

Parish of Sandal Magna Annual Review 2022

The lost are found, the found grow and the lonely are enfolded



Report from the Vicar, Revd Hannah Smith

I was very pleased to become the Vicar of Sandal Magna on 31st August 2022. The induction service was a real joy and I felt very welcomed by everyone. Thank you to everyone involved.

I think it is important to recognise all the hard work that so many people put into keeping things going through the interregnum – which was made doubly harder by the impact of Covid. So a massive thank you to everyone for everything that was done – seen and unseen. It is appreciated.

My first few months were a time of resetting, relationships and rebuilding. My first priority has been building relationships – there are a lot of new folk to get to know! Hopefully I have had at least a brief chat with a majority of regular congregants by now and I am very grateful to all those who have had me round for a meal or a coffee or a walk – and I hope to have more time to do more of this in the coming months.

It has been good to reset – to think a bit about our values as a church, to explore generosity and listening, and to reset things generally after the challenges of Covid and interregnum.

And there has definitely been a sense of rebuilding – restarting and building things that have stopped during Covid and the interregnum. There are many areas of church life which still have not restarted and I will be giving thought to which we leave and which need restarting and rebuilding in the coming months. It has been encouraging to keep seeing people come back who haven't attended since before Covid and we pray that this continues and builds.



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Report from the Vicar, Revd Hannah Smith contd..

I have felt very welcomed in my first few months and it is great to see so many great things happening here – at the Spring, at Portobello, in Walton and at St. Helen's. I have been along to Shield, our fantastic youth group, I've attended the Mother's Union, the volunteer's lunch at the Spring among so many other brilliant events. I've been pleased to get to know the PCC and also our staff team.

The year ended with Christmas services across the parish. We were thrilled to have many 100s of people attend the various services at St. Helen's, St. Paul's and Portobello and it was good to feel things are back at a semblance of normality after Covid.

There are so many opportunities in our parish to share the good news about Jesus and so great wisdom is needed in how we prioritise and use our resources for the best good.

My focus for 2023 is to establish vision for the new season and midway through the year we will be having a Vision Day for PCC, staff team and a few others who lead areas of church life. Please pray for us that we listen well to God's plans for our parish in the next months and years.

Please be praying for all of those in our church community and in our wider parish in this next season – for Jesus to be close to each one of us, guiding us to be more like him and to share his love with all those we meet.

Every blessing as we journey on together.

Revd Hannah Smith

Prayer Station at All-Together Service



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Warden's report for the first part of 2022

What an amazing year of God's grace.

When I think back as to how we entered 2022 as a church, I have to say better than you would expect given our circumstances. Throughout the pandemic people were recognised by the slot above the top of their masks, handshakes were forbidden, singing was outlawed, and the smell of sanitiser was a main topic of conversation. Livestreaming became our lifeline, looking at screens became our main way of communicating and deprived of our ability to discuss things face to face caused many a misunderstanding.

The effects of the pandemic on the population have been huge and they will live with us for decades to come. In similar ways our congregations suffered as our ability to show compassion as funerals became hands free, and some of our church family became scared to meet even after all restrictions had been moved. However, I must tell you that throughout this period many amazing individuals stepped up their contribution to the life of the church.

Then after what seemed like a long wait, we were blessed with the appointment of Hannah our new vicar, and it has been a great encouragement to see people restored to fellowship as the members of the congregations came back to meet within our buildings. Let us not take for granted the freedom we now experience or the way God's hand has held us tight, and together let us look forward to another amazing year of God's grace.



Flowers at St Helen's

Craig Orr, Churchwarden

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Overview of St Paul's 2022

It has been wonderful to welcome Hannah to the Parish, and especially to have her lead worship, spiritually guide, and pastor us at St Paul's. She has become a friend to many, with an amazing memory for names.

The church continues in good heart, welcoming new members of our congregation, enjoying worship together, and continuing in a warm relationship with our friends at the Walton Methodist Church. We had joint services at Harvest, Remembrance (with very well attended Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial) and Carol Service. We continue share wholeheartedly in village life with contacts with Working for Walton, and the Community Library.

