

Parish of Wetherby with Linton

Annual Report 2019

A Message from Brendan

St James has a wonderful, varied and busy life. You can read of some of that life here. Please do read it; you will discover what is going on.

Following its January Away Day the PCC decided that we should concentrate on two key areas of our life. Firstly, Welcoming to Belonging and, secondly, Serving to Growing.

We want to be a welcoming community where people find they belong, somewhere everyone is known and valued. Crucially we want everyone to know that they belong to God's family. We also want to serve our community and to grow. We would like to grow not just numerically, though this is vital, but in commitment to Jesus and following in his pattern of serving others. These callings, for that is what they are, shape our life together and we all have a part to play. When we are welcoming it gives space in which others can find belonging. When we serve, we find we grow.

We have enjoyed a good year. We receive generous financial support from many people, for which the PCC and I are extremely grateful. We are, however, still challenged to pay our Parish Share, for the costs of worship and mission and for the maintenance of our buildings. We would like to do more to reach out with the message of God's transforming love. In order to do this we rely on everyone's prayer, support and generosity.

I thank you for your interest, involvement and for being a part of the family of St James' in whatever form that takes.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting - 7 for 7.30pm on Thursday 11 April in the Town Hall.

Rev Brendan Giblin

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



Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Clergy:	Rev Brendan Giblin (Chair of PCC, Standing, Worship Committee)	6/7
	Rev Stroma McDermott	7/7
Churchwardens:	Bob Greene (Joint Chair of Finance and Chair Joint Personnel)	6/7
	Jean Heaton (Vice Chair of PCC, Joint Chair of Finance and Chair Communications Committee)	6/7
Readers	Val Lumsden	6/7
	David York	5/7
	Lorna Johnson	7/7
	Marilyn Smith Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)	6/7
Deanery Lay Representatives:	Susan Armstrong	4/7
	Shirley Daniel	0/7
	Robert Haskins	6/7
	Val Lumsden	6/7
Diocesan Lay Representative:	Robert Haskins	6/7
Elected Members:	Alan Grimes (Chair of Property Committee)	2/7
• Retiring 2019	Helen Harper	4/7
	Tracy Parker (Treasurer)*	6/7
	Jackie Taylor	5/7
	Sue Taylor	7/7
• Retiring 2020	Susan Armstrong	4/7
	David Bewell*	7/7
	Jean Kettlewell*	6/7
	Marilyn Smith	6/7
	Audrey Spivey	
• Retiring 2021	Emma Beddoe	6/7
	Lynda Breen	2/7
	Sheila Mirczuk *	4/7
	Rosie Rooke	6/7
	Stephanie Kemp*	7/7
Co-opted Members:	Kathryn Wenn	5/7
	Karen Tatham	5/7

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.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Table of Contents

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT	4
FINANCIAL REPORT.....	4
REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH	5
DIOCESAN SYNOD.....	5
DEANERY SYNOD	6
YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK	8
SUNDAY CLUB.....	9
CHOIR BIBLE STUDY	10
11am SQUAD	11
TIME FOR TOTS.....	11
CHOIR REPORT.....	12
WORSHIP GROUP	13
MUSIC GROUP AT FAMILY SERVICE.....	13
BELL RINGING	14
CHURCH ON THE CORNER	14
PASTORAL CARE AND WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.....	14
WETHERBY BRANCH OF MOTHERS' UNION	15
MEN'S CURRY NIGHT	16
HAPPINESS LAB.....	16
NOVEL CONVERSATIONS	16
WETHERBY ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE TRUST (WSJCCT).....	17
WETHERBY METHODIST AND ST JAMES' COVENANT GROUP.....	18
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WETHERBY, LINTON AND COLLINGHAM	18
SCOUTS AND GUIDES.....	19

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT

The PCC has met seven times during the year, and the Standing Committee five times. The five sub-committees (Finance, Property, Worship, Discipleship and Mission, Communications and Joint Personnel) meet between main meetings and report to PCC. There are currently 15 elected members, two co-opted members, a Diocesan Synod rep, four Deanery reps and four Lay Readers on the PCC. With clergy and churchwardens, we are a group of 26. We have met on one occasion at St James School, which was a welcoming environment and good to meet in our community.

It has been a year of building on the vision work started in 2017. We held an Awayday in January in the beautiful location of Knaresborough where the Rev Dr. Alan Garrow led us in our vision development, based on the areas of welcome, renewal, service and growth. We are starting our practical work around the concept of Welcome, considering all aspects of Welcome to our Church community-how do outsiders become friends?

Alongside vision work, we have spent significant time on finance, property and safeguarding. These have included the introduction of GDPR and the Church Suite database. The Property and Finance committees are managing the significant building repairs and applying for funding. The PCC has had extensive finance discussions because St James would have been in a deficit position in 2018 had we met the Parish Share. Difficult conversations have been prayerfully held about the sustainable size of Parish Share and how we maintain our staffing to allow the work we do within all sections of our community. This focus on finance will remain a priority.

Karen Tatham, PCC Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £127,660 of which £88,201 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and a further £24,131 was from Gift Aid.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders to the unrestricted fund was up 6% compared to 2017. However Open Plate giving was down by £3,114 suggesting that there may have been a change in the pattern of giving.

