

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2020

A Message from Brendan

This report was compiled just before we were plunged into lockdown in March. It seems to be referring to a different world. A world of gathering, singing together, eating and drinking together in ways that are not possible now. It is the world we yearn to return to. It also reminds us that, even though for the time being these joys are being denied us, by adapting to these times the family of St James' Church continues to worship God and serve our community. The church continues to be the church.

When we were not allowed to gather for worship in the church building, we were blessed with lots of help enabling us to move our worship on line. We never missed a Sunday. Over these months our skills have developed enabling us, from our own church building, to reach those who cannot come to church. We have also endeavoured to keep in contact with people who are perhaps not so "tech savvy", as well as those who need practical help at this time. Indeed, it was characteristic of St James' Church that the first responses I received to lock down were from people asking "how can I help those in need". The church has continued being the church worshipping God, and serving our community.

As we enter the winter there are many challenges ahead, but as Christians we look to the future in hope. Hope that through all the changing scenes of life we will know God's goodness, made known to us in Jesus Christ, going before us, and by his grace we may continue to be the church of God enjoying and sharing his presence in our community.

Please do come along to St James' Annual Meeting, participate in elections, and hear how we are looking to share the light and hope of God in Jesus Christ in the coming months.

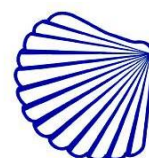
*The Reverend Canon Brendan Giblin
Priest in Charge*

OUR ONGOING PRAYER

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our planning, wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
Help St James' Church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

St James

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP 2019/20

Clergy:	Rev Brendan Giblin (Chair of PCC, Standing Committee)	5/5
	Rev Stroma McDermott (Moved Oct 2019)	2/2
Churchwardens:	Jean Heaton (Vice Chair of PCC, Joint Chair of Finance and Chair Communications Committee)	5/5
	Bob Greene (Joint Chair of Finance and Chair Joint Personnel)	5/5
Readers	Val Lumsden	2/5
	Lorna Taylor	3/5
	David York (Chair of Worship Committee)	1/5
Deanery Lay Representatives:	Susan Armstrong (retired Oct 2019)	3/3
	Elaine Hainsworth (Deputy Churchwarden)	5/5
	Robert Haskins	3/5
	Val Lumsden	2/5
Diocesan Lay Representative:	Robert Haskins	3/5
Elected Members:		
• Retiring 2020	Susan Armstrong (retired Oct 2019)	3/3
	David Bewell * (Deputy Churchwarden)	5/5
	Jean Kettlewell *	5/5
	Marilyn Smith (Safeguarding Officer)	3/5
• Retiring 2021	Emma Beddoe (Deputy Churchwarden)	4/5
	Lynda Breen	0/5
	Stephanie Kemp *	5/5
	Sheila Mirczuk *	1/5
	Rosie Rooke	5/5
• Retiring 2022	Alan Grimes (Chair of Property Committee)*	3/5
	Helen Harper *	2/5
	Karen Tatham (PCC Secretary) (resigned as secretary 18 Nov 2019)	1/5
	Sue Taylor * (Deputy Churchwarden)	5/5
	Kathryn Wenn	4/5
Co-opted Members:	Jackie Taylor	3/5

Notes:

Numbers indicate how many meetings were attended out of the possible total.

*Indicates ineligible for re-election as an elected PCC member under the parish 'six year' rule.

**Indicates ineligible for re-election as a Churchwarden under the Churchwardens Measure.

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT

The PCC has met five times during the year and the Standing Committee five times. The five sub-committees (Finance, Property, Worship & Nurture, Communications and Joint Personnel) meet between main meetings, and report to PCC. There are currently 13 elected members (as one retired in October 2019), one co-opted member, a Diocesan Synod rep, three Deanery reps (one retired in October 2019) and three Lay Readers on PCC. With clergy and churchwardens we are a group of 24 (two of whom retired in October 2019).

Our meetings dealt with the usual business of finance, looking after our buildings and well as mission.

Jean Heaton (Acting in the absence of a PCC Secretary)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Verbal Report will be given.

Robert Greene, Joint Chair Finance Committee

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH

The Property Committee met a total of 4 times during the year with Alan Grimes continuing in the chair.

The most significant work undertaken during the year was repairs, repointing and restoration of the church external stonework. The works were mainly below the pilaster head and string course level. An experienced contractor undertook the job delivering work to a high standard.

Other work undertaken included:

- All testing of electrical equipment was completed on schedule and annual testing of the tower Lightning Protection System was completed.
- The Church Health and Safety policy, Risk assessment and Fire Risk assessments have all been reviewed and updated.
- Removal of 2 large condemned deceased horse chestnut trees in the churchyard by Leeds Council. Replacement trees will be planted during 2020.
- Testing of electrical equipment was completed on schedule and annual testing of the tower Lightning Protection System was completed.
- 35 Barleyfields Road. New double glazed fitted.

Alan Grimes, Chair Property Committee

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DIOCESAN SYNOD

Report not received.

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod exists to further the mission and ministry of the Church and to build relationships between neighbouring parishes. The synod takes decisions about issues involving our deanery and these may then be taken to the diocesan synod if necessary.