The Barnabas Room is used regularly for PCC and APCM meetings, a number of church events including Mothers Union and CAP, as well as community and private events.

We are very grateful to Bishop Tom Butler who continues to take a monthly Holy Communion service, and to musicians Jonathan, Mark and Ali. Ali has been in Zambia for the last three months, we are missing her very much, but look forward hearing all about her

adventures when she returns.

There are very many who serve the church in different ways, we all play our part, but I would like to pay particular tribute to May, who unseen by almost everyone, comes and cleans weekly, keeping the building looking beautiful.



Margaret Walker

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Annual Report on the Proceedings of Sandal Magna PCC 2022

Your PCC met on seven occasions during the year 2022, six regular meetings and an extraordinary meeting with the diocese to discuss the vicarage. The APCM was held on 25th May 2022. The business of the PCC continued during the interregnum thanks to service willingly given by members of the PCC.

All meetings began prayerfully and concluded with the saying of The Grace.

Until September 2022 the interregnum was managed and led by the Church Wardens and the Transition Team overseen by the Diocese we continued to be especially grateful to David Gerrard for his availability for advice throughout the time of interregnum. The PCC were delighted to welcome Revd Hannah Smith to the Parish in a very special service at the end of August.

Thank you to Richard Hughes who has stepped down from his role on the PCC due to his pending move to Wales, we are very grateful to him for his longstanding and varied service to the PCC.

The PCC received reports from:

Financial team, Mike Keeton -Deanery Synod representative; the diocese on the future of the vicarage; Sarah Cutts on the wonderful work at Portobello; the defib challenge group; Laura Truter on children's work; Brian Pratt on a legal matter re the path at the side of the Spring; Julian Finn on the data audit; wardens re Revd Hannah's induction service; Ruth McCallum on GDPR.

The PCC authorised:

- Gerard K Jones as Safeguarding officer for the PCC
- Julian Finn as Data Protection Officer
- Appointment of two foundation governors at Sandal Magna School - Mark Buckley and Tracey Taylor-Thomas
- The approval of Julian Finn to lead and preach in services as needed
- Standing Committee spending to be raised from £1,000 to £3,000
- To adopt the admission of baptised children to Holy Communion

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Annual Report of Sandal Magna PCC 2022 contd

PCC authorisations contd

- That we donate £200 per calendar month to CAP
- The installation of a Payaz machine to enhance giving opportunities
- The Budget for 2023.
- The Budget for The Spring
- Renewal of the contract with Portobello Community Forum
- A new more efficient structure to the Standing Committee
- A new Financial Controls Policy
- Staff pay rises
- The establishment of a Tree of Life working group

The PCC oversaw:

- The continued easing back into regular worship due to the end of national restrictions
- The work of the Parish until the interregnum ended
- The installation of the new Vicar Rev Hannah Smith
- The final agreement of both a temporary and a new vicarage with the Diocese
- The installation of a Payaz machine.



Easter flowers at St Helen's

Your PCC works hard to serve the church & be responsible overseers of the parish finances and welcomes your prayers for decisions made on your behalf.
May God be with you in all your activities and give you His blessings.

Lynne Finn, PCC Secretary

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Wakefield Deanery Synod Representative's Report

Meeting St Paul's Alverthorpe 16/3/22. The first speaker was the Revd Paul Cartwright who gave an update on the deliberations of the General Synod. The second speaker was the Revd Jude Smith-Diocesan Director of Church Revitalisation. The third speaker was Jemima Parker-Diocesan Environmental Officer.

Meeting St Luke's Charlston 29/6/22. The speaker was Theo Sheridan-Watts from the Wellsprings Together Project. This is a charity to support faith communities in meeting social need.

Meeting St James' Chapelthorpe 29/11/22. The speaker was Liz Morton - Diocesan Children, Young People and Families Team Leader. An extensive talk on the future development of church engagement with young people.

