

DECEMBER 2020

# ANNUAL REPORT



St James, Thornton.



PREPARED BY:

Rev. H Gwinnett

# ANNUAL UPDATE



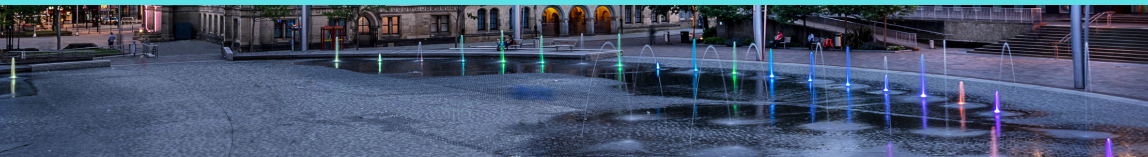
As we hear those reports perhaps we are all asking that obvious question; when will there be an end to this pandemic - Well as the infection figures continue to rise the announcement of a second covid vaccine being approved yesterday gives us that glimmer of hope for 2021.

Well, it's the 31st December and as I sit and write this report the BBC news has just announced that yesterday's daily reported corona virus infections had reached over 50,000; a figure far in excess of those projected in the first wave of the virus back in March / April.

Like most years we have had our ups and downs, although this year those ups and downs have been more visible as we've continued to press into God and seek his direction throughout the year.

Despite the huge disruption to world affairs, we have had many wonderful opportunities to praise God and be thankful for all that we have here at St James and in the parish of Thornton.

## A glimmer of hope for 2021...



# NO ORDINARY SEASON

For me it seems to have been an extraordinary season that started on the 11th of January when we held a vision day to discuss the diocesan five-fold strategy.

The strategy fell into five specific categories: -

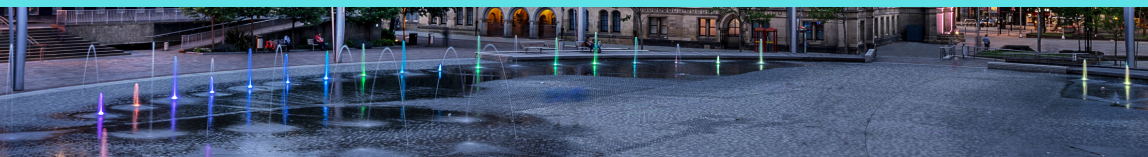
- Thriving as a distinctive diocese who is culturally shaped by a shared vision and values.
- Re-imagining ministry.
- Nurturing lay discipleship.
- Building leadership pathways.
- Growing young people as Christians.

Since the vision day in January one of the biggest leaps forward has been in re-imagining our ministry. For a long time we had talked about streaming services on the web for those people who couldn't attend, but we'd never taken the plunge!

Sometimes it takes extraordinary circumstances to force us into action.

After the onset of national lockdown we were forced to take our services on-line and have continued to produce two or sometimes even three videos each week.

As we look back over the months we realise what a steep learning curve it has been getting to grips with many aspects of Social Media - but all-in-all, it's been enjoyable and beneficial journey.



# SPIRIT FILLED OUTREACH

Last year we said that we felt God was calling us to plant a church at the Academy of St. James on the Allerton estate.

Since then we have not let the pandemic get in our way and despite the restraints of multiple national lockdowns, our church planting and outreach team felt that it was only right to press on with what they felt God was asking us to do.

We have continued to meet on Wednesday evenings for prayer and planning.

During the year things have gone from strength to strength and we have done an amazing amount of work on and around the Allerton estate.

Initiatives have included: -

Producing and distributing 3500 copies of *The Star* a 40 page Christmas book.

Working with Nicodemus Trust and Rooted-in to help develop life changing relationships with people on the margins.

Working with the local schools to provide food for struggling families throughout the year including the long summer holiday.

"Go and make  
disciples of all  
people"

# STATISTICS

## The Numbers

Average weekly attendance	Not possible to quote
Number on electoral roll	75
Baptisms	0
Weddings	0
Wedding Blessings	0
Funerals in church	0
Funerals at the crematorium	3

## A note from the church wardens

What a year! For the early part Rita and I worked to represent our Church family as in the previous year. Church was then closed for 3 months, re-opening in July for private prayer with services resuming again in August.

