

Index of Reports

Vicar's report	2
Proceedings of the PCC	5
Fabric report	6
Treasurer's report	8
Covenant Officer's report	11
Electoral Officer's report	13
Junior Church report	14
Music report	14
Rota report	15
Child Protection Officer's report	16
Traidcraft report	17
Mother's Union report	17
Mara link report	19
Missions & Charities	19
Hall Improvement Committee report	20
Table Top sales report	21
Parent and Toddlers' report	22
Wednesday Nighters' report	22
Pantomime report	23
Rucksack Club report	25
Scout Group report	26
Rainbow report	26
Brownies report	27
Guides report	28
Deanery Synod report	29
Churches Together report	31
Growing Together in Rastrick report	32
Core Group report	33

Vicar's report

Average attendance of adults on a normal Sunday at St.John's in 2010 was 66 as compared with 68 in 2009. The average attendance of children was 13 as it was last year. The decrease in adults may be small, but it is a cause for concern. If it is repeated year on year, the congregation really will shrink. There have been individual Sundays when the congregation has been particularly small.

My main concern about this is not the numbers in themselves: it is that the decrease will cause us to suffer from anxiety and paralyse us in our mission. We are the church of St.John the Divine because God calls us to be the church of St.John the Divine. We attend with joy in response to the abundance of God's love for us. What matters is that we are comfortable and confident in that vocation. If we are, numbers will follow. It is encouraging that, notwithstanding the extreme weather, more than 500 people attended St.John's over Christmas Eve and Day.

There was a great deal during 2010 to be proud and excited about in the life of our church. We saw people joining and becoming regular members of our congregation. We admitted a group of children to receive Communion before Confirmation. Laura and Emily Sykes and Jane Foley were confirmed at Wakefield Cathedral in November. We have many flourishing groups that are part of the life of the church, as the rest of this booklet testifies.

We have known sadness, too, during the course of 2010. The funerals took place of Marie Mayhew, Barbara Warhurst, Eileen Hellowell and Julia Pitts. They were all people who had contributed significantly to church life and whose passing has affected the congregation.

During 2010 we have been implementing St.John's Transformational Plan. We worked on this throughout 2009 and lodged it at the Cathedral in the November. We have deliberately decided not to implement one of our plans. It was felt that we did not have the capacity to establish a bereavement support group in addition to all the other activities we do. I am satisfied that this is realistic and wise. It is, of course, also disappointing. The Revd Stephen Hannam and I establish pastoral relations with many families through our funeral ministry but are unable to sustain those relationships. It must continue to be our aspiration to foster a sense of this being a ministry entrusted to the whole congregation and to develop a more comprehensive bereavement ministry.

What we have benefited from, as a result of the Transformational Plan, is a good spread of house groups, courses and training and the establishment of a Worship Leaders' Group.

In 2010 there were 3 Baptisms, as there were in 2009. There were 2 weddings (3 in 2009), 8 funerals in church (3 in 2009) and a further 13 funerals of parishioners at a crematorium (17 in 2009). At St.Matthew's there were a further 6 weddings, 23 Baptisms and 47 funerals.

During the course of 2010 the clergy led more than 110 acts of collective worship in the 7 main stream schools across the two parishes. There was also more limited involvement in the two special schools. There were many school services in one or other church and visits to support the school curriculum, both in church and in the classroom. The whole of Year 7 (240 students) from Rastrick High School attended a Christingle at St.John's and Woodhouse School attended for a particularly moving Christmas service.

Whilst there are no care homes or nursing homes actually within the St.John's parish boundaries, the clergy do take monthly services in all the homes in Rastrick bar one. I am very grateful to Canon Michael Storey for exercising ministry in the Rastrick Hall/Grange complex; and also to him along with Doreen Davies for representing St.John's on the chaplaincy team at Cignet Lodge, a home on Rastrick Common for people with mental health issues. The Vicar is a governor at Rastrick High School and at Castlefields Infant School; and a trustee of the old Rastrick Grammar School and of the Smith Foundation, the trust that runs the William Henry Smith School. Our Honorary Associate Priest, the Revd Stephen Hannam, is a governor at Carr Green School.

Outside the parishes, the Vicar is the Wakefield Diocesan Vocations Adviser, the Deanery Vocations Officer, a member of the Diocesan Synod and a Church of England representative on the Calderdale Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE). The Honorary Associate Priest, the Revd Stephen Hannam is on the Board of Directors of the Yorkshire Ministry Course, is secretary to the Wakefield Diocesan Readers Training Steering Group and Reader Selection Panel. He is also a member of the chaplaincy team at the Overgate Hospice in Elland. This is a significant commitment which I know is greatly appreciated by the hospice patients and their relatives. Our Reader, Alan Hoggard, is a trustee of the Turning Point counselling service (an expression of Churches Together in Brighouse and Rastrick) and is on the Wakefield Diocesan support committee for the Grassroots Theatre Company from Zimbabwe.

I am extremely grateful to all the many people who minister at St.John's in a collaborative way. They are far too many in number to list. The people to whom I do extend my specific thanks are our churchwardens, Roger Ellis and Graham

Readshaw; to Christine James, our church council's secretary; to our treasurer, Richard Mason; to the Revd Stephen Hannam for sharing the priestly ministry of the parishes with me; and to Alan Hoggard for the considerable leadership he exercises in the life of the congregation.