Meeting at the Cathedral of the whole Episcopal Area Deanery Synods 21/2/23. The speaker was the Revd Jude Smith on the 'Barnabas Project'. The use of 'Barnabas' stems from Acts 11, when Barnabas rallies early Christian communities who had been scattered. Jude Smith summarised the project as 'Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities'.

Detailed Minutes were prepared by the Revd David Gerrard (Area Dean) and an assistant. Anyone wishing to see these Minutes please contact Mike Keeton.

Mike Keeton

“Community Spirit Games Group“

This group meets up once a month in the Emmaus Room at St Helen's. We welcome anyone who wants to join in, in table top games eg: scrabble, chess, draughts, dominoes etc., whilst enjoying a warm drink and cake or biscuits, which are supplied by myself and a lovely team of helpers and the Spring. It gives people a chance to meet up and chat and enjoy some company in a safe place, and know that they are part of the community. It is a real blessing to see how much pleasure this simple idea has given to those who come. Thanks and best wishes

Ann Dobson

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Choir and Organist Report

'O sing to the Lord a new song, sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful'.
Psalm 149



2022 was a year of change and a year of celebration! With the pandemic almost behind them, members of the choir were back to their best leading the singing for the 9.30am services of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. They gave a stability to the services which were led by visiting clergy and lay worship leaders.

It is a privilege to have choristers who lead the singing every Sunday but particularly on special occasions including Easter Sunday, the Annual Memorial Service, Remembrance Sunday and the Celebration of St. Cecilia (Patron Saint of Music) culminating with the Traditional Service of Lessons with Carols. In June, we were pleased to celebrate the Jubilee of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II but only three months later we were leading the service to show our respect upon her death.

However, the highlight not only for the choir and musicians, but together with the congregation was the Institution and Induction of the Rev'd. Hannah Smith as Vicar of the Parish of Sandal Magna. What a wonderful welcome she was given!

The choir has been an Affiliated Member of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) since 23rd July 1952. Seventy years of service given by choristers, none more so than the present choir. I thank them for their loyalty and faithfulness which is greatly appreciated.

John Arnold, Organist

Electoral Roll Report

At the APCM in May 2023, the Electoral Roll stood at 176 people, down from 184 the previous year. Three people have been added and 11 names removed since last year.
Ruth McCallum, Electoral Roll Officer

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The Bells

We have had a busy ringing year in addition to our weekly commitment for Sunday Services, booked Weddings and Funerals. In April we had a Grand Day Out to an event at Harrogate organised by the YACR. This included:- talks, displays, hi- tec methods of practicing, ringing on mobile sets of bells and handbells, and other activities, Shaun and Roger learned to splice ropes. May came with the National Celebrations for H.M. Queens Platinum Jubilee for which we rang 70 of the traditional call changes named 'Queens'.

In September we also welcomed our new Vicar, Hannah, then, sadly, came the death of H.M. Queen for which we had to follow strict National Protocols including fully muffling the bells, and from 12 midday on 9th September we rang a slow toll of the bells in relay, each ringing 96 strokes. Then, muffles removed, on September 11th we rang open as a team, in celebration of the Accession of King Charles 3rd, including some classic call changes named 'Kings'. Then came the challenging job of fully muffling the bells for the remainder of the official mourning period, including the Commemoration Service for H.M. Queen. On September 19th we again slow-tolled the bells in relay for an hour before her funeral Service.



We welcomed Hannah to a practice in October, and she had an assisted ring on the 3rd bell (photo). For Remembrance Day in November we rang half muffled for the Service. During the Autumn Shaun, Eddie and Jack stepped in to help Roger with the muffling and bell maintenance, and have become an enthusiastic team to help with routine maintenance. Our new adult 'learner', Anita Boffin, has become an associate member of the Y.A.C.R.

Margot Cutt

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Churchyard Report

The team of Allan Crossman, Julian Gill, Gill Heap, John Hepworth, Alex Hull and John Saville have been joined by Nigel Brook, Julian Finn, James Klumb and David Ross. They have continued to attend on a Wednesday morning. John Hepworth has been putting the cones out for weekday funerals. Les Wilson has looked after the "Tree of Life", the lower area near the seat, and the new burial plot which was much appreciated until ill health forced him to retire.



