

St James Parish Church, Silsden

Our Vision

To be

Jesus Shaped

PEOPLE



PRAYER

TEACHING

TEAM
BUILDING

PROPHETIC
CHALLENGE

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023
with reports for 2022
St James, Silsden,
2nd April 2023
11.45 am
in the Church Hall

OUR MISSION PRAYER

God of Mission, who works on Earth through all those who love you, we pray for your Church here in Silsden. We pray for our fellowship here at St. James; that we may grow in faith and in the confidence to bring others to find your Son, our Lord Jesus and so to find You.

Send your Holy Spirit on us to bring vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, faith to our lives, hope to our community, and love to our hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St James PCC is Registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission – Charity Number 1180781 – Official Charity Name: *The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St James Silsden.*

St James the Great, Silsden

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 2nd April 2023 at 11.45 am

Vestry Meeting

1. The meeting opens with prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's Vestry meeting
4. Appointment of tellers
5. Election of churchwardens
6. Archdeacon's Visitations

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

7. Minutes of last year's APCM
8. Matters arising
9. Reports – most of the required reports have been circulated in advance, allowing for summaries and questions
 - a) Incumbent
 - b) PCC Report
 - c) Mission Groups
 - i. Fabric Mission Group
 - ii. Social Mission Group
 - iii. Mission Group
 - iv. Worship Mission Group
 - v. Home Groups
 - d) Hon Treasurer presents Accounts and Financial Report
 - e) Adoption of accounts
 - f) Churchwardens' Report
 - g) Electoral Roll
 - h) Safeguarding

- i) Other reports
 - i. CAMEO
 - ii. Thursday Group
 - iii. Bellringers
 - iv. Pastoral Care Group
 - v. Social Media
- 10. Elections
 - Parochial Church Council
 - Deanery Synod
- 11. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts
- 12. Data Protection
- 13. Any other business
- 14. Date of next meeting
- 15. Closing prayers

Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting and 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in person Sunday 3 April 2022

Vestry Meeting

1. David Griffiths opened the meeting with the Mission Prayer and welcomed all.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Val and Brain Goddard, Sue Francis, Pat and Derek Smithson.
3. Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed Alison Rohatynskj, seconded Helen Anderson
4. Tellers – Not required
5. Election of Churchwardens:- Neil Whitaker and Jayne Robinson were appointed to serve as Churchwardens.
6. The Archdeacon's visitations will be on 16 June at Fountains Church, Bradford and 21 June at All Saints, Ilkley.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting were accepted. Proposed Joanne Towers, seconded Steve Anderson
8. Matters Arising – None
9. Reports, these were pre-printed.

The reports were accepted as printed with no comments on the majority of the reports.

Mission Groups – it was reminded that anyone can join a Mission Group

Adoption of Accounts – The accounts were accepted. Proposed Malcolm Hudson, seconded Sue Wilkinson

Electoral Roll- In 2022 there are 83 on the electoral roll with being 10 non residents.

10. Elections:

PCC: The following were elected to the PCC:- Deborah Thorley, Brian Goddard, Val Goddard.

11. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts:
David thanked Bob Smith for his past work. He is willing to continue in the role.
12. Data Protection: A new web based database is to be developed. All will need to give their agreement for their data to be stored and used.
13. David thanked everyone for their support over the previous year.
14. Date of Next PCC meeting: 11 May
15. David closed the meeting with prayer.

2022 Reports and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St James the Great, Silsden

St James' PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Griffiths, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church and hall of St James the Great, Silsden.

VICAR'S REPORT for 2022

THE VISION of St. JAMES is to be JESUS SHAPED

These categories are sometimes hard to define and many of our church activities span 2 or more of them.

JESUS SHAPED MEANS:-

PEOPLE

Becoming confident Christians, led by the Holy Spirit, enabled to show God's love to all people.

Alpha

This continues to be a great inspiration as we see people coming to find out more about Jesus and some joining us at church.

The team also are growing in all sorts of ways which is very exciting. This a very good course that takes seriously the Holy Spirit's reality and necessity in our lives. We have a person signed up for Alpha 9 starting this September.

This a good example as people, team building and teaching are all touched by this church life activity.

A big thank you to all involved - pray please.

