

St Martin's Parish Church, Brighouse



April 2016

This Magazine is free (Donations are welcome)

St Martin's Directory

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Vicar's Letter

Happy Eastertide to all at St Martin's and beyond!

This was my first Lent, Holy Week and Easter at Brighouse and Clifton and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing in the various services, especially Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I always find these services very moving and was very grateful to Archdeacon Anne for sharing them with us.

During Lent the Stepping Stone home group looked at some material that was sent to us from the Diocese. All the churches were invited to share in shaping the new vision for our new Diocese – a vision that we can all buy into whatever our own context.

Three core objectives were presented to us for discussion and response; objectives that are at the heart of who we are as Christians serving God in our communities today. These objectives are: Confident Christians, Growing Churches and Changing Communities.

Confident Christians – being confident in our faith is at the centre of all we do in our churches and in our lives. With

that in mind we were asked to reflect on why we are so often reticent about talking about our faith. Our confidence is based on the knowledge that we are loved by God and that this is something worth sharing with others. As Christians we have nothing to be embarrassed about. Our churches should be places where God is encountered in community with others and that everyone is truly welcome to belong.

Growing Churches – much ink has been spilled in the media about the decline of Christianity in this country. We can no longer take it for granted that people will come and see. Church, and the things we do in church, are quite strange to many people who may have never been in church except perhaps for a Christening, wedding or funeral. Growth in churches happens one person at a time. It begins with invitation and welcome and that is everyone's job. It is as simple as making newcomers feel they belong; helping them follow what is happening in our services; sharing coffee with them afterwards.

Changing Communities – Jesus tells us to love our neighbour and the scriptures make it clear that God is concerned with the welfare of all, in particular the

marginalised. We are all called to be a people who make a difference where we are – in the schools, workplaces and communities where God has placed us. This is something we can all do by giving of time, talents and money.

I believe that these three objectives are challenging to us as a church and as individual Christians. My hope and prayer is that we at St Martin's can together be confident Christians, growing our church and changing (serving) our community of Brighouse.

Every blessing

Rev Paul

Activities of the PCC 2015

The PCC has had seven meetings in total, one of which was a relatively short extra meeting to approve the annual accounts prior to the APCM

At all the regular meetings in 2015, finance, fabric, child safeguarding, health and safety, our Mara link and Deanery Synod have all been on the agenda.

In addition, the PCC have discussed:

- Worship, including the 8.00am Sunday service and Refresh
- Mission and outreach
- The installation of a mobile phone mast on the church tower
- Lighting
- School Governors
- New choir stalls
- The purchase of a new laptop for the office
- Appointment of an organist/choir director
- Upgrading of the kitchen
- The work of the Ministry team
- The continuation of children's work and the setting up of a trust fund to ensure the work (Godly Play, Messy Church, Christian Crackers and Busy Bees) continues.

The School Choir of the Year competition

Susan Empson

Electoral Roll. AGM Report

The Electoral Roll has fluctuated over the last year, but now shows that we have 92 members on it.

Tony Empson

St. Martin's Parochial Church Council – Financial Report for 2015

General Fund

Income

Voluntary Income overall at £31888 was lower than in 2014 by 4.3% but this position significantly masks that of the element, Planned Giving, which showed a reduction of 11.7% reflective of the falling church membership numbers. There was an increase of some 46% in cash collections at services, weddings, funerals and baptisms to £4623; nevertheless the maximum recovery (£1250) from Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was not quite achieved. There was an increase to £2877 of income from Occasional Gift Aided donations.

Income from Hire of Facilities was

£4425 an increase of 18.5% on 2014 brought about largely by a £600, three day letting to the Orchestra of Northern Ballet. Contribution of £5500 came from events. Fees from Weddings and Funerals were 11% above 2014 levels.

Tax Recovery through the Gift Aid mechanism was 11% down reflective of the Planned Giving position.