Help is urgently needed for a volunteer to look after the "Tree of Life", not necessarily on a Wednesday. Unfortunately Mike Webster suffered a stroke in July and is now in a Home. Geoff Cunliffe moved up north in July to be nearer family. Allan's help has been most valuable in maintaining the equipment for the "Mowers" and our brush-cutters/strimmers.

As usual the team chose a "Christmas Tree" from Woolley Edge Christmas Tree Farm and dressed it in Advent.

The team undertook the regular work as well as removal of fallen branches and clearing up after storm damage to ash and other trees. As a result the Churchyard now looks tidy. Many thanks to those parishioners who have commented positively on our work, it is much appreciated.

The snowdrops and daffodils have been glorious again this year. The primulas are coming into flower and we await the flowering of the bluebells. We have removed a quantity of snowdrops from the Lower Vicarage Garden for parishioners to purchase for a donation, as the area may well be bulldozed for car parking when the Vicarage is sold.
Alex Hull and the team.

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Defibrillator Challenge Report

**The Church Serving the Community
Defib Challenge - Launched 18th June 2022
Signed, Sealed and Delivered 14th September 2022**



The launch to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator took place on 18th June 2022. A packed programme of a Marathon Challenge of playing 100 hymns consecutively in three hours on the church organ, a demonstration of first aid and the use of the defibrillator together with an ample supply of tea, coffee and cakes along with a cake stall was well attended.



The hard work and generosity of many members of the parish, the community, families and friends resulted in over £2100 being raised. This led to a 'NEW' defibrillator being fixed on 14th September 2022 to the outside wall of The Spring on Barnsley Road. We were also able to have the 'old' machine from The Spring updated and installed in the Emmaus Room at St. Helen's Church.

This was a real TEAM effort (together, everyone, achieves, more) - many thanks to them and all who offered their direction and support.

The Defib Team



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Fabric Report

Introduction: 2022 was the year when we were finally able to open our premises for worship after the pandemic restrictions, and it has been a great joy to be able to host events again. Of special note was the Brass band concert which I believe raised over £2000 for the Pakistan flood relief. Then there was the return of the simple things we use to take for granted: Church services, Fellowship meetings, Weddings, and Funerals.

As you can imagine old buildings come with many challenges, leaking roofs, damp, wasps, etc. Over the last year we have had many external contractors help with the upkeep of our buildings, however, much of the maintenance has been done with the help of volunteers and I would like to make a special mention to Richard Hughes who has been a real godsend in dealing with much of the fabric work (especially the tech) we wish him and Angela all the best as they move to create a new home in Wales.

The Spring: I stood with Cath the other day and we reminisced on just how much we had managed to achieve over the last year: The new floors, the vastly improved water pressure, the modern functional clean washroom, the storage room updates etc. As is prayed every working morning “The Spring continues to provide a warm welcome to all who cross its threshold.” We aim to try and make improvements that make it a welcoming place for our staff, our incredible volunteers, and our loyal customers. Future works include a much-needed Kitchen update to enable it to cope with the amount of customers we receive on a daily basis, store room storage improvements, and a new multi-purpose sound system.

St Helens: Keeping up with maintenance is the key challenge. The big expenditure this year was the low path wall which had become a health and safety risk. Future works include Tree of Life improvements, a new shed to store the tools for our fantastic team of gardening volunteers, chimney top removal and restoration of the chimney breast in the office, sound system improvements, fixes to stain glass windows, a fix to the shared dry-stone wall next to Sandal Hall Mews, french drains to stop damp, and fixes for the external lights.

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Fabric Report contd

St Pauls: The big revelation at St Pauls was the underfloor heating for the new building, which it turns out was never properly installed, here I would like to say a big thank you to Margaret for her perseverance in helping to sort this out. The building is now showing signs of wear and requires a lot of general maintenance. Future works include, a few new windows, suffetes, some electrical work, and ethernet to improve the WIFI.

