

St Thomas with St James

Annual report for 2019 – Lay Chairman's Opening overview.

General. This report covers the period April 2019 to March 2020. The attached reports were prepared for the AGM which was to be held in April 2020 but could not be presented because of the COVID lockdown. They, however, have been distributed to members of the congregation whose comments have been included. The PCC formally accepted them at the PCC meeting on the 12th October 2020.

Interregnum. The Reverend Andrew Clements left the parish just after the Easter celebrations 2019. Since then the parish has been in interregnum overseen by the Area Dean for the Derwent Deanery, the Reverend Nick Bird.

Worship. There was worship each Sunday at 8 am and 10 am except for the first Sunday of each month, reserved for family worship at 1030am. Once a month we experimented with Café Service which proved quite successful. These services were conducted by the Readers Julie Wainwright and Jack Booth. The parish was blest in having the Reverend Cannon Simon Stanley within the parish who was able to cover most of the 8am communions and, living close by, the Reverend Paul Wordsworth; another mainstay who officiated at the 10am Parish Eucharists. The parish was extremely grateful to the Reverend Malcolm McNaughton, the Archbishops Chief of Staff, who readily filled in the vacant gaps.

Communication. Interregnums are certainly difficult times, but it was good to see that all functions within the parish continued under the supervision of the Church Wardens, Allan Dobson and Glenn Booth helped by the PCC and the Standing Committee. Sadly, the congregation declined by about one third as some worshippers fell away and, more sadly, others died or became too infirmed to attend worship. We thank Julie Wainwright and Norma Carman for maintaining the visitor roster and in keeping contact with them. There are many others who have worked behind the scenes to ensure the life of the Church continued, for which we are profoundly grateful.

Church Repairs. It should be noted that little progress was made in meeting the church repair needs of St Thomas and St James in response to the Quinquennial Reports for St Thomas and St James. We need to raise approximately Ninety Thousand pounds. A fund-raising committee is in place, headed by Nick Wainwright, but, due to COVID 19, has not been able to make much headway. Equally repairs stalled over the replacement of the North guttering; the most urgent of the repairs which will facilitate the remaining repairs. We have been advised by Diocesan Office to replace 'like with like' which would cost Fifteen Thousand pounds, set against Three Thousand Five Hundred for more modern material. The PCC thought it immoral to spend such a large sum when we are struggling to finance our out-reach ambitions in the first place. This matter is ongoing.

Murton Centenary Issues. The ongoing disagreement about the control issues between the PCC and the Murton Centenary Outreach Group (MCOG) over the MCOG social activity was resolved. The group opted to function outside PCC oversight as an autonomous body. MCOG will use the church building on 'power using' cost terms.

COVID 19. Towards the end of the reporting year COVID 19 caused the church buildings to be closed and no worship was possible. However Julie Wainwright, ably assisted by her husband Nick, was able to put on-line evening worship each day which appeared to be appreciated, judging by the number of 'hits'. The 'visitor group', led by Julie and Norma Carman, kept in touch with those under lockdown via telephone.

Appreciation. A great deal of thanks goes to every member of the congregation who maintained the flow of information and in keeping their spirits up, trusting in God's guidance in what has proved to be the beginning of an unprecedented difficult time.

Jack Booth

Lay Chair to the PCC

ST.THOMAS, OSBALDWICK WITH ST JAMES, MURTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

The P.C.C. of St Thomas with St James, has the responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent, of promoting in the Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It is also responsible for the two Church buildings.

P.C.C. Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members.

