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1 VICARS REPORT

Thank You

I have the benefit and privilege of seeing and reading much of this Report before needing to enter my own contribution. With that great benefit I warmly and thoroughly encourage this Report to you, not solely for what it contains of the year 2022, but for all that it says of you and we together.

It is no accident nor misrepresentation that 'Thank You' is said so many times _ nor that I began this page with those same words. I reiterate and endorse them all here.

It is no irrelevance that there are so many names at the foot of so many reports, nor that so very many more are thanked within those reports; and I thank each who has written and led, and all those who herein are recognised and thanked, and if I may I do so on behalf of each and all of us, and very many more besides.

We could do a footfall count of those who have entered the church premises within these twelve months, and I nearly did so; but you as well as I, already know that will be a vast number, but will it tell us anything? Whilst for generations some would have us believe that the Church (or at least the CofE) is a dying irrelevance, we know it is not so. Of course we can live without it, but that is not why we are here nor why the Church exists. We're here because of God.

This Report proclaims and records an emergence, as the restrictions of pandemic lockdowns gradually fell away, and, rather more gradually, so did their effects and long, long shadows. This will still take time and, as has often been said, we can't look to see ourselves back on the path we 'were' on, we look instead to see the path which we Are on. Read the pages here, hear the thank yous, realise how many they address and how often they mean you: and see the scale of the path we are on, happening all around you. We're here with God.

Yes there are key needs for more people in all walks of our life, as well as in the widest community. Yes we have very severe financial challenges, ones which have been building across at least the last 12 years in which as a Church we've been 'living at a loss' year-on-year, but which now through Covid and worldwide financial crises are on our doorstep in a way they perhaps have never been before, or certainly not since the sale of properties brought the Reserves we've enjoyed for the past several decades. Yes there is also great anxiety in the world, fear of international politics and war, fear of financial instability, none of that carefree freedom we may perhaps remember we so freely enjoyed. But -

- I warmly and thoroughly, deliberately and intentionally encourage the pages of this Report to you. To read. To receive. To know that this is not only true around you, but also for you, and because of you; and that this is no little thing. No mean feat. No inconsequential occurrence. There is a great deal of truth in these pages, and of lives freely given and shared. I'm tempted to pick out individual phrases, but I think it better to leave you to discover them, just as I could of course not pick out any particular individuals - because very very truly it is about all of us, and God. That is why, to you, to God, I and these pages say _

Thank you.

Revd Matthew Evans

2 WORSHIP & LEARNING

2.1 Baptism Group

Baptisms at Christ Church continue to thrive with a regular monthly slot for families to join the service on a Sunday at 12 noon. The baptism team covered over 20 baptisms with members supporting the meet and greet, handing out hymn books and tidying up at the end. Team members have dropped for various reasons and an advert to recruit additional members has been put forward for 2023. Typically, each service requires at least 2 members of the baptism team. We have been fortunate to be supported also by the church wardens. Looking forward we want to reinstate the separate meeting with families on the 3rd Sunday of every month after the service which will help to promote engagement and familiarity ahead of the baptism service. This opportunity will provide families to speak to Matthew, take refreshments, meet members of the baptism team and choose hymns.

Amanda Perry

2.2 Junior Church

Junior Church began 2022 in 'enforced lockdown' with families being able to access services via Zoom.

After consultation with leaders and PCC it was agreed that the relaunch of Junior Church would take place on Sunday March 13th 2022. The relaunch had to meet the need for a restructuring as we responded to different times, with Junior Church now working in conjunction with the Creche across four groups: with the Creche and Reception children working together; Year 1 and 2; Years 3, 4, and 5; and the older group consisting of years 6-9. The new pattern of our time together also meant more time in age appropriate groups and a gathering just before returning to Church to prepare ourselves for Communion.

As the year progressed we have seen Junior Church grow and the new pattern embedded thanks to the dedication of all the Leaders, Assistants and support of Mike and Bev Aspin holding together the administration. With confidence growing it has allowed for us to reintroduce social and charitable events with three cake stalls and two tombolas raising money for Frank's Fund, Open Arms Malawi and Christ Church. The Summer Party allowed for friendships to be developed and the Christmas Party offered outreach after the Family Carol Service.

Many people have offered their services to make this relaunch happen and we are very grateful to each one for the huge contribution they have made.

Alison Evans, Junior Church Team Member

2.3 Choir and Music

In 2022 we were pleased to be able to revert back to more of our usual choir and music activities, continuing the gradual relaxations of restrictions following the pandemic. We have had a small but talented group of choir singers who regularly sang at the 10 am Sunday service and also at extra services and weddings during the year. If you are a keen singer and would like to join us, please let me know!

On Good Friday we sang at Christ Church as usual in the afternoon, and then went to St. John's Bilton to join their choir in singing music from Hansel's Messiah, with soloists from both choirs (well done to Alastair and Louise). We were delighted to welcome St. John's Choir back to Christ Church for a joint evensong service in the summer.

