

Parish of St Mary's Haxby

Summary of Church Activities

2016

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council is pleased to present this second part of the report which gives an overview of what has been happening at St Mary's over last year. As always it cannot cover everything, but gives a snap shot of the enormous amount of activity which has taken place. It is an acknowledgement of the numerous volunteers, who have worked tirelessly on services, pastoral work, funding, care of the church building and grounds, and a variety of social and fundraising activities, on behalf of St Mary's. There is a brief list of key activities for the year highlighted by the PCC in the first part of the Report.

Ian Strong (PCC Secretary)

Rector's Report

As we prepare for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I look back across 2016 with a great deal of gratitude to God and to so many others who have shared ministry with us during this last year. We have seen some wonderful signs of growth, but God is showing us that there is so much more we can achieve with his leading and guidance.

On a personal note 2016 was a difficult year for me as my father died in February, and my mother's health continued to deteriorate, to the extent that she went to live in residential care in August. Martin, my husband, finally decided to take early retirement at the end of September from his job as Senior Chaplain to York Teaching Hospitals Trust. He had served as a hospital chaplain for 17 years, and felt that he was becomingly increasingly tired and unable to be part of our benefice life. He now has more time to support me in my ministry, and to assist as part of our ministry team.

Our ministry team changed during 2016 when Rev Paul Jackson, who had served here for 8 years, moved on to become Rector of Middle Esk Moor, in November. Rev Dianne Cox moved here to join us, and we are now able to enjoy worship led by Dianne, Ven Christopher Hawthorn, Rev Ron Smith, Rev David Porter, and my husband, Rev Martin Doe, as well as some support from Revs Raymond Brown, Frank Chappell and Gwynne Wright. We are very grateful for the ministry they provide, together with the very able contributions of our 4 Readers, Eric Thompson, Barbara Symons, Ian Evans and Nigel Benson.

Benefice life was further enriched when Nicola Simpson and Bev Crapper became Recognised Parish Assistants in October, giving us a total of 3 RPAs, including Tony Mills, who began this role in 2015. Bev qualified as a 'Worship and Mission' RPA, Nicola is a 'Worship' RPA and Tony is a 'Pastoral Care' RPA. In May Tony began leading 'Reflections' in Wigginton church, which is a monthly Bible-based quiet prayer time on Wednesdays. We look forward to seeing this ministry team grow, and we very much appreciate the variety of the gifts and talents which they offer to us.

After attending the Leading Your Church into Growth conference in September 2015, we have been discerning where God is leading us and our Steering Group prepared a Benefice Mission Statement, which was agreed and adopted by both Parochial Church Councils. This provided us with the strapline 'Stepping out... with God ...with each other ... with our local community and wider world'.

The Stepping Out Steering Group, composed of church leaders from Haxby and Wigginton, have been giving some thought to how we can respond to all that came out of our LyCiG meetings from January to April 2016, including a focus for deepening prayer and enlivening worship, equipping us to share our faith, develop our website, improve our publicity, and work more closely with the local community and wider world. We celebrated and committed ourselves to God's work together at our Pentecost Praise service and party in May.



Several days previously Archbishop Sentamu had visited us on his Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing, and had enjoyed his biggest congregation of the Pilgrimage for Morning Prayer with us in Haxby! New people have been joining us, for which we thank God, and we look forward to welcoming them and to developing a culture of invitation, so all will find their places in our churches.

Highlights of the year were services and parties at both churches to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, challenging talks at our Lent Lunches on the subject of 'Going Deeper into God', and an inspiring Advent talk on pilgrimage by Rev Philip Turner, our local Methodist Minister, before he and his family moved away to Bath.

Towards the end of the year Archdeacon Sarah addressed a joint meeting of the two PCCs, challenging us to work towards growth, reach out to the people we currently don't and to establish sustainable finances. Less than a week later the Archbishop visited a further meeting of the two PCCs and asked us to consider becoming a United Parish, promising to send us accompanying paperwork, which arrived well into 2017, so this will need to be considered prayerfully in 2017, to discern where God is leading us.

We have been delighted by the large number of baptisms and challenged by how we can welcome people into our churches. We have been saddened as we have lost some very special people who have gone home to God during 2016.

There is so much to do, and I am personally grateful for all the ongoing commitment and hard work of our four churchwardens, Nigel Benson, Patrick Feetenby, Jane Ashby and Sandra Clegg; Alison Sterling and Gill Baldwin, our administrators; and so many people who support God's work in Haxby and Wigginton through their prayers, generosity of time and talents, and all the work they do in love.

Rev Kathryn Jackson
Rector of Haxby and Wigginton

Churchwardens' Report

2016 has been a busy year for St Mary's:

We have embraced **Leading your Church into Growth** (LyCiG) which is being steered enthusiastically, imaginatively and, of course, prayerfully by a cross-benefice group. Ideas are being put into action and clearly marvellous things are already beginning to happen.

