



# **Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell**



# **Annual Report**

**Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**





## **Report on Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council 2024**

The Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church is responsible, along with the Rector, in promoting the Church's mission in Rothwell, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also having the responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Church, Parish Centre and Housing stock. The PCC is made up of Ex Officio, Appointed and Elected Lay Members. The elected members along with our Deanery Synod representatives serving a 3year term. The PCC has also appointed both a Safeguarding Officer and an Environmental Officer to advise PCC on these matters. A full list of the current PCC membership can be found in the appendix to this report.

The PCC functions within the regulations laid down within The Church Representation Rules 2022 and meets within the terms of these Regulations to ensure all its business is conducted efficiently. The Standing Committee is appointed by PCC to manage business between PCC Meetings as required. Various Sub-Committees of the PCC also meet on a regular basis to conduct the committee's allotted business. The present Sub-committees comprise: i) Fabric ii) Finance iii) Fund Raising iv) Mission & Liturgy v) Parish Centre

All our Sub-committees of PCC are led by a Lay Chair elected from within the Sub-committee. The sub-committees report regularly to PCC. 2024 began with a Pastoral ministry reorganization within the Benefice with the resignation of Revd. Sarah Hancox, who left to take up a post in Bristol, leaving the four Parish's in the Benefice to be cared for by Revd's Mark and Mandy. The process was helped by the appointment, by the Diocese, of an Interim Minister to the Benefice for a fixed period of one year. To this end Revd. Lisa Senior was licensed as Interim Team Vicar at a service on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and will leave in March 2025. Much work

was undertaken by Benefice PCC’s and their working parties, through the year on how the individual parishes would operate after this transitional period. During 2024 our PCC studied and after discussions adopted the Prayers of Love and Faith 2023 as issued by the Church of England for use in worship at Holy Trinity. The fabric of the Church is also under constant review by PCC and 2024 saw a major improvement in the church heating, with the installation, after a fund raising effort, of under-pew electric heating in the main seating arrears in the Nave.

PCC meetings are usually held bi-monthly with the various Subcommittees meeting in the months in-between. Attendance at our PCC meetings remains high for all members and during the year the PCC had to deal with many items many of which will no doubt be covered by other reports within this Annual Report, so I will not go into detail here.

Concluding my report, on behalf of the Parish I would like to offer our thanks to Bela Singh, our Recording Secretary, who retired in late 2024, for her hard work in transcribing our P.C.C discussions over the years and producing documented Minutes, and also to our PCC members for all their dedication and hard work for the Church in Rothwell.

Ian Land – Honorary P.C.C. Secretary

Appendix A – Holy Trinity PCC Membership at APCM 2024

Ex Officio		Elected	Retiring
Virginia Lynch	Vice Chairman		
Virginia Lynch	Warden	APCM2024	APCM2025
Mark Wilkinson	Warden	APCM2024	APCM2025
Norma Barrett	Deanery Synod Rep	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Ian Land	Deanery Synod Rep	APCM 2023	APCM2026

### Appointed to PCC

Joyce Blakey	Reader	APCM 2024	APCM 2025
Darren Clarke	Reader	PCC	APCM 2025

### Elected Lay Representatives

Carol Cressall	APCM 2022	APCM2025
Roger Ward	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Sue Franks	APCM 2022	APCM2025
Keith Lynch	APCM 2024	APCM2027
Richard Mayers	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Pat Shute	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Jennifer Ward	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Carl Burwell	APCM 2023	APCM2026
Adam Burwell	APCM 2023	APCM2026

### PCC Advisors

Debbie Mann Safeguarding Officer  
John Normington Environmental Officer



## THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

At the end of 2024 the number of names on the Electoral Roll were

65 Resident

15 Non-resident

Making the total number of names 80

In 2025 we have to start the Electoral Roll from fresh so please make sure you pick up a form and return it to Jennifer Ward or Sue Franks when completed.

Jennife Ward – Electoral Roll Officer



## **Churchwarden's Report for** **January to December 2024**

Once again it is that time of year when it is time to put pen to paper or finger to the keyboard nowadays and write the annual report.

January started on a rather cool note, yet again our aged heating system struggled to perform when we needed it most. Despite the best efforts of Roy Franks (thank you once again) the heating system was left rather wanting. With a cold and uncomfortable church to sit in even with thermal woollies and winter coats, and despite using portable heaters we were forced to move into the Parish Centre for the coldest and darkest weeks of the year. On the plus side church members were able to join in with our younger members in the Jigsaw service. We take this as a plus as we were able to do things just that little bit differently as well as hold a more intimate kind of worship. This led to an application of a grant for a "Give to Go Green". Basically, raise a sum of money in the said amount of time (in this case £7500) and the scheme will match the funding if it goes to a greener and more environmentally way of heating. Using pew heaters fitted that brief! Heat the pew and the seating around you whilst not trying to heat a whole building saving money, energy and the environment all at the same time. A win, win situation. As per usual the combined efforts of the church family coming together to raise the required amount in such a short timeframe of approximately 7 weeks was nothing short of astounding (or perhaps not if you know the grit and determination of Holy Trinity Church). This was of course on top of all the other annual outgoings and the Parish Share.

Given the need to keep our congregation warm and comfortable and not give our vulnerable church members double pneumonia. The monies used to gain our pew heaters were not put aside for parish share. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet our parish share requirements for the first time in several years. By the shortfall of guess what £7,000! I would imagine that this shortfall would have been more dramatic if we

had not been able to invest in heating as we did. Even though the congregation has worked tirelessly to raise funds it was in the end a bridge too far, for this year.

The pew heaters are probably the biggest change to the fabric of the church in the last 12 months. The PCC are still exploring the best options to support our heating whilst looking after the environment and God's creation. In the interim God moves in mysterious ways as the boiler which was condemned and had died and was past the point of no return, became like a phoenix and resurrected itself. It is now battling along quite nicely. The boiler (or as it is known in the vestry as Lazarus) continues to defy the odds, praise be to the lord! We continue to look for a more sustainable and long-term solution to our energy requirements.



