

# The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lower Wharfe

## Annual Reports May 2025

VCC reports to the PCC



# LOWER WHARFE APCM 2025

## **Easter Vestry 2025: Ministry Report 2024 and reflection on the reports.**

*Philippians 4:4-7: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

There is much cause to rejoice at what God has been doing among us in 2024. Every Christian has a vocation through their baptism, and we all have gifts to bring to the life of our churches. Some of our congregations have been growing, with average attendance at St Mary's up around 22% over the year, Café Church regularly welcoming more than 50 people, and seasonal services being well supported by our village communities. In all our villages, our events and services contribute to the vibrancy of village life and remind those among whom we live that our faith is alive.

I am grateful to all who use their gifts in God's service here, notably churchwardens, treasurers and PCC secretaries, and all who step up to ensure that not everything that happens in church falls on the shoulders of these office holders. Thank you to musicians around the Benefice, those who maintain churchyards and keep our buildings clean and tidy, all who arrange flowers, ring bells, serve on rotas, and do the myriad tasks which are unseen and underappreciated, especially in our vestries.

In the spring of 2024, I was away from the parish for several weeks following spinal surgery. I am very grateful to the staff team and others whose workload increased during this time. The team changed during the year as we were joined by The Reverend Hannah Moore who arrived as our curate following her training at Westcott House, Cambridge. We also welcomed The Rev'd Will Marshall to the Benefice when he moved here from the Church in Wales and it has been excellent to have him lead worship as well as taking a lead in games activities at the summer holiday club.

Thank you to the staff team: Revds. Trish Anslow, Glenda Webb, Hannah Moore and Will Marshall, Jo Davies our lay minister, and Emma Hunter who as Parish Administrator, Safeguarding Officer and vicar's PA, keeps everything running smoothly. I hope and pray that everyone in our churches will be inspired to consider prayerfully how they can use their gifts in God's service. Faith is belief put into action, so I encourage you all to live out your faith! Talk to clergy or churchwardens if you feel you may be able to offer

yourself in God's service in some new way. Confirmation candidates were prepared by the vicar, Rev'd Glenda and Rev'd Hannah. The retirement of The Rt Rev'd Dr John Thomson as Bishop of Selby meant the confirmation service itself was postponed to March 2025.

The rota of regular Sunday services was maintained through the year giving stability to Sunday worship and making it easier for newcomers to find local worship. We have reliable and consistent worship across the Benefice, using the same version of the Lord's Prayer, only approved Eucharistic prayers and affirmations of faith, and with fewer capricious variations Sunday by Sunday. This has taken a long time to get on top of since my arrival in 2018. Baptisms routinely take place within Communion services and last only an hour. We work well together as a group of churches, ready to welcome new folk into our congregations with less "insider knowledge" needed to cope with lots of changes week by week. This has also made us more approachable to neurodivergent people, those suffering from dementia, and people who are introverts and appreciate forms of worship which don't insist on interaction and being put on the spot. This has made us much more welcoming. Our use of Parish Worship for lay led Sundays adds to this consistency and means that newcomers are soon at home with the cadence, language and rhythm of Anglican worship. This growth in newcomers is already happening in many of our churches and means the strategy of improving our liturgy and making it consistent (which I was charged with on my arrival in 2018) is paying off.

Schools were well served through the year with regular visits for collective worship, school visits to churches, lessons offered by clergy, spirituality sessions, and schools' services being held in both Bramham and Boston Spa churches. The deanery began a youth project during 2024 which is still a work in progress, but already a group meets fortnightly in Healaugh and a new youth worker was appointed at the end of 2024 at The Bridge Project in Tadcaster. This person will be part of the developing provision for youth in the deanery.

