

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORT

Day to day repairs to the fabric of the church continue to be carried out by a very small group of regular volunteers. The age of these people is gradually increasing whilst the numbers get less and unless additional help is forthcoming it is hard to see how this work can continue. Similarly the cleaning rota is struggling for numbers and fresh blood is urgently required. If you feel that you can help in any way then please volunteer. The continuing difficult financial situation makes it hard to justify the employment of professional help for the routine, non-specialised day to day maintenance.

The church last received a thorough clean prior to the major celebrations for the centenary of the extensions during 2013 and the building is in desperate need of further refreshment. Also it is rapidly approaching the time when complete re-decoration will become necessary.

The written report resulting from the Quinquennial inspection carried out by Lee Holmes in 2014 was received in March 2015. Although the only item requiring urgent attention (a small amount of loose stonework at roof level) was attended to immediately several other items were identified which required less urgent attention and many of these remain untouched. It is disappointing to think that these may still be undone at the next inspection in three years' time, when still further maintenance work will doubtless be identified.

The much needed renovation of the north-west toilet and adjacent room has now been completed. We are most grateful to all who helped in any way, both by paying for and carrying out the work. However there are many other jobs which still need to be done and it is hoped that these can be dealt with during the next few years.

There are several items which are in need of attention, including the uneven and loose flooring in the Church, the external stonework and the internal decorations. In addition the electrical installation is now about 45 years old, and the central heating boiler about 25 years old, whilst the heating pipework and radiators date back to the 1913 extensions. It is quite possible that major expenditure in these areas will be necessary in the not too distant future.

We are continuing to improve our paperwork and recording of all works carried out. It is important that our buildings and all our equipment is routinely maintained and kept in a safe condition.

The limited weekday opening arrangements continue whereby the building is open on Wednesday mornings only for visitors to look round and for private prayer and contemplation. Once again our thanks are due to a small number of people who give up their time to man this opening.

The Parish Hall is also in need of some improvements works. The kitchen requires a complete refurbishment; a recent inspection by the North Lincolnshire Council Food Safety section of the Environmental Health Department has highlighted its shortcomings and various options for improvements are being examined. Like the Church building, the interior decorations of the hall are beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Also the building itself is now 65 years old and repairs to the roof, the windows and the doors are becoming increasingly necessary.

(Neil Hunter, Churchwarden)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council met six times during the year as did the Standing Committee. The meetings dealt, as always, with routine matters of Church business and received reports from other meetings and groups attended by PCC members. Neil Hunter continues to work on our risk assessment & fire risk assessment.

We entered an interregnum in September as we said goodbye to our vicar Moira & a small group of people have been working on our parish profile. We also said goodbye to our administrator Andrea in December.

The external notice boards continue to be kept up-to-date & Raheel has been dealing with the weekly sheet & the website. Facebook is being kept up to date.

The church manages to open most Wednesday mornings, 10am – 12 noon with one or two people manning the church on a weekly rota.

Our annual charity for 2016 was our own church.

(Tina Veall, PCC secretary)

NORTH SCUNTHORPE GROUP COUNCIL

The Group have met 4 times during 2016, and Group Services have been held on the 5th Sunday on 4 occasions. The Arch Deacon preached at the service held at The Church of the Resurrection in July.

Details of the Clergy commitments to the 5 parishes have been the subject of discussion following the departure of Revd. Canon Moira Astin in September.

The Group Live Magazine ceased to be published at the end of 2016, due to a depleted team within the Editorial department. Sadly an active member of that team, Don Hanson from St. George's church left the area to be nearer his family, but sadly passed away, soon after this move. Our thanks are extended to all who supported the production of the Group Live magazine over the period of its life. Well done.

It is hoped that a volunteer will be forth coming in 2017 to take on the role of Secretary - not an onerous task I assure you.

(Michael Cropper. Assistant Treasurer)

CINS REPORT

Representatives of most of the churches in the North Scunthorpe group meet every three months. This ensures that our churches know what is happening within the other churches, but also, more importantly, it enables each of us to get together to celebrate many of the services within the Christian calendar as a united body. We also make a point to find ways to work together and organise the above services so that all can participate.