Service Leading

This is another area of encouragement as we encourage leaders and peoples' gifts as individuals and Home Groups lead services from time to time. Thank you.

Pastoral Care

We are in the process of putting a team in place to carry this important work forward.

Gaming Club – Smash in Silsden

A big thanks to Connor, Simon, Steve, Helen and Deborah for this smashing initiative which sees about 9 young folks in their teens and early 20's rock up every 2 weeks. Great for us to be relating and getting to know a group we rarely see. Pray that we will see some in church soon!

TEAM BUILDING

Encouraging everyone to be part of a world-wide community of Christians, with servant hearts and on a shared adventure.

Churchwardens

It has been great to work with Jayne and Neil again - thanks guys! They work hard and we need to look after and support them as we move into a vacancy. Thank you to Brain our Deputy Church Warden. I hope that we can get 2 deputies for next year

Churches Together in Silsden (CTIS)

This too is going well and thank you to Jayne who sits on this committee for us. This group now includes Christian Aid and we work well together. An encouraging development for Christmas

and the Roving Nativity is a plan to go and do more carol singing, after the lights turn on, in The Punchbowl Pub who are keen to have us!

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

We continue to meet bi-monthly allowing the various Mission Groups - Social, Mission, Worship and Fabric, to meet in the month between. The system is working well with a thanks to the Mission Group Chairs - Neil - Mission, Deborah - Social and newly appointed Paul Winstanley to Worship. We still need a Chair to replace me at Fabric.

Thank you to you all on the PCC who serve us.

Technology

Change, death and taxes are certainties in this life. On the technology front changes comes thick and fast. It is great to have the TV's in church and they are working well in our Sunday services and funerals.

A new Audio Visual Desk will be going in at Easter time which will further improve things. Hopefully we will have a better sound system in place soon. Thank you to our techo's - the Andersons!

Project 200+

This continues with some new windows going in at Easter. The grant giving landscape has changed post Covid and I am disappointed that this project is not finished and that we have not moved onto PROJECT 300+ - the refurbishment of the church - heating, decoration, lighting, insulation

A big thanks to Brian - it would not have happened without him - and to Derek and Malcolm on the PROJECT 200+ Mission Group.

Parish Share

Thank you for all your giving - money, time and talents.

However the level of our monetary giving is disappointing - we could and should be more generous in this area of our Christian life. Lack of such resources is hampering our mission on many fronts.

We are generally well off but the money stays in our pockets and banks benefiting no one!

Administration

Thank you to “our” Deborah for looking after so well and worrying about our finances, hall bookings, Safeguarding, bell ringers, rotas

Cleaning

Thank you to Avril who is in here at 6.30am every week day morning cleaning up our mess - please thank her when you see her.

Other Teams

Brass cleaners, flowers, vergers, Communion assistants, garden crew, Friends Of the Graveyard, Work Day attendees, bell ringers, Website, worship preparers, intercessors, readers, data protectors,

TEACHING

Knowing and understanding the Bible and learning about our faith from each other.

Everybody Welcome course

No welcome = a bad welcome.

We have a mixed success rate on this subject!

Having asked people about the welcome they received some say it is good - a few say bad. A person told me that they sat in church for the first time and heard the folks behind say to each other

“they are new” but no attempt was made by them to say “hello” - “come for Coffee” - “do you know how to get Holy Communion” - anything!!!!!!

This course has been well received and has got us thinking about many aspects of welcome - signage to the toilets, out on the street, lighting, what the place looks like inside and out as well as the greeting as people walk in the door!

Home Groups

Another activity that could also be in Team Building. These groups are going very well doing all sorts of things. We hope that a few people from our current Alpha course will be joining up! We plan to begin another group soon and are actively looking and training new leaders in preparation. Thank you to leaders, Jayne, Alison, Val, Brian, Neil and Pat.

Personal Growth and Leadership Course

This has again been a great course that a total of 16 of us have been on as it encourages “having a go”. Vision, planning, being intentional, accountable, taking chances, growing others and ourselves.

I hope many more of us will take this course.

PROPHETIC CHALLENGE

Speaking out against injustice, and acting to build God's kingdom.

Mission Group

These guys are doing a great job with Modern Slavery and getting us and Silsden better informed about this upsetting subject - thank you.