As Wardens our responsibility is to ensure a welcoming and, now more than ever, safe place to worship that entailed following all Government Covid Guidelines and even ticketing our Christmas services.

Rita stepped down in October and I speak for us all in thanking her for all the hard work and welcoming John to his new role.

God Bless

Andy

# LEGAL

## The PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met monthly during the year, albeit mostly on the Zoom platform.

PCC members who have served since the last APCM where: -

Incumbent: Rev. Harry Gwinnett (Chairman)

Associate Minister: Rev. Gloria Hardisty

Wardens: Rita Gillmore (Part Year)

Andrew George

John Merritt (Part Year)

Secretary: Lesley Pemberton

Treasurer: Kevin Watt

Deanery Synod: Andrew Carter

Other Elected Members that served in 2020

Justine Gwinnett (Part Year)

Shelly Marshal (Part Year)

John Merritt

Lorraine Lee

Gina Barker

Michael Pemberton

Mavis Rouse

Michael Joyce

## Policies

Policy documents relating to Health and Safety can be viewed on our website: -

<http://www.james4u.org/groups/cosHH-and-hs.html>

Policies relating to safeguarding can be viewed at: -

<http://www.james4u.org/groups/safeguarding.html>

All Policy documents are reviewed on an annual basis.

# REPORTS

## Deanery Synod

The Outer Bradford Deanery, the link between Parishes and The Diocese is and has been a difficult task to `kick start` with little success to date. The Area Dean, Vaughan Pollard sought guidance from The Diocese trying to put some parameters together built around the Diocesan Strategy to give some incentive and understanding as to how the Standing Committee formed, should address the ever changing situation, now compounded by Covid and as a result no meetings were held in the early weeks of the year before lockdown. John Merritt and myself were nominated to stand as representatives, seconded and approved at the 2019 APCM held in November 2020 and will carry out these duties through until Spring 2023.

Once we are in a position to meet with the Area Dean, we are hopeful we can make progress and move The Deanery forward.

Andrew Carter. Deanery Representative to the PCC.



## Book Sale

Unfortunately due to the situation this year we only heard a couple of booksales before being prevented to meet, however we would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who for their commitment it is much appreciated.

# Safeguarding

From our Parish Safeguarding Officer Lorraine Lee

Safer Recruitment, and Training.

Our parish supports many groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable.

We aim to have all leaders and volunteers working with our groups safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance and we have ensured they have received the level of training required by the Church.

There are 4 DBS checks that require updating and will be completed by 28/02/21.

All new recruits will be appointed following the Church's national guidance for safer recruitment.

Most volunteers have completed the level 1 and 2 training (online or face to face training). This training is provided by the Diocese and is available through the website.

3. Church Policy and Guidance St James' has formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance. This has been agreed with the PCC.

The church displays:

- A copy of the Safeguarding Policy,
- Diocese safeguarding poster
- The House of Bishops' policy statement.
- "Who's who" in parish safeguarding in your church.

PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Continue to develop links with Urban Saints to enhance and support safeguarding procedures at St James' church.

Ensure that all leaders and volunteers are recruited following the Church's national guidance and have completed level 1 and 2 training.



## lyfe groups

This year has been a difficult year for our lyfe groups. We got half way through our Lent course on the film *Only the Brave* when lockdown occurred and all the groups stopped immediately.

In September the group at Hoyle ing rd and Mike Joyce's group started meeting on zoom. Janice Joyce's group and Harry's group met sporadically at church observing social distancing. Gloria's group and Andrew Carter's group haven't met at all.

The groups that have met have used a study based on 1 Peter. We are hoping for better things in 2021.