Our outreach to deaf, disabled and impaired people has increased this year with the introduction of Harmony, a new worshipping community for deaf and hearing people together. An Accessibility Audit was undertaken by St Mary's Church in October 2024, and the resulting report will be an important part of our mission and growth strategy more widely in the coming few years. <https://bramhambenefice.org/st-marys-boston-spa/flourishing-for-all-november-2024-accessibility-report-for-st-marys-church/>

The alarming financial challenge faced by the Diocese has not yet had a negative impact on our five churches. We continue to be well supported by the central diocesan staff teams at Amy Johnson Way and Bishopthorpe Palace in ways that are largely unseen, but which have proven invaluable. As Area Dean, I became acting incumbent of eight churches in the parishes of Rural Ainsty, Appleton Roebuck with Acaster Selby, and Acaster Malbis, and this has involved quite a lot of my time. As a Benefice we are covering the total cost of ministry in our combined Free Will Offer (FWO). Benefices of our socio-economic profile should really be seeing that figure as a baseline for our contribution as we are part of a Diocesan family which includes areas of significant deprivation. The total cost of ministry for our five churches is around £80,000 per annum. Therefore, each week of ministry in our Benefice costs over £1500. A church contributing £4,000 in FWO is funding around 18 days of ministry per year. A church contributing £10,000 funds around 45 days of ministry. 2025 will need to be a year when we increase our income so we can pledge to increase our combined FWO to a significantly higher level in 2026, a crunch year for diocesan financial planning.

Ecumenically, we bade farewell to our Methodist colleague, The Rev'd Steve Jakeman upon his retirement. His collaboration with St Mary's church in particular was a wonderful witness to our unity in Christ. We also welcomed his replacement The Rev'd Abi Alex whom we look forward to working with increasingly closely. Rev'd Glenda Webb took over as Chair of the Christians Together group, and our ecumenical witness remains an important strand of ministry across our five churches.

As you read the rest of this Annual Report, I echo the words of St Paul with which I prefaced this report: in everything we do, let us be faithful in prayer, seeking God's guidance, help and blessing, but never forgetting to have thankful hearts and to praise God, rejoicing in all circumstances. Let us be people of living joy so that our churches are places where God's love is evident to all.

Thank you all for your company of our journey of faith. May the Lord continue to walk with us and richly bless us and our ministry in God's service in the coming year. Amen.

The Reverend Nick Morgan, MA    Vicar of the Bramham Benefice (the parishes of Clifford, Lower Wharfe and Thorp Arch) – Easter Vestry 2025



## **Pastoral report from Rev Trish May 2024**

Our Pastoral Team are still doing sterling service, now including our new curate , Hannah; taking home communions out to housebound members of the congregations. The numbers are fewer but the care is still as meaningful. Please be sure you tell Revd Trish or Emma in the office, if you know of anyone from your area who is in need of a visit from the team.

At the moment the team is mostly from the congregation at St. Mary's, but it good that at least one member from another church has been able to join the team and be able to visit those from their village in need of companionship and/or Holy Communion.

The clergy members are continuing to pastorally keep in touch with newly bereaved families and offer them support after their loss.

*All* of the congregations from the five churches of the Benefice are encouraged to watch out for their neighbours and friends and in these difficult times for many people, be sure to remember our Lord's command to love your neighbours as yourselves, the work of the pastoral team will be greatly enhanced by the concern and love of many.

## **Curates Report 2024 Revd Hannah Moore**

I joined the Benefice after my ordination to the Diaconate on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 having previously completed my training at Westcott House.

Since then I have enjoyed getting to know the parishes and villages and I'm grateful for the warm welcome I have received from everyone in the Benefice.

I have taken a full part in the life of the church community in leading worship, preaching, taking funerals and generally being a part of parish life. I have also enjoyed working with the schools including taking a lesson on Baptism and showing the children the service and explaining some of the meaning behind it. I sit on the governing board of Lady Hastings School in Thorp Arch and that has been an interesting experience with lots to learn! It has been a wonderful first six months and I'm looking forward to my next few years in the Benefice.

In 2025 I will be running a Lent course and will continue to do the other bits and bobs in parish life as well. I'm also hoping to be ordained Priest which will allow me to take communion services in all of the churches as well as weddings and baptisms.

# Safeguarding Report 2025

## DBS and Safer Recruitment

Over the past 12 months, many people have been DBS'd and Safer Recruited to enable them to participate in various church activities.

## Training

Lower Wharfe PCC members are fully up to date with their online training. If any new members are appointed at the APCM, they must complete the training by the end of June to fulfil their role.

Any new volunteers are asked to complete the relevant training online, and have this completed prior to the activity commencing.

