

Annual Report 2022



ST. MARY'S
· CHURCH ·
BEVERLEY

Contents

- 1. The Agenda for the APCM for the Year Ending 2022**
- 2. The Vicar's Report**
- 3. The Annual report of the PCC including:**
 - Worship
 - Music
 - Children and Youth
 - Discipleship Groups, Prayer Ministry and Growing Faith
 - Pastoral Care and Mission
 - Wider Church Networks
- 4. Financial Report**
- 5. Annual fabric report presented by the church wardens**
- 6. Deanery Synod report**
- 7. Appendix 1 The Curious Carvings (Restoration Report)**
- 8. Appendix 2 Financial Accounts Year Ending 2022**
- 9. Appendix 3 Minutes of the APCM 2021**

Agenda

All members of our church are warmly invited to the
ANNUAL MEETINGS OF ST MARY'S BEVERLEY

Sunday 30th April 2023

12.30 –12.45pm

The Meeting of Parishioners

12.45-13.45pm

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AGENDA

1. To sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 30th May 2022
2. To elect four persons to serve as Churchwardens for the ensuing year
3. To receive the certified Financial Statement relating to the trust known as 'The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Beverley' for the year to 31 December 2022
4. To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

10. Opening Prayers

11. Apologies for absence

Note the names of those who have said they are unable to attend the meeting

12. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting

13. The minutes of the last meeting should be approved, corrected if necessary and signed.

14. Matters Arising

Those items which are not covered by the reports

15. The reports

- I. The Vicar's Report (pages 3 - 6)
- II. The Electoral roll (page 6)
- III. Annual report of the PCC (pages 7 - 23)
- IV. Financial report (page 24)
- V. Annual fabric report presented by the church wardens (page 25)
- VI. Deanery Synod report (page 26)

16. The elections and appointments

- a) Election of representatives to Deanery Synod – every three years
- b) Election of PCC members
- c) Appoint sidesmen
- d) Appoint independent examiner (auditor)

Any other business Closing prayers

I. The Vicar's Report

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3)

I so often think that images speak a thousand words, and, in this report, I will capture the essence of this year in images. It has been a year where colour and vitality have returned after the monochrome fears of lockdowns and Covid. At St Mary's we have seen our mission and ministry spring back to life and our church community grow in number and in leadership. It will be impossible to capture everything (and the Annual Report of the PCC does that very effectively) so I would like to highlight some key theme and in doing so give glory to God for his Spirit at work in our church and lives.



As ever I am immensely proud of team St Mary's and it is the people who make the team. When we rebuilt our website this year it became apparent just how many people are involved in leadership, mission and ministry in our church. This picture shows just a fraction (my apologies to those who should be listed and aren't... yet). The church is of course the people of God – living out their faith and sharing the Good News in works and action in their daily lives.

Our core staff team has changed as our incredible administrator Catherine moved on to greater things and our Education Officer, Jennie, came to the end of her contract with us. We have welcomed Gill as administrator who brings a wealth of experience and are presenting seeking both a youth and children's worker and a pastoral outreach worker.

Kathryn, Berry and Andrew continue provide incredible leadership in terms of music and worship, and Jane has done a fabulous job keeping our facilities clean and welcoming.

Our ministry team and those who preach has increased. I am delighted that Jo and Gill are both training for reader ministry and that we have folks offering new skills in preaching (Dave and Keith). Our new folks bring new skills to a powerful ministry team: Erik Wilson, John Edmond, Keith Gilson,

Michael Yates, Simon Pike, Steve Crossley and Steve Parkin.

It has been wonderful to hear how small groups have re-emerged from the pandemic and how the leaders have nurtured and disciplined their members. Likewise, those who oversee the prayer groups and who offer pastoral support to others.

Our people have brought energy and creativity in terms of mission and outreach – who would have thought that we would have welcomed almost 30k people in the weeks running up to Christmas? The response was incredible and so many conversations about faith took place. I am so grateful to the team who helped make this happen. We just need to ‘top it’ next Christmas and we will be more prepared for creating opportunities to share the Good News.



This was also the year when we ‘signed off’ the restoration of the nave clerestories and the final report was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is incredible to think that so much was achieved in terms of repairs to the building. For the full report please see below (Appendix: Curious Carvings) but to think that both our Narnia Carvings and Women of Influence Carvings attracted national and international acclaim and were shortlisted for prestigious prizes. I am very grateful to our architect – Andy Burrell and the restoration board (especially Roland Deller) for their support with both projects. These projects have allowed us to secure the building for the future and have given us springboards for mission by attracting visitors and schools. The church welcomes under the leadership of Gill, Carol, Rosemary and Tony have continued to bless us with their generosity and enthusiasm and have been a wonderful asset to the team.





