



**2025**

# **Annual Report**

**St Michael's Church**

**Breaston**

# 2025 Annual Report

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## Overview of the Year

### Introduction

During much of the past year, we continued to navigate the challenges and opportunities of being in vacancy. These seasons can often feel uncertain, yet they also reveal the strength, faithfulness and generosity within a church family. Once again, we have seen members of our leadership team, PCC, and wider congregation step forward with dedication and willingness, ensuring that our services, ministries, community engagement and mission have not only continued, but flourished. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has given their time, energy and gifts so faithfully.

We also give thanks that this period of vacancy has come to a joyful conclusion. It has been a real blessing to welcome Rev. Lisa Taylor as our Priest-in-Charge, with her licensing taking place at St Chad's on 30th September. We are delighted that Lisa has been called to lead us into this next chapter, and we look forward with hope and anticipation to all that God has in store.

As Lisa began her ministry with us towards the end of the year, and following a short period of initial leave, she has provided her own report, which we are pleased to include below.

### Priest Report

It's been a bit of a whirlwind these past six months; at times it really has felt like my feet haven't touched the ground! But in the middle of it all, I just want to start by saying thank you. The welcome I've received has been so kind and generous, a real gift, and I honestly couldn't have wished for better.



It's been a real joy to start getting to know you, to listen, to learn, and to begin to see how God is already at work in this place. I know I've still got plenty to learn, but I feel genuinely blessed that God has called me to be here with you all at this time. I'm really looking forward to all that He has in store for us together.

Advent was a busy but really special season. It was lovely to see church and community coming together so well, it felt like a glimpse of what it means to be God's people in this place. Amazingly, we've already started planning for Advent 2026, with hope and expectation.

In January, we had the Away Day, which was such a good day. It was great to see people engaging so openly and thoughtfully, there were some really rich conversations and a shared desire to listen for God's leading. We'll be sharing the outcomes after Easter, but I've already been really encouraged by how clearly our Benefice values came through. It feels like the Spirit is gently at work among us, shaping and guiding us.

The Lent Walks have been a blessing too, with around 10–15 people coming along each time, even in the rain! There's something very special about walking, talking and journeying together in that way. As I'm writing this, the sun is streaming through the window, which feels like a hopeful sign that spring is well and truly here, a small but hopeful sign of the new life and light that Easter brings.

After Easter, our sermon series will focus on the Fruits of the Spirit. It feels like a natural next step as we reflect on the Away Day and continue to ask where God is leading us. It's an opportunity for us to think about how we grow as disciples, how God is forming us and what it looks like to live that out day by day.

I'm still finding my feet, but I'm really excited about what lies ahead. It's a privilege to be on this journey with you, and I'm looking forward to discovering, together, how we might continue to grow as followers

of Jesus, rooted in His love, guided by His Spirit, and faithful to His calling.

Rev. Lisa Taylor

### Church Warden's Report

#### Church

The church continues to be regularly used. Although we were in vacancy for over half the year, regular services were maintained, both on Sundays and Wednesdays. In addition, a number of community outreach activities take place. These include the weekly Sunbeams provision for toddlers, the Renew/Wellbeing café, Explorers and regular meetings of one of the Home Groups.



Whilst the streaming system is not used regularly, occasional services have been recorded for distribution to a small number of members of the congregation unable to attend through illness. The equipment has also been used, on occasion, to record wedding and funeral services.

The church fabric is kept in good order with minor repairs being undertaken as and when necessary.

The wooden floor was re-sealed during the year. Routine annual maintenance has been carried out including a Fire Safety inspection, fire extinguisher testing and lightning conductor checks as well as routine monthly Health and Safety checks.

The church inventory has been updated to take account of the changes made during the year. All moveable goods and chattels are recorded and new items added as necessary.

