

October 2025

**Priest-in-Charge (House for Duty) of the
Benefice of St. John the Baptist, Ault Hucknall
and St. Leonard's Scarcliffe (including St. Luke's
Palterton) and Assistant Curate of St. Mary and
St. Laurence, Bolsover**



From the acting Archdeacon

Welcome! Thank you for considering this post.

The primary focus of this post is the Benefice of Ault Hucknall and Scarcliffe. This Benefice has a heritage that is both rural and industrial and serves several smaller settlements close to Bolsover in North East Derbyshire.



There has been a successful and fruitful House for Duty post across the Benefice previously and so the Parishes involved are willing and able to work with a post of that nature.

The Diocesan vision states that the Kingdom of God is good news for all and our prayer is that together, the new Priest-in-Charge and congregations will take further steps forward in communicating and living that out, with generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love, in their immediate communities and across the Parishes in a way that is relevant and accessible to those living there.

It is hoped that through the additional link with St Mary and St Laurence, Bolsover, will enable future working together. Some foundational conversation with PCCs has already begun around this but this initial phase is about relationship building, particularly between clergy colleagues. This, therefore, will be the key focus of the Associate aspect of this post.

The house for this post is in the parish of Bolsover, a small town with a good range of facilities. St. Mary's and St. Laurence's has supported the Benefice during the vacancy, and the PCC and Clergy here are looking forward to getting to know the new post-holder in Ault Hucknall and Scarcliffe.

There is great potential here that I hope and pray will attract someone who has a passion to see God's Kingdom come in smaller, though no less vital, communities and is willing to invest in working with committed PCC's and in partnership with other Parishes to see that happen. I look forward to hearing from you and if a conversation would be helpful, please be in touch.

The Venerable Matthew Trick

Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire and
acting Archdeacon of East Derbyshire

From the Area Dean

The Benefice of St. John the Baptist, Ault Hucknall and St. Leonard, Scarcliffe will offer their new priest a warm welcome. Both parishes have worked hard during the interregnum to continue business as usual, but I know that they are looking forward to having someone to lead them into the future and will be supportive of that person.



The benefice is home to a variety of different communities, but all have great potential for mission and growth of the Kingdom God.

The wider Hardwick Deanery, is similarly socially and geographically diverse and offers a collegial and encouraging deanery chapter who meet both formally and informally to share ideas, discuss local issues and be mutually supportive of each other as we work together. As a new deanery team, we are looking forward to a future full of exciting opportunities to proclaim the Gospel here in Derbyshire.

Rev Rachel Williams
Area Dean, Hardwick Deanery.

Our Benefice

The parishes of Ault Hucknall, population 2893, and Scarcliffe with Palterton, population 1721, lie to the east and west of the M1 motorway. They are easily accessible from junction 29 via the A617 and are situated a 10-minute drive from each other. The village of Ault Hucknall is the smallest in England, with three houses: its parish does, however, include the adjacent villages of Glapwell and Bramley Vale, these being the major population centres of the parish. Scarcliffe parish includes the villages of Palterton and Hillstown.

Who Are We Looking For?

We are praying that our next priest is someone who has the following qualities:

Personal

- Is enthusiastic to manage and develop a dual church benefice, also incorporating a mission church in Palterton, in interesting parishes with mixed rural and post-industrial elements.
- Has the personality, qualities and life experience that will support, sustain and enhance the life of our churches, schools and villages.
- Is committed to work collaboratively with enthusiastic PCCs and others.
- Can communicate well across the generations.
- Is someone who will help us grow in number and depth, across the generations, helping us to find our unique, God-given response to the Diocesan Vision.

Faith and Spirituality

- Whilst passionate about their faith, can explain God's word in a simple, inspiring way that will reveal God's message and intentions.
- Is adaptable and flexible in accommodating and leading different styles of worship.
- Is someone who, while embracing the changes that are required to sustain and grow the church, is understanding and sympathetic to the practices and customs of the existing congregations in the different churches.
- Fosters the relationships with our associated schools, keeping the church in the minds of the teachers and children, and being in regular contact with them both in the schools and the churches.

Communities and Pastoral

- Will aim to become recognised in the communities, promoting the integration of the church within them.



- Is welcoming to all, promoting the Pastoral Principles of Living Well Together and Living in Love and Faith.

Organisation and Administration

- Has the ability to manage and organise the two churches within the benefice while acknowledging and accepting the role of the two active PCCs involved.

Our challenges

We are conscious that we are the custodians of ancient, historic churches with a tradition of Christian faith extending back over one thousand years. We are determined to preserve this legacy and share it and to ensure that we thrive not only in the immediate future but in the centuries to come.

The main challenges that we face are those shared by the wider Anglican communion in the UK. Although we are valued by the local community, particularly in the services of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, only a small percentage of the residents in our parish have regular contact with the church.

As a priority, we need to:

1. re-establish and strengthen our links with all our communities.
2. maintain and build our relationships with the young children in our schools and their families.
3. develop and expand our Pastoral Care in what are challenging times in order to spread the word and love of God.

We would also like to see the relationship with the neighbouring Parish of St Mary's and St. Laurence in Bolsover deepen and strengthen.