The Revd Matthew Pollard

Report of Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC met on 10 occasions during the year. It had been decided that the December meeting would lapse due to time restraints and the possibility of inclement weather. We welcomed Hilary McCarthy as a new member along with Dianne Bates and Richard Mason who were re-elected to the Council. I took over the duties of PCC secretary from Soo Sykes after last year's APCM.

The minutes of the meetings can be found on the Church website and also on the notice board in Church.

The Council has dealt with many pastoral, administrative, building and financial issues. The long awaited opening of the new toilets and hall refurbishment took place in October with a buffet lunch for parishioners and all those involved, to say thanks and celebrate all the hard work, which had taken place. Internal repairs to the damage in the hall, as a result of the stolen lead took place in conjunction with the toilet refurbishment. We are very grateful to 'H I C' (the Hall Improvement Committee) for all their hard work and expertise in maintaining our buildings.

Various sub-committees within the PCC have been formed to look at ways of fund raising and promoting both the Church and the Church Hall. As finance is discussed at all meetings we are aware that money raised for the new toilets was

diverted away from the Church. The Re-leathering of the Church Organ is an issue that requires our attention within the next few months and we are looking at ways to raise the money. We are grateful to Richard Mason, as treasurer, for his time, expertise and reports, which he prepares for each meeting.

The PCC receives regular reports and accounts from other organisations within the Church and also from other bodies within the wider Church to which we have representatives.

There will be new challenges ahead for the Council as six members and two Church Wardens are due to be elected/re-elected for the coming year.

We thank Matthew for his leadership and pastoral care and also to Stephen and Alan for their ministry.

Christine James PCC Secretary

Fabric report

The Church Building:

The fabric is in general good order. The ceiling in the Lady Chapel requires renovation. Several roof tiles have been replaced. Notices have displayed on the external walls indicating that all items held within the Church have been marked with the appropriate security paint. The boiler has been serviced however we continue to experience on a fairly regular basis problems with non ignition of the burner. The toilets require upgrade. The quinquennial report is due in 2011. The sound system is working to an acceptable level. The PCC is delighted that the work on the extended car park is now completed and has had a significant improvement in the number of parking spaces.

The Church Hall:

A substantial amount of work has been undertaken within the confines of the Hall, primarily the completion of the long awaited Toilet refurbishment which resulted in additional storage drawers built under front of stage and a mezzanine floor in the two end rooms. New cupboards have been constructed in the back room to accommodate Calligraphers storage requirements, new speakers have been installed in the Hall courtesy of the Pantomime Society.

As a consequence of leakages due to the illegal removal of lead on the roof we have had to arrange for the partial replastering of internal wall, replacement of ceiling and floor tiles in the Sturrock room and redecoration where appropriate. A leak was identified in the back foyer and external contractors were engaged to under take repair work. The Hall Improvement Committee have agreed to complete the internal repairs.

Looking forward the back room toilet will require refurbishment and we will need to replace the fire door leading from the Hall into St John Street.

Finally it is appropriate that we record the considerable amount of work undertaken by the Hall Improvement Committee, who give their services and time freely for the benefit of this Church and the Community and certainly have a positive impact upon the finances of the Church.

Health & Safety:

We are fully compliant with all regulatory testing and licensing requirements and the Council reviews the Health & Safety policy on a scheduled basis.

Churchwardens *Roger Ellis*

Graham Readshaw

Treasurers Report

The accounts are set out in detail in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, with a summarised version included with this booklet.

Church account

With the continued uncertainty in the economy, and fundraising efforts necessarily directed to the Toilets in the early part of the year, the Church account was under pressure from the beginning. The budget had recognised this, but it was still difficult to see the deficit steadily increasing during the year. The final result was a deficit of £6,867.

Some additional costs arose for repairs to the fabric (boiler and roof), but overall costs were in broadly line with the budget. Although a legacy was received, our total income fell short of budget, and this shortfall in income contributed to the final deficit being in excess of the budgeted amount. In response to the increasing deficit and dwindling “free” reserves, the PCC decided after careful consideration to withhold £5,000 of our requested Parish Share for 2010. The accounts still show this as an expense and corresponding obligation, as that is the accounting convention which we must follow. However, in pure cash terms, our cash balances are £5,000 better as a result. The PCC will need to seek agreement from Wakefield regarding this unpaid sum and future year’s requests, as the initial assessment for 2011 is a 3% increase on 2010’s request.

The PCC also set-up a number of sub-committees (involving all members of the PCC) to look at different areas and ideas to narrow the gap between our income and our expenditure. Their work will become apparent as we go through 2011.

Hall account

The Hall welcomed new hirers which helped to offset some of the lost income whilst the toilets were built. We were able to reclaim from the insurers in respect of lost income whilst the repairs were carried out following the lead thefts, so that overall income was in excess of budget. Whilst some additional costs were incurred on repairs, the final result was a surplus of £3,877.

A number of insurance claims were settled – lead theft, theft of paving stones and repair / remedial works carried out. Despite our relatively poor claims experience, the Hall insurance was renewed under a long term agreement with only modest increase.