£149,237 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry of St James Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share, which was paid at the 2017 level of £107,152 leaving a shortfall of £10,715 on the 2018 request. The subject of Share increases which now stand at 39%, 2019 over 2016, has been the subject of much discussion with the Diocese and the decision to hold 2018 payment at 2017 level was confirmed by PCC at the November meeting.

In 2018 the PCC has reviewed income received and costs incurred with the intention of allocating transactions through restricted funds where it is considered this more accurately reflects the intention of donors and fundraisers when income is received and to also allocate associated costs accordingly. The main funds used for this purpose are the Worship Support and Mission Work Funds. The financial effect of this has been to allocate £48,799 income and £45,370 expenditure to restricted funds that would probably have been allocated to the unrestricted general fund in the past.

In 2018 the unrestricted fund incurred a deficit of £5,054 compared to a surplus of £167 in 2017. After adjusting for the above review operating activities incurred a deficit of £1,625 before the shortfall in Parish Share payments of £10,715.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

The values in the restricted Fabric Fund fell by £2,559 and the restricted Vicar and Churchwardens' Fund reduced by £3,169 after donating £5,000 to the Mission Work restricted fund.

Given that the freehold property at 53 Barleyfields Road is considered to be an investment asset the value has been included in the accounts at its estimated market value.

With costs exceeding income in 2018, even without taking into account the shortfall in the payment towards Parish Share and excluding Grants, 2019 promises to be an equally challenging year with further increase in Parish Share and known salary and other cost increases.

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £37,500. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance held on unrestricted funds together with amounts payable to and by the PCC at the year-end totaled £38,604.

The balance of £21,914 on the Fabric Fund is retained towards meeting the cost of on-going fabric repairs to the Church and 53 Barleyfields including work highlighted in the Quinquennial review. For 2019 such costs are projected at a net £19,000. The freehold house at 53 Barleyfields Road continues to be let and provided a gross income of £9,900, of which £1,500 was allocated towards management and insurance costs.

Robert Greene, Joint Chair of Finance Committee

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

The Property Committee met a total of five times during the year with Alan Grimes continuing in the chair. This has been a relatively quiet year with emphasis placed on preparation for major Quinquennial work, principally repairs to the church stonework, scheduled for 2019. The main emphasis continued on maintaining the fabric of the church and meeting health and safety standards:

1. Steve Taylor, our Health & safety Officer and Alan Grimes undertook a comprehensive Risk Assessment of all areas which proved very satisfactory. Minor remedial work was completed.
2. All testing of electrical equipment was completed on schedule and annual testing of the tower Lightning Protection System was completed.
3. 53 Barleyfields Road. No major improvements were required and the property continues to provide a positive net income.
4. Further improvements were made to draught proofing of the South Porch. Long term the doors need to be replaced.
5. Leeds Council have condemned two of the large chestnut trees in the churchyard both are suffering from Bleeding Canker disease. Removal is imminent.
6. The church war memorial was mildly cleaned ahead the centenary of the end of World War 1.

Jean Heaton and Robert Greene, Churchwardens

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Strategy for the Diocese - the Bishop's Strategy Group has identified five-year goals as follows:

1. Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values;
2. Reimagining ministry;
3. Nurturing Lay Discipleship;
4. Building Leadership Pipelines and
5. Growing Young People as Christians.

It has also identified three enabling themes: Clergy and Lay Together, Purposeful Resourcing and Dynamic Partnerships.

Finance - 2018 saw the prospect of a Diocesan deficit of some £2-£3m, with cash and cash flow too low. The Diocese is now controlling expenditure better, identifying and accelerating property sales and implementing redundancies. Strict spending approvals have been introduced, clergy stipends have been frozen, property purchases have been abandoned and there is a freeze on recruitment. But no clear way of closing gap has been identified. Continuing cost cutting alone does not deliver the mission of the diocese. Focus on income is needed to achieve safe sustainability. This requires parishes to grow more people – more vibrancy generates more income. Income is needed to grow by 2% to 3% per year. The outcome for 2018 was £1m better than budgeted. However, there is still work to do. For 2019 the overall cost of ministry is frozen at £12.6m and the overall Diocesan budget (education being a large part of this) for 2019 is set at £23.5m.

Diocesan Lay Conference – 9 June 2018 - A number of our PCC attended this one-off conference, which majored on the future of lay leadership of parish life (see goals 2 and 3 above). Among the best moments were the following insights: We are a hope filled people. Relationships matter. Humans come first, discipleship second, then ministry. Going for growth is the one main conclusions. We can be full of excuses but God will equip us.

Robert Haskins

DEANERY SYNOD

The Harrogate Deanery Synod representatives were Rev. Brendan Giblin, Stroma McDermott, Shirley Daniels, Susan Armstrong, Robert Haskins and Val Lumsden.

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.

Main Items Covered During the Year

May 2018 – Setting God's People Free - this identified a general and wide concern about communication – both within and without the Deanery – as well as a number of related issues. The Lay Chair intends to produce a more detailed paper which will be circulated to Synod members in due course and discussed at a future meeting.

July 2018 – Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley - Bishop Helen-Ann's vision is to grow God's Kingdom in the Ripon Episcopal area. To do this we need to look at Lay Ministry and this must not be there to

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

‘plug the gaps’ but to develop. We must look at the context and culture around us, be it rural, urban, market town, school, or new housing development and ask ‘How do we respond?’ The New Diocese Logo can help us – LOVING – think Prayer and Spirituality, LIVING – think Discipleship and LEARNING – think Community and ‘tune in’ to what God is doing.