The other headline story over the past year is the greater collaboration between the benefice and our brother and sister churches in Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown. Although we were already becoming more interdependent and sharing resources, the move of Rev Sarah Hancox to the Diocese of Bristol was a gamechanger and this was brought more firmly into focus. The Diocese is rather lacking in priests so there was always going to be a time when 3 full time priests would become two. We continue to pray for the successful ministry of Sarah and her partner Rev Anthea College and are thankful for their ministry to us all especially through the Covid pandemic and during the vacancy.

As an interim Rev Lisa Senior joined on a fixed one-year contract to support and ease the transition from 3 priests to 2. Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley have been used to sharing a priest, but this is brand new and uncharted waters for us here at Rothwell and our sisters and brothers in Lofthouse. Rev Lisa has supported the team whilst it explored how the new normal will work and a new service pattern commenced in January 2025 more on that to come next year in the 2025

wardens report (something to look forward to I'm sure). So, a lot of 2024 was taken up with thinking, praying and planning the next steps and the way forward to make a sustainable plan that works for all churches and does not burn out our clergy and laity. We also welcomed Darren Clarke to the ministry team as licensed Lay Reader to join and complement the ever-capable Joyce in supporting our worship. Both readers have made an outstanding contribution to the ministry and their knowledge and talents are greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year there has been a regular stream of baptisms and a small number of weddings (which is again the new norm). We are pleased to report that several candidates were prepared and put forward for confirmation in October. They are making a significant contribution and bringing new vigor to the church and its life. We also have a small number of newer regular attendees exploring the faith who may be looking forward to confirmation at a later date. We have had once again a significant number of funerals throughout the year. What is striking is that there have been several deceased who have passed at a relatively young age in tragic circumstances. With families left trying to pick up the pieces and make sense of what has gone on. We have seen several funerals which were standing room, only and folk outside unable to get into church as it has reached capacity levels. This has also taken a significant amount of Rev Mark's time as there have been follow-up visits and support above and beyond the usual funeral visit. It has also taken an emotional toll on vergers and sides people who have supported during these emotionally charged and sad events. We thank the continued professionalism and Christian charity of our small team of vergers who support this important ministry.

November saw a successful Archdeacon's visitation of the Parish. Archdeacon Paul is technically our line manager. So, it is a bit like an appraisal or MOT of the church, the accounts and terrier (log of fabric and moveable items) and church ministry are all explored and reviewed in greater detail and depth. Archdeacon Paul shared several pointers and refreshed and renewed the mission of the church in Rothwell. This was

just in time for the busy Advent and Christmas period which was, as it says on the tin, very busy! With excellent and increased numbers seeking the good news of Christ and the message of Christmas.



2024 saw an increase in Deputy Wardens to join and complement Jennifer and Jane who have continued in the role throughout 2024. So, a big thank you to both along with Abijit David, Roger Ward, John and Sue Normington and Carl and Diane Burwell. They have all been outstanding and supportive during the past year. We are always on the lookout for others to join and support so if you feel that it is something you would like to explore, please come and have a chat with either myself, Virginia or one of the deputies. We are grateful to Rev Mark for putting up with us over the past year, for his prayers and support and wise counsel. Sometimes it is not always plain sailing and there are different challenges to talk and work through.

Also, we would like to thank Sue Franks for her support in administration and dealings with the treasurer's duties. Carol, our building superintendent, Pat Shute who helps put the weekly rotas together, Debbie Mann our safeguarding officer, Ian Land PCC secretary and the whole PCC. Finally, we would like to thank you to the congregation for your kind wishes, prayers and support during the past year.

As singer Sam Cooke in 1963 once sang "A Change is gonna come". This will be the last churchwarden's report that we shall be compiling. As both myself and Virginia are both hanging up our Churchwarden wands. Virginia has already extended by PCC statue and behest her time in office that is allowed by cannon law. For myself this is my second tour of duty, I have served as warden the last four parish priests and two vacancies. Now work and family commitments are becoming very pressing. It is and has become increasingly difficult to carry out this role and give 100% and be effective. We are both not leaving the church or the parish, so we are still about but now is a good time to have a new face, or faces with different talents and attributes, to serve in this role and

take things forward and giving whoever takes this role on, the time and space to put their own individual stamp on the role. I have no doubt that you will be as supportive towards them as you have to us. Thank you, good night and may your God go with you.

Virginia Lynch & Mark Wilkinson



### **TREASURER'S REPORT 2024**

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to pay off our Parish Share in full for 2024 being £5878.33 short of the £52976 requested. In previous years we have relied on being able to transfer money from the sale of 4a Carlton Lane, but this has now been depleted on paying the share and running costs of the church.

We are forever grateful to the hard-working Fundraising Committee which raised £10,313.82 in 2024 from various events which are listed later in the report from the Fundraising Committee.

Regular giving was about the same as last year. We thank all of those who give regularly without whom the church could not operate.

After re-evaluation the Trust Fund stands at £450,828 which is down £12,621 from last year. However, we must remember that we have withdrawn £23,000 to go with the donations and grant for the under-pew heating. This means that the shares have actually increased in value.

Hall bookings were down by £1500 on 2023 but the bar managed to transfer £2500 to church funds. Hopefully bookings will pick up in 2024 but the diary isn't looking too good at the moment.