Missions & Charities

The PCC agreed an amendment to the operation of the tithe, so that monies raised in specific appeals are now counted as part of our tithed giving. What this means in practice is that instead of perhaps 12-13% of our income being tithed, we ensure that the tithe operates as 10%, as intended.

Toilet Refurbishment Fund

The final fundraising was completed and it was a joy to see the works start in early July. Robert Beaumont acted as project manager, and was rightly thanked at the grand opening for his efforts, but is right to record thanks again formally at this time. Robert ensured that they were built on time, to budget and that all of the issues that arose (large and small) were handled and dealt with.

Thanks are also due to Ken Swallow in particular, and also HIC, for their work on the new storage facilities that was part of this larger project.

A small amount remains in this fund for the time being, which the PCC has indicated that it will look to use to refurbish the existing single toilet in the back room

Car Park Fund

A very generous anonymous donation was received, which together with the tax reclaimed on the donation enabled us to extend the car park and further improve the facilities we can offer. It has received several favourable comments from both existing and prospective hirers of the Hall.

Organ Fund

This fund was opened in 2010 to receive donations towards the pressing repairs to the leathers on the bellows. In addition to specific donations from one of our band of organists, the monies raised from Tea & Coffee on Sunday mornings have been allocated to this fund.

Office Equipment Fund

A new photocopier was purchased using monies in this fund and is now installed in the former youth office, with an honesty box.

Baptism Bibles Fund

Additional bibles were purchased during the year for presenting at Baptisms, using monies in this fund previously donated for the purpose.

Budget 2011

2011 promises to be challenging once again. In addition to the continuing pressure generally on our finances, we face a likely reduction of £1,000 in our tax reclaim on the Church Account when Gift Aid transitional relief is withdrawn, as well as a loss of £1,500 income from Blood Donors in the Hall, as they now hold sessions alternately between St John's and St Martin's at the request of several of their regular donors.

Thanks

Despite the difficult year, as always a major positive contributor to our financial position is the fact that much of the repair and refurbishment etc work in both the Hall and Church is undertaken by the members of HIC. More than ever we are fortunate to have their talents at our disposal. On behalf of the

PCC and congregation, my thanks go to them for their continued work.

I would also like to thank Rod Dimbleby who looks after the Hall bookings; Gerald Savage for looking after the Gift Aid aspects and ensuring that Tax Claims are properly made; and the enlarged team of Offertory Counters who help each Sunday with counting and recording the collection. Thanks are also due to the members of the Finance Sub-Committee and also the PCC for their help and support. I would also like to formally thank all of the organisers of the various fundraising events.

Finally, and most importantly, my thanks go to every member of the congregation and other supporters of St John's. Their generous giving and support of events has made my task so much easier. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the whole of the PCC.

Richard M Mason PCC Treasurer

Covenant Officer's report

During the Church financial year 1 January to 31 December 2010 in addition to our regular giving by standing order and free will offering envelopes, further donations were received towards the Toilet Fund, and a very generous donation was given for the car park refurbishment. The organ fund benefited from a donation and several unspecified donations were also received. Visitors' envelopes at services continue to make a contribution. This year for the first time the cost of providing flowers in Church is being treated as a recorded church expense and consequently the donations for flowers given by members of the congregation can be considered for Gift Aid where appropriate.

Details are as follows:

Source	Gift Aid amount	Tax claimed
Regular giving	£24,655.75	£6,163.93
Visitors	£ 62.08	£15.52
Donations	£641.50	£160.38
Flowers	£1,065.00	£266.25
Toilet fund	£145.00	£36.25
Car Park	£10,000.00	£2,500.00
Organ Fund	£120.00	£30.00
Total claim 2010	£36,689.33	£9,172.33
	HMRC supplement	£1,175.94
	Total tax recovered	£10,348.27

Historical Comparisons

Year	Gift Aid amounts	Tax claimed
2002	£24,108.60	£6,799.86
2003	£25,805.40	£7,278.45
2004	£29,167.93	£8,226.86
2005	£23, 889.61	£6,738.10
2006	£29,271.52	£8,256.07
2007	£31,776.72	£8,962.67
2008	£28,407.84	£8,264.00
2009	£28,387.91	£8,006.85
2010	£36,689.33	£10,348.27

2010 therefore has seen an all time peak in money received in Church which qualifies for tax recovery. Obviously this result is totally influenced by the single donation of £10,000 (tax recovery, £2,500) given for the car park project. However the bedrock of regular giving in 2010 increased slightly from £24,369.86 in 2009 to £24,655.75, an encouraging statistic in these difficult financial times. Visitors' contributions are disappointingly low at £62.08, £423 in 2009 and unspecified donations are also lower at £641.50, £1550 in 2009.

It is worth highlighting in this report that the Inland Revenue transitional relief introduced in 2008 **expires on 4 April 2011** and there has been no indication that it will be extended. This relief has enabled Charities to retain tax recovery through Gift Aid based on 22 pence in the pound when the standard rate of income tax was decreased to 20 pence in the pound in April 2008. For St John the Divine the relief (HMRC supplement) in 2010 is **£1,175.94** and any future equivalent will be a significant loss to Church funds post 5 April 2011.

As always thanks are extended to all who give so generously to St John's Church and I give my personal thanks for the helpful contribution in providing data made by our Treasurer, Richard Mason.