In addition, improvements have been made to the crypt so that we can keep our youngest disciples comfortable and safe while they are learning and worshipping together. The space is now a wonderfully calming and welcoming space. We are looking forward to the improvements brought to worship by the big screen and by the new west glass doors which are in the process of being installed / developed.



Whilst thinking of our young disciples, I cannot thank Anne enough for taking on an oversight role. She has helped establish an incredible team of leaders and different sections (as she explains in her report). In addition, I am so grateful for Amelia's work with our teenagers and the volunteers who supported holiday clubs and Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade.

A new venture for us this year was that of providing food to children families would struggle financially. We did this in partnership with the council who offered a HAF grant. Over 18 sessions (each of 4 hours) we welcomed up to 40 children per day. During the sessions we played games with the children, taught them baking and cooking skills, took them on trips and most importantly provided full cooked meals for the children. In order to make this happen we recruited 22 volunteers,

received a grant from the Nora Parsons Trust, boxes of fruit from Stephenson's Funeral Directors as well as donations from individuals from the church community and we are very grateful for their support. We are also grateful to Tina Cerutii and Coles kitchen who helped with magnificent food and of course the Mel Bruton and our lovely Church Lads and Girls for the use of the George Street building.



Our priorities will be that of continuing to 'Make Disciples' of all ages and we look forward to the next phase of our exciting adventure as followers of Jesus Christ here in Beverley.

II. The Report of the Electoral Roll

In 2022 there were 229 people on the church electoral role.

III. The Annual Report of the PCC

Worship

1. 8.00 service
2. 9.30 Service
3. 11.15 Service
4. 6.30pm Service
5. The Praise Service
6. Online worship
7. Evening Prayer on Facebook
8. Thursday Morning Service
9. Healing Service
10. Celtic Evening Prayer
11. Easter/Christmas
12. Readers for the 9.30 Service
13. Intercessions Rota: Sunday 9.30
14. Online Service Rota

Music

15. Choir & Organ
16. Music Group
17. 11:15 Band
18. Bell Tower Report

Children and Youth Ministries

19. 11:15 Children's Ministry
20. Church Lads and Girls Brigade
21. St Mary's School
22. Sunday Night Youth Group
23. Allsorts Playgroup

Discipleship, Prayer Ministry and Growing Faith

24. Monday homegroup
25. Thursday afternoon home group
26. Thursday evening home group
27. Thursday evening homegroup
28. Saturday morning prayer group
29. St Mary's Prayer Circle
30. The Bible Course

Pastoral Care and Mission

31. Women's Fellowship
32. Men Meet
33. Thursday Coffee Mornings
34. Pastoral Care Team Report
35. Safeguarding
36. Flowers
37. Church Welcomers Report

Buildings

38. Restoration
39. Church Wardens Report
40. Parish Hall

Wider Church Relationships

41. Deanery Synod Report
42. Churches Together

Worship

As ever it is an honour to lead worship at St Mary's and my thanks must be offered to all those who with skill and diligence, prepare and lead worship. My thanks go to: Erik Wilson, John Edmond, Keith Gilson, Michael Yates, Simon Pike, Steve Crossley and Steve Parkin. I am delighted to see Gill Gregory and Jo Boulter move forward in training for ministry. We also give thanks for our amazing musicians – Berry, Andrew and the Choir, and Kathryn and the band.

I give thanks for the celebrations on Easter day and especially the baptisms (by full immersion) where the church was filled with joy and laughter and celebration.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October was 195 adults and 26 children.

St Mary's was able to offer baptism, marriage, and funeral services for our parishioners in 2022.

Baptisms 43

Marriages 25

Funerals 29

1. 8.00 service – Becky Lumley

The quiet Holy Communion service at 8am now attracts between 15—20 worshippers each week and is followed by a simple weekly breakfast after the service. The fellowship is strong, and people support and pray for one another. It is also pleasing to see so many folks helping with reading the lesson and Gospel and I am grateful to Jenny Cattermole for her support in organising the rota.

