

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ADEL, LEEDS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, 2022**

**AIM AND PURPOSES**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel cooperates with the Rector 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 - 209 at the end of 2022 - 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.*

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**

**Our Church**

We began 2022 once again in the grip of COVID-19, although by this time we were more prepared to deal with it. Our main services continue to be live-streamed each week and this has made a massive difference not just in our response to COVID-19, but for those unable to get to church. We are grateful to our rota of technicians who make our church much more inclusive.

We continue to work hard to provide worship opportunities for as many people as possible. Over the year our main Sunday service built in numbers, and it has been wonderful to feel we can worship once more as a whole church family. Total numbers are not quite back to pre-pandemic levels but are gradually increasing. It was good to end the need for booking for Junior church, and numbers of children attending has grown to near 2019 levels. It is good to see our young people growing in faith and confidence, in large part due to our dedicated Junior church team. We welcomed a new leader in 2022, but the team are always looking for extra support. For our youngest members we also have JJs; their leaders report:

'Our monthly toddler group JJs continues to thrive, meeting for 10 Friday afternoons last year in the Stables. Our aim is to provide a welcoming, relaxed space for young children and their parents to enjoy being together in a Christian environment. Taking over use of our own cupboard along with Junior Church has meant we can offer a wider range of toys and activities.

In 2022 we regularly had about 10 families attending, having welcomed 3 new families coming along for the first time. Last summer we said goodbye to 3 children moving on to primary school. We have also welcomed a new leader to join our team. '

Our smaller services, the fortnightly Evensong and the midweek Eucharist have both grown in numbers, providing a quiet chance for worship and a supportive community. In 2022 we asked our occasional choir to provide music at Evensong once a month, after which we share light refreshments. This has proved successful and popular.

For those who struggle to get into our church building we continued the monthly Stables Eucharist which is followed by a drink and chance to chat. This is small in numbers, but much loved by those who attend. 2022 also saw the introduction at last of our Home Communion team. These volunteers take communion out to people who would otherwise not be able to share in this vital aspect of our shared faith. It is much valued both by those who are visited, and the team, giving chance for a chat and maintaining links with the church. The Rector also takes a monthly communion service in the new care home Adel Manor.

Our young people's group, Ace, welcomed new members in September and continues to thrive due to the hard work of a small number of committed leaders and young leaders. The young people continue to amaze us with the depth of their theological discussion, and we also enjoyed fire lighting and silly games. In 2022 we introduced a short Eucharist service at the end of our session once a month. This is a very special time where the young people take the lead, and parents often join us.

By Easter 2022 we were finally able to celebrate properly without restrictions. Holy Week was a very special time with a different service each evening: on Monday this was a service based on Stations of the cross prepared and lead by Paul Barker. On Maundy Thursday we were able to include foot washing, stripping of the altar and a watch. On Good Friday morning we introduced a successful family event of activities, worship and refreshments – we hope this will become an annual event. On Easter Sunday we had a very joyful dawn service, and the 10am communion was once again followed by the children's Easter egg hunt.

At Christmas there were no restrictions, although black ice kept a good number from our carol service and reminded us of the importance of the live-stream. For the first time in years, the carol service choir included 4 young trebles, which was a real joy for the rest of the singers. The 3pm crib service was back in church and packed out with small children and their families. Having been forced outside in 2021, we decided the 5pm candle lit carols round the outdoor crib was worth repeating. It was very well attended and provides a community Christmas service for those who have perhaps outgrown our woolly crib. This year the outdoor crib had additional characters and was painted. It came out of COVID, but has become popular fixture in Adel.

This year we put together our Patronal Festival and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We enjoyed another successful fair in the church grounds, a 'Right Royal picnic', filled a time capsule, and held a Songs of Praise service in the sunshine. There was an interesting exhibition of royal memorabilia in church.

Outside of church it has been another difficult year, with the war in Ukraine, the death of our Queen and the rising cost of living. We have tried to be a resource for the community through all of this. We opened the church for prayers at the outbreak of war. After the death of Her Majesty we had a book of condolence available for a week, and held a service in thanks for her life. We continue to support Leeds North and West foodbank.

We continue to enjoy close links with our church school. The Rector or another member of church leads Collective Worship in school weekly. It was a joy to welcome the whole school to church for Easter, the Patronal Festival and Advent. The school choir has been restarted and they joined us for our Harvest Festival service, singing for us during communion and as we left church. We hope this will become a regular event.

