

# **St Michael's Church – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

## **Administrative Information**

St Michael's Church is situated in the Market Place, Malton. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 17 The Mount, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7ND

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date of this report was approved on 8 March 2022 are:

<i>Vicar</i>	The Revd Glyn Diggins	
<i>Wardens</i>	Mr Alan Young	until 25 April 2021
	Mrs Constance Clark (Lay chair)	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Susannah Clarke	
	Mrs Tracey Young	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Heather Williams	
	Mrs Sue Wright	
	Mr John Morris (Treasurer)	
	Mrs Anne Screeton	
	Mrs Samantha Free	
	Mr Robert Hall	
	Mrs Elaine Ramsey	
	Mr Barry Gillespie	
	Mrs Janet Patten	
	Mr Hendrik Klaver	co - opted November 2019
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs Helen Shaw	

## Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The P.C.C. operates under the Parish Church Council Powers Measure. The P.C.C. is registered with the Charity Commission as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Michael New Malton"

The charity number is: **1130648**

The method of appointment of P.C.C. members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the P.C.C.

## Objectives and Activities

The objective of the PCC is to work alongside the clergy in promoting the mission of the church in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Sunday and Wednesday communion Services were held weekly in church. The Sunday service was live via Zoom for those unable to attend. As COVID restrictions were eased the congregation was able to sing during the services, albeit masked, from the end of July. Extra seating in the aisles helped people to sit where they felt comfortable.

Christmas services proved challenging as COVID was widespread in Malton. A new sung Advent Service and Carols by Candlelight were held in church with reduced numbers attending. The planned Christingle/Crib Service had to be changed at the last minute. Secure space and candlelight were provided with the retelling of the Nativity story via the large screen, whilst the Nativity figures were placed at the altar. The service was much appreciated by parents and children alike. Thanks go to the Duty Team.

Following on from last year's Report, the All Age Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month has grown in scope and numbers with the efforts of our gifted All Age Planning Team.

The new location for the Children's Corner at the front of the North Aisle has helped accessibility and a better opportunity for children to feel part of our Sunday worship. This area is also being used by visitors to our church building during the week.

Zoom Morning Prayer has continued for the faithful few at 9am on weekdays and a Lent Course was also held on Zoom.

Taking Communion to housebound in their homes and Care Homes has still not resumed because of COVID. The vicar has however taken Communion to those members of our church who had specifically requested it.

## Achievements and Performance

There were 102 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2021 comprising 79 living within the parish and 23 outside our parish boundaries.

The total number of communicants over Christmas was 49. Many attended on Zoom.

## Review of the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

This has been another challenging year for our church and churches nationally. Again there were legislative changes to accommodate, which impacted on our public worship. These changes have been comprehensively covered in other reports. It is apparent that many people contributed to maintaining our church life and I take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and generosity and the unfailing support they have given me as the sole churchwarden for the greater part of the year. Together, I hope, we have shown the wider community our faith and commitment to serving them in the Name of Christ.

Whilst concentrating on the maintenance of our public corporate life and upkeep of the church building we have tried to care for the frail and elderly members of our congregation and to encourage our young families in the faith. We have offered hospitality, when allowed, with a few Coffee Stops and started serving refreshments again after the All Age Services, including our Harvest Service.

As part of the Diocese we have been invited to consider the theme 'Living Christ's Story'; a refreshed vision for the Diocese of York. Our PCC met on the 27<sup>th</sup> July to answer the questions set by the Bishop's Consultation Team. They will share findings which will form the guidance for the creation of deanery plans. All parishes will be consulted on next steps in the coming year as the Diocese seeks a way forward for us all.

Connie Clark

## Annual Report on PCC 2021

2020 was reported to have been the most difficult in living memory on account of Covid-19 and 2021 has been similarly afflicted. Thankfully, we have been able to keep the church open to a greater extent, despite Lockdown 3 in January. PCC meetings in January, March and May were held on Zoom. Meetings in July, September and November were held in church but December was back on Zoom and so the usual social get-together after the December meeting was missed again. Public worship resumed on Mothering Sunday in March, which was exactly one year since the first Sunday lost to Lockdown 1 in March 2020. Singing was not allowed, however, and masks remained obligatory beyond the end of the year. Services continued to be broadcast on Zoom for those unable to get to church, thanks to the efforts of John, Alan and Heather. The Tech Team stream-lined their operation in May, such that the

equipment could be switched on at the start of the service and left unattended for the duration. It was no longer possible to record readings and readers had to be prepared to come to the service and read in person.

The alarm was raised early in the year, when it was noted that the crack around the head of one of the clerestorey window arches on the south side had widened significantly. A very rapid approval for investigative work was obtained from the Archdeacon and a scaffold went up. R&R came to carefully remove the plaster on the inside of the arch and the findings were somewhat alarming. This wall, which was largely re-built in 1966, was found to be leaning out and also bowing and buttresses that were meant to be supporting the wall are now detached from it. The fear was that the worst affected window and associated masonry could fall out and so the window was boarded up for public safety. The PCC instructed our church Architect to have 3D laser scanning carried out so that detailed drawings could be produced for use in subsequent repairs. Other routine maintenance work carried out during the year included the cleaning out of all the high level gutters and this needed doing twice, first in January and again in November.

The pattern of services remains much the same, with Morning Prayer began to be held on Zoom every morning, apart from Sunday and Wednesday morning Holy Communion at 10.30 am. The All Age Parish Communion service continues to be held on the first Sunday of the month. Our annual Crib service was able to be held in church, with participants taking their Make-Your-Own Christingle kit bags home. It was pleasing that our Carols by Candlelight service could also be held in church, after a Zoom version last year. After a Virtual Christmas Fayre in 2020, the PCC took the slightly risky decision to hold the event in person in the Milton Rooms. The event, which was masterminded by Sue Wright, went well and the sum generated for church funds was only marginally less than usual. People were most appreciative that normal service of bacon butties was resumed.

Three members of the PCC completed their terms of office and were re-appointed at the APCM in April: Sue Wright, Heather Williams and Tracey Young. Connie Clark and Susannah Clarke were elected as church wardens, although Susannah stepped down in July. Alan took a place on the PCC after stepping down as churchwarden. Hendrik Klaver has attended meetings during the year to update the PCC on his activities as our Associate Minister for the 20-40s age group. We have carried on with welcoming an observer from the Methodist church at our PCC meetings. As our Safeguarding Officer, Sam Free, updates our policies annually and meets with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. She gave a talk at the May meeting on what to do if members witness or hear of something concerning and she ensures that members have completed the required online training in Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Awareness. Allied to this, Sue Wright makes sure members are all up to date with DBS checks.

Several charities benefitted from our once-again limited opportunities for fundraising over the year, including Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Ryedale Free Fridge, USPG, Samaritan's Purse and SASH. An ambassador for SASH came to a Parish Communion service in the autumn to talk about the vital work the charity does for young homeless people. PCC member, Janet Patten resurrected the Parish Newsletter, which is produced quarterly, and she invites parishioners to contribute short articles of interest to the congregation. PCC Secretary, Helen Shaw, mounted an Exhibition of Childhood Toys in church over the first weekend in December and timed to coincide with the Christmas Food Markets held in the Market Place. It was a ploy that paid off, with large numbers of people coming in to see the exhibits. It proved to be a fascinating trip down memory lane for parishioners and visitors and, once again, members of the congregation willingly lent their precious antiquities. Our MP and the Mayor of Malton attended the preview evening on the Friday. Money raised by the Exhibition will go towards the Clerestorey repair project.

In summary, another testing year in which everyone did their best to hold the congregation together.

Helen Shaw

### **Fabric Report 2021**

The year has been dominated by the exploration and assessment of the state of one of the Clerestory windows on the South side of the church. This has meant scaffolding inside the building and the hire of a cherry picker in May to enable a thorough assessment by the church architect and various surveyors to the outside of the church. Following on from this, Andrew Boyce our architect, has asked the PCC to commission a 3D survey of the whole of the church building to ascertain the general state of the rest of the building. This was scheduled for January 2022. The PCC has invited Andrew Boyce to report on all his findings and to submit plans for the work to be done. All of this has involved cost to the church and we know we will need to apply for grants and put major fundraising plans to the forefront of any building schedule.

