



Serving the communities

of Mirfield and Hopton

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Please note that questions for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to be held on Sunday 11th May 2025, at St Mary's, following the 10.30am Service, are to be submitted in writing prior to the Meeting.

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REVD HUGH BAKER - Report for the Year 2024 from the Vicar of Mirfield Team Parish

| 2024 | St. Mary's | St. Paul's | St. John's | Crem | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------|-------|
| Baptisms | 18 | 0 | 7 | | 20 |
| Weddings | 5 | 0 | 0 | | 5 |
| Funerals | 12 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 34 |
| Confirmation | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Average Sunday attendance | 57 | 0 | 25 | | 82 |

As always, the detail of the highs and lows of our Parish life is to be found in the various reports that make up the rest of this document. I am very grateful to our Church Wardens and other group coordinators for their contributions, and I hope you will take the time to read and fully appreciate the amount of work that has been carried out over the past year.

2024 saw the beginning of plans for a year of Mission in 2025. Part of this was to start looking at the workings of the Parish through the eyes of 5 Mission Priorities. This was to try and force our attention into areas that are important for growth and development but which often get pushed to one side by the more immediately pressing matters of money and buildings. The Priorities identified are:

- Sharing the Good News
- Welcome and nurturing new believers
- Support our community around us
- Social justice
- The Planet, care for our environment.

I am going to try and frame my report within these 5 areas. There is some overlap between the categories so my apologies if you think something should more naturally fall under a different heading.

Sharing the Good news.

Week by week and day by day we share the good news in our churches and with one another, through our liturgy with its space for Bible readings, Sermons and intercessions. It seems fitting that we start with the Worship that we offer to God. My thanks go to all who make this work possible: The clergy, Helen, Graeme and Chris, our Assistants, servers and administrators, those who provide us with music and our choirs. For 2024 of course our organist and choir master was Scott Senogles and I record my heartfelt thanks to him but my thanks are also going out in early recognition to those who have stepped into the roles as Scott moved to Pontefract in early 2025: Garth, Owen, Chris and Mark. I would like to thank those who Read for us and those who offer up intercession on our behalf.

It naturally follows that this worship is more easily done in the familiar surroundings of our churches. Even when we turn our attention to Mission and Outreach it can't be totally at the expense of maintenance and buildings. Both St. Mary's and St. John's have been through major works over 2024, the Roofs at St. Mary's and the Tower at St. John's. For more detail, please refer to the respective reports. In this report I simply want to offer thanks those who have worked so hard as Wardens: Anne and Stephen at St. John's, Chris at St. Mary's and Tim at St. Paul's, I also need to thank the wider PCC, the respective

Business Teams and Friends groups for all they have contributed over the year, they have all done so much but I would like to mention St. Mary's Business Team under the chair of Stephen Durrans which has started to lift the load most effectively in like manner to its counterpart at St. John's.

I would also like to thank Tim for the work that he has done over 2024 as Warden at St. Paul's. The last service for St. Paul's took place on 8th of September and the building is now in the hands of the Diocese awaiting final sale. This has not been an easy road to follow for all sorts of reasons, but Tim's input has helped immensely to move this forward in the most positive way possible.

Again, with sharing the Good News in mind we are given opportunities to meet with people where they are through the Occasional Offices: Baptism, Weddings and Funerals. Once again it is our buildings that allow us to provide the space for these, and clean and tidy buildings speak clearly of our love for God and his world so my thanks to all who keep our churches in a tidy state and those that decorate them with flowers. We are also well blessed with the services of our two vergers for Weddings and Funerals, Ruth at St. Mary's and Annete at St. John's and those who support and uphold the Baptism Ministry, Sue at St. John's and Kath at St. Mary's.

Welcome and nurturing new believers.

Welcoming is something that we should all be involved with and my thanks go to everyone who do make visitors feel at home in our churches, especially my thanks to those who take on the official role of Sides people and Welcomers. The welcome and the nurture that we offer to children who we have contact with is extremely important and so my thanks go to Anne and her team at St. John's and Kath and hers at St. Mary's. Our statistics show that there were no confirmations in 2024, what they do not show is that preparation was taking place for the confirmations that were held in Wakefield Cathedral on the 9th February 2025. Nurturing and caring for new believers and indeed the whole of our congregation and wider community is extremely important. We try to keep everyone as safe as possible and this is most important when it comes to children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is at the heart of this and my thanks goes especially to Maggie Richardson and Kath Crossley for all that they are doing to make sure that we meet the high standards that are expected of us to ensure the safety of all.

Support our community around us

How do we connect and support those around us? We could mention the Occasional Offices but these have already been included in our first category. There are though many other ways we bring support.

1. With our local Schools:

We have three Primary Schools: Crowlees, Crossley Fields, Lower Hopton; and one secondary school Castle Hall in our Parish and over 2024 we have had varying amounts of contact and interaction with them. We have invited them into our churches, we have visited them for assemblies on a weekly basis with Crowlees and, also with Crowlees we have been very active in the Governance with Helen as Chair of Governors and both Graeme and myself on the Governing Body.

2. Pre-schools:

Both St. Mary's and St. John's have a good contact with preschool provision and have invited these children into our churches

3. Community Meeting spaces:

At St. John's there is the Hall at Croft house that is run jointly by the PCC and the local Community and was a provision that became available for this use originally through the church. At St. Mary's, we have the Community Centre which has a number of rooms and Halls for community use and meetings. My thanks goes to the small team that have looked after this resource especially my thanks goes to Lauren Montgomery for the work, she does to manage that team, thanks also go to Laruen for her wider Administration role and work with our wedding bookings. The financial gain from the Centre is very good but it also provides a lot for the community. It is the home for many of the Mirfield "Scouts" groups and at the last count some 17 other activities enjoyed by the local

community. It also means that the Mirfield Team Parish Pantomime can continue to entertain so many of us each year.

4. Warm Space/ Friendship café:

Every Saturday morning throughout 2024 and into 2025 a group has provided warmth, companionship, food and welcome to local people. My sincere thanks to Ruth, Helen and the rest of the Team for this consistent and caring project which has benefited many over the years it has been running.

5. Walking group:

This has proved to be a very popular activity run by the church for the benefit of the local community. My thanks to Chris Barker and his team for the organising and running of this much enjoyed group.

6. Graveyard Gang:

Our graveyards are open spaces that are enjoyed by local residents but need to be constantly attended to if they are to be made best use of. Much effort and care goes into their maintenance and at St. Mary's much of this is carried out by the Graveyard Gang led by Chris Barker. In addition to the regular care for the environment and wildlife we also provide opportunities for a local charity to involve their users in outdoor activities.

7. Pay Back scheme:

The Pay Back scheme involves those who have been given community orders by the courts and are ordered to do so many hours work for the community. This work is supervised by the Probation service and we provide opportunities for them to work at St. Mary's Churchyard.

8. Drop in for chat and cake:

In addition to the Friendship café on a Saturday mornings we also offer times when both our churches are open for anyone to come in, share in some refreshments and conversation and enjoy the peace of the buildings. It is surprising how many do take advantage of this and the variety of reasons people have for wanting to visit the local church. Over 2024 this work was organized by Marjory Utterly and my thanks goes to her for this.

9. Craft group:

The craft group is open to anyone to enjoy and meets at St. John's, another opportunity for people to meet together and to learn new skills.

10. Hand bell ringers:

The hand bells were restored to their former glory using money given by Margaret Richardson for this purpose and they are being well used and to good effect by a dedicated band of ringers who have now performed at a number of services and are really mastering the art.

11. The Young singers group:

This group for local children was set up by Scott and assisted by Chris Shedd and gives the opportunity for children to enjoy singing together. It is to be hoped that we will be able to revive this group when a replacement for Scott is found later this year.

Social Justice

We hold the world and the imbalances we see all around us in our prayers each week asking God to guide us in ways that will help to address these. We actively support Christian Aid, the Children's Society and the local food banks with our donations. Over 2024 one of the major thrusts of our support has been in sending aid to Ukraine, my thanks to Ruth for all that she has done to keep this important project in our hearts and minds over the year.

The Planet, care for our environment.

Some of the things that have already been mentioned in the Community section above could easily fit here, particularly the work done in our graveyards. I would highlight the care for the wildlife that is taken when decision are made about how the spaces are managed. However, I would in addition like to mention

the work that has been done by Tanya who has taken on some of the work of an Environment Officer for us. Her work has meant that we are now registered with the Eco Church scheme that helps churches think through what they can do to be more Eco friendly. There are surveys that are being completed at both churches and to spur us on our way there are different levels of achievement that can be recognised with bronze, silver and gold awards. We are well on our way to Silver at the moment but there is much to do.

Just one additional note, all of the above needs to be financed in one form or another, so my thanks to all who gave so generously over the year, to those who remember the Parish in their will, those who worked so hard on our Fundraising Team and especial thanks to David Brooke for his work as treasurer keeping all of this in fine order.

From all the above you will see that there is quite a lot going on and I commend all that is there, with my apologies if something is missing or misrepresented. God calls us to his work in the world. Mission 25 is an attempt to make sure that we are responding and responding in the right areas and in the right way. Please hold all that is being done in your prayers and, in addition, look carefully at the 5 areas of Mission that have been identified and ask what more we could be doing, and, in a more focused way, what is your part in that.

With every blessing.

Hugh.

THE BUSINESS OF THE FULL PCC

Membership of the PCC

The PCC consists of:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Clergy | Revd Hugh Crispin Baker (Vicar and Chair) | |
| | Revd Helen Butler | |
| | Revd Graeme Blackwell | |
| | Revd Chris Shedd (retired and stepping in on a regular basis) | |
| Wardens | From St Mary's | Chris Barker |
| | From St John's | Anne Heeley Stephen Bulter |
| | From St Paul's | Tim Grace |
| PCC Members | From St Mary's | Lauren Montgomery-Bell Ruth Edwards Helen Grace (Walker) |
| | | Chris Breare Susan Auckland Susan Young |
| | | David Brooke Rachel Copley Barney Blackwell |
| | From St John's | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | From St Paul's | |
| Deanery Synod Reps | Barry Hambling Ruth King | |
| | | |
| Ex Officio Child Protection Officer | Maggie Richardson | |

There were 6 PCC meetings and 6 Standing Committee Meetings held in 2024.

The officers to the PCC were:

Lay Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Ruth King
Tanya Bintcliffe
David Brooke

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – Lauren Montgomery-Bell [Electoral Roll Officer]

Every 6 years the old Electoral Roll is discarded in favour of a new one and a new Roll was created for 2025 to be effective at the Annual Meeting in May 2025.

At the 9th April 2025 the new Roll stands at 42 for St John's, 66 for St Mary's with a further 6 joint registrations, giving a total Roll of 114. These includes no new enrolments

FINANCIAL REPORT – David Brooke

2024 was another 'challenging' year financially for the Parish. Income decreased by nearly £4,000 on 2023 – and expenditure increased by over £5,000.

There was a decrease in income from planned giving, gift aid, collections and donations, etc of £2,800 and income from fees decreased by £3,800. However, income from fundraising increased by nearly £2,800. The Parish Centre contribution to general funds was again £10,000 – and income received from the letting of St Paul's Church brought into general funds nearly £5,000 in the year. Income into general funds was £108k (2023: £112k).

In expenditure - there was an increase in running costs (gas, electricity, water and insurance) of over £3,000 and Office and other Costs increased by nearly £2,000. Expenditure from general funds (before the parish share contribution) was £60.5k (2023: £55.5k).

All of this resulted in a surplus in general funds (before the parish share contribution) of £47.5k (2023: £56.5k). Parish share paid in 2024 £30,000 (2023: £64,200).

