

**St Helen's Church, Welton with Melton**

**Parochial Church Council  
Annual Report 2019/20**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
29 March 2020 at 11.45am**

## Vicar's Report

As always, I am writing this report having read those which follow from the various individuals, teams and groups who contribute in so many ways to the life of St Helen's and the villages. Every year I am very thankful and encouraged by the wide range of activities which take place in and through St Helen's and, of course, for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to do all those things.

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone involved. We are often told by people who visit or move into the area that they feel welcome at St Helen's. That is due in no small part to the way in which everyone contributes to the ministry of welcome and hospitality, including those who clean the church, welcome at the door, provide and help with refreshments and, of course, invite people to coffee after the service and chat with them. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of offering the hospitality of Jesus to all those who visit, enquire and attend our services and activities.

Our church building stands in the middle of the village as a witness to the glory of God, and a place where anyone can 'come home to God'. Caring for the fabric of the building is a massive job and I am grateful to Churchwardens Jackie and Roger, and Treasurer David, for their hard work in arranging for contractors to carry out various repairs and maintenance during the last year. I am also grateful for all that they do to ensure the day to day running of the church goes smoothly, and careful management of the church finances.

The church building is important to us, but of course the church is primarily the people. Over the last year we have seen a number of changes in the church family. We have been sad to mark the death of Kate Ettridge, a long standing member of St Helen's. We were also sad to see Graeme, Carol and their family leave for pastures new. We always knew that they were only here for 3 to 4 years but in that time they became much loved members of the church and local community and we miss them. However, we are pleased that they have found a place where they feel God is calling them to serve and it was wonderful that 40 people were able to go from St Helen's to Slaithwaite in February to wish them well as they begin the next stage of their journey and ministry.

We have been pleased to welcome new members over the last year too. Attendance is up slightly and at the time of writing the new electoral roll is still under review but all the indications are that the number of people on the roll is significantly higher. Also during the last year, I am delighted that Liz Russell has been selected for Reader Training and Gerald Fox authorised as a Recognised Parish Assistant – Worship Leader. Likewise, I am very pleased to report that since Graeme and Carol moved on, Linda has generously offered to spend more of her time at St Helen's – for which I am very grateful.

Worship and prayer continue to be at the centre of our church life and I would like to thank Linda, Liz, Gerald, Maureen and Hilary for all that they do in leading

various services on a Sunday and Mike D, Mike T and Tom for leading Prayer and Breakfast at the Green Dragon on a Friday morning. Thanks too to all involved in leading or assisting in worship through reading scripture, leading prayers or as Eucharistic Assistants. We are also blessed with an excellent choir and musician to accompany and help lead our worship – thank you to Helen, Gareth and all the musicians and choristers. A new development this year has been the 'Forget me not' service on the second Wednesday of the month. This is a short service of hymns, reading and prayers, followed by tea/coffee and cake. It is dementia friendly and open to all. This service is now settling into an established pattern and we pray for growth over the next year or so. Prayer continues to underpin all that we do – thanks go to Maureen and Margaret for organising the prayer chain.

We continue to be committed to making children welcome and to children's ministry. Baptism ministry continues to thrive with 19 children and 1 adult baptised in 2019. I am pleased to report that Jo Capes has now taken over from Graeme as our Baptism Coordinator, working alongside Mandy, Nikki, Jackie, Christine and Linda and me. Children's Church and Junior Choir continue to be key elements of our mission to children and young families in the church and the parish. I would like to thank Rachel, Mandy, Mary, Corinne, Helen and everyone involved. New leaders are needed for Children's Church – if you think this is something God is calling you to do, please see me or one of the Children's Church leaders in the first instance. Messy Church is also now a key part of our children's work. The last year has seen a period of consolidation and growth. Thanks are due to Liz, Carol, Graeme, Linda, Glenys, Julie, Mandy, Rob, Paul, Gerald and many more for all their hard work in preparing and running Messy Church over the last year. Reports on all of the above can be found on subsequent pages. Finally, our monthly 'All Age' service on the first Sunday of each month is designed to offer an opportunity for families and people of all ages to worship together in a more interactive way.

Pastoral Care is another central aspect of our ministry, led by Anne Thompson, Recognised Parish Assistant: Pastoral Care and a small team of pastoral visitors. Visiting the sick, taking Home Communion and maintaining contact with those who are unable to attend church are all part of the ministry of the pastoral team. Thanks go to Anne and all involved. If you feel that God may be calling you to this ministry, please see Anne, Elaine or Linda. Likewise, if you know someone who would like a visit.

