

ST JOHN'S CHURCH RANMOOR

Reports to the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Date: 6TH April 2020

This report contains information about many of the groups and activities that have taken place over the year. The Accounts are published separately to this document.

Introduction

Welcome to the annual reports and accounts of St John's Ranmoor. This year, because of Covid 19, we are going to try and have our APCM online via Zoom on 26th April at 12 noon. If you cannot access Zoom you may be able to listen in via a friend's phone. The limitations of technology mean that it is more important than ever that you read these reports in advance and, if possible, send in your questions beforehand. Hopefully, you will have the time to do this!

Naturally, these reports record what was happening before the shut down and are a happy reminder of the 'normal life' that we hope to return to soon. I am very grateful to everyone who has been involved in preparing them, and to all those whose work is reflected in these pages. I am also very thankful for the huge amount of work which members outside the church, being salt and light across our city and beyond. Recent events have reminded us how important that work is and will continue to be. They have also reminded us to count our blessings, which is an important aspect of the APCM.

Matthew

Church Building

During the year only essential maintenance was undertaken. New communion rail kneelers were donated, and the choir candles replaced with rechargeable candles. Due to unacceptable noise levels, the PCC decided to disconnect the fans from the heating system. Warming the church to an acceptable level continues to be a problem.

Early in the year, the PCC agreed to advertise for a new Church Architect. We received a good response and a shortlist was drawn up. Edward Kepczyk, Senior Architect at Buttress in Manchester was appointed as both our Quinquennial and Project Architect. The Vision Day held in the Autumn identified the issues that people would like to see addressed. These were: The group highlighted the importance of regular ongoing maintenance in the Church

Hopes for the building development:

Toilets and kitchen (café area?)	Family facilities	Disabled access
Flexible space	Child friendly	Running water
Storage	Work surfaces	Electrical capacity
Fridge	Choir and vestry facilities	Audio/visual
Lighting		

The chamber organ was repaired and fund raising started for the cost of repairing the pipe organ. Because of the imminent closure of Andrew Carter's organ building business and, if we went to another company, the cost increase, the PCC decided to authorise the pipe organ's repair. The repair is scheduled to commence in March 2020. For the foreseeable future, Carter's will continue to provide an organ tuning service.

Thanks to Steve and Jim Dugdale who oversee day to day building and churchyard maintenance.

Brian Parfett

Deanery Synod

St John's representatives on the Hallam Deanery Synod are Mark Gregory, Sarah Beardsmore, and David Williams. The Synod met four times since the last APCM.

The July meeting was held at Christ Church, Hillsborough at which the Synod discussed its response to the Diocesan Strategy. St John's, Ranmoor hosted the September meeting with guest speaker Jo Chamberlain, Diocesan Environmental Adviser. It was an open meeting and lots of people from the Deanery came to discuss the environmental issues relevant to our churches, an agenda St John's is actively engaged with.

St Mark's Broomhill, hosted the November gathering which included a Eucharist and a shared meal. The most recent meeting was held at St Luke's, Lodge Moor and was the deanery's opportunity to discuss the new deanery plans and allocations of clergy.

The PCC receives regular updates on the work of the Synod and Matthew's role as its chair.

Sarah Beardsmore

Mission Partnership

Representatives of the Mission Partnership have continued to meet during the past year and clergy and others have met regularly for prayer. The Revd Melanie FitzGerald, the Vicar of St Mary's, retired at the end of February 2020 and St Mary's will now work with St John's and St Mark's. Sue Hammersley is likely to become their Priest in Charge and Matthew will probably be their Associate Priest. They are already helping to cover services at St Mary's. The Vine and St Timothy's have agreed to work together and expect to share a priest from sometime in 2021.

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll membership at the 2019 APCM totalled 135. 2019 was a new year to begin the roll. Over this year many people have joined the roll and **to date we have a total of 172 people** on the roll. Most of the new people who joined over the year were people who had not renewed by the 2019 APCM. We have had 10 people added due to weddings taking place in the Parish and we have had 4 people who have died and therefore come off the roll.

Once in every six years the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of new rolls is in 2025. People who would like to be on the Church Electoral roll must complete an electoral roll form. Forms should be completed and handed to a member of the Clergy, Churchwarden, the church office or to Claire Webber, our Electoral Roll Officer.

Church of England Training

Alison Wragg was licensed as a Reader and completed the Training course, she graduated in September 2019. Janet Noble undertook the one-year Authorised Children's Ministry training and also graduated in September 2019. Safeguarding training continues to be well attended by members of the Parish.

Children's Ministry

It has been an eventful year with the children and young people taking active and enjoyable roles within the worship and family at St Johns. Whilst still using Roots as a basis for our worship we have also examined other areas of our Christian life, basing our sessions on what is happening in the wider world. Christian aid, sports relief the anniversary of the moon landings, for example.

The sessions in the annex start with a period of reflection, privately getting rid of things that have worried us over the previous week and giving thanks for the gifts and good times we have been given or shared. The stories and readings are linked, wherever possible, to our modern-day life.

