



St Mark's  
Woodthorpe

---

Journeying together in Faith

# Annual Reports

## 2024

## **Aims and Purposes**

St Mark's Woodthorpe seeks to be a heart for the community. As the only church in the parish, we desire to provide pastoral care, a social space and the opportunity to explore faith, both within and beyond the parish boundary, working ecumenically and holistically with a range of faith and non-faith based organisations.

## **Objectives and Activities**

We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

As an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our aims and purposes are focussed around, although not wholly limited to:

- Discipleship and pastoral care
- Community engagement
- Children and Young People

## Churchwarden's Introduction

Dear friends,

Just year ago, at last year's APCM at the end of April, little did I realise what God had got in store for St Mark's and myself. The months came and went in frightening speed and regularity. It wasn't until the beginning of December that Matt, our vicar, announced that he and his family would be moving on to fresh pastures in Bramcote.

So, when I look back at what Matt has written in a previous Introduction, I should have taken more notice of what he said! He quotes a passage from Numbers in the Old Testament which translates as the following:

'The passage speaks to us about dependence on God. The scripture reminds us not to rush ahead without God's leading, but it also reminds us not to stay put when God is calling us forwards'.

In no way am I suggesting that you all follow Matt's lead and move away from St Mark's! In fact, entirely the opposite as many of you have listened to God and stepped up in all sorts of ways to support your church before and during the vacancy.

Matt has left us after nine years of dedicated ministry. He leaves a team of strong and committed leaders who have been empowered to take responsibility. They are more than capable of caring for the needs of everyone during the vacancy, ready to embrace and support the next phase of our growth under the new minister.

The PCC is being supported by the diocese in the process of finding a new vicar. The season is ripe for this to happen in the short term, especially as we are a mission church with a strong ethos and supporting team. After all, we are so attuned to 'Journeying Together in Faith', embracing our strap line of 'All welcome, All involved, All sent'.

As it says in Proverbs 3:5, 'Lean on, trust and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight and understanding'. Trusting God will keep you from reasoning and trying to figure out things you don't have answers for yet. David declared, 'My health may fail, and my spirit grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart....how good it is to be near God. Where is God when you need Him most? Right beside you!'

Finally, never did I think a year on that I would be writing the Vicar's Introduction for the APCM 2025. After all, I had finished my stint as churchwarden, but little did I know that God had other ideas for me. Rest assured, God has given me the strength and good health to continue to serve Him at St Mark's until others listen to God's calling and take a step of faith to become the next churchwardens for the new vicar.

May God bless you and keep you safely in His hands!

*Bryan Mallows*



## Appointment of Officers

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>PCC Vice-Chair</b>                      | Janet Tyers   |
| <b>Secretary</b>                           | Ann Gorman    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                           | Jackie Carey  |
| <b>Insurance</b>                           | Bryan Mallows |
| <b>Electoral Roll</b>                      | Ann Gorman    |
| <b>Gift Aid Treasurer</b>                  | Howard Lea    |
| <b>Cashier</b>                             | Howard Lea    |
| <b>Health &amp; Fire Safety Officer</b>    | Ron Myers     |
| <b>Safeguarding and DBS Administration</b> | Pat Simpson   |
| <b>Gedling Deanery Synod</b>               | Peter Fisher  |

## Appointments to Sub-Committees

|                               | Chair           | PCC members  | Other members   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>Fabric</b>                 | Mark Wilkinson  | Tom Bird<br>Pat Fenton<br>Alan Stuart<br>Janet Tyers | Steve Leek  |
| <b>Mission</b>                | Gary Ditchfield | Alan Stuart<br>Kerri Ditchfield                      | Paul Day                  Simon Court<br>Guy Mather                Jane Court<br>Jenny Duncombe |
| <b>Church Hall Management</b> | Bryan Mallows   | Tom Bird<br>Janet Tyers                              | Jane Danvers<br>Ann Gorman<br>Vicki Hardy   |
| <b>Standing</b>               | Matt Roberts    | Mark Wilkinson<br>Janet Tyers<br>Jackie Carey        | Ann Gorman  |

## Church Attendance and Other Statistics

The statistics for 2024 are in the same format as for 2023 and are as quoted in the 'Statistics for Mission' Annual Return sent to the Diocese. The figures in brackets show the difference from the previous year.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday (that is one excluding major Christian Festivals and services which attract large number of visitors) is **86.4** adults **(-0.1)** and **14.2** children **(+0.2)** (all Sunday services).

