

**Reports to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of
St Mary's, Leake, 12th March 2017
to be held in Knayton Village Hall following the
10.30am meeting of Cafe-Church**

A. Vicar's Report 2016

As I start to write this report for our APCM the words of St Paul in the opening of his first letter to the Corinthians comes to mind. In it he gives a prayer of thanksgiving for the spiritual gifts that God has given the people in the church of Corinth. I too thank God for the gifts that he has given you that have helped us collectively to carry on with God's mission in our parishes during Ian's illness and enforced absence.

Some of these gifts have been put to good use for many years, but this year some have stepped up and offered their gifts to us to help us move forward. When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances God has made us the gift of resourcefulness and we manage the difficulties, which become opportunities for others to shine. It has therefore been a year with much to celebrate as we look back on the journey that we have travelled together.

The biggest problem has been resourcing our services across the whole Benefice. All of our Recognised Parish Assistants have stepped forward to lead Services of the Word and those with previous experience of leading services have also helped out. Some minor changes to some of the types of services have also helped.

A big thank you to David who have regularly led some of our services as well as the Churchwardens. This thank you also includes my clergy colleagues who have come and led our Eucharistic services whilst I have been taking services elsewhere in the benefice. Keeping our scheduled services going is key and it important for the growth of our church that this continues. We have had some really good services this year on key occasions, and I have really enjoyed the ones I have led. The occasional offices have been a joy.

In the middle of the year Jill Gillanders, our Reader, was accepted for training for ordained ministry, and she started her two-year course in September. We celebrate that God has given Jill the spiritual gifts to enable her to do this for Him and His church. She will be missed and we wish her well in her studies and her spiritual growth.

It has been an interesting year attending the PCC meetings across the benefice and seeing the different opportunities being taken and the hard work being done in each PCC. Thank you to everyone on the PCC for your many and valued contributions to the life of our church.

This year at St Mary's Leake we have been working on our Giving in Grace and thanks to the small team that came together to lead this we have made big steps forward in our giving to God's mission in our parish. Our re-ordering is progressing and should be completed in 2017. The roof work required at St Mary's Over Silton has taken a big step forward this year and the physical work should be starting in 2017. Thank you to all those working hard to make our ancient historic buildings safe, secure and fit for purpose in the 21st century.

The churchwardens take on a lead role in the life of our church and I must say a big thank you to Caroline and Penny at St Mary's Leake, Christine at All Saints Nether Silton and to Georgina and John at St Mary's Over Silton for all their work and support they have given me this year.

All of this has only been achieved through our collective life of prayer. Prayer is the food of our spiritual life and your prayers have helped to keep me going through out this year. Thank you.

2017 will also be a challenging year with many opportunities for several people. A church does need two churchwardens and a good representation on the PCC. I pray that God will move right people to put themselves forward and share in the work and the joy of God's mission on our PCC. It could be you.

As we come to the end of our journey together and Margaret and I prepare to move out of the benefice 'down south' to Winchester Diocese, which by the time you read this we will have done, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one. You have all been instrumental in some way in helping me to develop my spiritual gifts.

My final thankyou has to go to Ian. He has been a supportive colleague, mentor and friend who has allowed me to develop and grow over the last six and a half years.

I will miss you all, but you will always be in my prayers.

Trevor

B. Electoral Roll Officers Report

REVISED ELECTORAL ROLL:

Leake:

Resident: 80 (81) Non-Resident: 16 (15)

Over Silton:

Resident: 8 (7) Non-Resident: 5 (3)

Nether Silton:

Resident: 9 (9) Non-Resident: 1 (1)

(In brackets Electoral Roll numbers as at A.P.C.M. 2016)

C. Trustees Report and Accounts; the Parochial Church Council of the St. Mary's, Leake, 2016

Aim and purposes:

Leake Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Ian Houghton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities:

The PCC seeks to encourage membership and worship at St. Mary's, Leake. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve as many as possible of those that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and

sacrament. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:-

- Worship and prayer
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary.

Achievements and Performance:

In addition to maintaining a regular pattern of services throughout 2016 at St. Mary's, Leake, the PCC has been involved in and organised the following:-

- Special celebration services at major festivals eg. Easter, Harvest and Christmas, as well as a special service celebrating those baptised at St.Mary's over recent years.
- Parish Lunch in Borrowby Village Hall
- Spring Concert with performances from Thirsk School Music Department.
- Manned a stall at the annual Borrowby Show to show the work and life of the church in the community.
- Harvest Supper in Borrowby village hall.
- Paid for a bus to transport the pupils of Knayton C.of E. Primary school to the church for their carol service and hosted parents and children.
- Developed the Church website & Friends of Leake Church.
- Overseen the maintenance of the churchyard.
- Paid for, and the Foundation Governor has presented, bibles to the leavers at Knayton C. of E. Primary school.
- Run a church lottery monthly throughout the year, adding considerable financial help to our funds.
- Held Advent and Lent Study Groups organised and led by PCC members, involving prayer and worship in addition to Bible study and a Lent Supper in Knayton Village Hall.
- Applied for a faculty to rearrange the existing layout in the chancel arch.
- Successfully carried out a Giving in Grace campaign.