Plastic Reduction

We continue to try and practice what we preach - plastic reduction. It helped us to go for old fashioned tiles in the new toilets instead of the cheaper option of plastic sheet - mind you tiles look SO much better!

Food Bank

We continue to collect and deliver food to the Salvation Army and distribute food from the Vicarage. Thank you for giving.

PRAYER

Making prayer, for each of us, a central and natural conversation with God.

Zoom Prayers

A disappointing response from you on this initiative which is a discipline that is easy, effective and quick - 20 minutes a week. Attendance - 2 to 5

Pre-Gathering Set Up Prayers

This meeting at 9.00am in church before we set up the hall for the monthly Sunday Gathering service has been good with 4 - 6 attending for 30 minutes - thank you to Susan and Michael for heading this up.

Prayer Triplets

Great that we have our first one up and running which was encouraged through the Diocesan Personal Growth and Leadership Course as it encourages making things happen with vision and intentionality - thank you Pam, Steph and Jayne.

Intercessions

We need to encourage and help people with this challenging task.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

2022 PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

The St James PCC

Clergy: - David Griffiths, Susan Griffiths

Deanery Reps: - Malcolm Hudson. Paul Winstanley

Churchwardens:- Neil Whitaker (lay vice chair), Jayne Robinson (Secretary)

PCC Members:-

2020:- Steve Anderson, Connor Anderson, Joanne Towers

2021:- Derek Smithson, Leanne Newsome

2022:- Deborah Thorley (Treasurer), Val Goddard,
Brian Goddard (Deputy Churchwarden)

The PCC meet bi-monthly.

A big thank you to all the PCC members as there is a lot to consider these days from policies of all sorts to buildings and building God's Kingdom through it all – please thank them yourselves and pray for them.

Chair – David Griffiths

Mission Groups

FABRIC MISSION GROUP

PROJECT 200 +

Phase 3 of Project 200+ was successfully completed this year with contractor Enoch Harrison & Son Ltd installing the glazed panels above the hall doors and spending the last penny of our National Lottery Community Fund grant.

Users are obviously appreciating the investment as feedback on the building renovation has been very positive including such comments as:

- Looks really good!!
- Great wi-fi, floor is lovely and windows are brill
- Amazing. Love it!



We are extremely grateful to all our grant funders who have generously supported us and the multiple gifts and donations which have enabled us to undertake these much-needed works.

One further activity planned for the Easter school holidays this year, replacement of all seven windows on the west side of the hall, has been made possible thanks to generous donations, the Benefice Trust and a contribution from the Diocese of Leeds.

The project is not finished though. The hall ceiling and roof is the focus of the next stage of the work and our fund raising activity is ongoing to, hopefully, enable us to achieve this in the not too distant future.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to everyone involved in the project this year for your continued faithfulness and support.

Brian Goddard

SOCIAL MISSION GROUP

The social mission group are:- Deborah Thorley (chair), Joanne Towers, Louise Outhwaite, Leanne Newsome, Mags Croft, Alison Rohatynskyj and Jackie Hudson.

We are starting to organise events again. In 2022 we held a successful Danish Evening and a Hot Aire Concert as fund raising events and a Harvest Supper and Christmas Party for our church family to enjoy.. If anyone has ideas for events, please let me know.

Chair – Deborah Thorley

MISSION GROUP

St James Mission Group currently has 6 members. We would very much welcome other church members to join this group.

We currently meet on Zoom, and whilst we have fallen into a habit of meeting on Monday evenings, we could meet on another evening of course.

We met 12 times in 2022 and our meetings, being online, tend to be short and snappy.

The problem of slavery, and how we can react to that, is something we discuss regularly. We held an awareness-raising coffee morning to co-incide with Anti -Slavery Day in October 2022.

This group covers Alpha at St James

We have also considered

- How we reach out to the new houses in Silsden
- How we can open our church for the wider community to come and see what we do
- Advent and Christmas opportunities
- Church coffee

We continue to consider how St James church can keep working for God's mission.

WORSHIP MISSION GROUP

HOME GROUPS

Monday Homegroup

The Monday Group, led by Brian and Val Goddard, has grown this year and now has 9 members meeting regularly each week.