'First Wednesday coffee mornings continue to be well attended'. Similarly the Coffee and Craft Group on the third Wednesday morning. The Craft Group held another very successful Craft Fair in November – thanks are due to Glenys and all involved.

Discipleship is key to nurturing spiritual and church growth. Thanks go to Gerald and Graeme for a range of courses over the last year, both in church and in the community.

As I have mentioned in previous years, so much of the work that is necessary to maintain our mission and ministry, takes place behind the scenes. Thanks are due to David, for all he does as Treasurer, Mary as PCC secretary, Lizzy as Parish Safeguarding Representative, members of the PCC, Eileen for secretarial and administrative support, Maureen as Sacristan and Verger, Glenys, Eileen and all involved in hospitality, Hilary and the Gardens team, Christine and the flower arrangers, Mandy for organising the parish weekend away, Jo for ringing the bells, Paul for sales, Sue for coordinating fundraising for the Children's Society, all those mentioned above and the many, many people involved in different ways. A special mention is due to those who are working to increase communication and publicity. David, Hilary, Mandy and Graeme worked together to review and plan how this might be improved. As Graeme prepared to leave, we were grateful to Anthony for taking on managing our website and Holly for taking over looking after our Facebook presence. So often we plan services and events only to find several days later someone says 'If only I'd known about it...!' There have been great improvements in both communication and publicity in recent years but we are always looking for ways to develop.

Two groups who do not submit separate reports are the Worship Group which reviews and plans the pattern of worship and the Social and Fundraising Group. The latter organises or coordinates events some of which are focussed on bringing people into fellowship and others are designed for fundraising. Some of course do both! These events vary from the straightforward with a well established pattern to the complex with multiple strands and people involved – all are well received and I am grateful to everyone involved. Very often it is through friendship, fellowship and direct invitation that people first become aware of who we are and what we do and in this sense we can all play our part.

Turning to the future, at a recent 'Away Day at Home', we identified a number of ways in which we could develop – some were smaller and more easily achieved than others! Plans include inviting visiting speakers and preachers, increasing visibility, developing activities on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday mornings of each month, continuing to offer discipleship courses for the church family as well as considering new ways of reaching out to enquirers and the wider community, to mention a few. A key issue for the next year is to raise the profile of safeguarding, not only amongst those involved in activities with children and vulnerable adults, but for everyone. We have been actively following a robust safeguarding policy for a number of years now and it is helpful to periodically raise awareness of the issues, and changes, for all. The safety of our congregation and visitors is paramount and the more people are aware of safeguarding principles, the easier it is to maintain this.

The PCC have also re-committed to using Fairtrade products as much as possible

Most importantly, in all that we do, we must seek to prayerfully discern and follow God's will. It is a joy to see so many people involved in mission and ministry in so

many different ways. We do this through the grace of God. I continue to believe that with God's grace, we will be able to grow as a church and share the joy of faith and love of Jesus with all whom we meet.

Thank you all for your friendship and fellowship in Christ.

Blessings

*Revd. Canon Elaine Bielby*

## **Electoral Roll Report**

The Revised Roll for the year 2019 stood at 79 names. The revision for this year will be completed on 16 March and the number will be reported at the annual meeting. This is the first revision of the Electoral Roll produced in 2019.

It is with sadness we record the death of Mrs Kate Ettridge.

*Mike Stead*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

It is pleasing to report that the PCC's aim, and our prayers, for a growth in church numbers have borne fruit. Over the last year church attendances at our regular Sunday services have increased to 62 adults and only very slightly reduced to 8 under sixteens. In addition our mid-week activities have continued to grow and flourish including a new forget-me-not service and the regular coffee mornings, messy church and school groups.

The statutory Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in July and the church architect presented his report to the PCC. No new significant issues were raised but the need to protect the building from the weather and the deteriorating state of some of the stonework was highlighted. To address the weather proofing a roofing contractor was employed to re-fix and replace damaged and missing roof slates and to re-point the parapets and verges to minimise leaks into the building. Occasional leaks continue in the area near the font when there is a combination of heavy rain and high wind. The problem is caused by the lack of a waterproof membrane under the slates which will be costly to rectify and the PCC is keeping it under review. A scheme to repair the stonework to the south and west faces of the church including the porch is being prepared.

