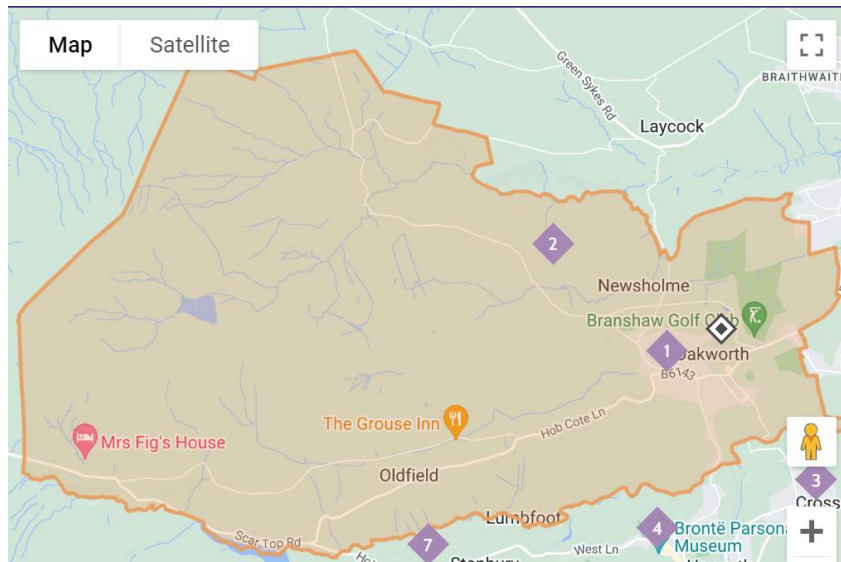


Parish of Oakworth St John's Newsholme and Christ Church Oakworth



Annual Meetings and Reports



Parish of Oakworth: Church of England, Diocese of Leeds
St John's Newsholme & Christ Church Oakworth

Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2026

at which the Churchwardens of the parish are elected.

- Agenda:**
1. Declaration of the Meeting
 2. Minutes of 2025 Meeting
 3. Election of 2 Churchwardens
(Appointment of Deputy Wardens will be deferred to first PCC meeting).
 5. Closure of Meeting.
-

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

at which all members on the electoral roll of the parish and all ministers licensed to the parish may attend.

- Agenda:**
1. Declaration of the Meeting
 2. Minutes of 2025 Meeting
 - 3: Elections and Appointments [M6]
 - a) Election of parochial representatives of the laity to the deanery synod
 - b) Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC
 - c) Appointment of an independent Examiner until the next APCM.

**Please note that if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats to be filled, each candidate is declared elected. [M9(3)]*

4. Report on the Electoral Roll [M5 1a)] p.
 5. Report on the activity of the PCC and Parish [M5 1b)] p.
 6. Report on the Financial Statements for the year [M5 1c)] p. & appendix
 7. Annual Fabric Report [M5 1d)] p.
 8. Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod [M5 1e)] p.
 9. Closure of the Meeting
-

Parish of Oakworth: Christ Church with St John's Newsholme

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, held on Sunday May 11th 2025

At which the Churchwardens of the Parish are elected

Attendance list: Revd. Jemma Sander-Heys, Lynn Stow, Pam Aston, Roy Aston, Christine Brunskill, Revd. Anne Pickard, Colin Stow, Claire Ketteman, Keith Johnson, Roger Furniss, Sheila Tilson, Judith Tiplady, Jan Thompson, Helen Smith, Judith Bland, Clare Miriam Harris, Thea Heys, Joel Heys, Karen Loble, Zoe Arnold, Kara Thornton, Debbie Shillito, Wendy Minnock, Angela Grigson, Sharon Quinn, Dawn Whitaker, Connie Laycock, Philip Cullingworth.

Apologies for Absence: Melanie Tanner.

1. **The meeting was declared at 11.55am by Revd. Jemma Sander-Heys who opened with prayer.**
 - a. **Minutes of 2024 meeting:** Proposed as a true record by Pam Aston, seconded by Wendy Minnock and all were in agreement so proposal accepted.
 - b. **Election of 2 Churchwardens:** There were two vacancies due to Dawn Whitaker wishing to stand down and Jan Thompson moving to York. There were no nominations so unable to hold an election. Revd. Jemma explained that although a Parish can run without Churchwardens it is not advisable, we would be unable to appoint Deputy Wardens in this case.