PSO Training - as always the York Diocese Safeguarding Week was attended and proved helpful.

## Disclosures:

Each PCC has been made aware of the protocol of disclosures and have the relevant forms to complete should a disclosure be made. Any disclosures made are dealt with and referred on where required. The safeguarding team are made aware of any disclosures made.

## Safeguarding Policies:

Ideally policies need to be reviewed and adopted annually.

The PSO has reviewed York Diocese Safeguarding Policy and request the policy is adopted by Lower Wharfe PCC, Thorp Arch PCC and Clifford PCC.

Specific policies to be adopted from York Diocese are...

- ☐ Procedure for the handling of safeguarding concerns, incidents and allegations .
- ☐ Safer Recruitment—Practice guidance in recruitment of ex-offenders.
- ☐ Lone worker guidance
- ☐ Responding to domestic abuse
- ☐ Safeguarding Privacy notice

To be reviewed and adopted on 18th May 2024 the Lower Wharfe APCM.

To be reviewed and adopted on 4th May 2025 at Thorp Arch APCM

To be reviewed and adopted on 4th May 2025 at Clifford

Once all policies are adopted, they will be available to view on our Benefice website.

These policies are the same wording as last year, if you are happy to adopt them, please acknowledge this at your meeting to be minuted.



Lower Wharfe Number on LW PCC		Thorp Arch Number on PCC		Clifford Number on PCC	
Number of members DBS'd	13/13	Number of members DBS'd	9/9	Number of members DBS'd	5/10

Lower Wharfe Number on LW PCC		Thorp Arch Number on PCC		Clifford Number on PCC	
Course	Number of members completed	Course	Number of members completed	Course	Number of members completed
BASIC	13/13	BASIC	9/9	BASIC	3/10
FOUNDA- TIONS	13/13	FOUNDA- TIONS	9/9	FOUN- DATIONS	2/10
DONESTIC ABUSE	13/13	DONESTIC ABUSE	9/9	DONESTI C ABUSE	1/10

**ALL TRAINING OF EXISTING PCC MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT UP TO DATE, MUST HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DBS AND TRAINING (Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse) by the end of June 2026**

**If members have got proof they have completed the training and have a DBS certificate, please bring them along to the office as soon as possible, thank you.**

## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

'The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has'. *From 'Promoting a Safer Church', The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement.*

Each of our churches has adopted the Diocese of York Safeguarding policy and has an appointed Safeguarding Officer. If you have a safeguarding concern, please see report this to the [York Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors.](#)

Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Emma Hunter who can be emailed via [safeguardingbramhambenefice@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingbramhambenefice@gmail.com) or 01937 844402

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Diocese of York and all parishes within it adopt Church of England policies and practice guidance relating to safeguarding. Copies of our policy may be found at the back of each of our churches.

Revd . Nick can confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Please acknowledge this statement at your meeting to be minuted.

### **Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub**

The safeguarding dashboard has been a life saver and is an ongoing weekly tool, that facilitates the running of safeguarding smoothly.

The introduction of the 'Hub' is great, again in the long run a time saving tool. The hub will be looked at in more depth over summer (when the office is a little quieter) and time spent on this will facilitate a smoother, less time consuming role in the future.

### **Archdeacons Visitation News 2025**

I was asked to write an article regarding Safeguarding in parishes for this leaflet. Please keep a look out for it.

## **Jo Davies, Connections Minister- APCM Report May 2025**

It has been good to reflect on another year and to see how God has been at work in the community and the opportunities and developments that have arisen over the past 12 months.

Café Church continues to be busy and a great space to welcome people who do not regularly attend church whilst also being a place to build relationships. It continues to be an intergenerational space with people attending who are struggling with bereavement, isolation and we also have families attending who have children with additional needs. Café church also reaches regular attenders of both churches within the Benefice and also other churches in the local area. It was great to recently see a large number of people from Café church at the Good Friday mediation. We have recently changed the poster to reflect café church more clearly, we are fortunate to now have Andrew take on the role of setting up café church on a Friday evening.

Flourish continues to be attended by approximately 12 people each session and is providing a space for people to go deeper into the Bible and practical aspects of their faith. We have people coming who do not attend other church services and this style of worship/ small group is suiting them and helping them to Flourish!