The churchyard wall in Brookside damaged by a car has been re-built on behalf of the East Riding Council and a section of the plaster ceiling in the vestry has been repaired. The church clock continues to run smoothly following several adjustments and fine tuning but now there is no more adjustment remaining for

the striking mechanism. A further failure will require the worn cams to be removed and re-machined.

The problem with intermittent loss of sound from the radio microphones has been rectified by the sound engineers who discovered a loose connection on the receiver/amplifier. Annual servicing has been carried out to the boiler, fire extinguishers and the organ. A new notice board has been erected at the west entrance to the church together with new church signs facing Cowgate and Ladywell Gate. Several more dedications have been received for the thanksgiving path and the board has been updated.

Once again Jackie and I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make our church such a happy and welcoming place and an extra thank you to Graeme for all his help with the building and contents.

*Roger Peacock*

## **Secretary's Report**

Membership of the Parochial Church Council currently comprises the Vicar, two Churchwardens and ten elected members following the departure of Revd Graeme Holdsworth on 30/01/2020.

The PCC met on six occasions during 2019/2020 with an average attendance of 74%. Regular reports were received from the Treasurer, Churchwardens and PCC representatives attending Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and Hunsley Churches Together. The Pastoral Group, Social and Fundraising Group, Worship Group and Communications Group met between PCC meetings and notes/reports of these meetings were received by the PCC.

The Standing Committee (comprising the Vicar, Curate, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary) also met on six occasions during the year.

The PCC dealt with routine business matters during the year including:

- Accepting the accounts for presentation at the APCM and approving the budget and fees for the coming year.
- Maintenance of the Church building, grounds and churchyard wall which was damaged twice during the year.
- Freewill offering.
- Agreeing variations to Sunday services, additional services / festivals and all-age worship.
- Noting and recording social and other events for insurance purposes.
- Safeguarding issues.
- Health and safety issues.

Other business dealt with during the year included:

- Clock repair and maintenance
- Quinquennial inspection and report
- Installation of new notice boards
- Approving the sleep-over in Church in aid of the Salvation Army
- Approving Gerald Fox as Recognised Parish Assistant Worship Leader
- Supporting development of the Church website and social media activity
- Appointing Elizabeth Gilbert as Safeguarding Office

*Mary Stead*

## **Treasurer's Report 2019**

The finances of St Helen's Church, Welton are in good order due to many parishioners continuing to give on a regular basis through standing orders, weekly offering and Gift Aid envelopes and I thank them for that. These methods of giving are a very tax efficient method of contributing to the ever increasing running costs of the Church as we receive an extra 25p in every £1 given under Gift Aid from HMRC and in 2019 this tax recovery amounted to £9,557. The Garden's Open day raised an wonderful £5,545 which was donated to the Fabric Fund, and I thank all involved in this excellent village day. This year another craft fair was organised which was a great success raising £785, a charity dinner raised £2,443, a Pop Up tea raised £837 and in addition funds were raised from the sale of mugs, tea towels, books, tea & coffee, tower tours, jumble sale and the SMASH project raising £2,571 in total. This year other generous donations were made from sanctuary light, cycling and other general donations. Thank you to all involved in these events.

Due to the picturesque setting for our Church in Welton this continues to attract couples to hold their weddings at St Helens again contributing significantly to our funds.

We are fortunate in having several restricted funds for major projects but by their very nature this money can only be spent on the Church and Cemetery if it qualifies under the rules of the respective funds.

We still have significant deposits in the Fabric Fund these monies need to be held in reserves because as is set out in the 2019 Quinquennial report there is significant work to be done on St Helen's mainly roofing and stonework work to be undertaken. So with our main expenses being insurance, repairs, heating and the Parish Share we have managed to record a good surplus of £6,327 in the year ended 31 December 2019.

The Parish Share (Freewill Offering) was agreed by the PCC at £36,500 for 2020 and we are budgeting a break-even situation for 2020.

We do all that we can to control costs and over the past few years we have been able to cover our costs year on year with our General Fund thankfully shows another improvement this year to £25,351 at 31 December 2019.