Expenditure

The Parish Share, or Common Fund, for 2015 of £39396 was paid in full together with a further payment of £1809. This achieved a total payment of Share over the two years affected by the interregnum of £72205, which is consistent with full payment taking account of the rebate mechanism which existed for this period because of reduced Diocesan costs in interregnum. The Diocese has not yet recognised this position so the General Fund is showing a liability of about £5910.

Energy Costs were overall the same as 2014 and water £350 less as there were no more plumbing

failures.

St Martin's has been without a regular Director of Music for 10 months in 2015 and have used visiting organists; overall playing at services has cost just over £610 less because of this.

All other costs were broadly in line with the previous year and budgets.

Summary

If the Diocese recognise that the Common Fund has been met in full for the two years of interregnum the General Fund deficit indicated in the accounts of £6224 would be reduced to a small operating deficit for 2015 of £314.

Reserve Funds

Designated

This fund is primarily for monies bequeathed by former members of St Martin's. The Fund is designated by the PCC to support the future mission of St Martin's and for possible building development and major repairs.

There was expenditure this year of £7245 for improvements to the kitchen facilities in the Sugden Suite (£3555), relaying the main church access pathway for safety reasons (£3150) and the provision of a new, mobile choir stall (£540) and expenditure of £860 for resources associated with Children's Mission work. The Fund held in the Central Board of Finance (CBF) Investment Shares, CBF Deposit Account and in a Yorkshire Bank Term Deposit generated dividends and interest of £3084 in 2015.

Restricted

These include funds held by Busy Bees, St Martin's Ringers and the Church Flower Fund. These funds held a total of £1320 at the end of 2015.

The fund established to enable St Martin's to continue its Mission work with Children received income from the proceeds of Jigsaw Festival of £7950 and other donations including tax recovery of £3720; the Children's Restricted Fund held £16650 at the end of 2015.

A further fund holding monies to support the 2016 visit to Bugwema held £1137 at the end of 2015.

Summary

At 31st December 2015, Reserve Designated Fund held £118,815 and Reserve Restricted Funds held £19,110.

Outlook for 2016

Parish Share has increased to £40,085 but the Diocese is recognising a discount of £2626 as St Martin's was interregnum for 4 months in 2015 so the payment for 2016 will be £37460. A new "fairer method" of assigning Parish Share is being devised by the Diocese but this may not ease the burden for future years. Giving is likely to reduce further in 2016 unless church membership increases. It is difficult to predict anything other than a deficit on General Fund in 2016 if Parish Share is paid in full without concentrated efforts on Fund Raising. The Jigsaw Festival proceeds are presently largely (approximately 70%) dedicated to the Restricted Children's Fund so other events need to be organized and supported. Hire of Church facilities can deliver significant income and Slimming World has taken additional time but it has to be remembered that St Martin's has to be primarily available as a church building so additional opportunities are

limited.

In the longer term, if the arrangement to allow a communication mast to be housed on the tower, which could deliver an annual 'rental' income of something of the order of £7000 then, there may be some easing on finances; discussions on this front have been on going for some time.

John Parker

Treasurer to St Martin's Brighthouse PCC during 2015

March 2016

AGM 2016 - Fabric Report

The fabric of the church remains in good order with only minor repairs being required over the last year, these included:

Repairs to the speaker system to restore sound to the chancel

Repairs to the lighting on the main path

Repairs to a leaking radiator in the chancel

Repairs to the toilet in the choir vestry

Clearing of gutters and downpipes

Tuning of the organ

Installation of a replacement light fitting inside the main entrance

The Quinquennial report was completed in the summer and generally the church is in good order. However, there was evidence of wood boring beetle infestation in the tower.

Redecoration of the Sugden Suite also took place in the summer and our thanks are extended to Alan Sparks for organising the project and to all those who were able to help.

The replacement lighting is now installed and all main lights with the exception of the down lighters are now low cost LED fittings.

The section of plaster that fell from the ceiling was replaced at the end of last year and sections of the ceiling that had water staining were repainted – though the staining has since returned. An eye is being kept on these and other areas of the ceiling which are exhibiting water damage. An inspection revealed that some tiles have slipped on the south side of the roof and these will be re-set when the weather

improves.