I continue to be a school governor at Lady Elizabeth Hastings, Thorp Arch with responsibilities for monitoring the Church distinctiveness and Special educational needs. This continues to provide opportunities for me to connect with staff, pupils and parents.

I remain on the collective worship rota for St Mary's school which has also provided connection with staff, pupils and their families.

The "You've Got This" monthly support group for families of children

with additional needs has now been going for 3 years and is providing helpful support for families, this has been a great way to build relationships and new connections with local families. At the end of 2023 I heard about a Christian charity called Growing Hope who provide support to families of children with additional needs and a 4 week course they run called “ When Dreams Change”. I attended this course in December 2023 and felt it could be very helpful to some of our families. In May 2024 we ran a course in Boston Spa with the facilitator from York. Through my link with the charity Community Matters Yorkshire I secured some funding to train to be a facilitator of this course and am planning to run this in June. I have recently made links with another Christian charity called Family Matters in York who run a number of parenting and Marriage courses with content from the well known charity “ Care for the Family”. I was recently given the opportunity to train to be a co-facilitator with them and they have offered to run some courses with me in Boston Spa in the future.

Following on from running the Bereavement Journey and having come into contact with many bereaved people I have been gathering a team and am preparing to run a monthly Bereavement café which will start in June.

I continue to attend monthly zoom meetings for teaching with other Multiply lay leaders and have recently attended the annual residential at Wydale along with 2 of my team. It was thought provoking and inspiring and a great time to reflect on the work and the future, I continue to feel a need to focus on connecting with families in difficulty and to provide care and hospitality for them. The Ark toddler group came to an end last summer after a wonderful 20 years! I have really enjoyed being a part of that over the last cou-

ple of years. I have been giving some thought to how to an alternative way to reach families and am planning to start a new “ Refresh Parent Café “ this May. I have been fortunate to gather a team of 7 people several of whom have significant experience working with families and children. It is hoped that this Café style group will reach pre-schoolers and their parents but also parents of those whose children are at primary school and also be an alternative more regular group for our “ You’ve Got This” families.

We continue to meet monthly to pray for Café Church and the other groups and would value your continued prayer support. I look forward to seeing more of God at work through these new and existing groups!

# St Mary's Church, Boston Spa



## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO ST MARY'S AGM**

Since last year's report there have been many changes at St. Mary's with some departures but also new arrivals. Firstly I'd like to acknowledge my thanks to Andrew for all his hard work and commitment in his role as Churchwarden. We were sad to say goodbye to him and Phillippa last summer as they retired and moved to Northumbria. As no one was able to step up to take on his post, I have continued solo as best as I can, grateful for the guidance and knowledge Andrew passed on to me and for the support so many have provided.

In June we were blessed with the arrival of our new curate Hannah, who has become a very welcome member of our clergy team and now fully involved in the life of our churches for which we are thankful.

Our thanks go to Revd Nick, Revd Trish, Revd Glenda and Jo for their continued leadership and ministry. We are fortunate to have a clergy team and to be able to offer services each Sunday in all of our churches, with the help of lay leaders. We would like to thank Emma, our administrator, for all that she does to support the work of St Mary's and the wider benefice. Her support for me as churchwarden has been especially welcome. I would like to acknowledge and thank Emma for all the work she does as safeguarding officer, keeping everything up to date and ensuring our church is a safe place

Our Sunday and midweek services continue to reflect a variety of styles of worship. We continue to live-stream our 10am Sunday services (and special services) for those who are unable to attend church in person and thanks go to the team who enable this to be done each week. We continue to offer live-streaming as an option for weddings and funerals. We have gained three new members to assist at Sunday services: our two young acolytes Harry and Ollie and their mother Danni who helps with serving. We are grateful for all those who prepare for and assist in our services.

Our All Together Worship services have continued each month led by the lay team and again our thanks go to all who have been involved in the preparation and delivery of these, along with our expanding music group. St Mary's room continues to be used for these services for a more relaxed setting and attendance has increased with more families and young people over the year.

Cafe Church led by our Connections Minister, Jo Davies, continues to go from strength to strength. Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year it has developed as a community hub, welcoming in regulars, occasional visitors and families. The dedicated team of volunteers means that it can be run most Saturdays of the year.

