow of funds moving in times of low income but have not managed to do this at present.

We have £764 in restricted funds towards an education room being converted one day in the Arnold Chapel and maybe a toilet.

Full accounts are available on request.

We do carry out a small amount of charitable giving including the Historic churches trust and Bell Ringers fund. We also donate to the British Legion from our Remembrance Day service and give to a local charity at Christmas. We also support Braunston Food Bank.

All Saints' Braunston



Mission Statement:

**“We are here to love and serve God within our community
and in the world”**

Our Community

Being the largest of the three parishes, All Saints' has a diverse, and busy congregation, with strong support from two retired clergy with permission to officiate, a licensed lay reader, competent lay leadership and a congregation who consistently pay their parish share in full.

An important part of the role in Braunston will be to continue to build on the church's engagement with the local community, including the local primary and pre-schools, that we may be a blessing to the village, bringing the knowledge and love of Christ to all.

We are neither 'high' nor 'low' church, but welcome everyone, regardless of churchmanship or where they are on their spiritual journey. Details of our Sunday, and other weekday Services can be found below. We are blessed with a Worship Band who play and sing a mix of traditional hymns and modern worship songs at our main Sunday services, as well as other services throughout the year. The Worship Band members are an integral part of our Worship Planning Group



Over the past five years, for a variety of reasons, we have experienced a good deal of change, including:

- A reduction of services at Braunston as we now rotate services around the three churches and share with Ashby and Welton
- A loss of a number of more traditional services, such as BCP Evensong and BCP Morning Prayer on a Sunday, a loss of more formal communion services, and Compline services during Advent and Lent
- A lay-led 'Peace At Lunchtime' (PAL) Service on a Wednesday, a short, informal and often humorous service with music followed by lunch and cheerful conversation in the church Parish Room has not been re-started post-Covid. This was a popular service for older people in the Village, many of whom were not regular churchgoers.
- The loss of our organist and the choir
- Junior Church on a Sunday morning has ceased
- Café Church was trialled on one Sunday a month in the Village Hall and proved popular with some but was not part of the post-Covid re-opening plan
- Our two licensed Lay Pastoral Ministers have moved on (one to a role in the Diocese and one for ordination) and this, along with the loss of our Parish Nurse, and the impact of Covid has vastly reduced our Pastoral reach
- Our Parish Nurse, who was employed to work two days a week, retired a year before the end of her contract
- The loss of two members of a three-person team that delivered quality collective worship at the School, and the loss of the two school governors who have moved out of the village
- Our growth action plan, (with a five-year vision to Grow our Discipleship; Grow in the Community; Grow our Social Engagement; Grow Financially; Improve our Building; and Grow our Congregation) made great progress in its first three years but then stalled due to change of leadership
- All this, coupled with the COVID-19 closure of our buildings and suspension of our in-person worship, and the subsequent absence of our Incumbent, which left us without a firm re-opening and recovery plan has left many in our congregation feeling adrift, disconnected, and unsettled.

On a positive note we have:

- Developed a much closer relationship among the three churches with joint meetings and a sharing not just of services but of mutual support, resources and fellowship
- Enjoyed a greater mix of traditional and newer hymns and songs thanks to our musicians

Installed AV equipment – screen and sound system – which has allowed for a more creative approach to our worship (although not everyone likes it!)

- Re-invigorated Tiny Treasures - a lay-led group for young children (pre-school) and their parents - this is thriving and has brought forward a number of families bringing their children for Baptism
- Created a permanent home for the village Food Share scheme, a valuable resource for the village and visitors, inside the church. The scheme is being re-launched as a community larder
- Created a number of lay-led discipleship groups across the three churches which are thriving
- Seen a group of people from the three churches come together to explore the opportunities presented by Outdoor Church

Our next vicar will face the challenge of shepherding us back together, and perhaps even binding a few wounds, before leading us forward, as well as corralling the energy and enthusiasm for the future, which is very much in evidence.

Braunston Specific Services

Morning Prayer (Tuesdays)

The morning office (BCP) and prayers for the community will be said - held at the home of one of our wonderful disciples. This is currently lay-led.

Other services held at Braunston include an 'open air' Family Service at Braunston Marina in June, All Souls, a Service of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, the Waterways Chaplaincy Thanksgiving Celebration, and more.

Braunston Primary School comes into church for special services such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas, as well as at other times as relevant to the curriculum.

The Christmas services of Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingle, Christmas Eve Crib Service and the midnight communion are also popular as well-established services at All Saints'.



Youth and Children's Work

Tiny Treasures

This group originally met in the Vicarage and was led by the previous incumbent. It is now lay led and has increased its numbers considerably, often with 20 children attending. Several attendees have been baptised in services that link into Tiny Treasures.

The Future

We recognise that we need to look to the future and build up our ministry in this area whilst ensuring the needs of the existing Church members of more advanced years are still met.

Assistance in Mission and Ministry

The congregation comprises a number of competent and committed disciples who support and assist in the mission and ministry of All Saints' including:

- a lay reader
- two actively engaged retired vicars
- other enthusiastic and dedicated groups of lay people lead intercessions, read, lead Tiny Treasures, lead discipleship/prayer groups, are Eucharistic assistants, are Sacristans, do pastoral visiting at home or hospital, take Holy Communion to those at home or in care homes, cater and serve, clean, sing, arrange flowers, manage rotas, maintain the website, organise fundraising events and much more!
- Musicians

A major contribution is currently made by our Musicians, which vary between two and four people depending on availability. They play a range of instruments including wind instruments, keyboards and guitars to a high level of proficiency. We also have the benefit of a band for Prayer and Praise services that alternate with Daventry.

