



St. Mary the Virgin Annual Report 2019

RECTOR'S REPORT

As I write, I am about three-quarters of the way in to my first year as your Rector. With the annual cycle of church life continuing to unfold, everything here continues to be new to me – yet it is also somehow reassuringly familiar! I cannot thank you enough for the welcome to gave me on my arrival, and for your support and encouragement since. You have made it very easy for me to feel settled and part of both the church community and the wider community. Thank you.

Perhaps my childhood link with Richmond has also helped in that regard. In applying for this post I felt a deep sense of call to serve here, and since my arrival that sense has only deepened.

As the parish church of Richmond with Hudswell, St Mary's is called to serve a complex community and it is important that in our worship and in our service we all support each other. Our task is to work together for the coming of God's kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven. As the parish church of Richmond with Hudswell, we need to grow in confidence so that we can move beyond the essential quality of welcome to outreach: to being part of community life in Richmond and Hudswell.

For this we need to be people of prayer and of study of God's holy word. These disciplines are essential in developing a clear vision along with a viable strategy to help us realise that vision. I am grateful to and for the PCC who are fully engaged with the process of leading our church into growth. In particular, our newly-formed Parish Development Group have made great strides in preparing the ground for us as a parish to move forward.

I am also grateful to and for the many people who play their part in the leadership of the life of our parish. Clearly, during John Chambers' time the parish had made good progress in mission and ministry, with each person playing their part. The parish entered the vacancy as very much a going concern. The vacancy was evidently handled with great skill – and enjoyment – due no doubt to a genuine sense of collective responsibility. Special mention must go to Gillian here, although characteristically she would say it was very much a team effort! Since my arrival I have been impressed by the skill and dedication of so many – and the natural instinct to 'serve Him with joy'.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my Ministry Team colleagues: Bishop John, Mark, Jennifer, and Bill Simms (to whom we said farewell in September), along with Scott and Gillian, and George. I would also like to mention our Pastoral Assistant Jennifer and our Parish Administrator Claire, both of whom do invaluable, often unseen work, and our Director of Music Chris and Tower Captain Susan who, with our Choir, Musicians and Ringers do so much to uphold and refresh the core traditions of our church. Special mention also goes to our ordinand

Sian, who since joining us in September quickly became a real blessing to us. We will be sorry to see her leave us in May but we wish her every blessing in her curacy in Masham.

Special mention also goes to our Churchwardens David and Roy and our Deputy Churchwarden Janet, who have given unstinting service to our church over many years. For my first year here I was keen to see continuity in these key posts, and so I was relieved to learn that they had been re-elected at the APCM last year. This year, Roy and Janet will be stepping down from their roles and they do so with our heartfelt thanks. Again, much of the invaluable work they did was unseen and unsought, an example being the complex task of winding up the Thompson's Hospital Trust.

Someone else to whom we are immensely grateful is William Gedye who will be stepping down as Treasurer. William has transformed the management of our finances and it is the case that without him our church would simply not be the viable going concern that it is. Balancing our books continues to be a huge challenge but with the good practice that William has instilled, and the impressive efforts of our Fundraising Team under Peter Trewby's leadership, we can have every reason to be optimistic about the future. It is a testament to William that he is being succeeded by a team of people (including our new Treasurer Paul Carnell), the intention being that our newly-established Finance Team will jointly continue the work William did for us.

A church community of our size cannot and should not rely on a small number of individuals to continue in the same roles for an unreasonably long period of time. No one should feel 'type-cast' or indeed irreplaceable; all of us should be asking, 'how can I serve; what is it that God is calling me to do or to be?'. A case in point here is our PCC Secretary Jennifer Patrick, who will be stepping down after seventeen years' service. We are extraordinarily grateful to her, and to Sharon McCormack who will be taking her place.