We have enjoyed a varied programme throughout the year including:

- The Unanswered Prayer course. This is a very thoughtful and challenging set of 5 videos .
- A study working through some of the history books of the Bible to learn about people such as the prophet Samuel, how the kingdom of Israel developed from its first King, Saul, to King Solomon, the divided kingdom, exile to Babylon and subsequent return.
- Currently we are working through Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Our approach to Bible studies is varied. Sometimes we use videos from various sources including the Bible Project (which has an overview of all the books of the Bible) but often each member of the group researches some verses from the book we are studying and then shares what they have learnt with the rest of the group at our meeting.

The group has also been active in supporting the 11:00 services at St James and took one of the Advent services in 2022.

Financial Review 2022

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £64933.84. Planned giving gave us £31977.73, and £7936.58 was claimed as Gift Aid from this, some donations and by the small donations scheme. £14080.00 came into general funds from church hall lettings. Details of all the income strands is given in the full accounts.

Total receipts on restricted funds were £113920.07. This included £6000 from the All Churches Trust and £96725. 60 from the National Lottery Community Fund for Project 200+.

In 2022 we paid £38000 towards the Share requested by the Diocese – this was 72% of the request. We completed Phase 3 of the Project 200+ works to the hall. We carried out a number of repair works to the church including work on the heating.

Full details of all expenditure can be found in the full accounts.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to hold at least £1,000 in the unrestricted funds at the end of the year. At the end of 2022 there was £1645.83 held in unrestricted reserves.

2022 has been again been a difficult year again. I say a big thank you to everyone who has continued to give to the work of the church.

Can I please ask that if you give to the church by cheque that you write it out to **Silsden Parish Church PCC**. If not, the bank will reject it.

Deborah

Bank – Barclays Bank

Independent Examiner – Bob Smith, Lower Park Green, Silsden

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St James' PCC

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ending 31 December 2022 which are set out on the following pages.

The church's trustees (the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts (delegated responsibility to the PCC Treasurer). The PCC consider that an independent examination of the accounts is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011)
- To follow the general procedures laid out in section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

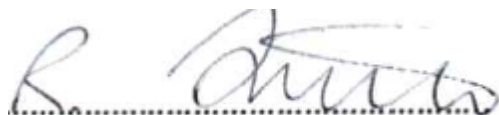
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general procedures of the 2011 Act (as explained in the PCC Accountability booklet 5th edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understating of the accounts to be reached.

Robert Smith, 8 March 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', written over a dotted line.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022							
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS							
	Notes	Unrestricted Fund 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	TOTAL 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	TOTAL 2021
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary Receipts							
Planned giving		31977.73		31977.73	29371.50		29371.50
Collections		3816.81		3816.81	4924.36		4924.36
All other giving	5a	1980.98	4813.30	6794.28	4596.57	4948.38	9544.95
Project 200+			108293.36	108293.36		22121.91	22121.91
Gift Aid recovered		7936.58	775.00	8711.58	7329.58	686.25	8015.83
		45712.10	113881.66	159593.76	46222.01	27756.54	73978.55
Activities for Generating Funds							
	5b	16144.89		16144.89	13685.00		13685.00
Investment Income							
	5c	1640.68	38.41	1679.09	1586.84	4.17	1591.01
Church Activities							
		1386.00		1386.00	2070.00		2070.00
Other							
		50.17		50.17	43.82		43.82
Total Receipts		64933.84	113920.07	178853.91	63607.67	27760.71	91368.38
PAYMENTS							
Church Activities							
Diocesan share		38000.00		38000.00	35000.00		35000.00
Clergy and staffing costs	5d	8673.16		8673.16	5151.64		5151.64
Church and Hall running expenses	5e	10139.83	263.30	10403.13	8775.24		8775.24
Church and Hall repairs and maintenance	5f	11250.71	3549.74	14800.45	12038.56	17453.66	29492.22
Project 200+	5g		113445.33	113445.33		7777.92	7777.92
Mission giving	5h	0.00		0.00			0.00
Other							
		0.00		0.00	20.00		20.00
Total Payments		68063.70	117258.37	185322.07	60985.44	25231.58	86217.02
Excess of Receipts over Payments							
		-3129.86	-3338.30	-6468.16	2622.23	2529.13	5151.36
Cash in bank and in hand at 1 January							
		4775.69	20757.11	25532.80	2153.46	18227.98	20381.44
Cash in bank and in hand at 31 December							
		1645.83	17418.81	19064.64	4775.69	20757.11	25532.80