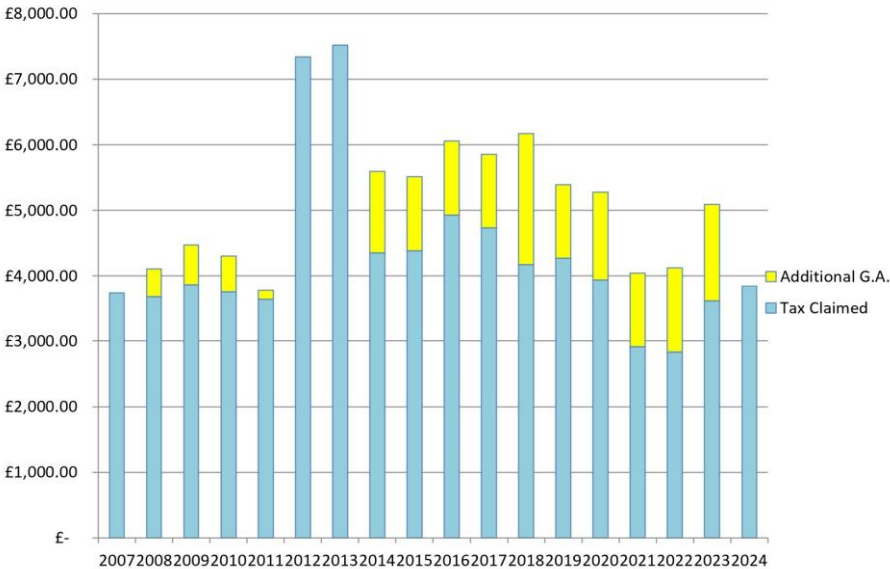
The card readers are being used regularly especially at Baptisms and weddings.

I have made the decision that after being the Treasurer for many years, and as I look towards retiring next year, it is time to step down and hand over to someone else. If anyone feels this is something they could do, please have a word with me to see what is involved. I can assure you it isn't that complicated.

Sue Franks – Treasurer

## Giving Summary- December 2024

### Gift Aid & Small donations gift aid scheme



The envelope scheme is reconciled to end of December 2024 and we have received gift aid payments from HMRC for both of the two 6

months periods of this year. I made reference last year that since the COVID-19 crisis we saw a reduction in giving for many reasons. As church opened then it was obvious that giving behaviours had changed, and sadly we lost a number of regular givers. As we know, numbers of donors have been in slow decline for a number of years. Over the year 2024 we had 38 regular givers through the envelope or Direct Debit scheme of which 30 are Gift Aided. This is lower than last years 41, and represents a decline of 7.3%. The average weekly envelope/debit/gift day giving was £625.90, resulting in £32,546.70 of donations which was significantly up on the previous year which is a 7.8% increase. This bounce shows a second year of growth and shows that our diminishing regular givers have met the challenge and increased their donations. Donations eligible for Gift Aid were £15,347.30 which resulted in £3843.58 of tax that we were able to claim back. Under the guidance of Rev'd Mark, and the visible increase in our congregation, I hope we can halt the decline in our regular givers and look forward to more years of growth.

## Giving Officer - 2024 Report (February 2025)

### Previous Years Donations

Period	Year	Donations		Tax Claimed		Additional G.A.
01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007	2007	£	14,345.90	£	3,736.20	£ -
02/01/2008 to 31/12/2008	2008	£	14,710.36	£	3,676.94	£ 430.97
01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009	2009	£	15,454.41	£	3,863.71	£ 613.40
01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010	2010	£	15,013.20	£	3,753.30	£ 552.89
01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011	2011	£	14,542.55	£	3,635.64	£ 139.39
01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012	2012	£	29,356.33	£	7,339.01	£ -
01/01/2013 to 31/12/2013	2013	£	30,098.28	£	7,524.50	£ -
01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014	2014	£	17,397.47	£	4,349.37	£ 1,250.00
01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015	2015	£	17,553.07	£	4,388.27	£ 1,125.00
01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	2016	£	19,770.80	£	4,931.11	£ 1,125.00
01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017	2017	£	19,007.90	£	4,730.38	£ 1,125.00
01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	2018	£	16,727.00	£	4,171.97	£ 2,000.00
01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019	2019	£	17,071.00	£	4,267.97	£ 1,125.00
01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	2020	£	15,788.00	£	3,934.49	£ 1,345.00
01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	2021	£	15,113.00	£	2,917.66	£ 1,125.00
01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022	2022	£	14,739.00	£	2,836.67	£ 1,288.48
01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	2023	£	14,437.00	£	3,609.25	£ 1,485.87
01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	2024	£	15,374.30	£	3,843.58	£ -

The additional Gift Aid shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> graph is part of 'The Small Donations Gift Aid Scheme' which started on 6 April 2013 and offers an opportunity for all churches to claim additional gift aid of up to 25% each on cash (small) donations, i.e. the gift aid due on donations of up to a maximum cap of £8,000 which we receive in cash collections throughout the year. Cash donations collected in services are also up this year, which means we have been able to claim more for 2023.

A summary of the current giving status is shown in the table below giving a breakdown of the broad categories of 'per week' donations.

Summary of Giving in Rothwell Holy Trinity Church - 2024

Per Week Contributions	Gift Aided	Non-Gift Aided	Direct Debit GA	Direct Debit NGA	Yearly Totals	Percentage
up to £1 per week	2	1	1	0	4	11
up to £2 per week	1	0	1	1	3	8
up to £3 per week	0	1	0	0	1	3
up to £4 per week	1	0	2	0	3	8
up to £5 per week	1	0	3	1	5	13
up to £6 per week	1	0	0	2	3	8
up to £7 per week	0	0	1	1	2	5
up to £8 per week	0	0	1	0	1	3
up to £9 per week	1	1	2	0	4	11
up to £10 per week	0	0	3	0	3	8
greater than £10 per week	1	0	8	0	9	24
	8	3	22	5	38	100

My grateful thanks for your continued generous support for the mission and ministry here at Holy Trinity Rothwell through your regular giving. As always you have shown that you step up the way you give through time, talent and donation and hopefully have fun at many of our fundraising events.