***As ever I would be very grateful if we could all review the level of our giving by whatever means possible, be it taking a box of weekly offering envelopes under Gift Aid; setting up or amending standing order contributions or encouraging our friends and neighbours to partake in the upkeep of our beautiful Church here in Welton.***

*David Johnson*

## **Howden Deanery Gathering Report**

The Howden Deanery gathering continues to hold four meetings a year, hosted by different churches for each meeting. This year we visited Elloughton, Laxton, Blacktoft and North Cave. There is always a main item on the agenda, usually a talk led by clergy or a guest speaker. Topics are wide ranging but thought provoking. We had a visit from a hospital chaplain who spoke about his journey to faith and his work in Goole, Scunthorpe and Grimsby hospitals. We next had a presentation about the work carried out at Open Doors in Hull which is a church-based organisation providing assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. We experienced a sensory workshop set up with prayer stations for a quiet evening ending with a Compline Service. During the final Gathering we watched a short video featuring a talk by the Bishop of Gloucester on the theme of "Setting God's People Free" which links to a section entitled "Everyday Faith." Then followed discussion time.

Everyone is welcome at the Gatherings. We hold occasional joint services with other churches in the deanery and social events which are advertised by leaflets and on the weekly notice sheet.

*Jackie Naidoo*

## **Baptism Team Report**

I had been working alongside Graeme Holdsworth during 2019 attending baptism preparation meetings and checking and completing of relevant paperwork with our baptism families. I applied to be baptism Co Ordinator towards the end of the year and started officially in this post at the beginning of 2020. In January a baptism team meeting was held attended by nearly all those involved with the



services which are held on the first Sunday of every month after the All age service usually at 12.30 but occasionally a 2pm service may be required if there is demand. It is also possible for a child to be baptised during the main 10.15 service if there is a connection with St Helen's by prior arrangement with Elaine Bielby.

A rota was devised for those involved in taking the services, helping to set up and assist during the service and those who greet the families on their arrival. In 2019 there were 21 children baptised and one adult. An anniversary card is sent to every child and their name added to the register which is left open to view in the glass cabinet behind the font. I will also continue to visit each family in the month leading up to the Baptism service for a preparation meeting to talk about baptism, choose hymns and talk through the baptism service. Any enquiries regarding baptism should be directed to either Elaine or me.

*Jo Capes*

## Choir Report

**Numbers:** we have 31 regularly attending choristers on our books including organist Gareth Naidoo and bass Mike Davis, currently on a placement until Easter, plus our returners who sing with us when home from college/visiting (currently 1 or 2 sing once or twice a year or so) and a number of guests we can call on for special services or when numbers might otherwise be low). The split for the regularly attending members is 8 juniors (18 years and under: 2 boys, 6 girls), 18 ladies (8 sopranos, 10 altos, with Louise helping out on tenor when it is not too low) and 5 men (3 basses, 1 baritone/tenor plus Gareth singing tenor when not playing – and sometimes when he is!). Thomas is included in the junior group above but is now singing with the men.

**Leavers and New Choristers:** in September we waved au revoir to Stephanie who left to study Geology at Newcastle University, but were delighted to see her back at Christmas and for the Cottingham festival (she was still young enough to qualify in the class which is for 18 years and under) and occasional weekends between. No one else has left, but nor have we had any new members.

**Youngsters** (with ages and school year as at 29 February 2020):

Alice Goode (Deputy Head Chorister)	18	Yr 13	Emma Duffus	13	Yr 8
Charlotte Duffus (Head Chorister)	17	Yr 13	Cosmo Plummer	11	Yr 7
Thomas Gilbert	14	Yr 9	Millie Mason	10	Yr 6
Catherine Sleight	13	Yr 9	Lily Mason	9	Yr 4

**Recruitment:** as always we are looking out for more men and youngsters, 7 years and upwards. I went to do a whole school assembly at Welton Primary school in January with the help of Millie and Lily, who sang a piece they had

composed called 'Follow His Star' (which the junior choir also sang at our Three Kings' service at Epiphany). The school seemed to enjoy having us and Millie, Lily and I enjoyed doing the assembly. We hope there might be some interest in choir or church from that and I plan to do another assembly at Welton and possibly some other local schools in the summer term when Charlotte and Alice have finished exams as they would also like to help. Anthony has also added to the information about the choir on St Helen's website and I have put an article about our search for new choristers in the parish magazine.