We have spent time looking at Gods creation, surveying the parish garden and building bug and small animal shelters which we all found very enjoyable.

We have continued with the messy craft sessions and have extended them to Spring/Easter, summer, Harvest and Christmas. We had planned a more structured messy church service at one of the all age Sundays, this will happen once we can all worship together again. The sessions are reaching out beyond the immediate church family and children and families have joined us from the toddler group and local schools.

The animal service was a fabulous idea of Matthew's and enjoyed by all. The all age services are well received and more interactive for all.

Where a baptism is conducted within the morning service the children and Young people have enjoyed staying in church, being part of the service and making gifts for the new babies who have been welcomed into our wider Church family. We have made cards for the families to be given out when the celebration is outside the morning service and also cards for new couples getting married at St Johns.

All children and young people are welcome to join us and we also welcome any helpers or people who would like to lead a session. One of our teens is 16 and has become a helper over the past year and is fabulous especially with our youngest members. None of this would have been possible without all the help from Matthew, the footsteps team and those who help at the messy crafts, for which I give thanks for all your gifts ,ideas, help and support. Also the parents, children and young people themselves for their enthusiasm, fun and their ability to astound us constantly with their spirituality and views and knowledge of the world they are growing up in.

Janet Noble.

Toddler Group

The group is open to anyone who is expecting or has had a baby and is looking for companionship and activities for their baby or toddler. We accept children up to school age. All children are accompanied by a carer. Carers are offered a drink and towards the end of the session children are offered a drink and a range of healthy snacks. We ask £1 for the first child plus 50p for other additional children. We meet Thursdays, term time.

Helen Clark and Ann Darke predominantly run the group with Sally Booker, Barbara Wozencroft and Elaine Henders also help occasionally. The availability of volunteers has reduced further despite our efforts. However we have managed to keep the group running, sometimes with only Helen, as Claire is usually in the office on Thursdays and there is now an Art group running should there be any incidents of a health and safety nature. Also Helen is able to contact Steve, the Verger.

Helen and Claire Webber will look at and revise the Health and Safety document for the group during the summer of 2020, and implement any new guidelines, registration and administrative measures to fall in line with current data, health and safety and safeguarding measures. Our regular attenders have changed slightly, we have 7 to 10 regular attenders, although the numbers still vary widely. We have continued to leave flyers around the local community and we have set up a Facebook page for the group, I hope to review the use of this with Claire now that the new Website for St John's is up and running.

The Toddler equipment has been sorted through and streamlined as appropriate, this has been done to ensure a better health and hygiene regime. Crafts and toys are regularly replaced where appropriate and we have enjoyed the use of the new outside area. There is a focus activity during each session, often craft based, but also food based and we have given the children the opportunity to explore and experiment. We have regularly incorporated the themed activity, where appropriate from the Footsteps session during the previous Sunday and we have tried to also incorporate the theme, where appropriate from The All Age Worship. We have shared news with the Toddler group of activities, events and services, such as the Christian Aid Garden Party, Messy Church Crafts, Christingle, Christmas Eve Nativity, as such we are continuing to see a slow increase in members of the Toddler Group attending these services and activities. When we are able to start our group back up we will have to take on any guidance with regard to the Corona Virus we are given, I will do this working closely with Claire. We also realise our group may change, quite a few of our regular attenders will be starting school or nursery so we may have to step up our efforts at spreading the news about our special little Toddler and Baby group.

Helen Clark

Flowers

Flowers in Church add further beauty to our building and act as our offerings to God.

The flower rota is coordinated by Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe. Each volunteer on the rota normally commits to providing and arranging one pedestal of flowers by the pulpit in Church, on average once a year.

Volunteers are also invited via the church notice sheet periodically to help at the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. This usually entails providing and arranging flowers for either one of the window sills, a pedestal, the font or the church porch.

For our Harvest Festival we decorated the church throughout with colourful Harvest flowers incorporating fruit and vegetables.

At Christmas we used red carnations, gold pine cones, seed heads, birch and fatsia leaves together with holly and green foliage from our gardens to make coordinating arrangements for the pedestals, porch and window sills.

In February we asked via the weekly notice sheet and the church Inspire magazine if anyone would like to sponsor a pedestal of flowers for a celebration or in memory of someone who had died. Many people were pleased and grateful to sponsor a pedestal and to have the person remembered in our weekly notice sheet.

Prior to Easter we asked for donations towards the purchase of lilies in memory of someone who had died and these were incorporated in our Easter arrangements.

We are always looking for more people to help so please do contact either Sandra Green or Jackie Lowe if you are interested.

Study Groups

We have run two study groups during the year. These groups have taken place in the Garden Room in the Parish Centre on a Wednesday evening and everyone has been welcome to join us. We are pleased to report that the number of people joining our study groups has been increasing. We give thanks and pray that this will continue.

In September we commenced a fortnightly course based on the book 'Planetwise' - Dare to Care for God's World by Dave Bookless. There was a study course to accompany the book which had been produced in association with the Christian ecology movement A Rocha.