The meeting ended at 11.57am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

At which all members of the electoral roll of the parish and all ministers licensed to the parish may attend

Attendance list and apologies for absence: as at meeting of parishioners.

1. **Declaration of meeting:** Revd Jemma Sander-Heys declared the meeting at 11.58am.
2. **Minutes of 2024 meeting:** Proposed as a true record by Dawn Whitaker, seconded by Sharon Quinn and all were in favour so proposal accepted.
3. **Elections and Appointments:**
 - a) **Election of the laity to the Deanery Synod Reps:**
Sharon Quinn, Judith Bland and Lynn Stow all agreed to remain in post, all will be up for re-election in 2026.
 - b) **Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC:**
There were 4 vacancies on the PCC- nominations were received for Colin Stow, Wendy Minnock and Melanie Tanner and all were appointed for 3 years.

The new PCC is as follows:

Incumbent: Revd. Jemma Sander-Heys

Readers: Philip Cullingworth (also Electoral Roll Officer), Sharon Quinn

Churchwardens: none elected

Deanery Synod Representatives: Sharon Quinn, Judith Bland, Lynn Stow (also PCC secretary)

Elected members: Judith Tiplady- elected 2023 (also representing St. John's)
Keith Johnson- elected 2023

Connie Laycock- elected 2023
Zoe Arnold- elected 2024
Kara Thornton- elected 2024
Roy Aston- elected 2024
Melanie Tanner- elected 2025 (also Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Colin Stow- elected 2025
Wendy Minnock – elected 2025 (also Parish Environmental Officer)

c) Appointment of an Independent Examiner until the next APCM:

Connie Laycock proposed that **Michael Procter of Walker and Co Accountants** be asked to continue as independent examiner, Roy Aston seconded and all present were in favour.

4. Report on the Electoral Roll:

Note- this year the Electoral Roll has been completely renewed and updated.

Philip Cullingworth reported that this year numbers on the roll have dropped from 67 to 62 and added that despite the drop, encouragingly 13 of these are new members.

5. Report on the activity of the PCC and Parish:

The following reports:- Vicar's PCC and Parish reports, Safeguarding, Children and Young People, Environmental, Mother's Union, Discipleship and Teaching, Community, Art Club, Healing Ministry and the Welcoming Task Group are all included in the formal written report and everyone was encouraged to read it.

6. Report on the Financial Statements for the year:

Connie Laycock has expressed a wish to stand down as Treasurer and Dawn Whitaker has offered to stand in short term until a replacement is found and will support during a transition period.

Revd Jemma Sander-Heys expressed great thanks to Connie for all the hard work she has done to update our way of working financially.

Connie then highlighted particularly the reasons that we had to make the decision to drop our share contributions part way through the year. As the share requested this year has dropped significantly it is firmly hoped that we are able to meet 2025's request in full.

7. Annual Fabric Report:

Dawn Whitaker reported that PCC is working through issues raised in the last Quinquennial inspection and a list of completed works carried out is included in the Annual report.

It was explained that the weeping ash trees outside the main door had needed to both be pruned severely due to ash-dieback. Another pressing need is to obtain quotes for repairing/upgrading the existing heating system.

8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod:

Sharon Quinn highlighted some of the subjects discussed at Deanery Synod and particularly recommended the Diocesan Digital Learning Platform for anyone who is interested and wishing to widen their knowledge.

9. Closure of the meeting:

There were no questions raised, so before closing the meeting Revd Jemma asked that we pray that someone would come forward and stand for the posts of Churchwardens and thereafter deputy wardens.

The meeting closed at 12.50 with the Grace.

The Annual Report of the PCC of the Parish of Oakworth 2026

The parish is situated within the Bradford Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. There are two churches* within the Parish of Oakworth administered by the PCC. Christ Church, Colne Road, Oakworth; and St. John's Church, Newsholme. (*St John's Church building being a chapel-of-ease, leased by ancient custom from Church House Farm of which it is part, for the rent of one shilling (five pence) per annum.)