What We Can Offer You

- The two churches have effective, enthusiastic and experienced PCCs who are well versed in the day-to-day running of the churches. They will be supportive in your roles as a Priest and will work collaboratively with you.
- We will pray for you in your ministry.
- We will respect the time that you are not on-duty, your holidays and other entitlements.
- Cover the cost of appropriate expenses in full.

Current Worship Pattern

Within the United Benefice, there is currently a Communion Service weekly. Prior to Covid, a service took place every Sunday within both churches. This pattern changed to reduce the risk of virus transmission, as a consequence of the priest travelling immediately from one church to the other. Despite the easing of concern re. Covid, the current pattern is maintained: it is anticipated that this will be the model in the future. Additionally, there is a service of Holy Communion at St. Luke's Mission, Palterton, on the first Sunday of the month. At Palterton, there is also a friendship club for younger children; this is held every Sunday except when there is a Communion Service.



Matters Relating to Ault Hucknall and Scarcliffe

Ault Hucknall

Worship at St. John the Baptist, Ault Hucknall: the Communion Service uses Common Worship Order 1 (Traditional). Lay members of the congregation read the epistle. We have a choir and organ, but not a dedicated organist. Additional services take place on Remembrance Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Eve. We also have an Advent Carol Service and Nine lessons and Carols, a Christingle Service and a Crib Service at Christmas. With respect to the latter two, during the interregnum, we have had very successful services led by lay members of the congregation: we anticipate this being the pattern for the future. We are fortunate in that we have a number of retired and currently working clergy who support us as celebrants for our regular Worship Services and who participate in Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

During the period of restrictions consequent upon Covid, contact and worship was maintained using on-line resources. We are heartened by the fact that attendance has now recovered to pre-Covid levels. Please see Appendix B for the SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Ault Hucknall.

Scarcliffe

Worship at St Leonards, Scarcliffe, and at St Luke's Palterton follows a very similar pattern to that of Ault Hucknall: each is with an organ and organist.

Appendix C for SfM Dashboard Data for Scarcliffe at the end of this document

Both Scarcliffe and Ault Hucknall have open churchyards

Financial Situation at Ault Hucknall

We are currently in a stable situation with respect to our finances. Please see Appendix A for our monthly reconciliation; this having been certified for the APCM in March 2024.

Additional to this, we have a reserved fund of approximately £60,000 which we can use for repairs to the church fabric. This is consequent upon the sale of a church building: the trustees for the administration of this fund are the members of the PCC. It can be readily appreciated that as a Grade 1 Listed Building, there is always the potential for expensive repairs. Having said that, the fabric of the church is in good repair and we are up to date with the requirements of the last Quinquennial (the next is due in 2026).

With respect to payment of the Common Fund, historically we have been unable to pay the full amount while meeting the running costs of the church. We do pay monthly, and top-up as funds are identified. Last year, we were assessed at £14,601 and paid £5,400. This year, we have increased our monthly payments and the projected total for 2024 against an assessment of £14,758.55 will not be less than £7,000.



Scarcliffe

The Common Fund request this year is £8136. It is intended, as has been the custom for many years, that this will be paid in full. There are no significant reserves, but the financial situation is stable.

Church Administration & Governance

Ault Hucknall

The PCC at Ault Hucknall has nine members. We have one Churchwarden following the resignation of the other due to relocation out with the area. The current Churchwarden has been in post for a little over a year; he has been a longstanding member of the PCC and is Chairman of the PCC, a post that he also held during a previous interregnum. We have an established, effective Treasurer; an experienced Secretary who is also our Safeguarding Officer; a Deputy Chairman and Choirmaster; a Verger; and a Sexton who also acts as the graveyard archivist and first point of contact for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

The PCC is experienced, most members having served for a long time, although recently, we had three new members joining us. We have a corporate attitude to running the Church and work harmoniously and effectively together.

We look forward to fully supporting our next incumbent in the practical matters concerned with the management of our church. We are also committed to developing the presence of the church in our local community, including the local primary school, and the promotion of Christian values and faith.

Scarcliffe

We have an active PCC, most of whom have long-standing experience: this covers restoration projects of the building and coping with several interregnums. All the usual posts are filled.

In accordance with The Church Representation Rules (Part 9, M23), the PCCs of both Scarcliffe and Ault Hucknall held "a sufficient number of meetings to enable the efficient transaction of its business": in practice, each PCC meets 5 times a year.

Nature of the Local Community

The Parish of Ault Hucknall, appearing first in 1291, includes the Doomsday settlements of Ault Hucknall, Astwith, Hardstoft, Rowthorne and Stainsby. These hamlets are supplemented by the much larger villages of Glapwell, Bramley Vale and Doe Lea; these being joined together by the houses lining Glapwell hill. Adjacent to the church is the Hardwick Hall estate, now being in the possession of the National Trust having previously belonged to the Dukes of Devonshire.

The wider parish of Ault Hucknall has a warm feel to it. Within its small communities, people feel that they know and are known to their neighbours throughout the parish.



The Parish of Scarcliffe adjoins that of Ault Hucknall. The village of Scarcliffe has two working farms which form part of the Chatsworth Estate: this in turn is part of a larger area known as "The Dukeries".