In March Harrogate Music Festival was once again in full swing, and many congratulations to Bethany on winning the Chorister Class - quite a feat, as this was a big class with many entrants! Congratulations too to Ava on passing her RSCM Silver Award chorister exam in June - once again this took place over Zoom but quite successfully, with no technical hiccups!

Christmas is always our busiest time, and we were pleased to welcome back some more singers to the Advent and Traditional Carol Services, and the Christmas services, learning some new music in the process. We also sang carols at the Old Swan Hotel on Christmas Eve, a tradition we have maintained for many years.

On first Sundays the choir once again joined the music group to accompany the Family Service, and we were pleased to welcome back instrumentalists of all ages on flute, trumpet, trombone and drums. I had been thinking for some time about getting more children involved in singing, and towards the end of the year established a new Junior Choir at church. The group now meets on these first Sundays to sing with the main choir and music group, including learning one hymn to sing by themselves. Junior Choir also sang a carol in the Traditional Carol Service - they have done really well and have been much appreciated by the congregation! A big thank you to all the musicians who have contributed towards music at Christ Church throughout the year.

We were delighted to reinstate the monthly Wednesday lunchtime recitals in May 2022, with performances on piano, organ, singing, recorders and guitar. Thank you to all the performers and also to John and Denise on once again providing lunch for us afterwards.

Christine Alp

2.4 Sacristan and Serving Team

2022 saw the continuing return to pre-Covid practices at our communion services with the gradual reintroduction of the various liturgical elements that aid efficiency at the altar and focus during worship. The major festivals of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter dawn, Ascension Day and Christmas were all supported with an MC, Crucifer, Acolytes and, where appropriate, Thurifer (incense); all eucharistic services were supported by an MC and in the latter half of the year, a Crucifer too. It was not possible to reintroduce acolytes at all services this year due to continuing measures to minimise people in close proximity and the need to re-establish a team of Servers.

Following dialogue with the Bishop's Office the training of Lay Eucharistic Ministers at Christ Church was reintroduced in July (provided by Paul & Elizabeth) and a core team of ten people have been licensed to administer the chalice or support the current practice of intinction. These training sessions will continue into 2023 to grow the team further.

Looking forwards, 2023 will require additional adults to join Paul, Francis and Elizabeth to support the MC and Crucifer functions to ensure continuity for the future. It is hoped to reintroduce young people into the Serving Team early in 2023 as this has long been an excellent opportunity for them to learn and grow further within the church usually building on their experience and growth in Junior Church.

If you would like to know more about being a Server (adults or young person 10years+) or an adult Eucharistic Ministrant, please see Paul, Francis, Elizabeth or Matthew.

Paul Mottershead - Head Server/Sunday Sacristan

2.5 Sidespeople

The sidespeople team continues to perform a valuable role, working, alongside others, to welcome our congregation into church each week. We are presently running on reduced numbers post-Covid and it is proving rather difficult to find new recruits. We do though have two sidespeople at 10am each Sunday and one at 8am and one or two reserves. We wholeheartedly thank all our valued members of the team for their ongoing support and look forward to welcoming and/or re-welcoming additional members of the team during 2023.

Karen Baker

2.6 Harrogate School of Theology and Mission (HSTM)

With the the lifting of restrictions we were able to resume live meetings, though we continued to offer Zoom as an option and one of our speakers was only available on Zoom.

We began the year with a slight hiatus. Prof Tom McLeish was not able to give the promised lecture, Faith and Wisdom in Science. In the same vein we were able to find a last minute and highly successful substitute, Revd Dr Lucas Mix's talking on 'How is Heaven related to Space'. Dr. Mix is project coordinator for a project called "Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science" at Durham University. His doctorate was in biology and he is interested in life on earth and in space in which field he has been a consultant to NASA. He is also a black belt in martial arts. It was a beautifully illustrated and mind-expanding talk.

In November we welcomed Roy Searle. He is one of the founders of the Northumbria Community. He works ecumenically and has served in various aspects of denominational ministry and is a former President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. He is on one of the Union's Pioneer Ambassadors and co-chairs the denominations National Mission Forum. His talk was titled 'Wisdom from the past, illumine our path for today': how St Benedict and Celtic spirituality is inspirational for these changing world times. It was, as promised, inspirational but also challenging.

Between my writing this and your reading it we shall have heard was Eve Poole's Lecture – "Capitalism and Christianity" and Professor Paul Foster from the University of Edinburgh introducing us to The Apostolic Fathers: Those church leaders who when the Apostles had died led the Church on. They ensured the survival of the Gospel and the Church and began the work of systematising and codifying its life and doctrine. On May 13, 2023 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm we shall welcome former Archbishop Rowan Williams

Our live meetings take place at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road. More details including recordings of past talks are available on our website. <http://hstm.org.uk> or on Facebook.

Between our live talks we also run seminars based of DVD recorded teaching series at Mowbray Community Church.