During 2016 we met as joint congregations for five joint services or series:

At Lent instead of the Lent Studies, each church hosted a soup lunch prior to which a devotional time took place.

At Easter, on Good Friday, a Walk of Witness was organised by St George's where each church was also represented where possible.

At Pentecost the service was combined with a service for Prayer for Church Unity. Instead of Harvest, an Autumn service was held.

Then finally an Advent service was held in St Lawrence's.

It was good to have these times to worship together, however, there is still the great lack of attendance by the various church congregations other than the regular representatives. It would be so good if more people could be encouraged to attend these services and support the other churches within our North Scunthorpe group.

(Margaret Moore)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Breakfast Group has continued to meet in alternate months on a Saturday morning in the Church Hall. On average there were 15 of us enjoying a full English breakfast at 8.30am followed by a speaker or entertainment at most of the meetings. We are very grateful to John Veall for his excellent preparation of the breakfast, and to those who assist in the kitchen and setting up the tables.

Fourum (close-harmony quartet) entertained us again on one occasion and the singing was enjoyed by all present. We heard about the Air Ambulance from their dedicated Information Officer in the autumn and had a talk about the Solar System at our meeting in January.

We have supported the Spring and Winter Fairs and presented the children of ABC with chocolate and books at Christmas.

All are welcome at our meetings, and a list of which can be found at the back of church.

(Alan M. Lees)

FLORAL GROUP

The Floral Group has again had a very busy and successful year. We have had a varied programme which included two demonstrators who gave us lots of ideas in flower arranging.

Our practical evenings which we all enjoy learning new designs are great fun.

Our garden visit to Wrawby, the home of Rev. Marian Toyne was a wonderful evening, followed by supper at the local pub.

We continue to arrange flowers in church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Our Christmas dinner at the Golf Club was a gain a brilliant night.

We try to vary the programme with the help of a dedicated chairman and committee. Our aim is to continue being a supportive, fun loving group and would welcome any new members. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

(Julia Thompson, secretary)

CHOIR

The choir has fluctuated in size over the last year, and sadly Peter Whiteoak and Ernie Taylor are no longer well enough to sing with us. Ernie would like to return to church if he feels he is able.

We have also said goodbye to Emily Astin, who sang for many years in the choir. Winnie and Alex are not currently singing with us at present, but we are hoping that they will join us again soon. We are also missing Gwyneth and hope she will join us again after her new arrival in April.

We have welcomed Drew and Hillary into the choir over the past year, and Drew will soon receive his whites to become a full member of the choir.

The Carol Service last December went extremely well, with anthems from St Lawrence's and Reflections Choir combined.

We also sang with the Scunthorpe Community Choir (based at St George's) at the advent service at St Lawrence's, which also went very well. The Choir is currently busy preparing for Easter.

(Rachel Dixon)

GROUP LIVE MAGAZINE / ST. LAWRENCE LIFE MAGAZINE

During Group Live magazines 9th year of publication we produced 10 monthly magazines with various themes throughout. The editorial team shrunk down to two last year when Don Hanson moved away & has since sadly died.

Due to the decreasing numbers it was decided that this would be our last year & Group Live would cease publication in December, 2016. Many thanks go to all our regular contributors to the magazine & also to Judith Barrow for proof reading & Sam Rimmington for typing up some of the reports.

It was decided by the PCC that we as a church still need a monthly magazine so in February 2017 we saw the launch of 'St. Lawrence Life' magazine. A donation of paper for the year was made & we also decided to use our own office printer so it was decided to run the first year of magazines free of charge (although a donation can be made should you wish to). We will review the costs later in the year. Many thanks to all those who have helped with providing paper / proof reading / printing / stapling etc. Together we make a great team!

(Tina Veall, Editor)

MOTHERS' UNION

On the whole we have had an interesting and enjoyable year together.