Four of our musicians feature in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5qiezgCcaQ&t=14s>

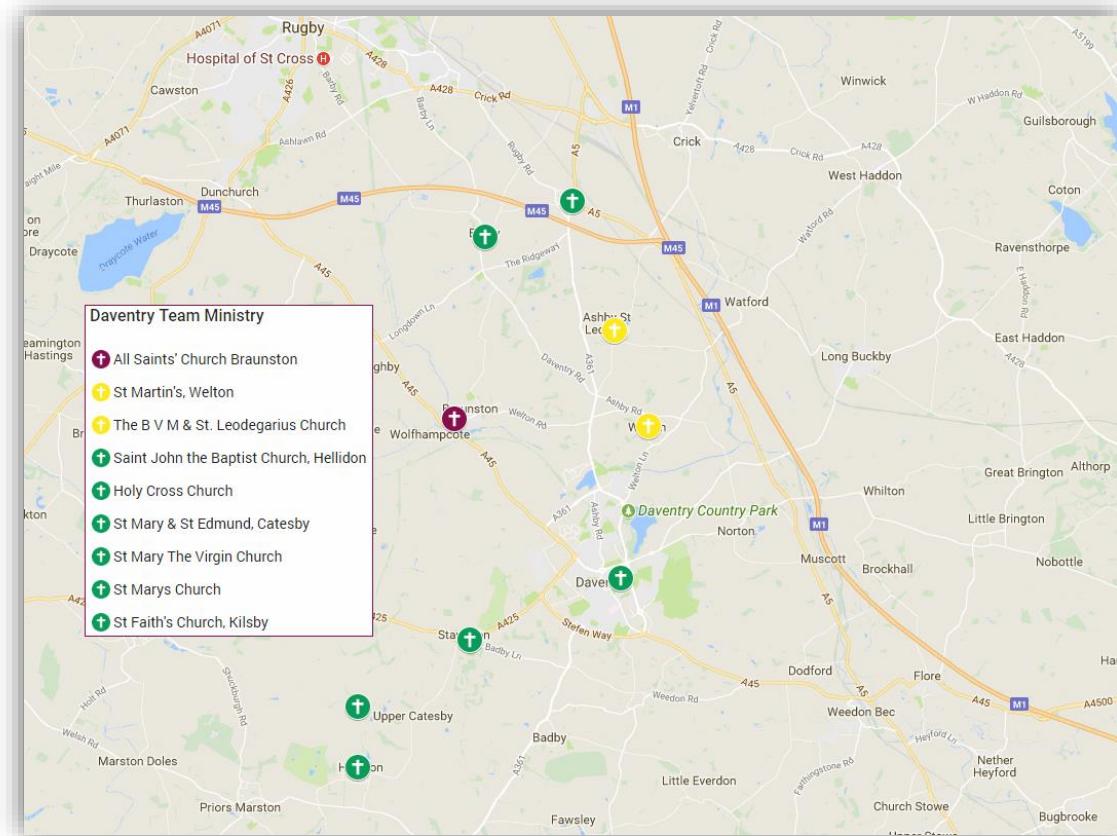
When post lockdown plans are developed further, there may be some congregation members who would like to see a wider variety of musical style being introduced into some of our regular Sunday services. Our Musicians are experimenting with a singing group, which will come together to sing at ad-hoc and 'special' services, mostly at Easter and Christmas.

Braunston and Surrounding Area

The Parish of Braunston

All Saints' Church in the Parish of Braunston is part of a Benefice of three churches, the others being the [BVM & St Leodegarius Church in Ashby St Ledgers](#), and [St Martin's in Welton](#).