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## Church Hall

Major improvements have taken place during the year with the replacement of the smoke alarms with a more up to date, comprehensive system. There has also been a complete refurbishment of the toilets. Playgroup and Wrap Around Club continue to be the main users of the hall during the year and the latter continue to hold out of school clubs during some of the school holidays. There have been a number of bookings for parties during the year. Young church has also been able to make regular use of the hall on a Sunday morning and the Youth Cafe group now meets in the hall each week.



There have also been regular meetings of the W. I. and an exercise class.

The church office is a useful addition as a regular location for small meetings.

## The Old Library

The new leaseholder continues to rent the property on what is hoped is a long-term basis.

Stephe Bowley and Mark Huskisson, Churchwardens

## Financial Review

2025 continued to be affected by rising costs, whilst energy costs have stabilised, they are still considerably above 2022 levels. Giving has remained largely static which reflects the fact that some of our members are on relatively fixed pensions and others have been hit by cost of living pressures and higher interest rates.

The PCC are recipients of a substantial legacy from the estate of a former parishioner. £40,945 was received in 2025 for which the PCC are most grateful. Further sums will be received as the administration of the Estate continues.

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The church hall had numerous improvements (£18,000+) including new toilets, fire alarm installation throughout and re-polishing the floors in both halls to enhance the appearance of the hall. Hall Income has remained static with the Breaston Wraparound club operating either side of Preschool. This arrangement continues to have challenges though.

The PCC made the decision to cease to give to external charities and missional work causes (such as Fth Georges) this year in order to still be able to meet the diocesan common fund payments.

These factors have adversely affected the PCC's operating result, which was a deficit of £2,203. This was after mitigation from the receipt of the legacy.

	2025	2024	Comment
Total Income	£178,916	£173,226	
Total Expenditure	£181,119	£190,894	Including £18k re hall
<b>(Deficit)</b>	<b>(2,203)</b>	<b>(£17,668)</b>	This was arrived at after the net decrease in the value of investments of <b>(£2,022)</b> (2024 £8,443)
Larger items of expenditure	18,000	32,000	
Diocese - Common Fund	£60,544	£58,780	

### ***Further reflections...***

We face challenges in 2026 as, for the reasons stated, costs have been rising above inflation whilst income has remained static. We invest heavily in Youth, Children and Community work. Numbers

have grown in all the work Steve and Jodie have been doing in Breaston and in Draycott and the fruit of this can be seen in the wonderful attendances at numerous community events such as the Live Nativity and 'Carols that Rock'.

It must be remembered that we do not get external financial support or any funding from the Diocese for all our costs and missional activity. We are fully dependant on our giving, income from lettings and any income and growth in our deposits and investments to pay for employing our staff and other costs.

I would therefore ask that you continue to prayerfully review your giving (be it financial, volunteering and/or prayer) so we can continue to support all that we do and the ongoing growth of the church in Breaston.

**Hannah Knighton**, Treasurer

### PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC normally meets bi-monthly, so there are 6 regular meetings per year, including the meeting to appoint officers immediately after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

I joined the PCC as Secretary in July 2025, as Hannah has taken over the Treasurer's role from Paul.

There are currently 17 members of the PCC:

**Licensed ministers:** Rev's Lisa Taylor, Rev'd Maria, Prezeslowski and Jo Whitehead

**Churchwardens:** Stephe Bowley (standing down) and Mark Huskisson

**Deanery Synod representatives:** Colin Lowe and Phil Lees

**Co-opted member:** Anne Long (parish safeguarding officer)

**Elected members:** Paul Stuttle; Rachel Lacey; Steve Lacey; Simon Purnell; Hannah Knighton (Treasurer); Diane Priest (Secretary).

**Members due to stand down or be re-elected:** Laura Holliday; Laura Newman; Richard Warburton.

Diane Priest PCC Secretary.

### Electoral Roll

The Electoral roll was updated. Last year there were 79 names on the roll. One name has been removed and 16 added, so there are now 94 names on the roll.

Jonathan Lupton, Electoral Roll Officer

### Deanery Synod

For 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meetings: Church Representation rules: M5(1)(e)

The South East Derbyshire Deanery Synod met formally on three occasions in 2025.