Jo has continued to run Flourish through the year with the theme of the "Fruits of the Spirit". This monthly act of Christian worship gives an opportunity to explore faith and Christ's teachings in a more relaxed environment on a Sunday evening.

Harmony was launched in 2024, initiated by Christine Shaw and is meeting a need for the deaf community who come together with hearing members for this opportunity to eat, pray and share God's word. It runs monthly on a Saturday lunchtime.

Mother's Union continues to flourish with our two groups and separate programmes, supporting topical causes and raising money for AFIA (MU caravan).

We were sad to say goodbye to Peter Sharp, our assistant organist, at the end of December after 7 years. He was a great asset and contributed so much to St. Mary's music team as well as being an involved member of our church community.

We are very grateful to Steve who now single handedly has the role of organist and choirmaster until we find a replacement for Peter. The choir continues to add an important dimension to our worship and we have recently gained some new younger members. The special choir at the Carol Service saw 35 singers come together; it's hoped that it will be possible to have more 'one off' choirs for other seasonal occasions.

In July we sadly said farewell to The Ark. Numbers had gradually dwindled and it was felt that it had come to a natural end. We are especially thankful to Janet McBride and all the Mother's Union members who over the years have provided this wonderful ministry to mums and their little ones.

The summer holiday club ran once more for 3 days last July and attracted many local children.

Work with children and young people continues through our links with the local schools over the last year. Schools have visited the church both for curriculum visits and for services at key festivals. Both clergy and lay people support collective worship in St Mary's CofE Primary.



The active prayer ministry within the life of St Mary's continues, including the monthly email prayer group which currently has 25 members. It is a privilege to pray for individuals and situations and to witness the many answers to prayer and the comfort it brings to so many.

Fundraising events have taken place through the year which have benefited church income and welcomed in community from our villages. We are grateful to Kate Kennedy for co-ordinating fundraising for Christian Aid and for all the volunteers who help.

Financially, St Mary's VCC agreed a breakeven budget for 2024 and therefore it was pleasing to end 2024 with a surplus of £10.8k, after receipt of legacies of £10k. This figure was after all planned expenditure that included an additional £4k contribution to the Diocese of York above the initial £60k in freewill offer. The VCC hopes that it can continue to raise its freewill offer towards its pre-Covid level and will continue to make an additional contribution towards the end of each calendar year based on the year's outturn. We are grateful to all those who give to the work of St Mary's and continue to encourage individuals to sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme to both give through direct debit and consider an annual inflationary increase on their giving.

The church fabric remains in a general good state of repair although there are minor works that are to be completed following the recommendations of the quinquennial report in 2023. The first of these projects was to repair the stonework to the base of the tower where render was crumbling away from the stonework, which was completed at a cost of £10k. The next is to make repairs to the leading on the Church roof to try and minimise any water ingress where different parts of the building meet. Investigatory work on this is continuing. There is further work being considered of amendments to the toilets in St Mary's room and access to the chancel and altar areas issues, as a result of consultations regarding overall accessibility.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained, and our thanks go to the dedicated team who continue to ensure that both the building and churchyard are developed for the mission and ministry of St Mary's. CCTV was installed in the church last year and this has enabled us to keep the church building open through the week and so far has deterred further mis-activity.

Finally, my grateful thanks to the many people who contribute in so many ways to the life of St Mary's. Too many to individually mention! The team approach from both clergy and the many lay volunteers helps to nourish the church as a worshipping community and to focus its mission and ministry on the wider community of Boston Spa and beyond.

Niki Hampson  
Churchwarden

## **All Together Worship Report**

We have had a really good year with the All Together team. The big news was our move into St Mary's room, which we tried one Sunday when we couldn't get the audio visual system in the church to connect up. We have found it is a perfect location, as we truly feel *All Together*, as we are physically much closer to each other, which is much more conducive to conversation and activities. It's also a great next step after café church, as it's in the same room. We are now regularly getting 30-50 people attend, with some families only coming to that service.

We have kept to our usual format, which includes an activity to do with the theme and gospel reading. These have included watching a lego video illustrating the gospel and using lego bricks to illustrate what is "the veil" that blocks us from God.