Concluding remarks: There is always work to be done and I am very grateful for everyone who has helped in maintaining our estate of buildings over the last year: builders, plumbers, electricians, painters, roofers, and a special thanks to all the unpaid volunteers who make the ministry of our church possible. If you know of anyone who you think would be willing to help from either a voluntary or professional capacity, please pass me their number.

Craig Orr, Churchwarden



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Contemplative Prayer Group

The group of “Contemplatives” continue to meet every second Thursday of the month in the Barnabas Room in St. Paul’s Walton.

We meet from 1:45 to start our prayer time promptly at 2pm. The sessions last for 1 hour so all can leave at 3pm although usually most people stay for tea/coffee & biscuits etc & obviously ‘chat’. After a time to relax physically & to calm our minds & become receptive to listen to the Word we respond to Jesus’ invitation to “Come to me & I will give you rest” Mt 11 v 28.



We then meditate on one of the Dominical sayings in the Bible---ie “I am the Good Shepherd”. In three periods of approx. 10—15 minutes of silence broken by the leader repeating the saying we take the saying first into our minds, our hearts or inner being & thirdly, then pray the saying out into the world of friends, families, church & the world only using the words of the saying. The three divisions of time can be called Head, Heart, Hands. There is a fairly constant group of 6—8 of us. Everyone is welcome to come & try or as Jesus would say---Come & See.

This method of prayer is calming, can be challenging depending on what the Lord says to You. It is a wonderful way of bringing the Lord to people rather than bringing people to the Lord & letting Him heal, comfort, disturb & guide them and ourselves.

Sue Davies

Oasis

After ten wonderful years of serving the church and community through the Oasis ministry, we have prayerfully decided that now is the time to bring this work to a close. We would like to thank all those who have been such a wonderful help and encouragement over the years. It has been great fun and a great privilege to serve the church in this way.

Anne Pratt and Janet Porritt

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Children's Work

Kids Church finally was launched back in April 2022 just in time for our Easter celebrations with 20 children taking part and enjoying the traditional easter egg hunt. We've had so many amazing lessons since usually including video messages, experimental plus visual object lessons with discussions to make it all exciting! The aim has been to create a comfortable space where the children express their own faith, to know God, grow in love and how they can serve in their daily lives. Our main themes have been focused from beautiful devotionals such as "Our Daily Bread for Kids" and my favourite, "you are Special" by Max Lucado which I would recommend to everyone.

At Christmas we all gathered for our Scratch Nativity where the entire church family got to dress as their favourite/ preferred Nativity character. This has led on to our "All Together" Service every 2nd Sunday where the children and adults interact with worship, stories and prayer stations which has a lot of engagement and an increase in families returning to church.

As we continue into 2023 and the years to come, I would like to give a big thank you to all the support and prayers from the congregation and staff. The biggest thank you goes out to Kid's Church team, for all your love and engagement to the children and families.

Laura Truter



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Shield Youth Group

Since April 2022, we have continued to have SHIELD twice a month during term time, meeting in the Emmaus rooms (usually 1st and 3rd Sundays, 6pm - 7:30pm) We currently have 14 young people who regularly attend, including two who joined just recently. We feel the group is growing which is so encouraging. Many of our SHIELD members have neurodiverse needs including Autism, Dyspraxia and Dyslexia. We are always reflecting on how we can meet our young people's individual needs.

Our young people are very enthusiastic about supporting the community. At Christmas, we collected selection boxes for local charity City of Sanctuary to assist families and children who are refugees from conflict and persecution. We hope to maintain links with them.

This year we are organising a few events to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Our first fundraiser was the cake sale in Palm Sunday, where we raised £125 for the charity. Two of our members lost their teenage cousin to cancer which is why we have chosen this charity.

We enjoyed a social evening at Laser Zone and Burger King recently, which was well attended and enjoyed. Since April we have done bible studies including 'Peter and Judas' and 'Priscilla and Lydia'. We completed youth Alpha in March 2022. Due to Covid we had a big break in the middle! More recently we have been looking at Dreams; how we use our skills, talents and passions for God, to be who we are meant to be. We take time to pray during each session.