In February we focussed on Deanery Structures with the then Archdeacon, Ven.

Karen Hamblin. We also welcomed Sam Frith, Director of Strategy and Engagement for the Diocese of Derby. Sam enabled us to realise the great extent of community engagement that was happening in our parishes.

The June Synod focussed on Spirituality with support from Rev. Cameron Ballard, the Bishop's Spirituality Advisor. We also introduced what we aim to be a regular agenda item: representatives sharing 'Good News' stories.

We welcomed Bishop Malcolm to our October Synod to talk about 'Growing Younger'. Dawn Knight also spoke about 'Faith Fostering and Adoption'.

Deanery chapter has continued to meet during the year focussing on mutual support for our clergy. The Deanery Leadership Team has also facilitated support for parishes in vacancy.

Our Deanery Leadership team was strengthened with the appointment of Rev Anne Wilkins as our Assistant Area Dean, providing valuable support to Dawn.

Rev'd Dawn Knight, Area Dean, Rev'd Anne Wilkins, Assistant Area Dean, Brian Parker, Lay Chair

### Safeguarding

As a church we remain committed to keeping safeguarding at the heart of all church activities.

This past year has seen a number of new volunteers joining us, particularly to support children's and young people's activities, and we appreciate the time and effort they have taken in undergoing relevant safeguarding checks and completing relevant training. Indeed, we remain extremely grateful to all of our church members who regularly renew their training and complete their safeguarding checks as and when requested. In the early months of 2026 several people have already renewed their Domestic Abuse Awareness training (which became mandatory for many volunteers a few years ago) and this will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the year.

Everyone's time and commitment to these important safeguarding matters help us to create safe spaces for our church membership and the wider community we serve.

We are also grateful to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advising and supporting our efforts.

Anne Long, Parish Safeguarding Officer

## Children's, Youth and Community Work

The work around the area of Children, Youth & Community continued to be varied and widespread throughout the year 2025 and into 2026 Steve Lacey and Jodie McConnell are the paid workers in this area, along with Adam Smith, who originally started in order to cover Jodie's Maternity leave from September to December – with Steve responsible for Youth and Jodie for Children... However, it is more accurate to say that each role is shared equally.

Steve did recently drop some of his hours but has now increased them again as Adam's employment will end mid April.

### **Our weekly events include –**

**Sunbeams** – It is usual that around 22 attend on a Monday at Breaston and around 15 on a Friday at Draycott. There are many lovely opportunities to talk with parents and grandparents and to support them in a variety of ways – which they also do for each other, discussing their shared experiences. The sessions are run with the help of volunteers, who are invaluable and without whom the sessions could not be run successfully. These sessions remain invaluable, rich sources of support and interaction with the community. Jodie and Adam are currently responsible for this area.



**Monday Night Home Group** – This is a weekly session run for the 11-18 year olds and consists of playing games, chatting and then studying the Bible together before a time of prayer. It is a lovely time of fellowship. 5 children are regular attendees at present. The sessions are run by Steve, with the support of Rachel Lacey – without whom, the sessions



would not be possible. Recently, we have been studying the person of Jesus, and we are moving on soon to think about The Holy Spirit. In September, we were able to send 2 of the group off to university with a sound knowledge of their faith.

**Explorer's** – These sessions run from 3.30-5pm in St. Michael's Church for children of mainly 6-11 years of age. They consist of a snack and drink, games, a bible story and activities related to that story. A weekly attendance of 15 is usual. The sessions are run by Steve and Adam, with the help of 4 volunteers – whose time is much appreciated.



**Youth Café** – This is a more Youth Club-based session that runs from 6.30-8.30pm on a Tuesday night in the Church Hall. They are relaxed sessions, where the youngsters can come along, chat, play games, do organised craft activities, buy sweets from the tuck-shop and generally 'chill-out' whilst developing friendships. There are around 30 youngsters registered, with about 15 now regularly attending. Several of the youngsters attended our yearly Residential at Cloverley Hall in April. The sessions are now run mainly by Steve and Jodie, with the help of several willing volunteers.