Correspondence to the PCC can be made via the vicarage:

Oakworth PCC, The Vicarage, 18 Sunhurst Drive, Oakworth, Keighley. BD22 7RG

Membership of the PCC who have served since the past APCM until this report are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Revd Jemma Sander-Heys	
<i>Readers:</i>	Philip Cullingworth (also Electoral Roll Officer) Sharon Quinn	
<i>Churchwarden:</i>	Zoe Arnold	
<i>Deputy Warden:</i>	Kara Thornton	
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Lynn (Eluned) Stow (also PCC Secretary)	(elected April 2023)
	Sharon Quinn	(elected April 2023)
	Judith Bland	(elected 2024 for two years)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Judith Tiplady (also representing St. John's)	(elected 2023)
	Keith Johnson	(elected 2023)
	Connie Whitaker (also PCC treasurer)	(elected 2023)
	Zoe Arnold	(elected 2024)
	Kara Thornton	(elected 2024)
	Roy Aston	(elected 2024)
	Melanie Tanner (also Parish Safeguarding Officer)	(elected 2025)
	Colin Stow	(elected 2025)
	Wendy Minnock (also Environmental Officer)	(elected 2025)

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner for this term has been Mr. Mike Procter of Walkers Chartered Accountants, Keighley.

Structure, Governance and Management

The appointment of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. There is a local scheme in place to accommodate the fact that there are two churches in the parish and to ensure representation. If possible that a ratio between PCC members of Christ Church and St. Johns be 8:1, 10:2, 12:3 respectively and if Christ Church vacancies are not filled then St John's may increase their representation to 2,3, and 4 respectively.

That there be at least 2 elected lay representatives from St John's Church** and that there may be two deputy wardens appointed for St John's from the PCC (unless one of the main Churchwardens be from St John's in which case St John's and Christ Church may appoint one deputy warden each). A third of the PCC will be elected each year for a three year term. There should be a maximum of two licensed Readers on PCC both of whom are members *ex officio*. Three lay members shall be elected to the Deanery Synod for a period of three years and as per Church Representation Rules will be *ex officio* members of the PCC.

** NB In the past year as only one representative came forward for election from St John's regular congregation, at the first new PCC meeting, Lynn Stow undertook to attend St John's events regularly and support Judith Tiplady in representing St. John's.

M5 1a) **Changes to the Electoral Roll** -Electoral Roll Officer Philip Cullingworth:

The electoral roll for the parish stands at 62 members.

1b) Vicar's report, followed by PCC and Parish Reports

It has been another busy and fruitful year in Oakworth Parish. After a bit of a wobble at the 2025 APCM I was delighted that we were able to appoint Zoe Arnold as Churchwarden and Kara Thornton in support as deputy. Together with support from the PCC they have ably handled a long list of undertakings, especially in caring for the fabric of the parish.

This year we have continued our regular visits to the neighbouring care home, **Oakworth Manor**, bringing communion and music through the months of the year, supported by members of Christ Church music group. In the Summer we were present, thanks to members of the PCC and Mothers Union, with stalls at the **Oakworth Gala** including fabulous face-painting. And though we took a break from hosting a Burns Night Ceilidh this January, we look ahead toward a Summer celebration of 180 years of worship at Christ Church. 1846-2026.

2025 saw **two batches of confirmations**: our young people Summer and Rohan, here at Christ Church in July 2025 with Bishop Chris Edmondson; and also husband and wife Jonny and Charlotte at Ripon Cathedral, before they and their young family emigrated to Australia! Also moving away this year was former churchwarden Jan Thompson, who has been such a great support at St John's for so many years, she joins family nearer York.

In August we hosted **three weddings and a renewal of vows** at Christ Church. In September we started up a **Youth Group** – shaped by our teenage members for Bible Study, social activity (normally food-centred) and Christian activism. We also welcomed the **'Squirrel Scouts'** – the youngest members of the Beaver and Scout community, to examine the stained glass windows and ask questions! **Cell groups** have been active through the year – two at Christ Church and one in the Vicarage, becoming weekly groups through Lent and offering mutual support and exciting conversation as well as learning opportunities.

Once again members of both churches in the parish donated generously to the **local foodbank** (dried goods) and to the **Harvest Auction** (fresh goods) in aid of Christian Aid – overseen again by our superb (and persuasive) guest auctioneer Richard Atkins. As in past years we welcomed bereaved families in for our regular 'Annual Memorial Service' in November and once again the church community were represented by my leading prayers on Remembrance Sunday at Holden Park, and at January's Tewitt Memorial service.