The total number attending worship on Easter Day and was **125** adults **(-4)** and **16** children **(-5)**, the number of communicants was **109 (+1)**.

The total number attending church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was **439 (-1)**, the number of communicants was **0**.

During 2024 there were a total of **1** Baptism **(-3)**, this **1** was under 1 year of age **(-1)**. There was **0** weddings **(No change)** in 2024 and **6** funeral **(+3)** in church for the whole of the year.

At the APCM 2024 there were **126 (+5)** names on the Electoral Roll.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is a priority at St Mark's.

We are committed to following the principles of the House of Bishop's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults.

Our aim to ensure that children and adults are kept safe whilst in our care, whether in church, or meeting on-line, and this is an integral part of our church life. We endeavor to do this through good working practice, including the safe recruitment of workers, as laid out in our C&YP and Adults Policies and Procedures, copies of which are on display on the Church Noticeboard or can be obtained from the Church Office.

All Church Officers, Employed Staff and Volunteers are required to have a DBS, if appropriate, and to keep up to date with the required safeguarding training as set out by Southwell Diocese.

We also have procedures in place to ensure that all users and hirers of our Church and Church Hall Premises adhere to the same principles regarding safeguarding.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each of our PCC meetings and is reviewed regularly by the PCC.

If you wish to speak to somebody about safeguarding, please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator, Pat Simpson, via the Church Office on 0115 9267859.

## **Gedling Deanery Synod Report**

Synod met three times this year, with a change of format with an emphasis on fellowship and worship. We now gather for pudding and praise, followed by a discussion exploring one of the Growing Disciples focal points, before a brief business update to close.

We have been visited by diocesan Chief Exec, Martin Cooper to discuss Encouraging Generosity, and Peter Huxtable Bishop's Advisor for Urban and Estates Mission sharing the work being done in the Woven group of churches. After each General Synod, Ian Boothroyd circulates a report and attends to answer any questions and share his experience as one of our representatives.

Everyone is welcome to come to Deanery Synod, so do extend the invitation in your churches. Of course, only elected representatives will be able to vote should there be a business matter. Chris Childs continues as Lay Chair, supported by Peter Fisher and Kathy Hogan.

Churches in vacancy- Netherfield, Carlton, Colwick, Lambley, Gedling and Arnold continue in vacancy. Our churches in vacancy have continued their commitment to church life, with support from retired clergy and hardworking lay teams. In 2024 we began regular wardens' meetings and joint services to support churches in vacancy.

Readers and retired clergy ministering in the deanery were invited to afternoon tea, as a thank you for their service. It was a warm and friendly occasion held at St Wilfrid's Calverton. Our Ascension service was hosted by All Hallow's Gedling, and our confirmation service at St James' Porchester where 8 candidates were confirmed by Bishop Paul.

## **Fabric Report**

Current Committee: Tom Bird (Chair), Pat Fenton, Steve Leek, John Sargent and Alan Stuart

It has been a relatively busy, but fruitful year for your Fabric Committee. Sadly however, a couple of members have had to step down. Thank you to Mark Wilkinson for chairing the committee between May and December, we wish him and Jane all the very best for when they finally set off on their new venture in Cornwall. Janet Tyers left the church during 2024 but thankfully John Sargent, who chaired the committee between January and April, was willing to step in to replace her.

There have been three main projects that the committee has overseen during the last year, these are:

### **Replacing windows in the Nave**

An appeal was launched by Matt Roberts to raise funds to replace the very tired and draughty windows in the Nave. Thanks must be recorded to all the Church community who supported the appeal, it is very much appreciated. The faculty process was somewhat long and protracted due to our desire to install UPVC framed windows but due to the persistence of John Sargent we got the faculty agreed, without it

we would not have been able to move forward. Thank you to John for all his efforts. Based on price, Mark Wilkinson was engaged to carry out the work, which is planned to be carried out in early 2025.

### **Upgrading the AV System**

It has been recognised for some time that the projector is beginning to fail so the Fabric committee, along with the support of Steve Sheppard, have been looking at the best way forward to not only replace the projector but to enhance the viewing experience for all the Church community and to future proof as best we can. This has been a slow process, with many discussions between ourselves so that we can agree on a clear way forward. We have approached a number of suppliers who have had their own thoughts about how we should proceed, which to a certain extent, has hampered the decision making process at a technical level. However, we believe we are close to finalising the details. Once the spec is complete, we can then request like for like quotes before going through the Faculty process.