In previous years, reserves had been used to increase the parish share contribution resulting in reserves being almost used up in 2024. This was a situation that could not be maintained. To remain within our budget and replenish our reserves, a reduced contribution of the parish share was made in 2024. In 2025 we are hoping to increase our contribution while remaining in budget.

Going forward - the fundraising group are hoping to raise about £12k of income and it is hoped that the Parish Centre income will also be increased to £12k.

Restricted funds have been used during the year for major repairs to St Mary's Church and St John's Church (with funds provided by the Friends of Upper Hopton Church).

Thank you to all the people who give regularly and generously to Mirfield Team Parish so that the work of Mirfield Team Parish can be maintained and our Churches can be open for all to be made welcome!

David Brooke
Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING REPORT – Maggie Richardson

Maggie Richardson remains as Safeguarding Officer with Kath Crossley working alongside. We both meet regularly to discuss the challenges presented by safeguarding and the enormity of the task especially the rapid changing of policies and procedures. Due to this we have now started to meet regularly with the clergy to discuss these issues, how to implement them as well any other business concerning Safeguarding within the parish.

Progress has been made this year with the PCC and their approval of Safeguarding policies and procedures. The Safeguarding Policy, the Action Plan and the policy for the Recruitment of Ex Offenders were all approved by PCC in September.

Safeguarding procedures including; Responding to Allegations, complying with the Church of England guidance on Appropriate Boundaries and the Lone Working policy were all agreed by the PCC in the Autumn.

In addition, great strides have been made by PCC members undertaking the required Safeguarding Training. Last summer three group training sessions were organised by Hugh and Maggie for those who preferred this option. We ended the year with the majority having completed their training which was a very positive step forward.

DBS applications have been a large task throughout the year and is time consuming on everyone, however we end the year with the majority who require a DBS having completed their applications.

In the Autumn we started to focus our attention on MTP activities and the policies that need to be in place. This is a huge task as it will require Risk Assessments for all activities and Safer Recruitment processes as per the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance. This area will be the main focus in 2025.

Safe Storage of records has now moved from St Johns to a locked filing cabinet in St Mary's. The Filing cabinet offers more space than the safe at St John's.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has complied with our requests to undertake training and producing ID documentation for DBS checks.

Maggie Richardson Safeguarding Officer

Kath Crossley

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT – ST MARY'S CHURCH – Chris Barker

I began last year's report with how Graeme Blackwell and his very talented family had joined us like a whirlwind. Graeme immediately raised the profile of the Team Parish on social media – Facebook, Mirfield Matters, our own church website and also settling into all aspects of parish life – Sunday and midweek services, baptisms, marriages, funerals, school worship, confirmation classes, PCC meetings, Business Team, Pastoral work and much more. This continued through his first year as Deacon, then on Saturday 22nd June he was duly ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Smitha at Dewsbury Minster. Graeme celebrated Sung Eucharist the next day, followed by a Faith lunch or banquet more like. Graeme has continued to be heavily involved in the Team Parish as well as in services at Christ the King; a real treasure!

Congratulations to Ruth Edwards on her British Empire Medal, which is richly deserved, for her services to the community in Mirfield where she works tirelessly in too many projects and activities to list. She does so much for St Mary's, as vergers, flower arranger, organising the Friendship café, collecting to send lorries and their contents to the Ukraine, tribute nights, Christmas lunches – like a stick of rock, Ruth's name goes right through the middle.

Some stalwarts have resigned or moved away. In February Scott Senogles finished as Director of Music, his last service was on Ash Wednesday (5th March) but after a joint service on 2nd March he was presented with a cheque and framed picture of our three churches. Scott has put together a full programme of recitals for 2025. He has served faithfully for 20 years, travelling from Castleford to take services at both churches, organise choir practices, starting Mirfield Junior Singers, putting together organ recitals, playing for weddings and funerals, as well as being on the PCC. A very talented musician and singer he demanded very high standards of himself and his choirs.

We are fortunate to have the services of four organists who have volunteered to fill the breach following Scott's resignation:

- Garth Robinson, who was once organist and choirmaster here at St Mary's and already playing and organising the choir.
- Chris Royle, who lives locally.
- Owen Ryder, who plays the organ regularly at St John's and is no stranger to our organ.
- Mark Jennings, who played the organ at St Paul's.

The choir is singing at St Mary's and St John's on alternate Sundays until we can recruit more members. Susan Smith is moving to the North East to be closer to Stephanie and Andrew. She has been long time PCC secretary and choir member. She is very organised and knowledgeable in both church and musical matters and does so much behind the scenes. In preparation for her move she is already beginning to master the Geordie dialect and is learning about local footballing legends, which will boost her credibility!!

Tanya Bintliffe has 'hit the ground running' and is doing a great job as Parish Secretary, for which we are very grateful. Tanya is also working hard to improve our standing as an Eco Church and also looking at how we can move forward with Mission 2025. This includes:

- Improving facilities so that we can welcome and nurture present and future members, including those with disabilities.
- Ways of supporting and including our community around us.
- How we care for our environment.
- Social justice/

We are also grateful to Maggie Richardson for stepping into the role of Safeguarding Officer, which involves making sure everyone in responsible positions has completed the required safeguarding training to make our church a safe place for children, young people and vulnerable adults particularly.

We are indebted to our clergy, lay ministers and pastoral team for their leadership, all they do in services throughout the year, baptisms, weddings, funerals, visiting the sick and housebound members, working in schools and Children's Church and in so many ways that go un-noticed.

Huge thanks must go to our treasurer, David Brooke, for the way in which he manages and accounts for the church's finances. Especially this year when he has to manage the Parish Share, balance rising energy and maintenance costs, the large cost and bills for our restoration work with our increasingly smaller income. Helping with this are our Budget and Strategy Team and our Fundraising Committee.

It is very heartwarming to see increasingly growing numbers of regular and new worshippers, visitors and new faces who come through our doors for services Carol concerts, brass bands, school concerts, special services at Christmas and Easter, organ recitals, Open Days, Remembrance and we thank especially those who organise, prepare them and clear up afterwards. We have a great team here at St Mary's that will step up and help to make events and activities go smoothly. One exceptionally hard-working group are those who help at the Friendship Café, collecting food from supermarkets, preparing meals, organising activities

and tidying away afterwards, dispensing unused food. The same can be said for the volunteers who help run the Christmas Day meal specially for those who might be or live on their own.

Building work started at St Mary's on the 29th of July and was due to be completed 12 weeks later on the 25th of October. On removing slates on the lower south roof a layer of tar and horsehair was found, this was removed and replaced with felting. The West door was restored, Yorkshire stone slabs were set where stone slabs had been stolen, coping stones were cemented where there were leaks on the upper roof, down pipes replaced and much work was done to the roofs and valleys above the choir vestry, windows were removed in the West End around the font and also in the clergy vestry. The organ was covered with a plastic sheet for when the organ roof was to be repaired. Unfortunately, during this period, the roof subcontractors were called to other work for two to three weeks, also young apprentices were left to do work found later not to be up to the standard. The work could not be finished on time, the long-drawn-out process contributed to a late completion and severe weather caused further delays into 2025. Snow melt, Storm Bert and heavy rain caused water ingress which damaged a section of the organ. Work on the church continued through January and was finally completed and signed off by the architect on the 28th February.

This now leaves Phase two which includes fixing the organ roof, dealing with dry rot, protecting the organ while this happens. The Business Team have investigated possible ways forward whether to protect the organ in situ or move it until the work is complete. This will be very expensive, so the team are looking into future fund raising. The dry rot will have to be dealt with and the organ roof made good. They decided that creating a 'Friends of St Mary's' group was needed. This would increase St. Mary's income and also church attendance, they are exploring options of how this could be done. A project to improve the lighting in church may have to be put on hold.

In October we had a Mission 25 meeting to evaluate how we need to progress from our Communication, Confidence and Connections 24 (areas in which we are doing well and areas where we need to improve). It links conveniently with Chapter 2 which is looking to maximise capital coming into church through inclusion and involvement of the wider community. We had a very successful Pilgrimage when our Team Parish joined with Christ the King walking from St. John's to St Paul's then to St Mary's and on to Christ the King with refreshment at each church and a celebration of the Eucharist at Battysford. The Pilgrimage gave the opportunity for reflection, worship, discussion and social interaction. It should be noted that St Paul's has now closed, an Open Day was followed by a service led by Bishop Smitha.

In the months leading up to Christmas we had some very well attended concerts by the Hammond's and Black Dyke Brass Bands, Honley Male Voice Choir also Organ Recitals including one by Gordon Stewart. The Christingle Service was also well attended as was the Live Nativity (an emergency prevented the donkey from being there but we had two lively goats and the Uniformed Organisations provided more than enough angels, shepherds and wise men). Our Carol Concert was well supported by a full congregation and our Crib, Midnight and Christmas Day services went wonderfully well. Crowlees, Crossley Fields and Castle Hall schools had their concerts. Huge thanks and appreciation must go to all our clergy for leading these inspirational and meaningful services and for the super singing by the choir and organ playing by Scott. In and amongst these events our handbell group gave excellent performances at Kirkheaton, Hopton Cottages Care Home and at both carol services. Andy Muckle gave a very moving and inspiring talk about the work at St George's Crypt. Thanks must go to those who organised the very enjoyable Christmas Lunch, which gains in popularity. Our cleaning team did sterling work to clear the dust and cobwebs following the building work.

The Graveyard Gang are a small group of volunteers looking after a huge 9-acre site. They take pride in creating a graveyard where visitors can find peace, access neat, tidy graves, sit and enjoy a wide range of flora and fauna and discover the heritage of Mirfield's past. We have achieved 'Outstanding' in the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition and the judges recommend we step up to the Parks and Open Spaces category. The charity Open Country have helped us on regular occasions, they work with those who have learning difficulties. Payback teams come for weekly sessions and we have help from Duke of Edinburgh pupils. We hope to initiate a Wellness Project from the local community and those recommended by the

Health Centre. At a recent meeting we have looked into recruitment, risk assessment and safeguarding, fundraising to cover the cost of fuel, machine servicing, tree maintenance. Future projects include drainage of the lower churchyard and fencing/hedging for the graveyard extension. We have received advice from Wakefield and Bradford Cathedrals on their Peregrine Projects. Peregrines have been seen on and around St Mary's and we are looking at the pros, cons and benefits that installing a box/table on the tower would bring.

We had a super Open Day. After two rain affected ones, we could not have had a better day. People streamed in to find activities inside and out: Irish dancing, karate and Tai Chi demonstrations, organ and piano playing, handbells, displays, stalls, raffle, tombolas, tower tours, games, Katie Philpott dancers. It was a superb team effort and an excellent result financially.

We have a large number of groups or teams which include members who may not necessarily attend church services but still have a deep feeling and calling to be associated with St Mary's. This reflects the mission and outreach that we extend to our local community and which we hope to maximise in the near future. Well established is the Welcome Café; the Handbell Group is steadily recruiting new members and have signed up to an increasing number of performances. Healthy Walks continues to put on walks from St Mary's and St John's. Each month a cleaning group springs into action; each Sunday a small group support Open Church allowing visitors a time to pray, meditate, admire the architecture, discover our heritage or chat over a cup of tea. Thanks to all who participate, organise or help to keep these groups functioning. There are many others who do valuable work and who we rarely mention but who deserve our hugest gratitude.

Our Parish Magazine continues to flourish, reaching out to the community and far-flung places, and manages to make a small profit for church funds thanks to generous donations, many of which are Gift Aided.