As for the rest of the fabric of the church I am happy to report that all is in good order and that the Inventory and Terrier will be presented to the PCC before the next APCM to be signed off.

One new addition to the church furniture has been a votive Candle Stand situated near The Lady Chapel, which has now been designated a quiet space for Prayer. Many people have appreciated the candle stand, congregation and visitors alike. The church is open from 8.30am daily enabling people to pop in before heading off to work/school to say a prayer and light a candle.

Thank you to all who keep the church and garden looking clean and inviting, to those who arrange flowers and look after the church linen – all done to the Glory of God.

Connie Clark

### **Deanery Synod 2021**

Due to the pandemic, little has happened on a Deanery basis other than the ongoing Consultation Process.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We eventually received the final instalment of Francis Howitt's legacy amounting to £24,838 and our day to day income and expenditure [both for unrestricted and designated funds] showed a surplus of £24,817: in other words without the legacy there would have been a very small deficit of £21.

In comparison to 2020 like for like income [ie excluding the legacy] was up by £5,142 at £63,081 including increases from collections of £1,650, from fundraising of £975, from statutory fees of £740, and from our investments of £1,152.

Expenditure was £3,541 higher than last year at £63,102: the diocesan freewill offering was up by £1,184, payroll costs were up by £1,750 and utility costs by £635. It is worth noting the FWO constituted 67% of our expenditure.

Only the preliminary survey work was completed on the Clerestory window repairs but the church architect has warned us that total costs are likely to exceed £100k – although this should qualify for some grants.

The CBF Investment Fund – with CCLA – continues to be the best performing Charity Fund and there was an unrealised gain of £21,343 on our holding.

I expect 2022 to be a much more normal year in terms of our services and our fundraising activities, but both 2022 and 2023 will be financially challenging.

John Morris

### **APPENDIX 1 Accounts**

### **Independent examiner's report to the P.C.C. of St Michael, New Malton**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (The Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 (The Act)

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- ❖ Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have not been met; or
- ❖ To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts be reached.

Mr A W Richardson  
White and Hoggard,  
Wheelgate Malton  
8 March 2022

## The Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report often starts by mentioning all the events that have happened during the year, but of course, this year (as last year) has been quite different from what we would describe as "normal". I still do want to thank you all for being part of the Church Community here in our parishes, for your support, help, encouragement, attendance, hospitality, (when we were able), your ministry – whether you are a Warden, PCC Secretary, Music Director, Children's Worker, make tea, clean the church, arrange flowers, or kept in touch with people throughout the year – thank you, you have done a great job!

Although events have been significantly curtailed, Christmas 2021 was a particularly busy period and there were a number of events of particular note. They all took an amazing amount of talent and time to organise and I would like to thank the principal people involved (ably supported by wonderful teams):

Light Party - Tracey Young  
Antique Toy Fair - Helen Shaw  
Christmas Fair - Sue Wright

Coping with so many changes in the way we live, the covid restrictions, not being able to see people we love and miss, dealing with anxiety or fear, watching your children or grandchildren coping with home schooling, working from home and being a parent, and not being able to help, has all taken a toll on our emotional and mental health. However, God has been, and continues to be, right in the midst of it all, walking alongside us, weeping and rejoicing with us, and sending his love and grace just when we think we have nothing left to give.

Church services with social distancing and masks have been challenging; so too has conducting services online, but it is amazing what we can get used to, given the time.

I think many of us have learned a lot about doing things differently this year, whether that is online, on the telephone or chatting on the doorstep. It has not all been bad.

There are a couple of things that stand out to me from this time:

1. That life and faith are all about relationships, our relationship with God and others. It should be no surprise because that is what God calls us into – relationship. But often, we're too busy rushing from one thing to another and we can so easily forget what's important.
2. When many churches have chosen to lock their doors and only have their acts of worship online, both of our churches have been open for private prayer

throughout and acts of worship have taken place inside the church buildings. This has taken considerable commitment and logistical creativity (from especially our Church Wardens) and I would like to thank all involved for displaying such incredible flexibility and a passion for "being there" in relation to our local communities.

Talking of Church Wardens, Connie Clark has done an incredible job of serving the church as Warden throughout this year, pretty much single-handedly. She is stepping down from the role and being replaced by two new Wardens as of the APCM. I would personally like to thank Connie for her commitment, diligence, wisdom and counsel. Connie has served during a particularly difficult time and we as a Church Family owe her a great debt of gratitude. After a period of well earned rest, reflection and consolidation, I know that Connie will be back "firing on all cylinders" and contributing significantly to the life and mission of St. Michael's.

We also say "goodbye" to John Morris who has been our Treasurer for many years. Knowing how time consuming this essential role is, I would like to thank John for his highly professional and conscientious approach. Having served as Bursar in two Cathedrals, we are very fortunate to have benefited from his extensive experience and knowledge of church finances.

It's no secret that the numbers of Ordained Clergy are reducing on a national basis, which has resulted in many parishes finding themselves in periods of extended vacancy. Through the grace of God, neither of our churches find themselves in this position, however, like churches in vacancy, we are extremely blessed by the retired clergy who reside in our Deanery and are still happy to serve local churches where they can. I would particularly like to thank Revd. Simon Wright for his substantial support, not just to the Malton Benefice, but also to the wider Deanery. We have also benefited from the ministries of Revd. Veronica James and Revd. Judy Duke and I look forward to welcoming them back to our churches throughout the upcoming year.

Some people are saying that things will never go back to what they were before the pandemic. I don't know if they are right, but I know one thing; I don't want us to lose the richness that we have gained. Instead, I pray that we can build on the good and continue to look outwards to the communities we live in.

Revd. Glyn

## Prayer

The past year from March 2021 has seen some 'normality' returning to our lives and the church has remained continually open for services and private prayer.

There has been some rearrangement in the church with the Children's Corner taking the place of the Prayer Table and display in the north corner of the building and the prayer space is now in the Lady Chapel. This has proved to be a far better space for people who want to just sit quietly and be less likely to be disturbed.

We also provide a selection of 'free to take' booklets on varying aspects of prayer, help and support from 'Lifewords' in a small stand on the table at the back of the church. The provision of these is very popular, particularly in the summer months when there are more visitors to the church.

A new, much bigger, candle stand was purchased during 2021, which is situated by the Lady Chapel door and this has proved to have been very well used and much appreciated by congregation and visitors alike.

Morning prayer is still being held on Zoom every morning at 9.00am (except Sunday) where the short service from the Northumbria morning Prayer Service is used. Rev Glyn is spending time in church to pray on Tuesday and Thursday mornings' usually between 9.45/10.45 and welcomes others to join him to pray alongside or just have a chat.

The Benefice Prayer diary was updated in early February 2022 and copies of it are available at the back of church. The Diocesan Monthly Prayer Diary is available on the York Diocese web page and can be downloaded and printed. Both are useful aids for daily prayer. Our Lent Prayer Partners exercise which takes place every year is a good way of praying in more depth for one particular person during Lent.

Prayer is said to be the 'Engine Room' of the church and our own lives. It need not be a lengthy and arduous task but just a simple conversation with God.

Trish Atkinson

## Parish News

A Parish Newsletter is now produced quarterly, the first one was in May 2021. The feedback has been very positive. A few copies are printed and distributed to those without email or who are unable to print at home, and it is sent out by email to all on the list for the weekly sheet. A few copies are also left at the back of church for any visitors who come in.

Janet Patten

## Choir Report

The Choir was finally allowed to sing live, in-person at church services in April 2021 (though not quite in time for Easter). Since that time, they, and I, have been getting used to the novelty (and privilege) of in-person rehearsals at church once more.

For all the negative impact which Covid has had, and is still having, it has highlighted the important aspects of life. Pre-Covid, I would never have thought that singing in church could and should be viewed as privilege that needs to be joyfully celebrated, be it in the choir or in congregation. My favourite quote, attributed to St Augustine, encapsulates this thought: "the one who sings prays twice". ... He that sings praise, not only sings, but also loves him of whom he sings. In praise, there is the speaking forth of one confessing; in singing, the affection of one loving."