The area now is mixed rural and post-industrial. Formerly, mining was important. There is some light industry, and some employment is provided by local hospitality, Hardwick Hall and farms. Most people are employed outside of the parish. Communication and transport facilitate this as the parish lies between Mansfield, Chesterfield and Bolsover: the major cities of Sheffield, Derby and Nottingham are within commuting distance; they are easily accessible via the M1 motorway or by major A roads.



Local Schools

The primary school local to Ault Hucknall is Bramley Vale:
www.bramleyvaleprimary.com .

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, it engages in religious worship of 'a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. There is a daily assembly, and previous incumbents have regularly participated in these. The children come on an occasional basis to the church for a service, e.g. at Christmas, largely conducted by the headmaster. Fortunately, the school is close to the church, and the children can walk up through the woods to it.



There are also primary schools in Palterton <https://www.paltertonprimary.co.uk/> and Scarcliffe <https://www.scarcliffe.derbyshire.sch.uk/welcome> .

Fortunately, the schools are close to the churches and the children are able to walk to them.

Other Facilities

- There are branch GP surgeries in Glapwell and Bolsover which are open daily. Our local General Hospitals are in Chesterfield and Mansfield: more specialist provision is via Sheffield and Nottingham.
- Glapwell and Doe Lea both have excellent community centres with a wide range of activities happening there. Doe Lea has a well-equipped resource centre and is currently used by the church at Ault Hucknall for our meetings.
- There is a thriving garden centre with a coffee shop / restaurant in Glapwell.
- Shopping needs are met in nearby Bolsover, Chesterfield and Mansfield. These are also the sites for cinemas, theatres, and very active league football teams.

History of the Churches

Ault Hucknall

The church of St. John the Baptist has stood on a wooded hillside in Ault Hucknall for more than a thousand years. The name of Ault Hucknall is thought to be a compound of the Norman French “Haute” meaning “high” and a personal name of Saxon origin, “Hucca”. The church has Saxon origins with substantial Norman additions. The first reference to a priest in the area dates to the seventh century, and we have an ancient font thought to be of the eighth century.

The church contains a quantity of medieval glass as seen in the Savage window. Within it lies the tomb of Thomas Hobbes, one of England’s greatest political philosophers. We have frequent visitors from the UK and indeed the wider world to view this tomb. Additionally, there can be found the elaborate tomb of Ann, the first Countess of Devonshire. There is a long-standing relationship with the Dukes of Devonshire, the current one, Peregrine, continuing to be our patron. There is also a rare tympanum which again attracts a lot of visitor interest. The belfry contains eight bells, the oldest dating to 1590.

Scarcliffe

The Grade 2 star church of St. Leonard dates to the Norman Period, supplemented by changes in successive centuries. A tympanum adorns the entrance. A few small pieces of medieval glass remain, in addition to Victorian stained glass. An early effigy depicting a lady holding her son, together with a fascinating legend, is a key visitor attraction. The pipe organ dates to around 1900: its action was electrified in the late eighties. The tower has a peal of eight bells.

Conclusion

We are blessed in that we have loyal and supportive congregations who, despite a long-established pattern of worship, are open to the changes necessary for us to flourish in the future. The PCCs are particularly effective with a wide range of skills, expertise and experience. The members of the PCCs are looking forward to working with a new incumbent in a co-operative manner, sharing the burden to the benefit of all within our communities.

We are aware that, with all the challenges the wider church faces, working well with neighbouring Parishes, especially Bolsover, has the potential to bring strength and breadth to aspects of Parish life that might be better done together and so we look forward to seeing how the relationship develops between the Parishes.