We are really thankful for the support from parents and carers and also our church family. Especially Hannah, Ruth and Andrea helping with some of the practical and financial aspects. We are still hoping for more volunteer helpers to join us. We all feel it is needed so there are enough adults to interact and support our young people and also to cover in case of illness. Otherwise we have to cancel because we cannot meet the safeguarding requirements.

Rachel and Andy Chapman, Liz Rowe and Liz Morton

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Safeguarding Report

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

During the past year we in St. Helen's and St. Paul's have continued to develop our safeguarding processes. Our structured process continues to ensure that each ministry within each of the parishes have an identified lead with responsibility for the area of work, this allows for greater transparency, communication and clarity of purpose.

Ministry leads continue to assist with me to help all workers, both paid and voluntary to complete a signed volunteer agreement and personal declaration and where necessary have a DBS check. We have also developed our Safeguarding training, offering training to all workers, and have held training sessions for those needing support with IT skills.

I have given a talk to the Mother's Union, outlining my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and what the role entails. The SHIELD youth group continues it's great work with our young people of the parish. We are well underway with re-opening our Sunday School and Laura has successfully recruited a number of new volunteers.

During the coming year we will be offering workers and volunteers the opportunity to be First Aid trained to ensure all our ministries have a qualified First-Aider for their sessions and work. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is now a member of the PCC and there is a Safeguarding Team consisting of Gerard Kiely-Jones, Brian Pratt and Liz Morton. During the coming year we hope to continue to develop our policies and protocols to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our parish.

We hope to hold our first Safeguarding Sunday, later in the year, watch out for details as they are released.

Gerard Kiely-Jones Parish Safeguarding Officer

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St. Helen's Women's Fellowship

It is a relief to have been able to have a year of uninterrupted meetings since resuming after Covid-19!

We continue to meet on the first Monday of the month, at 10.30am, in the Emmaus rooms, for Fellowship, Fun and a Friendly catch-up with cuppa and cake. Sometimes we have a speaker, and this year we felt confident enough to even produce a printed programme ! Topics for our meetings have ranged from a traditional Lenten Service to listening to Sue Woodcock (local newspaper columnist) on the 'Joys of being eccentric'!

Like all groups, we are duty bound to hold an A.G.M. but at least this year we had the joy of welcoming our new Vicar (Hannah Smith) to lead the proceedings! And, as we had often done in previous years, it felt good to be able to once again, contribute to a charity fundraising and social event. We had great fun serving refreshments and having a cake stall, at the 'Defib Challenge' last June, from the Fellowship & Fun to the success of achieving its aim.

As our Reverend Hannah looked to guiding her new Parish, with her vision to 'Reset' with fresh beginnings, to build 'Relationships' within and beyond the church and to 'Rebuild' after the challenges of Covid, we can now feel confident, as a group within our parish, to embrace her vision and move forward to all that faces us in this next year.

Gill Heap, Secretary



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St. Pauls' with St. Helens' Sandal Magna Mothers' Union

The branch hold meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30pm, in the Barnabas rooms at St. Pauls' Walton. Currently there are 18 members in our branch. In addition to branch meetings our branch was also represented at various Episcopal Area and Diocesan events as listed.

We started year the Wave of prayer on Tuesday 10th January, followed by the AGM on Monday 17th January. On 22nd January there was a Diocesan Commissioning Service held at Wakefield Cathedral, for the new Area President Sue Atherton and General Trustee Gillian Wilks.

Branch meetings:-

- 21st February Speaker from USA
- 21st March feedback from Area Meeting.
- 26th March to prepare the posies for distribution on Mothering Sunday.
- 25th April Prayer Stations. We had a quiet meeting of prayer and reflection.
- 16th May Speaker, the Hepworth Gallery Gardener,
- 20th June Our booked speaker didn't show up so after prayers we enjoyed a relaxed evening of chat.
- 18th July Raised £75.00 for AFIA (Away from it all holidays) at our Beetle Drive in June.
- 15th August we held our marvellous Afternoon Tea and raised £450.00 for the Summer of Hope Appeal.
- 19th September Gayna spoke about her experience as a volunteer with the Samaritans,
- 17th October Speaker Alan Kershaw from Mercy Ships UK,
- 21st November feedback meeting from the Diocesan Council meeting.
- 19th December our Christmas celebration.