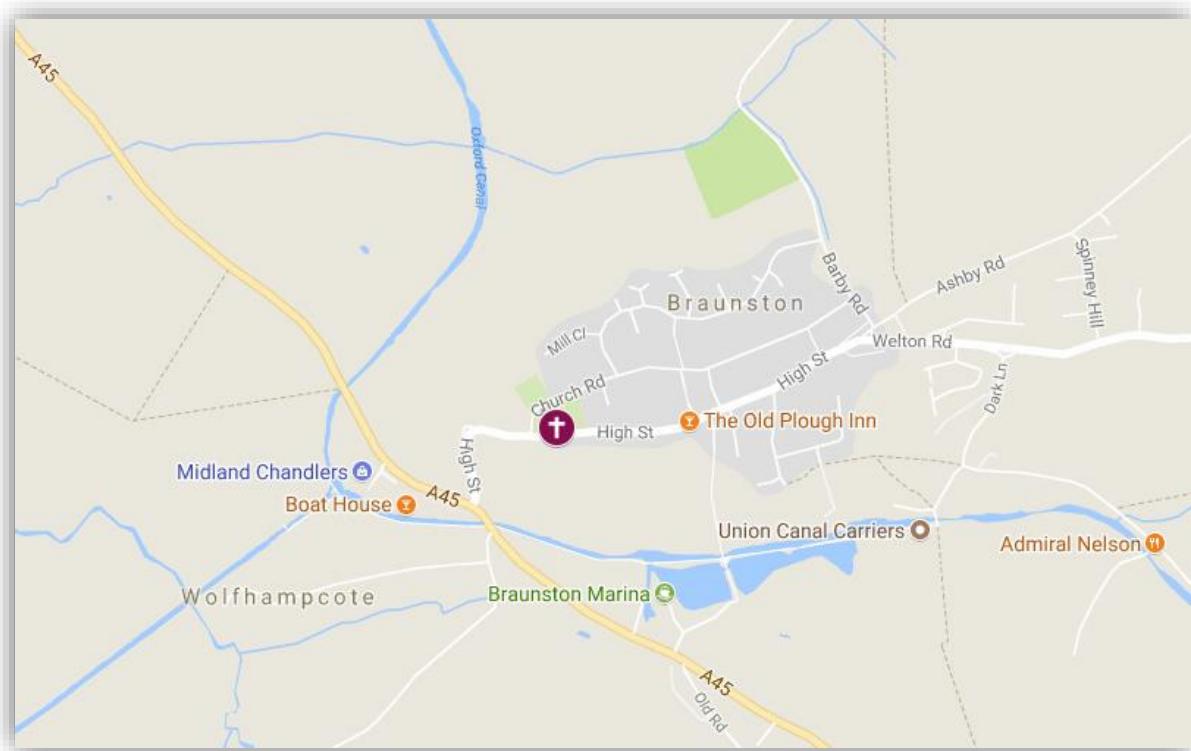
We are one of 25 churches in the [Daventry Deanery](#) in the Diocese of Peterborough.



Character

Braunston lies at the junction of the Grand Union Canal and the Oxford Canal in a truly rural setting on the border of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. The village, on a ridge above the canal, thrived for over 150 years on the canal trade carrying goods from the Midlands to London.

The early years of this century has seen a growth in private narrow boat ownership, and the canals are probably busier now than in the height of the freight carrying days. More private boats are being moored in the Marina and more boat owners are buying houses in Braunston to enjoy the close proximity of the canal, its history and culture.



The village community comprises 776 households (1759 people) with an average age of approximately 45 ([UK Census Data, 2011](#)). 68% are economically active, with around 90 different businesses being run from the village. Of those not economically active, about 71% are retired, the rest being students, carers or long term ill or disabled themselves. Just over 50% are considered deprived in one or more dimension.

There is a wide variety of type of housing, both in style and age of buildings. 90% of residents live in a house or bungalow, and the remainder in flats, apartments or maisonettes. Some also live on boats permanently moored in the marina. 74% of residents own their own home or are mortgaged, and 4.3% live in social housing.

Maple Close at the east end of the village is the newest area of housing development, comprising 32 new affordable homes built for people with a local connection to Braunston

over three phases during 2002, 2006 and 2017. Of the 12 completed in 2017, 10 were made available for affordable rent and two for shared ownership.

In order for the village community to be able to play more of a role in future development and priorities for Braunston, the Parish Council has developed a Neighbourhood Development plan which was officially 'made' by Daventry District Council on 17th February 2017.

All Saints' Church has overlooked the village and the villagers for over 10 centuries, and the canals and the boat people for over 300 years, providing regular services, baptisms, weddings and funerals, and offering ministry and support to its parishioners. Known more recently and traditionally as the 'boaters church' or 'Cathedral of the Canals', it continues to serve both village and canal communities.

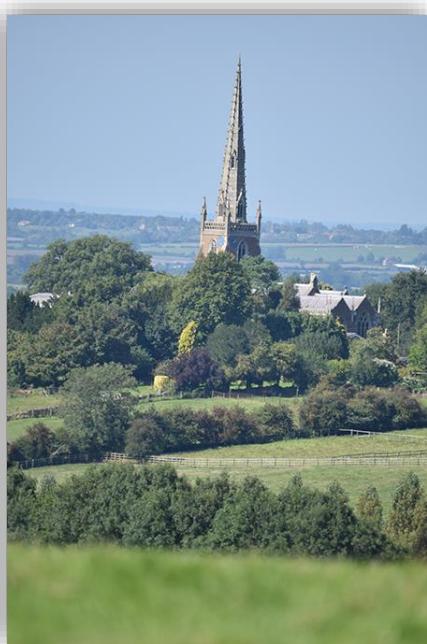


Our congregation largely comprises village residents (not many boaters worship with us regularly) who are mostly middle class, yet 51% of parish are considered deprived in some way. It is a continual work in progress trying to be there for those in need who wouldn't naturally turn to the church for help, however, this has been helped enormously by the employment of our Parish Nurse in 2016, and we are gradually extending our reach into the wider village community and growing in number as a result.

With 65% of the village population stating they are Christians, approximately 7% of that number regularly worshipped at All Saints' ([UK Census Data, 2011](#)) three years ago, but we have grown slightly in number since then. We have had a typical Church of England pattern of an elderly committed core (with the largest age group being 70+), however, more recently we have increasingly been attracting new folk and younger families. The challenge lies in issues of cultural change and 'busyness', as they are generally not as regularly committed to attendance, giving, or 'doing'.