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments							
		Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	TOTAL 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	TOTAL 2021
	RECEIPTS						
a	All other giving						
	Donations	1980.98	3613.30	5594.28	4596.57	3105.15	7701.72
	VAT reclaim		1200.00	1200.00		1843.23	1843.23
	Project 200+		108293.36	108293.36		22121.91	22121.91
	Legacy			0.00		0.00	0.00
		1980.98	113106.66	115087.64	4596.57	27070.29	31666.86
b	Activities for generating funds						
	Church hall lettings	14080.00		14080.00	13205.00		13205.00
	Saturday/Sunday Coffee	1295.59		1295.59	476.00		476.00
	Autumn Fair	764.30		764.30	0.00		0.00
	Cards	5.00		5.00	4.00		4.00
		16144.89		16144.89	13685.00		13685.00
c	Investment income						
	CBF dividends	1640.68		1640.68	1586.84		1586.84
	CCLA fund interest		38.41	38.41		4.17	4.17
d	PAYMENTS						
	Clergy and staffing costs						
	Clergy expenses	2066.76		2066.76	2233.84		2233.84
	Organist	1400.00		1400.00	150.00		150.00
	Cleaner	2496.00		2496.00	2275.00		2275.00
	Administrator	2710.40		2710.40	492.80		492.80
		8673.16		8673.16	5151.64		5151.64
e	Church and hall running expenses						
	Gas	1757.77		1757.77	2306.47		2306.47
	Electricity	1462.33		1462.33	1315.64		1315.64
	Water	459.70		459.70	325.39		325.39
	Insurance	2245.37		2245.37	2118.70		2118.70
	Organ tuning	350.00		350.00	170.00		170.00
	Children's work	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
	Pastoral work	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
	Service consumables	395.15	263.30	658.45	108.45		108.45
	Cleaning materials	962.91		962.91	525.97		525.97
	Printing, stationery and web	1836.43		1836.43	1260.04		1260.04
	Music etc licences	670.17		670.17	644.58		644.58
		10139.83	263.30	10403.13	8775.24		8775.24
f	Church and hall repairs and maintenance						
	General	11250.71	3549.74	14800.45	12038.56	17453.66	29492.22
g	Project 200+		113445.33	113445.33		7777.92	7777.92
h	Mission Giving						
	CTIS	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
	British Legion	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
				0.00	0.00		0.00

Notes									
1. The financial statements of the PCC have been produced in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis									
2. Fixed assets retained for church use are the access to the church hall car park									
3. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:									
	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd					
Designated									
Utility fees	1207.00	210.00	1417.00	0.00					
Restricted									
Gates	1092.10			1092.10					
Churchyard	0.00	50.00		50.00					
Electrical works	6.25			6.25					
Tower works	6.25			6.25					
General projects	0	1200.00	1200.00	0.00					
Project 200+	17263.87	108293.36	113445.33	12111.90					
Interest	212.12	38.41		250.53					
Flag	166.20		117.74	48.46					
Vicar's Fund	1051.16			1051.16					
Live Streaming/AV Works	555.01	3875.00	2232.00	2198.01					
Clock	404.15			404.15					
Coffee machine	0.00	463.30	263.30	200.00					
	20757.11	113456.77	116995.07	17418.81					

Where the money is		
	01/01/2022	31/12/2022
Current account		
Unrestrcited funds	4705.98	1644.07
Restrctited funds	572.61	2347.87
Project 200+	0.00	3231.02
DBF fees	211.00	0.00
Charity Money	108.50	108.50
Parish Weekend	1134.00	308.00
CTIS Electricity	516.87	516.87
Stonemason	197.00	48.00
Alpha Weekend	-360.00	-784.00
Total	7085.96	7420.33
Petty Cash	69.71	1.76
Hall account		
Flower Guild	192.26	192.26
Project 200+	17263.87	8880.88
Total	17456.13	9073.14
CCLA account		
Restricted funds	2920.63	2959.04