Easter flowers at St Helen's

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St. Pauls' with St. Helens' Sandal Magna Mothers' Union contd...

Other events attended by Branch members:-

- Friday 25th March at 7pm Lady Day Service at St. Mary's Outwood at 7.30pm.
- The Wakefield Episcopal Area meetings held at St. James Church, Ryhill on 7th March, 23rd June, and 13th October.
- Diocesan Council meetings on 9th June at Batley Town Hall, and 10th November Holy Trinity, Idle.
- Saturday 9th July the Summer Festival took place at Bradford Cathedral.
- 9th August Mary Sumner Day Service at Leeds Minster.
- 3rd October Outwood Branch Invited us to their meeting at 10:30, to hear a speaker about MU work at New Hall Prison.
- 11/11/2022 Wakefield Cathedral, Remembrance Service at 7pm.
- 21/11/2022 Outwood Branch Invited us to their church to see their display on the subject of **No more 1 in 3** and their meeting at 10:30, to hear speakers Jo and Ruth from Wakefield District Abuse service.



Easter flowers at St Helen's

In addition, some of our members attended the Cathedral for midday prayers on the first Friday of each month, taking our turn in leading the prayers. Midday prayers are sent out by email or by printed sheet to branch members enabling each one of us to take part.

Pat Schofield is the Diocesan Area members rep and Teddy Foster is the MU Enterprises Rep for the Wakefield Episcopal area.

Throughout the year our faithful members have given their time and monetary donations to support our charitable work in the Branch, UK and Northern Ireland, Overseas, for AFIA, Summer of hope appeal, Hospital Toiletry bags, and lots of knitting and other goods distributed according to local need.

Catherine Tweedle

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The Spring

As I write this, I am looking back as I often do, on the piece I wrote for the previous year – it seems a long time ago since the days of the pandemic, but we finally got to operate as normal (whatever that is) in 2022. Another year of striving to be a real place of welcome, need and hospitality to our local community and what a busy one.

Fellowship & Fundraising – back in full swing and raising funds for Ukraine – with a cake sale in March , Christian Aid – following our 25th Birthday Tea Party in September , The Community Awareness Project - our Advent lunches, Christians Against Poverty – with our planned regular giving, Dementia UK – following our tea party for the Queens Jubilee in June , Macmillan – with our annual cake sale and Tearfund, following the return of The Big Quiz in November – not sure on the exact numbers but in the realms of £5000 plus.

Our key event of the year has to be our 25th Birthday Party , which eventually happened in October – an event I felt extremely privileged to have been part of as we celebrated The Springs work in the community over the last 25 years – we also used the celebrations as an opportunity to recognise 5 Volunteers who have been with us since that first day – Noreen Pinchen, now retired, Roger & Pauline Parker, May Winterbottom and Doris Basu – a special day and one we shall all remember.

Fabric of the building – after an extended break over Easter we were finally able to replace the existing wooden floor – which whilst beautiful in its day had sadly become riddled with sagging boards, loose boards and no boards in places !! – its replacement will hopefully see us through to the next generation and beyond and was well received by our customers and volunteers alike. At the end of the year we were also able to upgrade our Washing Up facilities with a full make over – providing a much more pleasant, practical and hygienic area to work in – and certainly without our fabulous team of washer uppers , the café would come to a grinding halt !! – special mention to Craig Orr and Richard Hughes who have made such an impact on the maintenance of the building.

Finally a huge thanks goes to my staff team – Margaret Wilson, Jackie Gabriel, Jane Nolan, Jean Watts and Joyce Bloomfield without whom I could not do what I do and to every single one of our Volunteers who continue to “serve everyone with the love of Jesus” and make the Spring the place that it is . Thank You. *Cath Moxham*

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Portobello Community Centre Report

Portobello Community Centre is a hive of activity for its community and surrounding areas. Sarah Cutts is employed 15 hours per week and Laura Truter 4 hours per week.