I could continue to single people out: we have so many other individuals, teams, and groups – from our altar guild to our flower arrangers; from our welcomers to our refreshments team; from our volunteers at 'big cleans' to those who clean the church unseen – all of whom make a vital contribution to the life, worship, mission and ministry of our church. Beyond this work is the work that many church members do in the wider community, showing forth in practical ways God's love for all. So whether your work is at the front line or in the back room, in the public eye or behind the scenes, you should know that it is very much appreciated – and that it enables us in worship and in service together to be the parish church of Richmond with Hudswell.

Looking back over the past year, then, we have a great deal for which to give thanks, so much celebrate. May this give us confidence as we look to the future, and may we take heart from the assurance that:

"those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

May we soar together, seeking God's will and God's blessing as we build his kingdom here in Richmond and Hudswell.

Martin Fletcher

After The Cards Report

The group has continued to meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Greyfriars at 1.30. Some come regularly, others when they can manage to; this year we have had equal numbers of men and women. It is an informal session with no agenda, a time when everyone can relax and talk while enjoying a tea or coffee.

I would like to thank Martin, Gillian and Jennifer for helping me with the meeting, especially when I had to miss a couple of months.

Carrie Stephenson

Bell Tower Report

In 2018 our tower community has continued to grow and thrive. Practices have been very well attended, with more than 20 at times, and we have been pleased to welcome regular visitors from other towers in the area. With these numbers, we have focused increasingly on 8 bell ringing, increasing the challenge for our experienced ringers. In April, we rang the first peal on the new bells, lasting 2 hours and 46 minutes and 5040 changes. The peal was called by the tower captain and was rung by an all local band, including key members of our appeal and fundraising team. We have also been developing the local band by ringing a number of quarter peals for Evensong and Fun-key Church. Notable performances include a quarter peal for Graham's 70th birthday! Further afield, Alastair rang his first peal, a fine achievement, which was a first peal as conductor for John.

In May, we enjoyed taking part in the 'Wheels Within Wheels' exhibition, memorably borrowing the Durham and Newcastle association's mini ring, giving many more people a chance to experience ringing, and running tower tours allowing visitors a try at ringing the tower bells. Additionally, we dusted off the handbells for a performance at the church talent show, including all the right notes, if not always in the right order!

Later in the year we held two well-attended training days, allowing people to have a go at ringing church bells, and we have been pleased to welcome 4 new recruits to the team. All of them registered with 'Ringing Remembers', the National programme to recruit 1400 new ringers to 'replace' the 1400 ringers killed in the First World War. They were all able to ring as part of the commemoration of the end of WW1 and Anna, Donna and Russ are now ringing regularly for Sunday services. On Remembrance Sunday we took part in two national programmes, 'Battle's Over' coinciding with the lighting of the Beacon, and 'Ringing Remembers: Bells Ring Out', with 19 ringers joining us over the day. We also rang the Hudswell bell, to remember those from Hudswell who died in the war, and chimed the memorial bell to Reginald Brand and John Watkin, our own ringers who were killed in WW1, following a memorial peal for them rung in the summer. We rounded off the year with our traditional Christmas meal, ably organised by Sue.

Meanwhile, work has continued to adjust the sound control in the tower and make the clock bells louder. Peter has been working hard to liaise with Taylors and we are hopeful that the work will be completed this year, along with the exhibition in the bell chamber. Chris from Grinton continues to be really helpful with the work. Thanks go to everyone who has helped the tower

run smoothly this year, whether calling touches on practice night or creating the welcoming atmosphere that keeps people coming back.

Susan Welch. Tower Captain.

Charitable Giving Report

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support for the Charity of the Month. This voluntary retiring collection, taken on the first Sunday of the month, has continued in its support of alternate home and 'away' charities. The total raised in 2018 was over £2500 (a rise of over £600 from 2017) and the gift aid reclaimed has increased this total further. The largest single collection was for Playgrounds for Palestine, which raised almost £400.