One notable event was the Confirmation Service at Wakefield Cathedral lead by Bishop Nick. It was a wonderful service and a joy to see Jon, Elliot and Struan being confirmed.

In September we had an energy expenditure assessment by Mondes Project Ltd. as part of our pathway to Net Zero. This Net Zero Carbon Audit was followed by a webinar to aid in planning for decarbonisation. A very moving film, 'Silent Night' was shown in church highlighting a convoy of vehicles taking supplies to war-torn Ukraine. Ruth Edwards was responsible for raising money and obtaining sponsorship for this expedition.

On a sad note, we reflect on the passing of our friend, chorister, stalwart of St Mary's, Chris Hargrave and the beautiful service, music and singing at his funeral. In October a number from church attended the funeral of Rev'd Canon Jim Mellors at Leyburn.

We had an instructional evening on the use of a defibrillator by an ex-member of the Royal Marines. These important instructions, when seconds are vital, can save lives in the event of an emergency.

Last but certainly not least we are indebted to the work done in church by Helen Butler and Kath Crossley. Helen for her work with children from our local schools, for all the activities and visits she does with them and also the visit by U3A who toured the church and churchyard to explore and discover our history and heritage. Kath for her work with Children's Church but also for her work in visiting parents and preparing them for their child's baptism. She is heavily involved in organising and promoting Cursillo.

I am very, very much aware of all those that I haven't mentioned by name but who do so much valuable work for St Mary's – you deserve our gratitude and are very much appreciated.

ST MARY'S BUSINESS TEAM – Stephen Durrans

Following a meeting between Hugh Baker and myself in April 2024, the need for a dedicated St Mary's Business Team was formally established, with myself appointed as Chair. The Team's primary purpose is to take full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's Church building. As an immediate priority, the outstanding 2019 Quinquennial Report needed to be addressed.

My first objective was to gather a good team of volunteer members with the necessary skills to achieve the new Business Team goals. I was pleased to be enthusiastically supported over the following months, with members joining to create the great Team that we now have.

The founding members of the Business Team are:

Stephen Durrans - Chair

Hugh Baker

Chris Barker

Graeme Blackwell

David Brooke

Rosemary Durrans

Tim Grace

Peter King

Ruth King

Jayne Law

Fraser Turner

Helen Walker

Our first meeting took place on 2nd May 2024, and we have since held 10 productive meetings, working steadily toward our goals.

Key Decisions and progress made to date:

Quinquennial report

Tenders were received to address major repairs to the Tower and Roof outlined in the Quinquennial report. After a full tendering process the contract was awarded to Pinnacle at a projected cost of £222,986.

Stephen Dixon was appointed as Chief Architect to manage the scheme. This project is now satisfactorily 95% complete but has had to come to a managed halt due to ingress of water damaging the organ, which is the subject of an insurance claim. It has also become clear that there is a risk to the organ if repairs are made to the roof without further consideration.

Organ

Quotes to disassemble the organ, store and reassemble have been received from Spinks & Co suggesting costs in excess of £100k. This solution has to-date been discounted as unaffordable.

The Team has since appointed James Northing as our incumbent repairs and maintenance builder. We are now working on a scheme prepared by James and Fraser to produce a scheme of works that will allow the repair of the roof without moving the organ. Both James and Fraser are optimistic this is possible. This will be presented to Stephen Dixon shortly.

Northern Gas

A deal has been struck with Northern Gas to sell a plot of land below the Community Centre for a NG gas equipment upgrade. The price agreed was £10k for a complete freehold purchase and was subject to NG replacing FOC the rusty Gas Monitor cover in the grounds. This is all progressing and is very near legal completion.

A Bat survey has been carried out at a cost of £500 with no evidence of Bats found.

Church Lighting.

A project to upgrade the church lighting has been approved and awarded to Alectrifix. Work is ongoing.

Electrical Condition report.

A contract has been awarded to Testing Services to carry out the latest Electrical Condition report.

Other Key Initiatives

- A database of suitable grant-making bodies is being developed.
- A new "Maintenance Programme" is in development to support future budget planning.
- A Capital Asset Register is being created to improve record-keeping.

Community Centre and Church Hall management.

It has been agreed that management of the Community Centre and Church Building will be combined under the Business Team. This will streamline operations and budgeting. A full financial review of the Community Centre's income and expenditure is currently underway.

Chapter Two Project Group

Given ongoing discussions about the future use of our large, beautiful building and the ongoing costs of its upkeep, a new working group—Chapter Two—has been established.

Its purpose is to brainstorm and develop a "Ten-Year Roadmap" for St Mary's. This group consists of the Business Team members, with the addition of Helen Butler, representing the wider parish. The group has met twice so far and is gathering ideas. Site research visits to four local churches have been planned to learn from similar challenges elsewhere.

One of the most impactful early outcomes, approved by the PCC, is to form a new Friends of St Mary's group. Its main focus will be fundraising for the Church building's maintenance. We are currently seeking volunteers for key roles: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. A new logo and branding are also in development. If you're interested in supporting this group, please get in touch. We're thrilled to report that Helen Brooke and local MP Kim Leadbeater have already signed up—an encouraging start!

Note. This report is a summary of the actions and decisions of the Business Team and does not attempt to record every detail of all the decisions and actions made. If any further information is required or clarity sought, please do not hesitate to ask.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Business Team for their fantastic support and professional dedication. Their enthusiasm has allowed the new management Team to hit the ground running and achieve significant progress in just under a year. It's a pleasure to work alongside such a capable and committed team.

The date of the next Chapter Two meeting will be 12th of June 6.30pm. Venue Tim and Helens

The date of the next Business Team meeting will be 19th of June 6.30pm. Venue Stephen and Rosemary's

Stephen Durrans

St Mary's Business Team Chairman

Tel. 07779994707

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT – ST JOHN'S CHURCH – Anne Heeley and Stephen Butler

Wardens' Reports – St John's Church January to December 2024

The Business Team, consisting of Revd Hugh Baker (Chair), Revd Graeme Blackwell, Anne Heeley, Stephen Butler, Wardens, Sue Auckland, Chris Breare, Linda Hutchinson, John Sykes, and Sue Young with Owen Ryder attending when he could, met on six occasions in 2024, the January meeting by Zoom and then at St John's.

Graeme's priesting on the 22 June at Dewsbury Minster was a lovely occasion as was the whole weekend.

OUTREACH INTO THE COMMUNITY

Pre-school staff and some of the parents and children came to St John's church on Monday 18 March at 9.30. when Hugh told them the Easter story, followed by an Easter egg hunt in Church. Preschool also came to services of Harvest festival and to celebrate the Christmas story.

Book Group on Monday afternoons 2pm for refreshment and 2.30-3.30 to share discussion.

The first Book Group started on February 12th and ended on March 18th and was followed by two others, one in June and then in September. There have been some lively discussions and interesting books to discuss. Thanks to Chris Shedd for leading the group.

Craft Group The newly formed Team Parish craft group meets in the meeting room on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month with 12 plus members at the start up meeting. They have made items to sell at Fundraising events for MTP. The group were at the Mirfield Show and St Mary's Fete and raised £92.00 for MTP and made poppies for Remembrance Sunday for both Churches. The craft group finished the year on a high. We had a stall at Christ the King and raised £75.00 for MTP and £150.00 plus for the tower fund. We will be back in January weather permitting and everyone is welcome to join us.

On Good Friday, visitors of all denominations participated and much appreciated the outdoor readings for the Stations of the Cross which were placed through the churchyard, culminating at the Easter Garden.

Prayer Station in a Gazebo at the Village Fete on July 29th was great success and will be held again this year. UHCA donated £250 from money raised at the Fete

The walking group met at St John's in July, September and October and came back for refreshments after their walk.

September 14 Heritage Open Days – National Yorkshire Churches at St John's was a trial run for one next year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Millennium Window.

FOOD BANK at St John's is still going and food donated to the Salvation Army and to Ukraine when it is needed.

OPEN CHURCH

Each Wednesday 2-4 pm, the church is open for tea and cakes and we regularly have 14+ visitors

Sunday October 6th Harvest Festival 11.15 St John's was a lovely service with the harvest gifts going to the food bank

Harvest Hail at 3pm Club which was not the success it had been in previous years but we hope for better times next year.

Dedication Festival

The Dedication Service in October went well and we were pleased to welcome Bailey Wilcock-Pickett from Halifax who preached a most wonderful sermon. A buffet lunch was enjoyed in church following the service.

Baptism

Two adult members of our congregation are preparing to be baptised during the morning Eucharist in February and hope to prepare for confirmation later next year.

November 3rd at 2.30pm Service to "Remember those we have Loved and Lost" in the churchyard was attended by 23 people who all came into church for refreshments afterwards. Roses were given out the place on the memorials to loved ones.

Posada

After last year's success, on Advent Sunday, December 1st two Posadas with 30 knitted sheep in each for the families to keep, was sent round the village and then they were brought to the Crib Service on Sunday December 24th at 6pm.

Carol Service was held on Sunday December 15th at 3pm with members of the Community reading the lessons and the newly formed Handbell ringers entertaining us beautifully in their first engagement.

Carols Round the Tree Saturday December 14th.

Hugh led the carols round the tree, a joint event hosted by Upper Hopton Community Association and St Johns, on Saturday December 16th at 6 pm. Thanks to Richard Haigh who provided the Christmas Tree, Clifton and Lightcliffe Band for leading the carols, members of both UHCA and St John's who provided the mulled wine and mince pies and to Roger for setting it all up.

Midnight Mass were well attended and enjoyed. We were grateful to Chris Royle who played the organ for the Crib Service and Midnight Mass and he is booked to play again next Christmas.

We had a problem with the service sheets at Midnight Mass as we had to use old ones, which did not fit the readings or carols. Well done to Graeme for guiding the congregation through the service.

Chris Shedd very kindly stepped in to lead the Service on Christmas morning, as Graeme was unwell.

However, there was no large print service sheet and she struggled with the black print on red paper.

We need to address these issues with the service sheets before next year so it does not happen again.

Chris and Anne spent ages sorting out all the service sheets, which are now in the correct boxes for the year.

Anne and Chris were exhausted after all the Christmas service and we need more help with opening and closing the church especially in the dark. A rota has been suggested for next year.

We also need an understudy sacristan to step when Linda is not available.

James Walker kindly donated another microphone and transmitter to improve our sound system.

TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT.

The most time-consuming project this year has been the long awaited first phase of Tower Restoration to remedy the bulging south and west walls.

The List B was granted in June.

"Containment of bulging to the south and west walls of the tower, working in vertical bands to remove outer face and rubble before rebuilding with addition of double needling and propping to transfer vertical load from the string course level to the sound masonry below the bulge. The southwest buttress is to be taken down with the building wall masonry and reconstructed as the walling courses rise with tying to the inner facings. Internal masonry, plasterwork and decoration to be reinstated once rebuilding works are complete.

The methodology for works is as set out in Brian Jones appendix A remedial work and drawing, as agreed with James Northing of Monolith Building & Restoration, who will undertake the work."

Works by Monolith Construction began on the south elevation of the tower on 5 August 2024, the scaffolding having been erected the previous week. To prevent need for Wardens and others to be present throughout the project, James Northing has been loaned a key to the church for access, the rear shed padlock for tools storage and more recently, a key to the tower for access inside.

James Northing has been in close liaison with Brian Jones, Structural Engineer, who is kindly working for us on a 'pro bono' basis. Brian has made two interim inspections of the works in progress on 12th and 15th August. It was found that the effect of the water ingress was less than first thought, but that the bulge was as much to do with a design fault that allowed a slight rotation of inadequately supported string course stone slabs.