The Main items covered during the year were:

May 2019 - St. Peter's Church, Harrogate

MAIN SPEAKER: The Venerable Jonathan Gough, Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven

The Venerable Jonathan Gough began by giving us his insight into his background before being made Archdeacon. His calling to ordination, he said, had started when he was still at school; he then studied theology at University, and Theological College, prior to being ordained as Curate in North Devon and then Gloucester. He decided in 1989 to join the Royal Army Chaplains Department, thus becoming the youngest Chaplain in the Army. As an Army Chaplain he learned to ski in Norway, served two years in Omagh, Northern Ireland, then returned to Abingdon Garrison in the UK before travelling backwards and forwards to Bosnia and Kosovo where, whilst gathering evidence in regard to War Crimes, he came to witness many hidden atrocities. His Military Chaplaincy, what he had seen and been involved in, he said, had inevitably formed who he is today. He finds himself impatient with trivia and has found an enthusiasm to enable God to establish 'real good human relations' in one another and to recognise God in others despite different cultures and faiths. Having taken advice he made the decision to move back to Diocesan ministry - he found several doors were 'slammed in his face' but then came the call to become Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven and work in a young Diocese as part of a team of five, headed by Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley and Bishop Nick Baines. Working with both Bishops and the clergy he is now in situ to support, encourage and enable the ministry of the Diocese and to take care of the Church fabric and property within it and making sure all is done properly and correctly. However, it is early days for him, he said, and he had to make sure 'where, as a Diocese we need to go' and how to move forward.

JULY 2019 - St. Andrew's Church, Starbeck

MAIN SPEAKER: Rev'd Dr Hayley Matthews, Diocesan Director of Lay Training

Until recently Lay Ministry was only seen as something for a person who wanted to become a Lay Reader. Lay Ministry has been re-imagined and is now offered to all Laity as a way to 'Set God's People Free', to build Confident Christians and to encourage them to become part of a Dynamic Partnership with established groups such as Charities and Civic Societies and also to help towards enabling collaboration between the Church and their own communities.

There are three Lay Leadership courses on offer at the moment,

The 10 week 'Pastoral Assistant' - The 10 month 'Pastoral Ministers' course - The 'Lay Worship Leaders' course is also a 10 month course. Reader Ministry being on hold for the time being as it is re-developed, made fit for purpose and the best possible training put in place. Further details of all these courses and what they involve can be found on the digital Learning Platform on <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org>

November 2019 - St. Luke's Church, Harrogate

MAIN SPEAKER: Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley

Bishop Helen-Ann had been touring the Deanery Synods in the last few months to give her presentation on 'Diocesan Strategy'. Basically, she said, she was to give Synod members an overview and update of the 'Strategy' and how it could work at local level. Her job, Bishop Helen-Ann said, – was to align and focus on what are the present issues and needs at local level.

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Through the use of screens and her commentary, Bishop Helen-Ann continued, that once the 'local' focus has been identified this can then be supported by the 'Diocesan Strategy' and the five goals it encompasses. The five goals and some of the examples shown as to how they can work at local level were these.

Goal 1. Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values - At local level Deaneries and Synods could work together, for example through joint Bible Study groups.

Goal 2. Reimagining Ministry - Energy and perspective and the use of Lay Ministry would be a way to engage with this. **Goal 3.** Nurturing lay discipleship – One way to engage with this Diocesan goal would be to focus on the document 'Setting God's People Free'. **Goal 4.** Building leadership pathways – Everyone, Bishop Helen-Ann said, lay and ordained has a vocation and this should be recognised and nurtured. **Goal 5.** Growing young people as Christians.

FEB 2020 - St. John's Church, Bilton

MAIN SPEAKER: Anne Carter – Children and Youth Work

Anne spoke about how the Young People & Families Diocesan team worked to support Goal 5 of the Diocesan Strategy (Growing young people as Christians) and the help they might be able to offer to Parishes within Harrogate Deanery to also work towards this goal. Many might aspire to ensure a child encounters Christ and their Christian faith 'enhances their lives' but not everyone has the confidence to do so or they might be unsure about how to go about it. Anne, as the first point of contact for the Ripon Episcopal area is there, she said, to offer support as she is part of the Children, Young People & Families Diocesan team of six - all with differing skills – who are there to advise, train and help towards undertaking the Diocesan initiatives which are: To support missional outreach, like Messy Church and All Age Worship - To encourage partnership with schools - To support children, teens and young adults in church, including Baptism, Confirmation, Toddler Groups - which can be much more than 'play'. Tester sessions are on offer to people interested in such work and the team can also direct potential leaders and young people towards what is already there to 'try out'. 'THRIVE' meetings - as held at St. Mark's Harrogate - are one way to encourage young people to grow their faith. This is where regular gatherings meet for about one and a half hours and leaders, children and volunteers are able to talk together and see what works and what does not.

Good News from the Deanery - St Peter's, Harrogate Rev. Alan Garrow said that they had seen a numerical growth in the congregation. Several things, he thought, had helped to make this so, such as the clergy walking around before a Service and talking to people. Also after the Service everyone was encouraged to talk for three minutes to someone they had not spoken to before and cards were in place for people to fill in, if new to the church. Rev. Alan then arranged to visit these new congregation members for an hour in order to get to know and welcome them and as a follow-up, every two months a meeting was held at the Vicarage to help new members integrate and feel part of 'things'.

Good News from St. Andrew's, Starbeck was that in order to make use of the lovely Welcome Area and to encourage people who do not usually come in to the building to do so, congregation members went out on to the High Street during Easter Holy Week and invited everyone there to join them in the comfort of the Welcome Area. As this initiative worked so well it has been decided that at each Season of the Church's year the Welcome Area will be made open to all and people invited in.