Gerald Savage Covenant Officer

Electoral Officer's report

As at 31 December 2010, the number on the Electoral Roll stood at 103. Some adjustment to this figure may be necessary following the annual review which will be completed shortly before the APCM (and after the deadline for submission of this report), but our numbers are expected to remain in excess of 100.

The purpose of the Electoral Roll is more than confirming your eligibility to vote at the APCM – it is used for other forms of communication throughout the year. Therefore, if you are not on the Electoral Roll as yet please obtain an application form from me before / after the 10.15am service on Sundays, or from the wallet next to the main door where the certificate is displayed, and return the completed form to me.

Richard Mason Electoral Roll Officer

Junior Church report

We still continue to follow the “Roots material” which is Lectionary based. The material caters for all the age groups as we have children from three up to eleven. We always have discussions, story and make drawings, crafts where necessary and have a take home sheet. We also share what we have done with the congregation.

For young people aged between 11-16 years we offer a Youth group. However, at the present time do not have meet, but do help with the Junior church for example with the narrating for the Nativity and will come and help in sessions. They have been involved in organising this year’s Lent Appeal and have chosen the Forget Me Not and Laura Craine Childrens cancer charities. Also, they have held a cake stall to raise money for these good causes.

.Janine Morrisroe

Music report

Musically, we’ve been keeping busy. Our three ensembles, the Choir, the Music Group and the St John’s Voices continue to give of their time and effort for the Glory of God in our worship. In the first part of the year following the last APCM, a lot of rehearsing went into the preparation for a CD to celebrate the music at St John’s. Unfortunately, due to conflicting holiday dates, it proved impossible to record this in the summer as planned. After a pause, rehearsals will resume, this time for a concert which will also become our recording venue.

Christmas was, as always, the busiest part of the year; eight services in all for which St John’s musicians provided music (both vocal and instrumental) in one form or another. The biggest contribution from the group was for the Christingle services, and from the St John’s Voices; the “Carols from

around the world”, sung during the Nativity.

No sooner was Christmas over, than we began to think about our Music Corporate Communion. It was an occasion when we could all join together, in our varied musical styles, using our varied musical talents to praise God! An anthem for Easter and further rehearsals for that CD will take up the remaining time before the APCM 2011.

Our visiting organists continue to serve us well, on an instrument which will soon need some tender loving care in order to continue to give us service. We're grateful to Graham, Gordon, Gordon, David, Bob and Granville, for their contribution to the music at St John's.

We are blessed with a lot of musical talent at St John's. Let's continue to worship God through our music. What a privilege to be able to do so!

Pam Dimbleby

Rota report

Current list of people carrying out duties as part of Church Services

Sidesmen: There are currently 18 people, divided into 6 teams carrying out sidesmen duties at the 10.15 service:

1. Janet Thain, Pat Hobson
2. Shirley Stow, Ray Raine, Nina Nicholson, Julia Tum
3. Derek/Doreen/Simon Davis, Margaret Raine
4. Rosemary Lake, Norman Lake, Janine Morrisroe,
5. Oriel Kelly, Gerald Savage, Kathryn Savage
6. Kathleen Fletcher, Violet Davey

Other duties:

Readers:

Margaret Ellis, Norman Lake, Patricia Hobson, Derek Davis, Cherry Fancourt, Richard Mason, Pam Dimpleby, Dianne Bates, Francis Dowson, Graham Readshaw, Soo Sykes

Gospel:

Muriel Coop, David Marshall, Julia Tum, Christine Wilson, Gerald Savage, Doreen Davis, Kathleen Fletcher, Nina Nicholson, Roger Ellis, Barbara Rukin,

Intercessors:

Margaret Ellis, David Marshall, Julia Tum, Muriel Coop, Glenn Tatton, Barbara Rukin, Dianne Bates, Cherry Fancourt

Brasses:

Kathleen Fletcher

Wednesday Nighters

Mothers Union

NOTE: We need more Sidesmen and Readers. Volunteers please.

Norman Lake Worship Secretary

Child Protection Officer's report

This year has seen many changes to Child Protection issues. We have had wonderful support from Church House at Wakefield. It had been Government policy to introduce the Vetting and Barring Scheme in conjunction with the Criminal Records Bureau and CRB checks in July 2010. New forms were introduced for this purpose. The Vetting and Barring Scheme was then halted but the new forms were still introduced. Since changes in the application form, all volunteers at Church requiring checks have been dealt with efficiently and received the necessary disclosure. There are now more Government changes on the way and Church House is now waiting for clarification as to the criteria for deciding who needs checks and will inform us in due course. At present we are to carry on as before! All identified persons

working voluntarily with children at Church have up to date certificates. The Child Protection Policy and also the Photographic Policy were approved and up-dated by the PCC during the last year. They can be found on the church's website in the Parish Policies section.

Christine James

Traidcraft report



First of all I would like to say a huge thank to everyone who has supported the stall during the past year. I know I keep reminding you, but supporting Traidcraft really does make a difference to the lives of producers throughout the world and the communities that they live in. Buying at the church stall means more of the profit goes back to Traidcraft, and also puts money into the church account.

Throughout 2010 £3114.76 was spent with Traidcraft. A total of £3428.73 was taken on the stalls at St John's and St Matthew's. This means that a surplus of £313.97 was left in the church account.