This has meant that additional concrete blockwork was required to support the rear of the string course slabs which have been skilfully rotated back to horizontal, at additional time and cost. Resin anchor ties have been installed between the blockwork and the inner skin and stainless-steel ties between inner and outer skins have also been installed. Happily, the structure was more substantial than expected, thus reducing the need for additional concrete reinforcement.

This work to repair the bulge to the south elevation is almost complete and props have now been removed so that they can be re-used during imminent repair work on the west (window) elevation of the tower. Stephen Butler Warden has been liaising frequently with James Northing and has received an additional estimate of £6000 inc VAT for the additional works, which includes a contingency for potential problems that may occur when work commences on the west elevation.

The Chancellor and Stephen Dixon, the MTP architect have been kept informed and has raised no additional concerns.

Work on the west elevation at the beginning of September

Brian Jones visited on the 15th October, when he inspected the work completed so far, including the new and repaired sections of the visors carved by James Northing.

Brian identified a need for some additional a localised dental repair work to the tracery that it would be advantageous to complete while the glass is removed.

An additional List B application has been approved by an emergency online vote of the PCC and the Archdeacon has granted the application.

PCC Resolution by electronic vote 28.10.2024

The MTP PCC is asked to agree to the carrying out of a localised dental repair to the vertical rib and the head of the quatrefoil tracery of the West Window in St John's Church by James Northing (t/a Monolith Building Restoration) at this time, before the glazing is reinstated. The inserts would extend back to the glazing line and to make the necessary List B application to the DAC.

The vote was unanimously in favour for agreeing the work and make the list B application to the DDC. All who voted were in favour (15) there were no objections or abstentions.

Quote from Monolith

Carving of new tracery stone £1,300.00 VAT @ 20% £260.00 TOTAL £1,560.00

James reports that all works, including the carving and installation of the new pieces of tracery stonework should be completed by Wednesday of next week and the scaffolding will be removed by the scaffolding contractor probably at alter date.

Brian Jones also called at St John's out on Friday 1 November to discuss potential next steps to complete phase two of the tower repairs.

The main priorities will be

- To correct the collapsed arch on the north side of the tower.
- To rectify the water ingress into the upper stages of the tower and divert the piping which is a problem
- To contain the movement to the north side by some form of banding. The tower has a 5-inch lean to the north.
- The adequately support the well-structured roof
- To create safe access out onto the roof
- To make the spiral staircase to the tower safe.
- To restore the cock and install a motor (Eric Robinson 01924 2663130 has serviced our clock for many years and is willing to undertake this work).

James was thanked buy everyone for the brilliant way he has restored the bulging walls. Our warden Stephen is to give him a token of our appreciation. James would be happy to meet architect, Stephen Dixon.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to both Brian Jones, Structural Engineer and James Northing, Contactor that the major task of stabilising the lower stage of the tower has now been completed. There is still much more to do but potential disaster of collapse has thankfully been averted.

James completed his work on the tower and we are grateful to the Friends for paying his final invoice of £11,760.00 which included VAT 20% £1,960.00. The total for the whole project was £41,600

He has identified further problems eg collapsing arch, broken louvres, leaking roof and internal access and clock.

James was asked to quote for the minor project to re-plaster the toilet now that he has cured the damp

Quote for plastering toilet. James has quoted £590 +VAT = £708.

Hopefully, the Friends will fund this. Lime plaster is to be used as was originally on the wall but this is more time consuming.

PCC approval is needed before we are able to spend this money.

Action Resolution to PCC

To allow St John's Business Team to instruct James Northing to replace the peeling plaster on the toilet walls with lime plaster at a cost of £708, which will be funded by the Friends.

Following completion of the initial phase of the Tower repair, a working party to clean the church met on Saturday November 16th at 10 a.m. Several members of the community as well as the congregation, did a marvellous job of removing the dust from the pews and floors and everywhere else.

Stephen Dixon wrote to note that the next Quinquennial Inspection is due at St Johns Upper Hopton in 2025. This is an opportunity for the PCC to consider the position of Church Architect and the role going forward.

We decided to appoint Stephen Dixon as our architect,

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Graveyard Headstone survey has been completed on 9th January 2024

Just 2 that rock; the third one has a wooden cross for now. There are 2 or 3 which are leaning but safe.

Notices have been displayed on both notice boards and on the headstones

Paths in Graveyard.

Haigh's Tarmac has been completed the replacement of the leaning concrete slab a cost of £1140, which has been paid by the Friends.

Path to Vestry has now been completely dug out. Thanks to Hopton in Bloom. It was decided to order 3 bags of slate.

The 2 poplar trees which came down in the storm were felled and Lewis also removed the branches of the damaged oak tree. Permission from Kirklees had been granted.

The front and back doors were by Alex Gill after the front door almost fell off. Thanks to the Friends for paying the invoice of £120.

The Annual Boiler Service was completed in April by Dave Dolby

A new post box for the church has been placed on the Stone gatepost to the churchyard nearest Croft House. Royal Mail have been informed.

Anne has one key, and the other key is labelled and kept in the vestry.

Dan Knutton has cleaned the gutters out at a cost of £270.00 invoice paid by the Friends.

The flushing mechanism in the toilet cistern was repaired by Alex Thompson, who came the day after the telephone call, and invoice for £79.00, sent to David.

Lewis Wroe has been to clear the churchyard in preparation for the funeral of the late Charles Kilner. Lewis Wroe's invoice for £280, for the work done earlier in the year, has been paid by the Friends.

Friday November 8th. The 4 DelSol Gas heaters were given their annual service,

Trip hazard and disabled access to meeting room.

To allow wheelchair access to the meeting room, the pew frontal from the first pew on the left side of the nave aisle has been temporarily moved to the tower and replaced by four moveable funeral stools from St Paul's.

Flamstop came to service the fire extinguishers on the 15th December. Certificate has been issued and is on display in the notice board.

Alectrifix came to replace a failed tube lighting in the north aisle and the invoice of £79.20 was paid by the Friends

PAT test Extra electrical items in the loft have been visually inspected and Stephen has added them to the of all appliances to tested this year.

A place to belong Survey for churches for people with extra needs has been completed by Tanya. Tanya guided us through some of the issues raised as the survey was completed and one action was decided To put a five-lever lock on the front porch door as primary access.

Trees Fallen Poplar

Lewis Wroe came promptly to remove the fallen poplar which fell in storm Darragh at 1 pm on December 7th'as it was across the sunray arch and resting on several monuments.

We have Kirklees Planning permission to remove the tree and plant a similar one, birch, in its place. The List B has been granted for the removal of the fallen poplar and the remaining stump,

PROJECTS IN HAND.

Adam Goodyear mentioned that the pointing of the millennium window is starting to fail and whilst the window is secure and the Polycarbonate will keep the rain away it is something that you should consider replacing either in the autumn or spring as both frost and hot weather are detrimental to fresh lime mortar. Frame for Mother's Union Banner

Linda has completed the repairs to the embroidery on the Banner

Toy and resources cupboard Anne Heeley has raised £2063.00 by knitting toys and wishes this to be placed in a restricted fund in the Friends to pay for the cupboard.

Cleaning the Paintings in the Sanctuary

The humidity in the Sanctuary is being monitored and recorded.

Air grates mesh grids to be installed in the spring.

Need to clear all the vegetation growing round the church building.

Replastering toilet. James has quoted £590 +VAT = £708.

Hopefully, the Friends will fund this. Lime plaster is to be used as was originally on the wall but this is more time consuming.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Gill Hawksworth raised £1055 for the Tower fund by doing a sponsored swim.

Linda's Easter Quiz raised £410 for the Tower fund and the Yorkshire Place names quiz raised £626.00

Harvest Quiz on fruit and vegetables drawn on October 30th was won by Judy Green and raised £534.

The Dog Breeds Christmas Quiz, which raised another £345 for the Tower Appeal. Lynda Auty of Lower Hopton won.

The craft group raised £420 on the stall at the Spring Fair for the Mirfield team parish funds.

We raffled Miss Honey Bunny which was made and donated by Anita Green to raise money for the tower.

This will be drawn on Sunday June 2nd.

Tea and cake Afternoon Wednesday June 26th 2-4pm raised £342.20 for the tower fund.
Thanks to Chris for being brave and dying her hair pink. It was a great success and raised £720.
Organ recital Owen and Scott will organise on the Saturday September 28th

UHCA Donated £400 from the profits made at the Prosecco afternoon tea and this will be paid into the Friends.

The organ recital by Scott Senogles on September 21st was a lovely evening enjoyed by all and raised £700 for the tower.

On Tuesday 24th of September we hosted a Macmillan coffee morning organised by Deanne Breare which raised £230.

Tea and cake afternoon on Wednesday October 2nd, raised £168.10 (£87.00 came from the craft group) for MTP funds.

The Christmas coffee/tea and cake afternoon on December 11th was well attended and a really enjoyable community event and raised £263.00 for the tower fund.

THANKS

We are grateful to Rev'd Hugh Baker, Rev'd Helen Butler, Rev'd Graeme Blackwell and retired priest Revd Christine Shedd for ministering to us in Upper Hopton; and to Scott and the choir, our Sacristan Linda and all assistants, readers and sides-people, who contribute to our Sunday worship and to all who have supported us with regular giving.

We are also grateful to the Friends who fund so many of our projects and in particular the £41,600 for the Tower Restoration and to Hopton in Bloom for digging out the churchyard path and for maintaining the churchyard.

We are grateful to all the work our Wardens, Anne and Stephen have carried out this year. -

Chris Breare. Secretary to St John's Business Team

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT – ST PAUL'S CHURCH – Tim Grace

It is with sadness that I have to report that after 143 years, St Paul's church officially closed on 8 September 2024. For a number of years the clergy and business team at St Paul's have undertaken many initiatives to sustain the work of the church. Unfortunately, the financial burden has become untenable. For the last two years the church has been mainly used for community events which provided income to help maintain the building.

To commemorate the 'life and work' at St Paul's church, a celebration was held on 7 September 2024, including an exhibition during the day and a concert in the evening. The concert, titled 'Last night at the proms, Last night at St Paul's', featured performances by the Lindley brass band and opera singer Nicola Mills. This was a great success.

The final service on Sunday 8 September was conducted by the Bishop of Huddersfield, Bishop Smitha, and was attended by a large number of Church and community members. We hope and pray that the new owner will take care of the church and that it will continue to be a valuable asset for the community.

My lasting very happy memory of St Paul's is taking part in the Christingle services surrounded by generations of families who have worshipped at the church for many years.

Tim Grace
Churchwarden
St Paul's, Eastthorpe, Mirfield

BUDGET AND STRATEGY REPORT – Chris Breare

The Budget and Strategy Team consisting of Hugh, Graeme David, Chris, Helen, Peter, Tim and Lauren, met by Zoom at monthly intervals except for March, August and November, to review the financial situation of the Parish at each meeting.

A Forecast Budget was compiled at the beginning of the year aiming to pay £ 64,200 towards our Parish Share and the actual budget reviewed at each meeting, along with the income and expenditure each month for each church. However, by May it became apparent that there was not going to be enough income to maintain this and pay all the other expenditure. As there were no funds in reserve to use, from May to October, only £350 was paid each month and at the end of the year we had paid £30,000.

The income from giving through standing orders, Planned Giving, weekly and gift aid envelopes was £46,172 (in 2023 £46,844).

The establishment of St Mary's Business Team has greatly facilitated the budgeting on the fabric of St Mary's Church following discovery of dry rot in the north aisle, replacing the roof of the south aisle and the storm damage to the organ. The team have appreciated Margaret Richardson's legacy, the remainder of which will go towards funding these projects.