Good News from St. John's, Bilton. Rev'd Simon Dowson said that the Good News from St. John's was that a couple had come to him about a year ago and offered a legacy of £25,000 to St. John's as long as it was used towards youth work. After consultation with the PCC and various fund raising events this figure was 'topped up' enough to be able to employ a Youth Worker for 3 years. Interviews took place last November and Emma James, currently at St. Mark's, was appointed as Young People's Worker and will start work at St. John's and St. Luke's from mid-April.

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Good News from Pannal. As about 60 children usually attend Sunday Services at Pannal and in order to be strategic and 'grow children as Christians' a new mid-week, after school 'Crumpet Service' had been started and proved to be very successful. A toasted crumpet is served first, this is then followed by a lively half hour interactive Service which ends with the Grace. At the first Service the expected attendance was 20 -30 people but with the help of social media approximately 100 people, 2/3 of those being children, attended.

The Good News from St. Luke's. Rev Andrew Patrick said, was that there is now a Wellbeing Café in place, which is held every Thursday between 1pm and 3pm and is focused mainly on dementia sufferers and their carers. This came about in response to St. Luke's history, the need to have a distinct vision for St. Luke's and the recognition of a poor services industry for those in need. And two years ago dementia became its main focus. On hearing this Cygnet Hospital got in touch with them and together they have now developed a niche to help dementia sufferers.

Harrogate Alpha Courses. Rev'd Ben Askew said that Kairos this January Kairos Church with 12 other churches of various denominations - Anglican, Methodist, Pentecostal, Free Church, and Baptist included - after much planning, training and prayer, had launched 14 ecumenical Alpha Courses. They are now held throughout Harrogate in cafes, homes, community halls, churches, even Café Nero and a crèche - A large group course had been run at Harrogate Grammar School and approximately 70 people had attended. With the 14 smaller courses in place approximately 200 people are now attending of whom some 90 people, coming as guests, are completely new to 'Church' in any form and so by Easter it is hoped that NEW Christians will be attending 'Church'.

Val Lumsden, Deanery Synod Representative

CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

YOUNGER CHILDREN

Sunday Club

Sunday Club continues to run during the 9.30 service, although numbers are quite low – mainly due to fewer families attending this service.

There is a small, committed team of volunteers, but a co-ordinator to organise the rota and support with planning and resources is required as soon as possible.

We continue to use the brilliant Urban Saints Energize resource for planning and delivering our children's work.

11am Squad

Our Sunday 11am Squad I believe is popular. It is working well with Sarah emailing the theme for the week to the people on the rota.

With us all working together with the earlier group, this has been really helpful and less pressure on organising the activities during the week and everything is set up and ready to go when we arrive.

We have typically around 12+ children on a regular basis attending at 11am. The children enjoy been involved in the activities provided.

We only now have 6 volunteers on a rota, which is proving to be difficult to fill the gaps some weeks. We do desperately need more volunteers as I can see that at some point there will be weeks where we cannot run this group. Also, I know like myself, we enjoy the service so would like to spend more time in church. So please can we try and encourage more people to volunteer.

Lisa Wigglesworth

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YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Group

Although we had falling numbers, we continued to persevere with Sunday night Youth Group during the last academic year. For a short period of time we ran the Confirmation Group parallel with Youth Group too, hoping this would encourage some, if not all of our Confirmation candidates to keep coming after Confirmation. Two of the candidates did come along, raising our weekly numbers to four.

In September, we had a big push on inviting the young people personally (invitation by post), as well as using email and social media. Whilst the first couple of weeks were encouraging, numbers quickly dropped off again. So, eventually we decided to end Sunday night Youth Group in November.

In January of this year (2020), following some discussion with the young people, we started a Sunday morning group up again for this age group (Y7-9). The same committed young people who had come to Youth Group very faithfully began to attend this. It runs in the Curate's Office during the 11am service. With a little guidance, it is very much a group for the young people run by the young people. Recently named 'Pit Stop' – a chance to refuel and recharge for the week ahead! Hot chocolate and flapjacks are very popular in these sessions! The first Sunday in the month we have bacon butties – Bacon Butty Club. We have a small but committed team of volunteers.

Pizza Night Y12/13

We hosted a pizza night in early September for Y12 & 13+. It was well attended and a great opportunity to gather this group of young people and catch up on their future plans. A number of them went off to university later that month.

Report not received.

Holiday Drop-ins

We hosted two 'drop-in' sessions last year – one in the Easter break and one in the summer. These offer a safe space to meet up with friends, play games etc. with refreshments of bacon or sausage butties on offer. Unfortunately these were both very poorly attended this year with a lot of our young people away on family holidays.

Sarah Sharp

CHOIR BIBLE STUDY

At the 9.30am Parish Communion service, during the sermon and prayers, the younger choristers go down into the Crypt for Bible study. We use resources from Scripture Union, a Christian charity, inviting children and young people to explore the difference Jesus can make to the challenges and adventures of life. It helps them to develop a special relationship with Christ, have a greater understanding of the Bible and help them to grow in the Christian faith.

We use 'Light', a range of Bible-based learning resources for children, young people and adults which provide a great mix of tried and tested Bible teaching which is flexible, dynamic, fresh, relevant and fun. These are split into four categories and we use 'The Grid' which is specifically aimed at the 11 to 14 age group. Through the range of readings, activities and games, we provide opportunities for young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith.