**Notable achievements:** there have been a number of medals awarded during the year. At the beginning of the year Cosmo and Thomas gained their Light Blue medals and at the end of the year Millie and Lily also. In July Emma gained her Archbishop's Chorister award with Distinction and was presented with her certificate at the Royal School of Church Music Festival Service in Hull Minster in October. 22 of our choir took part along with over 200 choristers from all over Yorkshire and the North East with Philip Moore, formerly of York Minster, conducting. Philip came to take a local rehearsal at Welton a few days before the main event for our participants and one or two others from churches in the area, and both the rehearsal and the festival were a huge success – so we hope it is not another 25 years before it returns to Hull! We were also thrilled that Elaine, Graeme and Linda took part in the service, with Elaine and Graeme even reading a lesson each.

At the Cottingham Music Festival 2020 in February our junior choir successfully defended our two titles, regaining the Junior Choir Hymn Singing trophy singing 'Angel voices, ever singing' in 2 parts plus descant and the Junior Choir Recital class, with three contrasting pieces: John Rutter's 2 part version of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', a 3 part unaccompanied arrangement of Away in a Manger and Rhythm of Life from 'Sweet Charity'.

Millie, Lily, Charlotte and Emma also competed with great success in some of the Cottingham Music Festival individual classes on 8 February including:- Millie and Lily, entering for the first time came 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in a class of 9 in the Chorister's solo for Girls 12 Years or Under, (with Beverley Minster choir girls 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>!); Millie also won the trophy for Hymn Singing 11 Years and Under in a class of 6, and Lily came third out of 9 in Hymn Singing 9 Years and Under. Emma won the class for Hymn Singing 13 years and Under, and came second in the Chorister Solo for her age group and Charlotte took the trophy for Choir Boy or Girl 18 years and Under. Millie and Lily came second singing From A Tiny Ant in the Vocal Duet, 12 Years and Under and Charlotte and Emma picked up the trophy for the Duet class for 17 Years and Under. I will be slotting in the chorister solo and junior choir items in appropriate services in the coming months, if they have not already featured already.

On the morning following these successes Elaine asked if the juniors would like to bring in any cups and certificates to show to the congregation – they processed in with 9 or more cups or shields between them! The junior choir have been asked to sing Angel Voices and Rhythm of Life at the 2020 Celebration Concert on 7 March, and Millie has been invited to sing one of her winning solos

and Charlotte and Emma their duet. This year the concert is in aid of Hull Sounds Circle, a charity working across Hull and East Riding, bringing recreational music to the community to help with mental and physical wellbeing.

And – quite unexpectedly – and much to our delight – at the concert there were some special cups awarded for particular highlights of the festival, and these included St Helen's Junior Choir, Welton being awarded the Rene Todd Trophy for the choir or group showing the most promise in the 2020 festival, and Emma receiving the Eardley Kemp Cup and £60 towards her music studies for the most promising young musician in this year's festival. On close inspection of the inscriptions on this cup Emma was thrilled to see that Gareth won this trophy in 1998, as did Alex in 2011.

The Duffus family plus Peter and Graeme took part in the Howden Rotary annual charity cycle ride, cycling 180 miles between us and raising £130 for church funds.

**Organ and Instrumental:** we are most grateful to Gareth Naidoo who continues to play the organ and the clavichord at the majority of our regular and special services and also to Michael Waltham who plays for us on the first Sundays and for Corinne Cook, Peter Wood and Ian Cockerline being willing to step in on other occasions when Gareth has been unavailable.

We have a number of other accomplished instrumentalists in the choir/congregation who have enhanced our music by playing either to accompany a choir anthem or as soloists during services or at the choir concert on Gardens' Open Day. In addition Ken Fergusson (husband of former chorister Stacey) came to play the trumpet beautifully at our Remembrance service in November.

**Special Highlights:** the Easter Day baptism of Millie and Lily, and for our Remembrance Sunday service, a wonderful new composition by Gareth: 'Hymn of Hope'.

**Extra Services and Events:** in addition to our regular Sunday morning practice and service we have sung at various regular special services such as the Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm Eucharist, the Midnight Christmas Eve Communion and Christmas morning service. In September we combined forces with the choir of St Mary's Cottingham to sing a Harvest Choral Evensong first at St Mary's Cottingham, (where we were treated to a lovely tea after the rehearsal) and then two weeks later, singing almost the same music, at our own Harvest Evensong followed by our Harvest Supper. During 2019 we sang at 6 weddings at St Helen's including in October the lovely wedding of former chorister Fiona Johnson to her fiancé Tim – Fiona being the elder daughter of our alto Gillian and church treasurer David. Since the last APCM we have also sung at one baptism and one funeral.