The Fundraising Committee had a fundraising target of £10k per annum and over the year raised a valuable £7,197, thanks to much planning and hard work.

The PCC is grateful for the contribution of £10,000 from the Parish Centre; to those who give regularly by Planned Giving, standing orders and envelopes.

The sad closure of St Paul's in September will have impact on both our expenditure of its upkeep and insurance and our income from the many fundraising activities held there, thanks to Tim.

Following a slight loss of £196 from our excellent Magazine this year, Janice requested donations rather than subscriptions for the coming year.

We must thank David Brooke and Peter King for their excellent accounts and budgets and for keeping us on track and hopefully a better year in 2025.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORT – Kath Crossley

There are two Ministry Teams which help to determine parish vision and planning for the future as well as endeavouring to provide the best possible pastoral care.

Ministry and Mission Team

The team has met three times and was then disbanded as it was to be replaced by another team formed from Action '23. The team shared responsibility for certain areas of the church's life such as future planning, outreach and children's work.

The Pancake party organised by the Blackwells had been very successful and enjoyed by all.

A start was made on making a Prayer station and Lending Library near to the newly position tablet at St Mary's.

A very well-attended Craft group was started at St John's.

Confirmation preparation sessions were held at St Mary's.

House groups:

Were not held, but were replaced by the Book Group meeting at St John's.

Community links and ways of strengthening links between 'fringe' and 'mainstream':

- *Children:* Details are covered under the report of Our Work with Children.
- *Baptisms:* Nineteen baptisms were held with thirteen being at St Mary's and six being at St John's.
- *Healthy walkers:* Healthy walks continued starting in turn from each of the churches.
- *Men's group:* The Men's group had met occasionally.
- *CAP (Christians against Poverty):* This had not been able to progress.
- *Social lunches* Three social lunches were held at the Golf Club.
- *Community groups:* Team members continued to report on other community groups, such as Mirfield in Bloom, so that the Team Parish can inform their members of other services and events in the Team Parish.
- *Junior Singers:* Started again; ten attendees gave a short performance for their parents.
- *Handbell ringers:* This was going well.

Pastoral Team

Members of the Pastoral Team have met six times.

Members of the Pastoral Team have visited members of our congregations in their homes or care homes; support has also been given via phone calls. Chris Shedd and Graeme Blackwell have held monthly services at Royd Court on a Sunday afternoon.

Kath Crossley

OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Revd. Helen Butler

Children's Church – Kath Crossley

Sadly, numbers attending Children's Church at St Mary's have declined, but activities for those who do come are available each week apart from over the school summer holidays when materials are still available for use in the pews. The children work alongside the congregation stressing the importance of their being very much a part of the church family. They enjoy completing crafts, puzzles and colouring which help them to understand the Gospel story each week. They specially enjoy showing and talking about the result of their efforts and gaining praise from the congregation.

Families were welcomed into St Mary's for a workshop at Easter and also a family service at Harvest.

Kath Crossley

Sunday School – Anne Heeley

St John's Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday during the morning service.

The number of children attending varies as the numbers have decreased over the past year.

We share what we do at the end of the service with the congregation which is always enjoyable and always end with a prayer.

Anne

CHOIR SECRETARY'S REPORT – Susan Smith

Choir: 2024 unfortunately saw the decline of membership, the biggest emotional loss for me personally was that of Chris Hargrave who died after a prolonged illness on the 30th July, he had been a member continuously since 1956 and had been my "buddy" when I joined the choir. RIP.

The beginning of the year saw the retirement of Bronwyn Myers due to ill health; she had been a member since November 1999. Both of them had been committed and dedicated members of the choir who are sorely missed by all those who were proud to have had them as their friend and choral colleague.

As the year progressed a consistent level of attendance was increasingly difficult to maintain. It was therefore, proposed by Scott that we sang one service, alternatively at either church, in the hope that this would engender sufficient numbers, to enable us to sing an anthem at that church each week. This unfortunately did not yield the result that he had hoped it would as some members preferred to sing only at their regular place of worship.

The first quarter of 2025 saw further losses, the most major being the resignation of Scott Senogles who had been our Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master for almost 20 years. His move to St Giles, Pontefract, is most assuredly their gain, he goes with our love and best wishes for his future well-being. Following on from Scott's departure, for personal reasons, was that of Denise Cooper who had been a member since January 2006.

The Team Parish Choir continues to attend Choir Practice on a Wednesday evening, as and when their family commitments allow. Occasionally, when attendance levels were sufficient, they would sing the traditional service of Compline. Attendance levels, however, remain stubbornly low which makes it extremely difficult for those planning the musical content of each service and selecting an appropriate anthem. The hymn choice is usually pre-determined, over a 3-year cycle, by the RSCM Sunday by Sunday quarterly publication, the details of which are kept on file.

Organ Recitals:

Continue to be held once a month from March until November, excluding August, and are supported by about forty attendees, the range of compositions performed by these extremely talented organists, who are prepared to travel considerable distances to play on this extraordinary organ always amaze me. Our sincere thanks are extended to all those who support this event such as producing programs and serving the refreshments which are so generously provided by our members.

MJS: Mirfield Junior Singers, led by Scott Senogles and supported by Chris Shedd, met on Wednesday evenings before choir practice. On average eight girls aged between 6 and 11 attended, none of whom had prior connection with church other than a school visit or for their own baptism.

Their most recent performance was an abridged version of "Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat" at which parents/carers were invited to come and listen or to join in. They have joined the adult choir to sing at

St Mary's Carol Service and at a wedding. Also, with some parents they went to "An Introduction to the Opera" at Huddersfield Town Hall.

Choir Vestry & the Organs:

I'm not qualified to comment on the damage that has been inflicted on St Mary's organ following the ingress of water from storm damage to the roof of the choir vestry. It had been obvious for quite some time, when entering the choir vestry and choir stalls, that something would have to be done to remedy the situation in the not-too-distant future. The stone dust that constantly rained down was plain to see, it was as if we were in a permanent snow storm! With regard to the organ at St John's I believe all is well and good, going by the comments Scott had made recently.

Farewell:

As I write this, I am also preparing for my move up to Northumberland, I hope and pray that the Team Parish Choir is able to surmount what I perceive will be a difficult period. May God's blessing be on you all as you navigate the difficulties of developing the Musical Worship for the future ministry to the wider community.

Susan Smith.
27/04/2025

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2024 – Barry Hambling & Ruth King

2024 Annual Report for the Dewsbury and Birstall Deanery Synod

The Synod has held three meetings during 2024 which have been held at various locations. The first of these meetings took place in the new refectory at the Mirfield Centre on the 6th February. As at every meeting of Synod, evening prayers are said and these were led by the Rev Canon Hugh Baker. A presentation was made by Bishop Mark Sowerby, Principal of the Collage of the Resurrection Mirfield and also Dr Janet Williams Vice Principal of St Hild Collage. The Bishop spoke about the training, which is vocational, and ordination training and how it has changed a great deal over the years. As the church has changed so therefore training has had to change. Lay training has very much increased, so the courses for Lay leadership have increased with leadership skills and leading prayer amongst the courses offered. As for ordination training, the courses used to be mainly residential but these days many of the applicants are young and have to work for a living and therefore today the training is mainly part time. Dr Janet Williams than spoke about St Hild's Collage, St Hild's collage was formed about six years ago to replace the Northern Ordination Course. St Hild's organise and operate the ordination and vocational courses at the collage here in Mirfield and the Candidates come mainly from the North, but some come from further afield such as Chester and Peterborough. David Ashton (Lay chair) than gave a brief report on the last General Synod meeting. He said the mood at the meeting was tense due to the intensity of the debate over the "Living in Love and Faith" issues. LLF is about issues such as same sex marriage, blessings for same sex relationships and whether clergy should be able to have same sex relationships. These issues are a very difficult area for the church at this time due to the entrenched views many people hold, he also said the standard of behaviour during the debate was not good.

Other points made by David were that Diocesan Synod elections were due and also Electoral role returns were required. A meeting was held on the 6th June at Thornhill Parish Church, prayers were led by Elaine Wilks, a Reader at Thornhill. The main speaker was Keith White a licensed Lay Minister and also has been a local councillor and a council leader in various places. His theme was "Life in Politics as a Christian" his talk was very interesting and enlightening and also fully engaged the audience. He shared his way of adhering to his faith in a world where tribalism rules and results matter are seen as more important than ideals. A lack of integrity is commonplace is in all parties; he tried to hold people to account for their actions. He also tried to "Turn down the heat" by remembering that we have more in common than divides

us. Finally, he talked about our electoral system and stressed the need to build a system that reflects the Kingdom of God. Many questions were asked during his talk. Diocesan Synod minutes were circulated and the results of the elections for Synod were announced. It was noted that all Deanery Stipendiary positions were now filled. The meeting closed with the Grace.

Our final meeting was held on the 10th October at St John's church Carlinghow.

After opening the meeting, the Rural Dean asked the Vicar of St John's Father Jay to talk about the church and also conduct a full Eucharist service for the Synod. The Eucharist was carried out in the Anglo Catholic style of worship and was followed by the clergy and laity holding separate meetings in each end of the church. The main purpose of the separate meetings was to elect one laity member for the diocesan synod and one clergy member for the diocesan synod.

Elaine Wilkes (Thornhill) was elected as the laity representative and the Rev Debbie Nash was elected as the clergy representative.

There was also a vacancy for a laity member on the Episcopal Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and after a secret ballot Ian Grange (Battyford) was elected.

After the elections the Rural Dean Hugh Baker gave a report on the Pilgrimage to Taizé which he and his wife Janet had been on. The Pilgrimage was led by Bishop Smitha; Hugh said we all know about the Taizé chants but what is it like in practice? He went on to say that although they had enjoyed the visit Taizé was geared up mainly for younger people. Taizé was a small village in central France and had a small church. The Monastery started from small beginnings after World War two and had grown ever since. At its height (Before Covid) it had about three thousand pilgrims a week but since Covid it was now about two thousand a week. Taizé is now a large site and the church can hold about three thousand people, another trip is hopefully being organised for 2025. Minutes from the previous meeting at Thornhill were passed as correct; a report from General Synod was also given and accepted. David Ashton thanked St Johns for hosting the meeting and also Father Jay for conducting the service. Father Jay gave the blessing and the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Barry Hambling and Ruth King

(Deanery Synod Representatives)

DISABILITY REPORT – Tanya Bintcliffe

I would like to thank both churches for their support in supporting the processes that enable our Team Parish becoming more accessible and communicating initiatives at Diocesan and National level, as well as third sector organisations in relation to disability in our Team Parish. In addition, to relevant legislation such as the Equality Act 2012 implementing reasonable adjustments. Thus, affirming diversity of humanity, that, "God created humankind in his image, in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27), being implemented and discerned in the spirit of The Faith and the gospel lived out in the everyday.

What has been achieved:

- 'A place to belong' the accessibility audits that has been completed as part of the process for accessibility for both churches.
- Large print liturgy is visible and available.
- The disability officer attends pastoral care meetings.
- The mat at the front of St John's has been removed as people with walkers are struggling navigating it.
- To allow wheelchair access to the meeting room at St John's, the pew frontal from the first pew on the left side of the nave aisle has been temporarily moved to the tower and replaced by four moveable funeral stools from St Paul's.

Going Forward:

- Securing funding for lighting works to be undertaken at St Mary's
- Large print hymn books.
- Awaiting a lock put on the main South door so we can lock and unlock the church without having to use the steps at the back.