The main path was relayed at the end of last year with the paving stones being set in to concrete in order to improve stability.

The main doors will need to be replaced at some point in the future, possibly with doors incorporating glazed panels to give a friendlier approach to the building. The replacement doors would be solid oak.

The proposed telecoms mast installation is still being negotiated and no date has been set for work to start.

The church interior is kept clean and tidy by a dedicated group of cleaners and the churchyard continues to be maintained by a small but equally dedicated crew and we would like to thank all those involved with all this work, anyone willing to give some of their time with either of these undertakings would be welcomed.

Steve Acheson & Allan Bolland

Choir Report - 2016 AGM

The failure to recruit a music director has been a significant setback for the choir. We have a vision for performing modern and traditional music to a high standard to enhance the worship of the church. We are also committed to recruiting children to the choir and to provide an environment in which they can both learn to sing and experience the joy of singing spiritual choral music. These objectives cannot be fully realized without the direction of an individual with both musical skills and leadership.

Organisation and rehearsal of the choir relies heavily on a number of key individuals within the choir. Thanks to their efforts the choir continues to prepare for Sunday morning, monthly evensong and festival services. The nine lessons and carols service continues to be the highlight of the year and it is always a pleasure to prepare the music for this special event. As in previous years, attendance at this magical service was very good. Music for Passiontide is perhaps even more inspired than that written for Christmas and we were provided with an opportunity to sing a selection of items at a Passiontide festival

service. We hope that this event will in time achieve a similar reputation to the nine lessons and carols service and achieve similar attendance.

We mourn the loss of Edward Singleton who had been a member of the choir for 84 years, joining the choir in 1931 when his father Whiteley Singleton was organist and choirmaster. We also mourn the loss of Peter Middleton who served as organist and choirmaster in the period 1971 to 1996. However, we rejoice at the return of a number of former choristers and new recruits to the adult choir.

As ever we are united by the joy of singing challenging worship music to the best of our ability and look forward to serving God and the church throughout the year, but hopefully in the not too distant future with the assistance of a music director!

Mark Singleton

Children's Work. AGM Report

Christian Crackers.

Christian Crackers continues to be well attended at both St. Andrew's Junior and Infant schools. We have 4 one hour sessions spread over the week from Monday to Thursday during term time with over 60 children regularly attending, they have fun making crafts, listening to a story and playing games - and most importantly, waiting to see who has won the medal.

Each week the story and craft activity are linked to each other and have a Christian Ethos behind them. During the period of Lent the children took their Lenten Journey by creating a road of tears showing Jesus's journey through this time of sadness (this was displayed on the south wall in Church). The tears of sadness have now been transformed into petals for a flower representing Joy and new life. (This can be seen on the west wall in Church – above the children's corner)

Busy Bees

Busy Bees continues to go from strength to strength and the new session time 1pm - 2.30pm is a hit

with mums who have older siblings at school. We have seen a great interest from new mums dads and grandparents wishing to join us. The sessions are lively affairs where the children enjoy singing our welcome "Bee song", lighting a candle for Jesus, playing games and being creative with weekly activity while the mums have a good natter and catch up. There are no session charges as such but we do ask for a 50p donation from everyone which is put towards the heating fund for Church, Busy Bees donates a minimum of £500 a year to the Church. We continue to be self funding but unfortunately we were unable to have our children's tombola stall at the Victorian Market last November due to the day's event being cancelled because of our lovely British weather! We will be having the same stall at the Brighthouse 1940's on Sunday 5th June, fingers crossed for better weather. (funds raised from this event will be split between Busy Bees and Church).

Messy Church

Both the Advent and Good Friday events were a great success, with lots of families from both Infants and Junior schools

coming along to join us for worship, crafts (themed to each occasion) and yummy treats to eat in our café. An invitation was sent out to all the school children with a R.S.V.P. this has proved to be successful and it helped in working out the catering and the crafts needed. Our next messy Church is on Tuesday May 10th 3.30pm - 5pm.