Paul Barker has continued his studies on the Licensed Lay Leader course. It has been wonderful to see him grow into the role, leading worship in a variety of settings and preaching. We look forward to his increased role in the parish once the essay writing is over!

During 2022, Karen Bayliss took on the role of coordinating our work with families. Her first event was a Harvest activities morning which saw the Stables packed out with families and children, many of whom we had not seen before. Karen also shared the leading of the school Advent worship in church, and an Advent assembly in Adel Primary school.

Learning about our faith is an important part of church life. Outside of services, there were again opportunities to join a Lent discussion group, this year based on the Archbishop's Lent book, 'Embracing Justice'. Two groups met to share our thoughts, one on 'Zoom' and one in person. In Advent we tried something different with a Quiet Day. Numbers attending were not large – but those who came to all or part of the day found it valuable. This is something we may try again in 2023.

Our Social committee were once again active and innovative. They report:

Social events were still held on Zoom at the start of the year, notably 'Raise a glass to the Queen' and a Pub Quiz, both in February. There was still some concern that people were reluctant to meet up indoors. Numbers at coffee mornings had been low in 2021, but we were pleased to see attendance gradually increase at the ones we held in April, July, September and November 2022.

Evening events were less popular; a social evening in May was a pleasant get-together, but only for a handful of people. A race night planned for October had to be cancelled because of low numbers. A 'Paint with Lucy' session in the Stables in August was a success, but of course it was only for a limited number of people. However, the Harvest Lunch in October was popular and an enjoyable experience for over 40 people. And the Christmas Concert by the Leeds Guild of Singers was well attended.

Thanks to a questionnaire we asked people to fill in, we concluded that daytime events are more appealing and we shall make future plans accordingly, although there still seems to be support for concerts held in church and a quiz to be held in the evening, particularly in the summer.

### **The Old Stables**

This listed building provides an excellent resource to support our Church's outreach into the community. In times without social restrictions, the main room is used every Sunday - during the 10am Service for our Junior Church and after it to provide refreshments and the opportunity for fellowship for the whole congregation. On Sunday evenings our young peoples' group 'Ace' meets there. Both downstairs rooms are regularly used throughout the week by up to a dozen different community groups including painting and pilates.

The PCC and some of its committees also meet in The Old Stables, as does our Lent course It has a fully equipped kitchen and is used for church social events throughout the year. These events always include refreshment, which acts as a lubricant both for fellowship and for outreach.

We ensure that hirers of The Old Stables have adequate public liability insurance, so that the PCC would not itself be liable if there were a claim against the church.

In 2022, after many years of wonderful service, Marjorie Cole stepped back from managing the Stables. We are indebted to Marjorie and Trevor for all they have done to keep this the special resource it is. Loveday Loveridge, who was already managing weekend bookings has taken on this challenging role, for which we are very grateful.

After a slow start, 2022 was a very good year for the Stables as people arranged all the parties and events they had missed during the pandemic.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's business. We are all conscious of our responsibility in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding meetings are held biannually with the Rector, the parish Safeguarding Officer and the Child Advocate.

All appropriate DBS checks have been carried out for those involved in the provision of services to young children. In addition, Confidential Declaration Forms are completed annually. All those involved are actively encouraged to undertake Safeguarding training, a process which is ongoing.

The Diocese continue to use the booklet "Promoting a Safer Church" setting out the Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England. This is an abridged version of their more detailed document. This is now displayed next to the Church's Safeguarding policy for all to read.

There has been one safeguarding issue which has been managed with help from the Diocesan safeguarding team. The situation is under regular review.

We are conscious of our responsibility in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and those involved have attended Diocesan trainings and adhere to our Safeguarding Policy

### **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 (last 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 includes annexes which lay down the rules for the conduct of the Annual Parochial 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. 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.

In 2022 the Health and Safety Committee has struggled, although all statutory checks have taken place. This is a priority for 2023. The PCC will also review the make up and parameters of the other committees during 2023.

### **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 2021, its members (i.e., trustees) were:

Rev'd Alison Battye		<i>Chairperson and Rector</i>
Lucy Best-Shaw	)	<i>Churchwardens</i>
Alison Howarth	)	
Bruce Buchan	)	<i>Deanery Synod Representatives</i>
Mark Seaward	)	

Marjorie Cole	Bob Holloway
Jenny Jones	Sarah Johnson
Andy Neal	Marissa Clayton
Tina Gledhill	Mary Larner
Susan Smith	Carole Smithies
Loveday Loveridge	Paul Barker
Mike Tunstall	Thang Tang

Andy Neal,  
PCC Secretary  
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