The sessions are led by Jean Heaton and Sue Taylor on a rota basis, assisted by Steph Kemp. We only have about 15 minutes with the children so the sessions can be fast paced. There is always a clear aim to the Bible study, and as well as a main activity we try and conclude with a summary of what we have gained from the session, which can sometimes lead to interesting group discussions.

Jean Heaton and Sue Taylor

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OUTREACH

No Trick, Just Treat!

This alternative Halloween event was as popular as ever. We welcomed over 200 children and adults into church to hear a light filled message and take part in some sticky games and activities.

Christmas Crackers

This was popular again this year with 38 children joining us with their parent/carer for an afternoon of Christmas crafts and activities. It was rounded off with a short Christmas message at the end.

Posada

Once again our travelling Nativity figures travelled around the parish during Advent. It is great to see members of our congregation of all ages getting involved. The diary made for entertaining reading. Our sheep are having a refresh in time for Advent this year!

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Harvest/Wetherby Festival

It was a privilege to once again be asked to put together a combined primary school choir. Children from St. James' CofE Primary, Deighton Gates Primary and Crossley Street Primary performed at our Harvest Family Service in October, where we also welcomed their families and friends.

St. James' CofE Primary School

Our links with St. James' School continue to strengthen. Particularly through the 'Church Experience' Days, where we welcome children and staff into church for a reflective, interactive experience of church. Brendan, Marilyn and I continue to go into school to lead Collective Worship each week.

THE FUTURE

It is with some sadness that I have written this, what will be my final report as Youth and Community Outreach Worker. As I move on to a new role closer to home, I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of St. James' for the past four years, for the new friendships made and the opportunity to have worked alongside some amazing people. I pray that God will reveal the next stage of His plan for Wetherby, St. James', the families and people in this community. Every blessing.

Sarah Sharp, Youth and Community Outreach Worker

WETHERBY TODDLERS (formerly Times for Tots)

Time for Tots was meeting on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of the month. It was a much-loved group by the families who attended. However, despite advertising on social media and various other ways, the numbers were dwindling. In July 2019 we decided to move to a morning session as generally morning toddler groups are very popular. Also in July, Wetherby Baptist Church were looking for a new venue for their toddler group Westgate Toddlers and enquired about using St. James' Church Centre. After much prayerful thought and discussion between the two groups we decided to join forces to form a new toddler group together. In September 2019 we launched Wednesday Toddlers. Sadly, the change of day meant that we had to say goodbye to Debbie Peacock who had led Time for Tots for many years. Debbie's friendly smile, warm laughter, kindness and encouraging words made Time for Tots the special group that it was.

Wednesday Toddlers meets every Wednesday morning in term time.

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We have a great selection of toys for the children to play with. The morning consists of free play, refreshments (lovely fresh fruit), a crafty activity linked to the story, and the session ends with a Bible story and some singing. It is a very relaxed, friendly group. Many families now attend regularly and we often have new people coming along too. Approximately twelve families come along each week.

The group could not function without all our volunteers from Wetherby Baptist Church and St. James' who prepare and lead the sessions, set up the room and pack it away again. Many thanks to Pat Bishop, Jean Tyler, Carol Keenlyside, Liz Foxwell and Grace Taylor. We also have a wonderful team of helpers who give up their time to prepare and serve refreshments. We are very grateful to you all.

Having a church toddler group is a fantastic opportunity for outreach into our community and enables us to invite those who attend to our special services and events for families in our churches.

Suzannah Giblin

CHOIR REPORT

As the Choir is busy preparing for this year's Lent and Easter festivities, I start this report by recalling last year's Holy Week and Easter services. As always, for the Choir, the high point of Lent was the *At the Foot of the Cross* service – a sequence of readings and music based on the passion narrative drawn from St John's gospel. The emotional service featured S.S. Wesley's *Wash Me Thoroughly* (not sung by the Choir for many years) and a first performance of Maurice Duruflé's fiendish *Ubi Caritas* (with its jazz-inspired harmonies sung by the tenors and basses). Catherine also contributed the haunting 'He was Despised' from Handel's *Messiah* as a mediation. Easter Day was celebrated with anthems by local composer Richard Shepherd's *Out of the Stillness* and William Harris' fine arrangement of *This Joyful Eastertide*. We also sang a service of Choral Evensong on Easter Day, featuring Herbert Brewer's magnificent and celebratory evening canticles in D major.

After a well-deserved rest, we were back preparing for Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sundays. Michael managed to stun everyone with a performance of Messiaen's 'Transport de Joie' from *L'Ascension* on Ascension Day. Pentecost was celebrated with a performance of Harris' *Come Down, O Love Divine* for the first time in three years. For the annual service of Confirmation (at which two of the Choir were confirmed) we performed Elgar's apposite 'The Sprit of the Lord' from *The Apostles*. The piece requires a great deal of commitment from choir and organist as there are many pitfalls, with speed changes galore and a good dash of Elgarian rubato. The year closed with a celebration of hymnody with a Hymns and Pimm's service, which included a performance of Vaughan Williams' challenging *Let All the World*. We also sang two pieces to celebrate St James' Day, both written for the dedication of a church: Bruckner's *Locus Iste* and Vaughan Williams' *O How Amiable*. We marked the end of the year with a garden party at Michael's house for choir members and their families.