October 2018 – Domestic Abuse can Affect Anyone - IDAS is the largest specialist charity in Yorkshire supporting anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. IDAS and similar organisations are there to help in cases of domestic abuse with support for both males and females over the age of 16. IDAS works with Social Services and covers Harrogate, Richmondshire, and Hambleton. If we suspect someone is being abused we should not judge or give advice but signpost an organisation like IDAS. The IDAS helpline number is 03000 110 110.

February 2019 – Engaging with Schools: Change, Challenge and Opportunities - the Diocesan Education Department has oversight of some 240 Church Schools and the statutory process used is the Schools Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The key question to be answered in the framework are ‘How effectively is the school’s distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels?’ and if the school cannot articulate that ‘Biblical teaching roots the school’s vision’ the school cannot be deemed ‘Good’.

Good News from the Deanery

1. Sicklinghall - music links with Leeds University are working well with students leading the worship twice a month.
2. Weeton and Huby - Community Coffee Mornings, open to all.
3. Kirby Overblow - Breakfast Services, with breakfast served between the 8.30am BCP Service and a following child friendly Service.
4. Pool - joining with the Methodist Church to offer ‘Messy Church’ Services now with a core of 17 children and their families regularly attending, which includes some 17/18 children and their families.
5. North Rigton – special services including a Book Service, a Noah’s Ark Service, a Donkey Service held on Palm Sunday and a Sheep Service, where two three week old lambs were taken to Church and blessed together with the 111 handmade lambs which were handed out to the congregation.
6. St Mark’s – in the Harrogate area the milestone of 1,000 children sponsored through Compassion, has been achieved, this is the highest density of such sponsorship in the country.
7. Spofforth - on average only 3 or 4 families with children had regularly gone to Church and it was felt that something needed to change in order to encourage more families to attend. So last November an invitation was given to church members and the local communities to a meeting in the local pub to discuss what could be done about the situation. The result was a decision to hold a ‘Messy Church’ Service. At the first such Service in February 66 people attended, the following Service saw 80 people there and at the last Service there were nearly 90 and all very much involved.

Val Lumsden, Deanery Synod Representative

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Youth Group

Youth Group continues to meet on a Sunday evening in the Church Centre during term time. From May half term onwards we open it up to Y6 and above (it's normally for Y7 and above), this encourages a natural transition before the summer and the start of the academic year.

The Sunday evening group for Y10/11 was poorly attended and didn't really provide what the young people were wanting. Some of our older young people have come back to Sunday evening Youth Group as 'young leaders'. Provision for Y10/11 continues to be discussed with leaders and young people. We continue to have a small, but amazing team of committed volunteers.

Sunday Mornings at 11am

Bacon Butty Club continues to run the first Sunday in the month – now open to Y6 and above (due to the large number of primary school children attending the 11am service). This is working well and the Y6s are enjoying being a part of the older group with the older young people still coming along and encouraging the younger ones to join in with games and discussion.

The group that was running each week for Y7+ was poorly attended, mainly due to competing with sporting activities. It was decided to focus our energy on Bacon Butty Club and Youth Group.

I have joined the 11am Squad rota (see separate report) – with the intention of getting to know our younger children and families so our youth work will grow from our children's work.

Pizza Night Y12/13

Due to part-time jobs and various other commitments it has proved tricky to gather our Y12/13s together since September last year. We are hoping for a Pizza Night in the summer or very early in September before they all go off to full-time work or university.

Summer 2018 Drop-in

We held a summer breakfast drop-in session early in the summer break which was well attended. We have an Easter one planned for Holy Week and a further summer one in July.

Younger Children

No Trick, just Treat! (October 2018) - As popular as ever, this alternative to Halloween was yet again extremely busy with children from our local community. The message of light overcoming the darkness was prevalent and there was a very exciting atmosphere in Church. We are planning on running this event again on Halloween this year.

Christmas Crackers - An afternoon of Christmas fun for primary aged children was attended by 30+ children and their parents/carers. This continues to be a popular event and we have already set a date for this year.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Posada - Our knitted Nativity figures travelled around the parish once again during Advent. It is great to see members of our congregation of all ages getting involved. The diary made for entertaining reading once again!

Beyond Church - Primary Schools

Harvest/Wetherby Festival Choir - After the success of putting together a combined schools choir for the Civic Service in 2017, I was delighted to once again have the opportunity of working with the staff and a small number of pupils from our local schools to form a combined choir for Wetherby Festival. The choir sang at our Harvest Festival Family Service. It was great to welcome them, their families and friends to Church. I have been asked to form a choir again for the Civic Service in May this year.

Church Experience Days - These continue to be very popular with St James' School and dates are already in place for the next academic year. They are a great opportunity for the children to experience Church in a different, interactive way. As well as meeting the requirements of the RE curriculum they are a great way of sharing the Gospel with the children, staff and volunteers from school. It is our continued hope that the other schools may wish to attend also.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers helping with our Experience Days and schools ministry.

I remain an associate governor at St James' School and the ministry team visit school weekly for collective worship. I also regularly visit Deighton Gates Primary School for assemblies.