We have made very good use of our own members to instruct and entertain us. Jill Molner is a really good story writer and teller. Chris Williams joined our branch a couple of years ago and had many talents and this year gave us an afternoon of keep fit (while sitting on your chairs) and musical meditation. As our group is only small and our funds doesn't stretch to expensive speakers home grown ones come in very handy. Ron Simpson is our man on the spot for this month.

We have managed to keep up with our fund raising helping the church, the hospice, the refuge and Mothers Union headquarters projects and keeping in the black. Thanks to Wendy and her bring & buy stall each month.

Sadly most of us at different times have suffered from the ravages of age, but we fight back and stand another year.

Really pleased to say we have had two and perhaps three new members. I think we have covered our Mothers Union pray and promise for another year.

(Pat Marshall)

EVERYWOMAN

In April, 2016 we had a lady give us an interesting talk about the women's refuge and the work they do there, after having a lovely meal out at the mallard in May we had Ms. Jean Marshall reading to us some of her amusing poetry in June. In September we had a discussion on the coming years programme and a supper afterwards. October saw us listening to a talk called a kaleidoscope of travel, Ms. Pamela Todd told us all about her life and travels.

In November we learned all about Town and Country Law, Ms. Alana Hart was able to answer all our queries. In December once again we were eating out and in January we had a very enthusiastic games night, with an enjoyable game of bingo and quizzes to follow.

This coming year we have lots of different things happening, starting with our visit to Sainsbury's (that doesn't include shopping).

I would like to thank our chairman Julia Thompson for her varied programme and Margaret Grimston who keeps our finances on track, also everyone who comes to Everywoman.

(Barbara Peart, secretary)

ABC

The group continues to meet, although at the end of the year a few of the children started to attend playschool or day school making our numbers drop.

We still have the toys scattered around the church for the different age groups to play with from 10:00am to 10:45am. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided for the parents and grandparents to enjoy whilst chatting to each other and to the helpers.

After the play session, the children sit to have juice and biscuits (or birthday cake when provided by one of the parents) before ringing the bells and then settling down to sing, hear a bible story, pray and finally march around the church while singing and playing the musical instruments.

We held our Christmas party this year which included Father Christmas coming to hand out the books and chocolate which was kindly donated by the Men's Group. (Thank you all very much for your continuing support.) It is greatly appreciated by all; this can be seen by the way their little faces light up.

We offer a big thank you to Kathrin and Raheel for leading the Bible Studies and the prayers each week and to all the various helpers who support the work in any way.

At the end of the year all the toys were washed and cleaned, and repaired or disposed of when appropriate. A few new toys were purchased to replace the old broken ones. Thanks are due to Sarah and the team of helpers for completing this job.

We are now up and running again for a new year and it is hoped that the numbers will start to build up again. (We have already gained one or two new members.)

(Jean Wood & Dorothy Hunter)

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club has been in existence for over 30 years now and has continued to provide a valuable opportunity for the members to meet together once a month throughout the year and share together in a meal and a have a chat. There are no specific criteria for membership although we

encourage support from members of the congregation and residents in the local community, particularly the elderly and those people who live alone. Currently we have 54 members including 13 helpers. Over the last year we have had an average attendance of 44 people at each session held on ten occasions during 2016.

We would like to thank all our members for their continuing support in attending the lunches and both buying raffle tickets and donating prizes all of which raise the money that allows the group to continue. Also our thanks go to our dedicated band of helpers who turn up each month and give their time to provide a substantial meal for all to enjoy.

To help with the continuing upkeep and running costs of the Parish Hall we gave a donation of £600 to the P.C.C. and we are grateful for the use of the building.

However at the time of writing the future of the group looks uncertain. Although the meal has always been kept simple due to the limited facilities available, it has been apparent for some time now that the kitchen is in need of major refurbishment. Following a recent inspection by North Lincolnshire Council's Food Hygiene Section we have been advised that major improvements to the premises are required and we are currently attempting to decide how best to achieve this; it is difficult to justify major expenditure on a facility which is used so infrequently.