Matters of fabric are being carefully overseen by the Fabric Group and much thought is being given to the future development and expansion of our beautiful church building so that it will continue to be a focal point within the community and provide improving facilities for church and community use.

Of course, they are only two of the many groups which operate within our church, all of which are enthusiastically run by people giving much of their time and a great deal of love. As wardens, it would be remiss of Jane and I not to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all the groups and their members. So, thank you very much indeed.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the members of the PCC. They have had a lot to consider during the twelve months this report covers. I make no exaggeration when I say that every matter, upon which the PCC must make a decision, is examined and discussed in great detail and those decisions are reached as a result of deep deliberation and a great deal of love for our church and the church family. One of the matters being given ongoing consideration by the PCC is the possibility of the benefice of St Mary's and St Nicholas becoming a joint parish. Discussions and deliberations are at a very early stage and we would wish to assure everyone that much more information is being sought and that no decisions will be made without thorough consultation with the entire church family.

Another very important matter being given constant attention is our responsibility with regard to safeguarding. The issues regarding the safeguarding of vulnerable people are complex and we are grateful for the knowledge and guidance we receive from our Safeguarding Officer, Alyson Christy. Another matter discussed and examined at great length was the purchase and introduction of our new hymnbooks. I do hope you are all enjoying them.

As I write this report I am already aware of Ian Strong's decision to stand down as PCC Secretary at this year's APCM. Ian has been the PCC Secretary for many years, certainly prior to me starting to attend St Mary's, and has carried out the role with great diligence and integrity. He brought to the role a great depth of knowledge gleaned from his working life. He has been an important and effective ambassador for St Mary's both through correspondence and personal representation to outside organisations. Ian has firm opinions about many matters concerning St Mary's and the wider Church but has always, when required to do so, vocalised those opinions with dignity and humility. Ian is certainly going to be a hard act to follow. Jane and I both want to say a heartfelt thank you to Ian and to Joan who has given Ian and the PCC such a lot of support.

Our Rector, Kathryn has been very busy with all her duties across the benefice and is helping both churches to embrace new initiatives. Kathryn maintains an upbeat and cheerful approach to all matters and her energy seems boundless. This is quite incredible as she has had to deal with some family issues which would have stopped most people in their tracks. Kathryn is greatly deserving of all our support and I urge everyone to regularly uphold her and her ministry in your prayers. Kathryn, as much as she would like to, cannot be in both churches at the same time. So, as ever, we are grateful to all who minister and lead services at St Mary's. The fact that we are able to provide three Eucharistic services a week is testament to the support and dedication of our retired clergy.

The work of the Wardens at St Mary's has been made so much easier by all the people who have voluntarily taken on responsibilities for many aspects of the upkeep of the church and support and nourishment of the church family. I'm not going to single out any individuals because they are ALL as important as each other. From Jane and me, thank you so very much, please keep up your incredible work and please encourage others to join you. This will be my last Wardens' report as I too will be standing down at this APCM. I have been Warden for two years this time and, add to that my previous stint, I have had the privilege of serving as Warden at St Mary's for a total of five years. It is never an easy role but it is often joyful and satisfying. This last year has been made especially pleasurable by the fact that I was joined by Jane Ashby who brought incredible enthusiasm and energy to the role. Whoever replaces me will have a great fellow Warden to learn from and work with. Jane, thank you so much for all your hard work, especially in a year when my attention has been pulled in several directions.

As I now turn my attention to other aspects of my ministry it just remains for me to say thank you to all at St Mary's Haxby for allowing me to serve as your Warden. I wish you all every blessing.
Your friend in Christ

Nigel Benson

Fabric Group Report

We have had a busy year, covering a number of issues. One of these involved the essential modifications to the Vestry to make it fit for purpose. Currently these are being looked at and it is hoped that we shall very soon be able to move on these. The work on the vestry/sacristy roof has we hope cleared the damp problem. We are grateful to Noreen Bartram for the loan of the dehumidifier which has helped to improve the atmosphere in the vestry and sacristy.

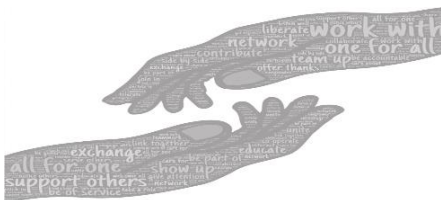


March 2017 will see the repainting of the gates by Topp & Co. Health and Safety has been extensively reviewed which included an inspection by the Fire Brigade. An Emergency Light outside the North Porch has now been installed. Currently we do not have a Health and Safety adviser and are looking for a person to take on this role.