2. 9.30 Service– Becky Lumley

The Holy Communion service at 9.30am now attracts about 60-80 adult worshippers each week and several children in the choir. There is a strong fellowship, beautiful music and worship and the excellent teams contributing to the reading of the word and prayers coordinated so diligently by Rosemary and Lynn. 'Sunday School' has been relaunched post covid and we are incredibly grateful to Amelia for her ministry in this area.

3. 11.15 Service – Becky Lumley

The 11.15 Service has continued to go from strength to strength and is vibrant and joyous with a large team overseeing the various areas of worship. We have several new families and we now have 70-90 adults and 15-20 children most weeks. I am very grateful to those who have taken on the responsibility of setting up the AV technology and the instruments (thank you so much to Chris and Martin for helping with this).



We have rebranded our children's work and now have groups called Brightsparks (Preschool), Livewires (Primary age) and Youth (secondary). Anne has been incredible at coordinating the rota and Amelia has brought new life to our youth work.

4. 6.30 pm Service – Allan Ball

The evening service continues to flourish, with formats of Choral Evensong and Compline services, led by a lovely variety of our priests, readers and, of course, Vicar Becky.

Choral Evensong follows the Book of Common Prayer, with traditional hymns and anthems provided by our awesome choir, and with Holy Communion services on the first Sunday of each month. The Compline services are occasionally combined with a choral element, but with each having its own identity. Numbers are often between 30 – 40, including the choir, and we have seen an encouraging increase in new attendees over this last year. Whichever form of service is taking place, there is a wonderful, friendly atmosphere of friends, old and new, worshipping together.

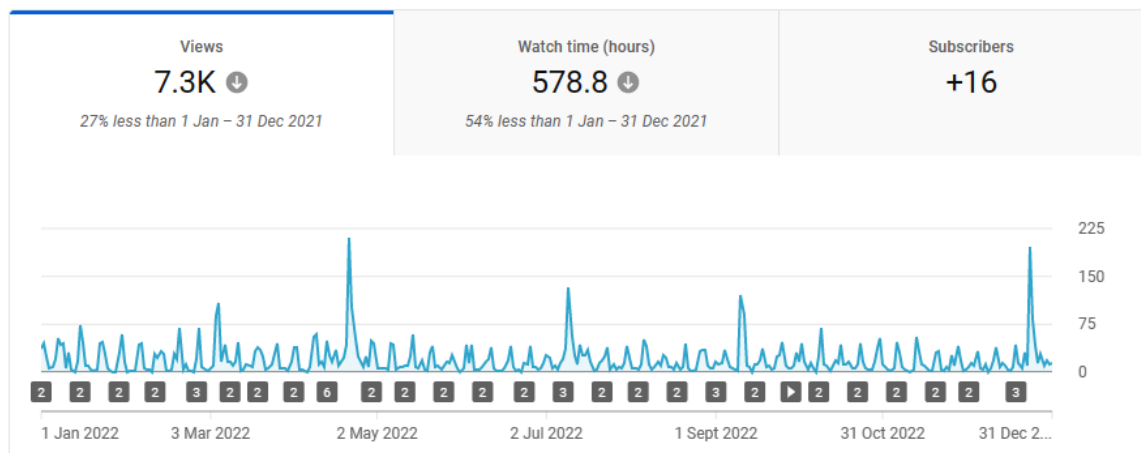
5. The Praise Service - Becky Lumley

We have expanded our leadership and preaching rota. Dave, Keith, Steve, Jo and Gill have all helped us learn from God's word. Kathryn and David bring exceptional gifts to the music and worship, and it has been wonderful to hear so many share their testimonies at this service as well as dig a little deeper into the Bible.



6. Online worship - Becky Lumley

Your videos got 7,338 views in 2022



We released 52 worship videos in 2022 with the most incredible array of people taking part and these have been very well received indeed. Our online worship videos received 7,338 views over the year (140 views per week). We have found out that several residential care homes are using these films in the lounges when they gather people together for Sunday worship (so the actual congregation figures may be much higher). Lynn Pratt has been amazing – coordinating the team of readers and intercessors who contribute to this worship with their personal recordings. We have seen people really grow in confidence in prayer and leading worship through this important ministry. However, we are reviewing the need for online worship because it is very time intensive.

Our other social media platforms are Instagram (843 followers) and Twitter (674 followers) and thanks go to Rachel for supporting out social media presence.

7. Evening Prayer on Facebook _Becky Lumley

A team of approx. 20 people take turns in leading prayers each evening and the response has been amazing. Our Facebook group now has 865 members and our Facebook page has 1.6k followers.