7 of the choir plus Gareth and one returner, with a large number of the congregation, took part in the Parish Weekend to Swanwick in June where a good time was had by all and we still had a choir of 13 back in Welton. We also had a good turn out (choir and congregation) for the annual choir Gardens Day concert in July, (the concert contributing £119 to the Gardens Day total).

As usual the Advent and Christmas period was very busy. As well as our Advent Carol Service followed by coffee and cake, and the Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies, the choir was asked to join Howden Minster Choir to sing in the Howden Rotary Carol Concert in Howden Minster, which raised over £3,000 for various charities. On 19 December the choir led village carol singing on the green outside the church before carol singing round the centre of Welton, (which raised £147.17 for the Children's Society). We then moved up to the Games' Room for a wonderful supper, party games and Round Robin table tennis. Earlier this month a group of 19 choristers and 11 other family and friends went on a choir trip to see a magnificent production of *The King and I* at Hull New Theatre.

It has been another busy but enjoyable musical year at St Helen's and we already have a number of interesting events lined up for later this year. As always I am very grateful for the wonderful support for the choir from the St Helen's clergy, congregation, choristers and organists.

*Helen Duffus*

## **Children's Church Report**

Children are an important part of the congregation, as they represent the future of our church, and we value their presence with our efforts to teach and support them in their journey.

Over the last year we have continued with a monthly structure for our children's church sessions. The craft sessions two or three times a month tied in with the readings or events allow the children to participate in the church and they enjoy sharing some of their work with the rest of the congregation. We continue video sessions once a month using the Friends and Heroes cartoons and lesson plan when we have a smaller gathering of children. (The Friends and Heroes series 1, which was purchased for us in 2018, focuses on 2 bible tales, each episode, told by one of the central characters of the series).

This year we have been able to continue with children's church throughout the whole year. We could not have done this without a little extra help at times (thanks to Julie and our teenagers) and would like to find more volunteers to help us make the children's experience of church a positive one.

As we did not have a break for summer, and term times and holidays vary for our children, we held our Children's Church party after the Celebration of Children Service. The children had a lovely time picnicking and playing games ( thanks to Rob for allowing us to have it at his house).

We hope that the children enjoy the next year as much.

*Rachel Sleight*

## Messy Church Report

Our aim with Messy Church at St Helen's is to reach out to families on the edges of our community, such as those who come into contact with us through occasional services (baptism etc.). Learning about Jesus is the focus of each Messy Church event; over the last three years we have developed a recognisable but fluid structure which carries elements that would be familiar from our other main services (such as singing the Gloria we use at the All Age service). A big thank you to Linda who has got breakfast down to a fine art, with toasted raisin loaf being very popular.

We timed our services so that they would not clash with the already busy festival seasons and during 2019 we managed bi-monthly services and we are continuing with this pattern for 2020. We agreed that the 3rd Saturday worked well because it provided a good contrast to Matins on the 3rd Sunday; we accept that some families will never be able to make Saturdays due to other commitments but feel that we have to work with a pattern that is sustainable for the current leadership and core team.

Our hope for 2020 is to see growth in commitment and in numbers to reach out to families on the edges of church and to teach about Jesus. Looking through our records we have had contact with about 20 families, some come occasionally and some regularly.

Our themes for 2020 are:

January 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>New Start – Noah's Story</i>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Who Is Jesus? Come and See</i>
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Love Your Neighbour</i>
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Jesus by the Seaside</i>
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Harvest—thanks for Creation!</i>
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Light in the Darkness</i>

We have really appreciated the support of all those who help and join in at Messy Church; the 'buzz' that is created by our regular Sunday attenders joining in is really great and it would not be the same without them. If anyone reading this thinks they would like to be involved please speak to Elaine, Linda or Liz. All of us involved in leading the events continue to find ourselves energised and refreshed by this new way of learning about Jesus and we always come away from each session with a new insight into a well-known Bible story.

We can not let a report on Messy Church be written without saying a very big thank you to Carol and Graeme for their support, prayers and inspiration for Messy Church and wish them every blessing in their new parish.

