

DECEMBER 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



St James, Thornton.

PREPARED BY:

Rev. H. Gwinnett.



ANNUAL UPDATE



Rev. Harry Gwinnett

Being Thankful

I must say that as we look back on 2021 there is a lot to be thankful for and despite the huge disruption to world affairs, we have had some wonderful opportunities to praise God and be thankful for all that we have achieved here at St James right in the heart of Thornton.

Over the past 12 months there has been a number of ups and downs but I'm sure that you will agree that God has always seen us through with all that we have needed.

Over the following pages you will read the reports from a number of areas of Church life - If you feel that you would like to be involved in something that you are not, then please let me know.

Well, here we are again at the end of another interesting and challenging year and although we thought things might be getting back to normal we face yet another wave of infection, this time from the *Omicron* variant of the coronavirus.

In Greek *Omicron* means *little O*, as opposed to great O, so let's hope that this variant will have limited effect in 2022.



A NEW SEASON

For me what's important in life is maintaining a Focus and a Vision for what I believe God wants us to do.

It may be that we're not really that good at it, but none-the-less we are mandated (by Him) to give it a go. He says doesn't He, "go and make disciples in all Nations", so what does that actually mean?

I think it's great to look back and see what we've achieved over the past 12 months in light of the difficult situation we've been in, but more than that I look forward to all that we can achieve in 2022.

Just look at it this way: -

If we can open a shop, start a young girls group on the Allerton estate, replace the floor in the Church and have the best Tree Festival to date, then what's holding us back for next year?

Realising what is important.

With God you can achieve so much more than you can ever dream or imagine !



ONE MAN, ONE WORD

Eternity.

It's the one word that has captivated the people of Sydney and beyond for 30 years, from the 1930s to the 1960s, 'Eternity' was written in beautiful copperplate script with yellow chalk on the pavements of Sydney, New South Wales, Newcastle and Melbourne.

It took just one man, Arthur Stace, "Mr Eternity", an underclass battler, former drunk and criminal to inspire an entire city. Arthur's story is an Australian story and one we all need to read.

You can discover the true story of this unlikely Australian icon in *Mr Eternity: The Story of Arthur Stace*. Written by award-winning Australian author Roy Williams with Elizabeth Meyers, whose parents were close friends of Arthur Stace, the book *Mr Eternity* includes photos and letters made public for the first time, as well as intriguing stories about the life of this inspiring man.



ETERNITY

After listening to Arthur's amazing story on United Christian Broadcasting (UCB) radio, I received a telephone call from the Rev. Vincent Mann from New Life Ministries. Vince told me that they had decided to close their charity shop in Thornton village and asked if we were interested in taking it over as part of St James' Church.

During our conversation Vince said that we could either change the name of the shop or keep it the same - "oh what's name" I said, "*Eternity*" he replied!

Don't you just love it when you see one of those God moments unfold right before your eyes - you see I had never heard that story before and have the feeling that God was preparing the ground for something new.

Since taking over the shop in September, we have made a number of changes that enhanced its appearance and make for a better shopping experience.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers we are able to open the shop five days a week and provide a great service to the village.

10% of the Shops profits will go to local good causes.

A great Team



STATISTICS

The Numbers

Average weekly attendance	Not possible to quote
Number on electoral roll	75
Baptisms	8
Weddings	6
Wedding Blessings	0
Funerals in church	1
Funerals at the crematorium	6

A note from the church wardens

Another difficult year safely navigated!

As your Church Wardens we endeavoured to represent our Church family, keeping everyone safe and ensuring a warm welcome to all. In January we had an Archdeacons visitation and along with Harry and the PCC have worked to address the minor issues raised and implement his recommendations.

We can confirm that all goods and chattels are present and in good order. All valuable items were catalogued and Smartwater re-applied in November.

We look forward to your continued support in 2022.

God bless. John and Andy

LEGAL

The PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met monthly during the year, albeit 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: John Merritt
Andrew George

Secretary: Lesley Pemberton

Treasurer: Kevin Watt

Deanery Synod: Andrew Carter, John Merritt, Michael Pemberton

Other Elected Members that served in 2021

Michele Gwinnett (Part Year)

Jayne Dibb (Part Year)

Lorraine Lee (Safeguarding officer)

Gina Barker

Michael Pemberton

Mavis Rouse (Lay Reader representative)

Michael Joyce

Gillian Anderson

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

After three years of uncertainty around the start up of the new Outer Bradford Deanery, we are now seeing in 2020/21 a marked improvement as the Rev. Tracy Milne as chairperson and Mr Bernard Lewis as Lay Chair make noticeable tangible steps forward.