In July, my predecessor, Janet Patten, had her farewell service. With a packed, though socially distanced, church and a choir of six, it was both a joyous celebration and a profound thank-you for all that Janet and John have given to the church for over forty years. I must offer my public thanks to Janet for ensuring that I had as smooth a transition as possible into the worship and life of St Michael's.

August heralded the very welcome news that church congregations were once more allowed to sing. We celebrated this in September with a very enjoyable "Songs of Praise" for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

Sunday services for Harvest Thanksgiving, All Saints', the service of Light and Remembrance Sunday all passed successfully, with plenty of new music being sung.

The theme of introducing new repertoire continued into Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. I have pushed the choir, sometimes out of their comfort zones, but they have risen to each challenge. We commemorated the start of Advent with an atmospheric ecumenical Advent Processional Service by candlelight. Next year, I hope to invite choir members from our neighbours in the Methodist and Catholic churches to join us for this event. The Carol Service was equally successful: a full church and extended choir of fifteen.

While the long-awaited children's choir has yet to materialise, I hope to be able to start it within this academic year. I shall also be visiting local primary schools in order to provide some musical support and choral outreach.

Alison Forster

Director of Music

## **Safeguarding Report - 2021**

### **Safeguarding policy**

A review of the Parish Safeguarding Policy was completed earlier in the year and our policy was found to be up to date.

A policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders has been included in the policies, as per guidance from the Diocese of York. This policy will be distributed with future DBS applications and renewals.

### **DBS checks**

Two new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were completed, and certificates obtained, and others have been renewed as necessary by our Parish Verifier, Sue Wright. For information, all members of the PCC must have a DBS at enhanced level, as well as all church members who are involved in children's work.

### **Training**

In April 2021 the Church of England's National Safeguarding Steering Group, on behalf of the House of Bishops, approved a new Learning and Development Framework. This sets out the details of the Church of England's learning pathway and expectations of Church officers in respect of those pathways. The Church has an ambition to make a paradigm shift in its relationship with safeguarding. This requires recognition that safeguarding needs to move away from something that is in some respects external and imposed upon the Church, to something that flows from within the soul of the Church. Safeguarding should be at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in our praying and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the very DNA of the Church, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. A significant difference is a change to who should access which of the pathways. These decisions are now informed by anyone who 'plays a lead role in shaping the culture of the Church body concerned.'

Members of the PCC are currently working their way through the additional required online training modules that have arisen as a result of these changes. Any additional persons required to undergo training will be informed as and when required. However, if anyone else would like to complete these, please let me know and I will provide further information. As the Parish Safeguarding Representative, I have completed all required training modules and Sue Wright has attended all required courses in safeguarding and safer recruitment.

## **Safeguarding incidents**

In conjunction with the Diocese, our Safeguarding Team has dealt with one new safeguarding incident this year.

Samantha Free

(Parish Safeguarding Representative)

### **All Age Worship Report for 2021**

The All Age services continued throughout the year on the first Sunday of every month.

The first All Age service of 2021 was with everyone in church but only the choir could sing the hymns. The following two AAW services were online with just the vicar and organist in church. Some of the hymns were recorded by the choir which made it easier for people at home to join in. Families were sent an activity to do at home during the service. For Candlemas the challenge was to build a temple from Lego!

By Easter Day, the congregation was back in church but not allowed to sing, so Tracey's activity bags were back for families to do in the pews. There was a final hymn for all to sing outside after the service. The children's crafts were displayed on a board for everyone to see afterwards.

For the May service it was a real treat to listen to the choir singing the hymns, as the restriction on singing was lifted to allow a few singers to sing socially distanced.

From 19<sup>th</sup> July everyone was allowed to sing again so from the August service we were nearly back to normal.

The Harvest Festival in October was well supported and the children were invited into the sanctuary to help them understand what goes on in the Eucharistic prayer. This was also the first opportunity to serve refreshments after the service and enable people to chat over coffee and cake.

The November service had a guest speaker to talk about SASH (our chosen charity to support at Christmas) and he involved the children during the talk. In December we were amazed how many came as the food festival was taking place. We even ran out of service sheets!

Some of the craft activities continue to be displayed while the children can take home what they have made or done.

As a team we are very encouraged by the positive feedback we have had for these services. Several families attend quite regularly and some take part. Our planning meetings are held on zoom which enables everyone to be present who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. We always

review the previous all age service before talking about the next one.

The AAW planning team work hard to make it happen each month, both with their time and talents preparing readings, intercessions, music and activity bags.

Janet Patten

### **Working with young children and families within our community.**

2021 again proved to be a year marred by everchanging rules, restrictions, masks and hand gel, set against the unnatural sadness of isolation from each other. The feelings of physical separation from our church family continued to be felt at the height of the 'third wave' of the pandemic as our 'mission' to families in our community became, quite literally, the inspiring contents of the Bible Adventure Bags delivered door to door throughout Malton.

Fortunately, by April 2021 we were able to warmly invite families to a 'covid secure' Easter Garden event in church. It was such a joy to actually be able to meet together, albeit cautiously, to celebrate Easter complete with glue, paint and compost! No singing or hot cross buns allowed, but what fun we had creating our large and small Easter Gardens and performing an Easter themed sea shanty.

The summer saw an easing of restrictions and the delivery of Bible Adventure Bags was replaced by 'live' Family Bible Adventure meet ups in the Castle Gardens in Malton under the auspices of the OMG team.

The summer also enabled us, as a church, to reflect on what elements of our outreach had worked well in 'pre-covid' times, but also reflect on the mission that the pandemic forced us to explore. We felt that the best of each would take us forward into new ways of touching young families within our community with God's love. A balance of nurturing our children in their faith through active celebrations of festivals in Church, developing All Age worship, establishing a pattern of Lego Church (or similar) and the formation of a children's choir, would sit alongside growing families of faith through supporting OMG in its mission.

A monthly opportunity for families to explore faith together through meaningful, playful activities was begun at Malton Secondary School, an initiative born of a close relationship between the OMG team and St Michael's, directed by OMG. This gathering has continued monthly since October and has been well received and supported.

October also saw the opportunity for fun and food at our 'Sparkle Party' for families in church. Fairy lights and tea lights decorated the church and set the scene for an evening of fun. Glow stick games, torch activities and a host of light themed crafts were much enjoyed as were the hot dogs around the fire pit at the Vicarage that followed.

In December, we again joined together with OMG to plan and deliver a new mission, 'Angels of Hope for Malton'. The event included a range of initiatives to embrace the message of the Christmas Angels—hope, peace, love and good news for all, expressed in a variety of ways within the community. There was an afternoon of impressive craft activities in church for children and families, where wooden one metre high angels were decorated to express the messages of the angels. These angels were then placed around the Market Place in Malton as an outward sign of hope and love and the joy of the Christmas message for our community. Malton Community Primary School and Housemartins Day Nursery also decorated and laminated over 250 small card angels to hang on the tree outside church during the festive season. Each angel carried the children's hopes for themselves, their families, our town or our world and made an amazing display alongside the large Nativity Figures created by our children.

Hopes and plans to celebrate Christmas itself in church, together with families, rose and fell according to the rates of the developing Omicron variant. We had to abandon our usual Christingle Service and then our traditional Nativity play, but managed to come together for a short candle lit Crib Service, which was very well attended and beautifully moving.

2022 will be a year of reassessing the way forward for our church in how we minister to families that we both nurture and reach out to our local community after two years of upheaval. There will be new challenges, exciting times and no shortage of ways God wishes to lead us. We must be sure to listen to where He wishes to take us. Do hold this important work in your prayers.

Tracey Young

### **Report 20s to 40s minister**



We started the year 2021 with a number of contacts through the Bible Adventure Bags and we continued with the Bible Adventure Bags as we entered a third national lockdown.

The most significant contact with families was brief contact on the doorstep (as we dropped off the bags). We continued doing some meetups with a group of 3 to 6 men around a firepit where we shared life and faith in a relaxed and non-threatening environment.

During Lent I led a group (on Zoom) using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book of 2021. This book: "Living His Story: Revealing the Extraordinary Love of God in Ordinary Ways" by Hannah Steele was really helpful and enabling in discovering together how we can share the gospel story afresh in our own lives. The participants then decided to make it practical by organising a Start course (which unfortunately didn't go ahead as there were no participants which was also a learning experience) and then decided to do some other things that did help people in their wellbeing (such as organising a wellbeing meetup for women and getting involved in the men's firepit meetups).