If you would like to join a group please contact me Mavis Rouse on 01274 889804

## Place of Welcome

Places of Welcome meet each Thursday (Until lockdown) between 2pm and 4pm. We are a small, friendly group and have facilities/resources to keep people amused such as games, books to borrow or buy, art equipment, jigsaws etc. More often than not, we tend to sit down with a cuppa and cake and attempt to "put the world to rights!"

Everyone is welcome, as the name implies. The group is aimed at anyone who wants to get out of the house for a couple of hours and make new friends or catch up with "old" ones.

During lockdown, we have all kept in touch to make sure everyone is coping in these strange and difficult times. We feel it's very important to support each other at all times and are always "Here to Hear" should anyone be going through tough times.

When possible, we like to have trips out. We have been out for lunch and had shopping trips. We are planning a trip to Boundary Mill in Colne when things get back to normal. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new in the near future and are sure you will enjoy a friendly, welcoming afternoon out. Gina Barker.

# Buliding and Fabric

This year has been extremely busy and challenging. We must thank all those who have helped in keeping the church, church hall and surrounding grounds in a good state of repair and thanks to those who continue to maintain the grounds of the Old Bell Chapel.

In addition to the normal maintenance activities undertaken in the church and church hall a number of additional jobs were completed during the year.

- Repairs have been undertaken to the driveway stone boundary wall
- The high level gutters to the church have been inspected and cleaned
- The trees have been inspected and dead wood removed
- All of the external doors have been redecorated
- The cellar and the outside vestry door have been repaired and a weatherboard fitted
- Repairs have been undertaken to the electrical installations following a full inspection
- PAT testing has been completed
- Seven emergency lights and maintained fittings have been replaced
- Church heating pump was replaced.

During the year we had a Quinquennial building inspection, this identified a number of significant issues that will require attention.

The major issues identified that will have to be tackled within the next 24 months are

- Replace the boilers serving the church
- Undertake repointing of the spire
- Repair window (svii)
- Repair the clerestory windows
- Install illuminated fire exit sign 1
- Repairs to the north boundary wall
- Repairs to the west boundary wall
- Repairs to the south boundary wall

The Quinquennial shows that there is a significant amount of expensive work still to do and with the help and support of all users to look after this fine building we can fully restore it to its former glory.

# Foodbank

The Foodbank at St James' has continued to provide a lifeline to those who have found themselves in need.

Over the past 12 months the Foodbank has opened every Saturday between 10-12 and made doorstep deliveries to those who cannot venture out.

The Foodbank has also supported many families through its connections with Bradford Children's services, The Job Center and The Citizens Advice bureau who often collect food during the week.

"I would like to thank the foodbank for organising food parcels for the families I work with, keep up your much needed amazing work in the heart of your community."

Best wishes  
Scott  
Bradford Children's services.



# Hebrews Coffee Shop

As we can all appreciate it has been a difficult year and much to the disappointment of its regular customers unfortunately Hebrews had to close on the 13th March 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis.

During the year from May 2019 Hebrews contributed £2204 to the churches finances and we would like to thank all our volunteers and visitors alike.

## Fellowship

2020 had just few meetings prior to lockdown and as always were well attended. Fun, friendship and fellowship kept everyone in good spirits.

We all look forward to being allowed to meet up again in 2021.

Revd. Gloria



## The Choir

Choir members were able to lead the congregation in hymn singing prior to Lockdown in March.

When lockdown was lifted and restrictions came with the tier system, Susan Brady sang solo at Holy Communion but then lockdown was introduced again.

Despite restrictions yet again, the Choir did manage to hold a Christmas Carol Service following the Social distancing imposed At the time. This was very well attended and lifted the spirits of all who came to listen.

Revd. Gloria.  
The Choir of St. James



# Children, Families & Young People

The last year has been a challenge like no other and has had a massive impact on our hopes and dreams for the future of our work with young people.

We have been very lucky to have Pam Kershaw join the team, bringing with her a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm. As a result of this, we joined Urban Saints at the beginning of last year, an organisation who aim to support young people in their faith journey. They provide an abundance of resources and experiences, which we hope to utilise in the coming year. The leaders have participated in their training programme in preparation for when we can meet again.