The team this year is broadly the same, although we have welcomed Beth and Simon into the Music Group, which has been wonderful, and Francesca has also been joining in too. We also welcomed Hannah into the team, who has been working closely with us as part of her training in different worship styles.

A big thank you to all those that are part of the planning, delivery and music that makes the All Together service work so well.

Best wishes,

Penny Stables

## **AGM Baptism Report**

This past year Baptisms have been taking place during our morning services and we have enjoyed welcoming families and their friends into the church. There have been 8 infants who have been baptised since April 2024. It has been a joy as members of the Mother's Union to be a part of these services: assisting clergy, representing the congregation, welcoming parents with their children, families & friends and to pray for them.

Niki Hampson has recently stepped down from the Baptism team and we are extremely grateful to her for all the valuable work that she has put in over the past few years and the support she has given new team members. In addition to Rachel Ranby and Janet McBride, Vanda Walton has now also joined the team which is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working together and welcoming more children into the church community this year.

Rachel Ranby

## **St. Mary's Email Prayer Group**

St. Mary's Email Prayer Group is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year and was set up to regularly pray for people whose names and situations have been requested. The list is compiled at the beginning of each month, along with updates, and sent out to members to pray privately. It is cleared at the end of the month and refreshed.

We currently have 25 members in the group and over the past year we have prayed for over 100 people plus their relatives/friends, some short term, others over many months. The feedback we get is one of great appreciation for God's comfort in response to our prayers. It is always wonderful to be able to share good news of healing and hope.

We are sad to have lost Gay Childe from our group this year. She was a tremendous support and spread the word about what we do.

I feel that this is an important part of our church's ministry, to reach out to those in need, not just within our parishes, but to those in our community and beyond. New members are always welcome to join the group from any of our churches. Please contact me to find out more.

Niki Hampson  
stmarysprayer18@gmail.com

# **Choir, St Mary's Church Report**

The Choir at St Mary's has continued to sing on a regular basis. We are now singing anthems when possible and continue to lead the congregation in the settings of the Communion Service and hymn singing. The Choir has 14 members when all are present. Sadly, Jim and Jean are no longer able to sing with us, due to illness. However, we have had 4 new members which is very encouraging. In addition to these new members a boy treble and his mother are due to join us very soon. This is great news. It would be lovely to have children in our choir

Our choir stalls are now much fuller and a third row will be needed from time to time.

We are still looking for new members, especially basses. Do come along and give it a go.

The highlight of the last year was the carol service, where we had well over 30 singers. This was a record number of singers. This is regarded as a community event and the choir was on excellent form. My thanks to everybody, who helped to make this such a success.

Sadly, we have lost Peter, our assistant organist, due to work commitments. We are hoping he might come back from time to time to play for us. Unfortunately, we have not been able to fill this post as yet but are still advertising.

George, our latest recruit is a very competent musician and is learning to play the organ. Hopefully we might hear him playing from time to time.

We are very grateful to the Friends of the Music at St Mary's, who support the work of the Choir and pay for the bursary of our Assistant Organist.

Steve Aston

Director of Music

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

# **Christian Aid Report 2024**

For Christian Aid in 2024, we organised the following fundraising activities, in partnership with our friends from the Methodist Church.

We launched the week with a joint Christian Aid service at the Methodist Church with a guest speaker from Christian Aid.

House to house envelopes – we continued with our delivery only envelopes with a team of 28 volunteers, to 1700 houses across Boston Spa and Clifford. This resulted in donations of £1,196.00.

We held our Plant and Cake Sale at St Mary's Church as part of the Café Church – this was well supported, and a great way to raise awareness of Christian Aid and our Café Church too. A total of £685 was raised there.

Judith Dahlgreen and I undertook the 70k in May walking challenge and raised an additional £965 through sponsorship and online donations.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, in whatever way! A special mention to Judith Dahlgreen and Rachel Ranby who provided great support through the planning and plant / cake sale and to Jim Murison who coordinated support from the Methodist Church.

Other events outside of the traditional Christian Aid week included the Act on Poverty Christian Aid lent course, and later in the year, our Harvest Service when we offered a simple soup and roll lunch after the service which was well supported and raised an additional £405.