Braunston has a vibrant and active community with over 100 clubs, businesses and societies including a butcher, shop with post office, 3 pubs, community cafe, community car, fish and chip shop, and canal boat cafe. The village was runner up for the medium village category in the Northamptonshire Best Village 2017 competition and overall runner up for all the categories.

There are bus links to both Daventry and Rugby, with the nearest rail links in Rugby and Long Buckby.



Braunston has been twinned with Quincy-Voisins, a small town about 50 kilometres to the east of Paris, since 1984. The Twinning Association aims to foster relations between the two towns by organising exchange visits between families.

Schools & Education

All Saints' has an excellent relationship with [Braunston Church of England Primary School](#) in the village. The school is an academy in the PDET MAT and, at its last Diocese inspection in 2017 was rated 'Outstanding' in every category. This is in no small part due to the church-school relationship, which is mutual and proactive.

The school seeks to be distinctively Anglican, and both school and family service congregations benefit from shared activity. The Christian ethos of the school is excellent and filters into the whole curriculum.

Braunston Pre-School, situated in the Village Hall, is a non-profit making charitable organisation managed by a voluntary committee and providing Early Years education for children aged 2½ to 5 years.

Health Care

The three closest hospitals to Braunston are St. Cross in Rugby, Danetre in Daventry (not A&E) and Walsgrave in Coventry. There are two doctors surgeries in Daventry: Danetre Medical Practice and Abbey House Medical Practice.

Organisation

The [Parochial Church Council](#) comprises 9 members, including two Deanery Synod representatives, two retired members of clergy, and one licensed lay member.

Meetings are held every month, except for August.

Business meetings open and close with prayer, followed by discussion on business matters such as fabric, finance, safeguarding and fundraising.

Previously we alternated with Mission meetings which opened with celebration of Holy Communion, followed by a short time of fellowship and food, followed by open discussion, reflection and prayer around a pre-planned subject related to our mission and ministry. Past topics have included:

- discipleship growth and progress
- worship and resourcing its role in mission
- pastoral care
- children's work, ministry and worship
- mission and Growth Action Plan
- "identifying and removing idols"
- "God and mammon - reflections on money"

Other committees/groups that report into the PCC include the [Friends of All Saints'](#), and the Fundraising Committee.

Finance

During the last year Braunston has taken further steps towards becoming a Benefice with the Churches at Welton and Ashby St Ledgers. Now the collections at the Sunday Services are divided equally between the 3 Churches. The administration costs and the cost of most Services are now met by the Team. The monthly planned giving donations are retained by the individual Churches. This permits gift aid to be claimed. Each of the Churches contributes to the Team to help cover its costs.

All Saints' has a PCC Treasurer as well as a Stewardship Secretary for administering the Gift-Aid as well as Stewardship. Due to grants for the roof repairs and parish nurse project, the PCC was obliged to register with the Charities Commission, and was thus registered as a charity in May 2017.

There are a number of ways of giving: by The Parish Giving Scheme (Direct Debits), via a generic envelope, by cash into the collection plate, by cheque, by bank Transfers, or by

using Easy Fundraising. Braunston has recently been awarded a digital giving device from the Diocese in partnership with the National Giving Team. Braunston pays its parish share of circa £46K in full.

Prior to COVID we run an annual Stewardship Campaign called TRIO (The Responsibility is Ours).

2021 has been a challenging year. Our incumbent vicar has been off ill during the latter part of the year. The COVID epidemic is still with us. This obviously had a detrimental impact on our Finances.

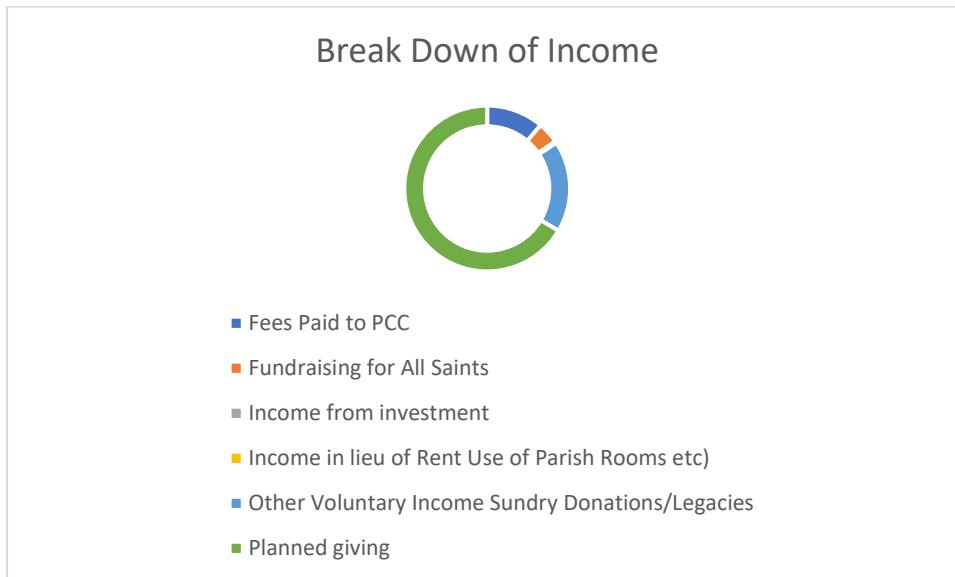
However at the end of 2021 we had total Cash at Bank and in hand of £88,016. Of this £10,005 is held in a Lloyds instant access account, £16,148 in a Lloyds Treasurers account and £61,664 in Church of England, Central Board of Finance accounts. We also have investments of £497 in CBF Church of England Investment Shares, and £795 in Treasurer Stock 2 1/2% Ind-Linked. We also have £200 in Petty Cash.