An unexpected hole in the roof after a storm did not put a dent in our Advent or Christmas activities, and we expanded our community outreach this year with **Decorated Doves**; a gorgeous travelling **'Posada'** (knitted and donated by members of the congregation); and a well-attended scratch **'carol choir'** which met weekly and sang just for fun, but which also then went and sang carols at nearby sheltered accommodation, Fletcher Court.

Advent saw some very well attended services and activities– with around 80 for the end of term **Christingle and over 120 at Bedtime Prayers and Carols**. We were also delighted to celebrate several ‘Tanner Family’ baptisms close to Christmas with a joyful service especially created.

Assemblies for KS1 and KS2 at **Oakworth Primary** were periodically interrupted this year for flooding (internal) and repair work but we were pleased to welcome the School in at Christmas time for their annual Christmas celebration of songs. However the assembly which genuinely captured MOST interest from both KS1 and KS2 this year was definitely the explanation of the Last Supper and Holy Communion.

In February our new Youth Group completed a **charity night hike and a chilly ‘sleepout’** in Christ Church south porch – both of which took a lot of risk-assessing and preparation – but a memorable time was had by all and the activity raised over £1000 for Leeds homeless charity St. George’s Crypt.

Holy Week and Easter were once again full of all the traditional activities – though we missed Sharon Quinn who was on a placement at Cottingley as part of her vocation exploration. Still around 30 people gathered for the **Good Friday walk of witness** from Christ Church led by Philip and Last Hour at the cross with Jemma at St. John’s.

This year alongside my 0.5 post I have completed the part time PhD work begun in 2019-2020, and as you know from the announcement earlier in May, I and my family are preparing for me to take up a new post in August as 0.7 Parish Priest of Battyeford and 0.3 Lecturer and Tutor at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. We all love Oakworth – it is such a life-giving community and a healthy, active parish – and only this challenging but ideal post could persuade me that it’s time to move on. But I will keep you all in my prayers – and commend you to the Bishop and Diocese as a community which values and nurtures its clergy and its lay vocations, as you look ahead to the upcoming vacancy period.

**With love,
your vicar, Jemma.**

M5 1b) continued Summary of the proceedings of the PCC for 2025-26

-Report drawn from the minutes kept by PCC Secretary Lynn Stow

There have been 6 full PCC meetings plus sub-group meetings and standing committee meetings throughout the year.

At the first meeting of the full PCC the following appointments were made: *[Please note that subsequent to the annual meeting of parishioners on May 11th 2025 – an extraordinary meeting of parishioners was held the following Sunday at which **Zoe Arnold was elected churchwarden.**]*

- **Lay chair:** Judith Tiplady proposed a cycle of lay chairs (a method used in another parish she had been part of) to enable a variety of PCC members to gain experience – approved by all.
- **Secretary:** Lynn Stow agreed to stay in post for another year and was nominated and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Dawn Whitaker agreed to step into the role of treasurer following Connie’s departure to help transition and was duly nominated and approved.
- **Safeguarding officer:** Melanie Tanner agreed to remain in post and was nominated and approved.
- **Deputy Churchwardens:** With Zoe Arnold in post as churchwarden, Kara Thornton was appointed by the PCC as deputy warden.
- **Environment officer:** Wendy Minnock agreed to continue in this role
- **Electoral Officer:** Philip Cullingworth agreed to continue in this role
- **Gift Aid Officer:** Philip Cullingworth agreed to continue in this role.

Over the course of the year the PCC have overseen and agreed both **planned maintenance and repairs and some urgent improvements** to the fabric and equipment– this included the urgent repair in winter 2025 of a hole in the sanctuary (east-end chancel) roof, caused by unexpected tile loss during high winds. Although the problem was fixed within days and saved further damage, sadly this could not be claimed on insurance as the immediate roofing inspection to the damage revealed an older repair to the tiles where they had not been properly fixed in place (hence being unexpectedly loose in the strong winds). Happily, planned upgrades to components of the existing heating system (including more efficient condensing units) have resulted in more effective heating down both sides of the church and reduced gas consumption which is better for the environment and should save money in the immediate future.