8. Thursday Service – Allan Ball

The Thursday 10:00am service follows the traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Said service, with formats varying according to the ecclesiastical calendar. We have a variety of our priests and, of course, Vicar Becky.

Numbers are usually between 10 – 20, but it's not unknown to have visitors who have just come for a look around but have decided to listen in from the Chancel seating area.

There is always a uniquely amiable but respectful atmosphere of friends worshipping together.

After the service, there is an opportunity to either stay and reflect, or to further enjoy fellowship together over coffee and biscuits in the Parish Hall.

9. Healing Service - Third Sunday in the Month – Michael Yates and Steve Parkin

In Sunday Services we may, worship, praise, give thanks, meditate, learn, be inspired, pray, etc. During a Sunday Service we may do some or all of the above including prayers of intercession.

In Healing Services, we might also do some or all of the above but with a difference. The Healing Service is based principally around the theme of healing. The definition of 'healing' that I use, is that any movement, any growth of understanding, any touch of the Holy Spirit, any Blessing is a form of healing if it helps us to grow within the Kingdom of God. This also includes healing of body, mind, or spirit whether mentally, emotionally, or physically. But remember God in Christ is not limited to these alone. The giving of wisdom or spiritual knowledge or the call to a vocation is all part of Gods healing and blessing.

Some come because they like a quiet meditative service and particularly like the background music and the solos that Berry does.

Some come because they have a problem, a need, a difficult decision, or other problem that affects them and they are seeking the Grace of God to help.

Some come with needs of their own or as proxy for another.

It's natural to go to the surgery with an ailment and seek the doctor's help. We can also supplement this by asking God's Grace and to be with us and help us.

If you have any questions regarding this ministry Steve and I are more than happy to speak with you. God loves us so much he wants us to enjoy life and be at peace. May the hand of God be richly upon you. Amen

10. Celtic Evening Prayer – John Edmond & Steve Parkin

Celtic Ministry (Celtic Evening Prayer and Eucharist Services) have now become an established part of the Service pattern at St Mary's Church. This Ministry continues to be pioneered by the two Licensed Lay Ministers, John Edmond and Steve Parkin with the kind assistance at the Eucharist Services by Rev. Canon Erik Wilson and Rev. Michael Yates.

The Celtic Ministry has an established service pattern, comprising:

- Celtic Evening Prayer Services every second Saturday of the month, commencing at 7pm
- Celtic Eucharist Services every fourth Saturday of the month commencing at 7pm.

These Celtic Services are candlelit, quiet, reflective and spiritual in their nature with sacred music to provide a meditative worship experience. The liturgy is based around that used by the Christian communities of Ioana and Northumbria. It has a strong focus on the Trinity and an

appropriate perspective on nature and steeped in Celtic tradition, where silence, meditation and God's created earth are key themes.

All Celtic Ministry services are based around beautiful and meditative music, for example Hildegard of Bingen, whose music is considered to be the point where heaven and earth meet, representing the interconnectivity between man and the universe. The music is truly angelic, reflective and represents the balance of body and soul. Silence, reflection and meditation all have places of importance during the service in the full splendour, history and surroundings of the sanctuary of St Mary's Church.

We now have a regular congregation, which continues to grow in number, all of whom enjoy the quiet, spiritual and reflective experience of our Celtic Services.

In October 2022 we managed to attract Ray Simpson, who is an internationally recognised Celtic scholar and author, to come and spend a day with us to provide three reflections concerning, his own Celtic journey, Celtic tradition and the environment. The event was held in early October 2022 at St Mary's and we attracted an audience of 80 people, who thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We are hoping to arrange a similar 'Celtic Day' in the autumn with another well-known Celtic Tradition speaker (watch this space!).

In addition, we are also looking to plan the following:

- i. A Celtic Retreat Day;
- ii. A Celtic Pilgrimage to a Celtic Community;
- iii. A number of Celtic Services, during the late spring/summer, to be held away from St Mary's (possibly Beverley Westwood, Spurn Point, Yorkshire Wolds);
- iv. A Celtic Morning Prayer Service during the summer to add to our Celtic Ministry offer.

We would also like to give our sincere thanks to Jill Edmond for providing Church Warden Duties at the services, to Gill Gregory for preparing the bookmarks and importantly, of course, for all those who have supported our services and events.