Revd Dr Geoff Turner

2.7 Police Chaplaincy

I hinted in my report last year that I was looking to hand over the Police Chaplaincy to someone younger. I am delighted to say that Rev. Chris Clayton the Associate Vicar at St. Peter's has picked up the mantle. The hand over was not quite as seamless as I had hoped. I stood down at the end of July 22 and it has taken till February this year to complete all the formalities but he is now in place. Part of the problem was that Harrogate Police station underwent a series of changes to its senior leadership. I am glad to say that the Officers now in post have warmly welcomed Chris and endorsed the importance of the Chaplains role. That however was only part of the story. Much of what goes on in the Police is covered by the Official Secrets Act and Chaplains like everyone else need to be vetted and given the appropriate clearance. It was this which took the longest time.

I pass the work on with a slight sense of regret. It has been a fascinating experience. Real policing is nothing like its common portrayal on T.V. but it is a singular and demanding occupation and I hope I have been of service to those who serve us.

Revd Dr Geoff Turner

2.8 Lent Courses

For a particular study through Lent in 2022 we took the Archbishop of Canterbury's choice of Lent book - 'Embracing Justice' by Isabelle Hamley. As a stand-alone book and with two accompanying smaller prayer-aids (adult and youth) this enabled some to approach it purely in their own time and to read at home; along with the accompanying brief video presentations it enabled some of us to study it together, reading each section alone week-by-week then meeting to consider the questions, the thoughts and the challenge. The book is a significant piece of writing, and the questions and over-all challenge were at times equally significant and challenging, guiding us through : Paradise Lost - In search of original justice; From Bondage to Freedom - Exodus and liberation stories; Building Communities of Justice - Legal systems and community justice; Justice And Incarnation - Restoring the image of God; Justice In The Shape of The Cross; 'Do This To Remember Me' - Holy Communion and the reshaping of the imagination. A considerable piece of study as a focus through Lent, and as an influence beyond. As we move further beyond times of restriction it will be very welcome in future years to reintroduce such groups within homes scattered across and for our community. Thank you to all who took part, for your wisdom and insight.

Revd Matthew Evans

2.9 Flower Arrangements

In 2022 the flower team have endeavoured to be sustainable. We haven't used any floristry foam for over a year. The ladies have adapted to arranging the flowers with chicken wire instead and have still produced some fabulous displays. We have also sourced some local flowers producers, with some help from Fodder all the harvest flowers were grown locally. The team created beautiful displays for Easter harvest and Christmas. Whilst clearing the flower cupboard I discovered we own a very valuable Constance Spry Fulham pottery vase which is now in the safekeeping of the office.

New volunteers are always welcome as we are often short of weekly floral arrangers.

Tara Sagar

2.10 Sunday Morning Refreshments

Thank you to all those who serve refreshments and wash up after the Sunday morning services. There are currently 12 people on the rota and also a further 9 people on the reserves list.

Refreshments after the Sunday services started up again in June 2022. The nature of covid is people may be taken ill and cover is needed at short notice. If anyone is able to help out either on a regular monthly basis or on the reserve list, please could you leave your details with the office.

Fairtrade coffee and tea products are used and so we are also helping other communities.

A special thank you for the kind weekly biscuit donations.

Christine Lofthouse

3 PEOPLE

3.1 Revd Caroline Taylor - Curate

Revd Matthew: With very great pleasure we were able to welcome and receive the Revd Caroline Taylor as (Assistant) Curate in July of this year. Caroline had formerly spent a short period of time with us on placement whilst training and it is now a great pleasure to join with here as a part of the Church through Christ Church. Caroline is currently ordained Deacon and fulfils a lead role within worship on most Sundays as well as several other days each month, alongside her weekday paid employment and family commitments.

Revd Caroline: Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for all the support, encouragement and kindness you have shown me over the last few months; this has, without doubt, helped me to settle into my role as Deacon quickly and ease the burden of leaving my sending church (St Andrew's, Starbeck) after 25 years of involvement and fellowship. At the writing of this report, I will have been at Christ Church for ten months, and what a jam-packed ten months it's been! My highlights include the joy of baptising three infants, leading the New Year's Day reflective service, assisting Matthew with the BCP service for the late Queen Elizabeth, and dressing up as a fairy godmother at the annual church pantomime. As well as reflecting on my highlights, I am also profoundly thankful for the weekly rhythm of the Parish Eucharist service, which affords me a sense of joy in serving the bread and wine or praying a blessing, and the simple pleasure of chatting with and getting to know as many of you as I can. However, I still need help remembering or learning many of your names!

Week in and week out, I am constantly amazed by the tiny glimpses of God's love and grace at work in the mystery and awe of Holy Communion - it is a great honour and privilege to serve the family of Christ Church in this way, and of course, our Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, as I approach the final few months of my first year here, I am pleased to say that, subject to completing my first-year report and interview with Bishop Nick, I hope to be ordained as a Priest on Saturday, the 24th of June, at Ripon Cathedral. I will keep you informed, but in the meantime, I will endeavour to keep serving and learning and remain committed to prayerfully growing in my love for and faith in Christ, seeking to be moulded and refined by Him, and sharing in His love with you all.