During the summer, the Choir received a donation in memory of Alan Britton from the staff of Morrison's Superstore, Wetherby. With this money, we bought the four-part version of John Rutter's *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and Bob Chilcott's haunting *Be Thou My Vision*.

After a well-deserved summer break, the Choir were back rehearsing in September, preparing for two important events: a concert in the Wetherby Festival in October and Pam's wedding in November. The Festival concert featured a broad cross-section of the music we sing throughout the year, including a number of the new pieces we have learnt and the two pieces bought in Alan's memory. Emma effortlessly performed the challenging 'Benedictus' from Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*. The concert was superbly performed by the Choir and well-received by a healthy audience. No sooner had we finished the Festival, then we were hard at work learning the music for Pam's wedding, including Charles Stanford's taxing and dramatic posthumously-published *For Lo I Raise Up*. We also had the honour and challenge of a world-premiere of a piece written for her wedding by local composer, Tim Knight, *These Things I Promise*.

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As soon as this was this over, we were in the frantic run up to Advent and Christmas. We all greatly enjoyed learning the sixteenth-century composer and poet Thomas Campion's *Never Weather Beaten Sail* and reviving Charles Wood's *O Thou the Central Orb*. It was a great pleasure to welcome members of the Gospel Choir to join us for our Christmas preparations. This year, we included H.C. Stewart's Swedish-inspired carol, *On This Day*, Rutter's gentle *Christmas Lullaby* and Andrew Carter's ebullient *Hodie Christus Natus Est*. Boris Ord's *Adam Lay yBounden* made a welcome return after many years' absence from the Choir's repertoire. Both the Charity Carol concert and the Nine Lessons and Carols were tremendous and a great testament to the Choir's professionalism.

Since January, we have been revisiting a few pieces we have not sung for a while and resurrecting local composer, Philip Wilby's setting of *God be in my Head*, written for nearby Thorne church choir and requested by a member of our congregation. Inspired by singing an anthem by Charles Wood for Advent, we learnt his moving *Expectans Expectavi*. For Ash Wednesday, we tackled Farrant's *Call to Remembrance*, which one choir member said made her feel like Elizabeth Tudor!

It has been a year of significant birthday and wedding anniversaries for a number of members of the choir. We congratulate Pam and Jimmy on their marriage and wish Lois and Derek every success with the birth of their first child at the end of March. We have welcomed Emma B. and Dee to the Choir. Unfortunately, we have also bid a sad farewell to Daniel and Rebecca who want to spend more time on their GCSE studies and to Alice who is playing badminton to county standard. Nevertheless, we are planning to have a recruitment drive after Easter to try and attract a few more singers.

Looking back on the year, it is remarkable what the Choir has achieved and the number and variety of pieces sung. This could not have been achieved without the dedication and enthusiasm of the Choir and I thank them for their attendance and good humour. I also wish to thank Jean and Sue for their help with the Choir Sunday Club and Steph for her help in sorting the music out for rehearsals.

Michael Payne (Director of Music)

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group leads the congregation in our sung Worship @11am.

We have an extremely committed core of singers and instrumentalists who meet every Thursday evening in church to practise the songs for that week and to learn any new songs. Many thanks to Lorna Taylor who leads our worship so beautifully on the keyboard, and also to our wonderful singers Emma Beddoe, Liz Foxwell and Debbie Peacock. We are extremely grateful for their faithfulness to the group.

In July we said goodbye to Jennifer Reed, one of our singers, who moved with her husband Matthew to Cambridgeshire. Jennifer had a beautiful voice and we miss the lovely harmonies she added to our worship. In September we said goodbye to Miriam Giblin our wonderful guitarist who has started at Newcastle University, and more recently we said goodbye to Richard Sharp our great drummer. We miss them all very much.

The Worship Group is small in number at the moment. We would welcome any instrumentalists or singers. Instrumentalists would ideally be about Grade 3 standard or above as some of the music is hard to navigate. We enjoy playing a variety of contemporary worship songs.

Suzannah Giblin

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MUSIC GROUP AT FAMILY SERVICE

Report not received.

BELL RINGING

A new dawn?

Having been appointed by the PCC as tower captain and ringing master in September 2019, the ringers at Kirk Deighton kindly offered to help me to ring our bells between the 9.30 and 11.00am services on the first Sunday of the month, when they don't have to ring for a morning service at Kirk Deighton. I am very grateful to them for their help.

At the beginning of February, I started teaching bell handling with help from the Kirk Deighton tower captain and now, in early March, I have four learners making good progress. I also have one competent local ringer who will be able to help out from time to time. Of course, I need more recruits. It will be quite some time before we have a band of 'home-grown' ringers capable of ringing rounds securely, allowing us to try to ring each Sunday.

Occasionally there are visiting bands. To ring for weddings and special occasions, we rely on friends from other local church towers. We plan to ring at the request of Wetherby Town Council at 11am on Friday 8th May as part of the VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations and I am confident that some of our new ringers will be able to take part.

Peter Cox

FRIENDS OF WETHERBY PARISH CHURCH MUSIC

Report not received.

CHURCH ON THE CORNER

As an integral part of the Parish of St James Wetherby, we held weekly services each Tuesday at the long established Chapel on Hallfield Lane. With the support and guidance of our Priest in Charge, The Reverend Canon Brendan Giblin and Assistant Clergy, the congregation of approximately 20 celebrated Holy Communion fortnightly. A wide range of supporting services, led by Readers whenever possible, enabled us to complete a weekly service covering a wide range of themes including our Christmas Service presented by Children from St James' Primary School with the assistance of Sarah Sharp, the St James' Church Youth and Community Outreach worker.