However of this £13,973 is in Restricted Funds being the remainder of the two grants for the provision of a Parish Nurse. We also have £11,808 in Designated Funds being funds for the provision of a Parish Nurse money raised within the PCC. However unfortunately our Parish Nurse left us at the end of November 2021. At the time of writing this report the PCC had not discussed or talk to the donators of the grant about its return or reallocation.

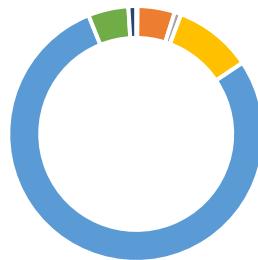
Our monthly unrestricted income and expenditure were as follows in 2021:

Income			
	Fees Paid to PCC	£550.77	<i>Fees from Wedding Funerals etc.</i>
	Fundraising for All Saints	£208.10	<i>Flood Lighting, Calendars, Ride & Stride, Christmas Fayre.</i>
	Income from investment	£6.54	<i>Interest</i>
	Income in lieu of Rent Use of Parish Rooms etc)	£10.42	<i>Use of Parish Room, Cemetery Field</i>
	Other Voluntary Income Sundry Donations/Legacies	£880.39	<i>Miscellaneous donation and a Legacy</i>
	Planned giving	£3,285.69	<i>Regular Giving</i>
Total Income		£4,941.91	
Expense			
	Net BVN Costs to Church	£9.32	<i>Braunston Village News</i>
	Church maintenance	£254.82	<i>Repairs</i>
	Church Management & Admin	£45.13	<i>Admin.</i>
	Church Running Expenses	£535.22	<i>Heating lighting etc.</i>
	Ministry	£4,236.21	<i>Costs of having vicar, Team Contributions etc.</i>
	Missionary & Charitable Giving	£275.80	<i>Our giving (most of which is carried forward)</i>
	Upkeep of Services	£53.05	<i>Costs of running various Services</i>
Total Expense		£5,409.55	
Surplus		-£467.64	

A Breakdown of income and expenditure follows:



Break Down of Expenses



- Net BVN Costs to Church
- Church management & Admin
- Ministry
- Upkeep of Services
- Church maintenance
- Church Running Expenses
- Missionary & Charitable Giving

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments (currently circa £15,000), to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is a policy of the PCC to, annually, make charitable donations equal to 10% of the planned giving received as a tithe. In the last two years not all that money has been spent, so we have £5,942 carried over to this year.

We also have a very active 'Friends of All Saints' Organisation who concentrate in raising funds for the major fabric work which we need to carry out to ensure that our wonderful building is available for generations to come, as well as being fit for purpose today. The friends are accounted for separately, so the figures below are church only figures.



Church Buildings

[All Saints'](#) is a Grade II listed building of Medieval origin, rebuilt in 1849 by R.C. Hussey, and restored in 1874 by W. Butterfield. Please [see our website](#) for further information on the history and architecture of the building.



The churchyard surrounding the building was closed in 1917. The cemetery field, across the road north of the church, was gifted to the church in 1893 and consecrated in 1903.

The wall surrounding the church is the responsibility of the Parish Council, and part of it has been recently repaired. The tarred footpath from the entrance on Church Road to the stone slab pathway at the front of the church is the joint responsibility of All Saints' and the Parish Council.

Maintenance of the cemetery and churchyard grass is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

[The Friends of All Saints'](#), a registered charity, was established in 2010 when the church building needed expensive repairs beyond the scope of the church's routine maintenance budget. In 2015 the Friends were able to make a substantial donation to the Parochial Church Council which, with a significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, was able to get the roof restoration work done. More recently the Friends have funded substantial restoration work to both windows at the west end of the church.

The latest Quinquennial inspection, carried out in 2021, identified work totalling £100,000. This is being assessed and prioritised for action.

At pre-Covid levels of activity our church building was increasingly limiting our ability to provide the welcome, hospitality and space we would have liked in order to further develop our mission and outreach from within the building.

Following consultation with the congregation where it was agreed that there was a need to try and find a way of improving our building to better suit our current needs, a "re-ordering" project was initiated. Although there has been some work done and thought given to potential re-ordering of the interior, including architect's sketches, it has not progressed beyond this due to a lack of people available to drive it forward, and so the project is on the 'back burner' for now.

A new sound system was installed in 2015, and an Audio Visual system also has been installed.

Under-pew heating has been installed, as the Church can be very cold in winter.

We have recently had a new electricity supply installed to provide much needed additional power to the back of the church.