At Easter we seized the opportunity to meet with families (as parent and children groups of max 15 persons over the age of 5) for an Easter egg hunt and exploring the Easter story together. We met in 5 different locations in Malton and Norton and each time there were 5 families present reaching 25 families in total. It was really exciting to meet for the first time with some of the families receiving Bible Adventure Bags!

As restrictions lifted further, we started meeting with the families at Malton Castle Gardens for "Live Bible Adventures". In the Autumn we joined forces with St Michael's and moved the Family Bible Adventures meetups to Malton School. Every month we saw families returning but also new families joining. In December we met at St Michael's and did a special project in the marketplace. The angels we made were adopted by different shopkeepers in the marketplace to bless people as they were out in town and invite them to reflect on the questions on key Christmas themes.

As we emerged from the pandemic we noticed the importance of mental health and wellbeing for many people in the 20's to 40's age group which led us to do a ladies wellbeing meetup and a continued focus on this area.

During the lockdowns and as we emerged from the lockdowns we developed a good relationship with Morrisons. They offered their support at various point by contributing to some of the Bible Adventure Bags and to

some of the meetups. Before the Summer I was contacted by the Community Champion of Morrisons to see if I would be happy to offer monthly drop in sessions for their staff to support them in their wellbeing and I started these sessions in September. It was a real privilege to be able to offer support to some of our local key workers in this way, many of them in the 20's to 40's age bracket.

In November we started a new meetup: the Sunday Brunch. This monthly gathering at St Mary's Priory Community Centre in Old Malton is for young adults and families around a meal and a Bible Story which we explore together. It is a place that is really accessible and informal and it is also a place of discipleship as we share life and explore following Jesus in our everyday lives.

St Peter's in Norton was for most of 2021 without stipendiary clergy. During this time I preached there every other month (in addition to the monthly preach at St Michael's and St Mary's). This really helped build the relationship with the congregation at St Peter's.

Hendrik Klaver

### **Tech. Team Report 2021**

We began the year with the immediate aim of consolidating progress made in 2020 with the two main objectives of making the operation as discrete as possible to those attending the event being streamed and of making everything more sustainable.

A great deal was learnt in very short order during 2020; necessity certainly is the mother of invention! While, by the end of 2020, we had reached a relatively good product, it did require a lot of setting up each time and needed a plethora of cables trailing all over the place and some, often rather unwelcome, interventions by us during services to keep things on Zoom running. This was probably acceptable while the majority were taking part on Zoom; it was certainly not something we wanted in the longer term as more and more returned to church in person and the streaming became the minority option.

So, we began the year moving operations to the tower balcony. Permanent computers were installed and cabling run from there to the broadband hub in the office and the PA cupboard by the organ (from which the sound on Zoom is garnered). Two remote cameras were purchased. These small cameras require no cabling and can be discretely placed and send their images over the wi-fi system in church. Wi-fi extenders were installed in the main church building which has the added benefit of extending reliable

wi-fi for all to use in this area (previously it could only really be relied upon in the office).

After a few teething problems, notably one service when we almost deafened those present in the building with massive feedback to the church PA speakers, things quickly settled down. As the year has progressed and Covid restrictions waned the operation has changed. The first thing to go was the playing out of pre-recorded contributions by church members as it was decided to rely on people in person to perform readings and intercessions.

In September we moved to remote operation for most Sunday services. This means that we use just one or two cameras and run things from a tablet computer. This allows the operator (usually Alan or Heather) to participate in the service and not be “locked in the tower”! However, this does mean that the pictures are not as varied (we have four cameras at our disposal when operations are run from the tower) and that what is being broadcast is not being monitored all the time. This occasionally can lead to a less than ideal product (e.g.: participants unmuting themselves during the service and breaking into what is being streamed). We do try to find ways to overcome such problems as they arise; do bear with us!

Also, since we are interfacing five different digital processes, all of which seem to have the uncanny knack of demanding to be updated on a Sunday morning, we occasionally face problems when switching things on, with little time to resolve them before going “on air”. This has sometimes led to glitches in the broadcast. Again, we are rapidly learning how to better overcome these things.

During the year we have undertaken some special operations, including the streaming of John Dunstan’s funeral which, at the time, could not take place in church, with coverage of the progress of cortege through town and of the service from the graveside. We also streamed Dolly Thackray’s funeral from church. At Easter we went outside to cover the first opportunity the whole congregation had to sing since the start of the Covid restrictions. At Christmas 2021 we made sure all services were covered, in particular the Carol Service and Crib Service.

While, on a normal Sunday, the number viewing has obviously reduced from anything up in the 40s and 50s at the beginning of the year, we still regularly have at least five or six “tuning in”. In 2022 we may possibly look at other platforms over which to stream. Zoom was ideal when most of us were stuck at home as it is primarily designed as a means for people to meet and for all to contribute. We are now in a position where it is used to allow people to look in, much as they would to a church service on television. Whatever happens we are committed to continue with the operation as long as it is needed and will keep all informed of any changes, they may need to make

to access it. Nothing will be done to complicate things for viewers!

Heather Williams, John Patten, Alan Young

**St. Michael's Church Malton**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Income  
 Activities for generating funds  
 Church activities  
 Income from Investments  
 Other

Note	Unrestrict ed Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowmen t Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
7a	77,762		390		78,152	54,329
7b	2,388	964			3,352	2,127
7c	2,629				2,629	1,889
7d	4,176		2,192		6,368	5,166
7e						
	<b>86,955</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,582</b>		<b>90,501</b>	<b>63,511</b>

**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Cost of generating Funds  
 Charitable Activities  
 Church activities  
 Major Repairs  
 Governance costs  
 Other Resources Used

	204	157			361	39
	113				113	478
8	62,628				62,628	59,044
			1,618		1,618	19,863
	<b>62,945</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,618</b>		<b>64,720</b>	<b>79,424</b>

**NET INCOMING RESOURCES  
 BEFORE  
 OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS &  
 LOSSES**

	<b>24,010</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>964</b>		<b>25,781</b>	<b>(15,913)</b>
--	---------------	------------	------------	--	---------------	-----------------

Unrealised gains /(losses) on Chancel Fund  
 Unr'd gains/(losses) on CBF Investment A/C  
 Unrealised gains/(losses) on RBS shares  
 Other & agency funds  
 Transfer between funds

			3,257	10,806	14,063	6,587
	21,343				21,343	12,077
		122			122	(156)
9	2,145		(2,145)			

**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	<b>47,498</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>10,806</b>	<b>61,309</b>	<b>2,595</b>
--	---------------	------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	--------------

Balances b/f 1st January 2020  
 Balances c/f 31st December 2020

	<b>132,840</b>	<b>14,236</b>	<b>20,610</b>	<b>75,537</b>		<b>243,223</b>
	<b>180,338</b>	<b>15,165</b>	<b>22,686</b>	<b>86,343</b>	<b>304,532</b>	

**St Michael's Church Malton**  
**Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021**

	Note s	Unrestrict ed	Designate d	Restrict ed	Endowme nt	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>							
Investments		166,362	14,236	21,905	86,343	288,846	228,320
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>							
Debtors		3,173				3,173	
Prepayments							
Investments							
Cash at bank		12,092	929	781		13,802	14,903
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Creditors		-1,289				-1,289	
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>180,338</b>	<b>15,165</b>	<b>22,686</b>	<b>86,343</b>	<b>304,532</b>	<b>243,223</b>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>							
Unrestricted						<b>180,338</b>	<b>132,840</b>
Designated						<b>15,165</b>	<b>14,236</b>
Restricted						<b>22,686</b>	<b>20,610</b>
Endowment						<b>86,343</b>	<b>75,537</b>
						<b>304,532</b>	<b>243,223</b>

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

2 Reserves policy: it is the intention of the PCC to retain a balance of at least £35,000 being approximately six months committed expenditure within unrestricted funds

3 In accordance with the guidance provided by the Church Commissioners any collections taken at special services - including Weddings and funerals - which go directly to charity are excluded from the 2020 accounts. This also applies to the Lent Appeal.  
Funds raised in this way were as follows: Cancer Research £74, Children's Society £245, Friends of Slingsby School £116, Marie Curie £77, Mind £54, Royal British Legion £80, SASH £600, St Catherine's Hospice £256, USPG £145, Yorkshire Cancer Research £40.