There were six sessions in the study course -:

1. Introduction - Changing our World View
2. Creation
3. Creation's groaning
4. The Land
5. Jesus - Saviour of the World
6. The New Creation - 'On Earth as in Heaven'

This course helped us to understand more about God's creation and explore the issue of climate change in both theological and practical ways. We hope we are now better able to respond to its challenge in our lives and faith.

In Lent we joined with Nether Green Methodist Church for our study groups. As well as our usual Wednesday night group there was a Tuesday afternoon group at the Methodist Church. Both groups were open to members of both congregations.

We used one of the York Courses, entitled 'On the Third Day'. This focused on the Resurrection, Easter Day and how we should live our lives as Easter people.

The course book was written by Bishop John Pritchard (Chair of SPCK) and accompanied by an audio CD to be used in tandem with the course booklet. This had reflections from Rt Rev Tom Wright, Professor Paul Vallely, Rev Ruth Gee and Rt Rev Libby Lane.

This course provided much material for bible study, discussion and reflection. We valued the opportunity to get to know people from Nether Green and to listen to their contributions in discussion. Unfortunately, the course was cut short by the arrival of Coronavirus but we completed the Wednesday evening course via Zoom. (which presented some challenges but had the added advantage of improving our IT skills!)

We have found that in reading, reflection, discussion and listening to each other, we have learned much from each other, helping us to grow in both faith and as a Christian community.

Sandra Green

Parish Library

The following titles were added to the Parish Library between April 2019 and April 2020. Some were gifts and some were purchased. **The total expenditure was £112.20** I have tried to select some books which reflect the progression of the Church year (including some for children) and others which focus on the environment and climate change.

August 2019

Peter Stanford 'Angels. A Visible and Invisible History'

Gift

October 2019

Paul Hawken (ed) 'Drawdown -----Plan to Reverse Global Warming'	Gift
David Price 'Welcome to Sheffield. A Migration History'	Gift
Rowan Williams 'Luminaries. Twenty Lives that Illuminate the Christian Way'	£ 8.18
November 2019	
Marilyn McCulloch 'One Night on Earth'	£ 7.99
Antoine Schneider 'Advent Storybook. 24 Stories to Share Before Christmas'	£ 11.61
Jane Williams 'The Art of Advent. A Painting a Day from Advent to Epiphany'	£ 7.19
Justin Welby 'In this Light. Thoughts for Christmas'	£ 7.91
Rachel Mann 'In the Bleak Midwinter. Through Advent and Christmas with Christina Rossetti'	£ 10.34
Nick Baines 'Freedom is Coming. From Advent to Epiphany with Isaiah'	£ 7.19
Tom Wright 'Advent for Everyone. A Journey through Matthew'	£ 8.99
Tom Wright 'Advent for Everyone. A Journey through Luke'	£ 6.47
January 2020	
Lisa Fouweather '#Girls are Strong'	Gift
Lisa Fouweather 'Portfolio of Hope'	Gift
February 2020	
Mike Berners-Lee 'There is no Planet B. A Handbook for the Make or Break Years'	£ 6.66
'Saying Yes to Life. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2020'	£ 6.57
Michelle Francl-Donnay 'Not by Bread Alone 2020. Daily Reflections for Lent'	£ 3.99
March 2020	
Heather Amery 'The Easter Story'	£ 3.99
Rowan Williams 'God with Us. The meaning of the cross and the resurrection - then and now'	£ 7.37
Jane Williams 'Approaching Easter'	£ 7.75

Thank you
Jan Marrison

Ranmoor Ringers

We have a steady band of 15 regular ringers and are ringing all 10 Bells most Sundays. Our practices are well attended with up to 20 ringers on some nights. Elaine and Peter Scott have continued with extra training for learners not only for Ranmoor but also for Sheffield Cathedral and St Marie's Catholic Cathedral. The current numbers are quite stable and our learners are progressing well. We are now in a position to take on any other persons who would like to learn to ring. During the last year we have updated the ringing chamber and reordered the electrics to a very high standard for the future. My thanks go out to all the ringers who regularly attend our Sundays and Tuesday practice nights and who give of their time freely to ring the chimes out to all our congregation.

Richard Noble – Tower Captain.

Music

This year has been a very exciting and busy period, as ever, but in lots of different ways with St John's music programme growing as our membership has in every area. Meanwhile, socially we have been far more active and our "community feel" has grown exponentially too.

For the beginning of the new academic year, we welcomed to the Music Team Mr Francis Wells as Choral Scholar Tutor who brings many years as a prodigious singer across the globe as well as teacher, director and conductor, to assist in the training and management of our Choral Scholars. We are also most fortunate to have Dr Cathy Rhodes join us as Junior Chorister Tutor, who has done a remarkable task in encouraging and collaborating in the set-up of the new Junior Choristers. The Junior Choristers serve a three-fold purpose: first, to provide a children's choir for the monthly All Age service; second, to act as a potential feeder for the Choristers; and finally, to give us another opportunity for outreach at St John's to extend ourselves further into the community and providing opportunities for families to join us.