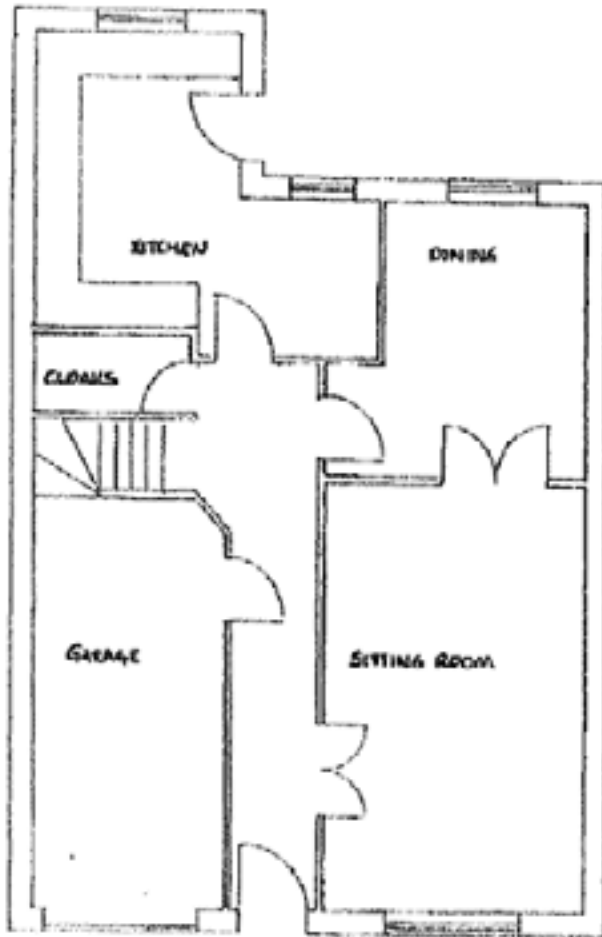


The Vicarage

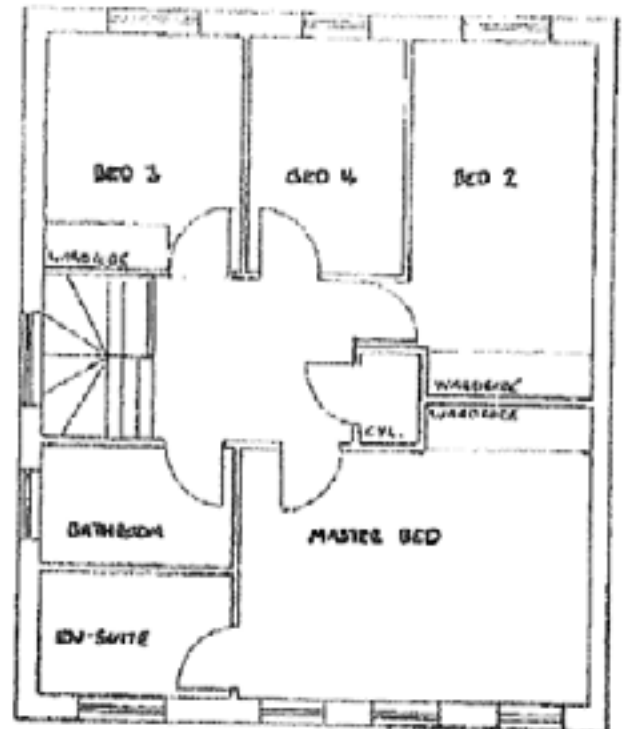


Situated in Bolsover, Chesterfield, this property has gas central heating, double glazed windows and comprises of:

Entrance hall with access to the integrated garage, downstairs WC. Glazed double doors lead off the entrance hallway to the living room with feature fire surround, and gas fire, double doors lead to the dining room. There is a generous breakfast kitchen with integrated eye-level double oven, gas hob and integrated fridge freezer. There is also space and plumbing for appliances. Stairs to the first floor lead to a modern family bathroom with full sized bath and electric shower over, three good sized bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes, and a master bedroom with feature windows, fitted wardrobes, dressing station and en-suite bathroom with full sized bath and shower over. Outside there is a rear garden with access to the front from both sides.



Ground floor



First floor

How to apply

Thank you for reading this profile. We hope that we will hear from you in the future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the post further, please contact initially:

The acting Archdeacon of East Derbyshire:
 Ven Matthew Trick
matthew.trick@derby.anglican.org
 01332 388668
 07496 823404

Safeguarding

The Diocese of Derby is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. [Click here](#) for further information on our commitment to safeguarding. All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

Privacy Notice

Your data is processed in line with our [Privacy Notice](#).