4 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No payments were made to PCC members apart from the reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC

5 Working expenses of the incumbent and Hendrik Klaver are  
Shared equally with St Mary's PCC

6 The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

### Restricted & Designated Funds in Bank Accounts:

#### General Funds

St Michael's 2000

Church Repair Fund (Deposit Account)

Church IT / TV Fund

Clerestory Window Fund

Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers out	Balance c/f
61	120			181
2,145	2,192	2,145		2,192
14,236				14,236
	964	157		807

### 7 Incoming Resources

#### a Voluntary income

Planned Giving

Gift Aid donations inc CAF

Other regular giving

Tax recoverable

Collections (loose plate)

One off gift aid

Gift Days / Recurring Giving

Non recurring giving / donations

Special Appeals and Donations

Non recurring grants

Legacy

Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
32,654		120	32,774	32,317
3,079			3,079	2,862
10,219			10,219	9,604
3,856			3,856	2,206
1,679			1,679	2,042
422			422	299
1015			1,015	1,302
		270	270	3,697
24,838			24,838	
<b>77,762</b>		<b>390</b>	<b>78,152</b>	<b>54,329</b>
250			250	
2,138	964		3,102	2,127
<b>2,388</b>	<b>964</b>		<b>3,352</b>	<b>2,127</b>
2,629			2,629	1,889
<b>2,629</b>			<b>2,629</b>	<b>1,889</b>
<b>4,176</b>		<b>2,192</b>	<b>6,368</b>	<b>5,166</b>

#### b Activities for generating funds - receipts

Church lettings

Fund raising

Non charitable trading

#### c Receipts from church activities

Fees

Other

#### d Receipts from investments

Dividends and interest

e Other receipts not counting as gross income

<b>86,955</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,582</b>	<b>90,501</b>	<b>63,511</b>

Resources Expended

Cost of generating funds

Donations (grants) to charities

8 Church Activities

Overseas missions

Christian relief

Home missions

Secular charities

Ministry

Diocesan Freewill Offering

Working expenses of incumbent

Working expenses of assistant

Church utility costs

Church running costs

Salaries, wages & honorarium

Mission and evangelism

Unrestrict ed Funds	Designate d Funds	Restrict ed Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>204</b>	<b>157</b>		<b>361</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>113</b>			<b>113</b>	<b>478</b>
				478
42,424			42,424	41,240
887			887	884
94			94	1,149
3,658			3,658	3,023
8,541			8,541	7,856
6,291			6,291	4,541
733			733	351
<b>62,628</b>			<b>62,628</b>	<b>59,044</b>
		1,618	1,618	19,863
<b>62,945</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>64,720</b>	<b>79,424</b>

Major expenditure

Major repairs to church buildings Heating pipe repairs

Major repairs to other PCC properties

New building or major works

9 This represents a transfer of the annual interest received by the Church Repair Fund [administered by the Diocese] to the General Fund as a partial repayment of the costs of repairing the Church central heating in 2020.



# **St Michael's Church – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

## **Administrative Information**

St Michael's Church is situated in the Market Place, Malton. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 17 The Mount, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7ND

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date of this report was approved on 8 March 2022 are:

<i>Vicar</i>	The Revd Glyn Diggins	
<i>Wardens</i>	Mr Alan Young	until 25 April 2021
	Mrs Constance Clark (Lay chair)	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Susannah Clarke	
	Mrs Tracey Young	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Heather Williams	
	Mrs Sue Wright	
	Mr John Morris (Treasurer)	
	Mrs Anne Screeton	
	Mrs Samantha Free	
	Mr Robert Hall	
	Mrs Elaine Ramsey	
	Mr Barry Gillespie	
	Mrs Janet Patten	
	Mr Hendrik Klaver	co - opted November 2019
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs Helen Shaw	



## Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The P.C.C. operates under the Parish Church Council Powers Measure. The P.C.C. is registered with the Charity Commission as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Michael New Malton"

The charity number is: **1130648**

The method of appointment of P.C.C. members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the P.C.C.

## Objectives and Activities

The objective of the PCC is to work alongside the clergy in promoting the mission of the church in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Sunday and Wednesday communion Services were held weekly in church. The Sunday service was live via Zoom for those unable to attend. As COVID restrictions were eased the congregation was able to sing during the services, albeit masked, from the end of July. Extra seating in the aisles helped people to sit where they felt comfortable.

Christmas services proved challenging as COVID was widespread in Malton. A new sung Advent Service and Carols by Candlelight were held in church with reduced numbers attending. The planned Christingle/Crib Service had to be changed at the last minute. Secure space and candlelight were provided with the retelling of the Nativity story via the large screen, whilst the Nativity figures were placed at the altar. The service was much appreciated by parents and children alike. Thanks go to the Duty Team.

Following on from last year's Report, the All Age Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month has grown in scope and numbers with the efforts of our gifted All Age Planning Team.

The new location for the Children's Corner at the front of the North Aisle has helped accessibility and a better opportunity for children to feel part of our Sunday worship. This area is also being used by visitors to our church building during the week.

Zoom Morning Prayer has continued for the faithful few at 9am on weekdays and a Lent Course was also held on Zoom.

Taking Communion to housebound in their homes and Care Homes has still not resumed because of COVID. The vicar has however taken Communion to those members of our church who had specifically requested it.

## Achievements and Performance

There were 102 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2021 comprising 79 living within the parish and 23 outside our parish boundaries.

The total number of communicants over Christmas was 49. Many attended on Zoom.

## Review of the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

This has been another challenging year for our church and churches nationally. Again there were legislative changes to accommodate, which impacted on our public worship. These changes have been comprehensively covered in other reports. It is apparent that many people contributed to maintaining our church life and I take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and generosity and the unfailing support they have given me as the sole churchwarden for the greater part of the year. Together, I hope, we have shown the wider community our faith and commitment to serving them in the Name of Christ.

Whilst concentrating on the maintenance of our public corporate life and upkeep of the church building we have tried to care for the frail and elderly members of our congregation and to encourage our young families in the faith. We have offered hospitality, when allowed, with a few Coffee Stops and started serving refreshments again after the All Age Services, including our Harvest Service.

As part of the Diocese we have been invited to consider the theme 'Living Christ's Story'; a refreshed vision for the Diocese of York. Our PCC met on the 27<sup>th</sup> July to answer the questions set by the Bishop's Consultation Team. They will share findings which will form the guidance for the creation of deanery plans. All parishes will be consulted on next steps in the coming year as the Diocese seeks a way forward for us all.

Connie Clark

## Annual Report on PCC 2021

2020 was reported to have been the most difficult in living memory on account of Covid-19 and 2021 has been similarly afflicted. Thankfully, we have been able to keep the church open to a greater extent, despite Lockdown 3 in January. PCC meetings in January, March and May were held on Zoom. Meetings in July, September and November were held in church but December was back on Zoom and so the usual social get-together after the December meeting was missed again. Public worship resumed on Mothering Sunday in March, which was exactly one year since the first Sunday lost to Lockdown 1 in March 2020. Singing was not allowed, however, and masks remained obligatory beyond the end of the year. Services continued to be broadcast on Zoom for those unable to get to church, thanks to the efforts of John, Alan and Heather. The Tech Team stream-lined their operation in May, such that the

equipment could be switched on at the start of the service and left unattended for the duration. It was no longer possible to record readings and readers had to be prepared to come to the service and read in person.

The alarm was raised early in the year, when it was noted that the crack around the head of one of the clerestorey window arches on the south side had widened significantly. A very rapid approval for investigative work was obtained from the Archdeacon and a scaffold went up. R&R came to carefully remove the plaster on the inside of the arch and the findings were somewhat alarming. This wall, which was largely re-built in 1966, was found to be leaning out and also bowing and buttresses that were meant to be supporting the wall are now detached from it. The fear was that the worst affected window and associated masonry could fall out and so the window was boarded up for public safety. The PCC instructed our church Architect to have 3D laser scanning carried out so that detailed drawings could be produced for use in subsequent repairs. Other routine maintenance work carried out during the year included the cleaning out of all the high level gutters and this needed doing twice, first in January and again in November.