Beyond Church - Wetherby High School

I continue to help with the Pop Choir/Singing Group on a Thursday afternoon. This is run as a part of their Flexible Learning (after school activities). We regularly have around six students who enjoy meeting together to sing, chat and eat biscuits!

Finally

May I say a big thank you to you all for your support (practically and prayerfully) over the past year. I await with excitement what God has planned for the year ahead!

Sarah Sharp, Youth and Community Outreach Worker

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club is the 9.30am Children's worship group which meets in term-time. We leave church during the first hymn for activities in the Church Centre then return for a blessing at Communion. New and visiting children are extremely welcome. We're blessed with an enthusiastic and friendly team of helpers as well as terrific support from the wider congregation.

Sunday Club Sessions - Our aims are for the children to have fun, make friends and learn good life lessons based on the church sermon that week. We use resources from the 'Sermons for Kids' and Urban Saints websites. Sessions begin with a narrative to illustrate the 'lesson' followed by a short prayer, and then related games and crafts. We also try to encourage the children to share issues which are currently important to them.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Children Attending - The number of regular and visiting children has fallen slightly over the past year; we typically have 8-10 children attending at least monthly with five attending weekly. During Special Services, we welcome 18-20 children. Children visiting local relatives frequently attend.

Adult Helpers - We have 8 regular adult helpers – 4 session leaders and 4 helpers who assist the leaders. We need more help especially as some of the current helpers' children move to High School this year. New helpers are always extremely well supported and always begin in a "helping role" rather than leading or planning a session. Some members prefer not to ever lead which is absolutely fine. All helpers are rostered on roughly two convenient Sundays every 4 months.

Safeguarding – The team has worked hard to ensure compliance with the Diocese Safeguarding guidelines.

- Everyone in the team is DBS checked
- We always have at least two adults present at each session
- We have a weekly register completed by the Session Leader
- All parents have completed General Consent Forms & Photo Consent Forms which are kept safely locked away though we need to update some to the new forms.
- All Session Leaders are First Aid trained (some Helpers are too)
- We have a Safeguarding file in the Sunday Club cupboard with key policy & advice documents and key Safeguarding contact details.
- We display the ChildLine Number on our notice Board

Future Plans - We are looking for people of all ages and backgrounds, male and female, to welcome to our team. If this appeals to you or you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more, please contact Lynda Breen on 07766 722825 or Lynda@breen.com, or talk to a member of the team.

Lynda Breen, Sunday Club Co-ordinator

CHOIR BIBLE STUDY

The young choristers in the choir have their own bible study lesson during the sermon and prayers at the 9.30am Parish Communion service. The sessions are led by Jean Heaton and Sue Taylor on a rota basis, assisted by Stephany Kemp and often joined by Michael Payne (Choirmaster).

Sometimes it can be a bit of a challenge to fit in all that we wish to and to ensure the children get something out of the sessions as we only have 15/20 minutes before we have to re-join the service. In that time we do aim to have a main activity linked to the bible reading which could be a game, quiz or drama. This leads in to group discussions which can sometimes go 'off topic' but are always interesting and meaningful. We conclude with a summary of what we have gained from the session.

The resource we use is 'The Grid' from Scripture Union's 'Light' bible-based learning syllabus. It is specifically aimed at the 11 to 14 age group. It provides a great mix of bible teaching which is flexible, dynamic, fresh, relevant, engaging and fun. Through the activities and discussions, we provide opportunities for the young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus, grow in faith and develop a personal relationship with God.

Jean Heaton and Sue Taylor

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

11am SQUAD

Over the last year, we have been short of volunteers in the team, but in the last month or so we have had a few people who are interested, and this will hopefully help once safer recruitment processes are completed, so people are not doing as many turns and can also enjoy coming to the services. Our group size is between 15-20 children and growing all the time. The children are engaging when they come to the groups, we are never short of young volunteers to get stuck in with the activities. We have moved away from using Sermon 4 Kids and Bath and Well's Sunday Max and are now using 'Energise' from Urban Saints. Sarah emails plans for the sessions out to the people on the rota that week. This has been a big help and encouraged people to stick to using Urban Saints. Even though I have been coming to St James' Church for a number of years now, this role is helping me become more involved, so fingers crossed I can do more to help in the future.

Lisa Wigglesworth

TIME FOR TOTS

Time for Tots meets on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon in the month. On average 8 children and their families usually attend each session a week and have fun learning about the Christian Faith. Unfortunately, numbers have reduced so we are advertising on the Wetherby Mums and Dads Facebook page and continue to advertise through leaflets, posters and word of mouth. We now have a WhatsApp group too!

We follow themes from the Bible and the activities, the story, the music and the prayer is based on the theme of the week. Our craft activities include painting, baking, colouring, messy play gardening and lots more! We are really grateful to Brendan, Stroma and Marilyn who read us a story from the bible and pray with us. Thank you to Suzannah who leads our music and singing session.

Time for Tots once again held a successful stall at the church fete, the proceeds of which were donated to the church funds. We take a collection each week which is also donated to the church.

Time for Tots have a team of people who lead the group and look after the rotas and plan the activities. The leaders are Debbie Peacock and Suzannah Giblin who are there to welcome new faces and maintain consistency within the group. Lucy Morritt kindly helped in the Autumn term. Shirley Fawcett coordinates the rota for the refreshments. Thank you to Shirley, Trudy, Pauline and Celia for their help, support and preparing lovely snacks and drinks for both the children and the adults.