Kind Regards - Carl Burwell

Giving Officer - 2024 Report  
(February 2025)

# Annual Report from Safeguarding Officer 2024



In line with Diocesan guidelines on safeguarding, the PCC of Holy Trinity Church Rothwell has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on the safeguarding of children, and vulnerable adults during 2023. We continue to display a formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement in the church, Parish Centre and on our church website, as well as information on how to obtain help, inside and outside the church regarding child and adult safeguarding issues.

Safeguarding continues to be a standing item on the Agenda at each PCC meeting.

In September I was accepted to be Lead Recruiter for our parish and therefore am now responsible for our DBS checks, renewals and identifying a person's identity with thirtyone:eight , ensuring these are up to date.



In November we had a visit from the Archdeacon with Safeguarding being an item on the agenda. Reports were provided on DBS checks and training in Safeguarding that had been undertaken in addition to a questionnaire on parish safeguarding. The feedback was very positive with our required policies and procedures being in place. Following on from this visit we were given some actions to work on and these will be worked on in the forthcoming year.

Mark has successfully managed to arrange quarterly meetings with other Parish Safeguarding Officers in the Benefice and Rev Mandy. We are working on familiarising ourselves with DBS applications, verifications

and continuous use of the Parish Dashboard to ensure all safeguarding actions are met.

### **Actions:-**

To review the Safeguarding Action Plan annually

To ensure that roles held within the PCC and the church continue to be up to date regarding their DBS checks and safeguarding training where necessary. To ensure every person eligible for safeguarding training fulfils the appropriate training, which begins June 2025.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often ask, "What if I'm wrong?" but we have to ask ourselves "What if I'm right? We cannot assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen and will pass on concerns. Please always ask for advice around any concerns you may have.

Debbie Mann

March 2025



## **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER REPORT FOR HOLY TRINITY, ROTHWELL. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025**

As we continue to care for God's Creation in our church buildings and grounds, we are thankful for the many congregational members, who support and contribute to Holy Trinity becoming carbon net zero, in the next few years.

As mentioned in last year's report, the church heating became the number one priority. The money raised during the Give to Go Green

month, which was matched by the Diocese, enabled us to install pew heaters in the church. These were installed in October, following an Energy Audit earlier in the autumn. These pew heaters have been welcomed, and there have been no reports of anyone complaining of being too warm in church!

As mentioned earlier the Energy Audit suggested other areas we might want to consider, including insulating the loft space above choir stalls and installing electric panel radiators to replace the remaining gas boiler, and solar panels on the church and hall roofs. Watch this space.

Once we have costings for the outstanding items then the decision is with the PCC to decide on its priority. I would expect another round of grants to be available for suitable applications.

Sue and I attended St Mary's Embsey, for an Eco Church workshop which covered the Community on Sunday, Lifestyle and Reaching Net Zero, and Fair Trade. We missed out on the churchyard and worship session. It was such a rewarding and inspiring event.



Having been awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award in 2022 I would expect us to, with the improvements already completed, to be in a position to fulfil the criteria for the Silver Award this year.

The churchyard and grounds continue to be a habitat for many species of flowers and fauna, some delivered by human hand and the rest by Gods hand. The bird boxes that Carol's Crew at Messy Church built and painted have been inhabited by the homeless, no more, birds.

Roger, Sue and I cleared the piece of “waste land” near the steps to the parish hall. It should be in flower this spring and summer time.

Also, thanks to Roger and his band of grasscutters for keeping the front of the church looking terrific. I know it’s not a two minute job and requires hours of dedication.

The Churchyard Tidy days help attract people from the local area, who don’t necessarily come to church. These people realise what an asset the churchyard is to all of us who live in the area.

We have placed a box in the porch for anyone who have seeds left over, (lots of seed packets have 1000s of seeds in them. Who needs that many parsnips!). I’m pleased to say we have those who donate and those who receive, and those who do both.

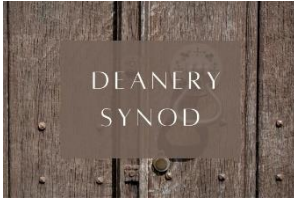
In September we supported Fair Trade Week by showing locally sourced examples of Fair Trade produce in church. I never would have thought wine and chocolate would be so popular. Many products are available in all our local supermarkets. Nowadays, they are prominently displayed, unlike in the days of yore.

I’d like to thank the Churchwardens and Sue for making sure we maintain a watchful eye over all our resources and use them wisely. Reduce where we can and source alternatives where we can. Thank you.

Thank you to all who support the challenges we meet in making the best use of our resources. I know you all “Care for God’s Creation”.

Together we all make a difference.

John Normington  
Environmental Officer  
March 2025.



## Deanery Synod Report 2024

Holy Trinity Church forms part of the South Leeds Deanery, the Deanery itself, part of the Archdeaconry of Leeds. Along with our Clergy, at present, we can elect from the congregation of Holy Trinity, 3 members to represent Holy Trinity at the Deanery Synod meetings. Our present Elected Representatives, who serve a 3-year term of office which expires in 2026 are:

Mrs Norma Barrett,  
Mr Abhijit David &  
Mr. Ian Land

By virtue of their office, our elected lay representatives sit on the P.C.C. of Holy Trinity as ex-officio members.

The Leaders of the Deanery are:

Area Dean - Revd. Phil Arnold – Christ Church – Armley  
Assistant Area Dean – Revd. Sharon Wilkinson – St. Marys -Woodkirk  
Joint Deanery Lay Chair – Stuart Ward – Oulton & Woodlesford  
Joint Deanery Lay Chair - David Jorysz  
Deanery Secretary – Brenda Pickard – Calverley

Over the course of the year the Synod met 3 times with also 2 Area Forum meetings and below are brief details of these:

The Deanery Synod met on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at St Peter's Church, Gildersome. Stuart Ward, Lay Chair, thanked Rev Phil Harris for serving as Area Dean, and thanked Sarah Hancox for serving as Assistant Area Dean. Bishop Nick licensed Rev Phil Arnold as Area Dean and Rev Sharon Wilkinson as Assistant Area Dean. Bishop Nick reflected on Jeremiah 29:4-14 and gave an overview of where we are as a Church and nation. He also referred to Psalm 137 and that we should be 'singing the Lord's song in a strange land' as he talked about us living in a time of

fragmentation and danger. As we entered a year of General Elections for half of the world's population, the bishops would be identifying political issues and calling people to look at them through the lens of the Lord's Prayer, particularly seeking the Kingdom of God. Bishop Nick talked about the Diocese being a community of people with a diversity of views, and the need for us to keep our focus on the Kingdom of God together.