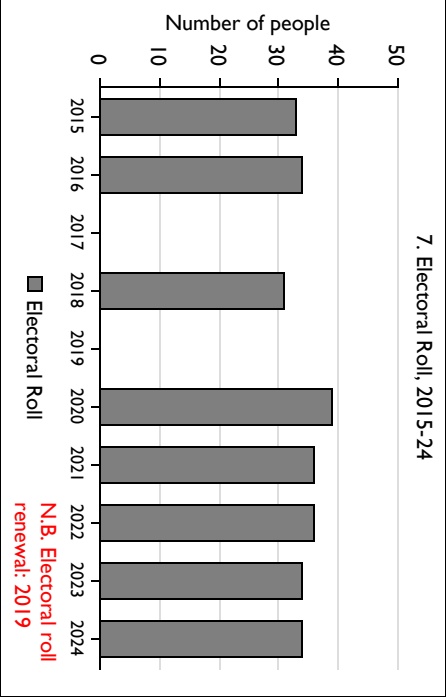
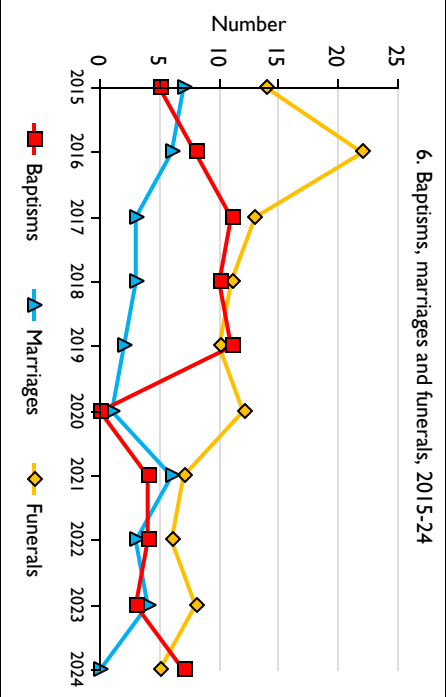
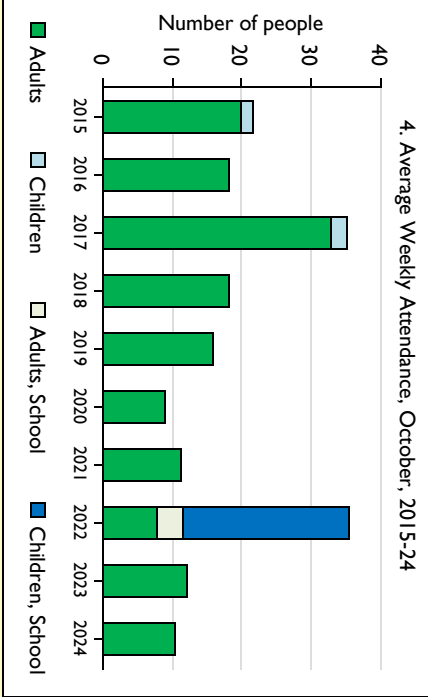
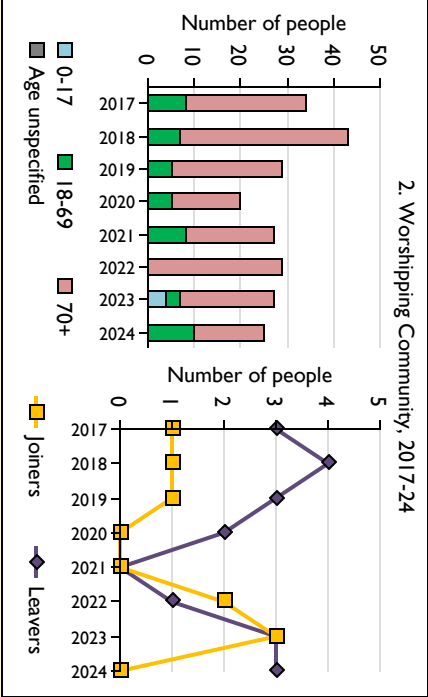
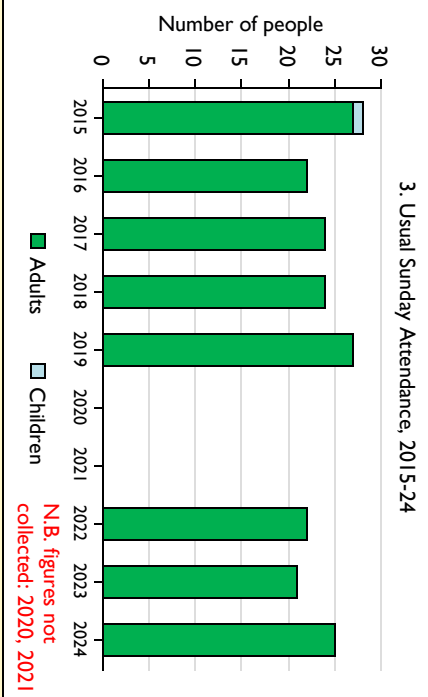
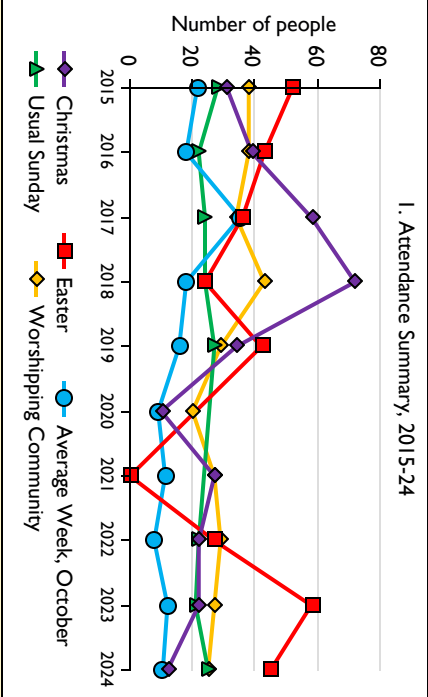
Appendix A

Month	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Movement
January	1773.84	2025.98	252.14
February	1046.16	1196.99	150.83
March	1102.35	3355.48	2253.13
April	915.04	352.47	562.57
May	1089.61	2497.09	1407.48
June	2227.24	1110.34	1116.90
July	1723.47	5063.04	3339.57
August	1767.17	4756.57	2989.40
September	1069.17	1299.07	229.90
October	1687.90	3803.26	2115.36
November	5286.75	685.24	4601.51
December	2052.45	3000.33	947.88
Total	21741.15	29145.86	7404.71
Bank balance		57034.57	
Start of 2023		64439.28	
End of 2023		7404.71	
Movement			

Prepared by: Lynne Wilson
Certified by: Jayne Sabido

Treasurer
Auditor

Date: 16/02/2024
Date: 09/03/2024



Parish Census and deprivation summary

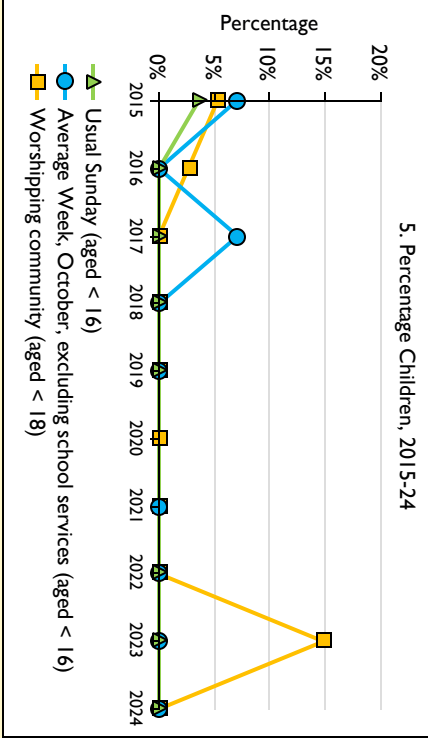
Parish population (2021): 2893

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	22%	22%	23%
% aged 20-44	28%	30%	33%
% aged 45-69	34%	33%	31%
% aged 70 & over	15%	15%	14%
% Christian	49%	46%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	6%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 3701