The success of Time for Tots relies heavily on all those who volunteer and give up their valuable time on a regular basis, and so the children and parents in the group would like to thank each and every one of our helpers enormously, your support is really appreciated.

Debbie Peacock

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

CHOIR REPORT

Every year when I write this report, it's always amazing to reflect on how much music the choir has performed over the past year and the date range of the pieces that we sing: from plainchant written around 1,000 years ago to anthems written in the past few years.

The highlight of Lent 2018 was a very emotionally-charged performance by Emma of the Benedictus from Haydn's Little Organ Mass. This was then followed by our Good Friday service, The Way of the Cross, which was a sequence of readings from St Mark's Gospel interspersed with musical mediations, including a performance of Herbert Howells' Like as the Hart. For Easter 2018, following Michael's 2018 New Year's resolution of performing more unaccompanied music, performing Adrian Batten's effervescent O Sing Joyfully. This was partnered with our annual performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

In the weeks after Easter we resurrected Vaughan William's O How Amiable are thy Dwellings for Pentecost and Tchaikovsky's Hymn to the Trinity. Later in the year, we performed a version of Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus in an arrangement for choir, solo violin (performed by our very own Sue Davis) and organ. We also sang S.S. Wesley's Blessed Be the God and Father (with the famous duet sung by Lois and Pam) for Confirmation in the presence of the new Bishop of Ripon. The end of the choir year was celebrated with a picnic at Studley Royal with a short performance in the church, including John Stainer's God so Loved the World and Anton Bruckner's Locus Iste.

After a well-deserved summer break, we were back in September, learning William Byrd's anthem Teach Me, O Lord for the sermon series on the Bible. For this year's Service of Light and Remembrance Day, we eschewed a psalm and introduced an introit. For the former, we performed Rutter's haunting God be in my Head, with Bob Chilcott's taxing, but ravishing, Be Thou My Vision as the anthem. Remembrance Day saw a break with tradition with John Ireland's anthem Greater Love which we exchanged for Peter Aston's So They Gave Their Bodies with its evocative use of the last post. We also performed William Harris' Holy is the True Light as an effective miniature at the start of the service.

After Remembrance, the pace always quickens in the run up to Christmas, with the preparations for the Advent Carol Service and the Christmas Carol Service. The Advent Carol Service started with Palestrina's Matin Responsory along with our annual performance of Orlando Gibbon's This is the Record of John (with its alto solo) and included, for the first time, a performance of Otto Goldschmitt's A Tender Rose. The service was followed by a sumptuous buffet provided by the Friends of Wetherby Parish Church Music. It was also a great pleasure to welcome David Darling, who happened to be passing, to the service. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols opened with the nerve-wracking solo to 'Once in Royal' sung effortlessly by our head chorister, Rebecca. We also included a carol written especially for the choir and its former Director of Music, Steven Hartley, by the renowned composer Andrew Carter. It was a pleasure to join with the Gospel Choir for the well-attended Coffee and Carols in the Parish Centre and the carols at Wood Hall on Christmas Eve.

Since Christmas, we have been busy learning Paul Edwards' Epiphany carol, No Small Wonder, Johannes Eccard's six-part anthem, When to the Temple Mary Went for Candlemas and bringing back William Byrd's Ave Verum after many years' absence from the Choir's repertoire

This year, we have been blessed by a donation from the Friends of a set of the New Church Anthem Book (a collection of 100 anthems which has done wonders, thanks to its size, in improving the choir's arm muscles!) and also two collections of More Than Hymns. All of these books have already proved to be valuable additions to the choir's library and will doubtless continue to be useful. In conjunction

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

with the PCC, the Friends also bought an electric piano for the basement Rehearsal Room, replacing the ancient piano which was coming to the end of its life. Not only does the piano make the Sunday-morning rehearsals more bearable, it also proved its worth when we took it to Wood Hall for carol singing where it gave much greater support to the choir. The Friends also provided new folders for all our music; some of the folders we were using were over 50 years old

During the course of the year we have welcomed Ryan and congratulated Lois and Pam who have become engaged to their respective other halves. I would like to thank Sue and Jean who provide the activities for the children during the sermons and Steph for her help with the music. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to every member of the choir for their dedication and loyalty to St James' Choir.

Michael Payne (Director of Music)

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group leads our sung worship at Worship @ 11am. We have a faithful group of musicians and singers and we practise on Thursday evenings in church. Many thanks to Lorna Johnson on keyboard/singer, Miriam Giblin on guitar, Richard Sharp on drums and our singers Emma Beddoe, Jennifer Reed and Debbie Peacock.

This year we said goodbye to Christian McDermott, our bass guitarist, who left for Cambridge University although we do hope he will join us when he is back home in the holidays. We also said goodbye to Chris Gale who faithfully played the violin in the group for many years and who has decided to step down due to other musical commitments. We miss them very much.

We would love to recruit some more musicians - young or not so young. I wonder if there is anyone in our congregation who played a musical instrument at school who would like to dust it off and come and join us? We would love to welcome you.