Yours in Christ,

Caroline

3.2 Pastoral Care Team

There hasn't been a formal Pastoral Team since the pandemic, but alongside Matthew and Alison, members of Christ Church have continued to telephone and /or visit the housebound at home, in hospital and whenever and wherever possible, in Care Homes. Matthew and Alison are alerted to any particular need and kept up to date with ongoing pastoral situations. Holy Communion has been taken, when requested, to the housebound.

Revd Linda Potter

3.3 Bereavement Support Group

First statistics for the year. There were 19 Church funerals, 4 at Stonefall Crematorium and 7 burial of ashes. The proportion in church increased dramatically, as did the number of people allowed to attend.

We continued to follow up referrals and offer support where appropriate, mainly by phone in view of the ongoing covid situation. The Memorial service in November was well attended and appreciated and a good number also stayed on for refreshments. Fewer linked up on-line.

As ever a big thank you to Matthew, Jill and others in the group, not to mention spontaneous support offered by other members of the congregation who offer a listening ear and practical support at the time of bereavement.

Noreen Abell (Chair of the Bereavement Support Group)

3.4 Welcome, Inclusion and Respect

We continue to keep a focus upon 'Welcome, Inclusion and Respect' in all that we seek to offer, to be and do. In our Service provision we continue to seek to make acts of worship accessible in format and planning, and respectful to all, as well as inclusive in nature and delivery. We continue to provide internet Zoom links to the 10am Service each Sunday and also to Evening Prayer services through the week. Where possible and requested we also seek to make this provision available to assist with Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

With the severe current financial situation, we do not know if or when further progress may be able to be made on the '2020 Vision: Welcome & Access' Project, but we continue to seek with an open mind for the opportunities to improve all access - including physical - into opportunities for worship, community and fellowship. We seek not to allow welcome, inclusion and respect to be lost in the midst financial or administrative pressures, nor through complacency. We welcome insight and assistance with this, and with keeping our sight and vision clear.

Revd Matthew Evans

3.5 Sunday Lunch Bunch

The Sunday Lunch Bunch have met once since the pandemic in November 2022. Changes in the hospitality industry have had an impact on staffing levels as well as presentation and servicing of meals, although the welcome was as sincere. No decision has been taken about the future of Sunday Lunch Bunch.

Revd Linda Potter

3.6 Safeguarding

As the church has opened up again after Covid, most of the safeguarding team's work has been helping to support the most vulnerable members of our Church family and there have been no safeguarding issues brought to the team's attention.

The Diocese have been very active over the year encouraging members of the Church family and especially PCC members to complete on line Safe guarding trainings and have also introduced one to increase awareness of domestic abuse. There has been good response from the PCC members to complete these and other members of the worshipping community are also encouraged to complete these. There is no financial cost to do these but finding the time to do them can be more difficult.

If you are interested in doing them or finding out about the work the diocesan team do go to www.leeds.anglican.org/safeguarding.php and the courses can be found at www.leeds.anglican.org/who-we-are/safeguarding2/safeguarding-training/

If you have any queries, please contact Jane Boyd either in Church on a Sunday or via the parish office.

Jane Boyd (Safeguarding Officer)

3.7 Health, Safety and Environmental Activities

We continue to take Health, Safety and Environment very seriously at Christ Church both in the Parish Centre and within the Church itself. We are playing catch up with our inspections and service contracts having been shut for so long during the pandemic. The Wardens along with the Parish Clerk have arranged servicing for the boilers, intruder alarm, the fire alarm, the fire extinguishers, the kitchen equipment and the garden equipment. The church roof, gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves to prevent the overflow of water during downpours.

We have an excellent recycling programme within the Parish Centre to the point that our trade waste collections have been changed from weekly to every two weeks.

The churchyard had a tree inspection by English Tree Care back in 2021 which identified two trees that needed removing and other trees that needed remedial work - cutting back, lopping etc. As some of this work needed Harrogate Borough Council permission, the work was delayed until December 2022. This is now complete.

We continue to be aware of our use of gas and electricity supplies and make sure that heating and lighting is used at an absolute minimum. The Gardening Team are now proud to be all electric with our mowers and strimmer being battery powered instead of petrol driven.

We thank Jane Boyd who has reviewed of our First Aid boxes to make sure they are all up to date and to our local Community Responders who check our defibrillator on a regular basis.

With the re-opened possibility of in-person meetings we reconvened the 'Mission & Outreach' sub-committee of the PCC which holds within the Environmental remit. Through this committee's work and then through the PCC we have agreed Christine Jack currently in the role of 'Environment Lead'. We have marked Lammastide and Creatiiontide within worship (the latter including Harvest, although some of the plans were necessarily changed on the occasion of the death of Queen Elizabeth II). We have also submitted our energy usage statistics under the National Church 'Energy

Footprint Tool', and although some of these statistics are less than helpful they still give a benchmark for future decisions and action. We arranged to offer times when we could share the "heatbank" opportunities of the partly-occupied Parish Centre as a 'Warm Welcome Space' to those without sufficient warmth at home or elsewhere through their days during the cost of living crisis. We have established a 'Carbon Net Zero' working group to focus our activities into reduction of energy resources, our good stewardship of what we do use, and the opportunities to move to carbon-zero sources. We are looking to further all of these activities in the year ahead, as well as to work towards achieving 'Gold' under the Arocha Eco Church award scheme.