The following groups meet at the centre and some create a regular revenue stream: Sewcial Sewing Club, Junior and Senior Youth Club, Kung Fu, Craft and Photography Group, Merrie City Singers, PCF Drop In, Alcoholics Anonymous, Portobello Toddler Group, Sewcial Knitters and Modellers and Strong Tower Christian Centre.

We held our 2nd Portobello Gala on a scorching day in Manygates Park in August. It was an amazing day, with lots of stalls run by Portobello Community Groups. We employed local artists so there was a full programme of activities for the day. We hired a climbing tower, face painters, and balloon artists. Due to funding from WDH and Wakefield Council all the activities were free and the park was full of local residents throughout the day.

In September we started Portobello Toddler Group. This has been a beautiful group with lots of families and childminders attending from Portobello and the surrounding areas. This is led by Sarah and Laura and has a Christian theme weaved throughout it but open to all.



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Portobello Community Centre Report contd...

Every school holiday we run a TLG Holiday Lunch Club once a week, providing a hot meal and activities for families. This is increasing in its popularity and we are seeing families come back each holiday. A huge thank you to our volunteers who make this happen.

This year we have obtained the following funding:

Live Well Wakefield Small Grants - we have been running four free exercise classes and a well being class every week since September 2022.

Warm Spaces Funding - this funding has been a huge success and enabled us to run some great Family Activity sessions: including Family Fitness & Food, Family Drama & Storytelling, Creative Fun with the Hepworth and Film Nights. Our Thursday Drop-in has seen a couple of new faces too due to the Warm Space element.

We have lots of exciting plans for 2023/24. We have applied for funding for more Drama, hope to continue with Family Fitness and have applied for funding through the Wakefield Health Framework. Sarah continues to network and build relationships to bring in revenue and work collaboratively with some great Wakefield CICs, charities and organisations. We have already started planning for the next Portobello Gala.

Sarah Cutts

Christians Against Poverty

There has been a bumpy start to the reopening of the Debt Centre. I began visiting clients in August 2022, with Sarah Cutts as Line manager (and mentor) until Hannah arrived and assumed that role. In September I had an emergency bowel operation that left me incapacitated for nearly four months, and the effects of which are still with me. But I resumed the CAP work in December with a phased return, which meant reduced hours and, when appointments began to be made, with a reduced quota of clients per month.

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Christians Against Poverty contd...

In discussion with the CAP Area Manager and with Hannah, we made the decision that Vivienne, my wife, would train to become a debt coach to share the workload and Vivienne completed her training in March. At the time of writing she is on the point of taking on clients in her own right. This means we will now be able to take on four new clients a month.

At present we are serving 7 clients. It is still early days, and I have yet to deliver my first budget (where the client is presented with the options put forward by CAP Debt Advisers). There seems to be no shortage of referrals. Mick Read, The Community Links Coordinator, has renewed contact with referral agencies in the city, and will advertise our services further if the flow of new clients slows down.

We have served breakfast to the sponsors, and all but one have agreed to continue their contributions. We may need to address this shortfall in funding later. There are 6 regular befrienders who accompany me and Vivienne on visits. We conducted a training session for them in January, and another will take place in late April.

The emotional and spiritual support for clients is perhaps the most important part of the work of the Debt Centre. All clients to date have been happy for me to pray with them on visits. Those with birthdays have received cards, and all received Easter cards and eggs. We have attempted where we can to encourage links with churches that are local or appropriate to the client, but more work needs to be done here.

Plans for the coming months include:

- Giving talks at St. Helens and other Wakefield churches, to publicise the work of the Debt Centre, and canvas support;
- Presenting to the Deanery Synod and clergy Chapter meetings;
- Setting up a Whats App group for prayer support;
- Taking advantage of a seaside trip for families organised by New Life Christian Fellowship.

Nick and Vivienne Drayton

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