Suzannah Giblin

MUSIC GROUP AT FAMILY SERVICE

The Music Group has enjoyed playing a variety of worship songs this year. We have again increased our repertoire, thanks to Sarah Sharp's skill on her acoustic guitar. We currently play for the Family Service once a month, usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11am. We usually rehearse on the Thursday before, from 7.30-8.30pm, in church.

We have a group of nine instrumentalists and singing volunteers. I am very grateful to these individuals who kindly give up their time twice a month for rehearsals and a service. I would like to say a particular thank you to Suzannah Giblin, Emma Beddoe, Sarah Sharp, Miriam Giblin, Lorna Johnson and Richard Sharp. We always have an entertaining time practising and performing together. New members who could sing or play would be made very welcome.

I would also like to thank those who work behind the scenes: the family service team planning the shape of the service and the music we play, those producing the overheads and service sheets for the congregation, the sound desk during the service and the constant help of our sound system team. We look forward to another enjoyable year.

Sue Davis

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

BELL RINGING

Tower in search of a new captain - very sadly Pauline Holland, the wife of our Tower Captain, died last year. Pauline, together with David, faithfully, and with great determination, rang the bells of St James' for over 50 years. Last year I reported that David, after all these years of wonderful service wished to hand on the reins. David has resigned as Tower Captain and we are grateful that David is continuing to help the Tower by being secretary; arranging for visiting bands of ringers to ring the bells for weddings and celebrations. Thank you to David for his past and continued service. St James' owes a huge debt of thanks to the Holland family for all their involvement.

Unfortunately we have not enjoyed the regular music of the bells for some time now. We do not have our own band of ringers. This is a great shame and the sound of the bells is much missed. We are looking to recruit a new Tower Captain who can attempt to encourage a new generation of ringers.

Brendan Giblin

CHURCH ON THE CORNER

Services are at 2pm each Tuesday and with the guidance and support of our Vicar, Holy Communion is celebrated fortnightly. The congregation is regularly between 17-20 people and for those who need it transport is provided. Other Services are led by Readers where possible and include BCP Evensong, Prayers for Healing, Taize, Songs of Praise, Harvest, Christian Aid, New Year, Shrove Tuesday Celtic Worship (with pancakes) Service of Light and Remembrance and Carols with St. James' School Choir.

On a fine day in June we held a 'Garden Service' as usual and in July a visit to Ripon Cathedral was arranged with a short tour, Evening Prayer led by Rev. Canon Wendy Wilby and an excellent tea provided by the Cathedral Branch of the Mothers' Union.

Another fine day dawned in August for our annual Coffee Morning in and around the Church on the Corner when we were pleased to welcome friends from St. James' and some local neighbours. We were pleased to help 'Pay our Way' by raising funds from the Cake Stall and Tombola.

Our Services are always followed by Tea and Biscuits (and sometimes cake!) and a time of fellowship together when we celebrate Birthdays and 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 and if you need help with transport please telephone Mary Gray on 01937 520578.

Mary Gray

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.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Care Home Hymn Singing – a team of people visit the Ashfield and Wetherby Manor care homes each month to lead hymn singing. We are currently seeking to visit Windsor Court Care Home in Sandbeck. 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. Hospital visiting is also helped by some members of the team.

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

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

Lorna Johnson and Val Lumsden

Important Other! - Inevitably in a report such as this important parts of Church life are missed. The Alpha Course, Parenting Courses, involvement in local prisons, Thursday Coffee Mornings, Christening Teas, Love Lunch and Thy Kingdom Come Yarn Bombing continue to be important in our outreach to our parish. But there are also many other often hidden and sometimes taken for granted ministries which continue to share the love of God in and beyond our parish.

Brendan

WETHERBY BRANCH OF MOTHERS' UNION

We are pleased to report that this year we have enrolled two new members and transferred two from branches outside our area. We now have a total of 30 members and an average attendance over the year of 19 plus any visitors.

Our year began with a Service of Commitment and Holy Communion and members from other branches joined us in renewing our promises which include “promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children and to help those whose family life has met with adversity”.

We have welcomed seven speakers on a variety of subjects during the year. The Annual Coffee Morning was a great success and some of the money raised will provide Bibles for children at our Church School who will be moving on to Secondary School in the new term.

Members have supported our Church by helping with the Church Fete and the Christmas Fair, taking part in the Marriage Week Service for which a leaflet of prayers and readings for the week is produced, assisting with Baptisms, the Thursday Coffee Mornings and with the Pastoral Care group. Throughout the year we have provided knitting for “baby bags”, collected toiletries both for the Women's Refuge and emergency hospital bags and supplied M.U. Recipe books for the local Foodbank.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

Money is raised by donations for the provision and maintenance of the two Holiday Homes which provide 'Away from it all' Holidays for needy families.

Beyond the Parish members attended the Lady Day Service at Bedale, led mid-day prayers at Ripon Cathedral, attended the Advent Service at Wakefield Cathedral, Diocesan Council meetings and Episcopal Area meetings and the Triennial and Commissioning Service at Ripon Cathedral when Bishop Helen-Anne was enrolled a Member.

We continue to meet together on the third Wednesday of the month when we take Communion together and enjoy fellowship afterwards with refreshments. Our programme is displayed on our Notice Board in Church and visitors are warmly invited to our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

Mary Gray – Leader

MEN'S CURRY NIGHT

The Men's Curry Club has continued to meet during the year and has welcomed a few new members. We remain loyal to the Bengal Lounge in High Street which has been consistently good and hospitable. Our numbers vary from 11 to 20 and new members are always welcome – contact Steve Taylor and look out for the notices in church.