St Martin's Welton



**A Christian Community at the
heart of Welton**

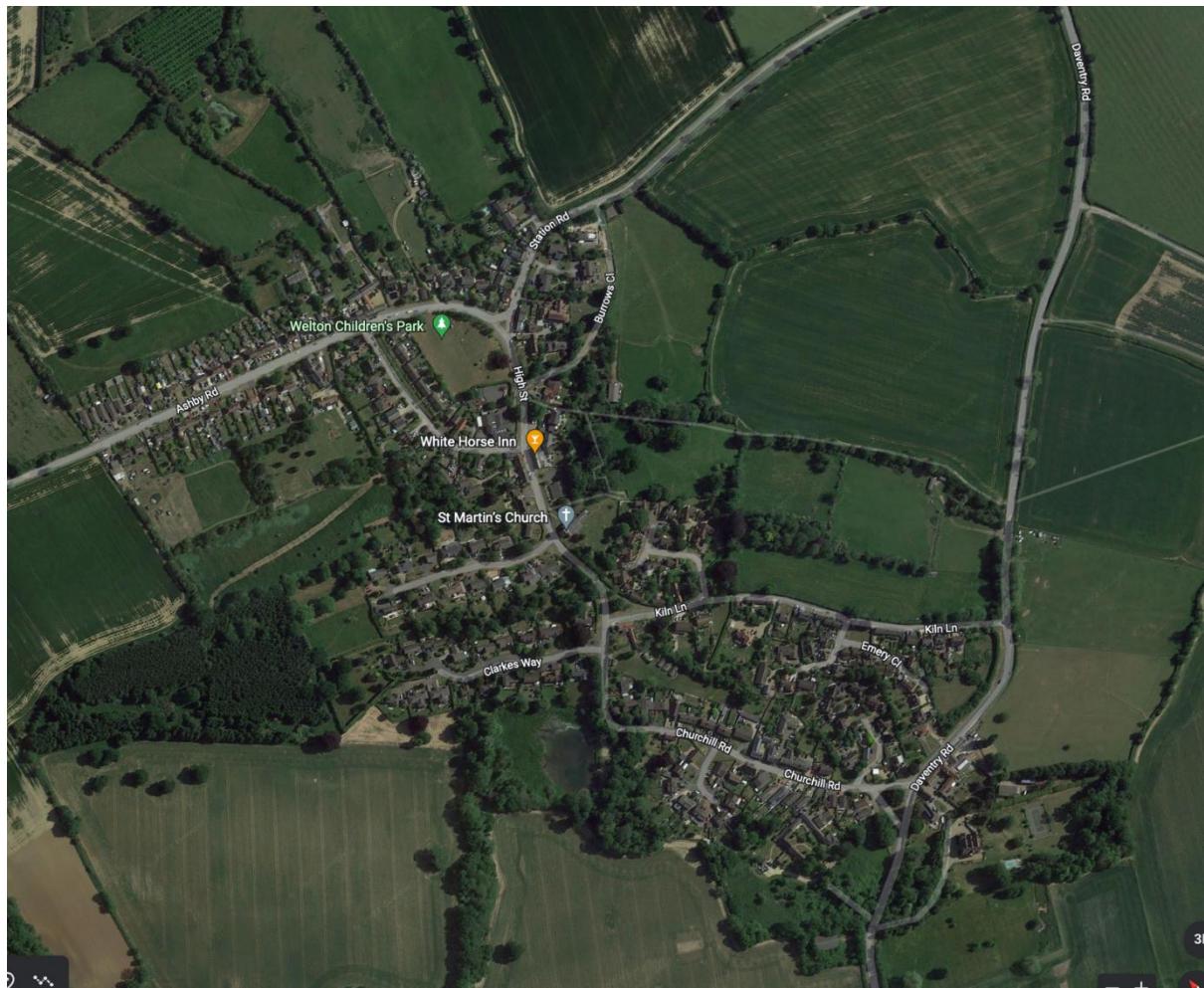
Our Village Community

Welton Village is nearly 3 miles north of the centre of Daventry. It has a population of around 620 people (2021 estimates)

Daventry has expanded rapidly to the north over the last twenty-five years and we are pleased that some of the residents of the newer estates have chosen to be part of our Church community.

The housing in Welton is a mix of styles, with some old stone buildings but several more modern houses. It is a desirable village to live in and properties rarely stay on the market for long.

There is an Outstanding Church of England Primary School in the village, <https://www.weltonacademy.co.uk>. The school actively engages with the Church and Diocese, visiting the church building for some services, organising occasional displays in the church building and organising trips to Peterborough Cathedral for the Children. The previous vicar regularly took assemblies in school, established a “prayer table” there and worked with local Christians to run an after-school Lent club for families in school. The Headteacher is eager to establish good links with a new Vicar. There are two Foundation Governors who are actively involved with the school, so there is no expectation that a new Vicar should be a governor.



Welton is a sociable village with a strong sense of community. St Martin's Church, the Village Hall and The White Horse Inn are next door to each other and are the hub of village life.

Some villagers are aware of the work that is done by the Church and there is much goodwill from villagers who want the Church at special times of their lives. Many members of the community give practical help, e.g. donations of money, grass cutting, cleaning, etc., even though they are not regular church goers.

Various community activities take place mostly in the village hall; recreation committee quiz, a walking group, Art group, a monthly Good Neighbour's café, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Short mat Bowls, Pilates, History Group, Toddler Group, WOW (Women of Welton), to name just a few. Some of these groups occasionally get involved in special church services and fund raising events. The groups love it if the vicar drops in for a chat. The annual Welton Panto involves many of our village characters and is often written around topical events in the village. Welton is also well known for its Soapbox Derby, although the pandemic has meant that this hasn't been run for a while.