Jill Walters & Revd Matthew

4 OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

4.1 Parish Clerk's Report

Weddings

With the lifting of the Covid-19 measures for restricting the number of guests you could have at a wedding we welcomed back our wedding couples. We offered each wedding the ability to socially distance their guests by the use of our pew ropes but on the whole couples chose to remove the restriction to allow their guests to mingle as in pre-pandemic times.

Between January 2022 and December 2022 we welcomed a total of 6 weddings in church and 2 Wedding Blessings. We also read the Banns of Marriage for 5 couples who live in the Parish of Christ Church but who have chosen to marry elsewhere. Of the weddings held at Christ Church the overwhelming majority of couples were local to Harrogate. The Qualifying Connections fell into 3 categories: Resident in the Parish, Regular Worship or Baptism/Confirmation. Most of the couples favoured mixed music using the church organ and multi-media music to enhance their service. One couple were married by Superintendent Registrar's Schedule due to one of the couple being a foreign national. Revd Matthew Evans presided at all but one of the services, with the final service of the year being presided at by Revd Chris Parkin.

We also have a great link to the Harrogate Register Office who help and advise us with wedding administration whenever we need. In return, we are occasionally asked to provide witnesses for couples who are getting married on their own – with no friends or family present. Thank you to Judy and John Hardy for taking this role on for us.

This year, we were thrilled to welcome Kate Jones to the Weekend Wedding Team. She joins Kath Barff and Jill Walters who on a rota basis, assist with great attention to detail at all of the Saturday weddings. I also thank David Convery who is our Weekday Wedding Verger.

Baptisms

As we relaxed our Covid measures in 2022, we were happy to invite more than one family to each of our monthly 12.00 noon Sunday baptism services. We organised each service to accommodate up to 120 people in church. This could mean one large baptism family or two or three smaller ones. We have now caught up with the waiting list and are working in real time. Thanks must go to Christine Alp for playing at all of these services and to Amanda Perry and her Baptism Support Team who are on hand at each service to welcome the families. In total we baptised 40 candidates between January and December 2022. Revd Matthew Evans presided at nearly all of the services with Revd Chris Parkin and Revd Caroline Taylor helping on occasion.

Funerals

Throughout 2022 funerals have continued to be held both at church and at Stonefall. Families have been allowed to bring increased numbers of mourners as the year progressed. Between January 2022 and December 2022 we held 19 Funerals within the church, presided at 4 funeral services at Stonefall Crematorium and buried a total of 7 sets of ashes within the churchyard. Services were taken in the main by Revd Matthew Evans with Revd Chris Parkin assisting on occasion.

Jill Walters Parish Clerk

4.2 Deanery Synod

In case you don't know me, I am a regular member of Christ Church and when health allows, sing in the choir. I have been attending this church for a number of years and enjoy being part of the life of the church.

In February 2022, we welcomed Alan Garrow as the new Area Dean and we appointed Miss Helen Camm as the new Deanery Synod Secretary. St James Church in Wetherby shared good news about their finished feasibility study of zero carbon emissions. They were having draft proofing and ground source heat pumps to be installed. Knaresborough had started a new branch of Messy church called 'Messy Vintage' for more senior members and was growing in popularity and getting people who are not normally attending church to have a more informal experience of Christian life. The Artisan Cafe opened on Cambridge Crescent employing people with disabilities and giving a creative space.

There was a presentation regarding '6 steps to carbon net zero – church toolkit' giving practical advice for churches to work towards achieving carbon net zero by 2030.

In May 2022 the Bilton parish explained that they had been unsuccessful in recruiting a half time Team vicar and half time Mission Enabler. They were hoping to re-interview in July and hopefully they would have someone in place by October 2022. The travelling conditions to this meeting were horrendous as there was torrential rain. We had a guest speaker 'The Revd Canon Dr Hayley Matthews' who is the Director of Lay Training discussing about the Diocesan Lay Training programme. She explained that there was a blended approach to learning combining face to face and online study. There is a Discovery Course for Lay Ministry online which helps those considering this direction how to discover how and where God might be calling you.

In October 2022 the Bilton Parish had a second round of unsuccessful applicants so had restructured the advertisement and planned to shortlist applicants before Christmas and interview in January 2023. All Saints Church in Kirby Overblow were advertising for a new priest after the retirement of the Revd David Wheeler and were planning to interview in December and hopefully have someone in post by January 2023. Washburn and Mid Wharfe parish were advertising for a 3 year interim Priest in Charge and were waiting for applications.