In conclusion:

Areas that have been identified in the 'place to belong' have been actioned to meet the needs of the current congregation as well as being anticipatory for future needs. It is important to recognise, although our building can have some limitations, these can be mitigated by creative solutions and the universalism preached in the gospel, that we are called to "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John: 13.34); and that 'we one in Christ Jesus.'" (Gal. 3:28).

Tanya Bintcliffe

Disability officer

MODERATOR'S REPORT FROM THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MIRFIELD AND DISTRICT – Chris Breare

Report Churches TOGETHER in Mirfield for APCM

Reports:

a) Moderator:

Philip Cooper gave his report.

I took on the position of Moderator, in May, after the previous Moderator, Pastor Adrian Roberts, stood down in April, 2024. We are grateful to Adrian and the work he did during his time as Moderator. He became Moderator in January, 2023. We are sorry that, at this present time, Zion Baptist Church has withdrawn from the group. We hope that, in the future, the church will, once again, become an active member. At our Leadership Meeting, in May, I was elected Moderator and Ian Wilson was elected Deputy Moderator. It is hoped to co-opt a new Treasurer, when a volunteer comes forward.

Welcomes & Goodbyes:

We have welcomed the following new people onto the Leadership Team: -

Rev Dr David Barker, a Methodist Minister, who has taken charge of St Andrew's Methodist Church & Trinity Methodist Church, as well as being responsible for Batley Central & Long Causeway Dewsbury Methodist churches.

Majors Andy & Val Spivey from Mirfield Salvation Army.

And we have said goodbye to the following people:

Andrea Still (Mirfield Salvation Army)

Sheena Grills (Mirfield Salvation Army)

Al Henry (Methodist Church)

Erik Peeters (C of E - Christ the King)

Finance

At our Leadership Meeting, in November, it was agreed that the Matrix money, held in our bank account, would be given to three charities. The Matrix money amounts to £9,760.62. It was agreed that £2,000 would be given to the Bubble Church; £1,000 would be given to Crowlees C of E School, to develop their

Forest School; and the remaining balance of £6,760.62 would be given to Kirklees Community Hub. The Bubble Church and the Forest School are MTP projects.

Facebook Page

Due to unwelcome contributions to the site, our Facebook Page has now been made a members only page.

Events & Activities

On 21st January, Zion Baptist Church hosted our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, followed by their Pastor Adrian Roberts, conducted the service, gave the sermon and chaired the AGM.

On 1st March, the World Day of Prayer Service took place, at the Salvation Army. We are grateful to Antonia Baldwin and those who organised and took part in the service. The material for the service had been prepared by women in Palestine. The service was particularly moving, in the light of the conflict in Palestine at the time. The service was well attended. The collection at the service amounted to £240.10, almost twice the amount last year, and went to support projects both abroad and in the UK.

On 29th March, Good Friday, we held a Walk of Witness. This began at 1pm, from Royd Court, and finished at St Paul's C of E, where we shared in the Last Hour Service. We stopped at various places en route, for short acts of devotion. Hot cross buns were distributed to members of the public along the way.

Two Easter banners were placed in the town centre.

During Christian Aid Week, on 17th May, from 9am to 5pm, we collected money for Christian Aid, at the Mirfield Co-op store. The collection raised £463.23. All churches received posters and some churches received envelopes to distribute. Wellhouse Moravian Church organised a Christian Aid Lunch on 14th May.

We were represented at the event to mark Remembrance Sunday, in the centre of Mirfield, and we laid a wreath.

Some of the churches in the group have been able to support Focus for Hope, which collects warm clothing, sleeping bags, etc. for homeless people. Donations for the Rainbow Baby Bank, in Heckmondwike, which accepts used baby things, were, also, collected as part of this initiative. This involved a 12 Days of Christmas event, with some churches in the group taking responsibility for certain days.

On 14th December, we held a Christmas Carol Service, outside Mirfield Library. We are grateful to Revd Hugh Baker, and all those helped and took part.

The Easter and Christmas services of all the churches were advertised in the Mirfield magazine – the Mirfield Word.

Conclusion

There are many other elements of our work that could be mentioned in this report. I could mention Warm Spaces, the Shoe Box Appeal or the distribution of the knitted angels. Again, I could mention the meetings that our Secretary, other members of the group and I have attended on behalf of the group.

Quite clearly, Churches Together in Mirfield & District is a very activity group, seeking to further the work of God's kingdom and share the love of Christ in a multitude of ways. As we share in this work, together, we proclaim, in word and deed, the message of love, reconciliation, peace and unity that Christ came into the world to share with all people.

Revd Philip Cooper
January, 2025

Christine Breare said she had occasion to speak to Zion's secretary Eric Freeman, and told him that Zion would be very welcome to re-join us.

Christine Sykes moved a vote of thanks to Philip Cooper for stepping into the breach last Easter and for fulfilling the role of Moderator so well.

b) Treasurer:

Ian Wilson said that when the last paid Youth Worker resigned several years ago, Matrix was run by volunteers; then closed down altogether before Lockdown. Since then, £9,760.62 had been held in the Matrix account. A decision to spend it was made; and as a result, £2,000 was paid to Mirfield Team Parish for their Bubble Church, £1,000 to the Forest Chapel at Crowlees School and £6,760.62 given to The Mirfield Youth Hub administered by Kirklees. The balance in the bank is £926.37. HSBC seem to have re-opened the account, but are still charging a monthly fee for administering it. After a discussion, Richard Bland proposed that the account be closed, Christine Sykes seconded, and the meeting agreed unanimously. Meanwhile the CTMD money will be held in Trinity's bank account under a separate tab. The Moderator thanked the Treasurer for his efforts

c) Press Officer: Christine Sykes said that individual church activities have been circulated, posters made for CTMD events and the Facebook page facilitated. There has been no necessity to contact the local press. There is a vacancy for this post

d) Christian Aid: Christine Sykes said that Christian Aid Week 2024 was 12th to 18th May: Mirfield Co-op was thanked for letting us have a store collection which amounted to £463.23. The grand total collected was £1,166.32, with church envelopes and a meal. Each church has been notified of its collections. This was a little more than last year. Well done everyone. This year's Christian Aid week is 11th to 17th May

Confirmation of Appointments:

As is the custom, the Moderator & Deputy's appointments cover two years.

The Secretary took the chair whilst it was confirmed that Philip Cooper would serve year one of two, and Ian Wilson would deputise for the same period.

Appointment of Officers:

a) Secretary: Christine Sykes proposed by Philip Cooper, seconded by Kenneth Evans, and re-appointed unopposed.

b) Treasurer: Ian Wilson proposed by Christine Sykes, seconded by Philip Cooper, and re-appointed unopposed.

c) Publicity Officer: No nominations. Christine Sykes agreed to continue covering the post until the next meeting when it was hoped that one of the team would take on the role.

The Moderator thanked everyone who had made a contribution during the last year

Any Other Business:

- Antonia Baldwin said that The World Day of Prayer Service would be at the Salvation Army on Friday 7th March at 2pm. This has been prepared by the people of the Cook Islands. Kenneth Evans said that the Moravian Church rep had been very ill, thus the reason for her absence at the recent planning meeting. He asked if men could be on the team as well as attending the services, and was told they could.
- The green hearts to be issued on Valentine's Day will be tagged at Trinity on Monday 10th February at 2pm.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH Upper Hopton – Chris Breare

Financial Report

John confirmed that the funds were at £102,000 before the tower project began and had since decreased to £69,000.

The order in which works will be done was discussed, agreeing that there was little point in commencing any cleaning work (e.g. on the paintings) until any building work that would create a mess was completed and the West window reinstalled.

There is also likely to be a need to include more ventilation to reduce the damp levels in church. No further details at this time but support for this may be requested from The Friends.

The walls of the toilet require re-plastering due to water ingress higher up. This will cost £708 and The Friends are being asked to fund this. Funding this was agreed unanimously.

There is an outstanding bill for tree work from Lewis Wroe, likely to be in the region of £2,000.

There have been donations made to the Friends for churchyard upkeep, so the Friends should pay this.

There is still another tree to fell to add to the bill.

If the invoice is less than £2,000, treasurer will pay. If it is more than £2,000, then a proposal by email will be circulated for discussion and approval.

We don't yet know how much money will be requested from the Friends by the PCC for supporting the work on the tower so we are unable to allocate any further funds to other projects at this time as the tower is the primary priority.

Chris will send out membership forms to get funds from members' subscriptions. There were some new members last year. The membership year was previously thought to run from AGM to AGM, but it was considered that membership is more easily tracked when done by calendar year.

The Hon Secretary's Report

This year has been a busy year for the Friends, St John's church and our Community, all coming together to raise funds for the Tower Repair, which after a really wet winter and spring was at a critical stage, with increased bulging in the West and South walls.

In June, the Archdeacon granted the List B application, for the repair of the bulges in the South and West walls. A new quote of £30,000 from James Northing in relation to the amended method and extent of works was approved by the PCC. We are extremely grateful to Brian Jones, Structural Engineer, who has offered his services to oversee the project, free of charge but with reimbursement of his expenses. Brian has been involved in surveys of the tower since 2020. All expressed delight that the work is going ahead at last. The total cost of the tower repair was £46,700.

The St John's business team and MTP PCC are grateful that the following essential work in the church has been funded by the Friends.

Alectrifix came to replace a failed tube lighting in the north aisle and the invoice of £79.20 was paid by the Friends

Following months of continuous rain, both the main church door and the vestry door became swollen and difficult to open. An emergency arose on Sunday morning February 11th, when the main door and frame became detached and had to be propped open. We are grateful to the Friends for paying the invoice of £120 to repair both of them.

Churchyard The PCC approved the felling of the two stricken poplar trees which came down in Storm Isha on January 21/22 2024 and any work to the damaged oak tree into which they fell as directed by

Kirklees Tree Officer and to engage Lewis Wroe, Tree Surgeon, to carry out the work to be funded by the Friends. (The poplars fell into the oak tree)
All three trees have TPOs on them. We have yet to receive the invoice.

Paths in Churchyard.

D M Haigh's completed the removal of the sloping concrete slab and constructed a replacement one with a non-slip surface at a cost of a cost of £1140, and the PCC are very grateful that this has been paid for by the Friends.

Path to Vicar's Vestry was been completely dug out by members of Hopton in Bloom. We discussed what type of aggregate to lay on it. It was decided to order 3 bags of slate, at a cost of £316.80 and this invoice has been sent to the MTP treasurer.

Lewis has also worked hard with regular gardening and grass cutting and has sent an invoice for June 2024 for £280.

Fundraising

- Linda composed and sold Chocolate Quiz sheets, which was drawn on Easter Sunday and raised £410 for the Tower fund.
- Linda compiled another Yorkshire place names quiz, which was drawn on Sunday August 4th, and raised £626.
- Gill Hawsworth completed her sponsored swim and raised £1055 for the tower appeal.
- Sales of Helen's Jams and Honey have raised valuable funds for our Tower fund.
- John McMullan and Hugh has completed their sponsored walk and raised £120 for the tower appeal. This has been paid into the MTP restricted fund for St John's Tower.
- Chris has raised £720 by dyeing her hair pink for the tower appeal.
- Tea and Cake Afternoon June 26th. Raised £342.20. This has been paid into the MTP restricted fund for St John's Tower.
- Organ recital on September 21st by Scott was a lovely evening enjoyed by all and raised £700 for the tower. Thanks to Owen for sponsoring the programmes, publicity and tickets and to those who provided the food and the wine.
- ❖ The Christmas coffee afternoon on December 11th was well attended and a really enjoyable community event and raised £263.00 for the tower fund.