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,161=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <https://larcg.is/1WzGBo>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and <http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

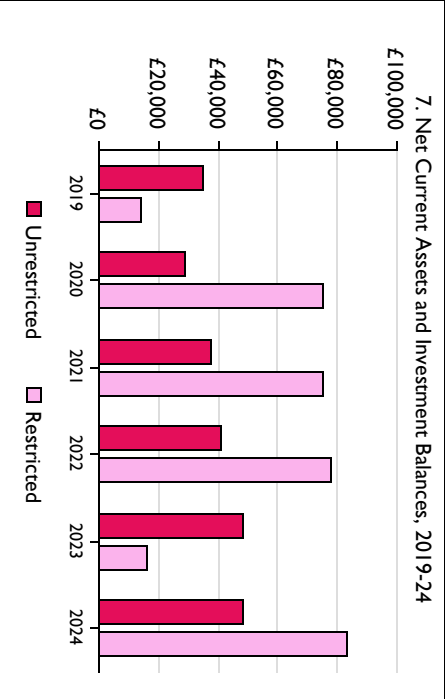
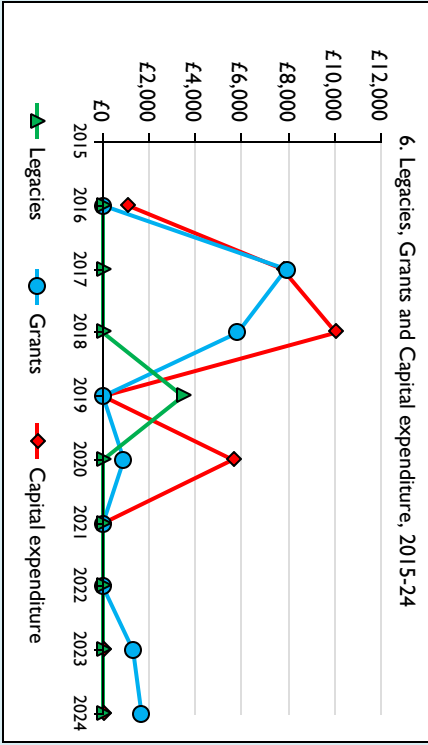
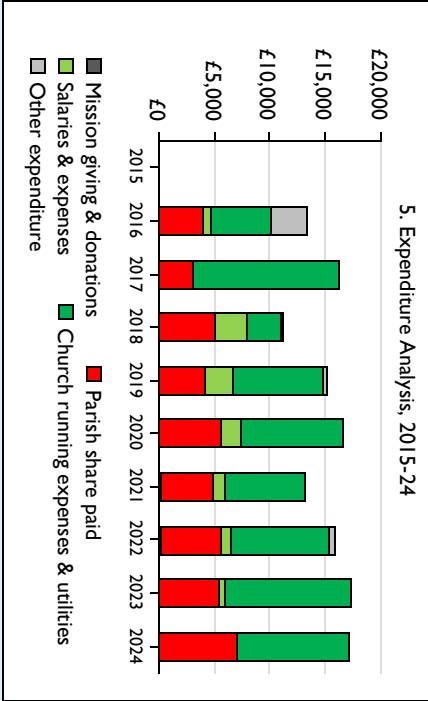
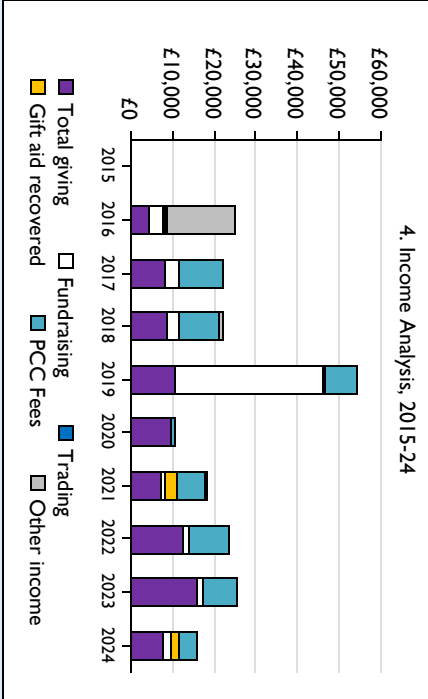
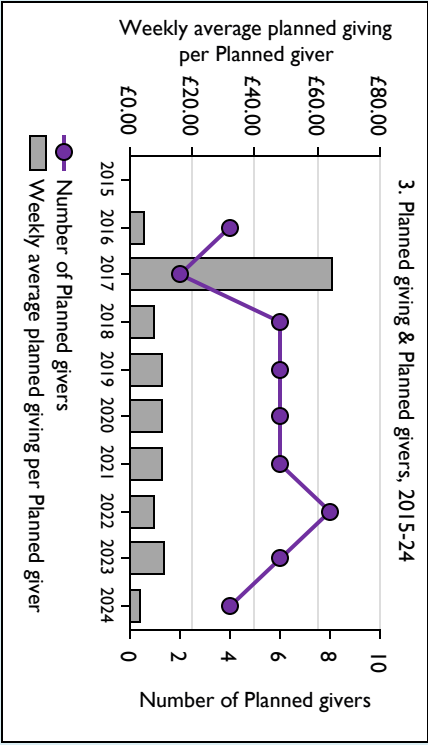
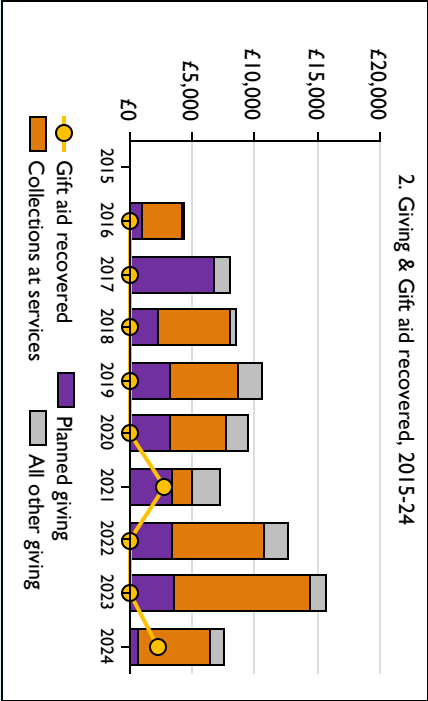
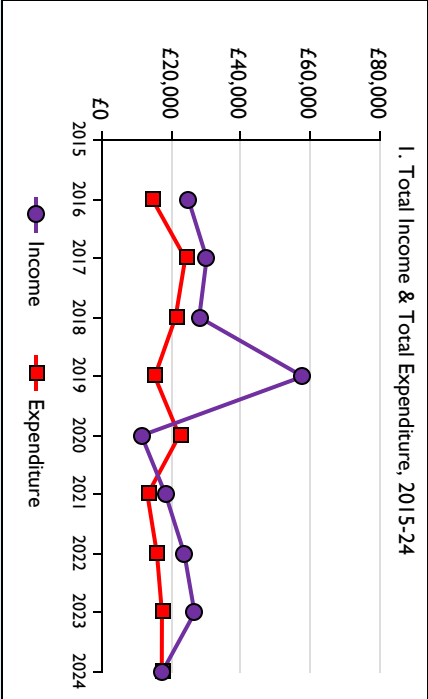
Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