The White Horse Inn is one of the most historic buildings in the village. Margaret, the landlady, frequently organises special events, e.g. events around the Platinum Jubilee. She is very supportive of the Church.

There is a Good Neighbour's Scheme in the village which mainly supports the elderly with shopping, occasional household tasks and transport.

A Village Charity (the Townlands Trust) supports the Church, Education and those in financial hardship with annual grants. The Vicar is automatically appointed as a trustee and the chairperson of the committee.

The parish council produce a bi-monthly magazine (The Welton News and Views) and are eager to receive information from the church. They also have an informative website.

<https://www.welton-pc.gov.uk/>

In short, Welton is a small village with a big heart.



Welton Village Fete held by the church in conjunction with Welton CE Academy PTA on the playing fields





The Soap Box Derby

Welton Fun Day



Luncheon in the village hall

The village panto



Our Church Community

In 2016, following a short interregnum, St. Martin's Welton joined with All Saints, Braunston and The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Leodegarius, Ashby St. Ledgers, with one vicar. At that time, there were two services each Sunday; a morning service and a 4pm informal tea-time service that was more popular with young families. This proved to be unsustainable due to the workload it placed on one vicar.

In 2018, the pattern of services reduced to one service each fortnight. During the Covid pandemic, this has reduced further to one service each month.

Whereas some of our regular congregation have enjoyed getting to know our Church community from Braunston and Ashby and travelling to their churches on Sundays when there is no service in Welton, this has not been 100% the case. The reduction in Services has also made it more difficult for other members of the community or visitors to the canal or holiday properties to "pop into" a service and thus hampered some of our outreach work. There is opportunity for a new incumbent to work with us to see how we can retain that Church Community feel across the three villages but also develop our unique offer to our village community.

In 2018, a Welton midweek home communion group was established which was particularly popular amongst some of our more senior members. This ceased during the Covid pandemic but has been replaced by the Mid-week Zoom Communion Service run across the three parishes. Whilst some of our senior members do not have the technology to access this, nor the ability to leave the house to attend church, church members keep in touch with them by telephone and through visiting.

The chance for the local community to be involved on Special Occasions is important to us. Our annual Crib Service and Carol Service are both well attended as are the Remembrance Day Service and Easter Service. Before the Covid pandemic, we held a successful Mothering Sunday "Café Church" in the Village Hall. The Farmyard Harvest Services in 2018 and 2019 (held jointly with the churches of Braunston and Ashby St. Ledgers), followed by a Harvest Lunch, were popular and well attended. Some of our local families are more comfortable coming to activities like this rather than sitting in church.



Bible Study currently happens in Zoom Groups across the three churches.

An important part of our outreach work is The Welton Baby Project. This is an opportunity for the church and wider community to support new babies who are born into challenging situations. Recently, the project has donated practical resources to babies in Ukraine. More details are available on our website. <http://www.stmartinswelton.org.uk/baby-project.html>

Some of our congregation are part of an ecumenical prayer group in Welton (known informally as the Welton Christian Group). Together with them we have organised a couple of activities, such as the Lent Course in the pub in 2019 and the Family Lent After-School Club in the school in 2020. They are currently supporting the church to lead Collective Worship in school once a fortnight during the interregnum and are looking at ways they can work with the churches to support Family Outdoor Church. The group is keen to work with our new Vicar to support outreach to the village.

Interregnum is not a new experience for our Church Community and we have learned to “get on and do”. However, we know that God answers our prayers and we are looking forward to the next incumbent leading us on to the next stage of our development as individual Christians and as a Church Community.

Welton Specific Services

Our church is well attended for special services by local villagers and visitors. This includes the Easter Day Service, Remembrance Sunday Service, Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas and Crib Service on Christmas Eve, which is always popular with families. The school comes into church three times a year for a special service led by the vicar.

St Martin's Church Building

There is documentary evidence of a Chapel in Welton from Anglo-Saxon times, but the current building is principally in the perpendicular style of the fifteenth century with parts that date back to the thirteenth century. The large windows of the church allow much light into the building, making it a beautiful environment for services, weddings, christening and funerals. The church comfortably seats around 100 people, although it has been known for us to squash 150 in for a high-profile event.

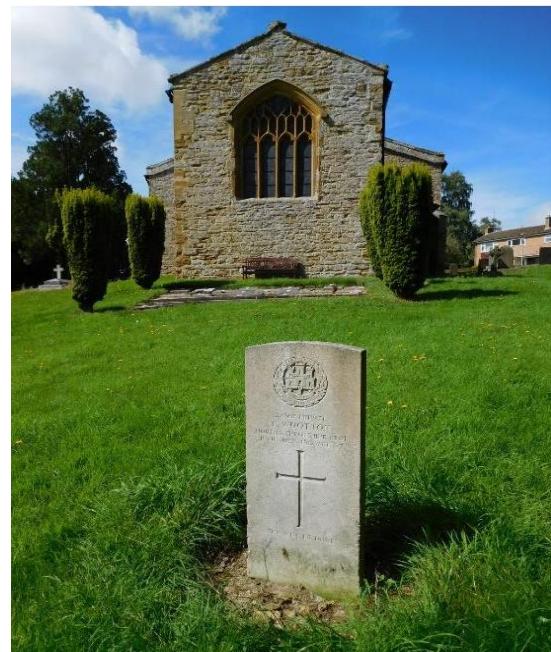
In the Church, there is a History Reflection Trail which people can follow to learn about the History of the Church at the same time as reflecting on the Christian message.