Membership.

At present, we have 61 active members of the Friends with several new members being recruited this year.

Future projects

- ❖ Mother's Union Banner.
 - ❖ The cleaning of the paintings is ongoing as is the construction of a toy and resources cupboard.
- The council of Friends met on 4 occasions this year.

The Friends are grateful to all the members who subscribe regularly and support our beautiful church building.

Officers and Members of the Council for 2024 – 2025,

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Sue Young |
| Vice President | Colin Ryder |
| Chairman | Rev Hugh Baker |
| Hon Secretary | Owen Ryder |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hon Treasurer | Mr John McMullan |
| Assistant Secretary + Membership Sec | Chris Breare. |
| Wardens | Anne Heeley |
| Wardens | Stephen Butler |
| Members of the Council | |
| | Mike Hewson until 2027 |
| | Linda Hutchinson Until 2026 |
| | Julie McMullan Until 2026 |
| | John Sykes until 2025 |
| | Tim Grace until 2025 |
| | Sue Auckland until 2025 |

Election of Auditor

David Brooke was proposed by John McMullan, seconded by Mike and all voted in favour. We discussed whether David Brook is an independent Auditor as he is MTP Treasurer.

Chris Breare Assistant Secretary.

CROFT HOUSE ROOMS CHARITY – Roger Leedham

January to December 2024

At the formation of the Team Parish in 2007 a document was drawn up to ensure Croft House continues to be managed effectively, and the new PCC proposed that the Managing Trustees of Croft House Rooms Charity be the Croft House Rooms Management Committee, the eight members of which are determined as follows:

1. The two Wardens of St John's shall be members.
2. Four UHCA members which includes the Treasurer of the UHCA. Two UHCA members are elected on alternate years, and each serve for two years.
3. The PCC of the Mirfield Team Parish shall elect two representatives.

A quorum for any meeting shall comprise two members representing the UHCA, two representing the PCC and one other member.

The Management Committee of Croft House Rooms Charity, the Managing Trustees, is responsible for letting the Rooms and for the recurrent expenditure involved in running the Rooms. The UHCA have free tenure of the Rooms and are responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds and for capital expenditure.

The membership of the Management Committee of Croft House Rooms Charity is as follows:

1. Christine Breare - co-opted as Chair (Trustee)
2. Anne Heeley - elected Church Warden by PCC
3. Stephen Butler - elected Church Warden by PCC
4. Sue Young - elected by PCC.
5. Sue Auckland - elected by PCC.
6. Roger Leedham - (Secretary) (Trustee) UHCA
7. Kathryn Cockerill - Treasurer of UHCA
8. Gail Auty - (Trustee) elected by UHCA.
9. Joan Hemmingway - (Trustee) elected by UHCA.
10. Andrea Leedham - co-opted as Booking Secretary
11. Peter Crane - co-opted as Treasurer.

The impact of the energy costs has reduced in 2024 but still remain at a high level. The energy costs were reviewed at the CHRMC meeting as well as other running costs on the 9 January 2024, and a decision was made to make some minor reductions but maintain the majority of the 2023 the charge rates for room hire at Croft House.

The accounts for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024, were approved at the committee meeting in January 2025. These showed an income of £16,281 against an expenditure of £13,271. Included in this expenditure was a donation of £5777 to the UHCA to help with essential maintenance and regular safety related costs. (It was agreed that it was more appropriate that CHRMC should pay the regular safety related costs of £777).

The opening cash balance on the 1 September 2023 was £26,722, and the closing balance on 31 August 2024 was £29,732. Details of the accounts were submitted to the Charity Commission in April 2025.

Croft House maintenance carried out in 2024:

- Bollard lighting was installed in the Croft House car park
- New garage doors installed on the Pre-School storage facility
- Regular safety checks such as gas, Portable Appliance Testing and fire equipment.
- Refurbishment and cleaning of Croft House roof.
- Replacement of external lighting.
- Resurfacing of two footpaths leading from the Croft House car park.

On the 8 November 2024 updated versions of the Croft House 'Health & Safety Policy' and 'Fire Risk Assessment' were issued.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HERITAGE SITE – Helen Walker

Following a committee meeting in March 2024, it was decided that the Friends of St Mary's Community Heritage Site (FSMCHS) Group Mirfield would be disbanded. This is due to the resignation of committee members and the lack of interest in the group. The group is not registered as a Charitable Organisation. Donations with Gift Aid to the group has been dealt with by the church treasurer under the church's charitable status.

The Friends group was established in 2012 with the primary goal of supporting St Mary's Community Heritage site. Their efforts focused on the maintenance of Castle Hall Hill, the medieval motte and bailey, as well as fundraising for the reconstruction of the collapsed Dunbottle Lane church wall. Over the years, the group organised archaeological summer digs on site, historical talks, graveyard tidy days, installed information boards, and hosted annual Heritage Open Days to showcase the bell tower, roof, and church artefacts. They also produced history booklets and a DVD (developed by Frances Stott) highlighting the church's history and its connection to historical figures and the graveyard.

The group received generous donations from members and the public, with many individuals volunteering their time and skills to maintain the site. The collapsed Dunbottle Lane wall was successfully rebuilt in the summer of 2023 at a cost exceeding £40,000, funded through donations, fundraising efforts, and a substantial legacy. The rebuilt wall now offers a view of Castle Hall Hill from the roadside. Additionally, the group planted native daffodils on the Hill, allowing people to buy bulbs in memory of loved ones, leading to a beautiful display every early spring as the daffodils naturalise.

As stated in the group's constitution, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be organised this year to finalise the decision for closure. Approximately £400 remains in the FSMCHS bank account. A New group called Friends of St Mary's Mirfield is currently being established (overseen by St Mary's Business Team),

with a mandate similar to that of FSMCHS. According to the FSMCHS constitution, the funds will be transferred to the new group.

Helen Walker
Secretary

Steve Bell
Chairman

Lauren Montgomery-Bell
Treasurer

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – Lauren Montgomery-Bell

St Mary's Community Centre Report 2025:

St Mary's Community Centre continues to provide the church and the community with a comfortable space for events and weekly classes.

We continue to be the home of:

- Pre school
- Two Pilates groups
- Yoga
- Dog training classes
- Baby massage
- Brownies, Rainbows and Guides
- Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Painting classes
- Karate
- Dancing schools
- Ballroom dancing classes
- Church Pantomime
- Mirfield in Boom
- Men's Probus
- Saturday Friendship group
- Crochet Group
- Pop up shops
- Church Fundraising/ Church meetings
- Crochet group.
- Postnatal baby Yoga
- Prenatal baby yoga
- Hand Bell ringers
- Power hoops
- Painting Classes

New Groups:

- 2 Tai Chi classes
- Meditation and wellbeing classes
- Sewing classes
- Pop up Shops
- Fundraising Quizzes

- Baby Bloomers Classes

If anyone would like more information on any of the groups, all the information and contact details can be found at the back of the Parish Magazine.

Lost Groups:

- No Lost Classes

Improvements made this year:

- ❖ New flooring in the meeting room
- ❖ Decorations in both meeting rooms, large hall, and corridor areas
- ❖ Areas of plumbing, new radiators and new water boilers replaced. Thermostatic valves added to all radiators.
- ❖ Pantomime committee have added a new costume storage Area in the hall car park.

Planned improvements:

- ❖ New flooring to the small hall, and wall decorating.

Regular maintenance:

- Fire procedures/ and testing.
- Risk assessments.
- Maintenance of 5 starts rating in both kitchen areas.

Going forward

We need to continue updating the centre, so we can offer quality facilities to our ever-growing user groups.

The Hall Management Team

ECO CHURCH – Tanya Bintcliffe

Since the meeting on 'Mission 25' the PCC have been exploring the five missions of the church in relation to the work of the PCC. The relevance of this aspect of mission is a continual theme throughout scripture, developed within doctrine of the church and emerging scientific research.

- God calls us to care for creation, which in virtue of being created by God is both intrinsically and instrumentally 'good': *'God took man and placed him in the garden of Eden to till and tend to it' Gen 2:15. Adam's mission indicated in Genesis is one of not just agricultural tasks but also to one of tending (protecting) creation. (Bergsman and Pitre, 1997).*
- In the Gospel Jesus often used natural world as a metaphor of God's kingdom and faith, in his ministry, for example in Luke's Gospel in the parable of the fig tree. Where Jesus says to the *man 'Let it alone, sir this year, also dig and till about it and put on manure'. Luke 13:8.*
- Nature in its abundance, reveals God's good and universal providence in all things, *'for if we trust the superlative wisdom and truth of scripture, the things of God are revealed to each mind in proportion and capacity...divine goodness.... [and] out of concern for our salvation' Pseudo Dionysius.*

I would like to take the opportunity to thank clergy, churchwardens and all who have helped in making headway on the surveys for Eco Church. As our team parish is conscious of the need to care for the natural environment we have come together: -

- St John's has just achieved 'Silver Eco Church Award'.
- St Mary's is on the way as the survey is in the process of being completed.

Caring for the natural world is one of the five missions of the church, *'The earth is the Lord's and all that it holds, the world and its inhabitants'* Psalm 24:1: -

Within our grounds: -

- Chris Barker and the graveyard crew at St Mary's the care and maintenance of our church and graveyard.
- Helen Walker St Mary's Community and Heritage site, providing information on the site and the wildlife in residence and can be appreciated by visitors.
- The friends of St John's in their contribution in caring for the grave yard at St John's.

In the wider community: -

- Chris Breare with Churches Together in Mirfield distributed 'green hearts' to raise awareness for the care of the environment.
- Ruth Edwards BEM in her work with Mirfield in Bloom and raising awareness with school children on the care and appreciation of the natural world.

Going forward:

- To complete the survey for St Mary's for a Silver Award.
- Ordering wooden plaque for St John's at Upper Hopton to be displayed.
- For the lighting to be assessed at St Mary's to be upgraded making use of Bishop Development Fund grant for energy efficiency.

Tanya Bintliffe BA (Hons) Phil and Psych. MPhil

PANTOMIME COMMITTEE – Laura Brown



8TH MIRFIELD SCOUT GROUP – Chris Wilding

2ND & 14TH MIRFIELD BROWNIES – Tracey Riley.

2ND & 3RD MIRFIELD RAINBOWS – Wendy Banks

2024 saw a year full of fun and laughter as well as achieving lots of badges.

In February we went with the rest of Mirfield Guiding to the Mirfield Parish Pantomime to see Cinderella. and we had a fun filled night. We also celebrated Chinese New Year and as well as trying Chinese food we filled the guiding notice board with a Chinese dragon made from the girl's hand shapes.

We enjoyed a visit to Mirfield Library to help complete our Book lover badge.

In April we spent a night looking at amazing women with a night celebrating Amelia Earhart and the girls got the chance to play various games with planes as well as dress in aviation clothing.

In July, we did a 'Faith, trust and fairy dust' badge where the girls got to do Fairy themed activities as well as learn about friendship and teamwork. We completed the badge with a fairy fancy dress party.

In September, we enjoyed a Cheer leader evening and as we met on November the 11th the girls created fingerprint Poppy Pictures on canvases to cover the notice board.

We finished the year with a traditional Christmas Party and the girls were lucky enough to get a visit from Santa Claus.

2ND MIRFIELD GUIDES – Wendy Banks

In 2024, we have continued following the Guides programme and girls have been working on their Have Adventures theme.

- We went to St Mary's Parish Pantomime again to see Cinderella with other guiding groups in Mirfield, which the girls loved.
- We visited Bradley Woods to go on the climbing wall for an evening. We also had another night there where we cooked on open fires and did games in the outdoors.