Statement of Assets and Liabilities						
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
		£	£	£		
Cash Funds						
Bank current account		1644.07	5578.89	0.00	7222.96	5278.59
CCLA account		0.00	2959.04	0.00	2959.04	2920.63
Churchwarden's Petty Cash		1.76	0.00	0.00	1.76	69.71
Hall account		0.00	8880.88	0.00	8880.88	17263.87
		1645.83	17418.81	0.00	19064.64	25532.80
Investment Assets						
Investment fund shares at market value		£56,754.58				

Churchwardens' Report

Thank you for electing us as Churchwardens at last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At that time we were still feeling our way with reopening after the Covid-restricted months but as the year progressed we were able to ease back into more normal times. We thank God that we have been able to do so.

As we reopened fully the PCC ran the review of our services pattern and we thank everyone who provided their input to that review. The outcome was that we would continue to have a Sunday morning pattern of: Parish Communion at 9.30am, followed by an 11am service of worship in a different style, with coffee/tea in between; and this pattern has now established itself within our church life and for the Silsden community.

We were also able to develop the projection of our services, started as a necessary Covid precaution, and previously trialled in our Gathering services, by acquiring two large screens for the church. These are much clearer and give us great flexibility. Thank you to everyone who helped install these and provided the funds to purchase them.

Also at the time of last year's APCM we had been experiencing some problems with the church heating and these problems have of course continued, and are proving very difficult to solve. We are very grateful to everyone from church and from our wider

community who helped us with all the trouble shooting and constant adjustments that have been needed as we try to identify the core problem, or series of problems. It has been frustrating for many that the fix has been hard to find but persistence and patience will pay off in the end and we are thankful that we have been able to get some warmth into our church and that we were able to go ahead with our Christmas services having had to operate from the hall on the Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The new services pattern, thinking about our welcome and the new screens has resulted in some changes to the interior of the church building. Our new children's area ensure families are – literally - central to our Sunday mornings together and our worship, whilst a new control desk area will bring our tech team (thank you to them all!) down from the balcony and into the main body of the church where they can be more involved in the worship and where they are better placed for adjusting volume etc. We continue to broadcast our 9.30am service on YouTube, so that people can still attend our services where, for whatever reason, attendance at the building is not an option for them or where they just want to come and check us out before venturing through the church door. Much time goes into preparing the sound and vision in the run up to each Sunday – for the Youtube broadcast, and for the projection at both services; thank you to Steve, Connor, Simon and Val specifically for all their work with this.

As everyone will know, David and Susan are planning to retire and bring to an end their time of ministry in Silsden. After 12 years with us we will be very sorry to see them go – but now is not yet the time for the goodbyes and the farewells; that time will come in due course. The churchwardens and the PCC have, though, been preparing the ground for when the vacancy at St James finally arrives. Rev Mike Dean, our Area Dean, has been to see us to talk us through the process and we have had preliminary conversations about things like the 'Parish Profile'. The process that we have to go through when the vacancy arises will be shared with you. In the meantime David and Susan do, of course, remain committed to this church and our Parish and everything remains 'business as usual' for now.

As we can see with the heating situation, keeping our church buildings and plant maintained and improved takes a lot of doing and inevitably involves large expense. In the midst of that we also need to pay our way for the mission of our wider church (including the cost of our incumbent clergy). So thank you for all your giving – whether to the church generally or for its mission, or to specific projects such as Project 200+.

Thank you to everyone who has served our church over the last year - welcomers, readers, money counters, coffee teams, tech crew ,Parochial Church Council members, Deanery Synod representatives, our mission groups, the Home Group leaders, the Alpha Team, the, the weekly newssheet team and contributors, Deborah, our Parish Administrator and Treasurer, those who help at the work days, those who garden around church, those who clean, those who polish, those who produce and arrange the lovely flowers in church, those who change the altar cloths and the candles, our musicians, the Friends of the Graveyard, Rev Pat Smith for helping out by leading some of our services – and of course Rev David and Rev Susan.

There are of course so many people who serve in many other ways to make our church function – we thank God for everyone who contributes to all areas of our church ministry – and we say thank you to them.

We also thank you to Brian Goddard, our Deputy Churchwarden, for all his work with the David, Susan and ourselves as we have navigated our way through another very busy year.