We then had a presentation by Dr Ben Walker who is the Strategic Programme Manager for the diocese of Leeds talking about the 'Barnabus Project' which encourages others to understand and embrace the gospel, mentor and support others in their spiritual journey and development, persevere in the face of opposition and actively search out new ways to share good news, generosity with time and money and used resources given by others wisely and in a way that would make the biggest difference.

Beth Hamer

4.3 “Meet and Eat”

Early last year we started planning to restart Link Lunch. From these early talks we did feel that there was a need for something like Link lunch but maybe due to the number of volunteers and unsure of any Covid restrictions we decided we would change it slightly hence Meet and Eat. The idea was that we would hold it on the third Wednesday of the month, with anyone welcome to pop in for a chat with the bonus of some lunch.

We didn't hold the first Meet and Eat until September, then monthly after. There is a quiz for guests to take part in then generally lots of chatting goes on. We serve soup and a roll, tea/coffee and cake serving around 30 guests. We do ask guests to sign up if they are coming, just for an idea of numbers and food allergies but there is usually plenty if anyone just pops in. We do not charge but guests can make a donation for the food if they wish.

In December we did try to create a festive theme, with crackers, mince pies and a Christmas cake baked by one of our volunteers. We are planning to continue this year as we have been but are always open to suggestions and new volunteers.

Susan Braithwaite

4.4 Charitable Giving

Once again the congregation at Christ Church has proved to be very generous. Here are some details of the good causes that we supported during 2022.

The six special Christmas services raised £1224 which was divided equally between the 3 charities chosen by the PCC and for Christ Church itself. The selling of Christmas Cards raised £700 for Martin House Children's Hospice and a donation of £145 was made for Fern House Hostel to provide a Christmas Lunch for 25-30 people.

We were able to send just short of 80 boxes to the Shepherd's Purse Christmas appeal, and this year donors were able to track their boxes and find out where, when and to whom they had been distributed.

All the goods collected at our Harvest service were equally divided between the Harrogate Homeless Project and the Harrogate and District Foodbank. In addition to this, Christ Church continues to provide fantastic support for the Foodbank on a regular basis. The foodbank weighs the goods we take and in 2022 this totalled over 2 tonnes! This was thanks to your donations of goods and also a total of over £2800 in financial support which allowed me to buy the Foodbanks "urgent needs" on a fortnightly basis.

The gardening team's move to become "all electric" allowed us to donate a further two old petrol mowers to Horticap who were delighted to receive them as they still have many years' use ahead. The Happy Wanderer Sunday bus service resumed as the pandemic receded and the usual donation to Happy Wanderer funds was made.

With the opening up of Church after Covid stamps are now being collected for H.E.L.P. and wine corks and towels are collected for Saving Yorkshire dogs. Various other charities have benefitted from retiring collections at funerals. The charitable collections by Junior Church, for the Children's Society and TWAM are covered elsewhere in this report.

Thank you to everybody for your generosity!

Kath Barff

4.5 Tools With A Mission (TWAM)

Tools with a Mission, better known as T.W.A.M, is a Christian charity, begun over 30yrs ago in a garage. Only recently has it started to expand its operations. Its main headquarters is in Ipswich but it has opened a large refurbishment warehouse in Rugby. It now collects tools from all over the country, and sent 17 containers to Africa in 2022.

After reading about its work in the Churches Together in Harrogate newsletter, I was inspired to encourage Christ Church to join this project in early February.



A TWAM van collection and the team

We started slowly, storing tools in the crypt. Gradually, with the minimum of publicity, we have become well known as a local hub, and in August we were able to fill a third to half a large van with all the tools kindly donated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the congregation, and people in the wider community, for the continued success of this project. I also want to thank Jill and David for their unstinting support in receiving tools of all shapes, size and weight!

These donations, when restored, provide a vital source of income for people in Africa to become self-sufficient and educate their children. Please continue to pass the word about TWAM. Thank you.

Michael McMaster, Coordinator.

4.6 Children's Society

We continue to raise money for the Childrens' Society through house boxes. The collections have got a bit out of sync following Covid restrictions. This year we will aim to collect them in for counting in October. Thank you to those who kindly support this charity.

Rachel Lachmann

4.7 Happy Wanderer Bus

As I am sure most members of Christ Church know, we organise a minibus to collect and return people within Harrogate who wish to attend the 10am Sunday service but are unable to reach the church without assistance. This service could not survive without the volunteer drivers who offer their time to drive the minibus and I will start this report with a sincere thank you to each and every one of those drivers. **Let me add that we are always looking for drivers to join the rota and so if you are able to give us an hour of your time either side of the 10am service, then we would love to hear from you.**

Following COVID in early 2022 we were able to see our parishioners returning to Church albeit slowly. This was, and is, in part due to people accessing the excellent online services. This does have its benefits for people who are not well and need to stay at home. However, parishioners tell us that they are glad to be back in the "face to face" community of the church.

We have six terrific drivers who help by driving the bus which means the rota is one Sunday in six at the moment so, if there are others at church with a clean licence and feel they could help out, we would be very grateful for extra drivers. You can contact me or the Church office.