In addition, the congregation has supported Christian Aid Week, with St Mary's volunteers collecting donations from the community of over £1600. The Christian Aid Harvest Appeal raised nearly £300, which was match funded and multiplied by the EU to become nearly £1500. The Christingle service raised over £300 for the Children's Society.

Many both at home and abroad will have benefitted from this generosity, and we would like to profoundly thank all the people who have given their time and energy to make this possible.

The Charitable Giving Committee.

Churchwardens' Report

Much can happen in a year. Our last Annual meeting found us having appointed, but yet to install our newly appointed Rector.

We welcomed Martin and the removal men after Easter allowing him time to settle into the newly redecorated rectory and to prepare for the Installation service on April 26th. After all the planning thank you to everyone who helped to make this a very unique occasion.

The last year has bought its share of memorable services. Remembrance Sunday is always a very special occasion, but it was a particular privilege to be part of this years ceremony making the one hundredth anniversary of the ending of the First War. As always, the church was packed with members of the local community and beyond in a moving ceremony to commemorate those who gave their lives in two world wars and later conflicts.

We've continued to host concerts and other community events. These activities are set to continue and to increase. Allowing the wider community access to and use of their parish church is an important part of our mission. Matching the expectations and the demands of users and coping with the logistics of staging, seating and catering can be difficult. Thank you to all who have co-operated and helped to make this years events so successful.

St Michael and All Angels Hudswell remains closed for services. After developments over the access situation, input from the dioceses and the parish council, the building may, eventually,

become a social housing project. In the meanwhile we've had the sad task of removing articles from the building to a place of safety. The bell, much older than the present Victorian Building, is now housed in St Mary's. The War Memorial panel is now displayed in the Village Hall. This marks the names of those from the village who served during the Second World War. Formally the village school, many of those listed must have begun their education there. Sadly a scheme to relocate the organ was unsuccessful.

In April my mother died after a long illness. Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers and good wishes. They were very much appreciated by myself and my family.

Juggling the demands of a fulltime job which continues to involve working shifts and weekends with wardens' duties can be a challenge. It is only made possible with the help and co-operation of my fellow warden and deputy Roy and Janet Morel. Often much responsibility falls on their shoulders. Thank you for your continued support.

And finally. So many everyday payments are made without cash - why not in church? We need volunteers to help people use our new card reading machine. Full training will be given. If you've ever fancied asking people to "Insert your card" and "Please enter your pin" please speak to the treasurer.

David Frankton. Church Warden

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met in February, June and November. The February Synod noted the new appointment of Assistant Records Officers to support parishes in keeping church records; the Area Dean reported on the plans for the 2018 Thy Kingdom Come deanery walk; and an enquiry about a possible Deanery Hardship Fund was reported.

Most of the Synod was used to Vision 2030. On Models of Ministry it was recognised that a variety of approaches will be needed. It is plain that Lay leadership will become much more important in future – with significant training implications. Synod recognised that the strengthening of Faith was crucial as without a solid core of committed Christians mission is difficult. Showing hospitality and building relationships with those at occasional offices are important. The importance of developing and strengthening ecumenical links and a stronger visible presence, with improved networking and follow-up was recognised. It is clear that development of the church will require greater lay ministry and leadership. We must communicate effectively, including using IT and social media. It will be important to simplify administration, including faculty processes and to identify areas for investment/resourcing. Administration and finance should not be seen as an "add on": they are an integral part of what we are. Our biggest resource is people and we need to invest in them.

At the June Synod, Rev. Lindsay Southern gave a summary of "Growing Gods Kingdom" (the new title for Vision 2030) emphasising it was less about the date than its purpose; laity involvement, discipleship and sharing resources so we flourish together and taking our faith out

into the community, developing a stronger visible presence. Lindsay also presented a paper discussing workshops around the Deanery lead by both lay people and Clergy. The workshops would not all be the same, different things to each parish but explicit on how we encounter Christ. We need to extend outside organised religion and encourage the general public to participate. A request for facilitators was included. A Deanery service for Ascension Day 2019 is proposed and synod members were requested to provide suggestions.

