

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ADEL, LEEDS
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, 2015

AIM AND PURPOSES

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel cooperates with the Priest in Charge of the Parish and its elected Churchwardens in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. To do this, it aims to make the most appropriate use of the resources available to it: a beautiful 12th Century Parish Church; The Old Stables (used as a meeting place for activities in the Parish); the funds donated to the Church by regular giving, legacies and bequests; and, most importantly, the lay members of our Church, both those who wish to be formally identified by inclusion on our Electoral Roll - 222 at the end of 2015 - and those who, though not formal members, regard our Church as their spiritual home.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel is:

Through Christian worship, word and action, to celebrate and share the love of God with our neighbours.

During 2015, the PCC also agreed our Vision Statement:

We offer a warm and sincere welcome to everyone, old friends and new.

We share the love of God with our Church community and neighbours near and far.

We provide care and compassion by loving service for those in need.

We respect and nurture God's environment.

The PCC carries forward its mission and seeks to achieve its vision by maintaining oversight of our regular worship to ensure that it meets the spiritual needs of as many of our parishioners as possible; by making specific provision for young people to grow up in our Christian family; by encouraging and enabling all parishioners to take advantage of the occasional offices (baptism, marriage, funerals) and welcoming as many as possible to festival and special Services; by facilitating, promoting and organising social events open to all; by making The Old Stables available for the use of groups which benefit the community; and by providing spiritual and practical support for Adel St. John the Baptist Church of England Primary School. To achieve all this, we make prudent use of the financial resources available to us to maintain and enhance our beautiful church, The Old Stables (both Listed Buildings) and the churchyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our Church

Regular Sunday worship starts with a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 am and ends with Evening Prayer with hymns at 6.30 pm; both these services follow the usage of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The main Sunday service is a sung Common Worship (CW) Eucharist at 10.00 am. After the start of this service, young people from babies (with a parent) to teenagers go to The Old Stables for Junior Church where they receive separate instruction relevant to their age groups but following the same lectionary as the adults. They return to Church in time to make their Communion with their parents and the rest of the congregation. On the third Sunday of the month, the 10.00 am service is a simpler All Age Worship - also a Eucharist - in which our youngsters take a greater part: as members of the instrumental group which plays for some of the worship songs; as readers; and in leading the intercessions. The address is aimed at our younger members – and often involves them. We also offer a mid-week CW Service of Holy Communion, at 11.00 am on Wednesdays.

In 2015, average attendance at the regular Sunday early morning and evening services, and the mid week service (compared with 2014) was; at 8.00 am 11 (11); at 6.30 pm 13 (10); and Wednesday 11.00 am 11 (10).

Average attendance at the regular 10.00 am Sunday Parish Eucharist was 107 (105); this includes those who attended Junior Church, which averaged 16 children each week, with a range of 5 – 25. The average All Age Service attendance was 110, with a range of 85 - 150.

Because of the size of our church and the numbers who often attend Baptisms, it is rarely possible to include them within our regular services, but on many Sundays, services of Baptism follow our main service; we welcomed 40 (36) new members of the church in 2015.

Our clergy encourage wedding couples to attend our church for a period before their wedding and many do; and though some are not permanently resident in the area, a few have continued as members of our congregation after their marriage. We celebrated 16 (17) weddings in the year. There were 14 (22) funerals and 22 (23) burials of ashes.

On Ash Wednesday, 17 communicants attended the 11.00 am CW Eucharist and 20 attended at 7.30 pm for a Service of Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes.

Services of Night Prayer were held at 7.30 pm on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week; there was a congregation of 16 for each one. On Maundy Thursday, 27 communicants attended the Eucharist of the Last Supper, when we welcomed a speaker from PAFRAS, a Leeds Church-based organisation which provides support for refugees and asylum seekers.

At 10.00 am on Good Friday, we held a service of Reflection on the Cross, attended by 66 people; and 30 attended for an Hour at the Cross from 2.00 pm.

This year, 55 attended the 6.00 am Dawn Eucharist on Easter Day – and nearly overwhelmed the caterers for the breakfast afterwards. But that was nothing compared with the 10.00 am Eucharist, which was attended by 230 (188); after packing as many as possible into the church – sitting and standing – we still had to accommodate a substantial number outside the church door on chairs, hastily fetched from The Old Stables.

We celebrated our Patronal Festival in June, opening the Church where objects which individual members held as precious were displayed. These included a WW2 RAF cap badge and a much-loved (but battered) toy Koala. We also enjoyed the (now traditional) barbecue, cream teas and Choral Evening Worship, sung ably by the augmented choir.

On 10 October, a short service was held to bless a memorial stone to a former incumbent of the parish, which has been installed in the wall of the churchyard. The following day, our Harvest Festival celebrations included lunch this year and finished with a service of Choral Evensong.

A congregation of 144 attended the 10.00 Service on Remembrance Sunday and our Church School also held a Remembrance Service in the Church on 11 November; 229 students, staff and parents attended.