The Celtic Services provide a wonderful opportunity for all to come to St Mary's and share in the Celtic Tradition. They are inclusive services and you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

11. Easter/Christmas Services - Becky Lumley

We welcomed **248** people to our Easter Day Service and **1750** for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These services are an incredible opportunity to share the gospel and we are working on new ways to be creative and to create opportunities for follow up.

This year the Festival of Angels provided an amazing opportunity, and we welcomed 30,000 people to St Mary's in the 2 weeks running up to Christmas and the 2 weeks afterwards.



12. Readers for the 9.30 Service- Rosemary Williams

During the year 40 people read regularly at these services. This number includes 4 new volunteers who joined the team. This means that everyone reads approximately every 4 to 5 months. A suitable date is agreed beforehand and a copy of the reading is provided in advance, as well as being available on the day on the lectern. More volunteers are always very welcome.

13. Intercessions Rota: Sunday 9.30- Lynn Pratt

Thank you to the people who faithfully read the prayers at the 9.30 Sunday service. A couple of new people have joined the rota this year, and some have dropped off. It would be good to have some additional volunteers, so please do have a word if you would like to help with this important ministry.

14. Online service rota for prayers and readings - Lynn Pratt

Thank you to the many adults and children who have volunteered on a regular basis to video readings and prayers for the online services for Becky to put it all together.

15. Choir & Organ – Berenice Lewis

There have been no significant changes to our choir's personnel or routine over the past twelve months, and I'm happy to report that our musical work within St. Mary's continues to strengthen and grow. Grace Weekaroon has started her university course, but we're always glad to have her back in the holidays. All our singers demonstrate tremendous commitment to worship at 9.30am and 6.30pm, plus lots of extra services and events (for instance carol services, funerals and Platinum Jubilee celebrations). We love to sing together, and our little community is a very joyful and supportive one!

I'm very glad indeed to have Andrew Allison playing regular services again, after a period of ill health. His skill and musicianship enhance our music hugely. Sincere thanks go to Mike Ellerington, one of our regular tenors, who is also a skilled organist and has shown himself able and willing to stand in for Andrew on many occasions lately. I truly appreciate his help. Colin Wright has also played for a small number of services this year, and it's always lovely to welcome him.

I'd like to express gratitude to Derek Fisher, who puts in a lot of time and energy to organizing our music copies and supporting me in numerous ways. We were delighted to be able to sing a special anthem (Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*) on Sunday 26th March, to mark his 80th birthday.



We're now awaiting the arrival of a brand new digital organ as a permanent replacement for our pipe organ. To fix and maintain the old instrument would have been, very sadly, far too expensive an undertaking. The organ currently in use is a rented instrument from a company called Viscount, which is also building our new bespoke instrument; we hope to have it installed in the near future. We look forward to wonderful music over the Easter period, and later in the year we are planning a joint concert in church with the Romulus Singers from Cheshire.

16. Music Group – Berenice Lewis

The Music Group re-started regular activities in June 2022, after a long break due to the pandemic. We are happy and grateful to be making music together again. We play and sing a small number of sacred songs / modern hymns before and during the 9.30am service once a month – normally, the fourth Sunday – and meet to rehearse together on the Wednesday prior. Our music is greatly enhanced by the lovely flute playing of Diana Pocock. I'd like to offer a special 'thank you' to Rosemary Williams, who organises our music copies and is always so efficient and helpful. Anyone interested in joining the group is very welcome to contact me direct (email berrylewis2019@gmail.com).

17. 11:15 Band - Kathryn Arrowsmith-Cooper

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6). This year we have continued to develop the worship at the 11.15 service thanks to the wonderful commitment of musicians and technicians who generously give their time and skills each week. In addition to the 11.15 service, we also lead the worship at the monthly evening Praise Service. This year we are exploring how we can continue to develop our worship together and build in opportunities for longer practise sessions. It has again been lovely to welcome some new musicians to the Praise Service this year. If anyone is interested in joining us, please do speak to us at church.



18. Bell Tower Report - John Atkinson

2022 has been a year of mixed fortunes at St Mary's. Sadly, on 25th October 2022, Barbara Gibson (wife of the late Richard, tower member for many years) passed away. Although not an active ringer in recent years, Barbara was a great friend of St Mary's bellringers.

We are delighted to welcome our recruit Sara Shores to service ringing. Taught by Neil Donovan, Sarah is now beginning her journey and is showing excellent promise!

There has been extensive ringing during the year for peal and quarter peals, service ringing, visiting bands, civic events and for weddings.

