

## REFLECTIONS – our SWOT analysis of the Fosse Group

Key: C: Car Colston; E: East Bridgford; F: Flintham; K: Kneeton; S: Screveton

| STRENGTHS  | WEAKNESSES  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>For all churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well maintained and welcoming Grade I and Grade II churches all with features of historic interest.</li> <li>Caring communities.</li> <li>Whilst the congregations are small, communities and dedicated teams of volunteers are willing to support their churches with donations, fundraising and church/churchyard maintenance and support.</li> <li>Well established and friendly collaboration across the Group.</li> <li>Willingness to embrace a pattern of worship and dedicated services aimed at attracting families and children</li> <li>Goodwill towards the church from non-church members.</li> <li>Local availability of excellent Primary (East Bridgford &amp; Flintham) and secondary (Toot Hill, Bingham) schools.</li> <li>Strong links with other community groups – see 'Our Churches' section for examples.</li> <li>Participation in village and church events, e.g. (Ride &amp; Stride, Open Churches, Churches History Project).</li> <li>Ongoing financial support <b>through planned giving</b>.</li> <li>Refreshments offered after services for informal social fellowship.</li> <li>Open minded and open to change.</li> <li>Up-to-date website (<a href="http://www.fossegroup.org.uk/">http://www.fossegroup.org.uk/</a>).</li> </ul> <p><b>For individual churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The support of the Patron in fundraising and maintenance of the church (F, K).</li> <li>Wide representation of people of different age groups across the different services (E).</li> <li>Choral tradition (E)</li> </ul> | <p><b>For all churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age profile of the congregation –lack of families and young people in principal services.</li> <li>Services not attractive enough to young families and lack guidance on how this is best achieved</li> <li>Not converting willing helpers into regular churchgoers</li> <li>The usual points of contact baptism, confirmation, marriage and bereavement do not necessarily lead to continued churchgoing</li> <li>Continuing annual financial deficits.</li> <li>Lack of succession planning for PCC membership and development.</li> </ul> <p><b>For individual churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small and ageing population in the village (C,K,S)</li> <li>Disabled and infirm access to church is poor (F)</li> <li>Fairly isolated community as no bus route (K)</li> <li>Church building too small for large public events; lack of water and therefore kitchen/ toilet facilities (K)</li> </ul> |
| OPPORTUNITIES  | THREATS   |
| <p><b>For all churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage a diverse membership of future new PCCs.</li> <li>Village populations are growing with housing developments.</li> <li>Re-establish the position of the churches in their communities.</li> <li>Further development of links with local schools.</li> <li>Build links with Scout and Guide related organisations and develop further the links with other community organisations.</li> <li>Diversify use of churches e.g. as concert venues to attract members of the community outside the churches so that it becomes more inclusive.</li> <li>Use of technology and social media in worship.</li> <li>Develop communications/promotion/marketing of churches to communities, especially to new residents.</li> <li>Encourage house and learning groups.</li> <li>Launch new planned giving campaigns.</li> <li>Development of strong links between all churches and parishes of the Group.</li> <li>Development of the talents of individuals and develop the lay involvement in the ministry of the church.</li> <li>Develop the support of those in the community with a range of professional skills.</li> <li>Develop a wider range of services attractive to young families.</li> <li>Revitalise a system for identifying and dealing with pastoral needs.</li> <li>Develop a variety of ways in which people can grow in their faith.</li> <li>Support and extend the musical heritage of the churches.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>For all churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of interest and disillusionment with the Church of England.</li> <li>Age profile of the congregation</li> <li>Low income of churches in relation to expenditure.</li> <li>Reluctance of communities to engage in worship activities and therefore low congregation numbers.</li> <li>Alienation of existing congregations in the process of growing disciples.</li> <li>Lack of volunteers from the next generation willing to take on church responsibilities</li> <li>Complacency.</li> </ul> <p><b>For individual churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors that limit wider use of the church as a community venue:</li> <li>Lack of disabled and infirm access (F) and facilities in church (toilet / kitchen) (F,K,S).</li> <li>Potential closure - with ageing congregation and lack of younger people – diminishing congregation (K,S)</li> </ul>  |