(Neil Hunter)

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

This year has been a quiet year for us. We only had a small group and couldn't meet regularly due to shift work of Girls dads however we have carried on when we could and have done crafts, cooking and painting all of which the girls love.

Garden Party and Christmas Fair stalls have continued to be supported regardless of our small number and yes we have still raised £100 at each event having our homemade sweets and cookies stall and donating a raffle prize.

Then when September arrived we started back and had a new girl join us and we asked her to bring a friend and that snowballed and we have grown again.

We look forward to being able to come back to the all age service and carry our banner.

(Jane Holmes and Jane Patrick, GFS leaders)

PARISH BREAKFASTS

The 3 J's have continued to host the Easter morning breakfast and another one during the year. Numbers go up and down but the event is enjoyed by all who come and is a lovely social event before the 10.30am service. Harvest Supper this year was a Pie and Pea Supper a change from previous years and went down well with all and again the number increased. and we welcomed members of All Saints too. The supper was followed by a quiz.

In the New Year we also hosted a successful Christmas lunch.

(Jane Holmes, Jane Patrick and John Veall)

1ST FRODINGHAM GUIDES

It's been another busy year, with many activities being undertaken during the weekly meetings, including cooking, crafts, games and challenges.

March saw us spend two meetings at the fire station having a look round and learning about fire safety in order for the girls to gain their fire safety badges.

In June, 7 girls took part in "Oakey's World Tour", a County Day Event, which gave Guides and older Brownies a chance to participate in activities with an international flavour, all in the outdoors at the County campsite at Nettleton. It was a great experience, an opportunity to try African Drumming, cooking croissants on open fires and a chance to mix with other Guides from around the County.

During the summer we held a joint camp with 5th Scunthorpe Guides at the County campsite, the girls enjoyed various activities including those to gain the Backpackers Challenge badge, cooking

pizzas and cakes in cardboard box ovens, geocaching and Japanese weaving. All first time campers gained their camper badge and some made their promises around the campfire including our new leader, who had made her promise there when she was a Guide.

In December we met together with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the Scunthorpe area for another very successful Christmas Craft afternoon followed by a Christingle Service.

We have had representatives in the St George's Day Parade and The Remembrance Day Parade.

There have also been trips to Doncaster Dome, for swimming and ice skating, the Bowling Alley and to the theatre to see the pantomime.

Unit numbers have stayed much the same, with 27 girls now on the register and 4 adult leaders. We have gained a leader and she and our Young Leader continue to work towards their leadership qualifications. We have a healthy waiting list of girls currently in Brownies hoping to join us over the coming months once they turn 10. The unit continues to go from strength to strength.

A big thank you for your continuing support.

(Sara Frances)

MESSY CHURCH

The New Brumby and Frodingham Messy Church is located in the parish of St Lawrence's. It has continued for the past year to meet on Thursdays during term time at the Forge Project, Cottage Beck Road. The New Brumby and Frodingham Messy Church attracts a range of children and young people from the local area who meet from 3:30 to 5:30 for an informal experience of Church, including refreshments, crafts, games, activities, worship, prayer, bible reading, discussion and finishing with a meal together.

This past year we have had a regular group of between 10 – 14 children, with ages ranging from 3 to 13, with 1 young volunteer, aged 17. The youngsters are led by 2 Mission Assistants (KS & RE) and the St Lawrence's Families Worker (SS) who take it in turns to prepare, plan and lead the sessions. This year we have worked on making an even stronger link between the theme or focus of the Gospel message, and the activities and crafts planned, so as to communicate the message in different ways.

We have also been supported by a rota of monthly volunteers who included Rev. Laura Cockram, Rev. Marian Toyne, Isobel Bell (Methodists) and Ian Thompson (All Saints). Two of our other volunteers stepped down in the summer. We would welcome any new offers of people to volunteer from our church family, especially if they have a heart for sharing God's love with youngsters from one of our deprived areas. It is hugely rewarding, even if it can be a little exhausting!