During the course of the year we held our successful Coffee Morning at Church on the Corner raising funds to assist in covering the annual costs. Members of the congregation were also to be found supporting the fund raising activities of the Parish Church during the course of the year.

Our regular Garden Service became an indoor service due to inclement weather however the afternoon was still very much enjoyed by all those who attended. Our thanks must go to Mary Gray for hosting the event.

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In July we visited St Andrew's Church Starbeck, where we were given a very informative talk on the history of the church followed by a sumptuous tea provided by the St Andrew's Branch of the Mothers' Union.

Our weekly services are always followed by Tea and Biscuits (and sometimes cake!) and a time of fellowship together when we celebrate Birthdays and circulate news of any who are absent, particularly important for those who live alone, and news of events at St. James'. Everyone is warmly invited to join us.

For more information or assistance with transport to and from services please telephone Derek Brown on 01937582868

Derek Brown

PASTORAL CARE AND WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

Pastoral Communion Lunches and Teas - two Communion soup lunches are held in the Coffee Lounge and two Communion teas are held in church each year. We welcome Shirley Fawcett who has taken up the leadership of these events, held quarterly over the year. Shirley coordinates the team of helpers as well as the provision of food for 20-25 guests each time. We thank all who are involved with this work. At the present time there is limited transport provided to help people who have difficulty coming along on their own and we would be glad to receive offers of help.

Care Home Hymn Singing – a team of people visit the Ashfield, Wetherby Manor and, more recently, Windsor Court care homes each month to lead hymn singing on Thursday afternoons. If this would be something that would interest anyone, again please let Lorna know.

Benedicts - St James' participates in an ecumenical team which takes a short service once a fortnight in Benedicts, a home in Wetherby for adults with learning difficulties.

Community Services - out of this ministry Community Services have become established at St James' to celebrate Christmas, Easter and at Harvest. These services are inclusive and accessible to all and are a great blessing to all who take part.

Visiting - we currently have a visiting team of 12+ people, and have been very pleased to welcome new members this year. If anyone else feels led to help, you would be most welcome to join us. On average one visit per month is required. Some people have volunteered to be involved in hospital visiting.

Bereavement Support Team – the team offers post-funeral visits to support bereaved families.

Annual Service of Service – this service takes place each December and sees Church members out in Wetherby litter picking, offering prayer, delivering gifts or singing.

Lorna Taylor and Val Lumsden

MEN'S CURRY CLUB

The Men's Curry Club met three times during the past year with numbers varying from 8 to 16. New members are always welcome – contact Steve Taylor and look out for the notices in church.

Steve Taylor

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ESTHER

Esther is a lively, friendly women's fellowship group. We were sorry to lose Stroma McDermott who had been the driving force behind the Esther group but a few ladies decided to "pick up and the baton", to form a small committee and to keep it going.

Events 2019

A yoga session was held last August. This was popular and well attended.

In December a social evening was held. This included bring and share nibbles and drinks, a beetle drive and a Christmas word scramble quiz. The event was held at short notice but 12 ladies were able to attend and everyone seemed to enjoy the have fun and a chance to chat and catch up with everyone's news.

Events 2020

We have lots of different events coming up in the coming year, please look out for the 'Save the Date' leaflet in church. The first being on Friday 27th March 2020 7.30pm, an Evening Meal at the Swan and Talbot, a time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

We are a friendly lot and all are welcome.

Jo Fineran and Brenda Plant

NOVEL CONVERSATIONS

If your image of a book club is one of highly studious individuals discussing the finer points of War and Peace and the influence of Descartes on the balance of good and evil in The Barchester Chronicles, you obviously haven't been to Novel Conversations. Instead we are a mix of ages, gender and viewpoints who enjoy each other's company as much as a good read- and even feel comfortable to disagree on our views on how good the book was. Everyone helps to choose which books we read and some use audio versions as a way of "reading" the book whilst busy with other things. We try to plan a few months ahead to give time for getting copies from the library or second hand stores to keep the cost down.

It's a great way also of finding new authors to read, and we get some very pleasant surprises. This last year's list is shown below. It's a mix of fiction and non-fiction and ranges from the escape of a black slave from the cotton plantations to the experiences of a book shop owner in south west Scotland. We are open to anyone who likes a good read and chat. It is worthwhile reading the book though-so we do not ruin it for you by talking about how it ends. We meet the first Tuesday of every month in the Curate's office at 7.30 pm in normal times. During the pandemic we are planning to set up a chat group over the internet so we can continue to read and share opinions.

Books Read;-

Little by Edward Carey

The Cutout girl by Bart van Es

The Buried Giant by Katsuro Ishguro

The breakdown by B Paris

Transcription by Kate Atkinson

Other people's money by Justin Cartright

The Shack by William Young

The Salt Path by Raynor Win

Gentleman and players by Joanne Harris

The secret rooms by Catherine Bailey

The underground railroad by Colson Whitehead

Diary of a book seller by Shaun Bythell

David and Sandra York

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MAN WITH A PAN

Our sponsors have been Co-op; Sainsbury's and the National Lottery. They have all been updated regarding our situation and are supportive of the grants being held over until we can resume the project. Our grant from the Co-op (generated twice a year from customer shopping) has now stopped and the last donation being paid in the Autumn. The Local Community Fund (National Lottery) is in a similar position. Our hope is that the finances already received from the above organisations will support continuation of this project, whenever that is possible. The second group, who only managed 1 session before the national lockdown in March, will be given the first opportunity to complete the course, which runs for 5 weekly sessions.