The OBD Standing Committee have met three times on Zoom and I am a member of that committee.

Synod and Standing Committee have looked at differing aspects of church life , bringing varied agendas to the OBD Zoom meetings, including looking at co-opting additional members on to the Standing Committee from the Bishop`s Mission Order ; discussing the option of using individual cups at Holy Communion and there not to be any request to do away with the single cup. The legal team are to check the wording to make sure it accurately reflects the intention and Tracy will present this as soon as she is able at Diocesan Synod and a decision was made to cover this topic at a future Synod meeting.

The work of the Trussell Trust Foodbank, and food poverty in general. Shuna Hartley gave an outline of the history and work of the Trust and agreed to lead the discussion, with the help of Franco from the Trust. It was also thought that as we here at St. James`s, Thornton, run our own foodbank, a member of St James may wish to attend and give some input at the meeting;

Synod discussed the course `Living in Love and Faith`: a 5-week course relating to Christian teaching on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Each Deanery had been asked to run these sessions and Revd. Paul Wheelhouse had agreed to do this for Outer Bradford.

The course was open to anyone in the deanery and all clergy have details of links to the information. The sessions ran at 4.00 p.m. at Bierley church, beginning on 3rd October until 5th December ; places could be booked to attend in person or on Zoom. The course will be repeated in 2022.

It should be noted that *Living in Love and Faith* has already been run at St James.

St James Deanery Synod representatives are John Merrit, Michael Pemberton and myself.

Andrew Carter

Deanery Representative

Online Services & Discipleship

Unfortunately due to the Covid situation all Churches were closed for public worship collectively following the Government guidelines in March 2020 and throughout much of 2021, restrictions still were in place. We overcame by use of technology offering pre-recorded online services with a zoom ahead of the premiering of services on YouTube for 19 weeks and two online quizzes to help reduce the isolation and ensuring fellowship to carry on.

Traditional Morning Prayers each Tuesday moved online in 2020 and carried on through 2021, seeing an increased attendance to previous pre pandemic attendance.

Lyfe groups

This year began with Lyfe groups meeting on zoom or not at all. Eventually everyone was able to meet face to face.

The big change this year is that we now have 4 Lyfe groups instead of 6. The leaders are Mavis, John, Mike and Janice. Those from the other 2 groups have joined the remaining 4 groups.

In January we finished our study on 1 Peter and for our Lent course did a Diocesan course on Living in Love and Faith. We then did a study on Heaven, followed by one on the Holy Spirit.

Safeguarding

At St James' Church we aim to put safeguarding at the forefront of all that we do.

As we continue to enhance our safeguarding procedures in all areas of church life, we look towards the diocese for continued support and training, which is completed by all volunteers and staff who are DBS checked. This year, as part of this partnership, we have adopted the Safeguarding Dashboard, promoted by the diocese, to assess the effectiveness of our practice and to ensure that all policies and procedures are in place. This will continue to improve all areas of safeguarding at St James in the year ahead.

Lorraine Lee - Safeguarding officer.

Place of Welcome

Places of Welcome meet on Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm at St.James' church. We are a group whose aim is to welcome people who would like to meet new or catch up with old friends for free refreshments and a chat or enjoy a range of activities which are available. People are also welcome to bring their own activities eg knitting, artwork, games etc..

More often than not, we tend to sit down with a cuppa and cake and chat about anything and everything.

Occasionally, we have trips out for lunch or to go shopping. We are a supportive group who help each other in times of need or just "lend an ear" if anyone needs to unload their worries (all in complete confidence.)

Gina Barker.

Book Sale

Unfortunately due to the Covid situation the book sale did not open during the year.

Buliding and Fabric

Once again, we have had a very busy year, thanks to 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 maintain the grounds of the Old Bell Chapel.

Early in the year we received the Quinquennial report from the architect. This is an in-depth report on the condition of all the church buildings. This identified a number of significant works that are to be carried out in the next 5 years, these include the curtilage wall for which we are not likely to get any sort of grant, the spire, bell and frame, clerestory windows and organ all require a lot of work some of which can be grant funded BUT this will take a lot of time and work. In addition, there are also a large amount of minor works which are to be undertaken in time.

In addition to the normal maintenance activities undertaken a number of additional jobs have been undertaken during the year.