St Mary's Church is a popular wedding venue and requests for bells is both pleasing and challenging. As has been the case in previous years we have been very fortunate to have received generous support from 14 Society members which has enabled at least 8 bells to be rung.

Although service ringing on Sunday evenings is not always possible at St Mary's the opportunity to ring quarter peals has been taken with a total of 18 being scored, including 4 on the 12. We have been grateful for the support of a number of experienced ringers who have joined the bands for these 12 bell quarter peals enabling local band members to gain valuable experience.

Two Peals of Yorkshire Maximus, by visiting bands, have been scored.

We have received requests to ring for other important events both locally and nationally, not least the passing of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As was the case throughout the ringing fraternity ringers at St Mary's rang as requested in Operation London Bridge and, as the ringers are responsible for "flag duties" there was much raising and lowering of the Union Flag over the ten-day period of mourning.

We are, as always, very grateful for the support of our Vicar, Reverend Becky Lumley, and the PCC for allowing the bells to be rung and our policy of “accessibility” has enabled local ringers and visiting bands from many parts of the UK to enjoy the wonderful peal of bells at St Mary’s Church.

Children and Youth Ministries

19. 11:15 Children’s Ministry - Anne Crossley

As far as our 11.15am group of children is concerned, we go from strength to strength. After a little deliberation last year, we decided to change our name to ‘Livewires’ – which is a very fitting and accurate description of our primary school age group! We are also in the process of providing the children with T-shirts, sporting the logo that was specially designed for our group, – and our regulars are now proudly wearing these on a Sunday morning to show their commitment. The dynamics of the group remains the same – with a core number of faithful regulars – and also lots of visiting children, often with their parents, who come for various reasons including baptisms. It is also really exciting to welcome our St Mary’s School Choir who sing at the 11.15am service once a month. This boosts our numbers by approximately 20 children and it would be fantastic if somehow, we could encourage this group to attend weekly instead of monthly. Please pray with the Livewires Team about how we can make this happen.

Another change this year has been the advent of two new groups for children attending the 11.15am service. The age range was widening at the beginning of the year – and because it is very difficult to cater for a 3 year old child in the same group as a 13 year old, as Amelia joined the team, we set up a group for those of secondary school age. At the other end of the age range, we have set up a Creche and called the group ‘Bright Sparks’. This usually happens in the Crypt and is for pre-school children, run by a team of four adults and four of our teenagers. A lot has happened this year! Staff numbers continue to grow too and we now have another adult who has joined the Livewires Team of volunteers.



Sunday mornings with the Livewires continue to be full of fun and food – and a great blessing to us as we learn and grow together and put faith into action. As part of a Tearfund initiative, last year the children ‘Twinned a Tap’ – and this year, managed to raise the rest of the money needed to ‘Twin a Toilet’ in Afghanistan. We’re now planning a car wash to raise further funds.

We also enjoyed the Livewires Pancake Party in February. Many thanks to the willing volunteers who helped to run the afternoon.

It’s been a great year with lots of answered prayer and we look forward to what God has planned for us in the coming months.

20. CHURCH LADS & CHURCH GIRLS BRIGADE - Tony Wood

It has been good to have the Company fully back to its weekly pattern of meetings this year. It is also good to report that the membership is strong. There are 110 members, each of the 4 Sections being well supported.



This healthy position is as a result of the continued voluntary commitment of all Section Leaders, combined with the enthusiastic encouragement and overall leadership of their Company C.O., Melanie Bruton.

The wonderful Officers and Leaders, who run all the Company activities, are supported, in turn, by the accomplished abilities of the Trustees (who are commissioned by a Legal Deed, imposed at the date of purchase of the building, to look after their Headquarters) - Dave Moore, Beverley Lawrence, Graham Downing and Neil Walker - led so capably by their Chairman, Dave Moore.

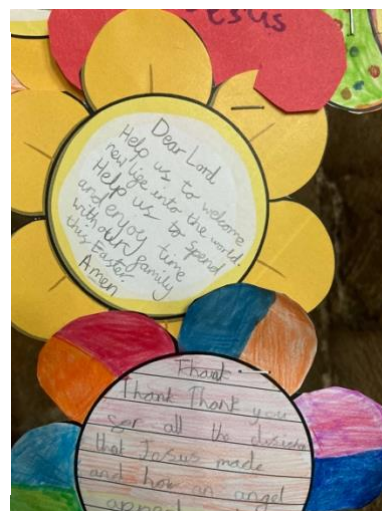
As well as their regular meetings at their George Street Headquarters, the Company members also visit other venues to widen their experiences, including several Raywell Camps through the year.