Jennifer Siswick

WETHERBY ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE TRUST (WSJCCT)

The Property Committee met a total of 4 times during the year with Alan Grimes continuing in the chair. The Committee is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church Centre, Church Room and the Old School Kitchen buildings. The Committee undertook the following work in 2019:

- All testing of electrical equipment was completed on schedule.
- The WSJCCT Health and Safety policy, Risk assessment and Fire Risk assessments have all been reviewed and updated.
- Parking Control has been introduced for all car parking areas including the main church car parking area. This has been necessary as unauthorized parking of motor vehicles have taken up spaces reserved for those attending church services and events and those organisations hiring rooms within the WSJCCT buildings. The users of these facilities have often had to search for vehicle parking elsewhere in Wetherby. We are using the iTicket system provided by UK Parking Control.
- A Defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of the Church Centre. This is available to all and is in addition to others located around Wetherby. Costs were shared with the Wetherby Lions and the Church is very grateful for their support.
- An old school blackboard has been donated to the Beamish Museum

Alan Grimes, (Property Committee Chair)

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WETHERBY BRANCH OF MOTHERS' UNION

We have enjoyed our year as M.U. Members in 2019 and now have a total of 29 Members with an average attendance of 22 at each meeting.

Each year begins with a service of Commitment with Holy Communion when we dedicate ourselves anew to the Purpose, Aims and Objects of the Mothers' Union. This includes all that strengthens and preserves marriage and family life, to encourage parents in their role in developing the faith of their children and to help those whose married life has met with adversity. This year we were delighted to enrol two new members who were warmly welcomed into the Branch.

A service of Corporate Communion on the third Wednesday each month at 9.45am is followed by tea, coffee and scones, a nice social get-together between meetings.

The Mothers' Union is a prayer based world-wide organisation and we regularly remember our Link Diocese in Africa and various far flung parts of the world, and apart from prayer, provide practical help where possible.

We have had some interesting speakers throughout the year, we were reminded of our childhood in a 'Trip down Memory Lane' – seems like yesterday. We heard about the City of Sanctuary and ways were suggested how we might make Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers welcome in our community. Following this a large quantity of clothing was donated. There was a fascinating talk on fostering and adoption by Mrs. Sue Nicholas who started by providing foster care and eventually adopted a little girl who was too frightened to return to her own family. We were reminded by a speaker from M.U. Action and Outreach of the value of providing 'Away-from-it- all' holidays for needy families some of whom have never seen the sea. The caravans are supported by Members donations at our monthly meetings.

The annual outing was to Hazelwood Castle, a fascinating place full of interesting artifacts but with a feeling of a family home.

A lunch was organised by Brenda and Bob Robinson at their home, when members celebrated the 80th anniversary of the St. James' Wetherby Branch, a very happy occasion attended by Branch Members and local Diocesan Members.

Our annual coffee morning was very successful raising funds to provide Bibles for the children at St. James' School moving on to Secondary education and other M.U. projects. We also provided local schools with sets of helpful books for children facing traumatic situations.

We continue to provide emergency toilet bags containing essentials for unexpected stays in hospital.

Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) at 2pm in the Church Centre to which visitors are warmly welcomed.

Mary Gray – Leader

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WETHERBY METHODIST AND ST JAMES' COVENANT GROUP

Wetherby Methodist Church and St James do much together. In addition to our regular joint services we jointly organized another Lent Lecture and Maundy Thursday performance of Mark's Gospel. We have also and have been planning a mission trip to see the work of Tearfund in Nepal. Sadly, because of the uncertainty that has befallen us because Covid-19, the trip planned for this October has had to be postponed until 2021. The intention is that these visits will give life-changing insights into the realities of life and faith in a very different part of the world.

Brendan Giblin

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WETHERBY, LINTON AND COLLINGHAM

2019 saw a wide range of activities organised by our churches working together as partners in Christ. The Executive, with representatives of all seven churches met four times during the year. It provided co-ordination, support, publicity and resources for a wide variety of activities and events.

In roughly the order in which they occurred, activities included:

- World Day of Prayer held at Wetherby Methodist Church
- Presentation from Mark Dobson, Operations Manager at WiSE
- 'Tools with a Mission' collection resulted in approximately 60 boxes of tools being collected
- Bibles were collected to go to Eastern Europe and Asia
- Two Lent Lectures organised jointly by St James and Wetherby Methodist churches
- Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service through the town
- Wetherby Civic Service
- Christian Aid Week collection which raised £5,632.13, an increase of 10% on 2018 – this included house to house collections of £3,665, Wetherby Methodist coffee morning and morning service collection £462.92, St James' coffee morning £382 and Morrisons bucket collection £381.
- Appointed representatives to the Better Wetherby Partnership
- Election Hustings held at Wetherby Methodist Church
- Representatives attended a planning meeting for the VE Day 75th Anniversary events taking place 8– 10 May 2020
- Christmas Card distribution throughout the town, including some of the newer estates
- Financial contribution towards YOI Park Run and Christmas gift bags
- Christmas Community Carols – Canon John Nunan gave a Christmas thought
- Christmas Eve Carol singing in Horsefair Centre
- Christmas Day meal at Wetherby Methodist Church
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, including breakfasts for both women and men
- Leeds Faith in Schools relationship continued to develop with members of the Executive meeting with LFIS workers to discuss involvement in the High School
- The Annual Churches Together Service this year on the theme of '*Unusual Kindness*' and featured the work of Festival Angels.
- Monthly Community prayer meetings at 9.15am on the first Wednesday of each month
- Providing a weekly '*Point of View*' for Wetherby News
- Providing a monthly '*Thought for the Day*' on Tempo FM