Recently the young people at Messy Church have taken part in a survey to identify what it is they appreciate and value about Messy Church. There were some fantastic, encouraging responses, and I would like to share some comments with you:

'I like messy church because when we finish craft we get to go and say our prayers.' (age 7)

'I think it is great that it is here, that it is free and people who don't have as much money as others can come and have fun' (age 10)

Why do you come?

'To help others, to enjoy activates. To worship to God' (age 12)

'Because I am excited by what we are doing everyday' (age 8)

'Because it's my favourite thing' (age 7) (For more responses, please ask Sarah Spencer)

What came out very clearly from the survey is that the informal experience of church is greatly valued by the young people who come. They appreciate being able to contribute & to help. They are valued, cared for and nurtured, not just by the adults, but by each other, so form a strong and supportive community.

As a result of the consultation period, the supporting bodies who are behind the Messy Church at the Forge Project (Scunthorpe Methodist Circuit, The Forge Project & St Lawrence's' Church) have recently met to 1) dissolve the current constitution, and 2) adopt a new constitution and a name. The key changes are that:

- The new constitution acknowledges the that what we have is a 'Kids Church' as our parents do not tend to stay, and we want to value the project for what it is.
- It is now called **Kids Church @ the Forge Project**

- The ecumenical nature of the project is to be broadened out to include other Christian denominations in the North Scunthorpe area to have oversight and care of the Christian growth of the young people.

(Sarah Spencer)

'Illuminate' – North Scunthorpe Youth Project April

'Illuminate', the North Scunthorpe Youth Project, has continued to operate throughout this year with the help of the 2 Mission Assistants, (RE & KS) and the Families Worker (SS).

The funding for these posts have come from a range of sources, including: The Bishop's Social Justice Fund, St Hughes Church, the Methodist District Mission Fund, North Lincolnshire Council, the St Lawrence Academy, Lincolnshire CF Fund and our own budget.

The funding has been spent on employing the 3 workers to provide a range of outreach, ministry and social cohesion activities over the year including:

- Musicals: working with children and young people from Oasis Parkwood, Oasis Henderson Avenue, The St Lawrence Academy and the St Lawrence Church family, performing "Jonah – the Musical" and "Peace Child", both produced by 'Out of the Ark', Middlesex.
- Resilience Building & Positive Role Modelling: Working alongside young boys, befriending and encouraging boys' positive behaviour and attitudes in their learning and in their play both at Oasis Parkwood and Oasis Henderson Avenue.
- ABC (St Lawrence) & Little Fishes (All Saints): Planning and leading under 5's church group for toddlers and their carers, running on Tuesday mornings 10:00 – 11:30, 50 weeks of the year.
- Junior Choir at Henderson Avenue (Mondays 3:15 – 4:15, term time only)
- Music Club & Choir at The St Lawrence's Academy (Tuesdays 3:45 – 5:00, Weds 2:45 – 4:00)
- Games Club at The St Lawrence's Academy (Friday 1:30 – 3:00)
- Children's Church during church Services & Supporting the All Age Service in the 1st Sunday.
- Pastoral Support to individuals & families
- Contributing to Lay Led & evening Services, Bible Study & Care Home ministry
- Supporting Boys Brigade at the Ridding's Project
- Summer Activities at the Forge Project: a 4-week programme of crafts & activities themed around different holiday destinations, culminating in a children's Fun Day held outside the St Lawrence's Church.
- Messy Church: Planning & Delivery of sessions (see other report)
- School Chaplaincy for the St Lawrence Academy; Christmas & Easter Assemblies for St Hughes School.
- Community Choir at St George's Church, Crosby
- Supporting the Church Wardens in maintaining the functioning of the church, meeting the parish needs and delivering communication tasks such as posters, weekly sheets & websites.
- Contributing to the Winter Arts Project through music and craft workshops.