- We are planning to start a Cafe-Church in the Village Halls in the New Yera as an outreach for the community instead of Morning Worship in Church.
- Sold 100 History Booklets and 100 Calendars.

Worship and Prayer:

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Study Groups, led by PCC members, take place during the year and are open to all.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 16 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance on normal Sundays during the year was 17, but this number increased considerably at festivals such as Easter and Christmas. We have celebrated 5 baptisms, 4 weddings and held 5 funerals/memorial services in our church this year.

Website, Social Media and Friends' Group:

In the summer of 2015, the PCC launched a website for St Mary's Leake (www.leakechurch.org.uk) that was designed to support the existing website for the Osmotherley and Hillside Group. This has allowed us to share visitor information and recent news and publicise future events. This is supported by new church pages on Facebook and Twitter. In addition the PCC launched an email based "Friends of St Mary's Leake" newsletter, to help us better keep in touch with everyone that we are connected to, including occasional visitors from outside of the parish and local residents who do not wish to regularly attend services. There are currently 55 members.

Deanery Synod:

One member of the PCC sits on the Deanery Synod and this year is Lay Chair. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

One member represents us at Churches Together, Thirsk District; an ecumenical group covering all the churches in Thirsk and the area.

The group is part of North Yorkshire Moors Churches Together. (Please see report below at section F).

The Church building of St. Mary's Leake:

We continue to keep the church open to all for private prayer.

The church is generally in a fair state of repair; work is in hand to address rain water ingress under the south and north aisle roofs together with defects identified in associated flashings and pointing.

The quinquennial inspection took place.

A faculty was applied for and permission granted for the re-ordering of the interior of the church to make it a safer and more user-friendly environment for worship in the 21st century.

Pastoral Care:

There is no formalised system of pastoral care but many church members are actively involved in caring for neighbours. Pastoral visiting falls mainly on the shoulders of the incumbent. We have the facility for some members to take Communion to the housebound. Contact the Vicar or the Churchwardens if you would like this service.

Mission and Evangelism:

Our parish magazine continues to be distributed monthly to a wide circulation of parishioners both on and beyond the Church Electoral Roll.

Ecumenical Relationships:

We have engaged in discussion with our colleagues from the Borrowby Methodist Chapel in respect of shared activities and continue to seek opportunities for shared worship.

Financial Review 2016:

During the year, we made a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £1838.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £31,415 (£33,504) of which £13,463 (£13,702) was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £2,922 (£2,985) was refunded by HMR&C as Gift Aid. No restricted donations were received.

£29,577 (£31,888) was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church, Leake, including Freewill Giving to the Diocese of £17,232 which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The net result for the year was a surplus of receipts over payments of £1,838 (£1,616) on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £36,014 and on restricted funds £1,809. The unrestricted funds include substantial gifts received in previous years of £24,517, which sum is being carried forward as a designated fund.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £8,000 and at the year-end a sufficient balance is to hand. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

It is our policy to place fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and as National Savings and Investments deposits; at the 31st December £1,111 was with the former and £29,500 with NS & I.

Stewardship:

In previous years St Mary's PCC has been under increasing financial pressure due to increased costs and a reduction in giving. A stewardship campaign was held in the autumn of 2016 to coincide with our Harvest Festival. We attempted to write to every household in the parish and to anyone from further afield who may have a link with the church. The PCC was grateful for a very positive and generous response from many people. 25 households responded, either by committing to their existing planned giving or by increasing their gift. We also received eleven individual donations totalling £2024. The impact of this on our income will not be fully known until the next financial year, but it is clear that we are in a significantly stronger position than before this campaign. Thank you to everyone who responded.

Optional Information

Volunteers:

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to keep our church so well cared for and churchyard so well tended. We would also like to thank our organist for his commitment and to all others who contribute willingly to the life of the church in whatever way and so contribute to the efficient running of the church community.

Health and Safety:

The PCC is aware of its obligations to try and maintain a healthy and safe environment for the worshippers and visitors to St. Mary's and it has appointed to Child Protection Officer to keep us informed of our obligations to keep children as safe as possible. The PCC of St Mary's Leake has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Structure, governance and management:

The method of appointment of PCC members is carried out in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

At St. Mary's, Leake, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services as members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC meet at least six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 8.