**Young Church** – This is a session that runs in the Church Hall, alongside the 10.30am Service at St. Michael's, Breaston for youngsters that are better served by being in their own session rather than the full Church Service. It consists of games, chat, Bible stories, discussion and craft work – as well as other activities. A normal session usually attracts around 5/6 children. The sessions are run by Jodie – with support from Steve and Adam.

There are many **other events** that have taken place during the year – these include –

**Experience Easter** – with 4 classes from Firfield and Draycott Schools.

**Experience Christmas** - with 4 classes from Firfield and Draycott Schools.



**Christingle Services** – in Breaston, where attendance was around 70 and in Draycott, where attendance was roughly 20 in total.

**Harvest and Christmas Assemblies** – run by Steve for the whole of Draycott School, in St. Mary's Church, Draycott – with around 115 children and adults attending each assembly.

**Good Friday Event** –

an event was run inside Church and was attended by around 200 people over a period of 2 hours –



various Easter activities were available for everyone to do and learn from. A similar event is planned for Good Friday 2026.

**Crib Service** – In Breaston, with around 150 in attendance.

**Residential** – with 'Reach' Church, Derby and their Youth Group at Cloverley Hall, Shropshire – just before Easter. 12 of our youngsters joined around 85 other youngsters. A further Residential is planned with Reach Youth Group in March/April 2026, where around 5 of our youngsters will attend (with Steve and Rachel).

**All-age/Café Style Services** – Every third Sunday of the month at St. Michael's, Breaston – run by Steve and Jodie.

**‘What’s in a Church?’** – sessions for classes of children from Firfield and Harrington Schools.

**Pre-School Christmas Session** – run by Steve and Adam in St. Michael’s Church.

**Family Fun Session** – organised by the Parish Council during the summer holidays and supported with activities, games, craft and balloon art by Steve, Jodie and Adam.

Steve and Lisa have run sessions on **‘What Christianity Teaches About Right and Wrong’** with Year 6’s, and Steve has taught sessions in Draycott School on **‘How Saint Peter Learnt That God Has No favourites’** – again, with Year 6 pupils.

Lisa has also recently been in to Firfield School to provide them with 2 assemblies on the theme of **‘Lent.’**

There have been other events and sessions, and further events/sessions are planned to begin and continue throughout 2026.

The Children’s and Youth work remains an integral part of the vision and mission of the Church, that probably interacts with upwards of 500 children and their parents and families at the large variety of events and sessions throughout the year – which continues to rise year upon year.

Stephen Lacey And Jodie McConnell, Children’s and Youth Team

### Renew Wellbeing

Renew Wellbeing - Breaston is now in its fifth year.

As a quiet shared space, we endeavour to serve both members of the congregation and the wider community by providing a regular, safe, warm and welcoming café-style area within the church building.

Activities are provided and visitors are encouraged to bring and share their hobbies. Working in partnership with local mental health teams, we aim to signpost our regulars to outside support where necessary.

We also offer a prayer space for those who wish to use it. Simple, led prayers are offered within the session. We run from 10-12 pm every Thursday and have only missed 2 or 3 Thursdays in 4 ½ years.

We have a core group of regular visitors of around 12. Activities range from sewing and craft to jigsaws and colouring, but the most popular pastimes are the 2 and 3 sided dominoes, colouring and having a good chat.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to our amazing team of volunteers (past & present) who have been with us from the start. Renew could not run without your support!

### Living Hope

Living Hope is now in its fourth year and continues to offer support to those who have relatives or friends in addiction. We offer a bible-based safe place for sharing, prayer and encouragement. We're able to signpost those who need info about Christian Rehab and related organisations. Our Benefice supports Teen Challenge, where we have a number of contacts.