The purchase of the new Hymn books has been successfully accomplished, and will no doubt in time prove to be a very positive move for everyone. We have a new Handyman Tom Barton, who is proving to be a real asset. His handy work can be seen in the new table/shelf in the North porch. In the churchyard Tim Hoyle our new Gardener is making a real difference, the Spring plants are coming through and there are lots more to come. The Fabric Group is supported valiantly by many, who give up their time to make a contribution. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

The Fabric Committee

Pastoral Support Team



**“Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's load to bear;”**
(Jubilate, Charles Wesley.)

Caring for each other is what we are called to do by our Lord. There are times in our lives when things take an unexpected turn, times when we may need help from others, times when we may pray for courage, strength or peace. It is at times like these when the Pastoral Support Team try to offer help, support and active listening for those in need. We meet every 4-6 weeks throughout the year as a team to pray and reflect on those whose burdens need a little extra assistance. Underpinned with faith, we visit the sick, those recovering from ill health or operations, those who have lost loved ones and those who just need contact with St Mary's Church.

Haxby and Wigginton are large residential areas, with several nursing homes and lots of people with carers in various forms. The team acts as links for the Rector, supporting her and all members of the church family when the opportunity arises, with cards, prayers, visits, telephone calls, emails or just sharing a chat over a cuppa. In 2015, led by Kathryn, the team began to offer comfort and solace to those lonely or bereaved with the Tea @ Two initiative. I am delighted to report that this is growing; nurtured by the team through tea, cake and prayers. We thank everyone for their continued support in our newest venture: the bakers, the chair shifters, the tea makers and those who wash up!

This year Neil has taken some time out from his leadership role, he is greatly missed by us all. We continue to hold him and everyone in our care in prayer. We thank Kathryn for her continued support, enthusiasm and care. If you feel this is a role you may be interested in; please discuss it with Kathryn. By helping each other we demonstrate Christ's teaching “Love one another, As I have loved you...” (John 13 v 34-35). My thanks to the team for their help as we work to cover Neil's absence.

Beverley Crapper - Locum!

Stewardship Report

It is good that we have 116 families or individual givers contributing to Church Funds via Stewardship. Some of these people are rarely able to attend church, but continue to support our work and costs.



Many of our givers Gift Aid their donations resulting in us being able to reclaim over £15,000 from HMRC. A few people are finding themselves out of the Tax bracket so we need others to replace them. Looking at the church finances alone, rather than the Annual Report, we actually managed a surplus of £8,293 this year which was largely due to projects not yet undertaken like the church drains. Our Planned Giving was £60,150 compared to £61,320 last year.

We very much hope we can attract more people after our recent annual Stewardship Appeal. Please do respond generously at the level you can afford. May I once again thank our team of money counters who allow us to work within Church guidelines and do so much to help me. The team has expanded recently and even invented a new spread sheet to help.

For more information on Stewardship please contact James Fenton (768910) or Anne Howson (767384) or just speak to us in Church – we need YOU all.

James Fenton



Benefice Healing Team

**Prayer is important, for ourselves and those we pray for.
We are all in need of healing.**

The Benefice Healing Team have maintained monthly services of Healing and Wholeness at both churches and have been well supported. Members of the Team who are involved in the Laying-on of Hands, meet before each service to spend some time in prayer, offering themselves in service to Jesus. This is done because healing comes from Jesus and we need to prepare ourselves to be channels of his healing love. The Team has met regularly through the year to plan and staff our services, but also ... and very importantly ... to learn more about Christ's Healing Ministry. Team members volunteer to prepare a topic for consideration at our meetings, which helps us to broaden our understanding of what we mean by 'healing and wholeness'; and how and where healing can take place.

Arising from an 'Open Day' with other churches (September 2015) we have developed a Benefice leaflet on Healing and Wholeness which is now available in both churches. Please take a copy. They will also form part of our Benefice Welcome Pack which is nearing completion. We explored the need for building 'retreats' into our everyday lives, so that the pressures of life are balanced by a 're-charging of batteries'. We learned that by offering comfort to people torn by fear, we can heal both physically and mentally. One member attended a healing service at another York church and her experiences helped in considering how the ministry might be developed to meet people's needs.

At our Healing Services in June and July we listened to a personal reflection on forgiveness as part of healing; and in January 2017 we shared in a moving account of how one person turned the misery and despair of a leper colony into a place of hope, love and healing. This helped us to recognise that there are prejudices and misconceptions lurking just under the surface of what appears to be our calm and rational behaviour, and we must place ourselves in the loving hands of Jesus who can bring healing in the most desperate situations and through the unlikely of people.

Rob Calvert, for the Benefice Healing Team.

Safeguarding Children, Young people and Vulnerable Adults

The United Benefice of Haxby and Wigginton recognises and values children and young people (anyone under the age of 18) and all adults as equal partners in the life and ministry of the church, and desires to encourage them to explore, discover and live out the Christian Gospel. Our respective PCCs and the Benefice Council take seriously their obligations and responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of any child, young person (i.e. under the age of 18 years) or vulnerable adult entrusted to the church's care. This is a shared responsibility of all church members. Every member of St Mary's PCC, whether clergy or lay, is personally responsible for ensuring that St Mary's Church, Haxby follows Diocesan safeguarding guidance.