*Liz Russell*

## **Hunsley Churches Together Report**

There was a Christmas Tree Festival in the Village Hall and Hunsley Churches Together sponsored one which was decorated with knitted Angels and these were then distributed around the villages just before Christmas and had been a big success and lovely comments about the idea had been received. St. Helen's had a Prayer tree which included the Angels which were then taken out by Pastoral Visitors to the ill and/or bereaved. H.C.T. got an award for our efforts.

It was again not possible to undertake the Pulpit Exchange during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The daily service of Morning Prayer started at St. Helen's on the Monday and the week concluded on the Sunday with a United Service at the Brough Methodist with refreshments at 2.30 followed by the Service at 4 p.m. which was taken by the Rev. Ann Rigby-Jones their new Minister – there was a good representation from Hunsley Churches Together.

*Christine Rippingale*

## **Safeguarding Report**

We are currently up to date with all our DBS checks. Elaine and myself have completed the safer recruitment course and I will be getting the confidential declaration forms completed in the coming weeks, as well as checking the course requirements for different Roles, getting these booked and completed. There will also be a poster with my details displayed on the noticeboard to comply with the regulations and my details are also now on the parish website.

*Lizzy Gilbert*

## **Pastoral Group Report**

Pastoral work in many ways is the unseen Ministry of the Church of God. The Pastoral Group of Visitors listen & support those within & without the church family in the Parish. We as visitors are all very aware of how we must maintain confidentiality & sensitivity at all times.

Again this year we have witnessed the loss of a number of our dear friends in Christ who are sorely missed; by the Church Family. They have all served the Parish of St Helen's & Melton with differing gifts in exceptional ways. May they Rest in Peace & Rise in Glory.

During the course of the past 12 months we have ministered to the sick at home, in hospital, and to those in Care. Home Communion has been taken to the sick, and to those who are no longer able to get to St Helen's. In addition we have endeavoured to visit the bereaved or lonely people of the Parish. If they are ambulant they have been invited to the Coffee & the Craft mornings at St Helen's where they receive a warm friendly welcome & a listening ear.

If you would like to become a visitor or if someone you know would like a member of the Group to visit; in the first instance speak to Elaine or myself.

*Anne Thompson*

## **Flower Arrangers' Report**

During the year flowers in the Church have been regularly provided at the altar and the Welcome Table except for the seasons of Advent and Lent when it is inappropriate to do so.

I have a small but invaluable group of helpers and we have all pulled together over the year working in two or threes; but for the larger events such as Easter, Gardens Open Day, Harvest and Christmas, we all work together when there has been a happy, friendly but busy atmosphere whilst creating many arrangements throughout the church.

We are always looking for extra helpers, and if you or anyone you know would like to join us, please let me know!! No expertise is required, no-one bites!!

Over the last few years we have found that the use of artificial flowers at Christmas works very well as they improve the look and the longevity of the arrangements, which period now encompasses Epiphany, thus saving us both work and expense.

As we are a small group there are times when holidays and family commitments coincide and it becomes difficult to find anyone to "do" the flowers so we may also use artificial flowers at such times in the future. We have continued to expand this idea and now have a larger range of artificial flowers to suit most occasions, if necessary.

However, up to now we have managed to cover all weeks and also special requests where the flowers are dedicated to the memory of a person or as a celebration of some event. Contributions from weddings have fallen this year but request donations and personal contributions of foliage and flowers from our gardens have helped to keep standards up and the funds buoyant.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped over the past year for their cheerful cooperation and hard work.

*Christine Walker*

## **Prayer Group Report**

St. Helen's Prayer Chain continues to exist, praying for situations, groups and individuals. These are not necessarily the same as the weekly Prayers on Sunday, in Church.

We meet whenever possible on the second Thursday of the Month, for about one hour. If you would like to join us please get in touch.

*Maureen Gillies and Margaret Lee*

## **The Children's Society**

The total raised for The Children's Society this year was £2275.39. The house boxes raised £830.66; carol singing by the choir and friends raised £147.17; the Christingle service raised £135.71; the Crib service raised £189.85 and the Christmas concert by the Hunsley Singers raised £972.00.

Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

*Sue Gilbert*

## **Members of the PCC (immediately prior to the APCM 2020)**

Revd. Canon Elaine Bielby

Helen Duffus

Jackie Naidoo

Gerald Fox

Roger Peacock

Elizabeth Gilbert

Mary Stead

Mandy Green

David Johnson

Mike Stead

Corinne Cook

Anne Thompson

Hilary Drysdale