Incumbent: The Revd. Andrew Clements (Chairman)

Readers: Mr Jack Booth, Mrs Julie Wainwright

Wardens: Mr Glenn Booth, Mr Allan Dobson

Deanery Synod Reps: Mr Jack Booth, Mrs Julie Wainwright

Secretary: Mr David Jackson

Treasurer: Mr Allan Dobson

Elected Members: Mrs Mary Keely, Mrs Yvonne Wilson,

Mr Michael Sanderson, Mr George Barker, Mr Julian Gray

P.C.C. Groups

The **Standing Committee** is the only Committee required by law, to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. However, much of the business done by the PCC is through its seven groups:

(a) Pastoral and Outreach

(b) Worship

(c) Finance and Charities

(d) Social Events

(e) Fabric

(f) Communications

(g) Parish Link

Thus, this report will be mainly on the work of these seven groups

(a) Pastoral and Outreach

Our main tool of outreach remains the Parish Link which is delivered to every home in the parish and which remains very popular with its readers. Indeed its popularity can be gauged by the continued high interest of our advertisers, we have now increased the circulation to almost 2,000 copies due to the growth of Derwenthorpe

We have a continuous struggle to maintain a young element in our congregation. This remains a cause for concern.

(b) Worship

The PCC asked me to form a worship group with a view to reviewing our current services and perhaps creating some different forms of service to encourage new people and those who have little or no experience of church. It is a small group who meet monthly.

The first major project was to look at the Family Service, which takes place every third Sunday, and this was updated to simplify the service, with relevant illustrations and explanations. This has been in use since March 2018 and has been positively received by the existing congregation. It is a very simple service and the service booklet is laid out in such a way that newcomers to the service might find their way round it easily – feedback from new churchgoers at these services has suggested that this is this case.

We were asked to create a Café Church, which would see the church set out in an informal Café style, much like we have for social evenings such as pancake night, fish and chip suppers etc. The service would begin with refreshments served from the hatch. This started on Mothering Sunday and despite some initial reservations it has carried on and now takes place on the first Sunday of every other month. We integrated a baptism into the May service last year, and it worked well so we propose to do this again.

Café church is a much more relaxed service with less liturgy and more well-known hymns alongside secular poems and readings which most people enjoy. We have also tried out new hymns and we have asked Glenn to bring along his guitar too. I hope that we can develop it further and keep it going

As a result of this service we discussed changing the times of the first Sunday service of the month, since it is either Morning Praise or Café Church. PCC agreed to trial a change of time for these services beginning at 10.30am rather than 10am and we have been doing this each month now for a while.

In addition to the Café Church we have also been working on a new type of service called Spa Church. This is a quiet contemplative evening service which makes use of all our senses, the sense of smell, touch, taste, seeing and hearing. The first type of this service has now taken place and was well received and supported, it is proposed to do this service quarterly initially with futures services in 2019 to be held in May and September. Again, it is hoped that this service will develop further and that more people will support it as they become used to it.

Another thing that the worship group have worked on is choosing hymns for specific services which it is hoped will be helpful during the Vacancy as this will assist the church wardens with planning services etc.

On a final note, we will continue looking at how we worship and how to be more inclusive with new congregation members. We have also been asked to look into “Fresh Expressions” services – specific services targeted at attracting non-churchgoers. Any advice or suggestions are always welcomed.

(c) Finance Report as at 31st December 2019 Osbaldwick with Murton Churches

The Treasurer reported that the Receipts & Payments Audited Accounts for 2019 show a surplus of £8,441.14 however the main reason for this surplus was due to a £10k legacy being left for Murton Church. Half of which is to be used for the maintenance, upkeep and fabric of St James’s Church and half towards the upkeep of graves generally at the church.

Please see the Audited Accounts for the breakdown of both general expenditure and general income.

The Current Account at 31st December 2019 shows a credit balance of £31,462.31

The Deposit Account at 31st December 2019 shows a credit balance of 10,951.25

Cash in transit £10,120.00

Notes

Planned giving had fallen at the end of 2019 by approx. £3,000 compared to the previous year .

Our greatest single expenditure during 2019 has been our Freewill Offering of £37,600. The PCC has reviewed our offering for year 2020 which will be reduced to £30,000 per year. This figure is regularly under review.

We rely heavily on our collections, our Fund Raising Committee, our Parish Link Advertising income along with donations to help us meet our obligations and supplement our income. The audited accounts indicate how significant these are.