By the end of year the chamber organ restoration was completed and it has proved a valuable asset from thereon in. Funding was still being sought and applied for to begin the restoration of the main organ and my thanks go to the Organ Committee for their tireless way in facilitating this through form filling, organising events and generally thinking "out of the box"! In the meantime, we are continuing to use the digital organ as a temporary measure.

We are grateful, as ever, for the generous funding provided by the Pilling Trust, Ouseley Trust and the Norman Barnes Fund, without whose support the opportunity to explore music at the highest levels and to provide opportunities across the board for all ages and all levels of musicianship would not be possible.

Our regular schedule of at least five sung services has continued this year with many additional services and events too. These have included major celebrations at Easter (with services and events every day between Palm Sunday and Easter Day) and Christmas (beginning with the Advent Procession and culminating in the Epiphany Procession with Vespers, special Evensongs, concerts, Nine Lessons and Carols, and, of course, the Christmas Day service in between!). We have also staged a complete calendar full of sung compline services, choral vespers, themed Sunday Evensongs and Communion with music from across the world and across the ages, organ masterworks, as well as a summer concert series with music ranging from harpsichord and violin, to an evening of Movie Classics presented as a game show (provided by our team of resident organists), to jazz and barbershop (provided by our choirs), to an American July Independence Organ Concert played by the Director of Music accompanied by an all American meal (provided by his wife!), with special services and concerts to mark Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, Remembrance Day and All Souls' Day. The monthly orchestral mass series has continued to develop and I am very grateful to our ever-growing pool of orchestral members, both advanced child instrumentalists as well as adults, led very ably by Dr Anton Nikolaev.

It is wonderful that the main source of new membership for all our choirs and orchestra now is through our reputation which, via word of mouth and recommendation, means enquiries regularly come in asking how to join and can they please join us!! In this day and age where there are so many competing activities all happening at one time (particularly across weekends), it is good to know that we offer a superlative experience for those discerning musicians and that people choose us rather than us having to go out and persuade people that it might be a good idea to join! Indeed we also have had many requests for our singers to "moonlight" elsewhere now, especially amongst the Choristers, who represent St John's and spread the word with their outstanding musicality, particularly when having to adapt to working with new musicians in new settings and environments.

Our Composer-in-Residence, Mark Niedzwiedz, has been extremely busy with a huge output that we have been performing throughout the year in preparation for recording his opus during 2020. We are extremely fortunate to have him as part of our Music Team and it brings yet another aspect to music at St John's which is quite unique.

My thanks goes to the Occasional Singers who continue to provide music for some of our "dumb" Sundays or at times when the other choirs are busy preparing for other events and services. I am most grateful to Derek Grover for his directorship of this group and to the members of the Occasional Singers who exhibit such enjoyment each time they sing! It is certainly a joy to watch the choir in action.

Life as a musician at St John's extends well beyond just music, it must be noted! There have been a number of social gatherings ranging from the Chorister Christmas Party, chorister outings to do various activities in and around Sheffield, the Summer BBQ (complete with bouncy castle which the adults - as is their wont - hogged!) and various adult gatherings (including the now regular twice-weekly visit to support the Ranmoor Inn). Many new friendships continue to have been formed this year too and old ones continue to flourish.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Music Team who put so much in sustaining the music at St John's: Derek Grover, who as Associate Director of Music, directs and plays so ably, is so adaptable and adept; Joseph Hutchinson, who as Organist-in-Residence, directs and plays in such an accomplished manner, also singing a mean countertenor (many thanks to him for his superb and thorough assistance in training the Choristers that has produced a close-knit, highly musical group of youngsters): Professor Julian Gunn, who brings his huge personality to the organ bench and never ceases to surprise us with his skill; Georgina Hulse, as Vocal Coach, who works individually with the Choristers and assists in the direction and training of them as a group as well as being a stalwart member of the Consort - she has done wonders with our choristers as individuals and transforms voices ready to integrate back into the main group; Fran Wells, as Choral Scholar Tutor, for his sterling work with the Choral Scholars, getting alongside them and helping them, as teenagers, to mature and grow as musicians; Cathy Rhodes, as Junior Chorister Tutor, for having the sheer energy early on a monthly Sunday All Age to stand up, energize a group of tiny, tiny singers, actually have them arrive at the end of their journey smiling, wanting more, meanwhile producing music that any choir director would be envious of; Marty Barbieri, who works behind the scenes supporting the Director of Music with administrative tasks and paperwork, as well as supervising the Choristers at weekends, whilst also having the unenviable duty of managing of the music library!

My thanks also to all those parents who sit in on Chorister rehearsals for Safeguarding Duties, particularly Yulia Nikolaeva, Sarah Beardsmore, Rachel Morrison, Jennifer Farn, Matthew Farn, as well as Jacky Dakin, who also ably masterminds snack rotas, sitting rotas, cassocks and surplices and other such delights and acts as Head of Pastoral Care for the choristers! Many thanks also to Sarah Beardsmore and Lizzie Lees for being present for Junior Chorister events. The name of Tom Dakin should not go unmentioned either - Tom acts as "Mr Money" for payment of the Choristers and Choral Scholars each term - thank you so much! A final big "thank you" to Alan and Pauline Heath for their maintenance of choir robes and, of course, to Claire Webber in her multiple roles as St John's as Administrator and Safeguarding Officer.