Plans are well underway for 2025, when we will continue with delivery only envelopes (more volunteers are always needed!), a plant and cake sale in collaboration with Café Church, and a Quiz Night on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

We will launch the week with a joint service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Kate Kennedy

Christian Aid Co-ordinator

# **Friends of the Music at St Mary's Boston Spa**

## **(FOM) Report**

FOM was formed shortly after the completion in 2010 of the restoration of the Forster and Andrews pipe organ which was originally built in 1873. The aims of FOM are to promote and safeguard the fine musical traditions at St Mary's which are a vital element in the life of the church and also to fund a bursary for an organ scholar. Peter Sharp came to St Mary's as a scholar but due to his significantly increased skills in playing the organ, Peter was appointed assistant organist at St Mary's. Alas, the increasing demands of Peter's main job, a national train driver, have meant he cannot commit to maintaining his duties at St Mary's and he has had to resign his post. Our Director of Music and Choirmaster Steve Aston has begun the search to find a new organ scholar.

An organ recital is being planned for this year which will include Peter and we hope this recital will be fully supported by our village community and beyond. This fundraiser will ensure funds are available to provide a bursary for a new organ scholar and will enable us to continue covering costs connected with the choir such as choir robes, sheet music etc. and the maintenance of our Steinway piano.

We remain grateful to the members of FOM whose annual subscriptions of £20 are a vital source of revenue and new members will be very welcome indeed.

David Coates  
Chairman  
Tel: 07850 600798

March 2025



## **Mothers' Union Report**

We ended the year with 24 Members, 18 Members and 6 MU@TOMS Members. Sadly Ruth, Gillian and Kathy moved to be near their families and we have missed them a great deal. The Wednesday Corporate Communion Service is well supported by MU Members. It is a special Service and much appreciated by us all. We had some interesting and entertaining speakers at our Wednesday afternoon meetings.

Our fund raising unfortunately hasn't been as successful as previous years due to lack of support and this is something we need to tackle in the coming year. In July St Mary's Ark sadly finished after 20 years, with the number of children attending reducing to 5 and the Members of MU helpers down to 2, the final session ended with the usual Teddy Bear's Picnic on a beautiful sunny July day.

A very happy finale!

The Outing to York Gate Gardens organised by Gillian was well supported and a great success. Once again St Mary's School gave us a delightful selection of carols at our Christmas Party, sadly the number of people attending was much lower than usual. We continue to support the Baptism Services and now have three Members on the rota.

The Committee have managed to keep the show on the road since Ruth resigned and have worked very hard.

At a recent Committee Meeting Janet volunteered to take over as Branch Leader, with the continuing support of Su as Secretary, Barbara as Treasurer and Vanda and Sylvia as Committee Members,

The AGM was in March and Chaired by Rev. Nick, fifteen Members attended and enjoyed a delicious meal.

The MU@TOMS report was read in their absence by Vanda.

Su Wilkinson (Secretary)

# Stewardship Report

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH STEWARDSHIP REPORT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Planned giving has again fallen as against that for 2023. The fall is £3000 (2023 £2000) due to one or two substantial contributors having died or moved away. Stewardship Envelopes contributed 17% of the total, a further 25% came via the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme and the rest are Standing Orders.

Whilst it is now possible to claim tax relief for non-gift aided contributions, there is an annual limit of £8000 and this year the total of such contributions exceeded that limit. It would appear therefore that the Village Church Council need to give serious consideration to a campaign to increase the number of people committing to Gift Aided regular giving in one or other of the three ways referred to above.

Peter Wood, Stewardship Recorder

# **Vestry Report**

The vestry team has now changed with a younger serving team Danni mother of two sons Harry and Oliver

Danni learning and doing the serving at the Altar the boys being acolytes carrying the candles in the service

Harry helping to set the altar all doing very well and feeling more confident Tony Bye still helping in the Altar area a Eucharistic minister and sometimes acolyte holder, being a Crusifer Cross bearer is too difficult now so Harry does that role. Carole helps in the altar area all clear at the end of the service.

A great help now we have running hot water in the vestry kitchen after month boiling kettles.