The pattern of services remains much the same, with Morning Prayer began to be held on Zoom every morning, apart from Sunday and Wednesday morning Holy Communion at 10.30 am. The All Age Parish Communion service continues to be held on the first Sunday of the month. Our annual Crib service was able to be held in church, with participants taking their Make-Your-Own Christingle kit bags home. It was pleasing that our Carols by Candlelight service could also be held in church, after a Zoom version last year. After a Virtual Christmas Fayre in 2020, the PCC took the slightly risky decision to hold the event in person in the Milton Rooms. The event, which was masterminded by Sue Wright, went well and the sum generated for church funds was only marginally less than usual. People were most appreciative that normal service of bacon butties was resumed.

Three members of the PCC completed their terms of office and were re-appointed at the APCM in April: Sue Wright, Heather Williams and Tracey Young. Connie Clark and Susannah Clarke were elected as church wardens, although Susannah stepped down in July. Alan took a place on the PCC after stepping down as churchwarden. Hendrik Klaver has attended meetings during the year to update the PCC on his activities as our Associate Minister for the 20-40s age group. We have carried on with welcoming an observer from the Methodist church at our PCC meetings. As our Safeguarding Officer, Sam Free, updates our policies annually and meets with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. She gave a talk at the May meeting on what to do if members witness or hear of something concerning and she ensures that members have completed the required online training in Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Awareness. Allied to this, Sue Wright makes sure members are all up to date with DBS checks.

Several charities benefitted from our once-again limited opportunities for fundraising over the year, including Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Ryedale Free Fridge, USPG, Samaritan's Purse and SASH. An ambassador for SASH came to a Parish Communion service in the autumn to talk about the vital work the charity does for young homeless people. PCC member, Janet Patten resurrected the Parish Newsletter, which is produced quarterly, and she invites parishioners to contribute short articles of interest to the congregation. PCC Secretary, Helen Shaw, mounted an Exhibition of Childhood Toys in church over the first weekend in December and timed to coincide with the Christmas Food Markets held in the Market Place. It was a ploy that paid off, with large numbers of people coming in to see the exhibits. It proved to be a fascinating trip down memory lane for parishioners and visitors and, once again, members of the congregation willingly lent their precious antiquities. Our MP and the Mayor of Malton attended the preview evening on the Friday. Money raised by the Exhibition will go towards the Clerestorey repair project.

In summary, another testing year in which everyone did their best to hold the congregation together.

Helen Shaw

### **Fabric Report 2021**

The year has been dominated by the exploration and assessment of the state of one of the Clerestory windows on the South side of the church. This has meant scaffolding inside the building and the hire of a cherry picker in May to enable a thorough assessment by the church architect and various surveyors to the outside of the church. Following on from this, Andrew Boyce our architect, has asked the PCC to commission a 3D survey of the whole of the church building to ascertain the general state of the rest of the building. This was scheduled for January 2022. The PCC has invited Andrew Boyce to report on all his findings and to submit plans for the work to be done. All of this has involved cost to the church and we know we will need to apply for grants and put major fundraising plans to the forefront of any building schedule.

As for the rest of the fabric of the church I am happy to report that all is in good order and that the Inventory and Terrier will be presented to the PCC before the next APCM to be signed off.

One new addition to the church furniture has been a votive Candle Stand situated near The Lady Chapel, which has now been designated a quiet space for Prayer. Many people have appreciated the candle stand, congregation and visitors alike. The church is open from 8.30am daily enabling people to pop in before heading off to work/school to say a prayer and light a candle.

Thank you to all who keep the church and garden looking clean and inviting, to those who arrange flowers and look after the church linen – all done to the Glory of God.

Connie Clark

### **Deanery Synod 2021**

Due to the pandemic, little has happened on a Deanery basis other than the ongoing Consultation Process.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We eventually received the final instalment of Francis Howitt's legacy amounting to £24,838 and our day to day income and expenditure [both for unrestricted and designated funds] showed a surplus of £24,817: in other words without the legacy there would have been a very small deficit of £21.

In comparison to 2020 like for like income [ie excluding the legacy] was up by £5,142 at £63,081 including increases from collections of £1,650, from fundraising of £975, from statutory fees of £740, and from our investments of £1,152.

Expenditure was £3,541 higher than last year at £63,102: the diocesan freewill offering was up by £1,184, payroll costs were up by £1,750 and utility costs by £635. It is worth noting the FWO constituted 67% of our expenditure.

Only the preliminary survey work was completed on the Clerestory window repairs but the church architect has warned us that total costs are likely to exceed £100k – although this should qualify for some grants.

The CBF Investment Fund – with CCLA – continues to be the best performing Charity Fund and there was an unrealised gain of £21,343 on our holding.

I expect 2022 to be a much more normal year in terms of our services and our fundraising activities, but both 2022 and 2023 will be financially challenging.

John Morris

### **APPENDIX 1 Accounts**

### **Independent examiner's report to the P.C.C. of St Michael, New Malton**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (The Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 (The Act)

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- ❖ Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have not been met; or
- ❖ To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts be reached.

Mr A W Richardson  
White and Hoggard,  
Wheelgate Malton  
8 March 2022

## The Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report often starts by mentioning all the events that have happened during the year, but of course, this year (as last year) has been quite different from what we would describe as "normal". I still do want to thank you all for being part of the Church Community here in our parishes, for your support, help, encouragement, attendance, hospitality, (when we were able), your ministry – whether you are a Warden, PCC Secretary, Music Director, Children's Worker, make tea, clean the church, arrange flowers, or kept in touch with people throughout the year – thank you, you have done a great job!

Although events have been significantly curtailed, Christmas 2021 was a particularly busy period and there were a number of events of particular note. They all took an amazing amount of talent and time to organise and I would like to thank the principal people involved (ably supported by wonderful teams):

Light Party - Tracey Young  
Antique Toy Fair - Helen Shaw  
Christmas Fair - Sue Wright

Coping with so many changes in the way we live, the covid restrictions, not being able to see people we love and miss, dealing with anxiety or fear, watching your children or grandchildren coping with home schooling, working from home and being a parent, and not being able to help, has all taken a toll on our emotional and mental health. However, God has been, and continues to be, right in the midst of it all, walking alongside us, weeping and rejoicing with us, and sending his love and grace just when we think we have nothing left to give.

Church services with social distancing and masks have been challenging; so too has conducting services online, but it is amazing what we can get used to, given the time.

I think many of us have learned a lot about doing things differently this year, whether that is online, on the telephone or chatting on the doorstep. It has not all been bad.

There are a couple of things that stand out to me from this time:

1. That life and faith are all about relationships, our relationship with God and others. It should be no surprise because that is what God calls us into – relationship. But often, we're too busy rushing from one thing to another and we can so easily forget what's important.
2. When many churches have chosen to lock their doors and only have their acts of worship online, both of our churches have been open for private prayer

throughout and acts of worship have taken place inside the church buildings. This has taken considerable commitment and logistical creativity (from especially our Church Wardens) and I would like to thank all involved for displaying such incredible flexibility and a passion for "being there" in relation to our local communities.

Talking of Church Wardens, Connie Clark has done an incredible job of serving the church as Warden throughout this year, pretty much single-handedly. She is stepping down from the role and being replaced by two new Wardens as of the APCM. I would personally like to thank Connie for her commitment, diligence, wisdom and counsel. Connie has served during a particularly difficult time and we as a Church Family owe her a great debt of gratitude. After a period of well earned rest, reflection and consolidation, I know that Connie will be back "firing on all cylinders" and contributing significantly to the life and mission of St. Michael's.

We also say "goodbye" to John Morris who has been our Treasurer for many years. Knowing how time consuming this essential role is, I would like to thank John for his highly professional and conscientious approach. Having served as Bursar in two Cathedrals, we are very fortunate to have benefited from his extensive experience and knowledge of church finances.

It's no secret that the numbers of Ordained Clergy are reducing on a national basis, which has resulted in many parishes finding themselves in periods of extended vacancy. Through the grace of God, neither of our churches find themselves in this position, however, like churches in vacancy, we are extremely blessed by the retired clergy who reside in our Deanery and are still happy to serve local churches where they can. I would particularly like to thank Revd. Simon Wright for his substantial support, not just to the Malton Benefice, but also to the wider Deanery. We have also benefited from the ministries of Revd. Veronica James and Revd. Judy Duke and I look forward to welcoming them back to our churches throughout the upcoming year.