The main business of the November Synod was a presentation by Canon Ruth Newton (Ripon Lay Training Officer) emphasising that the “Laity” are the whole people of God with a diversity of gifts. We should try to discover our gifts – consider carrying out an audit including individuals, communities and congregations. The future will involve more lay (non-clerical) leadership, particularly in worship. There is training available, particularly for lay worship leading and digital tools are available particularly at: www.learning.leeds.anglican.org. There was a brief comment on the Lay Conference, noting that this was intended as a prompt for action. An outline of the planning for the “Thy kingdom Come” walk between Ascension and Pentecost in 2019 was given.

Susan Welch, Claire Murray and Jonathan Roberts

Estates Team Report

Our program of window maintenance has continued during the year. The ten clerestory windows in the nave have been renovated. High up near the roof they are particularly vulnerable to the elements. Their condition was highlighted during our last quinquennial inspection. Thanks again to Alan Davis our glazing specialist.

Updating of the nave light fittings and the floodlights over the nave altar with led bulbs means that most of our lighting uses this new technology. This was carried out at the recommendation of the dioceses.

Keeping the building warm continues to present a challenge. We have had problems with the heating system controls and have recently discovered a fault which has disabled one of the three boilers which work together to heat the main part of the building. The control unit has been replaced and we await the engineers report and recommendations for repairs to the eighteen-year-old boiler.

Richmond Town Council in the person of Andy Macey continue to keep our churchyard in good order. Thank you for keeping this large area so well maintained.

Following interviews before Christmas we appointed Richard Crooks to be our architect. Initially to will carry out our quinquennial inspection. This five yearly inspection and report on the condition of the building is due during 2019.

Next, working with the congregation and the PCC, recommendations will be made for re-ordering the church layout. This will incorporate plans for meeting and office accommodation. In our parish profile this was highlighted as an area which we lacked.

Clearly this is a long-term project with many separate elements which will need careful planning and organization. Daunting perhaps, but throughout its history our building has evolved to meet the changing needs of the people who use it.

David Frankton, Roy Morel & Len Scrafton.

Friends of St. Mary's

The Friends have only met occasionally this year but have kept in touch through emails. We have continued to help with the 'extra' needs of St Mary's, such as Easter eggs for the choir, candles for Christingle, choir stall cushions and items for the children's corner. We have also provided refreshments for several concerts.

Again, a huge thank you to Margaret Emmerson, who has continued tirelessly to organise Saturday trips to various venues, raising money for The Friends and providing a very popular social event.

We would very much welcome any members of St Mary's who would like to join The Friends committee.

Carrie Stephenson

Knit2gether Report

The Knit2gether Group has enjoyed another year of meetings at The Restaurant at Greyfriars, on Flints Terrace, Richmond in between 10am and noon on a Friday.

Meetings have a regular attendance of approximately 15 – 18 ladies, plus many occasional visitors. Each bringing their own creative projects, sharing knowledge and skills whilst having fun and fellowship. New members always welcome.

Claire Murray. Convener

Music report

2018 proved, once again, to be a varied and busy year for music at St Mary's.

My efforts at chorister recruitment for the robed choir continued, with visits to local schools - not as many as in 2017, but with more planned for the Spring and Summer terms this year. Visits to schools continue in 2019 as a gentle reminder that we exist and that there are opportunities for singers/musicians at St Mary's.

One of the highlights of 2018 was Martin's collation and Induction service in April, and one of the most pleasurable things about it was the fact that both the robed choir and Upbeat musicians took full part in our welcome for the new Rector. It gave us the opportunity to learn 'Let us build a house' - which is proving a firm favourite already.