Safeguarding Report and Compliance Statement – 2026:

report by Melanie Tanner (PSO)

The PCC are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community. This means protecting people from abuse and providing a safe place for survivors where peoples voices are heard. **The PCC has complied with the duty to have ‘due regard’ to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance including adoption of the Safeguarding Policy Statement ‘Promoting a Safer Church, House of Bishops, 2017’.**

The Church of England National Safeguarding Standards provide a framework to develop practice. The Church of England are currently updating many resources, and the PCC follow all practice guidance. The diocesan safeguarding team are extremely helpful where we have queries, and they provide a range of support that can be accessed such as the recently introduced Safeguarding Forums for Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Several specific pieces of work have been undertaken together over the last year in the parish. This has included ensuring all appropriate good practice guidance was in place for the running of the new youth group and associated activities. New volunteer helpers have been recruited in line with requirements. WhatsApp group guidance has been developed where used for church activities. The Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub are used as online tools to record and check the work we are doing is meeting required standards. All required DBS’s and training for volunteers is up to date. Work in the coming year will include how we support volunteers in the vital roles they undertake.

Alongside the wardens, biannual volunteer review and risk assessment refreshers were carried out for cleaning, refreshment and washing-up roles June 2025 and December 2025 and Emergency Procedures were reviewed and updated in March 2026.

Recognising that there are many guidelines to complete for safeguarding, the PCC have this year also focused on thinking about how we communicate, listen, manage power balance, have good governance, effective structure and model safe behaviours. We have done this with regular discussions at PCC identifying any helpful actions, one being a suggestion box at Christ Church. Safeguarding remains everyone’s responsibility and the help and support of all is appreciated - thank you



Annual Report from the Children & Young People’s Group

Reports by Claire Ketteman -

Christ Church has 4 regular points of contact with children and young people outside of school assemblies: ABC for 0-3 years, Explore Together for 4-12 years, Young People’s Group for teenagers and seasonal craft mornings open to all ages.

ABC is now a well-established group offering a welcoming space for adults, babies and children every Wednesday morning during term time. Since its inception, we have met over 40 children and their carers although the make-up of the group changes as children progress

to formal pre-school and nursery settings. The group is run by a team of 9 dedicated volunteer hosts. We have been working with the Early Years Alliance to distribute Book Start packs and introduce new songs and rhymes through Bradford Libraries Rhyme Time initiative. We held a Christmas Party in December 2025 at which Revd Jemma shared a participatory nativity story and blessing, and at Easter we were able to share the good news with gifts from the 'Real Easter Egg' company.

Explore Together, our monthly worship group for children and young people has foundered this year due to a natural change in ages and we took the reflective decision to put this on hold until numbers increased. We plan to replace it by Little Explorers, a creche and creative play group, later in 2026, which aims at connecting with the many younger children and families we are already seeing from time to time.

Seasonal craft mornings at Christmas and Easter provide an informal way to spread the word of God to families in the wider community and they continue to be a much-loved fixture in the calendar.

-and Jemma Sander-Heys:

The Young People's Group was set up in September 2025 on request to support the small group of teenagers (currently ages 14-18) who have joined the Christ Church community in their journey of faith. The group is led by Revd Jemma Sander-Heys and LLM Sharon Quinn and supported by safely recruited and trained leaders Joel Heys and Tom Murray.

Shaped in discussion with the young people, the group comprises a monthly Bible study meeting, social activities and Christian activism. The group has been undertaking a comparative study of the four gospels, has enjoyed a cookery social and in February 2026 the group and its leaders planned and undertook a night-hike and sleep-out in the church porch to support the work of St Georges' Crypt in Leeds, raising over £1000 for the work of the charity.



Environmental Report - by Wendy Minnock (Parish Environment Officer)

We have continued to develop and extend initiatives and activities this year with the aim to promote an appreciation and desire to care for God's creation.

This year we launched our own Climate Change Library with support from a local bookshop. Our church and community now have access to a range of resources including books and DVDs with the aim to ignite interest, develop understanding and encourage ideas for future environmental projects. The Climate Change Library has been very well received especially the children's book section which has enabled many of us to promote environmental awareness within our extended families.

During the Season of Creation in 2025 we hosted our second environmental film evening with a showing of the film 'Wilding.' This documents the story of a pioneering rewilding project in West Sussex. This event was very well attended and received positive feedback.