The Area Forum at St George's Church on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 focussed on Church Growth.

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod was on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Christ Church, Upper Armley. There were updates on the Deanery Synod elections, the practicalities of finding cover during a vacancy and an update on Parish Share. Rev Emily Tidball had been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Gomersal and Birkenshaw and as she had been serving as Deanery Secretary there was a need to appoint someone new for this role. There was a presentation by Janet Edmonds and Alena Rose-Douglas from the Diocese on using church buildings for mission and grants to support mission in our churches.

The third meeting of the Deanery Synod was on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at St Wilfrid's, Calverley. Elections to Mission & Pastoral Committee – Rev Phil Arnold volunteered as Clergy Member and Stuart Ward led the election of Ian Waterhouse, previous Lay Chair, who was happy to continue. Brenda Pickard from Calverley agreed to take on the role of Deanery Secretary. Phil mentioned the Selection Panel for Ordinands and asked for any names, clergy or lay to be forwarded to him. DDV Advisors were also mentioned and Rev Rob Denton, who is an Advisor, gave a brief explanation of how it works. Rev Graham Blackwell was unavailable to speak about Artificial Intelligence so Rev Chris Balding shared a few tips on how it can be used practically. Rev Mark Watson spoke about his experiences of 3-year Interim Ministry at St Michael's.

The Area Forum at St George's Church on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 focussed on Lay Training.

In closing ,our thanks all those who serve on Deanery Synod and also to Jo Sarker for her administrative work on the Deanery's behalf.

Ian land – Deanery Representative



## **Report from the Musical Director**

The choir are in good spirits, especially with the numerous opportunities we've had to sing with Methley's choir. The carol service had fewer things go wrong than the year before, actually the joint choir did themselves really proud with the anthems, and I'm still thankful to my friend Janina Ugule who stepped in to play at the last minute.

Please don't ask me anything about next Christmas.

The organ stayed in good working order, which to be honest we should kinda be thankful for.

Apologies to those of you who were expecting something funnier, been struggling with writer's block this year.

RM



## MISSION AND LITURGY

The Mission and Liturgy committee has met four times in the past year. Much of our discussion has centred on a reconstruction of our church services following Revd Sarah leaving Methley to continue her ministry further South. As this would leave only two clergy to serve our team of four churches, we needed to work out a strategy of how to manage the team. We were given the services of an interim vicar, Revd Lisa, for one year in order to enable us to work through it.

After discussion it was decided that Revd Mandy will oversee the services at Methley and Mickletown as well as Lofthouse while Revd Mark will take over in Oulton and Woodlesford as well as Rothwell.

Baptisms will take place at 1pm at each church on different Sundays throughout the month, although families would be offered the opportunity to have their baptisms during the morning service.

Revd Lisa's final Sunday service will take place on 23rd March and we are grateful for her time with us, giving us time to decide which direction our faith takes us.

We have three Readers in the team, meaning that on occasions it will be necessary to have a Service of the Word. We also have a part time ordained minister who may be asked to take a communion service when Revd Mandy or Revd Mark are on leave.

My thanks go to the members of the committee for their contributions to our discussions and to Revd Mark for allowing us to meet in the vicarage.

Joyce Blakey, Chair of committee



## **The Fabric Committee Report to The PCC Annual General Meeting, April 2025.**

The Fabric Committee has met each month throughout the year in order to care for the well-being of the buildings and grounds of the Church estate. Throughout the year the Calendar of Church Maintenance has been used as a basic guide in planning the work. The first task faced in April was to formulate a response to the Quinquennial Report. To address all the issues raised would have cost £223,700 over five years. So, a plan to deal with the most important recommendations made by the Architect was drawn up. A plan has now been developed and permission given to repair the leaks in the tower roof and repair the masonry around it. When this is done work will begin on a review of mortar and stones, where required.

In January, the parquet flooring, outside the vestry, was professionally cleaned and restored. This had been seen as a repair and as a 'Health and Safety' issue. At the same time minor repairs were undertaken on the Church pews.



In the graveyard, the Committee was responsible for setting up graveyard clarence days which have made the graveyard increasingly accessible. In addition, a programme of painting has been set in place for the summer months. Concern has been expressed about the state of the graveyard paths and work is being done on this issue.

The Committee has arranged for a firm to provide a quotation to remove the remaining asbestos in the boiler room, again this was seen as a 'Health and Safety' Issue. In addition, the Committee has worked with

others on the window replacement and Heating Schemes for the Church Buildings.

We are a small, friendly group who would be delighted to have new members, so if you feel that you would like to join us (no knowledge or experience necessary), please do get in touch with me,

Keith Lynch



## **The Finance Committee Report To The PCC For The 2025 AGM.**

The Committee meets on a regular basis to have a monthly oversight of Parish Finances and to address any other financial issues that may arise.

From the start of the financial year, it was apparent that there was a gap between the income and expenditure of the Parish. This was clearly demonstrated at the end of the year when the Parish Share had not been paid in full. The Committee expressed the view that this situation could not be allowed to continue.

The monthly monitoring of income and expenditure showed that there had been little evidence of spikes or lows in the figures, which was encouraging.