The cost of gas & electricity has risen significantly during 2019 adding in excess of £1,000 to the previous year’s utility costs.

Churchyard maintenance costs at St James’s Murton have increased from £844 in 2018 to £1220 in 2019. The added cost of removing moles from the churchyard is partly responsible for this increase.

(d) Social Events

The group arranged events throughout the year. Many of them were the ever popular events held in St Thomas’s Church. These included a Sunday lunch after a morning service, a fish n chip supper with quiz, an afternoon strawberry teas event, a summer fayre, a quiz and bingo and a Christmas Fayre.

In October we had a special event to support the York marathon as it passed by our Church again, teas, coffee, soup and snacks were served, we attracted a good crowd and the money raised was sent to Martin

House children's hospice.

We also provided lunches, teas and coffees at St Crux.

St James's Church, Murton, occasional Saturday Lunches and regular soup and sandwiches have continued throughout the year.

All these events allowed us to raise funds towards our two Churches and brought together Church members and many non-church goers, who joined in and enjoyed the activities. As ever we are indebted to many of our congregations for the huge effort they make throughout the year to ensure the success of the social programme.

(e) Fabric

We have some issues with water damage from parts of the roof, the guttering on the north side needs replacing, some of the lighting around the inside of the building needs replacing

A handrail (for safety reasons) has been erected at the steps leading up to the new ashes burial garden.

(f) Communications Group

The Communications Group was set up by the PCC in autumn 2018. The group's aim is to explore all methods of communication currently available and ensure that the PCC is making their full and effective use in the promotion of the Parish Mission Statement. The current membership is Julie Wainwright, Nick Wainwright, Allan Dobson, Glenn Booth and David Jackson. We are currently exploring the use of the internet in to the church, permanent projection facilities to be used during services and our big project the redesign of our website. Hopefully our new website will be up and running by the late spring.

Easyfundraising. The Parish has registered as part of the Easyfundraising scheme. Take-up has been slow, church members are asked to consider enrolling and encouraging their friends and neighbours to enrol.

Please sign up to #easyfundraising and help us raise FREE funds for the Church in Osbaldwick and Murton when you're doing your everyday shopping online. THIS IS FREE MONEY FOR US! Plus, when you raise your first £5, easyfundraising will match it!!

This short video explains how simple it is and it doesn't cost you anything – <http://efraising.org/cv1Wj5Bman>.

Sign-up using our unique link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/ZWJ336/WDB9X1>

(g) Parish Link

I looked back to see when I began editing the Parish Link and my first issue was July 2003: we had 9 advertisers, and no waiting list, and the photocopier had come out of the dark ages, or so it seemed!

Now we have thirty-two advertising spaces which are currently occupied. The waiting list has become a little shorter after several advertisers advised they were busy enough and don't need to advertise anymore.

Costs for advertisers will increase in 2019, so far no-one has objected to this or refused to carry on advertising. It will be more expensive to advertise on a 6monthly basis as this creates extra work for me.

Community Advertising is still proving popular and has brought in an extra income of £500 plus.

Cubs regularly send me entries, but I haven't received any entries from schools for some time now.

The word search has become a bit more popular now and keeps me challenged to find new themes which appeal to children!

I have had to take on the organisation of delivery of the magazine since Audrey became ill last year. We were low on distributors but have now got every street covered again. Derwenthorpe has expanded and it would be nice to have distributors from there, but no one has come forward yet.

Additionally, there are less folders, so I have attempted to recruit new people but this has not proved as popular as delivering the magazine despite the promise of tea, coffee and biscuits!

Once again, my thanks go to the Vicar and PCC for placing their trust and support in me as Editor and especial thanks go to the dedicated teams who continue to be involved in its production and distribution in all weathers.

Thanks

We are most grateful to everyone who help to keep our church vibrant and in good order. This covers every aspect of church life, services, events, upkeep of the church in so many ways and for giving their talents and money so generously.