Many thanks go to the members of the congregation who actively support the children's work which is undertaken on behalf of St Lawrence's Church. From the loyal ABC team, to the parents and grandparents who encourage and support our young, to those who hold our young people in prayer, the Illuminate management committee and of course our Church Wardens, PCC and treasurer who have the unglamorous job of employment logistics! It all goes to making it work. We thank Kathrin Staiger for the energy and enthusiasm that has resulted in seeing a growth in the cohesion and numbers of young people attending our All Age Services. She has been persistent in her drive and vision to see young people, making a real difference to the life and feel of our church, and she has succeeded. As she leaves us at the end of April, we wish her well in her new venture in Germany.

Raheel Eric continues his work until the end of July 2017. His enthusiasm, openness and fun approach has been greatly appreciated by many especially the ABC families, Messy Church kids and many in our own congregation. Future funding for Mission Assistants will depend on the vision of the PCC working alongside a new incumbent. The post of the Families worker is permanent. As the work of the Mission Assistants comes to a conclusion there will be an opportunity to review the Youth & Families work of the church, and build a strategy for the Autumn. Please continue to hold us in your prayers, that more young people will grow to know God's constant love for them.

(Sarah Spencer)

DEANERY SYNOD

Synod met twice in 2016. The February meeting was covered in last year's report, but to refresh minds, was held at Winterton. Rev'd Jonnie Parkin spoke about Fresh expressions of Church, saying that 50% of initiatives were laity led, and 66% of those launched across the country continued to grow. That meant we had to be prepared to try things and to accept failure if it was evident. Our Diocese had the smallest number of Fresh Expressions, which reflected the fastest rate of decline in church membership among all the UK Dioceses. The 'After School club' at Holy Spirit, Riddings, and 'ABC' at Frodingham were local examples of Fresh Expressions.

The summer Synod was held at St. Hugh's Church, when the (then) new Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey, Venerable Mark Steadman, talked about his background and his hopes for developing mission, ministry and discipleship in this area. He was an able and engaging speaker.

The Synod was held just after the announcement that Rev'd Canon Moira Astin and Rev'd Tim Astin would be leaving the Deanery in the autumn, and questions and concerns were raised with the Archdeacon before and after that Synod regarding the oversight of the curates still in training based at Frodingham, and the urgent need to fill the team vicar post in Bottesford with Ashby, which is the largest parish in the diocese. Concern that Rev'd Jonathan Thacker was due to retire in autumn 2017, possibly before a new vicar would be appointed to Frodingham was also made, meaning that potentially the North Scunthorpe Group would have no incumbent at all. It was also mentioned that the priests in the north of the Deanery may perhaps be thinking of moving on, which would leave the deanery with only half the clergy posts vacant. The Archdeacon took note of these matters. Subsequently, Rev'd Stoner has come to work in Bottesford with Ashby on a temporary basis, on alternative experience from the Isle of Axholme; Rev'd Marion Toyne has become a stipendiary curate from September, and Rev'd Laura Cockram has completed her curacy training and in a position to look for a post elsewhere. Their contribution, and that of Rev'd Lee Gabel, to the worship and pastoral care in the deanery has been greatly appreciated, as has that of the Rural Dean, Rev'd Canon Cameron Martin.

A synod was due to be held in early November, but this was cancelled as the Diocese held a consultation evening meeting the previous week, which was for representatives from all the parishes in the Deanery. The topic was on 'Learning Communities', led by Richard Steele. This was about developing ways for parishes and congregations to grow in confidence in their faith, get to know other Christians, share ideas about worship, mission and ministry. All deaneries were being consulted, and the resultant responses have been collated and a report presented for discussion at Bishop's Council, to consider the best way to implement these suggestions in a workable pattern of practical mutual support between parishes and between Diocesan structures and parishes. 2017 will see clarification of the points and in 2018 a pilot will be run.

A new set of Deanery Synod representatives will be elected in 2017 and Synod meetings are scheduled for: 22nd March at Scotter, 28th June at Crosby and 25th October at Burton.

(Judith Barrow, Lay Chair)