It is hoped that during 2025 we will be in a position to make big strides forward.

Whilst Steve Sheppard is not part of the Fabric Committee, Matt Roberts asked him whether he would support a core team from the Committee to work on the project. Over the months Steve has put a huge amount of time and effort into this project, so we wish to record our thanks to him for all his work and the ongoing support he is willing to give.

### **Roof Repairs**

There has been a leak in the roof above the Chancel. After some detailed exploring it was identified that two valleys were leaking. After approaching three companies Academe Roofing, who we have used in the past, was appointed to affect the repairs. This is planned to be carried out in early 2025.

### **Other smaller projects:**

**Church front door locks** - Due the failure of one of the mortice locks in the main front door, it was decided to replace both locks with more up to date and user friendly Euro locks.

**Kerbstones** - After a nasty trip injury was sustained by a member of the church, it was recognised that the kerbstones either side of the ramp from the car park to front door were a trip hazard. To try to avoid further injury it was proposed that the kerbstones be painted white.

**Church Bell** - The bell is currently being rung at both services and after an issue with the bell rope coming off the bell wheel, we recognised that it had not been serviced for some considerable time. We have approached Taylors Bells of Loughborough, who installed the bell with the Church was built, to come and service it. We are waiting for a date for this to be done.

**Gas Meter consolidation** - The Church and Church office have been served by separate gas meters, but it was recognised that both areas of the church could be run from one meter. Cadent were engaged to remove the smaller of the two meters. Whilst expense was incurred to do the work, it does mean we only pay one standing charge now rather than two, so in the long term we will hopefully save money.

**Grounds Maintenance** - During 2024 our longstanding gardener, Mark Williams, announced that he was taking some six months off, which could have left us in a difficult position due to the amount of work that needs to be done. However, thanks to Bryan Mallows, we secured the services of Chris Radford, who has proved to be a really hardworking and willing groundsman we can rely on, often going the extra mile to keep the grounds as tidy as they can be.

The above are the main items dealt with during the last year, but there have been a number of other minor things that we have overseen to keep the fabric of the church as spick and span as possible. Thank you to all the members of the committee for their support and hard work over the last year, which often goes unseen and unthanked. God willing, we will be able to do more good works in the coming year.

*Tom Bird (Chair)*

# Church Hall Annual Report

## Introduction

The Church Hall has continued to flourish in 2024, providing a wealth of opportunities for a variety of activities, seven days a week. A hard core of groups have remained with us, whilst others come and go according to the volume of clients they can attract. Rising costs of energy and maintenance can inevitably lead to higher charges. However, we have resisted this to a large extent, except for parties. It is planned to extend this to other hirers from January 2025. As you can see from the photographs below, the building is very versatile, offering excellent off-road parking and a range of internal facilities to suit different activities and group sizes.



## User profile

The range of activities has fluctuated as mentioned above, but a typical week may well look like this:

- Sunday** Children's church groups (**CYM**) in the morning, using all the smaller rooms.  
**Birthday/celebration parties** in the afternoon using large/small halls.  
Older youth group (**Edge**) in the evening using various rooms.
- Monday** **Baby & Toddler Music & Movement** all morning in the small hall.  
**Inspire Adult Learning** all morning in the garden room  
**KS Dance Academy** late afternoon/evening in the large and small halls.
- Tuesday** **Zumba** in the evening for ladies in the large hall.  
**Cookstars** in the kitchen late afternoon (terminated in the summer).
- Wednesday** **KS Dance Academy** late afternoon in the large/small halls.
- Thursday** **Tiny Talk** all morning in the small hall.  
**Woodthorpe Brownies** early evening in the large hall.
- Friday** **Woodthorpe Beaver Scouts** early evening in the large/small halls.
- Saturday** **Kick Boxing** morning only in the large hall (terminated December 2024)  
**Birthday/celebration parties** afternoon/early evening in large/small halls.  
**Rainbows** or **Mini First Aid** mornings only in the small hall.

Occasional activities throughout the year include **Thursday Club** (Senior Citizens monthly), **Gedling BC elections**, **Christian Alpha course**, **Funeral wakes** (weekdays only).

Some activities are held in the church building because the church hall is already booked, such as **Woodthorpe Singers** and additional **Zumba HITT classes**.