The Committee has drawn up a Five-Year Business Plan for the Church. It was recommended to the PCC who accepted it as Church policy,

During the year the Committee discussed and helped to progress a number of initiatives within the buildings of the Church. They have contributed to the discussions of heating plans in both buildings and to

the work on replacing the windows and doors of the Parish Centre. Recently, a study of the Upper Room has taken place to develop its income generating ability in the future.

Work has also been undertaken in reviewing salaries and on the costs of hiring Church Facilities. In addition, the Committee has taken responsibility for oversight of charges and costs for the Hundred Club and a review of the rental of the remaining Church house.

The Committee is a friendly group who would be delighted to accept new members for the coming year. The Committee meets every other month and no specialist financial knowledge or understanding is needed to be a member of this group. If you feel that you would like to be a member of this Committee, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the group.

Keith Lynch,  
Chair of the Finance Committee.



## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**



thank you to them

The Fundraising Committee have worked really hard this year. Some of the events have been led by different people – Ann & Roger Ward and Sue & John Normington - giving the usual bunch a bit of a rest – so

We also need to give special thanks to Joyce and Stella for holding their birthday party to raise money for us and to Carole Herring for her sponsored event and helping at events even though she isn't a member of the committee.

As you can see below we held a variety of different events and managed to raise £9342.41.

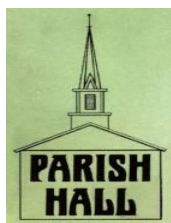
Christmas Raffle	£ 813.00
Christmas Wreaths	£ 10.00
December Fish & Chip Supper	£ 751.44
January French Evening	£1263.40
April Table Top Sale	£ 249.85
Smartie Tubes	£ 70.00
Donations	£ 70.00
Carole's Sponsor steps	£ 130.00
May Donation	£ 200.00
July Soup & Sandwiches	£ 347.50
Book Corner	£ 50.00
Summer Fayre	£ 919.27
October Barn Dance	£ 702.00
Harvest Lunch	£ 481.54
Autumn Fayre	£1371.26
November Joyce & Stella Birthday	£ 350.00
Soup & sandwiches	£ 605.00
December Band Concert	£ 230.95
Friendship Café	£ 265.00
Raffle and Coffee Morning	£ 686.00
Fish & Chips & Carols	£ 581.20
Rothwell Primary concert	£ 166.41

TOTAL £10,313.82

If anyone can help at any event, or even organise one themselves, it would be very much appreciated by the Fundraising Committee.

Jennifer Ward





## **PARISH CENTRE REPORT 2024**

The Parish Centre continues to be used regularly although not as much as it used to be. The rise in the cost of living seems to have people thinking twice about being able to afford to celebrate in a big way.

We still have our usual regular bookings which give us guarantee income – Paula Clark dancing classes, Toddlers, Rising Stars and Paula Vickers Pilates classes. We also have a new regular booking from January for Babybeats which helps new mums adapt.

The Fundraising Committee continue to use the hall regularly for their fundraising events.

We Beer Festival was once again a success. The kitchen made £1357 slightly down on last year and £4000 was transferred from the Beer Festival Committee. This was £1000 less than 2023 but still a very good amount. Thanks must go to the Beer Festival Committee, Rothwell Lions and Virginia Lynch and her team in the kitchen. Beer Festival 2025 is booked for 10,11,12 April.



The bar transferred £2500 to church Funds in 2024 which is an increase on 2023. This may not seem a big amount but without the bar we wouldn't have the hall bookings, and every bit helps.

The hall heating is still an ongoing project. The heating does work but is inadequate. However, this project was put on the back burner as we had the opportunity for a grant for under-pew heating in church which we couldn't pass up on. Virginia is back to working on this.

The doors and windows in the hall are in a bad state of repair and one of the windows in the upper room had been cracked on the outside. The upper room window is to be sorted asap, and quotes obtained for the downstairs.

Once the heating/air conditioning and windows are installed we will look to having a working party to re-decorate the hall. Watch this space asking for volunteers – it was a lot of fun last time we did it.

Thanks must go to Carole Herring for keeping the hall clean, keeping up to small maintenance jobs and running the opening and closing of the hall for parties.

Here's to a successful 2025  
Sue Franks



## Bar Report 2024

Well still another so, so year with the bar, gradually improving, but a long way from pre-covid days. Bookings have been very hit and miss during the year.

Prosecco by the glass and bottle continues to be the best seller in our wine range. Pinot Grigio being the best seller of white wines. Each function is different with different products doing well on each party.

January 2025 is starting ok, but February we have no functions whatsoever and March and April are looking quite quiet at the moment, we shall have to see how the rest of the year develops. I have made the decision to remove the draft bitter from our array, and replace it with a

dark draught cider, I will continue to provide bottled beers, as the demand has been much quieter lately.

We continue to get a range of birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, and it is a pleasure to see people enjoying the range of gins and wines we are able to offer. Many thanks to my dedicated team of bar staff, without whom, I would not be able to manage.

Pleased to see the Beer Festival is continuing and thank you to all who volunteered to help with that event.

Phil Thomas  
Bar Manager.



## **Holy Trinity Open Church Group Report for 2024**

Our regular planned opening of the Church for visitors recommenced in April 2024 after the winter break, and continued until December. Our small team of Stewards from Holy Trinity were again pleased to welcome visitors to the Church on non-service days, and guide them in roaming and investigating our historic building. Over the Spring & Summer until December our team welcomed a steady flow of people wanting to find out what lay beyond the large wooden doors, either for solitary exploration, to enjoy a guided tour or just quiet contemplation. In September we again took part in the National Trust's Heritage Festival. In previous years our visitor count for this day has been excellent and again 2024 did not disappoint with visitors and families coming from near and far to explore our church and be regaled with the stories its walls hold.