We would like to conclude by referring to our church Vision – to be Jesus-shaped. What a vision that is for our church and for each of us personally as we strive to follow our Lord and become more like Him, and remind ourselves that God's mission to make new disciples (new followers) of Jesus and so know God, is entrusted to us.

Jayne and Neil

Safeguarding

St James Silsden has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, which is reviewed annually. We also have in place procedures for ensuring that this policy is applied in all parts of St James' work.

I am pleased to report that there have been no safeguarding incidents at St James in 2022.

Other Reports

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

During the last few months CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) has started to meet again on the First Tuesday of every month at The Old Post Office. The group is for all women who would like to meet for a coffee or tea (and sometimes lunch/cake) and a chat. We do not have an agenda – just conversation and friendship. We meet from 1.30pm and all are welcome. If you would like to join us then please do. We would love to see you.

For some time now we have also been thinking about having a CAMEO group which meets one evening each month giving those who are unavailable to meet in an afternoon the opportunity to join us. Is this something that you would like to see happening? We could vary the venue each month - perhaps going to a pub or restaurant for a drink, a coffee or even something to eat. If you think this is a good idea then please have a word with me.

Susan

Thursday Group

We meet in The Vicarage, on a Thursday afternoon, every two weeks. We begin at 2.00pm with Holy Communion, followed by a cup of tea and biscuits and a chat. We generally end our meeting at around 3.00pm/3.15pm.

Our group is open to everyone – both young and not so young - there is no upper or lower age limit!

If you would like to join us for Communion and for friendship then please do. We would love to see you.

And finally, a VERY BIG thank you to everyone who works hard to make this group possible - picking people up, dropping them off, making cups of tea.... I appreciate all that you do.

Why not come and join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Susan Griffiths

Bellringers

2022 was a bit busy on the bellringing front with ringing for three National events – the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, the Queen’s Funeral and the Proclamation of King Charles III. We managed to ring for all these events and for most Sunday services during the year.

Deborah

Pastoral Care Group

We are looking to restart this group on a more regular/formal basis; as well as considering the possibility of reinstating the telephone calling we initiated during Covid. We are aware that several members of our congregation already visit various other members of our congregation on a weekly basis and it would be good to know more about your visits, (who you are visiting, how often etc.) as well as hearing of any ways in which we may be able to help.

If you have any information or know of anyone who is ill or would like a visit then please let Susan, David or Pat know.

Thank you.

Social Media

We continue to use social media to engage with our local population , to share events, messages and communications
We use 3 platforms Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Instagram

We have 112 followers seeing our occasional photo posts - mainly for advertising events and occasions - coffee mornings, Christmas, Easter services etc.

Facebook

We have 521 followers on our main St James page (the administrators are Ali plus Helen)

We have a separate Facebook page for our Alpha course information, and Neil runs this page.

We post 2 - 3 times a week on our main Facebook page on average with eg details of services, events, news, mission information etc

We also follow and regularly share from other pages - e.g Silsden Buzz, Gala , Hive, Town Hall, Diocese, Church of England, our Archbishops, Clewer Initiative, TKC , Good Shepherd. We respond to comments or questions if appropriate e.g when is church open for individual prayer..

We share our posts to - Silsden Buzz (17k members) , Silsden and Steeton Whats On (1.2k members

Direct messages are responded to by the administrators - either answering question directly, signpost to our church website (e.g for bookings) or give the vicarage email or telephone numbers

Our most engaged with posts this year include - Christmas, Easter, Queens funeral notices

Twitter

Neil runs our Twitter account which is currently used for providing information about our church services and other events. This account also retweets (forwards) prayers and messages from the Church of England, and our Archbishops and bishops.

"ST. JAMES' CHURCH SILSDEN IS JESUS SHAPED"

We express this Vision using the 5 JSP themes as follows :-

1 PEOPLE

Becoming confident Christians, led by the Holy Spirit, enabled to show God's love to all people.

2 TEACHING

Knowing and understanding the Bible and learning about our faith from each other.

3 TEAM BUILDING

Encouraging everyone to be part of a world-wide community of Christians, with servant hearts and on a shared adventure.

4 PRAYER

Making prayer, for each of us, a central and natural conversation with God.

5 PROPHETIC CHALLENGE

Speaking out against injustice and acting to build God's kingdom.