Our existing initiatives, including The Recycling Corner and our Environmental Pledge Station – which helps raise awareness of our carbon footprint – continue to be very well supported.

In the coming year, we will continue to seek ways to promote environmental awareness across our community.



Oakworth Mothers' Union (MU) -Report by Branch Leader Sharon Quinn

Sharon Quinn: Branch leader. Lynn Stow: Treasurer. This year the global Christian charitable organisation of the MU celebrates 150 years since its humble beginnings led by Mary Sumner in 1876. Oakworth's 11 members look forward to joining in the celebrations and services planned across the diocese and continues to be an active part of the over 4 million members (over 36,000 in the UK) across 83 countries.

They continue to meet throughout the year, every first Tuesday each month at 1.30pm, at Christ Church Oakworth, for themed and seasonal services and activities including: Wave of Prayer Service which was recorded and put online via WhatsApp this year (due to the icy weather), taking our turn in the global 'wave' of continuous prayer for women and children and MU projects worldwide; Lent Prayers Service with hymns and prayers focusing on the campaigns to end injustice, end violence and end poverty; Lady Day Service celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation, Mary's acceptance to bear Jesus, a time now used to focus upon MU mission to support family life.

We continue to collect donated toiletries for Doulas <https://doula.org.uk/> who offer counselling and teaching help for expectant Mums, and for the local women's refuge. The group are currently planning their future giving and outreach, and their meetings to come.

Website www.oakworthchurch.org.uk/mothers-union. Facebook 'Oakworth Mothers' Union' or www.mothersunion.org



Discipling and Teaching Activities

Cell Groups continue to meet fortnightly (weekly throughout Lent) and are running well with numbers steady or increasing. Mondays 2pm led by the Revd Anne Pickard at Christ Church, Wednesdays 7.30pm at Christ Church led by Sharon Quinn and Roy Aston and on Thursdays, at 7.30pm, at The Vicarage, hosted by Revd Jemma. The vicarage cell group did a close study of Colossians this year and then moved onto reflective discussion themes. This Lent the Monday and Tuesday groups followed the Church of England's Lent reflections series, whilst the vicarage cell group read and discussed 'Easter in Disguise' by Sister Liz Dodd. The vicarage cell group also had its regular new year social outing to 'The Grouse'.

Discipling – This year, as in other years, has seen a handful of newcomers exploring or returning to faith, and the development of a new Youth Cell Group (see above in Children and Young People report). Following confirmation here at Christ Church one of our young people has now also been trained to administer the chalice as a Eucharistic Minister, bringing our numbers of licensed EMs up to 10.

The young people's desire to live out their faith in active service also led to a charity fundraising 'night hike' and sleep out which raised over £1000 for Leeds-based charity St. George's Crypt. Our parish support of the local foodbank continues, despite Good Food Keighley shutting in late March 2026, as we prepare to support another local foodbank with regular donations.

Lent groups: Homegroups have continued to meet as Lent Book Groups with additional members from the congregation. They are well attended and create some great reflection and discussion as well as attracting newcomers to 'dip in'. They continued weekly throughout Lent. Mondays 2pm, Wednesdays 7.30pm at Christ Church and on Thursdays at 7.30pm at The Vicarage.

Environmental Focus – see Environmental Report for teaching and discipling in that area.

Other: We have been delighted as a parish to welcome regular congregation member Tom Murray into a new youth volunteering role this year; and continue to support LLM Sharon Quinn as she explores her vocation to ordained ministry and follow her progress with prayerful joy.



THE ART CLUB – 2026 report by Roy Aston

The Art Club is overseen by Roy Aston and Jeanette House. The club has had another successful year. We have a slightly increased membership with about ten regulars. We have met 14 times through the year. There has been a very varied programme in a variety of media – highlights being two successful Saturday clay sculpting sessions (making a hare and a ram) and a session painting flowers Ukrainian-style using watercolours. The skills of members are very varied so do come along and have a go. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Back Room at Christ Church.



OTHER GROUPS: RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES AT CHRIST CHURCH

2nd Oakworth Rainbows and 1st Oakworth Brownies meet on Monday evenings during school term time in the back room at Christ Church, for which they pay a small fee to cover utilities bills. Rainbows meet from 5-6pm and Brownies from 6.30-7.45pm.