In the summer:

- we went ten pin bowling to end the term.
- We enjoyed a train journey to Brighouse as part of the Navigator interest badge.
- One of our girls achieved her Gold award which is the highest award in guides and we had a party for her to celebrate.

At Christmas we went roller blading for our end of year party.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

| | <u>Notes</u> | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Restricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Total 2024</u> £ | <u>Total 2023</u> £ |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u> | | | | | |
| Voluntary Income | 2 | 86,106 | 44,671 | 130,777 | 130,653 |
| Activities for Generating Funds | 3 | 70,079 | 37,969 | 108,048 | 76,105 |
| Investment Income | 4 | 1,499 | 66 | 1,565 | 3,373 |
| Other Incoming Resources | 5 | - | - | - | 12,755 |
| <u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u> | | <u>157,684</u> | <u>82,706</u> | <u>240,390</u> | <u>222,886</u> |
| <u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u> | | | | | |
| Fundraising Costs | 6 | - | 23,318 | 23,318 | 8,655 |
| Charitable Activities | 7 | 95,451 | 220,481 | 315,932 | 193,391 |
| Governance Costs | 8 | 39,805 | 203 | 40,008 | 72,733 |
| <u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u> | | <u>135,256</u> | <u>244,002</u> | <u>379,258</u> | <u>274,779</u> |
| <u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</u> | | 22,428 | (161,296) | (138,868) | (51,893) |
| <u>TRANSFERS</u> | | | | | |
| Gross Transfers Between Funds | | 38,369 | (38,369) | - | - |
| <u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS</u> | | 60,797 | (199,665) | (138,868) | (51,893) |
| <u>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS (LOSSES)</u> | | | | | |
| Gain(Loss) on Investment Assets | 11 | - | 46 | 46 | 85 |
| <u>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS</u> | | 60,797 | (199,619) | (138,822) | (51,808) |
| <u>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</u> | | | | | |
| Total Funds at 1st January 2024 | | 55,472 | 419,225 | 474,697 | 526,505 |
| <u>Total Funds at 31st December 2024</u> | | <u>116,269</u> | <u>219,606</u> | <u>335,875</u> | <u>474,697</u> |

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

| | <u>Notes</u> | <u>2024</u> £ | <u>2023</u> £ |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | | | |
| Investments | 12 | 1,616 | 1,530 |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | | |
| Debtors | 13 | 9,735 | 14,317 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | | 326,908 | 462,650 |
| | | <u>336,643</u> | <u>476,967</u> |
| CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year | 14 | <u>(2,384)</u> | <u>(3,800)</u> |
| <u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | <u>334,259</u> | <u>473,167</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> | | <u>335,875</u> | <u>474,697</u> |
| CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year | | - | - |
| | | <u><u>335,875</u></u> | <u><u>474,697</u></u> |
| <u>The Funds of the Charity:</u> | | | |
| <u>RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</u> | 16 | 219,606 | 419,225 |
| <u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u> | | | |
| General Funds | 16 | 116,269 | 55,472 |
| | | <u>116,269</u> | <u>55,472</u> |
| | | <u><u>335,875</u></u> | <u><u>474,697</u></u> |

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

| <u>2. VOLUNTARY INCOME</u> | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | <u>Restricted Funds</u> | <u>Total 2024</u> | <u>Total 2023</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Gifts, Donations and Legacies | 10,016 | 44,106 | 54,122 | 33,461 |
| Gift Aid and Planned Giving | 46,173 | 360 | 46,533 | 58,926 |
| Income Tax Recoverable | 12,234 | 90 | 12,324 | 15,580 |
| Collections | 6,027 | - | 6,027 | 6,868 |
| Fees, etc | 11,656 | 115 | 11,771 | 15,818 |
| | 86,106 | 44,671 | 130,777 | 130,653 |

| <u>3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS</u> | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | <u>Restricted Funds</u> | <u>Total 2024</u> | <u>Total 2023</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund-raising | 7,197 | 3,558 | 10,755 | 4,648 |
| St Paul's Events | 4,886 | - | 4,886 | 4,928 |
| Parish Centre and Room Hire | 49,596 | - | 49,596 | 43,834 |
| Flat Rent | 7,400 | - | 7,400 | 6,800 |
| Pantomime (including Grants) | - | 26,828 | 26,828 | 13,380 |
| Parish Centre Donations and Grants | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 2,515 |
| Contribution for Outreach | - | 7,583 | 7,583 | - |
| | 70,079 | 37,969 | 108,048 | 76,105 |

| <u>4. INVESTMENT INCOME</u> | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | <u>Restricted Funds</u> | <u>Total 2024</u> | <u>Total 2023</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Bank and Building Society Interest | 1,499 | 25 | 1,524 | 3,340 |
| Dividends Received | - | 40 | 40 | 33 |
| | 1,499 | 66 | 1,565 | 3,373 |

| <u>5. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</u> | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | <u>Restricted Funds</u> | <u>Total 2024</u> | <u>Total 2023</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Insurance Claims | - | - | - | 12,755 |
| Energy Grant | - | - | - | - |
| VAT Claim | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | 12,755 |

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

| <u>6. FUNDRAISING COSTS</u> | Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Restricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Total <u>2024</u> £ | Total <u>2023</u> £ |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sundry Events | - | - | - | - |
| Pantomime (including Storage Container) | - | 23,318 | 23,318 | 8,655 |
| | - | 23,318 | 23,318 | 8,655 |

| <u>7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</u> | Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Restricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Total <u>2024</u> £ | Total <u>2023</u> £ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Upkeep of Services | 9,032 | 420 | 9,452 | 9,839 |
| Church Running Expenses | 36,736 | - | 36,736 | 33,049 |
| Church Maintenance | 3,137 | 11,589 | 14,726 | 2,687 |
| Charities | 774 | - | 774 | 444 |
| Parish Centre Expenses | 44,522 | - | 44,522 | 31,365 |
| Flat Expenses | 350 | - | 350 | 759 |
| Repairs (SM) | - | 199,164 | 199,164 | 8,406 |
| Organ Repairs (SM) | - | 1,725 | 1,725 | 1,304 |
| Audio System (SM) | - | - | - | 6,859 |
| Tablet Relocation (SM) | - | - | - | 11,982 |
| Dunbottle Wall Repairs | - | - | - | 42,281 |
| Stocks Wall Repairs | - | - | - | 12,395 |
| CCTV and Nest (SM) | - | - | - | 2,741 |
| Car Park Resurfacing | 900 | - | 900 | 29,280 |
| Church Outreach | - | 7,583 | 7,583 | - |
| | 95,451 | 220,481 | 315,932 | 193,391 |

| <u>8. GOVERNANCE COSTS</u> | Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Restricted <u>Funds</u> £ | Total <u>2024</u> £ | Total <u>2023</u> £ |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Parish Share | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 64,200 |
| Clergy Costs | 1,021 | - | 1,021 | 595 |
| Administration Costs | 8,784 | 203 | 8,987 | 7,938 |
| | 39,805 | 203 | 40,008 | 72,733 |

| <u>9. STAFF COSTS</u> | <u>2024</u> £ | <u>2023</u> £ |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Musical Director | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Office | 3,180 | 2,834 |
| | 9,180 | 8,834 |

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.
The Musical Director and Office Staff are engaged on a self-employed basis.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

10. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

The PCC hold an endowment property at Church House, Church Lane, Mirfield, it consists of a first floor flat and a ground floor meeting room, office and storage. There are also small and large halls. The property has an insurance value of over £1,000,000.

**11. GAIN (LOSS) ON
INVESTMENT ASSETS**

Gain (Loss) on investments from:
Change in Market Value
Disposals

| Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| - | 46 | 46 | 85 |
| - | - | - | - |
| - | 46 | 46 | 85 |

12. INVESTMENTS

All the investments are quoted investments listed on a recognised stock exchange.
All the investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the charity.

| | <u>2024</u> £ | <u>2023</u> £ |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Market Value at 1st January 2024 | 1,530 | 1,412 |
| Additions at Cost | 40 | 33 |
| Disposals | - | - |
| Gain (loss) on Investment Assets | 46 | 85 |
| <u>Market Value at 31st December 2024</u> | <u>1,616</u> | <u>1,530</u> |

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

13. DEBTORS

| | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income Tax Recoverable | 9,735 | 13,433 |
| Prepayments | - | 884 |
| | <u>9,735</u> | <u>14,317</u> |

14. CREDITORS

| | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and Deferred Income | 2,384 | 3,800 |
| | <u>2,384</u> | <u>3,800</u> |

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS
BETWEEN FUNDS

| | <u>General</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Investments | - | 1,616 | 1,616 |
| Current Assets | 118,653 | 217,990 | 336,643 |
| Current Liabilities | (2,384) | - | (2,384) |
| <u>Net Assets at 31st December 2024</u> | <u>116,269</u> | <u>219,606</u> | <u>335,875</u> |

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

| | At 1st Jan 2024 | Incoming Resources | Outgoing Resources | Transfers | Gains and Losses | At 31st Dec 2024 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Restricted Funds</u> | | | | | | |
| Choir Guild | 5,529 | 775 | (623) | - | 46 | 5,727 |
| Bells | 1,243 | 125 | - | - | - | 1,368 |
| Charity | 408 | - | - | - | - | 408 |
| Pantomime | 13,463 | 26,828 | (23,318) | - | - | 16,973 |
| Richardson Legacy | 388,076 | 3,584 | (13,314) | (300,000) | - | 78,346 |
| SM Business Team | - | 500 | (199,164) | 305,870 | - | 107,206 |
| Flags (St Mary's) | 5,870 | - | - | (5,870) | - | - |
| St John's Tower | 4,118 | 1,627 | - | - | - | 5,745 |
| Tablet at St Mary's | 518 | - | - | - | - | 518 |
| St Paul's Cinerarium | - | 315 | - | - | - | 315 |
| Legacies (MTP) | - | 38,369 | - | (38,369) | - | - |
| Bubble Church | - | 2,000 | - | - | - | 2,000 |
| Crowlees School | - | 1,000 | - | - | - | 1,000 |
| Church Outreach | - | 7,583 | (7,583) | - | - | - |
| | 419,225 | 82,706 | (244,002) | (38,369) | 46 | 219,606 |
| <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | | | | | | |
| General Funds | 55,472 | 157,684 | (135,256) | 38,369 | - | 116,269 |
| | 55,472 | 157,684 | (135,256) | 38,369 | - | 116,269 |
| <u>TOTAL FUNDS</u> | 474,697 | 240,390 | (379,258) | - | 46 | 335,875 |

Restrictions Imposed and Purposes of Restricted Funds

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Choir Guild | Expenditure on Choir and Music |
| Bells | Maintenance of St Mary's Bells |
| Charity | For Gifts to Charities |
| Pantomime | Pantomime Costs |
| Richardson Legacy | Repairs and Maintenance at St Mary's Church |
| Saint Mary's Business Team | Managing Major Repair Work at St Mary's Church |
| Flags (St Mary's) | Fund for stolen flags at St Mary's Church |
| St John's Tower | Repairs to the Tower at St John's |
| Tablet at St Mary's | Relocation of Tablet to inside of Church |
| St Paul's Cinerarium | Maintenance of Cinerarium in St Paul's Grounds |
| Legacies (MTP) | To support any costs across Mirfield Team Parish |
| Bubble Church | For work with young families |
| Crowlees School | For development of a Forest Chapel at Crowlees School |
| Church Outreach | Allocation of costs of Outreach to the Community |