As a group we pray intentionally for Loved Ones in addiction, and this past year we've had some wonderful answers to prayer. Earlier in the year one of our folk secured a new job with its own accommodation - we praise the Lord for a perfect job and new home at just the right time. The visit of Gary Kinson and a colleague from The Carpenter's Arms, was incredible. They both shared testimonies of deliverance from addiction. Gary prayed with and gave encouraging words of prophecy to those gathered. A man, P. was introduced to Living Hope and Waymaker Church in Bramcote through a friend from Living Hope and his sister. Over a few months he recommitted his life to Christ and was making great progress in his attempts to overcome addiction. Sadly, before Christmas he died following a stroke. What a blessing to his family to know that he died at peace with God. It is a

great privilege to be present when people share from their hearts and are lovingly prayed for by the group.

We often show video testimonies as well as having our 'Film Night'. These are held to build faith and encourage prayer. A recent film 'Faith like Potatoes' showed how God can meet deep needs. We were greatly encouraged to hear that Chris Russon, a friend of ours, and a staff member at Teen Challenge, has been miraculously healed of skin cancer.

We continue to have support links, via WhatsApp, with folk in different parts of the country. Our Living Hope WhatsApp group is used for messaging and prayer requests.

Numbers at Living Hope are static but relationships have deepened and we're seeing answers to prayer. There is a greater awareness /influence of the group within the community and for all this we praise God.

Jeanne Wilson and Joan Price

### Local Mission

Last year's report encouraged us to get involved with a great new venture starting in Breaston with the monthly Repair Café, encouraging all in our community to do our part in caring from God's creation by encouraging us to: reduce, reuse, repair, re-purpose or recycle before we call something rubbish! One year on



and we can see how this gives us another approach to being 'salt', drawing out the flavour of his love in our community here in Breaston throughout 2025. This builds on the encouragement to 'widen our vision for what Local Mission covers'. Once again, throughout

## 2025 Annual Report

2025, we were not only at the heart of influencing and co-ordinating BCF's, BCP's and the Churches' annual calendar of major village events throughout the year but were also consistently opening our doors, supporting those amongst us and in our community at Renew, hosting the WI, participating in Breaston in Bloom or in our fast-becoming-traditional Christmas events such as the Food & Toy collection, Carols that Rock, Live Nativity on Duffield Close and the ever popular Carols in The Chequers.

As we move into 2026, can I encourage you to get involved where you are already active and to see your involvement as being yet more; 'salt' drawing out the flavour of God's love for all in the community of Breaston that you already come alongside. Once again, be intentional and ask to partner with Him as you do that.

At this time of new starts, new APCM year, new incumbent, new focus following the Away Day, can I encourage you to review where you already have opportunities to be salt and light within your community.



Why don't you ask Him afresh - where do you want me to be salt and light this coming year?

Peter Hampshire

### Men's Danger Club

The Men's Danger Club provides activities and meetings specifically designed for men. It meets on the fourth Friday of the month at 7.30p.m. Activities can be indoors or outdoors at a variety of



venues and during the winter months we meet at St. Mary's Church Hall.

Membership is open to all men living in Breaston, Draycott and surrounding towns and villages. There is not a membership fee, and members only pay the cost of any event they come to most costing £5.00 - £7.00.

Most members come from St. Michael's and St. Mary's; some from other churches and some with no church connection at all.

Members are notified by e-mail, the monthly Church News and Notices and reports and future events in "Inside72".

We are blessed with meetings full of interest and members who gel together and contribute to the relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

### **EVENTS for 2025**

**January.** Paul Newsham talked about Biometric Forensic Science looking in depth at eye, retina and facial features in the fight to find and convict criminals. Although it sounds complicated, he explained it in a very simple way enabling us to understand and enjoy his talk.

**February.** Members brought along curious and unusual objects for us to guess their use. We enjoyed pooling ideas before coming to a personal answer or guess! An extremely and informative evening,

**March.** Pete Wearn demonstrated the effect of frozen gasses on the planet's past "The Dark Side of the Moon". Balloons, liquid nitrogen and models were among the variety of objects used to demonstrate the mysteries of the frozen worlds beyond our Earth.