All these people contribute so much to the massive operation that keeps music running at St John's, with so much of it happening unseen, and we owe them a great deal.

I would like to thank most sincerely all our clergy, PCC and congregation for the support and encouragement of our music programme at St John's as we endeavour to share and spread the Gospel. Without them there would be no music here!

A very special appreciation goes to our Vicar, Matthew, who offers so much compassion, understanding, support and appreciation of music - what a godsend he has been! It has also been very good to see him gradually getting involved as a singer himself in some of our choirs and, like me, it is vital to get on the other side of the director's podium (or the vicar's stall in his case!) from time to time just to see exactly what everyone else is seeing! Thank you, Matthew - I am so glad to work with you here!

My overall thanks goes to the multitude of people, comprising organists, singers, instrumentalists, staff and support members, of every age ranging from 5 years old to 85 years old who are involved at every level - your contribution and presence makes St John's a very special place to live and work and a unique place to make music and offer our meagre contributions to magnify the glory of God! Music at St John's is the envy of many across the land and that is only possible with everybody doing what they do best and in a harmonious, lovely atmosphere!

Edward Barbieri
Director of Music

The Organ Appeal

As I sit writing this report, I am listening to the choirs rehearse for choral evensong and it is clear that music is a gift to St John's. We are one of very few remaining churches with a robed choir and are unique in the Diocese for offering such a high standard of choral music in a parochial setting. Our pipe organ has dutifully accompanied our choral music for 130 years and now we have a duty to restore it to full working order.

Last summer a fundraising group was convened to work on a strategy for raising nearly £100,000 to restore the organ. A plan was put together and the appeal launched last October. So far the St John's community have generously given £18,500 including Gift Aid.

The fundraising group also looked to secure funding in other ways. The PCC were able to identify £30,000 from a restricted music fund which has been used to pay for repairs to the Chamber organ and the rest has been allocated to the appeal. We are also seeking grants and have secured offers of funding from the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust and the Sheffield Town Trust, upon successfully raising the remainder of the funds.

We've also embarked on a programme of activities. The income from last year's concert series' has contributed, as has the choirs' Christmas concert. We've also had some very successful events. In January, we had a delightful evening of wine-tasting and harpsichord music, provided by local merchant StarmoreBoss and our own Derek Grover. In February, Dr Andrew Raftery headlined a fundraising evening with his entertaining talk about life as both a surgeon and an actor. The evening also included an auction of promises, with the wonderful auction lots being generously donated by the congregation.

It has been wonderful to see so many from our Church community come together in support of the appeal. To date, we have just under £60,000 in the appeal fund. Our fundraising events have had to be suspended for the time being, but we hope to resume things later in the year to complete our fundraising and enable our organ's restoration.

For information on the appeal or to find out how you can support us, please contact Sarah Beardsmore via the Parish Office.

Sarah Beardsmore, Fundraising Group Chair

Report of the Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has met seven times during 2019 - 2020. The group continues to respond to a range of short term care needs within our church family always working alongside the extensive informal support which exists within our congregation.

Membership of the group

Janet Atkinson (chair), Jean Couldrey, Liz Dwyer, Rosemary Farkas, Mary Grover, Trudie Kelly, Barbara Wozencroft and Alison Wragg as a reader. Rev Matthew Rhodes has attended all our meetings and plays a key role in guiding our work and supporting members of the congregation during difficult times.

We appreciate and value the support of Rev Bridget Brooke who has continued to visit and takes communion to older people in their homes.

Roles and responsibilities

- Mary Grover, Liz Dwyer and Trudie Kelly have continued to co-ordinate **short term support** which includes the provision of meals and/ or practical and emotional support.
- Trudie Kelly attends the Wednesday lunch club each week along with Rosie Gregory. She also sends cards to members of the congregation who are hospitalised or unwell for periods of time.
- Alison Wragg plays a key role in the Wednesday lunches each week and continues to visit older people at home and taking communion to those unable to get to church.
- Barbara Wozencroft continues to manage the **data-base** and co-ordinate any requests for **transport**. The regular Sunday transport rota has come to end during this year as people have been less able to leave their care homes and come to church. However the informal arrangements people have been making with members of the congregation to get to church continue to increase.
- We have also arranged occasional transport for emergency hospital appointments and supported older people visiting their relatives in hospital at times of crisis.
- Rosemary Farkas gives us her professional knowledge and experience providing guidance and insight on a range of issues relating to pastoral care

Our **data-base of volunteers** is regularly updated and currently includes 46 people.

Each year several people step down and move on for various reasons but others come forward. In all our work careful attention is given to data protection and confidentiality.