Our group is a small team and we are always keen to recruit new members in the running of this valuable ministry, so if you can spare a couple of hours once a month and would like to get involved in welcoming people to our historical treasure in the heart of Rothwell, please have a chat with Ian or Keith

Ian Land



## Sunday School

Sunday School happens on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday in the month (the 1st Sunday is Jigsaw, and the 3rd Sunday is All-Age). Children go to the back of church after the first hymn until the Eucharistic Prayer and show their work to the rest of the congregation after Communion. Their artwork is displayed on the Sunday School and Jigsaw board in the coffee area. All children over the age of 3 can attend. Under threes can use the children's area at the back of church. Bags, containing a book, colouring and a toy, are available for 2–8-year-olds at the entrance.

We play games, listen to and act out stories, after which there is normally an art, cooking or gardening activity. These activities are all based on the gospel or one of the other bible readings of the day. There are often photos on Facebook of the children being busy! Thank you to Ann, Debbie and Diane, who have helped out when I have not been around.

Carol



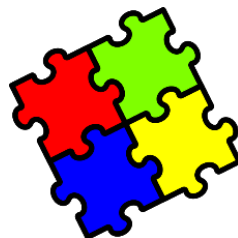
## Messy Cafe

Messy Cafe happens on the last Saturday in the month from 10am to 11-30am in the Parish Centre. It is open to all children from 0 - 8. Along with a baby area and lots of toys, there are two tables of art activities and a small cafe. At the end of the session, we gather together for a few songs, accompanied by musical instruments. Numbers fluctuate - in the February session there were 12 children with their adults. Thank you to Jane (cafe) and Stella (art activities) for all their help.

Carol

## Jigsaw

Jigsaw is an accessible service for families with children, held in the Parish Centre on the first Sunday in the month at 9.30am. It is a short, interactive, sociable and hands-on service with songs, musical instruments and a range of activities on the Sunday theme. During the activities part of the service, we are able to have a drink and a snack (thank you Roger). Each month we also add prayers to the prayer tree. I would also like to thank Ruth for her help with music and Ann for help with activities and organisation.



Carol



## Friendship Café

Last year I started this report by saying the café had been running for a year and was going from strength to strength. Well, I'm pleased to say that the trend has continued and now, two years on, the number of regular attendees has grown to approximately 40.

Our motto has always been, 'We're here to make friends, not to make money' and even with the effects of inflation hitting us all when we do our weekly shop, we have made a conscious decision not to raise our prices again this year. Having said all that, with our loyal friends coming every month and not only buying drinks and the ever-popular toasted tea cakes but also buying scones and buns to take home with them, we have made enough money to buy more mugs and make several donations to church funds.

Once again, I need to say a big thankyou to everyone who helps out each month either in the kitchen serving food and drink or by helping to get the tables and chairs out at the start and putting them away at the end. The café is open from 10 am – 12noon on the last Friday of every month so, if you haven't been yet, come next month. After all, I don't know anywhere else you can buy a cup of tea or coffee for 50p.  
Virginia



## **GIRL'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY**

The GFS has continued to have a busy year with lots of different girls attending and lots of activities taking place. A very big element is the "Keep Fit Activities". We have a lot of equipment, balls, rackets ,hockey sticks, hoops and bean bags etc and various games and races are organised around these.

Handicrafts loom largely in the activities and these always reflect the seasons of the year and Church Festivals. We have included painting this year, despite the mess.

Singing continues to be a lively activity.

As usual the GFS has run the "Gingham Cafe "at the Summer and Autumn Fayres. The girls have worked very hard waitressing and GFS Staff have worked very hard in the kitchen ably assisted by Sandra Bridges, Claire Dickinson and Anne Jagger who all have very strong links with the GFS!

We have been ably assisted by two girls at Royds doing The Community Section of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. They enjoyed it so much that they stayed on until their exams to give extra help. They gave an outstanding contribution.

All this hard work would not have been able without the outstanding and selfless contribution of Stella Dunwell, Tracy Sidwell and Joyce Blakey who turn up week after week showing their kindness, caring and devotion to the work of the GFS.

The girls also sang a Carol at The Annual Carol Service which lots of the parents and families attended.

Thank you to all who contribute, particularly Sue Franks who helps with all our admin.

Jennifer Ward.



## **BELLRINGERS**

A lot of hard work has been undertaken in the belfry and I'm pleased to report that the restoration of the bells is now complete and we look forward to ringing the bells and arranging their rededication.

While we still struggle for available ringers in Rothwell, we are supported by ringers at other local towers, which have enabled us to ring for some Sunday mornings, Thursday practice nights, a funeral and a wedding in the last 12 months. We are very grateful for the support from other towers and hope we can increase the frequency the bells are rung this year now that the work on them has finished.

While the restoration work is finished there are a number of ongoing maintenance tasks, which have been undertaken by ringers at Swillington and a big thank you goes to the Cox family and particularly to Tim for his knowledge and dedication to keeping the bells going.

As well as the bells, the bell ringing team also ensures that the church clock keeps chiming every hour. This relies on a number of volunteers to manually wind the clock every week and again particular thanks goes to the Cox family for their support with this over the last 12 months.

As we look to the future, we would like to be in a position where Rothwell has its own full band of ringers, so if you or you know anyone with an interest in bell ringing please get in contact.

### **FLOWER LADIES**



Last year we were able to provide fresh flowers to celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest, providing 4 displays each time.

We have been able to do this due to the generous donations from the congregation. These donations also made it possible to buy oasis and other equipment to provide the displays.

We have also provided silk flower displays to decorate the church.

There are 4 flower ladies who all work hard to make our church look lovely.

Margaret, Tracy, Wendy and Stella

## **Clergy Report 2024 – Revd Canon Mark Umpleby**

It's been a real joy and privilege to continue to serve as your Vicar as well as Team Rector for the Benefice.

2024 continued to be a year where I was continuing to learn more about what was going on in church and parish/community and the benefice – as well as growing my relationships with each one of you. It has been great to see confidence grow in our church and ministry as well as numerically in our services.