Steve Taylor

HAPPINESS LAB

It used to be the mantra for politicians that economic growth was everything, but recently they have come to realise that the well-being of society does not depend on this alone. Happiness is a better measure of how content folk are and governments now measure this regularly. Once again St. James' is up with the times by running The Happiness Lab. Following on from the first event we held another five week course over the autumn due to popular demand. The course is centred on the latest research as to what makes people happy and, more importantly what we can do to improve our happiness. Each evening included a video presentation by experts, followed by group discussions. We used one of the rooms in the Swan and Talbot, which helped create a relaxed atmosphere - and the beer was good. We covered simple-to-do ideas such as appreciating the good things that occur in our day, giving thanks to others and, probably the most challenging: forgiving others. It is a secular course that also understands that spiritual values are an important part of the overall mix.

Attendance ranged from 12 to 15 and feedback was very positive and all felt that they the ideas had been valuable. However, it seemed that a lot of the value came from spending time with each other and taking time to think more deeply on how to improve our happiness. If anyone is interested in us putting on another course please let us know.

Sandra and David York

NOVEL CONVERSATIONS

It's taken me some time to realise that the key point of the book club is not about reading books! After all, a lot of us do this all the time! Really it's about getting to know the people who read the books in the discussion that follows. That and reading authors that you have never heard of and topics that are not usually in your interest area. As a result, I have discovered some excellent new authors to me and

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

expanded my general knowledge considerably. Though I am still struggling to convince the group that science fiction is a valid genre with much to say to us. This is NOT an elite group of intellectuals debating the deep meaning of literature and books are chosen by the members. To give perspective the list below covers what we have read this year. Please give it a try, all are welcome and new members will likely expand our range of ideas for a good read (hopefully some science fiction appreciators too!).

- Cutting For Stone by Abraham Verghese
- How To Stop Time by Matt Haig
- Any Human Heart by William Boyd
- The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amon Towles
- Ghost by Robert Harris
- All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- The Rosie Project by Graeme Simpson
- The Light Between Oceans by M L Stedman
- The Dig by John Preston
- Where My Heart Used To Beat by Sebastian Faulk
- Gentleman and Players by Joanne Harris
- Little by Edward Carey

David and Sandra York

WETHERBY ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE TRUST (WSJCCT)

The Property Committee met five times in between April 2018 and April 2019 under the chairmanship of Alan Grimes. The committee undertook the following work:

Church Centre - The Centre continues to be used by many organisations. In the last 12 months the committee has discussed, amongst other things, the Health and Safety of the users of the Trust's buildings and as a result had repairs done to the main entrance to enable a quicker exit and have had a new fire door fitted in the coffee lounge. A study has been done of the safe numbers in any one room and the users have been notified. There have been a number of jobs completed i.e. a new motor has been fitted to the shutters in the Church Centre kitchen and some painting has been done in the disabled toilet to get rid of staining caused by a leak from the flat roof, which has been repaired.

The Committee has also approved a feasibility study to look at how the Church Centre is currently used and how it might be used in the future and what alterations may need doing.

Church Room - A tap has been fitted to the outside wall to help the caretaker. After discussions with the uniformed groups, the Scouts have undertaken to clear some of the unwanted items from the stage area to make it more accessible for their activities.

Old School Kitchen - The tenants Innersense Aesthetics are steadily building their business and expressed a wish to use more of the building but unfortunately a large window was in need of replacement. The Committee agreed to the replacement of this window and it has made a big difference to the look and usability of the building. Renting out of the building provides funding to support the work of the Church Centre.

Parking - There continues to be a problem with the limited parking space being used by people who aren't using the Church or the Church Centre. We replaced the main car park sign and other signs this

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

year, but people still ignored them, so the Committee have decided to use the services of a firm called UKPC who will fine people who we identify as abusing the facility, on our behalf.

Graham Gale (Property Committee Secretary)

WETHERBY METHODIST AND ST JAMES' COVENANT GROUP

Wetherby Methodist Church and St James do much together. In addition to our regular joint services and Lent Lectures we look forward to jointly this year hosting "The Narrow Way" the Lent production of the Riding Lights theatre company on Friday 12 April. Jointly we support the work of TearFund in Nepal. Following the visit to Nepal by three young people and three not so young people from each church, St James has contributed £7,832 to TearFund. Another trip, with the same mix of young and old, is beginning to be planned for October 2020. 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

Churches Together in Wetherby is represented by church members from St James', St Joseph's, Wetherby and Collingham Methodist, Salvation Army, Wetherby Baptist and St Oswald' Parish Collingham. Nic Sheppard was warmly welcomed as the second representative for St James'.