With this in mind, to the best of our knowledge, the PCC of St Mary's Church Haxby has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) during 2016. This means that St Mary's PCC has worked with the Parish Safeguarding Representative, Wardens and the Incumbent to take responsibility for safeguarding matters and followed that guidance in all cases, unless there are exceptionally good reasons for not doing so. In practice, the first step in relation to any safeguarding concern is to take the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

From 2017, the PCC must identify any concerns about particular aspects of safeguarding, including concerns about individual PCC members, clergy or lay, who have not complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance or have failed to undertake any required training applicable to them.

In June 2016, an Independent team from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) alongside the ongoing Goddard Enquiry (Historic abuse) audited safeguarding practices in the Diocese of York. Lessons learned are being shared in the Diocese and widely within the Church. Working with Rev Kathryn Jackson and the respective PCCs, the Parish Safeguarding Representatives completed a "self-audit" document in preparation for this audit.

Working closely with Rev Kathryn Jackson, the Parish Safeguarding Representatives continue to meet Diocesan requirements for ensuring Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are undertaken on individuals for whom checks are permitted for direct work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Over 2016, where full DBS checks were not required, this work has also included individual Self-Declarations of suitability for particular roles. Twenty (20) DBS checks and/or self-declarations were completed in 2016 for St Mary's. No actual or potential safeguarding incidents or concerns have been reported to either of the Parish Safeguarding Representatives in 2016; neither have any accidents or injuries incurred by children and young people.

Six DBS renewals are due in 2017. It is anticipated that more people will require DBS checks as part of the shared commitment to make our churches safer places. This is set out in the revised guidelines and requirements for both Dioceses and PCCs from the National Church and also due to new requirements from the Charity Commission, endorsed by Ecclesiastical Insurance. All PCC members in churches where there are regular activities with children or vulnerable adults and all pastoral home visitors will be required to have DBS checks by July 2017.

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Incumbent and PCC Secretary receive regular email updates from Diocesan Office. In early 2016, the annual update for PSRs was led by the new Diocesan Adviser, David Finan. This was a very positive training session. New Policy guidance and documentation was made available at the end of 2016. The two Parish Safeguarding Representatives will keep the respective PCCs informed of the key changes.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives and DBS Verifiers

Alyson Christy alysonchristy@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Feetenby pjfdesignltd@pfeetenby.freemove.co.uk

DBS Administrator: Becci Richardson becci.richardson@archbishopofyork.org

Safeguarding Adviser: David Finan Diocesan House safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org

Stepping Out ...

Following the Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) Local course and the 2016 APCMs, the focus has been on initial priorities identified in joint sessions of both PCCs; -

1. Prayer.
2. Enliven worship / develop faith
3. Develop a Benefice Mission Statement
4. Crossing the threshold – in and out
 - Get the love of Jesus outside the churches' four walls
 - Involvement in community – talking about faith in a relevant way.
 - Maximise opportunities to get people over the threshold
 - Bringing people in and us meeting people outside.
5. Equipping us all to “tell and share our own faith stories”.
6. Publicity and marketing.

The Benefice Mission Statement was launched at the Pentecost Praise event and the Steering Group adopted a more appropriate and consistent name “Stepping out ...” as an umbrella for all its activity.

We have encouraged personal and corporate prayer with training events. The monthly ‘Reflections’ offers a fresh opportunity to engage in prayer as a quiet, scripture based time in the middle of the week. The Wigginton PCC now meets for 30 minutes of prayer before every meeting. Faith Pictures, a Church Army resource, was selected as the most appropriate course for Lent 2017. Hopefully this will help equip us all to “tell and share our own faith stories”. We also aim to produce a booklet of our testimonies as a means of encouraging believers and unbelievers.

The Stepping out ... steering group is working alongside the existing “events groups”, but has as its focus our spiritual development within the benefice. A handout produced for the Christmas services promoted a number of outreach events happening during the early months of 2017.

The Stepping out ... steering group has also been heavily influenced by the guidance given by the Archbishop. On 3 October 2016, he met with both PCCs to discuss the ministry in Haxby and Wigginton. He challenged us to; -

- Consider becoming one parish;
- what shape of ministry did we want to see?
- Optimise and manage the resources available to us.
- What do/should we stop doing to give us time to minister more effectively?

The Stepping out ... steering group held a brainstorming session ahead of the Archbishop's visit to consider the style and pattern of services that can be managed with our current resources. The Archbishop was direct in saying that he would not consider a Curate placement if Kathryn wasn't allowed to lead, as this would not be a sound environment for a Curate to be trained. We all should be ‘working ourselves to life, not death’. It is recognised that cutting any regular services is not straight forward and may be radical. People's attitude to worship and change must be challenged. It will need to be handled sensitively but the current arrangement is clearly not sustainable in the longer term. At the end of the day, Kathryn must take the lead on this issue. The Stepping out ... steering group encourages us all to think about our own individual responsibility in taking church growth forward, for example through; -

Welcoming newcomers.
Developing a culture of invitation.
Making a commitment to lifelong learning.