Rainbows have 17 girls from 4-7 years of age and are run by Lynn Stow, Gillian Gallagher and Helenor Kirwan and Brownies have 18 girls and are run by Gillian Gallagher, Catherine Hinchcliffe and Charlotte Lloyd.

M5.1c) FINANCIAL REPORTS – PLEASE SEE FULL ACCOUNTS REPORT APPENDED

M5.1d) 2025 FABRIC REPORT by the Churchwarden & Deputy Warden

Christ Church Fabric Update Work Carried Out: March 2025 to End March 2026

- Kitchen doorbell replaced -March 2025
- Bolt added to electric cupboard door to prevent accidental injury when opening -March 2025
- Kickboards added to cabinets either side of where the cooker was removed -June 2025
- Peeling paint removed from south porch ceiling -June 2025
- Outside kitchen door sanded and repainted -June/July 2025
- Wooden notice board in porch sanded in preparation for painting -June 2025
- Removal of mud and debris from all outside drains & covers refitted- June 2025
- Removal of debris and stones blocking the external air-vents on North side -June 2025
- Porch/vestry guttering cleared of debris/ plants; east end basement steps cleared -June 2025
- Church Yard tidy -October 2025
- Heating system upgrades/ condensing units -October 2025
- Electrical circuit check and breaker upgrade following tripping switches -November 2025
- Emergency roof repairs following high winds -November 2025
- Annual Fire Extinguisher Service -February 2026
- Annual Clock Service -March 2026
- New photographs taken of erosion/damage to interior East side stonework inside the bell tower/ louvres, for monitoring -April 2026

St Johns Newsholme Fabric Update*

Thanks to work undertaken last year, St Johns church remains in reasonable condition this year despite the house at Church Farm (beneath it) continuing untenanted, which means that the fabric is not warmed through except by the weekly heating of the chapel itself. St John's also continues to welcome occasional visitors both to the regular 9am services as well as midweek walkers who pass, who comment in the visitor's book at the charm and lovely atmosphere of this holy space. The cost of purchasing oil for heating is however very high, and so managing the heating system efficiently is crucial.

The beautiful organ had its annual service in December 2025 and miraculously (despite the damp and temperature fluctuations) continues to function every week for sung Eucharists and evensong).

The stone steps into St. John's church remain a challenge for those with mobility difficulties to access, and the PCC are looking at equipping the vestry with an 'evac-chair' in case of emergencies, so that a safe and speedy exit could be accomplished in the event of fire or other necessity.

The School Room – used regularly for community socials at Newsholme and the annual Harvest Festival Auction – is very dilapidated and needs repair and repainting work to the walls and fireplace which remains the responsibility of the parish.

*NB: as a chapel-of-ease leased rather than owned by the parish, St John's is not subject to a quinquennial inspection.

5.1e) Bradford Episcopal Area Aire and Worth Deanery Synod

report by Sharon Quinn

Elected PCC Deanery Synod representatives: Judith Bland, Lynn Stow, Sharon Quinn.

28th February 2026 online via Zoom. Rev'd Benham shared news of Rev'd Kate Plant, recently licensed as associate priest at Holy Trinity Bingley, St Wilfrid's Gilstead, and St Michael's Cottingley.

Main agenda was a discussion to discuss how our faith impacts how we vote. Anna Dixon MP for Shipley, joined the meeting and spent some time telling Synod about her role as an MP and how her faith affects what she does. Every day in parliament opens with prayer led by the chaplain to the Speaker which is a unifying time. She participates in debates and Prime Ministers Questions in the House of Commons and participates in several committees, where she can help influence government policy including the public accounts committee and is a member of the group that liaises with the Church Commissioners. Anna spoke about her work in the constituency and encouraged synod members to get in touch with her with concerns that she could help with as well as letting her know about the things that are happening in our parishes.

Saturday 9th May 2026, 9.30am, at All Saints, Ilkley, as a part of the Bradford Episcopal Area forum (BEAF). A very interesting meeting which showed the vast range of activities undertaken across the Bradford Episcopal Area Aire and Worth Deanery.

The current deanery synod comes to the end of its 3-year term at the end of July 2026. APCMs should elect synod representatives this year, as per their allocation. Current representatives are encouraged to stand again and to encourage additional reps to join.