Thank you again to all who buy and order goods from the stall – and please, for the sake of those people who depend on this trade for their livelihoods, continue to do so through 2011.

Dianne Bates

Mother's Union report

It has been a very eventful year for our branch of the Mothers Union at St John the Divine, Rastrick. We have one of the more successful branches, at present run by an active committee headed by Cherry with Judith, our treasurer and Shirley, our secretary.

As most of you know, the MU is a Christian organisation and its mission is caring about family life. Some children have more than one set of parents, and this can cause problems. Impartial understanding and caring help can be a lifeline and the MU parenting courses are designed to help those who may be finding difficulty.

The MU has set up a project called Loving for Life which offers marriage preparation for couples planning their weddings. Freda and Cherry are trained facilitators who are supporting the clergy in the Wakefield diocese. There are also families who cannot afford the luxury of a holiday and the MU has a wonderful scheme to help such families to have a holiday away together. Both home and abroad, near or afar, members are there to assist in whatever capacity. The Mothers Union believes in relationships not regulations.

Sadly, during the year Marie Mayhew and Barbara Warhurst passed away, and we have also lost Phyllis Barnes, who has moved into care in Rastrick. All were valued long standing, active members who are greatly missed.

At last year's meetings we had five visitors speaking on a variety of subjects. Also, we had a number of social events such as Safari Supper, Coffee Day, summer supper, and, of course, our Christmas party. Visits were made to York Minster and Halifax Minster, and we hosted events for visiting Mothers Union visitors. At a service in Dewsbury Minster, the fifty pence's we had collected each week from members over the year for Literacy and Development, were presented by Violet Davy on our behalf.

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month and anyone wishing to join us on any occasion, will be made most welcome. For more information please contact Shirley Stow in church or telephone (01484) 714209.

Shirley Stow

Mara link report

In July 2010 Mara Diocese was split into three smaller Dioceses – Rorya, Tarime and New Mara. The church in Mara is growing so quickly that it was becoming difficult to administer such a large area as new parishes are being created on a regular basis. The Mara Link Committee decided that July 2010-July 2011 would be a transition year as the split into 3 Dioceses could cause problems for some parishes in Wakefield Diocese which now find that their link parishes are in either Rorya or Tarime. We are still working through that transition year. Happily, we at St. John's and St. Matthew's do not have a problem as Nyakiswa is in New Mara Diocese and everything will continue as before.

The three Dioceses have agreed that the Water for Life project can proceed as planned for the time being, so work on installing pumps in villages is going ahead in Rorya, Tarime and New Mara. After work on installing a pump in a village is completed, the villagers are invited to attend a Health and Hygiene workshop led by Grace Enock. She reports much interest by women and men in what we would call basic health and hygiene issues. The Water for Life project still has 2+ years to run, so fund-raising continues apace.

Oriel Kelly

Missions & Charities

During 2010, the Missions and Charities committee met infrequently but distributed its allocation from Church Funds to a variety of differing causes.

1. Disasters Emergency Committee for The Haitian Earthquake and Pakistani Floods Appeals.
2. Nyakiswa – our Link parish in Mara.
3. Turning Point Counselling Service.
4. The Welcome Centre in Huddersfield.
5. Traidcraft Exchange.

6. Word for Today – Bible notes.
7. Signpost International.
8. Faith in Action.
9. Huddersfield Salvation Army.
10. Grassroots from Zimbabwe.
11. St. Augustine's, Halifax.
12. The Children's Society.

We also supported Christian Aid Week by distributing and collecting envelopes around the parish.

Towards the end of the year, we discussed involving the Junior Church in Missions and Charities work and approached our young people for ideas. They have worked with great enthusiasm and by the time you read this report you will have experienced their efforts for Lent 2011.

We would welcome new members and ideas on the committee, so if you feel that you might be interested, please put your name on the list in Church or speak to Matthew.

Oriel Kelly

Hall Improvement Committee report

The following work has been undertaken:

- Completed stripping out the old toilet lobbies ready for the new toilets.
- Modified the kitchen fireguard.
- Overhauled the electrics to the illuminated cross behind the Alter in Church.
- Provided storage space under the stage front including storage boxes on castors to fit each opening.
- Removed defective plaster to the wall at the John Street side of the stage.
- Replaced the lighting in the new storage rooms.

- Relocated the cleaners storage cupboard and altered the under stair cupboard to store the photocopier and constructed a trolley for the copier.
- Made and fixed a holder in Church for the Vergers Staff.
- Repairs to the water boiler in the kitchen are ongoing at the time of writing this report.
- Also other minor repairs that have arisen during the year.

Robert Beaumont

Table Top sales report

Two of these events were held in 2010, one in February which raised £421.13 for the Toilet Fund and one in October, raising £348 for the general Church Funds. Another is to be held on March 19th 2011 and it is hoped that the sales will continue to provide income for general church funds or for a specific appeal. We have a maximum of 19 tables on offer at £7 each (paid in advance) and refreshments on sale. In general the sale of refreshments, bacon butties, cakes, jams, marmalade raises half of the total amount. We usually have income also from a Church table selling items donated by members of St John's and donated proceeds of sales from the tables of members of the church selling their own goods.