Honing our faith stories/testimonies and be ready to tell them.
Accommodating change.
Encouraging personal prayer

Stewart Pearson and Ian Evans

Electoral Roll

**We currently have 171 on the Roll.
If you are not on our roll please fill in a form.
It will show the strength of our church in Haxby.**

The Book of Numbers (*Fourth book of Moses*) begins with God speaking to Moses and ordering a census to be taken of all the families of Israel; no small task but it was completed and according to the Book of Numbers the total was six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. What about our numbers? Can we rely on our Electoral Roll for a true representation of our church's strength? 'There is strength in numbers', they say. They also say 'many hands make light work'.

It's all about numbers but do we know how many we have? We assess how many by referring to The Electoral Roll. But can we rely on our numbers if the roll is not up-to-date?

Having our names on the Electoral Roll implies we are happy to be part of St. Mary's Church. There is no subscription and only minimal information is required. We really should have everybody on our list. There are enrolment forms available in church. When completed they can be placed in the yellow folder on display in church or given to our Rector or Doug Waft.

Doug Waft - Electoral Roll Officer

Charitable Giving Group

Early in 2016 our Charitable Giving started with donations to Carecent in the form of clothing, food and hygiene products, which were very gratefully received. The Charitable Giving Group had concerns about the way our Giving from St Mary's was organised. Often there were several requests for money or goods at the same time. This could be confusing for all concerned and asking too much from an already generous church family. In view of concerns raised by members of the congregation the Charitable Giving Group had to address the situation.

Following much discussion, it was decided to present to the APCM a change in the way St Mary's gave. Consolidating our giving to one charity per year would enable us to concentrate our fundraising efforts and invite representatives from our chosen charity to address the congregation. We would alternate our giving by selecting a charity from the UK and then a worldwide charity. Each one must have a basic tenet of Christianity. We would also continue to support, with named leads, our friends in Hull at Harvest through the breakfast club, USPG, Christian Aid and the Children's Society. This concept was accepted at APCM and three charities presented. YoYo was chosen to be our 2016 charity with to date £710 raised.

We take this opportunity to thank the family of St Mary's Church for their unstinting support and generosity.

Ruth Pearson

St Mary's Stars on Sunday



As we are sure you all know Stars on Sunday has been going through a transitional period over the last year.



Over summer Joan Strong, stepped down after many years of leading children's groups and Elizabeth Moran opted to take a break for a while, which left us with only two leaders.

We would like to thank them both for their leadership, support and encouragement, the children always enjoyed the sessions they took and learnt a lot. We will miss them

We only ran stars every couple of weeks from September to December, but the appeal for new people was successful, and we have two new leaders – Helen Baker and Nicola Simpson. Helen and Nicola have been helping out at sessions since September, to get to know the children and our format, and started leading from the beginning of the New Year. We are now back to every week in term time and have some new resources to work with.

We have also had some new children join us, so together with new leaders and helpers, the future of stars is looking positive. Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement.



Anne Howson and Sarah Bellwood

Bible Study and Prayer Group



This group from both our churches meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons (see weekly notices for details). Anyone is welcome to join these meetings which last about two hours and finish with a time of prayer. Lifts are available if needed. During the year, we finished St Luke's Gospel, and studied the First Letter to the Corinthians using Tom Wright's commentary entitled "Paul for everyone".

Anne Wright

Servers' Report

We have a brilliant team of servers and I would like to thank them all for their continuous support. We have always provided some size of serving team each week, and for the special services, which is brilliant to support our worship. We are extremely lucky.

We would love the team to increase. Could you help at 8am or 10.15am or both? Training will be given and you will soon feel part of a team so please join us.



Veronica Ridsdale

Notes from the choir stalls!



**'Sing to God new songs of worship
Praising Him with thankfulness '
We thank God for our music and
our fellowship together**

- Apart from our regular Sunday commitment, we have sung at three weddings, a funeral and St. Mary's Patronal Festival
- Our contribution to the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols was well received and we were grateful to our 'Christmas Recruits'.
- We have enjoyed the challenge of the new mass setting and will enjoy working from one hymn book only and learning some new hymns and music, whilst retaining the best from our previous hymn books. The new book also includes hymns which previously have had to be printed separately, a big plus.
- We were sad to say farewell to Jim Harland when he left Haxby and will miss his voice and humour. We need more men come on all you lovely tenor and bass voicesplease join us!
- We welcome Camilla to sing with us at Evensong, lovely to have another voice. We need more congregation at this service summer is a'comin' in! Join us!
- Huge thanks go to Andrew, Don, David Mather and Rosalind for all their musical ability, guidance and encouragement.