**April.** Bowls at the Long Eaton Indoor Bowls Club. We enjoyed each other's successes and "misguided" attempts at getting the bowl nearest the Jack. It's always a relaxed and fun evening.

**May.** The Driving Range at Trent Lock Golf Club. It did not matter whether anyone had played golf before or was a regular golfer but a

chance to whack the ball into the far distance or dribble it a few yards! Video screens tracked each ball, noting the distance it travelled. Interesting but it didn't help my swing.

**June.** Our Annual Barbeque was held at the Scout Hut, Blind Lane. A relaxed time on a warm Summer's evening to take it easy, chat and enjoy very tasty burgers from Dundas's with a variety of relishes, and members bringing their own preferred tippie.

**July.** Duffield Close. The cunning and devious game of Molkky where nothing is certain! Skittles with a twist. An increasingly popular family game and ideal for an evening of enjoyment and fun.

**September.** Meeting cancelled.

**October.** Remembrance Sunday was not far away so we invited Andrew Nelson from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to give us a talk of their Worldwide responsibility to maintain every cemetery in all countries, mainly the Commonwealth. He explained the reason for the standard shape, wording and design of the gravestones. There were many other interesting facts about the extensive work they do.

**November.** Whiskey Tasting Evening. An ideal event just before Christmas. Marcus chose six top class Irish whiskies for us to sample. Most of us associate Scotland with whiskies but Ireland produces top class whiskies as well. All whiskies have their own particular flavours gentle, sharp, fruity, peaty etc. and Marcus guided us through their subtle tastes. It was a great evening, enjoyable and informative.

After 16 years of being part of the organising of MDC I feel that it is time for me to step down and allow someone else to lead the MDC into the future. I've enjoyed every event, learnt so much, made some wonderful friends and had so much help from God. It's an ideal opportunity for someone younger than me, and that's not difficult, to take it into the future, enabling men in our church, and friends, to

meet on a regular basis, maybe not every month, even the name may change, perhaps the format but most of all whoever takes it on will know how close God will work with them.

I will help, guide, support and advise whoever decides to take it on. My thanks to Adrian, John and Colin who have wholeheartedly worked hard for MDC and have kept it going for many years.

John Skinner

### Choir and Music Groups

#### Choir

This year saw one or two changes to our membership. Colin Sanderson has decided, after very many years as tenor, organist and choir master, to step down from all choir commitments. We are most grateful to him for his many years of loyal and dedicated service.

We have recruited one new member, Jan Worthington, who has joined our alto section and we welcome her contribution. The choir has continued to attend one morning and one evening service a month and have provided appropriate anthems at each service.

For the Service of lessons and Carols on 21st December, we were joined by 3 additional singers who enabled us to provide a fresh programme of carols. Most of the regular members also attended the Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve.

Further new members, in all voices, would be most welcome.

I am grateful to John Maxwell-Jones and Jonathan Lupton for providing our accompaniment and to the choir members for their loyalty and dedication.

Jan Wilkinson

## Music Groups

We now have only one band (lead by Ben Gooding). Jonathan Lupton's band has, so to speak, disbanded (at least for the time being) because we collectively felt that we needed a break after serving for over 20 years! Ben's band plays once a month; the other weeks we use backing racks which are generally well received. If there are musicians hiding in the congregation who would love to be part of band, please speak to Lisa, Ben or me.

Jonathan Lupton

## Churches Together

Representatives from St. Michael's (Rev'd Lisa Taylor, Jean & Jonathan Lupton) met with representatives from Breaston Methodist Church twice since the last APCM. We discuss and agree upon several joint ventures during the year, ranging from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to the Gala and the Christmas Card. This year it is proposed to hold another Pet Service, as we did in 2024.



Jonathan Lupton, on behalf of Breaston Churches Together