## Maintenance

Improvements have been made to the building, including the installation of double-glazed windows to the large hall and men's/ladies' toilets. Automatic lighting is now installed in both the men's and ladies' toilets as well. Thanks to **Elaine Cuthill** for maintaining cleaning to a high level and **Steve Leek/Tom Bird** for dealing with occasional maintenance issues.

## Conclusion

As always, any organisation cannot function efficiently without excellent administration. Many thanks to **Ann Gorman** in the church office who works Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thanks to **Tom Bird**, **Jane Danvers** and **Ann Gorman** for supporting the work of this committee.

*Bryan Mallows – Church Hall Manager*



## Mission Committee

### Overseas Mission

Overseas Mission has sat at the heart of our thoughts and activity during the past 12 months. In particular, strengthening our relationship with the Anglican Church in Burundi, specifically Bujumbura Diocese, has been our focus. This coincides with the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this special relationship between our churches.

This relationship was marked in October 2024 with a special service of celebration with a sermon delivered by Bishop Paul Butler, former Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham and long-standing supporter of the church in Burundi. A fund-raising appeal was launched on this occasion which resulted in £4732 being gifted to the Anglican Church of Burundi in order to purchase doors and windows for the school in Buterere sub-parish.

A further important overseas link enjoyed by St Marks Woodthorpe is with our Church Mission Society partners in Guatemala, Azaria Spencer De Pocasangre and her husband David. We continue to support Azaria and David in prayer, friendship and financially in their work supporting vulnerable children and families.

### The Vacancy and the future

In February 2025, St Marks commenced a period of vacancy as our vicar, Rev Matt Roberts followed a calling to Bramcote, Nottingham. The PCC will remain focussed on recruiting a vicar with a strong heart for mission, including overseas mission.

Strengthening relationships with Burundi and CMS partners is a priority. We seek to follow up on the progress of works at Buterere school as well as identify a focus for our 2025 fund raising appeal. Talks have commenced to discuss visits to or from Burundi during the anniversary year to further enhance mutual understanding and fellowship between our communities.

We look forward to welcoming Azaria and David to our church in July where we can celebrate and consolidate our relationship and support for CMS. As a church, we hope to learn more of the work that is taking place in Guatemala and how we may best support this.

In addition to this, discerning God's calling for local missional projects is an area for prayer, thought and conversation. Loving our neighbours in Woodthorpe and Nottingham is an important part of how we seek to live out our faith and the mission committee will be intentional in developing this ministry.

Finally, our calling to love and protect God's creation is seen as missional activity and exploring how we can develop this as a church is very much part of building and protecting the Kingdom here in Woodthorpe.

## **Children's and Youth Ministry (CYM)**

At the beginning of 2024 I outlined that the CYM vision for the year was to launch three new initiatives. Firstly, the return of the Good Friday Treasure hunt which hadn't occurred since the Covid pandemic. At this event on Good Friday 2024 we had over 30 families attending. Secondly, starting a Youth Café for young people in years 6 and 7. This began after the Easter holidays on a Wednesday afternoon. Initially uptake was slow and numbers were low, however, since September 2024, we have rarely had less than 18 young people attending and on the last one in December had 23 young people which is the record in 2024. Thirdly, launch a holiday club in October half term which had 14 young people attending over the 3 days for "A Journey to Narnia".

Also in 2024, I took over the running of Refresh Café, our toddler group, from Naomi Burton. I would like to thank her for her diligence and hard work in setting up and leading Refresh Café for the last few years. Refresh Café has continued in much the same vein as before in 2024, with between 30 and 40 families attending most weeks (40 being the limit of sign-ups). We continue to focus on refreshing and restoring the adults as well as providing a safe space to play and grow for the children who attend.

There were no major changes to our Sunday morning/evening groups over 2024 and they run in a similar vein to the way they have been in the past. Our regular attendance is approximately 15-20 young people across morning and evening groups. Edge ran an Afternoon Tea for older members of the community in December 2024 as they did in November 2023, which was very well received by everyone invited, and this year included a performance by Voice.

As in 2022 and 2023, in November 2024 we took some young people to the Oakes Sheffield with St Martin's Sherwood and St Nic's Nottingham. This was a great time again for the young people who joined us, a time of both fellowship, fun and spiritual teaching. We have booked to do this again in November 2025.