Hazel Wainwright

Flower Group



St. Mary's is blessed with a talented band of volunteers who willingly give their time week by week to decorate the church with flowers. They deserve our heartfelt thanks for enhancing our worship in such a beautiful way. New members of the group are always welcome, both ladies *and* gentlemen, either to join the weekly rota or lend a hand when we decorate the church for major festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There are traditionally no flowers in church during the seasons of Advent or Lent, but if at any other time, you would like to sponsor an arrangement to celebrate a special anniversary or commemorate a loved one, please put your name on the list of dates by the main door. Flowers in church are largely funded by donations, which we are always grateful to receive. Flowers are beautiful gifts from God, and to use them to decorate our church is a privilege and a joy.



Elizabeth N. Moran

Church Hall



The Church Hall Management Committee met regularly throughout the year and recommended an increase in the hourly charge from £8 to £9 from September as well as a monthly charge for the use of the cupboards for storage by Hall regular users. These were approved by the PCC. The £8 charge had been in place since 2010.

The financial position for the Hall for 2016 is a net surplus of £3,059, however this included a refund of £464 for previous overcharges on gas which had arisen partly due to the periods when the heating was not working and partly to the efficiency of the new boiler. Without this refund the underlying annual surplus would have been £2,595. The Hall was hired for 972 hours in 2016, split 827 from regular users, up from 677 in 2015, and 145 from casual hire (parties, special events, etc.), up from 111 in 2015. Although this is an increase from the hours in 2015, it should be noted that income is variable depending on the number of parties and casual bookings in the year, as well as on changes in regular users.

Expenditure in 2016 was £247 higher than in 2015, after discounting the £4,688 paid in 2015 for the new boiler. This net movement included reduced heating and lighting costs of £753, including the £464 identified above, offset by full year costs of £541 for the booking officer who was only in post for part of 2015.

Janet Lornie (Honorary Treasurer)

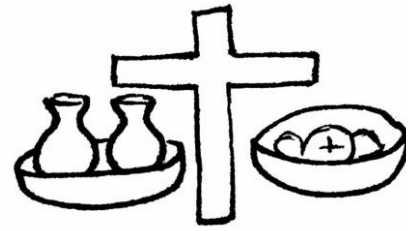
Mustard Seeds

Mustard Seeds is a Benefice Ladies' Faith Group meeting alternately in the Symons or Pearson household at 8.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month. We either look at a Book or theme from the Bible, or follow a series on a theme. At the moment, the theme is 'Womanhood', which is leading to a number of very interesting discussions. This group is for ladies who wish to find their faith, explore it or deepen it. We are all learning and welcome others who wish to learn, and laugh, with us. Further information from Barbara (750885), or Ruth (761094)

Barbara Symons and Ruth Pearson

St Mary's Sacristans

With the approval of the Rector, Anne Benson is still assisted by Kath Holmes, and Anne Wright. Also on the team we have Madge Cooper who washes the linen, and Jacqui Dearlove who orders candles, wine and wafers. Jim Harland moved during the year and we were very sorry to lose his assistance as he is an experienced sacristan. If anyone else feels called to assist the current team, please have a word with the Rector about this, as it would be good to have more.



There has been some concern about the quality of the candles this year, and some, found to be unsatisfactory, were returned and replaced by the suppliers. There is still concern about damp in the sacristy which may affect the vestments in the long term, especially the long cope which hangs against the wall and is not used very often.

The Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group continues to meet regularly on the second Saturday of each month (*except August*), and numbers attending during 2016 averaged around 14-18 men. We have room for more new customers – who will always be welcome!

The breakfasts are supported by men drawn from both churches, and the group is quite diverse in age; we still begin our weekend by gathering together to savour a full English breakfast, and to catch up with each other in an informal setting outside of the established service programme.



Several of the group are not regular church attendees – if at all, so the group finds itself in an outreach position. Please pray for the work that is going on in this activity, as the men folk get together to know one another better over some good wholesome food.

This benefice tradition is based on the scriptural tradition of meeting and sharing together over food - and continues helping to forge new relationships between the two parishes. This **presence activity** is moving forward to form an **invitational / proclamation activity**. If there are any ways you think this ministry can be enhanced or developed, please do let me know.

If you haven't been before, please don't be shy! Do consider joining in with these breakfasts, and enjoy a relaxing social for the men of the two parishes. You don't have to come along every time, but do bring your friends, sons, fathers or fathers-in-law - your presence will augment and diversify the range of conversation and entertainment! – and at the still very modest price per head of £3 - where else can you go to dine out at such value?! A warm welcome awaits you, and we do try to serve with a smile! We hope that you will leave filled full – set up for the rest of the day!

Stewart M Pearson



Haxby with Wigginton Branch of the Mothers' Union

We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. The 10 a.m. Communion service on the fourth Wednesday of each month is a corporate service where prayers are said for Mothers' Union members world-wide

Our membership remains steady at 26 although we would welcome new members.