We have managed to sell all 19 tables on each occasion. Several vendors returned again. The hall, its facilities and the friendly atmosphere created seem to be much appreciated. Some sell goods to raise funds for their own favourite charity. Oriel Kelly had a stall for Mara in October. Others are selling household items no longer needed or toys and equipment which children have outgrown. In October we also sold plants and books on behalf of the church.

Efforts with advertising continue to be made to increase footfall and reach the local community. Shops, businesses, local schools, Brighthouse Echo, libraries support us in displaying posters and information. Church members deliver fliers door to

door. We thank everyone who helps with this and in any other capacity on the day or setting up the night before.

Freda Broadbent

Parent and Toddlers' report

Numbers remained steady during the first part of the year prior to our early break for summer due to the impending repairs and other works in the Hall. When we initially re-opened in October numbers were down, but these have started to improve again as we have become re-established. We have welcomed back many familiar faces to the group, along with some new ones (including little Olly!).

Due to Jenny's pregnancy and then looking after Olly, we have not been as busy with larger scale art-works to display in church, but the weekly crafts continue and some have been displayed in the Hall. Matthew has been able to join us from time to time, and certainly encourages the singing!

Many thanks to the ladies from the Mother's Union who assist with the drinks and snacks (including bottles and feeds) and a much appreciated helping hand every week. We are delighted to have become formally affiliated with the Mother's Union.

Pat Mason

Wednesday Nighters' report

We began the year with 19 active members and one who can now only join us for the Annual Dinner. Shortly before Christmas we lost one member, Jean Aked, to pastures new when she moved to Southport. We met for a total of 27 times, including our Corporate Communion.

At our AGM in February we appointed Anne Haigh as Chairperson, Anne Beaumont as Treasurer, Barbara Rukin as

Secretary and Publicity Officer and Carol Harvey and Sandra Hollingsdrake as Programme Secretaries. Our talks were very varied, with Ann Greenwood , her life in the Shetland Islands; Sue Bellamy, her experiences at 'Brief Encounter' in West Park Street; Carole Paget came again to show some of her latest floral designs; local Magistrate Steve Ingham, on his experiences 'Judging other people'; Jean's friend Debbie, on how she started in Business selling jewellery and bags; Matthew Evans, about his artistic work in local schools; Pat Lee, now a volunteer with the Yorkshire Ambulance, about the new helicopters and where they are to be based; Oriel brought us up to date on "Water in Mara"; our own Poetry reading evening; and a visit to our own Pantomime.

We visited the Ceramic cafe in Elland where we decorated all manner of items; the Kirklees garden nursery and Longley Old Hall at Almondbury, a grade 2 listed very old house. We had a ramble with supper to follow; a day out to Salford Quays; another visit to Penny Lane cafe in Holmfirth for some very good food; our Christmas Party ; Annual Dinner at La Cachette; and a Cheese and Chinwag evening.

The Strawberry Cream Tea raised £300 for Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Two Quizes raised £110.50 for Church Funds.

Barbara Rukin

Pantomime report

The past year has been a mixed one for the Society with an excellent show being put on in December; this got a fantastic write up from the Echo reporter who always says how she looks forward to visiting our show and having some great laughs at a *traditional pantomime*.

A conscious decision was taken not to hold a Parish Lunch this year (the first time missed in over 30 years I believe) as a result

of illness of some of the “senior” members of the Society and, very sadly, one of those members, Eileen Hallewell, lost her fight with cancer in September. Anyone involved with pantomime knows what a rock Eileen was and our sympathies go to Keith, Sharon, Louisa and their families as they adjust to life without a loving wife, mum and nanna.

During the year we handed £2400 to Church funds and spent money on new speakers in the Hall, this being advantageous to anyone who uses the Hall.

In June we had a “Working Men's Club Night” which, as always, proved to be a successful evening and this was quickly followed by auditions for parts in Babes in the Wood with some new faces being cast; we hope you agree that we did a reasonable job picking the right people for the roles.

In August it was the turn of the children to come along for the chorus and, as always, they turned up trumps during show week.

After each show we had a voluntary collection in memory of Eileen and £500 was raised (well done to our audiences) which was cash matched by HBOS and sent to Macmillan Nurses.

Our all age service in Church also proved popular with many members of the Society and congregation, and this is an opportunity of reminding people that we are **St John's Pantomime Society** and proud of it.

Graham Readshaw Secretary

Rucksack Club report

We have enjoyed another good year of walking, visiting new areas and re-visiting old favourites.

We enjoyed 17 walks and even with the hottest summer and the coldest winter for a long time we had no walks called off this year. The average walk length was 8 miles, a distance I believe we should maintain and try to extend if possible.

The challenge walk was lead by Michael Storey and visited Stoodley Pike to celebrate the idea 30 years ago of forming a Rucksack Club, when Michael took Lesley Wilcox on a walk to get ready for a 26 mile sponsored walk to Wakefield and back raising money for the Church Heating Fund.

Thanks go to Ian and Jeannete Harkness for hosting the barbeque; a very pleasant day was had by all.

The annual dinner at Bradley Park Golf Club was once again a success.