Before I speak about the plans for 2025, I would like to highlight the amazing volunteers that we have in the CYM at St Mark's. There are of course always gaps that need filling so we always need more volunteers, however at the end of 2024 we had 45 helpers across the various CYM activities, which is absolutely amazing, and I would like to thank each and every one for their hard work, as without them, quite literally, the CYM at St Mark's wouldn't happen.

Looking forward to 2025, the vision for CYM has shifted somewhat. This year the focus is not to start any new outreach initiatives but rather to continue/repeat the three that we began last year. The call is also to have a focus on discipleship, the first step of which was the commitment to read through Luke during advent and I will be planning a similar initiative for Lent. Also, part of this is an aim to run Youth Alpha later in the year as a way of inviting Youth Café attendees, and anyone else, to explore faith more deeply. There will also be a re-imagining of Edge and Sunday evening youth work as we reach a point where a large number of the members will have moved on to Uni or other places by August 2025.

*Tim Ball - Children's and Youth Minister*

### **Thursday Club**

The group is primarily aimed at Senior Citizens and continues to grow and flourish. Adults attending come from the wider community, not just those who attend St Mark's church. The group meets on a monthly basis, generally on the third Thursday of the month in the afternoon at 2.30p.m. unless otherwise advised. The majority of meetings are held in the Church Hall, but more performance-based entertainment is in the church building. Attendances are variable, but generally in excess of forty is the norm. Hot drinks on arrival are followed by some form of entertainment, with tea/coffee and cakes afterwards providing a vibrant social opportunity.

Our 2024 meetings as always offered varied forms of entertainment, often welcoming back previous providers who have delighted our audience. We started the year with a fascinating illustrated talk on the 'History of the BBC' given by Dave Andrews, an ex-Radio Leicester presenter. During the year, other subjects covered by speakers included the experiences of a retired auctioneer, a history lesson on the Wars of the Roses and one of our own club members giving us a photographic glimpse of 'Nottingham Then and Now'. Other events interspersed through the year included a Fish and Chip Lunch, delivered fresh from Sea and Earth on Thackerays Lane. Our March meeting is always dedicated to a different charity each year, so Age UK Nottingham was chosen which included a talk on Scams Prevention. We had several musical forms of entertainment, ranging from a Saturday night concert by The Songbirds, to a karaoke-style 60's afternoon with Steve, a summer garden party with a musical duo and regular visitors, the Stanza Singers. We rounded off the year at Ramsdale Golf Club for an excellent Christmas Lunch, enjoyed by 66 guests.

Below are some examples of the activities mentioned above:



it has been very encouraging for the dedicated team of helpers to serve the needs of so many regular visitors, but 2024 was a particularly sad year. The following members passed away:

Eric Mottram                      Shirley Watts                      Maureen Bowley                      Rev. Stan Carter                      Maureen Ife  
Sylvia Offler                      Sheila Gretton

We have very fond memories of them all and will treasure the times we shared together.

We make a small charge of £5 per regular meeting to cover the costs entertainment and refreshments. 10% of the income and the proceeds of the Christmas Lunch raffle are donated to the Arnold Foodbank. At the year end, the club also makes a contribution from its funds to the heating and lighting costs of the church.

We always welcome new members. I would encourage anyone reading this report to forward the names and contact details of anyone who might benefit from belonging to a group such as the St Mark's Thursday Club. Our excellent team will offer a friendly welcome and provide much needed social interaction with other Senior Citizens.

Further details can be found on the church website or by contacting Bryan Mallows:

[bryan.mallows@ntlworld.com](mailto:bryan.mallows@ntlworld.com) or 07884 062337

### **Dove House**

During 2024, St Mark's Church continued to work with Hope into Action in supporting the tenants in Dove House. It began with a challenging time as although the house had two tenants, only one was living in the house. This tenant became less cooperative with the Hope into Action support worker and broke contact with the church befrienders as well. She was only on a short contract and eventually in July she moved out into council accommodation. The other tenant had also officially moved out by this stage and a new tenant moved in with her daughter overlapping with the other one by three weeks.

Following the move, some repair work needed to be done by Hope into Action before a new tenant could be moved in. There was a gap until a new tenant and her eight month old daughter moved into the house in December.

It has been quite difficult to support the tenants. Our small team of volunteers try to keep regular contact by phone, with visits to the house and in supporting them by going to groups or appointments with them as appropriate. A few volunteers from church also helped with some essential garden maintenance.

A big thank you to everyone involved with this project. Ongoing prayer support is essential as we continue to show God's love and grace in this ministry.