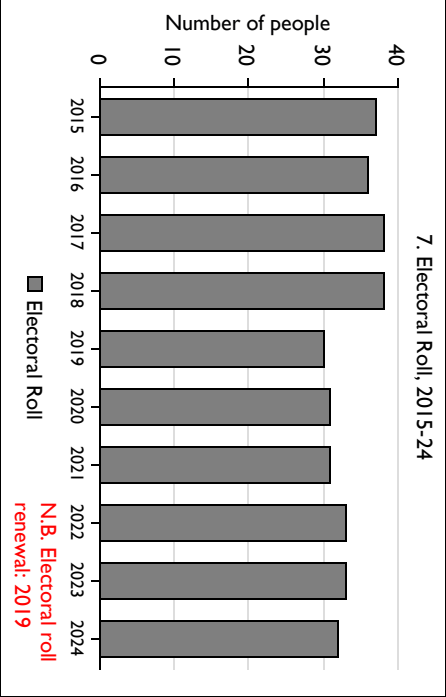
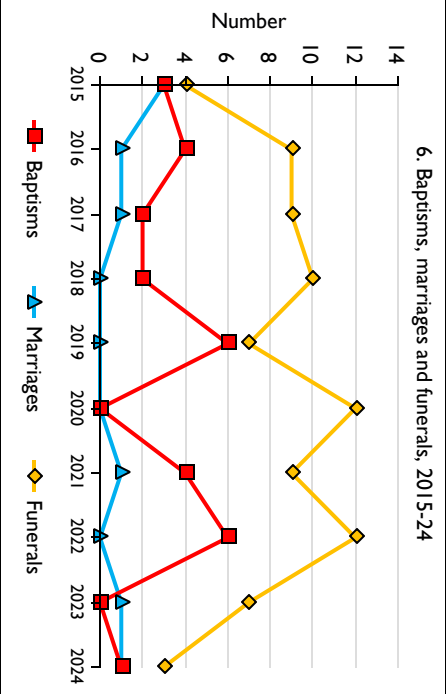
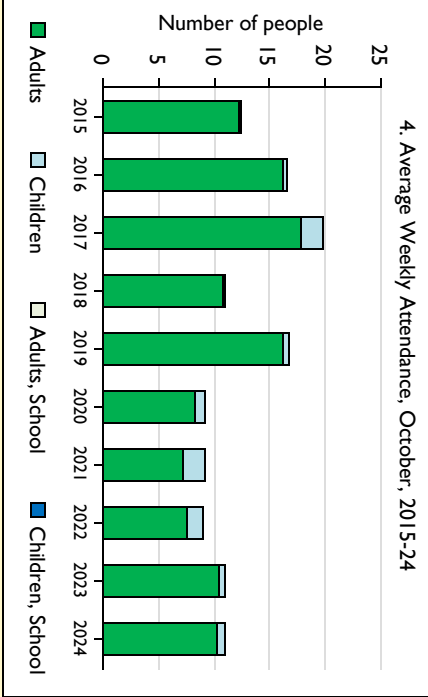
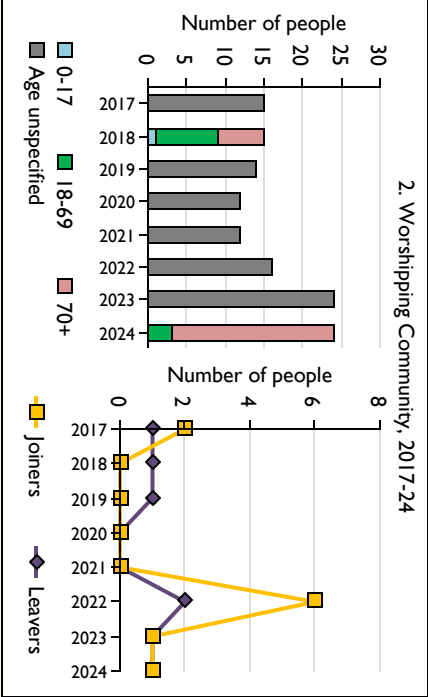
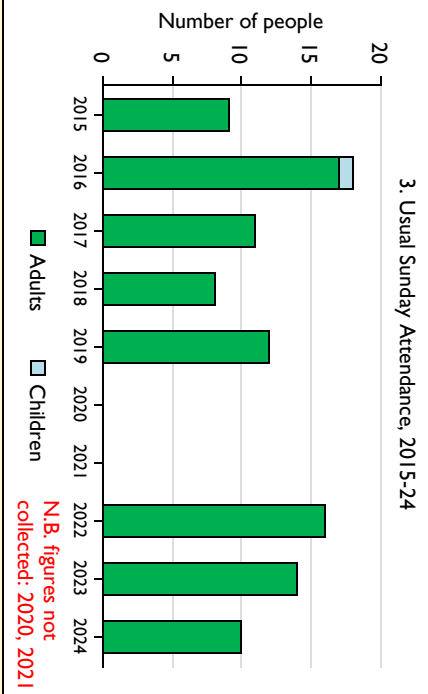
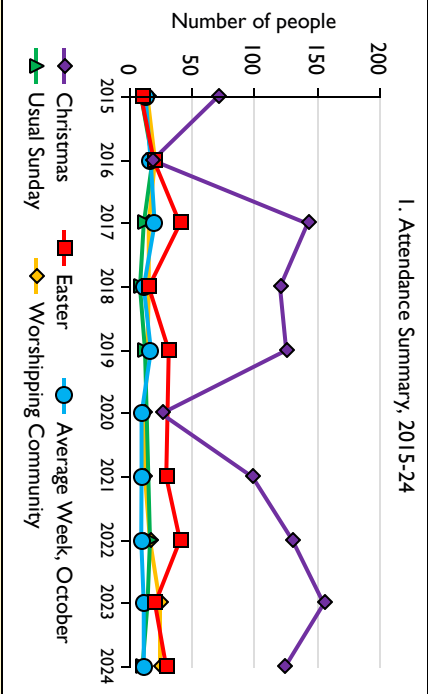
Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Ault Hucknall: St John The Baptist in the Deanery of Hardwick