The trebles enjoyed another visit to the Ice Cream Parlour at the Station, trying some very exotic-sounding frozen delights with another trip planned. In December we sang Christmas Carols live on the British Forces Radio station on the Garrison as well as singing at the Christmas coffee morning in the town hall, the Guilds' Carol Service and, of course, our own service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Our monthly Choral Evensongs continue and I'm very grateful not only to the regular members of the robed choir but also friends who often come and bolster the choir for such occasions. I'm very grateful for the help we receive from Anacrusis members, ex-choristers from St Mary's as well as many others from the congregation who strengthen our singing on these occasions (and for Christmas carol services), as well as Andrew Christer for his superb organ playing and accompaniments. In the Autumn we sang a joint evensong at St Mary's with the choir of Northallerton parish church, as they don't currently have a permanent organist there. This was a great event enjoyed by all.

Andrew was, as always, on top form for our visit to sing Choral Evensong at Ripon cathedral at the end of August. Despite it being in the school holidays we had a very good turnout and a very enjoyable day in our cathedral city. Afterwards we received some very kind comments from clergy and congregants alike. A really good day with music at its best! Needless to say we received an invitation to sing there again! Watch this space. Speaking of which, the robed choir is singing with Bradford cathedral choir at St Mary's when they join us to sing a special service on the evening of Sunday 8th September - our Patronal Festival.

The organ is a splendid example of British organ building at its best. However, the ravages of over-heating during the winter season have taken their toll. However, a recent visit by the organ builders has improved the situation.

Fionagh and the 'Scratch' singers continue to do fine work on the first Sunday of the month and 'Upbeat' serve the All Age Worship services with great style, aided by Brett's wonderful talents and musicianship on the piano. Many, many thanks to them and to all our musicians for all they do for us.

Chris Denton

Monday Morning Toddler Group Report

Gathering about 10am in the Methodist Church Halls we enjoy a time of fun and friendship for children aged between 0 and 5 years old and their adult carers (mum, dad, grandparents, friends etc.) The dynamic has changed slightly this year as we have considerably more babies than toddlers, but babies grow quickly and it won't be long before they are toddling! Tea, coffee, juice, fruit and healthy snacks are available throughout, and even more important a warm welcome is guaranteed. This is manned by an enthusiastic, loving and committed team made up of ladies from both Richmond Methodist Church and St Mary's Church. If you would like to come along and help we would love to see you, as more helpers make it easier when there is the inevitable outside commitments or illness. You don't need to help all session or even every session.

We celebrate Christmas, Easter and birthdays. Families are kept up to date with activities and services at both St Mary's and the Methodist Church and we are delighted to see them come to services including Christingle, Easter and the Crib service.

The time spent with each other is invaluable. We play, we chat, we sing, we say a prayer, we share. We know the children gain lots, but we suspect the adults gain even more as they find people with similar concerns, joys and thoughts as each other.

Gillian Lunn

Mothers Union Report

In 2018 the Mothers Union embarked on a year "Following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps". Mary Sumner founded the Mothers Union 130 years ago to encourage, develop and improve family life by love and prayer. It is now a worldwide organisation with over four million members, Mary Sumner saw a need!

Our branch has continued to support those principles as the year has progressed. We meet in each other's homes on the last Tuesday in the month. Members help at baptisms and the mothers and toddlers group. We presented mothers and visitors with a primula plant on Mothering Sunday and supported Andrew, James and Scott Lunn on their sponsored ride from Richmond to Richmond with a generous donation to the Butterwick hospice. At our meetings we usually have a speaker (the meetings are reported in the parish magazine). The augmented Dalesfolk entertained us again at our party. We were delighted to welcome Martin at his collation as a Mothers Union member and we really appreciate his support.

Meetings always start with prayer and usually end with refreshments for which we are well known!

Afternoon tea is our speciality and we are fortunate to have our annual Reeth Band concert in St Mary's followed by afternoon tea which is a popular part of our programme and helps us support Mothers Union projects in the parish, Deanery, Diocese. Province and the world.

The Belles have continued to provide refreshments at services and events.