We currently have up to 4 people who wish to use the bus on a Sunday and have recently had an enquiry from Harcourt Gardens Care Home for parishioners wishing to attend Church, so numbers are growing, which is good to see.

The Happy Wanderers is a Harrogate based charity which offers the minibuses free of charge, though Christ Church do, typically, pay a donation to the charity once a year. In addition, a number of us volunteer to raise money for them through cash collections during the year. We are lucky to have the use of these minibuses and our thanks must also go to Les Sudron and others at Happy Wanderers who work so hard running the charity to keep these vehicles on the road.

God Bless

Rowena Wright (Mobile Number 07986 817217)

4.8 Church Wardens Report

With the further easing of Covid restrictions, numbers of people worshipping in church and Junior Church and Crèche have increased over 2022. The younger members of the congregation seem to really enjoy Junior Church and we thank all those involved in organising and running these groups. The formation of a Junior Choir has been a welcome addition to the All Age Service, further engaging some of the younger members. We are fortunate to continue to have Zoom links for those wishing to participate in worship from their home.

The wardens would like to thank Revd Matthew and all the clergy team as well as all the volunteers that ensure that Christ Church runs smoothly; in particular the “Heavenly Dusters” who clean the Church and Narthex every week and the Gardening Team who keep the grounds and graveyard tidy and well kept.

The inventory and terrier are largely up-to-date, with no changes over the past year.

We are seeking three new Church Wardens to join Tim Bendelow in the team. Kath Barff joined the Wardens to help them out during the last year and we thank her for the time and energy she has, once again, given to the role. Rachel Lachmann will be stepping down due to increasing work and family commitments.

Finally to all parishioners, thank you for your continued love, support and prayers.

The Wardens

4.9 Parish Centre

With further lifting of Covid restrictions in 2022, the Parish Centre began to get back to some sort of normality. Some user groups took longer than others to return but by September, we were back to full complement. We were again hosting Keep Fit (twice weekly), Dementia Forward (2 sessions per week), Harrogate Choral Society, Spa Sweethearts WI, Songbirds Children’s Music classes, uniformed associations (Christ Church Rainbows, Brownies and Guides), RSPB (Harrogate), NADFAS, Monday Monkeys (toddler group), Workers Educational Association, Alzheimer’s Society and the two annual

visits from St Aidan's Y7 pupils. We continued to welcome the occasional one off events such as children's birthday and baptism parties, Harrogate Theatre Choir rehearsals and meetings, funeral teas, social gatherings and AGMs. We welcomed a couple of new regular user groups – the Betjeman Society and a local choir All Together Now.

We also welcomed back our Lunchtime Recitals in May and then Sunday 10.00am refreshments in June with biscuits being added in October. With the of cessation Link Lunch, the Wednesday 'social' team regrouped and came up with the new simplified 'Meet and Eat' which takes place on the third Wednesday of most months. After a nice quiet start in September with a light lunch being served in the concourse, numbers soon increased necessitating a move into the main hall.

Sadly, we have to report the sudden death of Mark Saville who was with us for several years delivering the most fantastic lectures on Yorkshire each Wednesday morning in the lounge. Mark had a loyal following and was a joy to work with. We miss his lively and energetic personality – he is a very hard act to follow.

We were also sad to hear of the passing of Duncan Finch of Advent Catering. Duncan and his wife Vicky had become our 'go to' caterers for many events in the Parish Centre from funeral and baptism teas to fully catered wedding receptions. Duncan was the life and soul of any event loving nothing more than being the charismatic MC. He was a fantastic host and he and Vicky made the perfect team. He is very sorely missed.

Due to the increase in the cost of living, the Parish Centre Committee decided to increase the fees in the Parish Centre. All of the user groups agreed with the new rates and are continuing to support us.

We continue to recycle as much as we can within the Parish Centre – collecting plastic, glass, tin cans/foil, paper and cardboard. Thank you to Parish Centre Steward David Convery for undertaking the weekly recycling trip to the Harrogate Household Recycling Centre for us.

On the maintenance side of the Parish Centre, numerous inspections have been carried out including the boiler, the fire and intruder alarm systems, kitchen equipment and the fire extinguishers. A new secure entrance door has been created at the bottom of the church ramp (emergencies only), a new office safe has been installed and we had to purchase a new Parish Centre Hoover as the old one simply burned out! There has been a new floodlight installed in the small courtyard behind the Parish Office along with a new sensor light in the disabled toilet. We have also taken possession of 20 new small chairs for the younger members of our community. The old chairs had become unsafe and after a wonderfully supported fundraising campaign, church members covered the whole cost. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

As many of you will know the Parish Centre and crypt are now the collection point for Tools with a Mission – a charity which we are supporting and that has been incredibly successful. Thank you must go to Mike McMaster for his dedicated and detailed work with this. After two large van collections so far, we are now busy collecting items for our third collection. Please do support this if you can.

