

We opened the doors to church for *Friday Family Fun* on the 3rd September and for the first couple of weeks we had 3-5 children, but as Covid has eased and word has spread about how much fun we have, there has been up to 16 children with 10 Adults enjoying a Bible story, crafts, prayers and songs.

We are now hoping to restart the *All Saints' All Stars*, an after-school group, once a month.

**Sarah Drury**

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### **Safeguarding**

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has only been one person needing DBS checking which has been carried out. Only the Messy Church Group needs to have all it's helpers DBS checked and I have checked that this is the case. Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community and anything untoward should be reported straight away to me, the churchwardens or a member of the clergy.

**Rosemary Swales**

[www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk](http://www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk)

**BARWICK-IN-ELMET PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**2021 to 2022**



**Elmete Trinity Benefice**

**PART OF THE ELMETE TRINITY  
BENEFICE**



**BARWICK-IN ELMET PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2021 to 2022**

**Rector** Vacant

**Associate Priest:** Revd. Kathryn Elliott

**PCC Officers**

Secretary Pauline Robson

Treasurer Martin Rogers

**Church Wardens 2021-2022**

Carole Cassidy

Leslye Thomas

**Deanery Synod Representative**

Martin Rogers

**PCC Elected Members**

Christine Nottingham 2019 - 22

Rosemary Swales 2019 - 22

Norman Whyte 2019 - 22

Pauline Robson 2020 - 23

Steve Rostron 2020 - 23

Martin Rogers 2020 - 23

Sue Cole 2021 - 24

Sarah Drury 2021 - 24

Keith Langley Co-opted for 1 year

**Messy Church and Friday Family Fun**

From May 2021 the Messy Church Team pre-recorded all its activities and sent approximately 30 packs each month to the school. This enabled either the Reception Year or Year One to do messy church in school within a Covid Safe environment. Positive feedback from the teachers and parents has been received.

In October and November 2021 we started back at All Saints' with small groups of 15 children and the Messy church team with 2 classroom assistants. A questionnaire was sent to parents at the beginning of the academic year asking for feedback and 100% felt comfortable with events and activities being held in church .

In December, we got very creative and invited the whole class in over two sessions so everyone in the class took home a *make your own nativity* in 25 advent bags.

This was very successful and it meant the year group all did the same thing. We are continuing to do Messy church mixing 2-year groups so those who missed out coming into church during lockdowns have had the chance to experience Messy church actually in church.

We have been into school and created a larger wilderness which the children in Year 1 will be making into an Easter garden.

We are also hoping that very soon we will be able to open it up for the community to sign up to also attend like we did prior to lockdown.

## **Monday Ladies Fellowship**

Barwick Monday Ladies Fellowship reopened in September 2021 after all the lockdowns. Since then we have been very well supported considering the difficult times. Most of our members returned and said it was so good to be able to meet together again after so long. Attendance has been between 26 and 30 ladies for each meeting which is more or less back to normal.

Our thanks to Sue Cole who has again managed to find us some very interesting speakers. In September we were treated to a talk about Elgar, October - we learned about 6 drinks that changed the world, November – Garden birds, December – a Christmas celebration with Christmas stories from members a quiz and carol singing, January – The Treasurer’s House in York, February – walks around Whitby, and March – the history of Leeds Gilbert and Sullivan Society (which surprisingly was started in the early 1900s by members of a south Leeds church choir!)

At present our bank balance stands at £356.98 with £165 cash in hand. Of speakers fees paid out so far £120 has gone to charitable organisations. We have not organised a visit out this year due to the uncertainty of the Covid situation.

Our last meeting for this session will be on the second Monday in May and we will recommence after our summer break on the second Monday of September. New members are always welcome, whether they attend a church or not.

**Pat Rogers and Pat Whyte**

Dear all

When Pauline sent me an email a week or so ago asking if I would be able to write a few words in the absence of a rector, I asked for a few days grace to think about it! I felt snowed under with preparations for flying to Houston – the requirements needed to fly, especially to US felt like a huge weight. The stress of obtaining ESTAs, renewing my passport, organizing covid tests to be taken only twenty four hours before flying and finding a way of proving I had recovered from covid almost made me cancel the visit. It was the support of family, friends and some of you in All Saints’ congregation which encouraged and supported Geoffrey and me and kept us going. We’re almost there as I write and our journey starts soon.

Since our last AGM, as a church community we have been on another sort of journey – one which has brought not only the devastating restrictions of Covid but also the loss of Bob and his family followed by Andy and his family moving on to new ministry.