### **Worship**

I really value the support and ministry of our **LLMs (Readers) Joyce and Darren**. It is great to have such experienced ministers to share in ministry as well as their support, guidance and challenge. It has been great to see our numbers growing in our weekly services as well as in attendance at “special” times and seasons.

It was wonderful to host a **Deanery Confirmation service** led by Bishop Arun – and a real joy to see Alessia and Lucas from our own church confirmed.

**Baptisms** – It's been wonderful to continue to see many baptisms take place and a huge thank you to the Baptism preparation team.

**Choir** – Thank you to Richard for his work with choir and playing the organ. Thank you to all members of the choir. It has been great to see the joint choir with Methley a couple of times.

We had an **Advent Course** for all our four churches. I was pleased to lead the daytime groups. It's good when we join with other members of the other parishes in our benefice at this time.

## Pastoral care

I've been greatly appreciative for all who care for one another in our church and community – including thanks to Jennifer Ward, Church Wardens, Joyce, Darren, and many others. I've been pleased to join Jennifer in a few of the regular **home communions** she makes across the parish and the monthly communion at her home. Thank you so much to Jennifer and Norma. It would be good to grow this team to enable this role to be shared.

It's great that the **Friendship Café** continues each month where many can join together and support one another including those recently bereaved.

## Occasional offices

It's been a privilege to lead many **funerals** in church and at crematoriums. Thanks to those that assist with those services and huge thanks to colleagues including retired clergy who help in this ministry. Over 2024 we had many tragic funerals taking place after a murder, tragic road accident and the loss of a newly born baby – as well as some of our well-loved church members. It's also a real joy to lead **weddings** in church.

## Children/Young People

A huge priority for my ministry is with Children and Young People. Thank you to Carol and team who work on **Messy Café** and **Jigsaw (formerly called family Church)**. Thanks also to Carol and helpers for the **Sunday School** ministry... it's lovely to see children in our church and part of the worship.

It's been lovely to visit **GFS** and see the great fun and activities those attending have. Thank you to each of the leaders/helpers.

It's been great to continue connections with **local schools**. I've led collective worship in Holy Trinity Primary Academy, Rothwell Primary School, Rothwell Victoria Junior School and Cockburn Haigh Road Academy. We've also hosted again Christmas services/concerts in church – Holy Trinity Primary, Rothwell Primary School, and Rothwell Victoria Junior School. Thanks to those who welcomed at these events. It's also been great to host visit by various classes from schools to church to explore the building and for "christenings". I've also later in this year started to make links and visit Oulton Primary School.

It was great to have three school come to **Experience Christmas** in our church. Thank you to Virginia who organised and all those who helped lead those visits. As well as the Beavers who came to visit church in November.

**Safeguarding** – this is a hugely important part of our life together and thanks to Debbie Mann for her role in this.

## **Mission/Community**

**Worship** – It's been great to see these special services where we have been able to connect with those who don't regularly attend church at Harvest, Remember with love, Advent, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday and many more.

**Food Bank** – I'm so please to see the regular support of the local food bank and the connections growing with the team running this.

I was pleased to attend once again, serve drinks, and speak at the Christmas Day lunch hosted at Blackburn Hall.

Many other social events took place in 2024 which I want to say thanks to the fundraising team and many others who made these events happen and to all who supported... including the amazing Rothwell Beer Festival.

**Community together** – it has been good to get to know our local Councillors and MP. Also, to attend and support the various carnival community events in Rothwell. Thanks to those who helped with the Autumn Festival hosting stalls here at church for people to visit. It was great that many of us joined the Rothwell Park Run takeover as volunteers.

**Parish Administrator** - I want to say a huge thank you to Sue Franks – who’s been a huge support to the life of the parish and benefice and particularly to me.

**Give to Go Green** – thank you to all who supported this fundraising initiative and helped organise events and then enabled our new pew heaters to be installed – thanks to the GTGG team of Virginia, Roger and John.

**Wider Benefice ministry** – my role as well as vicar here, is as Team Rector of the benefice which includes the parishes in Oulton with Woodlesford, Methley with Mickletown and Lofthouse. I really appreciate the support of my clergy colleagues Revd Revd Mandy Rhodes, Revd Lisa Senior who joined us for one year in March 2024, and to retired minister Revd Diane Flynn – as well as other retired colleagues. I’ve visited all churches in our benefice to lead Sunday worship and their midweek services. During this last year we’ve had a “transition team” that explored how we can have a pattern of worship that will be missional going forward as well as allowing the ministry to be shared amongst lay and clergy ministers. It was lovely to have the joint benefice services here at Rothwell and Lofthouse.

**Diocese** – it was good to be elected to serve on the Diocesan Synod. Also, to lead an ecumenical team to lead the first ever **Leeds Pride Celebration Service** at Leeds Minister for the LGBTQI+ community and friends/allies. I continue to serve as honorary canon at Ripon Cathedral.

## Social Media/Website

We are pleased with the connections that continue being made online and the connections being made using these online sites:

**Facebook** – Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell, Leeds

**Bluesky** - @markumpleby.bsky.social

**Website** - [www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-Rothwell](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-Rothwell)

Thank you to Carl, Ann, Sue, and others who help to maintain these missional sites.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who make things happen and use their gifts. I particular want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to Virginia and Mark as church wardens, deputies (Jennifer-Jane-Abhijit-Roger-John-Sue-Carl –Diane) Readers (LLM) Joyce & Darren, all PCC members and all the sub committees, flower folk, vergers, Keith and team and Roy Franks help on our building/grounds as well as huge thanks to Carole Herring, and so many more.

I pray for you all daily, and I would love it if you can pray for me too! 😊

God bless you all lots.

**Revd Canon Mark Umpleby** – April 2025

Team Rector of Rothwell. Lofthouse, Methley with Mickletown, Oulton with Woodlesford.