Areas of pastoral care covered since April 2019

- **Cooking and delivering meals** in a variety of circumstances, including families with new-born babies, short stays in hospital and other emergencies.
- Providing **transport** to and from church
- Two volunteers continue to send cards to celebrate the first two **anniversaries of baptisms and weddings**.
- **Administering communion** regularly to residents in the local care homes and to members of the congregation at home and unable to attend services. Sadly, Fulwood Lodge, one of the local care homes has now closed and residents have been found alternative accommodation.
- Singing carols at Christmas with the residents of Bridgdale and Riverdale House, a local residential project supporting people with eating disorders
- The numbers at the Wednesday Lunches have continued to increase during the year and Janet and Malcolm Anker have introduced midmorning coffee following the Wednesday morning communion service. This has been welcomed by everyone and provides more time for social interaction. Additional informal activities have now become a regular feature of the morning. Peter Chatterton has continued to arrange occasional speakers from the congregation.
- We provided lunches again during August 2019 serving a total of 73 lunches over 4 consecutive Wednesdays with the help of 14 volunteers; mostly people from the congregation who were not regular volunteers during the rest of the year. This enabled the regular volunteers to take a well earned break.
- In taking forward a commitment to become a more dementia friendly church Wendy Bant, one of our congregation and a retired consultant geriatrician, led a small workshop for people taking communion into the local care homes. Our intention in 2020 is to continue to develop ways in which we can take this work forward and become more aware of how to support people and their families,

Looking ahead

Unfortunately the annual pastoral care supper when we thank all volunteers and identify priorities for the coming year had to be cancelled on 19th March 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak. However the challenges of supporting people during these difficult days remain and already there are many initiatives underway enabling people to keep in touch. Watch out for information on the website and connect into the Zoom network via Brian Parfett. We have already assembled a collection of jigsaws available for people to borrow and details about accessing these will be available shortly.

Thanks and Renewal of commitment

Once again we should like to record formally our appreciation to everyone who has contributed to pastoral care at St John's during 2019. We ask for a commitment of only twelve months and it is important that people are able to step down when ready; thankfully others are always found enabling us to continue providing care and support.

We should also like to record again our particular thanks to Claire Webber who continues to play a very significant role in relation to pastoral care by listening,

supporting people, providing practical help and referring requests on to the pastoral care group. Much of what she does is invisible but is hugely appreciated.

If you are interested in finding out more about our pastoral care activities or feel you might like to contribute in any way, please contact Claire who will pass on your details to a member of the pastoral care group.

Janet Atkinson on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group. March 2020

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Group meet every three or four months. Members are involved in different aspects of the way we are called to respond to the vulnerable in our own society and beyond. We try to support each other's activities and to link the work of different groups.

Christian Aid is supported by a large proportion of our congregation. Malcolm and Janet Anker coordinate our involvement; here is their report:

'Another big thank you to everyone who has helped us with Christian Aid this year. Altogether we have raised £5523: this includes the house-to-house collection, the sponsored walk by Alan Heath (£555 + £131 Gift Aid), the Garden Party and the Sunday Morning sale of cakes and donations. We ask for your continued support during the coming year, as Christian Aid seeks to support so many millions in great need.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the house-to-house-collection for Christian Aid 2020 has been cancelled, but the Week will still be observed. Since the greatest part of Christian Aid's income comes from the collection, the suspension of the collection will have ramifications for the work of the charity. We are therefore being encouraged to seek ways in which we can raise funds for Christian Aid. This will be a challenge, and we do ask you to pray for the work of Christian Aid in the coming year, and we also ask you to keep looking at the church notices on the church website for ideas and opportunities, and on the website for Christian Aid at caweek.org for the latest information. One idea suggested is to place £1 in a jar every time we go for our daily exercise. Or we could donate some of the savings we achieve by not meeting our friends for coffee etc. Donations can be sent online. If you have any other ideas, please send them to Claire who could put them in the church notices. With many thanks to everyone.'

Janet and Malcolm Anker

Environmental work with young people in St John's has been led by Helen Clark. 'This year the young people at St John's have made a good start with looking at and planning ways of making the Parish Centre grounds more environmentally friendly for animals and 'mini beasts'! 'During Footsteps we have done a nature walk around the grounds, we have 'brain stormed' and researched how to make our garden more inviting to nature. We created a 'bug hotel' and Matthew kindly donated a hedgehog house which

is also in the grounds. We plan to create a wildflower garden on the top lawn behind the fence, in front of the steps. We would also like to put in a child friendly and safe water feature. There is no source of water whatsoever for animals to access in our grounds. *Helen Clark*

REACH social justice group with young teenagers issues its report separately.

The Fair Trade stall has been coordinated by Debbie Timms and stocked by the Fair Trade shop in Broomhill, Good Taste. It is held on the first Sunday in every month. This year we have sold around £100 worth of goods per month. *Debbie Timms*

Baby Basics

Baby Basics continues to be well supported at St. John's. We need to say a big 'Thank you' to all those who so generously donated during the Christmas period. The demonstration Moses basket at the back of Church (kindly donated) was overflowing with baby clothes and nappies and there were some lovely toiletries for both Mums and babies. These were all gratefully received at the new headquarters on Glossop Road/Ring Road corner. The new facilities are very spacious and it is so much easier for the volunteers to sort and store items on all the new shelving and in the containers. The good news is that, with all the extra space, Baby Basics can take items up to 4 years of age. There is also more storage for larger things such as pushchairs and highchairs etc.