Our meetings continue to be reasonably attended, with visiting speakers on various topics

Three of our members celebrated their ninetieth birthdays this year, so two of our meetings had cakes to go with our mandatory tea!

Joan Strong (Branch Leader)

Events Group

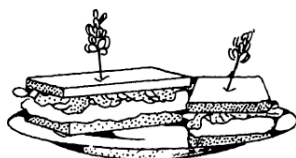
The events Group has continued to work hard on behalf of St Mary's.

We have helped support a multitude of activities:



Fairtrade breakfast
Lent Lunches
Mothering Sunday
Ecumenical Services including
Good Friday
Easter Bonnet and Egg Hunt
Scarecrow Festival

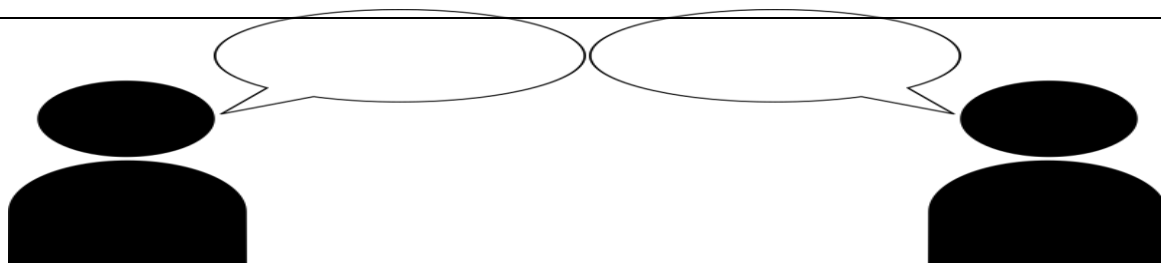
Christian Aid Coffee Mornings
Plant Sale
The Queen's Birthday
Celebrations
St Mary's Festival
Pentecost Songs of Praise
Harvest Festival Lunch
Autumn Concerts
Advent Lunch
Christingle
Nine Lessons and Carols
Tea at Two



We owe a great deal to the hard working, uncomplaining, wonderful members of the team. We would also like to thank those that offer help as and when able and to the husbands, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters that are dragged/bribed along to help!

I salute you all.

Ruth Pearson



TALKABOUT...

Wow! This Benefice has so much happening these days that it can become difficult to keep up, with the growth in christenings, with expressions of faith and ideas for personal spiritual growth too. TALKABOUT, our parish magazine, attempts to keep you informed about everything that is going on.

The TALKABOUT team meet monthly to create a magazine filled with 'stuff' relevant to the season, events or topics we feel might encourage or inspire. You, too, could share your experiences, perhaps interesting trips, an article on something that may have reached into your Christian beliefs, or perhaps a prayer or hymn that is meaningful.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank everyone who has contributed – big or small, regularly or just once. All articles are gratefully received and new contributors are always welcome.

Elizabeth Baker, Bev Crapper, Janet Lornie, Elizabeth Moran, Joan Strong

Book and Cake Club

Last Tuesday of the month 2.00-3.30'ish in St Nicholas' Church Hall

From Alan Johnson's biographical 'Please Mr Postman', to 'The Girl on the Train', and 'Light Between Oceans', (*both now films*) we continue our eclectic mix of reading, discussion and, of course, cake-tasting. If you are interested in what we read, or would like to join the discussion, our next month's book title is always on the notice boards in the lobby and at the back of church. Our group is growing, in numbers not waist size, but there is still plenty of room and you are most welcome to come along, either for a visit or to join us. We usually end our group between 3.30 - 4.00pm. If you have any further queries, please do contact Barbara or another group member.

Barbara Symons 750885

Ladies Night at the Pub

This group, meets in a set-aside area at *The Cottage*, (**First Tuesday in the month 8.00 - 10.00**) and is for ladies of all ages from Wigginton and Haxby. It is a warm and welcoming group, growing in numbers.

Because most ladies are church-goers we freely, but certainly not exclusively, talk about church events, faith subjects and topical issues. We are outward looking and from this group has come the monthly collection for Middlesbrough Food Bank, and a walk, reported in the local media, for Blake's Genes. (*Blake was baptised at St Nicholas*)

We are in the process of planning a programme of craft events, a pamper session and a Colour Analysis Evening. These events would take place in alternate months and all would be welcome.

Further information from Lindsey Steel: 762929; Lyn Wheldon 767174; Lynda Atkinson; Ruth Pearson 761094; and Barbara Symons 750855

World Church Concerns Group

World Concerns Group members are K Jackson; F Birkenshaw; B Pearson; A Showell; M Law; R Ivory; R Calvert and I P Evans. There is always room for some more! We hold 3 or 4 meetings a year and, where possible, arrange some events to help us look beyond the parish boundaries. Our meetings start with topical prayer, often using material from the newsletters and prayer diaries of the charities and mission partners that are supported by the Benefice. We have been represented at the Church Mission Society's Summer and Autumn meetings; at the USPG Volunteers' day and at the Hull Youth for Christ AGM. We continue to support the Hull Link through CMS and welcomed Chris and Anna Hembury to the harvest services in both churches.