Administrative information:

The Church of St. Mary, Leake, is situated by the A19 a mile or so north of the villages of Borrowby and Knayton, YO7 4BN. It is part of

the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Knayton, Thirsk, YO7 4AZ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from March 2016 until the date this report was approved are:-

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Ian Houghton (Chairman)

Wardens: Mrs Penny Bell
Mrs Caroline Osgood

Elected members:

Mrs Irene Dugdale

Mr David Dugdale – Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs Linda Gibbon - Child Protection Officer and representative/Lay Chair on Deanery Synod & representative to Churches Together Thirsk District.

Dr T Selmes

Mr Warwick Wainwright

Mrs Joanne Jones

Mrs Sheila Wainwright (Secretary)

D. The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending on the 31st December immediately preceding the meeting audited or independently examined are available from the Secretary on request.

E. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church of St Mary, Leake. March, 2017

The fabric of the church is generally in fair order; work is in hand in carrying out the work approved in the faculty.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr Osgood and his team of volunteers for cutting the grass and maintaining the graveyard so well.

The goods and ornaments of the Church are all present and correct.

P Bell & C Osgood, Churchwardens.

F. Annual report to the Members of Leake Parish – Mowbray Deanery

This year has been a difficult year due to the absence of the Rural Dean and the Lay Chair. This was due to illness but they are recovering and are grateful to those who have continued to meet and carry on the Deanery business.

The year started out with the Archbishop's Pilgrimage to the Deanery, 5th January to 10th, walking ten miles a day. He particularly wanted to meet people beyond the usual church groups. This was successful and appreciated by those he met.

There have been some additions to clergy replacing retired incumbents and we look forward to working with new colleagues. For our parishes we have had to say goodbye to Rev Trevor Lewis as he has moved to another Diocese, his contributions to parish and representation at Diocesan level will be missed.

Meetings have been arranged across the Deanery about Generous Giving and the Transforming our Diocese and Developing our Deaneries. There will be changes to the distribution of income from the Church Commissioners. The Bishop addressed these issues at our October meeting. A Deanery Ascension Day service was held in May at Sowerby.

There is now a website mowbraydeanery.org.uk. This will be developed and deanery reps, and Pcc's will be encouraged to use it. We continue to learn about the work of the children & Youth advisers who organized a St Hilda's Pilgrimage in July and the opportunity to share prayers for children across the Archdeaconry at different venues. Another will be arranged 2017. There is a small group in the Deanery who are meeting to develop work.

We are addressed regularly about our finances through our financial adviser and remain solvent but will need to keep looking to our generous giving and commitment.

Linda J Gibbon February 2017

G. Churches Together Thirsk District

Report to Leake PCC 2016

There have been no committee meetings this year due to illness of chair and no vice chair due to other commitments.

It is pleasing to note that informally past working groups carried on and arranged the Week of prayer for Christian Unity and the services and Walk of Witness on Good Friday and Easter. The Christian Aid committee took care of Christian Aid Week arrangements and Carol Singing in December. Both occasions raised substantial funds for this Charity.

It is pleasing to note that an AGM was held in February 2017 and the committee is fully operating again with officers.

Linda J Gibbon February 2017

H. Foundation Governor's Report for Knayton School

It has been a very busy year at Knayton School. There are now 126 pupils in 5 classes and 2 new classrooms came into operation in September 2016.

On the last day of the summer term 2016 Bibles bought by Leake Church were presented to the Year 6 leavers by Jill Gillanders.

In September we welcomed 3 new members of staff, Hannah Spencer having responsibility for RE and collective worship. Hannah has restructured collective worship as follows:-
Monday – the launch of the weekly theme and how it affects the world,
Tuesday – Bible Story linked to the theme
Wednesday – Child led interpretation
Thursday – Christian values
Friday – Class discussion and a celebration assembly in the afternoon

There is a Spiritual Leaders Group who evaluates CW and is considering plans for the Spiritual Garden that is to be built later in

the year.

Local Christians bring Open the Book into School on a regular basis. This is always enthusiastically received.

The last week of each half term is devoted to RE.

Pupils are involved in all special services including Harvest, Nativity, Carol Service and Christingle.

In October the harvest festival collected food for the Foodshare in Northallerton and The Clock in Thirsk.

During Advent four Posada boxes 'visited' the homes of the pupils. The Christmas Carol Service took place at Leake Church, the service taken by Year 6 helped by Year 5.

Key Stage 1 produced a Nativity in School that was very well attended.

On Friday 27th January every pupil made their Christingle. In the afternoon the whole School celebrated with a service taken by the Spiritual Leaders Group at HRAP.

The School is currently in the process of conversion to a multi academy trust. The proposed trustees have strong Christian values. Recently Knayton School underwent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and we are waiting the outcome. As you can see it has been a very busy year. A Big Thank you for all at Leake Church for all the help you give the School.

Jean West February 2017