During the course of the year Lt. Yvonne West, Salvation Army, succeeded Chris Bishop as chair after three years of excellent service. Joyce Harrison Succeeded Mary Wilkinson as secretary, who stood down due to other commitments. Rev. Barbara Brown, representing Kirk Deighton and Spofforth, was also welcomed. Activities included the following:

- Prayer - week of prayer for Christian Unity, Women's World Day of Prayer, monthly prayer meeting; national "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer events
- Good Friday Walk of Witness
- Wetherby Civic Service
- "Red Wednesday" service for the Persecuted Church
- Christmas Carols in the Horsefair Centre
- Two Lenten Talks
- Christian Aid Collection
- Tools with a Mission (TWAM) collection
- Samara Levy's clothing appeal for Syria
- Christmas gift appeal
- Christmas card distribution
- Christmas Day Lunch.
- Providing weekly 'Point of View' for the Wetherby News

Derek Taylor

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

1st and 3rd Wetherby Rainbows

Both Rainbow Units continue to thrive, each offering 20 places, so we have 40 Rainbows in total. Helen Trapps is the Unit Leader and Bev Skilbeck is the Assistant Leader for both Units. At 1st, Carol Pallister and Louise Clee are Unit helpers, while at 3rd we currently have four Young Leaders; Freya Devine, Francesca Devine, Grace Hartley and Elisa Salomon. We are very grateful for all their help.

The main change this year has been the introduction of the new Girlguiding programme. The new programme is very varied and innovative but it has taken a while for us to figure out the best way to implement it, particularly because it is more rigid than the old one. The girls remain very enthusiastic and have really got into completing the new Interest badges.

The girls enjoy the meetings and take part in a range of activities which include; playing games, singing songs, crafts, cooking and learning about Rainbows and Guiding.

Helen Trapps, Unit Leader 1st and 3rd Wetherby Rainbows

6th Wetherby (St James) Brownies

6th Wetherby (St James) Brownies meet in the Church Room on a Thursday evening during school term time. We've had a busy year, with a lot to learn as new leaders, but we have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly meetings with such a lovely group of young girls. Many thanks to Fiona Jones who retired Owl duties during the year for all her service.

We worked hard over a few weeks in May to earn our Royal Wedding Badges, there are some fantastic up and coming designers among our group with some fabulous designs for Meghan's wedding dress – amazing what you can do with dolly pegs, doilies and lace.

We've been out and about for many of our meetings; we have been to the Fire Station; we did a Nature Trail around Wetherby; we made glow stick lanterns which we then took on our District walk from Spofforth Castle to Station Car Park; we went to Clifford and had a Football training session (which I particularly enjoyed) and we also had water based fun and games on the Tetley Field on our last meeting of the Summer term.

We have continued to enjoy crafting activities and this year the girls made memory books for the Owls' retirement presents and gifts for our 'Random Act of Kindness' walk. We did try to have a bake-off night but unfortunately none of our cakes rose - the girls really enjoyed eating all the toppings instead! They also made all the decorations for our Halloween disco which transformed the Hut into something wonderfully scary. The girls also tried their hands at beadwork where they made beautiful Festive Wreaths as gifts for the residents of Wetherby Manor when we did a Carol singing concert for them last year.

We always enjoy getting together with our Brownie friends from other local units, we hosted our first ever Halloween Disco with 7th Wetherby Brownies which was a huge success, to be repeated this year I hope. We have joined in District events with the other sections, including the Town Remembrance Day Parade marking the Centenary, the Christmas Carol service and Nativity at our own St James' Church, a District Campfire at Wike Scout Campsite and also Thinking Day celebrations.

Parish of Wetherby with Linton Annual Report 2019

We have spent a couple of weeks learning about Engineering. We enlisted the expertise of a fellow Parent who gave up his time to come in to help the girls learn about what it is to be an engineer. I have to say all our girls took up the challenge and we have been so impressed by their enthusiasm. They had to build a bridge out of straws and cups, protect an egg from being damaged from a fall to the ground and they all enjoyed the final 'Sweetie Challenge'. The girls amazed us with their curiosity and aptitude for engineering which was wonderful and will hopefully go a small way to inspiring the future generations of women to get involved in Engineering.

We are looking forward to our first District Camp this June to Bramhope. We have lots of exciting things planned for that weekend including a bit of archery and shooting, for those old enough. We are also looking forward to doing a Sponsored Skip Event in the warmer months to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Tee Jones and Marisa Mundy, Unit Leaders

1st Wetherby Guides

Our Guide numbers have remained low in the past year with only 10 in the unit. We have however a waiting list with 27 names of girls waiting to move up to the unit once they reach the age of 10.

In summer the guides took part in the County Camp which was held at Waddow. The girls had a great time. Not quite so good for me as I had to leave the camp before it had really begun owing to having an argument with a tent. Unfortunately the tent won and I ended up in hospital have dislocated and broken my wrist. The other leaders are now looking at whether I should be allowed to camp again. Indoor holidays are fine and I was allowed to attend our March weekend at Thornthwaite with the Guides. (No tents!!)

In September 2018 a brand new programme was launched and the Guides and leaders have been getting to grips with the new challenges. The girls have already earned one Stage 3 Skill Builder and have nearly completed their second one. It has taken some adjusting by everyone but suffice to say that some of the challenges the leaders didn't particularly like the look of, the girls have thoroughly enjoyed doing.

We also took part in the Remembrance Parade and helped with running the key stall at the Lions Dickensian market in December.

In February along with all the other Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Wetherby we held a night walk along the Harland Way as our Thinking Day challenge.

Sue Everard, Unit Leader 1st Wetherby Guides

**St James Church,
Church Street, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire. LS22 6LP
Tel: 01937 583074
Email: stjames@dsl.pipex.com
www.stjameswetherby.org.uk**