It has been our privilege to say the midday prayers in Ripon Cathedral on three occasions. Sadly, the increased size of the diocese has prevented us from attending Diocesan services in such places as Batley!

Our new triennial in the Ripon episcopal area has begun with the same Diocesan president, Josie Burley, she has encouraged the branch to purchase a collection of books for each of the Richmond primary schools. These books will help staff talk to children in difficult situations, bereavement, terminal illness, the death of a pet and divorce.

The Mothers Union in the diocese has purchased another caravan at Filey, giving families who may not be able to have a holiday to have fun at the seaside. This Away From It All scheme is a charity our branch have regularly supported along with Marrick Priory the Jonas Centre and the Mothers Union Make a Mothers Day appeal.

It was good to share the Women's Fellowship carol and we hope to get together again during this year. Our meeting dates, services and events are in the magazine and on the pew sheet. Membership is not limited to mothers, we would welcome you all.

Margaret Clayson

Pastoral Team

Members of the Pastoral Team take Holy Communion, with the sacrament blessed at the choral communion service, to those who can no longer attend services in church. They also visit those who are lonely, ill or in a care home, and maintain the list of drivers who are able to transport people to and from church. They visit the recently-bereaved, and attend the 'After The Cards' bereavement support group which meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 1.30 pm in the Greyfriars coffee shop, as well as supporting the weekly Friday morning Knit2gether meeting which is growing in popularity. They regularly review the prayer diary, and help form the prayer circle for intercessory prayer. They hope to visit the families of the newly-baptized, and they support the Little Rainbows toddler group, and encourage the Happy Bodgers handy-man team, as well as helping to organize the annual service of Hope and Remembrance.

Jennifer Patrick

PCC Secretary's Report

In April 2018 the Parochial Church Council welcomed Martin Fletcher as Rector and Chairman of the PCC.

The PCC agreed that, owing to the gradual dilapidation of the building, the seat runners, the banner and the candles and candlesticks be removed from St Michael and All Angels, Hudswell, to St Mary's, while the kneelers be offered to the families of those who had embroidered them with such loving skill.

The PCC voted unanimously for the bell from Hudswell church to remain in St Mary's as a symbol of our connection to the former parish of Hudswell.

New pew cushions were purchased for the front choir stalls.

After the existing printer's contract expired, a new, more efficient, and more economical printer was sourced, to be sited in the rectory where its photocopying capability could be used.

Work to replace the mortar on the south-facing clerestory windows was carried out, and other glazing checked.

The PCC gave permission for a community exhibition to be held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend entitled "Wheels Within Wheels", to coincide with the "Tour de Yorkshire".

Several fund-raising events took place, including a very successful 'St Mary's Got Talent' show, and a Plant and Produce Sale.

The 100th anniversary service of commemoration of the armistice ending the Great War saw a capacity congregation and many compliments.

The 'Song Squad', or scratch choir, initiated by Chris Denton, had successfully led the services on the first Sunday of every month.

Seven parochial representatives were sent to the Ripon area diocesan lay conference entitled "Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities".

Sue Booth (diocesan Buildings for Mission Officer) addressed the PCC on how best to use our building for our mission to the wider community.

An 'away-day' was held on a Saturday in October, facilitated by the Bishop of Ripon, for the PCC to work out its vision for the future of the parish, and to plan how to bring it to fruition.

The PCC agreed the Pastoral Team's setting-up of a prayer circle to answer confidentially all requests for prayer.

A schedule of data was compiled under the General Data Protection Regulation, and agreement obtained to the appointment of a data protection officer to oversee the management of the regulation.

A safeguarding team was set up and training organized, following the Church of England's "Promoting a Safer Church" policy document.

A scheme was initiated to re-site the noticeboards and publications in church, and relate and display the information in a more professional way.

Following William Gedye's announcement of his intention to retire as Treasurer, Paul Carnell, a qualified book-keeper and experienced treasurer, was appointed to become PCC Treasurer after the 2019 annual meeting.