January and February saw the continuing development of the Youth group particularly, with around 8 young people attending each week. We had started to build relationships and saw new friendships develop. As a result of lockdown, the group moved to online meet ups, which were attended by an average of 5 young people. However, this became more problematic so it was decided to provide materials which would engage the young people in their faith. This has allowed us to evaluate what we might want our provision for young people to look like when we return and how we can provide more outreach to support the youth at the other side of lockdown.

Messy Church open in January and February, with a slight drop in attendance. We remained closed until the end of October, when we decided to open the doors again, with a very different Covid safe approach. This had been well attended and welcomed new families who have a great enthusiasm for God! December and January saw the return of some familiar faces. We look forward to a reunion of new and old faces in the near future.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of many. Thank you to everyone who was involved with our children, families and youth work in 2020!

Lorraine Lee

# Finance Report

Financially this has been an extremely difficult year to make ends meet. We continue to be grateful to all those church members who make a regular financial commitment to the church, whether through envelopes, standing orders or the stewardship scheme. The regular monthly giving is our main source of income which provided £28,592 during the year. We are also grateful to those people who have made significant donations for specific items which has enabled the church to move forward, particularly in our support to the community.

Normally throughout the year the church will raise funds through social activities, book sale mornings, He-Brews café, Fellowship, Tree Festival etc. but because of the pandemic it has been very limited as to what was possible or what we could achieve to such an extent that we only raised £2,383 this year as opposed to £23,940 last year.

The finance group continue to recover monies from Inland Revenue via the Gift Aid scheme and the small donations scheme, this produced £12,283 which is a significant source of income and we would encourage everyone who is a taxpayer to let us reclaim the gift aid on your giving by use of the Gift Aid form or a pink envelope.

Each year the PCC on your behalf distribute 7.5% of our planned giving to Mission and Relief, with other outreach activities this totalled £2467 in donations. Among the charities we supported this year was the Leeds Diocese Fund for the Sudan, The New Wine Trust and the Monday Munch Club.

Additionally, this year the hire of the hall has seen a significant decrease in income to £3383 which is £5200 less than last year. This is due to the premises not being open.

This year we ran a stewardship campaign 'Giving in Grace'. This was a very thorough well put together look at our overall giving. Although it did meet with some success it was presented between two closures of the church and it may be sometime during the year before we feel the full benefit of this campaign.

Our share to the Diocese for 2020 was £49771 of which we contributed £25000. This represents a shortfall of £24,771. Under the circumstance it is understandable that there is a shortfall but we should continue to strive to make this commitment in full. We should note that the share pays for the vicars' stipend, housing, legal costs, training and general diocesan support, so really for £49771 we do get a reasonable deal.

We have a good church that is serving the community of Thornton. The maintenance of the building is ever increasing, and the cost of repairs will only increase as time goes on and it is essential that we keep up with the repair and maintenance of this fine building.

Looking ahead financially, 2021 will be very difficult as we have little in reserves, our share for this year is again £49,771 and we once more start the year from a very low base. Our planned giving will have to increase if we are to meet all our commitments and I would ask our church members to prayerfully consider what he or she can give to further Gods work here in Thornton.