During this Covid 19 crisis it would be best if people wishing to donate could telephone on 2787262, as the opening hours will be different. The big request at the moment is for newborn size cardigans and jackets, so we hope that St. John's knitters will be able to pass these days of isolation 'craftily'. *Susan Hepworth*

Climate Change

This year the Climate Crisis Group, set up by the Social Justice Committee, have focused our attention on the issue of climate change. Deborah Page has produced regular articles in *Inspire* sharing resources that heighten our awareness of the need to change our habits to make us better stewards of our planet. Deborah's article in the April edition of *Inspire* highlights the emphasis of this year's Christian Aid campaign on the destructive effects of climate change on the poorest people in the world and the benefits of educating girls in those communities. She points us towards an important resource: Paul Hawken's *Drawdown: the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reduce global warming* (Penguin 2018). (Copy in church library).

The group sent a report of their findings, from a Parish Survey, to the PCC earlier this year and a summary of results was published in the February issue of *Inspire*.

The group, which comprises Deborah Page, Debbie Timms, Jane Thickett and John Green has recently been joined by Cathy Rhodes who has been appointed as the Diocesan Adviser on Climate Change and Adviser to the Bishop. The group is currently carrying out an assessment of our ability to apply for Eco-church status, an

international set of standards created by the Christian Eco group A Rocha. *John Green and Deborah Page*

City of Sanctuary

The planned collection of children's and men's clothing to donate to Sanctuary, a charity to help refugees, has sadly had to be cancelled because of the Covid-29 emergency.

2019 Church communal Christmas Card

The raised £212.54 this year. The money went to Phoenix Association

Burngreave Foodbank - we have a regular collection of food and basic provisions for the Burngreave Foodbank. We do regular appeals which really focus on essential items. We had a summer holiday collection as often this is when families really struggle. This year we donated all our Harvest items collected to the foodbank. We have had a Christmas Appeal again this year for items such as chocolates, selection boxes, treats etc that really help lift the spirits of the families. The foodbank are hugely appreciative of the focus and support we at St John's give them.

Conclusion

The variety of activities to support greater social justice in this world and the number of people involved in these activities demonstrate how closely linked these concerns are to our Christian faith at St John's.

Mary Grover

REACH – Youth Social Justice Committee

REACH is a group for young people in the church aged 12-16, who are concerned to explore and act out Christ's ministry to the vulnerable.

For the last two years this group has worked towards an activity each school term which increases their understanding of social needs in this city and gives them an opportunity to address them.

Given the many different commitments our young people have it was decided eighteen months ago to focus on termly events to be held in the holidays. Between the events the young people talked with each other and Mary Grover about how they could prepare for these events and then to reflect on what they had learned from them.

In September Mathew, Sumi Festus and Gillian Stanley organised a group visit to the Laurel and the Limes residential homes so that residents could share their wartime experiences with members of REACH. The group talked to six residents and to a member of our own congregation to produce accounts that were on display at our

Armistice Day service. The residents at the Laurels and Limes clearly enjoyed the company of our young people and appreciated the value being set on their experiences.

Later in the autumn the group participated in a workshop on mental health led by Professor Ann Macaskill from Sheffield Hallam University who is a member of our congregation. The eight young people who attended found the session very engaging and many opened up about the problems facing themselves and their friends. We were very fortunate to have such skilled guidance in this sensitive area.

In January the Church contributed to the costs of a group Christmas outing to Laser Quest accompanied by pizza.

In the spring the group were very keen to repeat last year's visit to help out at Burngreave Foodbank. They enjoyed the visit and were glad to be doing something so clearly valued.

I have very much appreciated the support of Sumi Festus, Matthew Rhodes and Mark Swinscoe. We are fortunate to have such a thoughtful group of young people in our church community. It is particularly encouraging that this group, begun by a group in the congregation, is now joined by members of our choirs and links are beginning to be made between them all.

Before the COVID-19 emergency we were planning a sleep-out in aid of Christian Aid or the Archer Project. I do pray that despite this pause in our activities we can pick up to some extent where we left off and plan this event perhaps in the early autumn. As a way of keeping the group connected, I am in touch with members individually asking for their ideas about how we should plan the sleep-out and how we should set up sponsorship. I have hugely enjoyed being involved with this group and would like to say how much it owes to the work Sumi has put in both before and after her move to Manchester.

Mary Grover

Safeguarding

As members of the Church of England we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children and young people and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and from neglect.

The PCC appointed me as independent Parish Safeguarding Officer. I have attended many training courses on safeguarding and ensure that the PCC are up-to date with all aspects of keeping our church safe.

St John's is very pro-active, ensuring that DBS Certificates are in place for any people working with children and vulnerable adults. Risk Assessments take place for every piece of activity we may conduct, and First Aid Courses are ran to ensure we have emergency training to help anybody who falls ill or has an accident.

Importantly I ensure that people who work with children and vulnerable adults in our parish are trained and aware of what to do to keep our church a safe place.