A card reader was made available for financial contributions to St Mary's.

A faculty was sought to install a Wi-Fi system as a 2-year project.

A faculty is to be sought for a new audio-visual system to improve the currently unreliable sound and restricted visuals in church.

Permission was given to the provision of a weekly baby and toddler group in church called 'Little Rainbows', organized by Sian Lawton, Ordinand-in-training.

Permission was also given to a monthly meeting called 'TOAST' – Time On A Sunday Together – to take place in the rectory office during the 10 o'clock service on second Sundays, using Godly Play and including all school-age children.

Jennifer Patrick. PCC Secretary

The Thursday Study Group

This meets weekly at 7.30 pm on Thursdays at 1 Roper Court and is currently working through Bishop John Pritchard's book 'Ten', which has provided interesting discussions, shared insights and mutual support and encouragement.

The Wednesday Study Group

The main focus 2018 has been on the Gospel of Mark - chosen because it was the gospel that is most prominent in the year's lectionary. It is also short! Despite its brevity it took time to get through due to the group's commendable attraction and attention to tangents and 'the broader discussion'. Somehow or other we always returned to the text and we made it through by Christmas.

Earlier in the year the group took a full part in the ecumenical Lent course which ran in different locations and at various times in the town and beyond. As has been the recent norm we used The York Course (and its Lent course for 2018). An unusual privilege, for 2018, was in the fact that the course had been compiled by Bishop John Pritchard. We remain grateful for his willingness and enthusiasm in launching the Lent course in the Deanery at St Mary's before the start of Lent.

Inevitably for a group that has been going for nearly 20 years there have been fond farewells to friends who have been dedicated members of the group. Towards the end of the year we remembered the enthusiasm of Sheila Bradford who left the group when she emigrated to New Zealand. Around the same time we remembered the gentleness and affirming nature of Don Wade. And at the very beginning of the calendar year we remembered the dedication and intelligence of Lewis Harrison.

All are welcome as an important aspect of the group is the sharing of new ideas from new members, whether attending for a short period or for the longer term.

Scott Lunn

Woman's Fellowship Report

There has been a big change over the past year, as our Convener, Eileen Simms, left us and moved to live in York. She had in fact planned the meetings for the rest of the year, but we have missed her leading those occasions since her move in July. She was always so hard working, and welcoming and popular. Eileen had organised a farewell afternoon tea for members in the Town Hall, which was very much appreciated. Since she left, we have run the Fellowship on a Team Basis, with various members taking responsibility for meetings, and we look forward to continuing to gather together on the third Wednesday of the month in the Town Hall at 2.00 p.m. I am happy to act as main contact for the time being.

The year has seen the usual series of Speakers and services. Especially important was the occasion of our Rector introducing himself soon after his arrival, telling us of his life, faith, work and cycling.

We were pleased to have the Town Clerk with us explaining the symbolic nature of the official town regalia, and outlining the many aspects of her duties, both day to day running of activities,

and special official events in the year. Jane Shepherd who works for the Alzheimer's Society, and is manager of Hunton and Garget House, gave us an account of her work and the provision of care and support of sufferers in the area. One of our members, Linda Drury, spoke of the Ribbon of Remembrance which stretched from Richmond to Catterick, and also of five of her relatives involved in the 1914-18 War. She provided stories, mementos, medals and items of uniform in a moving talk.

We held our Easter service when we welcomed Jennifer Patrick to lead us in an extended communion. At Christmas we held our Nine lessons and Carols, at which we were grateful to have Mrs Gillian Ash play the piano for us.

We are an ecumenical group, we appreciate the fellowship we share, and are pleased to welcome any who would like to join us.

Joy Hornsby. Co-coordinator

Safeguarding Report

At St Mary's, we are endeavouring to put safeguarding at the heart of everything that we do. To this end, a small team of the Rector, Gillian and Scott Lunn and Jan Jack have met four times and had numerous "unofficial chats" to discuss how this can be done. We believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and with the help of some advice from the safeguarding officer from another parish, we have looked at different aspects of it.