Morning Worship at Wigginton has featured the Open Doors annual report "Freedom of religion and the persecution of Christians". This was repeated at a Haxby Evensong. A rather sobering fact is that there were more recorded killings of Christians due to their faith in northern Nigeria in 2015 than in the rest of the world put together; 4,028 out of a worldwide total of 7,100 reported deaths.

In April 2016, the USPG study material Migration and Movement gave us bible readings and case studies on 5 Tuesday lunchtimes to consider a very topical issue, but unfortunately this was not well supported.

Ian Evans, on behalf of World Church Concerns Group

REPORT FROM CHURCH BELLES

Over the past two years we have tried many options to keep Church Belles afloat. For various reasons, all this effort has had little effect. Numbers have dwindled and four out of six events this past year had to be cancelled through lack of support. The most successful evening, *Christmas Wreath making*, brought in many ladies from Wigginton and Haxby but they were not Church Belles members. Although a couple of the group took on the administration and communication, even this was not enough and we have, sadly, asked the PCC to give a final decision on the future of Church Belles. If it is terminated that would free a Tuesday evening for other fee-paying or church groups. Our suggestion is that Church Belles should merge with 'Ladies' Night at the Pub' which is outward looking and welcoming, and meets every month. (*see separate report*)

Barbara Symons and Lindsey Steele

Churches Together in Haxby and Wigginton



The regular pattern of Ecumenical Services; the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January and the acts of witness on the Saturday before Christmas and Good Friday have continued, with varying degrees of support. The carol singing in the arcade raised £79.62 for Christian Aid.

We share news about events taking place in each church and encourage mutual support of these where possible. Once again, we produced a combined Christmas card, delivered to every house in Wigginton and Haxby, detailing the Christmas services in all of our churches. The singing of carols in the residential care homes was shared among the churches. The Good Friday act of witness outside St Mary's was produced by a sub-committee. This was well received, with a good number attending and some additional and younger volunteers/participants. The procession of witness from other churches was not so well supported.

Reluctantly, we accepted that we do not have anyone willing to organise the Women's World Day of Prayer, so we have been unable to run a service in March 2017. In December, we said farewell to Rev. Philip Turner, who has been a staunch supporter of Churches Together. We await news of his successor and pray for our Methodist friends.

Ian Evans

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod meets 3 times each year – in June; October and February. During the course of the year the Synod was briefed on a variety of subjects.

The June meeting heard about Recognised Parish Assistants training.

- Four streams involved: Pastoral Care, Worship Leading, Mission, Children and Young People.
- Courses cover 20 weeks starting in the spring of each year– covering exploring basic Christian faith, listening skills and then 8 weeks on the chosen stream.
- 24 RPA trainees from the York Deanery, but for the size of the Deanery this is a small number.
- The growth of the individual has been noticeable during the course.

The Synod was also briefed on a **practical witness to Refugees**. The York City of Sanctuary Group works with those in need, regardless of politics or faith, giving support; advocacy; hospitality and help to those who need it. We live in strange times with more refugees than ever before in Europe. In 1938, newspapers carried the same sort of headlines about immigration. Despite this the UK only increased their intake by 2% from 25,550 to 26,000 in 2015. In York, there are 18,000 immigrants – the definition of immigrant is “a person not born in the UK” regardless of how many years they may have lived in the UK. A refugee is defined legally as “a person living in fear of their lives”, be this due to politics, religion, or any other reason. Refugee status, when granted, is only for 5 years and then the person must apply again. The UK turn down more asylum seekers than any other country.

St Luke's Burton Stone Lane is a designated **Eco Church** and encourages others to get involved in caring for God's creation, urging them to consider what they are doing or could do to take the “green agenda” forward. Responding to climate change and other ecological issues is about stewardship of God's creation and working for viable, just, and sustainable futures for all people, so it is about good discipleship. St Luke's offer support and have identified many resources available to help.

The main item on the September agenda was a presentation by Archdeacon Sarah about Developing our Deaneries. This is part of the wider C of E programme “Renewal & Reform” and is re-imagining what Deanery is. Our core aim is to grow the church and help all to know Jesus; we are called to be Christians together in community. This is building on the 2011 Diocese vision for mutual resourcing, known to us as generous churches; making and nurturing disciples. See Ephesians 4 verses 14-15. Deaneries have a statutory function, but need to be missional as well as administrative. Their role is to implement the Deanery Plan for mission and ministry; to encourage partnerships; to enable mission through collaborative opportunities and to equip with training etc. There is also an aim to make the Deanery inspiring and influencing, with interesting meetings and feedback to the parishes that excites

Adapted from a report by Ian Evans with thanks