The weight of responsibility for the smooth running of our church life has fallen mainly on the shoulders of Hilary, our Benefice secretary, and our wonderful wardens, Leslye and Carole. A big thank you to them.

It would be difficult here to name many others who have given their time and talents to help out in our vacancy, here are just a few of them: the PCC, Martyne our organist, those on our reading and prayer rotas, Malcolm our verger, Sarah heading up Friday Family Fun, our Messy church team and our school governor, those wonderful ministers who have come to lead services and Alan, Debbie, Paul, Keith, John, Carole, and Pauline.

There are also those wonderful people who are what I call our prayer warriors, those whose ministry is practically unseen as they pray in their homes. Thank you to everyone.

There is still a journey ahead of us – we do not know when a new rector will be among us; interviews are still to take place. Leslye, Carole, the PCC and Hilary still have a huge responsibility. They need our practical support, our encouragement and our prayers.

I close with some words from St Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians

*Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up ....be joyful always, pray at all times and be thankful in all circumstances.*

Blessings, **Kathryn.**  
March 2022

## **Bell Ringing**

The ringers could not meet during 2020, but restarted in September 2021. We tolled a couple of bells each Thursday evening when people were clapping the NHS.

The new ringers are progressing well and all have now qualified having rung quarter peals. We are now ringing for most of the 10:30 services. Most practice evenings now attract around 10 ringers.

We have rung for 3 weddings and chimed the tenor for 3 funerals.

There have been a couple of complaints about the amount of ringing, but this has occurred since the lockdown when there was little ringing

**John Crouch**  
**Tower Captain**

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## **Heritage Open Days**

Once again we opened the church for one and a half days during the Heritage two weeks. Numbers were down on previous years but several people who visited had come from a distance and were impressed by our church and heritage. Thanks to David Teal of the Barwick-in-Elmet Historical Society who once again set up a very interesting display of photographs for the event.

**Pauline Robson and Ann Winter**

Looking back it is hard to envisage how we managed to get through the past year due to Covid restrictions, loss of the Rector and curate and at times only one church warden. But we did it and we must thank God for guiding us throughout.

Special thanks must go to Leslye and Carole for all their hard work and for leading us forward, and to the members of the PCC who have all rallied round to support our Wardens.

The average attendance at meetings has been 77%.

**Pauline Robson**

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### **Pastoral Care**

We have continued to carry out pastoral care as far as restrictions permitted. When it wasn't possible to visit people telephone contact was made. This is an on-going project and Covid etc. is not going to get in the way of making contact with those who need us.

**Christine Nottingham**

### **Church Wardens' Report**

This last year has not been without challenges; Leslye had to work on her own for three months whilst Carole enjoyed bed rest and hospital food; a huge thanks to all the volunteers who provided support and help at this time. We started to return with some normality albeit with masks and sanitiser.

We continue to provide weekly pew sheet updates to numerous people from across the Benefice and paper copies delivered to those without a computer.

The year saw us lose Bob as he completed his training and moved on to take on his own churches as Team Rector, not too far away, but the skill, support and friendship from Bob and his family are greatly missed.

Shortly afterwards Rector Andy announced that he was pursuing his skills of working with young people and he moved south to be Chaplain at a college. We wish him well in his new career.

We have returned to some normality with weddings, christenings and funerals and with huge thanks to all who take services we have been able to hold regular services on Wednesday, alternate Sunday mornings at 8am and regular 10 30am Sunday services. The services are shown on screen as we have not returned to using prayer books and Leslye spends several hours each week typing the services onto the computer.

We continue to work as a Benefice with meetings between the Wardens, the support of the Worship Leaders, the Benefice PA Hilary and the help of retired and visiting clergy, in particular Kathryn, who thought she had retired.

We continue to collect for the food bank and are grateful for all contributions which Neale delivers each week to Seacroft.

We opened the church for Heritage Open Day in 2021 with thanks to Pauline and Ann. We held the "Service of Light for the Bereaved" in November. The choir returned to leading the congregation in singing and we were able to have a near "normal" Christmas. Our bell ringing team have returned to practising and ringing for services, weddings and funerals.

Monthly "Messy Church" with children from school, continues with thanks to Revd. Bekki Stennett and Sarah Drury. Sarah and her team also hold regular "Friday Family Fun for the Under Fives" meetings which we have seen grow over the year.

We have so far, with the help of the Diocese made two attempts to advertise for a new Rector for the Benefice without success.