*Linda Sheppard*

### **Home Groups**

We have six Home Groups, four meet weekly in the evening and two meet fortnightly during the afternoon. The numbers in each group vary but there are a total of 59 Home Group members. Each group decides what they will study although sometimes there are notes which accompany the Sunday sermon, which are then available for all groups to use if they wish.

The groups provide fellowship, support and deeper friendships as well as the opportunity to worship and learn together. If anyone is not currently in a group but would like to be, please contact Pat Fenton for a chat about which group might suit you best.

### **Open Church**

The church is a "Warm Space" and is always open on Monday mornings from 10-12 noon to church members and the wider community for tea and coffee (and often birthday cake!) in the coffee bar area. All are welcome to drop by and see for themselves and enjoy a drink on their way past.

People gather to chat, catch up or discuss anything that has cropped up relating to practical tasks being carried out or needing to be done. Some people just pop in, others stay longer and some stay on for the songs of praise around the piano for the last half hour. This has developed into a time of real fellowship among those who stay for this.

Attendance is around an average of 20 people, with many regular attendees.

June's early organ practise time has become a weekly feature and is an added bonus, much appreciated by those who come early enough.

This year for the first time, the folk at Open Church helped to make the Christingles for the two Christmas services under the instruction and watchful eye of Sheila Baguley and help from Tim Ball, the Youth Worker.

To round the year off, a time of singing favourite carols was arranged followed by a lovely Christmas buffet for anyone who came.

When Jules Johnston, the church Ordinand moved away to be Curate down in Devon, she was very much missed as she had become a good friend to many at Open Church. Many have since visited and still keep in touch.

Huge thanks to Gillian for faithfully opening up each week, to those who help in any way with getting tables and chairs out, coffee bar rota people and to everyone who contributes in any way to enable Open Church to thrive as it does. Thank you!

*Diana Mallows*



### **“Julian” Prayer Meeting**

These are silent prayer meetings held in church on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and lasting 30 minutes. This is time between those who come and God in a prayerful atmosphere. We start with a short reading and then enter 30 minutes of silence, ending with some music and the Grace. As this is personal prayer, we do not share what we have prayed about or anything we may have received from the Lord.

Silence is essential so we encourage people to be there for a prompt start and refreshments are available afterwards. These are Ecumenical meetings, so everyone is welcome to come to these and we usually have around 15 at the meetings.

## Men@stmarks

St. Mark's has a group specifically for the men in our parish.

We meet at 9am on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast at a local eatery and usually get around 15/18 men coming along.

We are hoping to add other meetings throughout the year and all of our events are on our web site and our Facebook page 'men@stmarks'

For more information contact Alan at [menatstmarks@virginmedia.com](mailto:menatstmarks@virginmedia.com)



## Reloved

Over the last year, Reloved celebrated its 10th birthday in October 2024 and we continue to be astonished with our achievements. We celebrated by having lunch with Team members past and present and our regular helpers. We even had our sale opened by the local Mayor!

In October 2024 we had 41 sellers with 184 buyers making a total of £930.00 for our charities St Mark's CYM and Angel Tree each getting half the amount.

In March 2025 we had 47 sellers with 142 buyers making a total of £858.00 for our charities St Mark's CYM & Safer Families each getting half the amount.

## Voice

Voice has continued serving young people from Woodthorpe and beyond over the last year, providing a safe space for young people to meet, belong, express and explore faith in God. We meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in St Mark's Church, serving around 10 young people, playing games, learning and rehearsing worship music and reflecting on how they can teach and shape our lives. It has been a place of connection, laughter and strength as the young people have deepened their friendships together and relationship with God. Alongside this, we have continued our mentoring programme – supporting our young people through a 1:1 setting, providing a space to talk, support and explore their bigger questions of faith. Over the last year, we have enjoyed learning new music, sharing musical joy at Christmas to local care homes and at Afternoon Tea outreach at St Mark's Church, as well as numerous socials where we've been able to have lots of fun together.

This has been the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Voice, and after much prayer and consideration, we feel that the time has come to finish Voice's ministry in Nottingham. We have loved being able to work alongside St Mark's Church, serving children and young people in the area and we are so grateful for all the ways that you have supported our small charity. Our last session will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, finishing at the end of the academic year. We are excited and expectant of where God will lead you in this new season, and we wish you all the best for the future.

*Beth Bevan*