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2024)
Parish: 3.17
Diocese: 15.88

Notes & definitions
This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.
Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.
Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.
Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.
Graph 4: **Total income** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.
Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.
Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.
Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.
Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.
For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1
Parish code: 120050



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 1721

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	20%	22%	23%
% aged 20-44	25%	30%	33%
% aged 45-69	37%	33%	31%
% aged 70 & over	18%	15%	14%
% Christian	52%	46%	46%
% non-Christian religion	1%	6%	11%

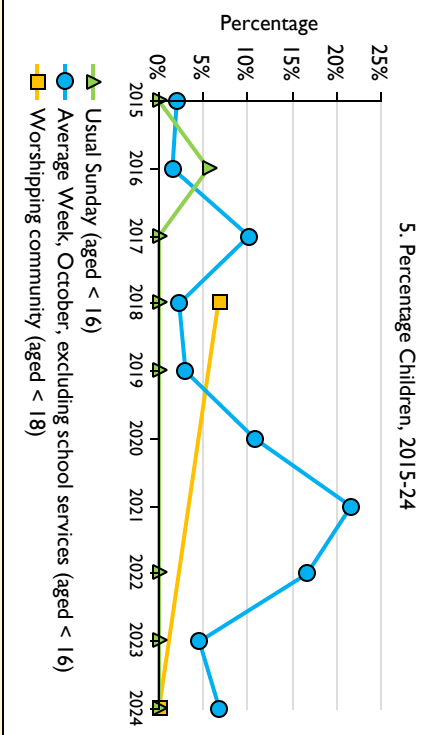
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 2410

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,161=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see [https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/ and https://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/](https://larcgis11wzgb0https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/ and https://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/)

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish Code: 120073



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Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Scarcliffe: St Leonard in the Deanery of Hardwick