- The lightning conductor to the spire has been inspected and readings recorded.
- The lower section of wall in the chancel has been repainted.
- The hall gutters have been repaired.
- Structural survey carried out to allow a new opening to be made through to the hall.

We obtained a grant from the Heritage Recovery Fund, this allowed us to replace the floor at the rear of the church, move electrical sockets and alter the access doors. The grant also allowed us to purchase an audio guide for the Brontë exhibition. At the same time 4 new radiators were installed from church funds. New tables and chairs were ordered but took a long time to be delivered.

Buliding and Fabric

A further application was made to the Liz and Terry Bramall trust for further reordering works but this was turned down.

In general, the church buildings are in reasonable condition but as always, they require a lot of care and attention. I am very grateful to all those who assist in any way to look after this fine building and help to keep it open for future generations.

Kevin Watt - Chair Building Sub Committee

Children, Families & Young People

Whilst Messy Church has continued to run throughout 2021, this has not been without its challenges as a result of the pandemic.

Whilst we have had to make significant changes to the way we have run sessions to ensure that health and safety guidance was adhered to, our sessions have continued to engage local families. We feel hopeful about the future of our Messy sessions and pray that they grow from strength to strength.

We did engage with young people who had been attending St James pre pandemic by dropping off encouragement packs and running weekly zoom for 6-8 weeks and setting up a social media account for staying in contact.

Lorraine Lee

Girls Hangout

Acknowledging the need to still support unchurched young people especially those deemed vulnerable, Girls Hangout began in April 21 on the vicarage lawn and ran twice a month until August supporting primarily 8 girls in person. We had predominately girls from Allerton attending so we moved to St Francis Church Hall and went weekly and saw an increase of attendance to 16 girls by the end of Nov 21.

Pam Kershaw

Foodbank

As you can imagine the past 12 months have been difficult for a lot of people, especially those on low incomes.

During 2021 we saw a significant rise in the number of people using the service and at times wondered if the Foodbank was sustainable. As always the Lord provides and the Foodbank has been no exception.

In addition to our normal dried and canned foods we have been blessed each week with fresh fruit and vegetables from a number of local sources.



Hebrews Coffee Shop

Unfortunately due to Covid, a lack of customers and a reduced number of volunteers the coffee shop only opened for a limited time during the year.

It is hoped that once the pandemic is over that the coffee shop will once again return to some kind of normal business.

Monday Fellowship

Unfortunately due to the pandemic the Monday Fellowship was prevented from opening during the year.

It is hoped that come 2022 we will once again be able to open our doors to new and regular attendees .



Environmental Matters

Since taking on the role of Environment officer for St James' in the spring time, the Environment has become an important focus nationally and in the wider Church. The Diocese has committed to a working to Carbon Net Zero by 2030. This will be a major challenge to us.

The PCC has undertaken a wide ranging review of where we are, completing a challenging questionnaire which dealt with everything from the Church building and Churchyard to how we as a Church are handling recycling and the use of renewables, etc. This will help to inform the PCC of what actions and decisions to take in the immediate, the mid-term and the long term future. I have attended a zoom course on Creation Salvation, which was run by the Diocese and have collected funds at the Christmas Tree Festival to support some tree planting as an offset to the trees cut down. The really important message from 2021 is that whether we like it or not, we are all going to have to accept the consequences of climate change and the response to it by working towards Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

Michael Pemberton

Finance Report

This year we have seen a significant recovery to the church finances from 2020. Our main financial income is from church members who regularly make a weekly or monthly financial commitment to the church. This regular commitment totalled £37542 last year which was £8950 more than the previous year. In addition, we are also grateful to those who have made donations for specific items and contributions to our work with the local community.

Fund raising events this year has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels with a total of £22129, this income is mainly generated from the Tree Festival, the monthly Booksale and the new venture of the charity shop which raised £5894 in its first year.

The finance group continue to recover monies from Inland Revenue via the Gift Aid scheme and the small donations scheme (GASDS) which brought in an income of £8772, this 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 giving envelopes.

Each year 7.5% of our planned giving is placed into a restricted fund for Mission and Relief, throughout the year the PCC will make donations to other causes on your behalf. One such charity this year was Feed the Hungry where we made up 5.000 high protein meals on one Sunday afternoon.

The hire of the church hall still remained down this year at £2001, its use has not yet recovered from previous years which would normally be around the £5000 mark.