The St. Johns Day walk was the 30th anniversary of the club's first walk and mirrored the occasion with snow on the ground and Michael being involved in a car accident, fortunately nobody was hurt in either incident. This year 48 people and 2 dogs walked and 77 people enjoyed hot beef sandwiches and chips at Bradley Park Golf Club.

Thanks go to all walk leaders and those who helped in any way to make this another good year of walking.

Robert Beaumont

Scout Group report

Our membership at present is around sixty in total with David Burge, Janice Wood and Christine Whitaker leading the Beaver section, Terry Firth and Julie Tatton leading the Cub section and Fran Dowson and Chris Clark leading the Scout section with occasional help from Richard Burns. We are, however always on the look out for more help. All three sections have been working hard with their badge work and have been on various trips and outings. The Cubs enjoyed an overnight stay at Magna and the Scouts enjoyed a summer camp. Some scouts were lucky enough to visit a County camp which chief Scout Bear Grylls was taking part.

It was with sadness that we recorded in October the death of our treasurer Clive Precious. Clive was a valued member of our Executive Committee and will be missed.

Our thanks go to all our leaders and helpers, everyone who has supported us and to the Executive Committee who oversee the financial side and the general running of the Group

The Group continues to be led by our Group Scout Leader Kevin Wood to whom we are all grateful.

Christine Whitaker. Group Secretary

Rainbow report

We have had a busy year at Rainbows with many centenary celebrations.

We attended the County Mini beast hunt in Shibden park last May – it was very hot and sunny, but the girls found plenty of wildlife.

In October it was the County Rainbow Princess Party at Berties banqueting suite. Wow! We all dressed up in our posh dresses and played party games and ate lovely food. There was an entertainer too and the fairy Godmother.

Also in October we attended Vision – the closing event for the Centenary year. This was at Rastrick High school and we linked up live with thousands of other Rainbows round the country to renew our promise. It was an exciting night as Allison and Deborah made their promises for the first time as leaders

At our unit meetings we have completed a Homemaker challenge – learning how to polish our shoes, decorating aprons and some cooking too. We have made sweetie fireworks and marshmallow snowmen. We have done lots of craft too and had a night of playing different board games.

We continue to have a full unit of 15 Rainbows with 3 adult leaders and now also 3 young leaders. We have said goodbye to some of our Rainbows, but they have all moved on to Brownies and we have more new girls in their place.

Fiona Roberts

2nd St John's Brownies report

We have had a busy twelve months and seem to have had little time to analyse just what we have done.

A majority of our pack took part in most of the activities during the Centenary year and we even managed to pick up another leader at the families day at Bradley Woods. We now have 3 warranted leaders, 3 leaders in training as well as 3 Guides and 1 young leader in training.

The whole unit took part in the 100 centenary badge and worked hard at it. We found that the Brownies were adept at turning things to their advantage and the leaders found that we could turn our hands to almost anything,

We had a pack holiday at Bradley Woods and for a change the weather was beautiful and we spent a lot of time out of doors. The Brownies took advantage of the good weather and we benefitted from it as they were so tired they went off to sleep early.

We continue to encourage the girls to work towards interest badges and have seen 'sashes bloom' over the last 12 months. We are now running at capacity and have a healthy waiting list, the transition from Rainbows to Brownies and Brownies to Guides is working well at this time but we have to be aware of overlaps.

Yours in Guiding

Gail, Soo, Carol, Vicky, Heather and Rachel, Emily S. Emily B, Laura and Aimee.

2nd Rastrick Guides report

Well what a year we've had. Centenary was a great year we were lucky enough to take part in many events (too many to list in the word constraint)

We launched our own Challenge, the girls learned basic teamwork, the highlight was to plan, cook and serve a 3 course meal. Parents/grandparents joined us to taste the food their daughters had prepared; we had some very positive feedback.

Summer term Campfire Challenge outdoor campfire cooking (sausages and smores), safety aspects of campfire and making musical instruments and singing campfire songs.

At the end of July we took 7 girls to Centenary Camp at Harewood House it was an amazing week. We were on Amber Sub Camp and did many activities including fitness, community action, team building, craft and more activities. We made friends with girls from South Africa and Bermuda we swapped gifts with people from all over the world and came away having thoroughly enjoyed the week and feeling enriched from our experiences.

Autumn term 100 Years Of Homemaking going back to the grass routes of homemaking. Sewing on badges, tie dying and ironing, making ice cream with no freezer, fat ball birdfeeders, polished silver, flower arranging with Fran. We ended with a pink, yellow and blue party to celebrate the end of the finale

Winter Term Centenary Finale Event at Rastrick High School 4 girls were awarded their Baden Powell Awards. Christmas Papercraft demonstration and workshop, enrolment under the Christmas tree in Brighthouse (hot chocolate when we got back to warm up), Watched the Pantomime, launched a senior section patrol for the older girls.

On Jan 2nd/3rd 2011 Fever Camp 2011 at Waddow (yes under canvas) we took 6 older girls they took part in various activities including a campfire, at which our 3 senior section girls made their promise.

Spring Term Traditions of Guiding, World Guiding and Confectioners Badges.

Sharon Berry

Deanery Synod report

This has been the 3rd and final year of the present triennial. St John's will need to elect three new members to the Brighthouse and Elland Deanery.