Once again, a big thank you must also go to our many unsung heroes. Not only to the newly formed Parish Centre Committee but also to the small team of volunteers who undertake food and beverage service support at special events, those who wash the kitchen cloths to keep everything nice and clean, our secret shoppers who keep an eye out for bargains for our consumables to help keep our costs down and of course our keyholders who come out late at night or at weekends to open up and lock up the premises for our many user groups. Also to our office helpers, our service sheet collating team, our Foodbank collectors and deliverers. Here's to our continued success into 2023.

Jill Walters

4.10 Buildings Maintenance

Various works and contracts have been undertaken on behalf of the church during 2022.

The Gas contract was renewed in February for two years (until 2024), whilst the Electricity contract was renewed in March on a one year basis (until 2023).

A Tree Survey was conducted, identifying two trees that needed urgent attention - both were felled; one in the North West corner and the other on the South stray side.

The Church Roof's gutters have been cleaned and some repairs done to tiles via the use of scaffolding.

Subsidence in the Vestry has been identified: - an Architectural Inspector has investigated, along with a Structural Engineer and the crack is considered not to be of major structural concern. It will be monitored over time. A drains survey was carried out showing minor cracks to a drainage run below the vestry, which will be attended to during 2023; whilst a broken pipe to the local council drainage run towards Church Square, outside of our boundary was also noted. The council has been notified and further contact may be required to rectify the problem.

The northerly tower interior step-edges have been painted to match the stair railings and the fire exits from the parish centre have had the step edges painted to form a 'definitive edge'.

There are numerous jobs which have been done in 2022 or are due to be completed during 2023 - the five yearly electrical check has been done and some remedial work will be required. Both boilers are due to be serviced, alongside various checks on some systems / equipment within the buildings:

- i) gas oven safety in the kitchen
- ii) a water compliance test
- iii) a Fire Safety Audit
- iv) a Graveyard Safety check
- v) monitor flaking paint on internal west wall of church
- vi) battery check for the silver safe in the vestry.

Tim Bendelow & David Burns

4.11 Gardening Team

During 2022 the team including Vic, Stuart, Andy, Mike, James, Bob, David, Will and I continued our gardening work for Harrogate Christ Church and hall. With added support from various other people. We see their excellent work, but rarely do we see these little helpers, the results are quite magical.

As always, we continued in 2022 to strive to make small improvements to the biodiversity of grounds, through cutting a little less often. The gardening team again managed to avoid making trips to the green waste recycle centre for the whole of the Spring and Summer and just a couple of trips in the autumn. This was achieved by ensuring we used both the brown/green waste bins. Roses have arrived in the new border, and we'll add lavender in 2023 to complement the look. 2500 cornflower seeds were piloted in suitable places to add to biodiversity last spring. Clearly the suitable places may not have been suitable. Not a single cornflower was seen in 2022. Thus, Kath and Andy will have to wait another year before re-enacting the cornflower scene from the film "A Room with A View".

Harrogate Christ Church went all electric/battery mowers during 2022, replacing the last petrol mowers. Both remaining petrol mowers were donated to Horticap. Horticap were very pleased with the donations. A big thank you to all those that donated to the replacement of the mowers. The

carbon footprint of the gardening team will be at least net zero in 2023. Maybe as York Minister has done, solar panels should be researched in 2023.

All the garden waste continues to be recycled thanks to the great support from David, Andy and Jill putting out the brown/green waste bin.

Lastly if you spot a cornflower before we do in our grounds do let us know!

Rob Villars

5 PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

This year has continued to be challenging and changeable for the Parochial Church Council due to Covid-19 restrictions and measures. The PCC continued to meet via zoom at the start of the year and it was joyous to finally be able to meet in person.

A significant focus of the PCC has been the continued managing of our pathway through the ever-changing easing of restrictions, balancing the needs of our whole church community and providing safe access to the church building. Thank you to all members of the PCC, for the time and care spent in making decisions, Jill and David supporting our user groups, all who have played a part in the cleaning, stewarding and maintenance of the church, all who have enabled the online service provision week-by-week and all who have worked with adaptability and creativity to offer in person worship.

Safeguarding continued to remain a priority of the PCC and is always the first main item at every meeting. Thank you to Jane for your work as safeguarding officer, especially in managing our safeguarding dashboard, training and records.

Our teams and committees have become more established, enabling focused smaller groups of PCC members to further specific aspects of our work and mission and bring proposals to the full PCC meetings for consideration. All of the teams have been busy as the world has 're-opened'; with paused – necessary - or new projects and ideas.

Our financial position remained under continual review by the PCC to balance the needs of providing for our employees, building, running costs, and the wider Church. The impact of Covid-19 on our income continued to be significant, energy suppliers and pricing has been particularly challenging and complicated and payment of the historic share. Thank you especially to Shirley Morris (our treasurer) Andrew Baxter (our book keeper) Rachel Rollinson and all who help and support the finance team

Fran Dobbins - PCC Secretary



God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow

in numbers

in spiritual commitment to you,

and in service

to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer from "Leading Your Church Into Growth"