The Very Rev'd Derek Taylor who has represented St James' at Churches Together for over 8 years is standing down this year and a replacement is currently being sought.

Nic Sheppard

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SCOUTS AND GUIDES

6th Wetherby (St James) Brownies

6th Wetherby (St James) Brownies meet in the Church Room on a Thursday evening during school term time.

We are very proud to say that in October 2019, my fellow Owl and I got our official Leadership qualifications. This is bittersweet for us because this year we will be losing our two Young Leaders to study leave. They have been an immense source of friendship, fun and energy and we will be very sad for them to go – Lucy and Emi, you will be irreplaceable and look forward to the day you both return as Leaders!

On a brighter note, we've had another busy year, but we have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly meetings with such a lovely group of young girls. As leaders, we even got treated to a lovely Afternoon Tea put on by the newly formed Wattlesyke Division Leadership team.

Back in April 2019, we had a change to the way the Brownies earn badges at home and in the Unit meetings. This has been a huge change to get used to, but all our Brownies have coped very well. We are very excited to be handing out our Units first two Bronze Brownie Awards to two very special Brownies. These two girls haven't been with us very long but they have been an absolute pleasure to have at our meetings. Well done girls, we are very proud of you, we will certainly miss you after Easter when you move on to your next adventure at Guides.

During our meetings in the Spring Term 2019 we got inventive when working towards our Innovate badges – they created Sweet Structures out of Midget Gems, built bridges out of plastic straws, made beautiful soap gifts for Mothers' Day and also made Lava Lamps. All very messy but thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In June, we went on our District Camp. This was enjoyable in parts but it was the hottest weekend in June and this was exhausting for all the campers. Despite this, all the Guides, Brownies and even the Rainbows all had a wonderful time, we have come back with very fond memories and even a campfire song or two.

Two of our Brownies had the honour and privilege of laying the wreath last year, a wonderful tribute to those who gave their lives. We also took part in the District Carol Service at All Saints' Church in Kirk Deighton - this was a delight for all involved and lifted our spirits. We also had a Christmas themed Pyrography Workshop where the girls got to decorate different Christmas hangings or a plaque or a coaster – this was really enjoyed by all the Brownies and I am pleased to report there were no injuries sustained, which was a huge relief!

We have continued to enjoy crafting activities over the course of the terms. This year for Chinese New Year the girls made Chinese hats and lanterns while munching on some tasty Chinese treats, namely prawn crackers and spring rolls. They used their creativity to make their own Sixer Badge, most displaying very impressive sewing skills to make their final badge.

We are looking forward this year to quite a number of adventures. On 24th of June we are looking to take part in an evening of Canoeing at Aldwark Activity Centre followed that weekend by a Pack Holiday with two other Units at our Guide Campsite at Wynches. There are more adventures planned in September and October where we are hopefully taking part in a Flamingo Fling, visiting the rides and zoo at Flamingo Land and also an overnight trip to Lego Land.

Tee Jones and Marisa Mundy, Unit Leaders

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1st Wetherby Guides

Our Guide numbers have been increasing over the past year and we now have 18 guides in the unit and a healthy waiting list.

The Guides have had the opportunity to attend the District Camp in June which was held at Bramhope and also involved the Rainbow and Brownie sections (Rainbows spending 1 night indoors and Brownies had the choice of indoors or under canvas). It involved a lot of hard work by the leaders but was enjoyed by all the girls with over 150 attending. October was a busy month for the unit as we enjoyed a weekend away with my other Guide unit at Hazel House, Ripon this included a day at Lightwater Valley. The girls all enjoyed this especially as at that time of year there were no queues for the rides. A few weeks later we attended the Guiding pop concert, the Big Gig, which was held at Sheffield Arena. We also took part in a Guides Ten Pin Bowling competition. In November we took part in the town's Remembrance Parade and in December we attended the District Carol Service and ran a stall for the Lions at the Dickensian Market, we were grateful to the girls who helped in spite of the horrible rain and wind.

The new Guide Programme is now a year old and the girls are enjoying working towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Each of these awards are obtained by completing theme awards. There are 6 theme awards in total each made up of Skill builders, Unit meeting activities and Interest badges. The girls are enjoying learning new skills with the Skill Builder activities which are undertaken in their Patrols. They have also learned some new and interesting Games with the Unit meeting activities. The most popular Interest badges so far have been Mixology and Upcycling. Just before Easter we will be holding our first awards presentation night where we will be awarding our first Bronze and Silver awards.

As from January 2020 the structure of our Division has changed and we no longer have Districts, all units feed directly into the Division which has also changed its name from Bramham Moor to Wattlesyke Division.

Sue Everard, Unit Leader 1st Wetherby Guides