The Band continues to practise every Thursday evening, leads the Civic Remembrance Day Parades, plays at some church services, and supports several charities. They raised £400 for Company Funds from a concert in St. Mary's Church at the end of 2022.

The Beverley Company has been at the forefront of introducing a new, more simple uniform for the young people: a different coloured tee-shirt for each Section to be worn with dark trousers or skirts, this being more suitable for general weekly activities. The formal, traditional Brigade Uniform continues to be worn by the Officers, Leaders and Band.

In April 2023 the Beverley Company celebrates 115 years since its foundation. We are proud that this organisation has continued to serve the young people of Beverley for all those years – and that it is still thriving. We are also proud that the Beverley Company will host the AGM of the National Brigade Council at their Beverley Headquarters in April 2023.

21. St Mary's School - Becky Lumley



We have continued to support our school in governance, maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and in leading worship. Worship is led in the school every Wednesday with special services in church for festivals (Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance etc.). In partnership with Beverley Schools Christian Trust we run a weekly children's bible club (welcoming approx. 20 children each week).

We were delighted receive a The Global Neighbours Gold Award. This award provided a framework for thinking about global citizenship education in schools. The scheme aims to increase pupils' understanding of the root causes of poverty and injustice, as well as engage and empower pupils as agents of change in the transformation of our world. The work done to achieve this award took several years and the outcome is impressive. The children can really be described as 'courageous advocates' inspired by the Christian faith and the Bible to work for justice and mercy.

22. Sunday Night Youth Group- Gill Gregory

This group was set up in the Autumn of 2015 to meet the needs of young people who are too old for Sunday School who need their own group to have fun and grow in faith, as they move into and during their teenage years. We have a group of up to 25 young people aged between 9 and 17 years. The group has grown in size and new members are always welcome. We meet in the parish hall on Sunday evenings between 6.30-8pm, except during the school holidays. The group has been a source of friendship and support as the young people cope with all the changes and challenges of modern culture.

Each week we have games, crafts and activities (such as board games, karaoke and chocolate tasting) as well as time for hot chocolate, discussion and thinking about faith. We have been thinking about ways that the young people can continue to grow in faith and take leadership roles in the group. Younger members have joined us this year and we have seen older members joining Amelia's confirmation group on Sunday mornings. They use the group really well to talk about faith and issues

relating to their lives. It has been great to see group members taking steps of faith through confirmation and in other ways this year.

We meet monthly in the Church Lad's and Girl's Brigade Hall once a month for 'Chill Out Night'. This is a more informal and relaxed games evening where additional young people have joined us from the CLCGB.

We also now meet regularly for SNG@the Praise Service and some young people have played with the worship band as well as having their own time while the adults are in the service.

It has been great to have Amelia McGowan as a youth worker this year leading the group with continued support from volunteers. Thank you to our leaders who have been so faithful and enabled the group to continue. We have hopes to grow the youth work further especially if we are able to recruit a youth worker.

Thank you to those in the church who have quietly supported us. It is much appreciated! Your prayers and encouragement make a great difference to the continued work. We are also conscious of the support that the wider church has given us through the PCC.

Keeping our young people through their teenage years is critical to their future faith journey and to the ongoing life of the church.

23. Allsorts Playgroup - Anne Crossley

The Allsorts Toddler Group continues to meet each Friday morning in the Church Hall from 9.30 - 11.00am. A team of five volunteers now run the group as unfortunately, we have lost one of our volunteers since the last AGM. We run during school term times and seem to get busier by the week. It is a very popular and happy place to be on a Friday morning with a mixture of regulars and newcomers who swell our numbers to anywhere between 20 and 30 children with their parents or grandparents. A voluntary donation of £2.00 enables us to provide snacks and drinks for children and adults and a variety of craft activities too. We have time to chat with those who attend and a chance to form new relationships and the session always ends with a singing/music session and story time.

During this year, we have made donations to the Beverley Food Bank at Harvest time, and also to Children in Need. We celebrated Christmas with the toddlers taking part in a nativity play - and we had a visit from Father Christmas. We had a Teddy Bears' Picnic in February and in March, we have a Palm Sunday parade planned, and an Easter Egg hunt. It's a great place to be on a Friday morning!