Claire Webber

Social Events

This year the PCC appointed a team to lead social events in the Parish. Primarily led by Claire Webber with a view to Helen Clark taking on the roll as chair in time. The group consists of:

Claire Webber, Helen Clark, Trudie Kelly, Pete Chatterton, Susan Hepworth, Rosie Gregory, Janet Anker, Debbie Timms and Matthew Rhodes.

The social team have put together several successful events for our church family appealing to all ages. At the start of the year we put together a years' worth of events tying into the church Calendar. Some events have been fundraisers, and some have been purely as a social event. Where possible we donate any "profits" to a charity of our choice at the time. This year we have supported Macmillan Cancer Charity, St John's Organ Appeal, Children's Society and Phoenix Association.

The committee continue to look for volunteers to propose new ideas and to volunteer to help with events. This year we have had several successful events:

- Theatre Trip to see Kiss me Kate and Guys and Dolls at the Crucible - thanks to Gillian Stanley for organising
- Social Event with various speakers
- Sunday lunch to celebrate 140 years of St John's
- Coach trip to Scarborough - it was a wonderful day
- Afternoon tea
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Celebration Picnic to join and welcome Alison Wragg as our new licensed reader and Janet Noble as our authorised Children's Minister.
- Christian Aid garden Party
- Harvest Pie and Pea supper
- Christingle - we shared in a jacket potatoes tea with everyone who came to the service

We have so many events planned for 2020 including talks, coach trips, lunches and so on, we would like to thank everyone for organising these events and for coming along to support them in any way.

If you would like to help organise events or suggest any ideas, please contact the group.

Claire Webber

Craft and Chatter

This is a new group that started in 2019. The group meets informally on a Monday for a social get together. The idea is to meet, have a coffee, bring your crafts maybe knitting or crocheting and chat. The group have taken on some challenges together since they begun for example, they made Festive table decorations and have recently started to make handmade greetings cards which they are selling for Christian Aid. The group meets on a Monday in the Parish Centre from 1-3pm and everyone is welcome.

Inspire Magazine

“The magazine continues to flourish under the editorship of Philip Walshaw, with help from Tom Dakin, who does the proof reading, and Gillian and Roy Stanley, who do the distribution and regularly contribute articles. There is a good balance of articles to advertisers, who keep supporting the magazine, which assists in keeping it financially viable. Offers of help with the magazine and the submission of articles for inclusion are always welcomed.”

Weddings

St John’s is a wonderful church where on average we have 16+ weddings taking place each year. Around half the couples that are married here attend regularly to come on our electoral roll. Many have another qualifying connection to be married such as – they have lived in the parish; their parents or grandparents were married here and so on.

Due to the church closure in 2018, we had an impact on the number of people booked in for 2019 weddings as couples were unsure about booking when we didn’t have a re-open date. In total 7 weddings took place in 2019. There are a total of 16 weddings in the calendar for 2020.

We have a few weddings booked in our diary for 2020 that we are facilitating for Fulwood Christ Church as they are due to have a massive piece of re-ordering work done. At the time of APCM we are unsure if this work will happen due to the impact of Coronavirus.

We hope and pray for all couples being married in St John’s this year and wish them all very well in their lives together.

Sides People

As I write this short report in early April, we are in suspension until the pandemic abates but almost everyone on the rota has already indicated a willingness to help next year (list attached). Helen Lees has had to give up as Deputy Warden for the best of reasons - the arrival of a daughter. We have one retirement - Tom Dakin who, at 90, thinks it's time to step-down. Thanks to Helen and Tom for all the service they have given over the years. We shall miss Tom's friendly face at the door and wider help with the team that Sandra leads. Thanks also to Andy Clark who has stepped in as Deputy Warden at All Age, when his family is on duty.

We now have six teams for the main 10.30 services but they could do with two more members to maintain optimum size. If you think you could help in this way then please contact John Green (jrgreen212@gmail.com) (0798 545 9923). The main duty is to be a welcoming face and helping newcomers. There is also a vacancy for a Deputy Warden so if you feel you take on a bit more responsibility then please speak to Mathew Rhodes.

Finally- Thank You to everyone who helps with each of our services and especially for sorting out swaps, without involving me.

John Green

Wardens and Duty Wardens

Brian Parfett

Carl Webber

Joy Bowler

Graham Woods

Peter Chatterton

Andy Clark**

John Green

Vacancy

Senior Sides-persons

Sandra Green

Peter Lowe

Anthea Priestley

Gillian Stanley

Peter Wozencroft

Grace Woods

Sides-persons

Janet Anker

Mark Allcock

Janet Atkinson

John Biggin*

Norma Chatterton

Vacancy

Vacancy

Nigel Edmonds

Pauline Heath*

John Hepworth

Jackie Lowe

Morag Shaw

Veronica Sullivan

Gwyneth Warburton

Barbara Wozencroft

* Evensong

* * All Age

John Atkinson

David Booker

Helen Clark**

Pam Cooper*

Ruth Dawson*

Rosie Gregory*

Susan Hepworth

Trudie Kelly

Peter Marrison*

Mandy Stockley

Pat Thompson

Claire Webber **

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.