I am in the choir but help when needed in vestry still check supplies and order supplies

Checking the prayer corner replenishing with new candles.

Washing is done by Pat Canning ,when unable I take altar linen home.

Sheila Harper

# All Saints' Church, Bramham



## **Churchwardens report**

All Saints' Church is situated at the heart of the village and has been a place of worship for over a thousand years. Over its long history, it has played an important part in the life of the village, and it is still open every day for anyone to come in. Regular church events such as the Plant sale and Craft Fair, the Brass Band Concert, the Christmas fair and Christmas Tree Competition and Carols in the Churchyard have been well supported by the community and this is much appreciated. The church congregation has also taken part in community events such as the Parish Council's Produce show in September. The Parish Magazine, which is delivered free to every house in Bramham for 10 months of the year, is a valuable vehicle for distributing news and information for groups and individuals.

We have been fortunate to have help with our services from two new members of the clergy team. The Reverend William Marshall who, with his wife Sammi, has moved into the village, and our new curate, Reverend Hannah Moore. Their contribution to the worship at All Saints' is much appreciated.

Reverend Glenda has continued to forge links with Bramham School by visiting the school and facilitating school visits to the Church. We were very pleased to welcome Bramham School to All Saints' for their annual carol service last year.

The beautiful churchyard gives pleasure to all those who visit it throughout the year and provides a refuge for all kinds of wild-life. We are grateful to all those people who work to keep it in good order. There was a very good response to our appeal for volunteers to take part in a "clean up" in the churchyard. Many thanks to all those who worked very hard to produce a great result, and to those who tend graves who have continued to keep the churchyard tidy.

The cost of keeping the church open and in good order continues to rise. A recent architect's report has indicated that extensive repairs to the church roof are necessary. We are grateful to everyone who supports the Church via the Parish Giving Scheme, the Open Door Scheme, and by donations of any kind.

You will be warmly welcomed at any of our services, but you can also visit during the day either to enjoy the peace and beauty of the ancient building or perhaps have a livelier time with your children, exploring the church building and the toys and activities available. Dogs are welcome to bring their owners in at any time! Times of services and contact details for the clergy and churchwardens are available in the Parish Magazine and the Church notice board.

Jillian Lawson and Chips Browning

The Churchwardens

# St Peter's Church, Walton



# Churchwardens Report

REPORT FOR ST PETER'S AGM SUNDAY MARCH 23rd @ HALL PARKS FARM - 2025

St Peter's has continued as usual this year with the few faithful worshipers continuing to support us.

We began in September with a talk held at St Mary's Church, by Veronica Bird OBE on Life behind Bars, which was very interesting and well supported. Our catering team provided afternoon tea for 90!

The next fundraiser was the Harvest Supper in October, which having said "Never Again" proved to be a sellout feeding the limit of 60 in the village hall. It is always a great get together for friends from Walton and other areas alike.

We were invited to run a tombola stall at the Village Hall to celebrate the Christmas Light Switch on, which Anne and myself ran very successfully with some excellent donations being given.

We had intended to have a Fashion Show also, but cancelled it, through lack of support.

We had just 1 wedding in July. With Richard and Julia Newman renewing their Wedding vows of (60) years in August, there were no baptisms, and with 1 village member, Alan Morrell passing away.

We had our QI inspection in October but as yet have not received the report, so keeping our fingers crossed that nothing major will show up.

I again thank all who continue to help with the general running of the Church, the Cleaning Flowers, our organist's and organising the various Rota's and readers.

The Church Yard maintenance was taken on by Thomas Colley but we are trying to get some help for him this year.

Anne Gooch has kept us supplied with Birthday and Christmas cards raising £111.50 since last year, all done with no charge to us, but going into the general funds. Thank you Anne.

As always a big thank you to Fiona for keeping our finances in order, and Angus for auditing them.

We continue to keep Jennifer in our prayers, as she continues to be cared for in Wetherby Manor Care home.

And finally a huge thank you to the Benefice team Rev's Nick, Trish, Glenda and Hannah, not forgetting Emma who makes my life so much easier by always being there to help whenever needed.

Doreen Lister  
Church Warden

If anyone is interested to take over this role please let me know.