Some people are saying that things will never go back to what they were before the pandemic. I don't know if they are right, but I know one thing; I don't want us to lose the richness that we have gained. Instead, I pray that we can build on the good and continue to look outwards to the communities we live in.

Revd. Glyn

## Prayer

The past year from March 2021 has seen some 'normality' returning to our lives and the church has remained continually open for services and private prayer.

There has been some rearrangement in the church with the Children's Corner taking the place of the Prayer Table and display in the north corner of the building and the prayer space is now in the Lady Chapel. This has proved to be a far better space for people who want to just sit quietly and be less likely to be disturbed.

We also provide a selection of 'free to take' booklets on varying aspects of prayer, help and support from 'Lifewords' in a small stand on the table at the back of the church. The provision of these is very popular, particularly in the summer months when there are more visitors to the church.

A new, much bigger, candle stand was purchased during 2021, which is situated by the Lady Chapel door and this has proved to have been very well used and much appreciated by congregation and visitors alike.

Morning prayer is still being held on Zoom every morning at 9.00am (except Sunday) where the short service from the Northumbria morning Prayer Service is used. Rev Glyn is spending time in church to pray on Tuesday and Thursday mornings' usually between 9.45/10.45 and welcomes others to join him to pray alongside or just have a chat.

The Benefice Prayer diary was updated in early February 2022 and copies of it are available at the back of church. The Diocesan Monthly Prayer Diary is available on the York Diocese web page and can be downloaded and printed. Both are useful aids for daily prayer. Our Lent Prayer Partners exercise which takes place every year is a good way of praying in more depth for one particular person during Lent.

Prayer is said to be the 'Engine Room' of the church and our own lives. It need not be a lengthy and arduous task but just a simple conversation with God.

Trish Atkinson

## Parish News

A Parish Newsletter is now produced quarterly, the first one was in May 2021. The feedback has been very positive. A few copies are printed and distributed to those without email or who are unable to print at home, and it is sent out by email to all on the list for the weekly sheet. A few copies are also left at the back of church for any visitors who come in.

Janet Patten

## Choir Report

The Choir was finally allowed to sing live, in-person at church services in April 2021 (though not quite in time for Easter). Since that time, they, and I, have been getting used to the novelty (and privilege) of in-person rehearsals at church once more.

For all the negative impact which Covid has had, and is still having, it has highlighted the important aspects of life. Pre-Covid, I would never have thought that singing in church could and should be viewed as privilege that needs to be joyfully celebrated, be it in the choir or in congregation. My favourite quote, attributed to St Augustine, encapsulates this thought: "the one who sings prays twice". ... He that sings praise, not only sings, but also loves him of whom he sings. In praise, there is the speaking forth of one confessing; in singing, the affection of one loving."

In July, my predecessor, Janet Patten, had her farewell service. With a packed, though socially distanced, church and a choir of six, it was both a joyous celebration and a profound thank-you for all that Janet and John have given to the church for over forty years. I must offer my public thanks to Janet for ensuring that I had as smooth a transition as possible into the worship and life of St Michael's.

August heralded the very welcome news that church congregations were once more allowed to sing. We celebrated this in September with a very enjoyable "Songs of Praise" for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

Sunday services for Harvest Thanksgiving, All Saints', the service of Light and Remembrance Sunday all passed successfully, with plenty of new music being sung.

The theme of introducing new repertoire continued into Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. I have pushed the choir, sometimes out of their comfort zones, but they have risen to each challenge. We commemorated the start of Advent with an atmospheric ecumenical Advent Processional Service by candlelight. Next year, I hope to invite choir members from our neighbours in the Methodist and Catholic churches to join us for this event. The Carol Service was equally successful: a full church and extended choir of fifteen.

While the long-awaited children's choir has yet to materialise, I hope to be able to start it within this academic year. I shall also be visiting local primary schools in order to provide some musical support and choral outreach.

Alison Forster

Director of Music

## **Safeguarding Report - 2021**

### **Safeguarding policy**

A review of the Parish Safeguarding Policy was completed earlier in the year and our policy was found to be up to date.

A policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders has been included in the policies, as per guidance from the Diocese of York. This policy will be distributed with future DBS applications and renewals.

### **DBS checks**

Two new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were completed, and certificates obtained, and others have been renewed as necessary by our Parish Verifier, Sue Wright. For information, all members of the PCC must have a DBS at enhanced level, as well as all church members who are involved in children's work.

### **Training**

In April 2021 the Church of England's National Safeguarding Steering Group, on behalf of the House of Bishops, approved a new Learning and Development Framework. This sets out the details of the Church of England's learning pathway and expectations of Church officers in respect of those pathways. The Church has an ambition to make a paradigm shift in its relationship with safeguarding. This requires recognition that safeguarding needs to move away from something that is in some respects external and imposed upon the Church, to something that flows from within the soul of the Church. Safeguarding should be at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in our praying and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the very DNA of the Church, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. A significant difference is a change to who should access which of the pathways. These decisions are now informed by anyone who 'plays a lead role in shaping the culture of the Church body concerned.'

Members of the PCC are currently working their way through the additional required online training modules that have arisen as a result of these changes. Any additional persons required to undergo training will be informed as and when required. However, if anyone else would like to complete these, please let me know and I will provide further information. As the Parish Safeguarding Representative, I have completed all required training modules and Sue Wright has attended all required courses in safeguarding and safer recruitment.

## **Safeguarding incidents**

In conjunction with the Diocese, our Safeguarding Team has dealt with one new safeguarding incident this year.

Samantha Free

(Parish Safeguarding Representative)

### **All Age Worship Report for 2021**

The All Age services continued throughout the year on the first Sunday of every month.

The first All Age service of 2021 was with everyone in church but only the choir could sing the hymns. The following two AAW services were online with just the vicar and organist in church. Some of the hymns were recorded by the choir which made it easier for people at home to join in. Families were sent an activity to do at home during the service. For Candlemas the challenge was to build a temple from Lego!

By Easter Day, the congregation was back in church but not allowed to sing, so Tracey's activity bags were back for families to do in the pews. There was a final hymn for all to sing outside after the service. The children's crafts were displayed on a board for everyone to see afterwards.

For the May service it was a real treat to listen to the choir singing the hymns, as the restriction on singing was lifted to allow a few singers to sing socially distanced.

From 19<sup>th</sup> July everyone was allowed to sing again so from the August service we were nearly back to normal.

The Harvest Festival in October was well supported and the children were invited into the sanctuary to help them understand what goes on in the Eucharistic prayer. This was also the first opportunity to serve refreshments after the service and enable people to chat over coffee and cake.

The November service had a guest speaker to talk about SASH (our chosen charity to support at Christmas) and he involved the children during the talk. In December we were amazed how many came as the food festival was taking place. We even ran out of service sheets!

Some of the craft activities continue to be displayed while the children can take home what they have made or done.

As a team we are very encouraged by the positive feedback we have had for these services. Several families attend quite regularly and some take part. Our planning meetings are held on zoom which enables everyone to be present who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. We always

review the previous all age service before talking about the next one.

The AAW planning team work hard to make it happen each month, both with their time and talents preparing readings, intercessions, music and activity bags.

Janet Patten

### **Working with young children and families within our community.**

2021 again proved to be a year marred by everchanging rules, restrictions, masks and hand gel, set against the unnatural sadness of isolation from each other. The feelings of physical separation from our church family continued to be felt at the height of the 'third wave' of the pandemic as our 'mission' to families in our community became, quite literally, the inspiring contents of the Bible Adventure Bags delivered door to door throughout Malton.

Fortunately, by April 2021 we were able to warmly invite families to a 'covid secure' Easter Garden event in church. It was such a joy to actually be able to meet together, albeit cautiously, to celebrate Easter complete with glue, paint and compost! No singing or hot cross buns allowed, but what fun we had creating our large and small Easter Gardens and performing an Easter themed sea shanty.

The summer saw an easing of restrictions and the delivery of Bible Adventure Bags was replaced by 'live' Family Bible Adventure meet ups in the Castle Gardens in Malton under the auspices of the OMG team.