#### Maintenance

As wardens we continued to oversee statutory and other works, to keep our beautiful church safe. All gutters and sprouting vegetation on the outside of church has been cleared. At present we have 2 faculties waiting for approval.

### **Report from PCC Secretary**

All the PCC meetings for the last year have been conducted by zoom and phone. Chaos reigned at the commencement of most meetings whilst people tried to get connected. On the minus side we missed seeing each other in person, but on the plus side we saved by not having to heat the church and staying in our homes on cold winter evenings.

Andy's departure to pastures new in July, coming a few months after we lost Bob who took up his own parish, resulted in a massive upheaval in the Benefice. However, Kathryn and the lay readers along with visiting retired clergy enabled church services to go ahead. In June Carole, our Church Warden, had to go into hospital for a major operation so it was 'all hands to the pump' to assist Leslye to continue the Wardens' work.

Work on the fabric of the church continued as and when restrictions permitted and the major item we purchased was a new computer and we are now connected to the internet and can live stream services.

Sadly, Norman Whyte, who has been our treasurer for many years, has had to retire due to ill health. Norman has always ensured that everything balanced and he will be greatly missed. However, Martin Rogers has stepped into the role and the PCC will give him every possible support.

## **Deanery Synod**

There were four meetings last year of Deanery Synod and two joint meetings of Leeds Deaneries, all were held via Zoom.

The main subject of the spring and summer meetings was how churches have responded to the Covid pandemic and have found ways to develop and thrive. The joint meeting in October was addressed by Jonathan Wood, the Diocesan Secretary, who spoke on his hopes and goals since joining the Diocese.

The proposal, discussed at the March meeting, to reorganise the deaneries in the Leeds area, resulted in a proposal going to the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee for three Deaneries of roughly equal size. This is now in the very final stages of completion and the parish of Barwick will be in the East Leeds Deanery.

During the year elections were held across the Leeds Episcopal Area to elect representatives to General Synod. John Beal, Lay Chair of the Whitkirk Deanery, was elected to General Synod and was nominated for a seat on the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee.

**Martin Rogers**

## The Church Yard

Our church yard gang continue to maintain our churchyard to a high standard, providing a quiet beautiful oasis for the members of our congregation and the wider community. Thank you to each and everyone involved.

**Leslye Thomas and Carole Cassidy**

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## **Electoral Roll**

A new electoral roll was drawn up this year as required. This meant that everyone on the previous roll had to re-apply if they wished to stay on it. The total figure for the 2021 Annual meeting amounted to 73 but was shortly afterwards increased to 74 (one person overlooked the necessity to re-apply but was quickly restored!). This was a slight decrease on the previous figure, perhaps not unexpected in view of the Covid situation.

Those now on the roll can relax for a year or so.

**Peter Snowdon**  
**ER Officer**

### **Treasurer's Report**

I would like to start by expressing my thanks to Norman Whyte who has stood down after some twenty-six years of managing the finances. Norman has taken us through major tasks such as the re-ordering and the introduction of the Parish Giving scheme as well as all the many other things that need to be done. We all owe him a great deal for his dedicated service.

In summary, the year finished with the church having balances of £82,257.50 on the current account and £15,289.26 on the CBF Church of England Deposit fund. This was the result of receiving generous bequests from Barbara Duckett, Eve Boshell and Freda Hewitt.

A major initiative during the year was the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme which is the Church of England's national scheme for managing regular giving. It automates the collection of donations and, where appropriate, the claims for refunds of tax on those donations. It is becoming a major source of income and provided, in total, some £19,595.90 of the total giving of £47,084.82. Other sources of giving were significant, especially from the *Friends of All Saints'*, as well as income from weddings and funerals. There were two wedding and eighteen funerals during the year.

On the expenditure side, the Parish Share was maintained at the same level as in 2020. Streaming costs are now an important item at £1,944.82 while insurance is another major item at £3,181.45. Looking after the churchyard cost £1,691.54.

Later in the spring work will begin on the refurbishment of the clock face and the stonework. This has been part-funded by a grant from the Community fund of £2,000.

**Martin Rogers**

### **Gift Aid**

The introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme in March last year has the great benefit that Gift Aid is claimed on a monthly basis and received earlier than previously. Tax refunds of £3,919.20 were received through the Scheme last year.

Tax refunded on other giving was £6,752.94. This will reduce this year with the changeover to the Parish Giving Scheme.

With the closure of the church throughout most of 2020 and continuing into last year, the plate collections were much reduced. Claims through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme are made retrospectively and a claim for £152.93 for 2020-21 has been made.

**Martin Rogers**