At the May meeting Fr John Holmes (former Diocesan Missioner) and his wife Rosemary spoke about their four week visit to the Holy Land, where they lived alongside the locals and visited places tourists do not usually see. Mary Judkin our Deanery General Synod Representative shared with us some of the issues discussed at the February 2010 General Synod –

- there were split opinions on the clergy pension debate.
- the diminishing broadcasting of religious programmes. Members of the Synod expressed their concern over the content of programmes rather than lack of them.
- Whether the Anglican Church should be in Communion with the Episcopal Church of the USA

The meeting agreed that they had completed the Deanery Transformation Plan review.

At the October meeting Lindsey Pearson, the West Yorkshire regional manager of Christian Aid gave a presentation on What Christian Aid is doing. She said Christian Aid focuses on three areas, these being Emergency Help, Long Term Development and Advocacy. She introduced to us an individual case study of the three areas. Bill Halling, the Diocesan Environmental Advisor, spoke on the Diocesan Environmental Policy; explaining the policy; he then spoke on shrinking the footprint, and about our teaching, worship and Vision. He then spoke on how Church members and the wider community could help. Ian Knowles, as the Deanery Rep. on the Diocesan Board of Education, gave an update on the work and role of the Diocesan Education department.

The last meeting in February was made an open evening to discuss the Consecration of Women as Bishops. Rev'd June Lawson, Director of Mirfield Centre & Dean of Women's Ministry, spoke in favour of Women as Bishops. Rev'd Guy Jamieson, Vicar of Southowram & Claremont spoke about conscience and that we were moving away from the Roman Catholic teachings. We were asked to vote on a motion not previously seen, which resulted in 34 votes for the motion, eleven against and ten abstentions. This was really only a straw

vote as it will depend on Diocesan delegates and the House of Bishops votes and not ours.

Barbara Rukin

Churches Together report

This is an ecumenical group made up of eight Brighthouse and five Rastrick Churches.

Turning Point, the local well used counselling service, is sponsored by the group. For some time they have been looking for a new Director and at last have appointed Sheila Medhurst as part-time Co-ordinator. John Kierney is to be the new supervisor and is training for counselling.

The Group organise posters for Christmas and Easter; the Christian Unity Service, this year held at St Martin's, when Christians were interviewed about their work within the Community; The Pentecost Service, held in St Matthew's grounds, with a faith tea afterwards; the Good Friday March of Witness, starting from Bailiffe Bridge, Clifton, Rastrick and Brighthouse, joining together for a service at Central Methodist Church, lead by different denominations; Carol Singing at Sainsbury's, this year attended by 25 people; and The World Day of Prayer (latterly Woman's World Day of Prayer), held at the Salvation Army on March 4th.

Information Packs, giving details of all the churches were again successfully distributed at the Brighthouse Gala in June.

The Elim Pentecostal Church organised a "Prayer Saturday" on April 2nd at Central Methodist Church

Barbara Rukin

Growing Together in Rastrick

This well established ecumenical group is made up of the churches throughout Rastrick, namely New Road Sunday School, St Matthew's, St John's, Upper Edge Baptist Church and Elim Pentecostal Church. We also keep links with a Pentecostal church in Field Lane Estate.

Ecumenical Lent Groups are taking place with Stephen Hannam again organising these. This year "Bible Fresh" material, which is linked to the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible, is being used. Stephen is also arranging a "Reflective Time" to run alongside the groups, this is to be held in St John's Lady Chapel.

The group have organised Prayer Breakfasts at the four main churches, St John's was on February 19th when 18 people attended. Do come and join us, dates and times are published in the magazine and news-sheet. These are lovely times when we can share breakfast, news and prayer with other Christians . Please do not forget the Yellow Welcome Card – to be found at the back of church- to be given BY YOU to newcomers to YOUR STREET. It gives contact details and position of the churches so that people may make a choice.

Christmas cards for all Rastrick, with times of services, were once again produced. This is an important outreach service. Thank you to people who helped to deliver to our location.

At the time of writing plans for "Celebrating Rastrick Together " are going well. We hope to have another successful Weekend on 26th & 27th March

Barbara Rukin

Core Group report

The purpose of the core group is to co ordinate the spiritual life and fellowship of St Johns and to look at ways it should reach out to the community it serves.

The year began with the Jonah House Groups which proved to be very challenging in its content. The Beta course was well received and just recently two groups studied 'God at the Movies' looking at Billy Elliot. These home groups are an opportunity to share and learn from one another.

Pastoral Care is very high on our list of priorities. Coordinators are in place to enable us to be aware of the needs of every member of our church congregation and to act as a channel to let people know what is going on. This plan is still in its infancy but it is hoped that the cards and leaflets distributed will let everyone know who to contact should a need arise.

We felt Prayer Ministry should be offered at the end of the Sunday services to anyone wanting someone to pray with them. This ministry is available in the quiet corner of the church. We hope that more people who feel this is their ministry, will join the team to pray with and for those at their time of need.

An Away Day at Heatherwood was a great time of fellowship and fun for all ages. There will be a similar day on June 18th 2011.

Ways to cement stronger links with the Uniformed Groups have been explored and are still ongoing. A review was made regarding the Travelling Crib and meetings have been held for those who lead our Intercessions.

Please do contact the core group members if you would like give suggestions or find out more about its work.

Shirley Stow