The summer also enabled us, as a church, to reflect on what elements of our outreach had worked well in 'pre-covid' times, but also reflect on the mission that the pandemic forced us to explore. We felt that the best of each would take us forward into new ways of touching young families within our community with God's love. A balance of nurturing our children in their faith through active celebrations of festivals in Church, developing All Age worship, establishing a pattern of Lego Church (or similar) and the formation of a children's choir, would sit alongside growing families of faith through supporting OMG in its mission.

A monthly opportunity for families to explore faith together through meaningful, playful activities was begun at Malton Secondary School, an initiative born of a close relationship between the OMG team and St Michael's, directed by OMG. This gathering has continued monthly since October and has been well received and supported.

October also saw the opportunity for fun and food at our 'Sparkle Party' for families in church. Fairy lights and tea lights decorated the church and set the scene for an evening of fun. Glow stick games, torch activities and a host of light themed crafts were much enjoyed as were the hot dogs around the fire pit at the Vicarage that followed.

In December, we again joined together with OMG to plan and deliver a new mission, 'Angels of Hope for Malton'. The event included a range of initiatives to embrace the message of the Christmas Angels—hope, peace, love and good news for all, expressed in a variety of ways within the community. There was an afternoon of impressive craft activities in church for children and families, where wooden one metre high angels were decorated to express the messages of the angels. These angels were then placed around the Market Place in Malton as an outward sign of hope and love and the joy of the Christmas message for our community. Malton Community Primary School and Housemartins Day Nursery also decorated and laminated over 250 small card angels to hang on the tree outside church during the festive season. Each angel carried the children's hopes for themselves, their families, our town or our world and made an amazing display alongside the large Nativity Figures created by our children.

Hopes and plans to celebrate Christmas itself in church, together with families, rose and fell according to the rates of the developing Omicron variant. We had to abandon our usual Christingle Service and then our traditional Nativity play, but managed to come together for a short candle lit Crib Service, which was very well attended and beautifully moving.

2022 will be a year of reassessing the way forward for our church in how we minister to families that we both nurture and reach out to our local community after two years of upheaval. There will be new challenges, exciting times and no shortage of ways God wishes to lead us. We must be sure to listen to where He wishes to take us. Do hold this important work in your prayers.

Tracey Young

### **Report 20s to 40s minister**

We started the year 2021 with a number of contacts through the Bible Adventure Bags and we continued with the Bible Adventure Bags as we entered a third national lockdown.

The most significant contact with families was brief contact on the doorstep (as we dropped off the bags). We continued doing some meetups with a group of 3 to 6 men around a firepit where we shared life and faith in a relaxed and non-threatening environment.

During Lent I led a group (on Zoom) using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book of 2021. This book: "Living His Story: Revealing the Extraordinary Love of God in Ordinary Ways" by Hannah Steele was really helpful and enabling in discovering together how we can share the gospel story afresh in our own lives. The participants then decided to make it practical by organising a Start course (which unfortunately didn't go ahead as there were no participants which was also a learning experience) and then decided to do some other things that did help people in their wellbeing (such as organising a wellbeing meetup for women and getting involved in the men's firepit meetups).

At Easter we seized the opportunity to meet with families (as parent and children groups of max 15 persons over the age of 5) for an Easter egg hunt and exploring the Easter story together. We met in 5 different locations in Malton and Norton and each time there were 5 families present reaching 25 families in total. It was really exciting to meet for the first time with some of the families receiving Bible Adventure Bags!

As restrictions lifted further, we started meeting with the families at Malton Castle Gardens for "Live Bible Adventures". In the Autumn we joined forces with St Michael's and moved the Family Bible Adventures meetups to Malton School. Every month we saw families returning but also new families joining. In December we met at St Michael's and did a special project in the marketplace. The angels we made were adopted by different shopkeepers in the marketplace to bless people as they were out in town and invite them to reflect on the questions on key Christmas themes.

As we emerged from the pandemic we noticed the importance of mental health and wellbeing for many people in the 20's to 40's age group which led us to do a ladies wellbeing meetup and a continued focus on this area.

During the lockdowns and as we emerged from the lockdowns we developed a good relationship with Morrisons. They offered their support at various point by contributing to some of the Bible Adventure Bags and to

some of the meetups. Before the Summer I was contacted by the Community Champion of Morrisons to see if I would be happy to offer monthly drop in sessions for their staff to support them in their wellbeing and I started these sessions in September. It was a real privilege to be able to offer support to some of our local key workers in this way, many of them in the 20's to 40's age bracket.

In November we started a new meetup: the Sunday Brunch. This monthly gathering at St Mary's Priory Community Centre in Old Malton is for young adults and families around a meal and a Bible Story which we explore together. It is a place that is really accessible and informal and it is also a place of discipleship as we share life and explore following Jesus in our everyday lives.

St Peter's in Norton was for most of 2021 without stipendiary clergy. During this time I preached there every other month (in addition to the monthly preach at St Michael's and St Mary's). This really helped build the relationship with the congregation at St Peter's.

Hendrik Klaver

### **Tech. Team Report 2021**

We began the year with the immediate aim of consolidating progress made in 2020 with the two main objectives of making the operation as discrete as possible to those attending the event being streamed and of making everything more sustainable.

A great deal was learnt in very short order during 2020; necessity certainly is the mother of invention! While, by the end of 2020, we had reached a relatively good product, it did require a lot of setting up each time and needed a plethora of cables trailing all over the place and some, often rather unwelcome, interventions by us during services to keep things on Zoom running. This was probably acceptable while the majority were taking part on Zoom; it was certainly not something we wanted in the longer term as more and more returned to church in person and the streaming became the minority option.

So, we began the year moving operations to the tower balcony. Permanent computers were installed and cabling run from there to the broadband hub in the office and the PA cupboard by the organ (from which the sound on Zoom is garnered). Two remote cameras were purchased. These small cameras require no cabling and can be discretely placed and send their images over the wi-fi system in church. Wi-fi extenders were installed in the main church building which has the added benefit of extending reliable



wi-fi for all to use in this area (previously it could only really be relied upon in the office).

After a few teething problems, notably one service when we almost deafened those present in the building with massive feedback to the church PA speakers, things quickly settled down. As the year has progressed and Covid restrictions waned the operation has changed. The first thing to go was the playing out of pre-recorded contributions by church members as it was decided to rely on people in person to perform readings and intercessions.

In September we moved to remote operation for most Sunday services. This means that we use just one or two cameras and run things from a tablet computer. This allows the operator (usually Alan or Heather) to participate in the service and not be “locked in the tower”! However, this does mean that the pictures are not as varied (we have four cameras at our disposal when operations are run from the tower) and that what is being broadcast is not being monitored all the time. This occasionally can lead to a less than ideal product (e.g.: participants unmuting themselves during the service and breaking into what is being streamed). We do try to find ways to overcome such problems as they arise; do bear with us!

Also, since we are interfacing five different digital processes, all of which seem to have the uncanny knack of demanding to be updated on a Sunday morning, we occasionally face problems when switching things on, with little time to resolve them before going “on air”. This has sometimes led to glitches in the broadcast. Again, we are rapidly learning how to better overcome these things.

During the year we have undertaken some special operations, including the streaming of John Dunstan’s funeral which, at the time, could not take place in church, with coverage of the progress of cortege through town and of the service from the graveside. We also streamed Dolly Thackray’s funeral from church. At Easter we went outside to cover the first opportunity the whole congregation had to sing since the start of the Covid restrictions. At Christmas 2021 we made sure all services were covered, in particular the Carol Service and Crib Service.

While, on a normal Sunday, the number viewing has obviously reduced from anything up in the 40s and 50s at the beginning of the year, we still regularly have at least five or six “tuning in”. In 2022 we may possibly look at other platforms over which to stream. Zoom was ideal when most of us were stuck at home as it is primarily designed as a means for people to meet and for all to contribute. We are now in a position where it is used to allow people to look in, much as they would to a church service on television. Whatever happens we are committed to continue with the operation as long as it is needed and will keep all informed of any changes, they may need to make

to access it. Nothing will be done to complicate things for viewers!

Heather Williams, John Patten, Alan Young