I would not be able to run these clubs and events without support and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge Thank You to everyone who helps and supports me in my work, I really do appreciate everything you all do. The children look forward to seeing your smiling faces every week, as do I.

Rachel Acheson.

Chinwag AGM Report 2016

Chinwag started 2015 as usual with a planning meeting in January.

In February we did not meet, but in March as our practical contribution to the local charity TLC, we helped to fill children's activity boxes for looked after

children in Calderdale.

On the first Wednesday in April, we went to the Holy Week service at church and followed this with hot cross buns!

In May we were entertained by a talk from Michael Storey and in June we went for a walk along the canal bank from Brighouse, ending with a pub meal.

The weather was really good for our barbecue in July, and we were still sitting outside at 10.00 pm.

We did not meet in August, but in September we had an interesting talk "Storthes Hall Remembered" given by Ann Littlewood, who had worked and been involved with Storthes Hall for many years. Some members of the Parish Guild joined us for this evening.

Wine tasting was on the agenda again in October and Christine Blagbrough entertained us with some interesting information about the wines which we sampled.

In November, we had an evening playing Bag Whist and in December we had our annual meal out at the Meze Restaurant in Brighouse.

We would love to welcome any new members – we are a friendly group and meet on the first

Wednesday in the month, usually in members homes, so please come along and join us. Details of our meetings are on the weekly news sheet and on the notice board at the back of the Sugden Suite.

Susan Empson

Guild Report for Annual PCC Meeting

Although there is only a handful of us now we had a very sociable year, we held meetings in members homes and a few lunches out.

We decided not to meet in the winter and are looking forward to resuming in April

If anybody would like to join us you will be most welcome. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month and the venue will be on the news sheet.

Marjorie Robinson

St Martin's Bell Ringers

2015 was a busy year for the bell ringers with regular Sunday

service ringing and practice night. You may have heard the bells ringing continuously on Sunday for about 45 minutes. To bell ringers these performances are called Quarter Peals.

During 2015 Brighouse rang the most quarter peals in the Western Branch (stretching from Holmfirth in the South to Horton-in-Ribblesdale in the North) and claim third place in the whole of the Yorkshire association, only 4 quarters behind York Minster.

Brighouse also features elsewhere in the league tables with our ringers appearing on both the "Ringers with most quarters" and "Leading conductors" lists too.

The ringers would like to thank the organisation of the tower captain, those who called quarters throughout the year and of course the ringers for learning the variety of unusual and curious methods we managed to achieve in 2015 ensuring we rarely rang the same thing twice!

Anyone wanting to try their hand at bell ringing, including groups of scouts and air cadets embarking

on their D of E's in the coming summer are always welcome to join us in the tower on Friday evenings at 1945. We've got DBS cleared members, patience and a lot of experience to share with those interested in giving it a go and our average age is lower than you might think!

Tina Newsome

Do you want to grow your Family Tree ?

Many people, particularly those who are newly retired, are discovering a fascinating new hobby - Genealogy (or Family History).

This is to give you just a taste of how to start & some of the areas where you can find help, particularly locally.

The 1st thing to realise is that getting information about your family from your own living memory is generally straightforward &, to find information about your ancestors

from over 100 years ago, you can use a multitude of sources available, the tricky bit is uncovering facts about those who lived 50 to 100 years ago.

These are the recommended first steps :-

- Write down all the basic information about your predecessors, from both sides of your family, that you know about - principally, birth, marriage & death dates & places

- Think of the oldest living person in your family & go to talk to them about what they know & can remember. A number of visits may be worthwhile, because once they start to think about it, all sorts of memories come flooding back.

- Consider where you can get help from people with experience, and use their resources to get you on the path.

Once you start to get the hang of it, think about purchasing some reputable computer software to record what you find. It's so much easier to use than writing it all down on bits of paper !!

There are a number of wide-ranging sources of information,

some more expensive than others. The 2 main internet-based sites are www.ancestry.com and www.findmypast.co.uk which will give you access to the main sources of information. These tend to be :-

- Census returns from 1841 to 1911 (plus 1939 from FindMyPast)
- Birth, Marriage & Death Indexes from 1837 to the early 21st century.