Finance Report

Our share to the Diocese for 2021 was £49771 of which we contributed £30500. This represents a shortfall of £19271. This is £5000 more than we paid in 2020 and under the circumstances we made a very positive contribution to the needs of the church as a whole. Nevertheless, we should continue to strive to make the full payment of our share which not only pays for the vicars' stipend, housing, legal costs, training and general diocesan support.

We have a good serving church here in Thornton. The cost of maintaining a building such as this is ever increasing, and it is essential that we keep up with the repair and maintenance of this fine building.

Looking ahead financially, 2022 will be very difficult as we have little in reserves and our share will be £50331, furthermore the cost of heating this building will be significant with the forecasted price increases. Once more we start the year from a low baseline. 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

Financial Statements

For the accounting year ending 31st
December 2021

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Income and Expenditure Account.

2021				2020
<u>Income</u>	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources from Donors				
Planned Giving	37,542		28,592	
Collections and other giving	2,968		2,257	
Income tax recovered	<u>8,772</u>	49,282	<u>12,283</u>	43,022
Other Voluntary incoming resources				
Donations etc	1,166		1,019	
Hebrews	<u>297</u>	1,463	<u>1,079</u>	2,088
Activities to further the work of the church				
Hiring of Hall			3,383	
Fees (Funerals and Weddings)	2,001		<u>759</u>	
	<u>2,360</u>	4,361		4,142
Operating activities to generate funds				
Fund raising events (gross)			1,904	
Book sale	13,601		473	
ABC	869		0	
Charity shop	1,765		<u>0</u>	
	<u>5,894</u>	22,129		2,383
Income from Investments				
Legacy and endowment income			47	
CBF Investment income	49		<u>137</u>	
	<u>140</u>	189		184
Increase in investments valuations		935		422
Reordering of church				
Grants received			0	
Vat reclaimed	32,796		<u>0</u>	
	<u>5,678</u>	38,474		<u>0</u>
Furlough claims settled by HMRC			3,437	
		3,439		3,437
		<u>120,272</u>		<u>55,678</u>

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Income and Expenditure Account.

	2021		2020	
Expenditure £ £ £				
Grants to further the work of the church				
Mission and relief		2,911		2,467
Church activities				
Diocesan Share	30,500		25,000	
Fund raising and charities	5,955	36,455	23	25,023
Church Running expenses ;				
Heat, light and water	3,922		3,973	
Insurances and licences	3,411		3,346	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	2,488		1,234	
Cleaner and cleaning materials	2,635		3,172	
Architects fees	1,767		0	
Qinnquennial costs	600	14,823	600	12,325
Clergy expenses / Cost of services				
Vicar	502		540	
Services expenses and costs	1,333	1,835	1,578	2,118
Church hall running costs				
Heat, light and water	2,614		2,648	
Insurances and licences	853		837	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	520		110	
Cleaner and cleaning materials	2,156	6,143	2,610	6,205
Church Management and Administration				
Administrators salary	5,006		5,726	
Computer software and office costs	4,599		5,016	
ABC Mums and toddlers	686	10,291	0	10,742
Costs for church reordering		39,740		0
Charity shop running costs				
Rent	2,000		0	
Fixtures, repairs, service costs	2,899	4,899	0	0
		117,097		58,880
Income less expenditure	3,175		-3,202	
General fund balance brought forward	4,780		7,982	
General Fund : Funds held	7,955		4,780	

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

2021/2020

£ £ £ £

Fixed Assets

Investments 3,470,535

Equipment, fixtures and fittings

07,470 1,539,074

Monetary Assets

Bank current accounts

Restoration Account

CBF Deposit Fund

45,260

14,227

490 59,977

41,354

19,290

490 61,134

Debtors

HMRC Gift aiding

Prepayments and prepaid expenses

10,087

4,634

14,721

9,551

2,935

12,486

Liabilities

Accruals and trade creditors

Mission and relief

Examiners fee

Specific charities

Unpresented cheques

-6,561

-2,745

-365

-5,889

-166

-15,726

-3,144

-2,530

-350

0

-8,024

-14,048

Restricted Funds

Outreach, Food bank, grants etc

Wedding deposits

Youth worker

ABC

-30,676

-972

-2,451

-2,363

-36,462

29,980

-26,794

-1,061

-2,451

-1,566

-31,872

35,774

Represented by ;

Building fund

Church funds reserve

General Fund Account

14,227

7,798

7,955

23,196

7,798

4,780

29,980

35,774

Church Hall (Insurance value)

675,245

662,200



Looking forward to the Spring