On 20th December, there was no 10.00 am Service in our Church; instead, our congregation attended St. Paul's Church, Ireland Wood for a joint Service of Confirmation for candidates from both parishes. Then, in the evening, 239 people filled our church for a Carol Service led by our augmented choir.

At 3.00 and 5.00 pm on Christmas Eve, 185 (177) and 194 (177) children and adults attended our 2 Crib Services and 135 (126) celebrated Midnight Mass. On Christmas morning, there were 23 at the 8.00 am BCP Communion Service and 101 (76) attended the 10.00 am service.

The increasing numbers attending our regular and Festival services are testament to the fact that we are satisfying the spiritual needs of many in the community. But our congregations form only a relatively small proportion of the present population of the parish; and we are aware that its population is already increasing and that there are plans for the building of many more new homes. So the PCC and its committees are actively considering how we can best meet the spiritual

needs of, in particular, families with young children and retired people, some with limited mobility.

The Old Stables

After extending and upgrading its facilities in 2014 and some further re-furbishing in 2015, this listed building provides an excellent resource to support our Church's outreach into the community. The main room is used every Sunday - during the 10.00 am Service for our Junior Church and after it to provide refreshments and the opportunity for fellowship for the whole congregation. And both downstairs rooms are regularly used throughout the week by up to a dozen different community groups, ranging from a parents and toddlers group to activities for older people. The PCC and some of its committees also meet in The Old Stables. It has a fully equipped kitchen and our Social Committee arranges and runs a series of events throughout the year, some associated with the church's Festivals and others, such as regular coffee mornings on Saturdays, talks, quiz nights etc., which are aimed at - and attract - some from the wider community. These events always include refreshment, which acts as a lubricant for fellowship and outreach.

We ensure that hirers of The Old Stables, who are not members of our church family, have adequate public liability insurance, so that the PCC would not itself be liable if there were a claim against the church. The Old Stables makes a profit over expenses and our church social events also raise funds, either for our church, or for designated charities.

We are assessing how we can ensure that this valuable resource not only continues to serve the needs of the community, but also how we use it as a mechanism for outreach, by informing its users - many of whom have no contact with the Church - what the Church can offer them.

Adel St. John the Baptist Church of England Primary School

During 2015, the chairman of the Governors at our Church School was a PCC member; the Vice Chair and most of the Foundation Governors (appointed by the PCC) were regular members of our congregation. Our Priest in Charge is a governor *ex officio* and attends the school on a regular basis to lead collective worship and carry out other duties on behalf of the governing body. A number of PCC members and other members of our church assist the school in other capacities. Some special services for the school are held in Church and the school choir - and their parents - swell our congregation and enhance our worship on occasions during the year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist, Adel is a Registered Charity which administers the activities of our Church in the Parish. So its policies and procedures are controlled not only by Church law - in particular the *Church Representation Rules 2011*, the *Churchwarden's Measure 2001*, and the *Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended)* - but also by the criminal and civil law of England and Wales and in particular the *Charities Act 2006*.

The policies and procedures of the PCC are formalised in our Governing Document (updated in January 2015) which, in accordance with the legislation listed above, defines the mission, structure and organisation of the PCC. It commits the PCC to providing a safe environment for all church members and visitors to our premises by implementing all relevant Health and Safety legislation and by adopting and implementing Diocesan and national Church policies and guidelines for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Governing Document also includes annexes which lay down the rules for the conduct of the Annual Parish and Church Meeting and PCC meetings and gives details of the purpose and procedures of the permanent committees of the PCC.

The PCC has a Standing Committee and 6 other permanent committees:

- Worship Committee
- Mission and Outreach Committee
- Fabric Committee
- Finance Committee
- Social Committee
- Health and Safety Committee

The Governing Document defines the purpose of all 7 committees, their membership, the minimum number of meetings they should hold and the arrangements for reporting back to the PCC. During 2015, the PCC reviewed and updated the membership of its committees. Most of the committees also have oversight of Teams, under the leadership of a coordinator, to carry out particular functions – e.g. Eucharistic ministers; Junior Church leaders; churchyard conservation.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist is situated at the junction of Church Lane and Back Church Lane in Adel, north Leeds. The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity no: 1133876; during 2015, its members (i.e. trustees) were:

Rev'd Ian J White		<i>Chairman and Priest in Charge</i>
Rev'd Ian Johnston		<i>Curate</i>
Liz Williams		<i>Reader and Diocesan Synod Representative</i>
Jenny Jones)	
Lesley Walton)	<i>Churchwardens</i>
Bruce Buchan)	
Mary Lerner)	
Siân Moxon)	<i>Deanery Synod Representatives</i>
Rev'd Ian White)	
Liz Williams)	
David Boulton (<i>Until April 2015</i>)		Heron Brown
Marjorie Cole		Chris Cunliffe
Allan Dawson		Alison Duckworth
John Gabbutt		Sylvia Halliday
Bob Holloway		Alison Howarth
Sandra Lavery		Andy Neal (<i>From April 2015</i>)
Margaret Perkin		Geoff Steel
Beryl Thompson		John Williams

During 2015, the PCC met 7 times; average attendance was 62%.

The PCC can be contacted *via* the Secretary:

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