Parish Registers for many churches, which go as far back as the 17th century

If your ancestors were local to here, the best source of information is your local Family History Society, whose annual subscription can be from as low as £5.50 pa. The nearest one to Brighouse is Calderdale FHS. You can find more information about them from :-

- A visit to their Research room at Brighouse Library - open Tuesday afternoons & Thursday mornings every week.

Looking at their website www.cfhsweb.com which has an index of nearly 2m names of local people over 4 centuries.

This is a fascinating pursuit where you may find amazing details about your forebears that you never dreamed of!

The next edition of this magazine is planned for early August 2016, if you would like to submit an article please email it to Steve Acheson by 25th July.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition

Birthdays

- 2 Apr. Henry Miller
- 11 Apr. Joanna Walkington
- 12 Apr. Stella Barnes
- 19 Apr. Joanne Warrington
- 20 Apr. Marjorie Robinson
- 23 Apr. Marjorie Atkinson
- 25 Apr. Brian Batty
- 29 Apr. Ann Guilfoyle

- 4 May. Steve Acheson
- 9 May. Simon Miller
- 12 May. Tony Empson, Oliver Frearson
- 13 May. Karen Jones
- 15 May. Joyce Townend
- 17 May. Neil Robinson, Lynn

Robinson
19 May. Sheila Singleton
23 May. Karl Bolland
24 May. Roy Williams
25 May. Robert Leach
26 May. Abigail Acheson, Victoria Frearson

1 Jun. Margaret Naylor
4 Jun. Beryl Graham
5 Jun. Betty Knowles
6 Jun. Luke Bolland, Alison Clark, Reece Jones
9 Jun. Barbara Wetton
15 Jun. Anne Frearson, Isabelle Frearson
22 Jun. Margaret Bancroft, Matthew Stables
23 Jun. Dorothy Marritt
24 Jun. Linda Howard
27 Jun. Susan Empson, Ben Walkington

4 Jul. Megan Taylor
9 Jul. Dereck Frearson
15 Jul. Pauline Williamson
18 Jul. Richard Lord
25 Jul. Graham Davies
29 Jul. Marjorie Farrar, Gladys Buckwell
31 Jul. Sarah Jones

Anniversaries

3 Apr. Carol and Thomas Bevan

9 May. Michelle and Darrin Petch

23 May. Susan and Tony Empson

21 Jun. Anne and Dereck Frearson

26 Jun. Joanna and Mark Walkington

9 Jul. Deirdre and Alan Sparks

18 Jul. Marjorie and Neil Robinson

23 Jul. Rachel and Steve Acheson

Baptisms

March

20 Luca David Whitaker

Poppy Dawn Julie Whitaker

Weddings

None

Funerals

January

8 B Burke

March

3 Paul Shaw

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAY

- 10.45am Sung Eucharist
6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Service (Not 3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Sung Evensong (3rd Sunday only)

WEDNESDAY

- 7.30pm Stepping Stones - A Reflective Service (Held at the Vicarage - 47 Bracken Road)

THURSDAY

- 9.30am Morning prayer
10.00am Eucharist

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

THURSDAYS

- 7.30pm - 8.30pm Choir practice

FRIDAYS

- 9.15am - 10.30am Cleaning
1pm - 2.30pm Busy Bees for babies, pre-school children and their parents or carers (term time only)

VESTRY (TO BOOK A WEDDING, BAPTISM OR FUNERAL SERVICE)

To discuss booking a wedding, baptism or funeral please call Fr Paul on 01484 721689

BOOK THE CHURCH FOR AN EVENT

To book the church/Sugden Suite for an event please contact Tony Empson on 01484 715077 or tony.empson@stmartinsbrighouse.org.uk

SICK COMMUNION

The Holy Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the sick, and Holy Communion can be given at any time, anywhere. In an emergency ring 01484 721689 without delay