The Church pews in the south aisle have been removed, which provides a flexible area for coffee, meetings, children's activities, etc. There is a small vestry in the North Aisle.

The organ was installed in the 1950s and has recently been restored. We are lucky to have a regular organist who lives in the village.

There are five bells in the tower, the oldest dating back to circa 1600. They are currently rung on a fourth Sunday by a team who also ring at Ashby St. Ledgers and Braunston.

The Churchyard "extension" is at the edge of the village, on Ashby Road. This is currently maintained by one of our PCC members.



**In the Churchyard there is the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
WW1 grave of Private Thomas Wootton 1917.**



The Churchyard Extension in Ashby Road.

Organisation

The Parochial Church Council comprises 6 members, 4 Female and 2 Male members, and is well organised. We meet as an independent PCC to deal with Finance and Buildings, but jointly with Braunston and Ashby St. Ledgers on matters of common interest.

Safeguarding is taken seriously and Jackie, our Safeguarding Officer, keeps on top of policies. She also oversees DBS applications and training for the three parishes.

Joan prepares rotas for sides people, readers, sacristan, coffee, flowers, etc.

Jan, as Churchwarden, endeavours to ensure that the pastoral work of the Church is being undertaken in the parish and amongst the congregation. The invaluable help from Kevin, under the guidance of Bob, our retired Churchwarden, ensures that the Church, its contents and the churchyard grounds are well maintained.

Debbie keeps our Finances in check.

The beautiful Church Yard Extension is well maintained by Cliff, who also looks after the organ and plays for services.

The Church is open daily, thanks to Jackie and Brian who live opposite.

We aim to give the incumbent as much practical support as possible to enable him or her to focus on the spiritual and pastoral side of things.

We have recently reinstated a monthly newsletter for the three parishes, which is produced in conjunction with Braunston and Ashby St. Ledgers and circulated to church attendees. There is scope for further developing the content and circulation.

The current PCC positions are allocated:

- Churchwarden (Vicars Warden)
- Treasurer
- Management of the Electoral Roll

The following positions are currently vacant:

- Churchwarden (Fabric)
- Secretary

There are 25 parishioners on our Electoral Roll.

More information on our parish can be found on the Church Website:
<http://www.stmartinswelton.org.uk/>

Facebook: St Martin's Church Welton

Finance

St Martin's has a PCC Treasurer who administers the Gift-Aid as well as Stewardship. They are assisted by an assistant treasurer and sidespeople, who on a rota basis, receive, count and record the collection each week following Sunday Services.

We also run an annual St Martin's Day appeal to all the houses in the Parish which contributes significantly to our income.

Our income and expenditure for 2021 was as follows:

Income	£
Planned giving	15,204.88
St Martin's Day Appeal	3,297.75
Plate collections	218.28
Council Grant	600.00
Welton Townlands Trust	1,500.00
Donations	976.00
Fees from Weddings, Funerals etc	1,916.00
Other fundraising	287.01
Gift Aid	556.21
Interest received	3.80
Total Income	24,559.93
Expense	
Team ministry	1,533.60
Parish Share	18,092.50
Church Management & Admin	2,541.22
Church Running Expenses	289.63
Church & Grounds Maintenance	656.44
Charitable Giving	230.49
Parochial Fees re weddings & funerals	761.40
Total Expense	24,105.28
Surplus	454.65

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately 6 months of unrestricted payments (currently circa £12,000), to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

What people connected to Welton Church are telling us:

We have included some comments that we have received from people connected to Welton Church to give a wider understanding of current views.

"I think we are stronger for working with Braunston and Ashby. Braunston have a ministry team who are supporting us and we have a good relationship with members of the other two churches. I wouldn't want to lose this in the future."

"I'd like more than one Sunday service in Welton a month."

"I don't always know what is going on, or who to contact about things."

"I enjoy going to "Tiny Treasures" in Braunston. I've made some good friends there. I'd like to see something for older children too."

"10.30am on a Sunday morning is such a difficult time for families; it is the only day we get to do things together as a family and if we wanted to go out anywhere, there is not enough time left. Also, our young children don't really enjoy the formal structure of a Communion Service and I don't want to put them off. I'd like to see something else developed for young families."

"We really enjoyed the after-school Easter Bunnies club at the school and would like something like that again. It is a shame it had to stop because of Covid. After school is a good time if you want parents to come with their children."



A position for you?

We are praying that the right person will be led to apply for this position and we're sure you are praying that God will lead you to where He wants you to be.

If you would like further information to help you make a decision, please contact:

- The Ven. Richard Ormston, Archdeacon of Northampton
Tel: 01604 887075
Email: archdeacon.northampton@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Please also take time to look at our websites and facebook pages:

Braunston:

Website: www.all saintsbraunston.org.uk

Facebook: All Saints Church Braunston

Ashby St. Ledgers:

Facebook: Ashby St Ledgers Church

Welton:

Website: www.stmartinswelton.org.uk

Facebook: St Martin's Church Welton