Firstly, safeguarding now features on the home page of our church website so it is more visible. Secondly, we have looked into putting some kind of poster on the back of the toilet doors giving information of who people can contact if they need any sort of support. It has been suggested to us, that having these posters in private spaces allows people to make a note of the information without anyone else seeing. This poster will also be displayed in the church as it serves as our safeguarding policy statement. The full document booklet will also be displayed in church in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. Thirdly, a database is being put together showing the different roles that members of the church family play, who has had safeguarding training and at what level and who has DBS clearance.

Currently only 7 members of the PCC have not completed a basic safeguarding course in the last three years but two are already booked onto a course in April and three have said they will do the online course. It will become an expectation for new members of the PCC to attend safeguarding courses in the future.

Of about twenty bellringers, eleven have completed a basic course (one having done it online) and five are going to do it online in the near future. The expectation of the Yorkshire Association of Bellringers is that all ringers have a basic awareness of safeguarding gained by doing an online course or attending one. One adult in the choir, the choirmaster, two volunteer drivers, a flower arranger, the parish administrator, three MU members, two helpers at toddlers, three Bodgers and our lay readers and pastoral assistants have all completed a course within the last three years. There is still work to do in this area - encouraging volunteers to understand the importance of their own safety as well as the safety of others.

The team are looking to get anyone who volunteers for a role within the church family to sign a "GDPR compliance notice", as well as a "written agreement for volunteers" which will lay out what the role entails and what the expectations are and a "Church of England Confidential Declaration Form."

Our hope is, that none of this will be too arduous for anyone who wants to play a role in the life of St Mary's. We certainly do not want to put people off volunteering, but we do feel the need to be as aware as possible of any pitfalls. It is all very much work in progress and will probably remain that way for some time!

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all who have embraced the decisions the safeguarding team have made so far and hopefully we will continue to all work together to keep one another "safe."

Jan Jack

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2018

Background

This year has seen us responding to the challenge of a further increase in the Parish Share, through energetic fund raising. Following Independent Examination, the accounts will be presented to the PCC at their meeting on 20 March 2019, and the Annual Church Meeting on 7th April 2019.

Summary as at 31 December 2018

At the end of the year, our shortfall is better than budgetted at (£7,305), in the main due to the efforts of the Fundraising team, who raised £8,370

Giving was better than expected this was due to an increase in regular Standing Orders and Sunday collections. Donation and Fees and collections from Funerals and Weddings were not as good as in recent years.

Worship costs were as expected with a good saving on Utility Bills. We incurred short term additional printing costs for the Magazine, but now lease a new printer which will reduce costs significantly.

The increased Parish Share was paid in full, and on time.

The PCC has sufficient long term investments and bank deposits to cover both the 'Restricted Funds', and reserves. Our investments have again performed well. However unless we can increase our income to return to a positive outcome year on year, our reserves will continue to reduce along with the associated investment income.

I would like to thank those of you who accurately count the collections each Sunday and the Church Wardens who look after all the banking. Claire Murray as assistant treasurer processes all billing and supplier invoice payments efficiently and thoroughly, as well as being a mine of information on Parish matters. Special thanks go to Alastair McLean who has again carried out an independent examination of the accounts.

Restricted Funds (Money set aside for special projects)

The Bell Fund has sufficient residual money to cover the small amount of remaining work, and some maintenance into the future.

From the Fabric Fund we have completed 'good as new' repairs to the high level windows in St Mary's and completed the upgrading to LED lighting.

Other 'Restricted Funds' are in reserve to cover future work to the fabric of the church, the anticipated closure of St Michael's Hudswell. We have money set aside for the anticipated replacement of the main blower on the organ and for the development of 'Fun-Key' church. The

Diocese have taken on financial responsibility for Hudswell, but we will continue to maintain the churchyard.

William Gedye

Treasurer