Kevin  
Finance Sub-Group



**Parish Church of St James , Thornton, Bradford.**

**Financial  
Statements  
and  
Statement  
of Assets and Liabilities.**

**for the  
accounting  
year ended  
the 31st December 2020.**



**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020**

**2020 Income and Expenditure Account**

<u>Expenditure</u>	<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>	
	£		£	
<b>Grants to further the work of the church</b>				
Mission relief and outreach		2,467		3,787
 <b>Church activities</b>				
Diocesan Share	25,000		30,000	
Fund raising and charities	<u>23</u>	25,023	<u>10,342</u>	40,342
<b>Church Running Expenses ;</b>				
Heat, light and water	4,183		4,034	
Insurances and licences	3,346		3,498	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	1,234		3,375	
Cleaner and cleaning materials	2,611		3,068	
Architects Fee ( re-ordering )	0		2,421	
Quinquennial costs	<u>600</u>	11,974	<u>600</u>	16,996
<b>Clergy Expenses</b>				
Vicar		540		540
 <b>Cost of services</b>				
Services expenses and costs		1,578		3,231
 <b>Church hall running expenses</b>				
Heat, light and water	2,788		2,691	
Insurances and licences	837		853	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	110		3,661	
Cleaner and cleaning materials	<u>2,610</u>	6,345	<u>3,068</u>	10,273
 <b>Xcite ,Youth Work and Lyfe Groups</b>				
		0		517
<b>ABC Mums and Toddlers</b>				
		0		440
 <b>Church Management and Administration</b>				
Administrator salary	2,850		6,188	
Computer ,accessories & office costs	<u>4,666</u>	<u>7,516</u>	<u>2,430</u>	<u>8,618</u>
		<u>55,443</u>		<u>84,744</u>
 Income less expenditure		-3,202		-4,327
Balance b'fwd		<u>7,982</u>		<u>12,309</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>4,780</u>		<u>7,982</u>

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

### 2020 Income and Expenditure Account

<u>Income</u>	<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>	
	£		£	
<b>Incoming Resources from Donors</b>				
Planned giving	28,592		26,782	
Collections and other giving	2,247		4,834	
Income tax recovered	<u>12,283</u>	43,022	<u>8,756</u>	38,372
<b>Other voluntary incoming resources</b>				
Donations etc	1,019		1,447	
Hebrews	<u>1,079</u>	2,088	<u>2,225</u>	3,672
<b>Activities to further the work of the church</b>				
Hiring out of hall	3,383		8,583	
Fees ( Funerals and Weddings )	<u>759</u>	4,142	<u>4,705</u>	13,288
<b>Operating activities to generate funds</b>				
Fund raising events	1,904		18,964	
Booksale	473		1,682	
ABC	<u>0</u>	2,383	<u>3,214</u>	23,940
<b>Income from Investments</b>				
Legacy and endowment income	47		46	
CBF Investment income	<u>137</u>	184	<u>135</u>	181
Increase / ( Decrease ) in Investments valuations		<u>422</u>		<u>964</u>
		<u>52,241</u>		<u>80,417</u>

# Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

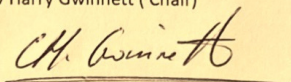
## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

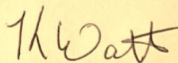
	2020		2019	
	£		£	
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>				
Investments	6,535		6,115	
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	<u>1,539</u>	8,074	<u>3,075</u>	9,190
<b><u>Monetary Assets</u></b>				
Bank Current accounts	41,354		26,116	
Restoration Account	19,390		18,913	
CBF Deposit Fund	<u>490</u>	61,134	<u>488</u>	45,517
<b>Debtors</b>				
HMRC Gift Aiding	8,551		4,603	
Prepayments	<u>2,935</u>	11,486	<u>3,656</u>	8,259
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accruals				
Trade creditors and provisions	-3,144		-3,213	
Mission and relief	-2,530		-3,041	
External examiner	-350		-340	
Specific Charities	0		-6,111	
Unpresented cheques	<u>-8,024</u>	<u>-14,048</u>	<u>-862</u>	<u>-13,567</u>
		<u>66,646</u>		<u>49,399</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>				
<b>Split as    Restricted Funds</b>				
Outreach, Food Bank, Grants, Accruals etc				
	25,794		5,786	
Wedding deposits	1,061		1,300	
Building fund	23,196		22,717	
Youth Worker	2,451		2,250	
ABC	1,566		1,566	
Church funds reserves	<u>7,798</u>	61,866	<u>7,798</u>	41,417
<b>Unrestricted Funds :</b>				
General Account		<u>4,780</u>		<u>7,982</u>
		<u>66,646</u>		<u>49,399</u>
Church Hall ( insurance value)		<u>662,200</u>		<u>649,250</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the

Signed : Rev Harry Gwinnett ( Chair)

K Watt ( Treasurer)







Looking forward to the Spring