Discipleship Groups, Prayer Ministry and Growing Faith

24. Monday afternoon home group - Allan Ball

Our Monday afternoon group continues to flourish in many ways.

We have a rich and varied range of life experiences within our group and are continually filled with wonder as we learn what God's word means to us in today's world. It has been wonderful and strengthening to be able to share so much with each other. We are each truly a GIFT to one another, in our **Growing In Faith Together**.

Since our last report, we completed our studies and reflections on all the Parables of Jesus and ventured into the challenging book of Revelation. As you might imagine, this has stretched us all in so many different ways. But by going at our own pace and taking time to understand as much as we can, we have learnt of, and received, so many assurances of God's infinite generosity and forgiveness, that it was well worth the effort.

After so much symbolism, we are now looking forward to something more down to earth by a study of the book of James. In a world of "How to" guidebooks, written to help us with how to mend a bicycle or how to cook a meal, James is effectively a practical guidebook for how to be a good Christian, for his readers both then and now.

25. Thursday afternoon home group—Erik Wilson

Nine of us meet regularly on Thursday afternoons. In 2022 we studied Mark's gospel and the Book of Acts together and enjoyed several bring and share socials. We have also been eager to use material being used by other groups and have always found the material recommended by Becky interesting and stimulating. We are currently at full capacity so unable to welcome any new members.

26. Thursday evening home group – Keith Gilson

Becky and Keith continued the small group on Thursday evenings, although it seems ages ago we went post Zoom only last Spring. We've met at The Vicarage and enjoyed the hospitality of Mary Hutchinson over the year and thank her very much for that.

We've covered some interesting and challenging topics:

- A series on 1 Peter Keeping Hope Alive
- A series called Encountering Jesus
- The Advent Course on the Holy Land
- The Lent Course Casablanca proved to be a real success too.

The group is fluid in numbers, an indication of the hectic lives we lead these days, however the group grew stronger in fellowship together and are looking forward to our next discussion-the Holy Spirit. All are welcome and if you are not yet in a group please do come along, see the notice sheet for details

27. Thursday evening house group— Ian Brough

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ

The news from the Crossley Home Group.

We are on a wonderful journey looking into the Word of God, with the teaching from Steve and all of us as a group. We always start every home group with worship songs and prayer time, where we have a short time sharing with each other our news and we bring our prayer requests. We have looked at David and Paul's journey from Antioch and back (Steve) as well as Lent / Advent. We've also done a study on a number of psalms and The Lord's Prayer.

We as a group have moved forward by doing a monthly teaching on an individual basis. We have felt that that has given each of us time to prepare and study more in-depth and the group feel that this is helping us all to grow individually and learn more about ourselves on our spiritual journey. As a Home group we all enjoy to meet socially for tea, coffee, barbecues or meals out and walking.

We feel within our Home Group we are so blessed to have each other and offer support through Prayer and care for one another, whether it be by individual calls or messages. We encourage each other on a regular basis on our WhatsApp group. God's love and blessings to one and all.

28. Saturday morning prayer group - Margaret Law

I started the Saturday Morning Prayer Group a long time ago in our home, central to Beverley, near North Bar. I believed that the home environment would encourage people to express their hopes and fears and pray freely in the security of a home. We still meet every Saturday morning from 1030am. Numbers vary from 3 to 7. We welcome everyone, either as a regular or as a "one off".

29. St Mary's Prayer Circle - Diana Pocock

What is it?

A group of people from St Mary's, representing all the services, Prayer Circle members undertake to pray on a regular basis for those who have requested prayer for themselves or for their families and friends, the names of whom, with their consent, are included on a list which is circulated among members.

How does it function?

The list is strictly confidential and members do not always necessarily know the reason why someone is on the list. The person who has requested prayer is known as the Contact and does not have to be a member of the Circle.

Membership

New Members are needed and always welcomed. Since our last report, we've been very pleased to welcome Eileen Hicks and Simon Griffiths to our membership, which now numbers 15. The members are divided into 3 groups, each overseen by a Co-ordinator, either Lorainne Goodaire, Jane Lumb, or Diana Pocock. The Co-ordinator is responsible for circulating the names of new additions to the list to members, and updating them with any further information, if and when received. Three times a year, and at intervals of 4 months, after consultation with the Contacts, the list is completely reviewed and updated by one of the Co-ordinators, and names are removed if appropriate.

Recent Developments

Originally, all of this detail was relayed by phone or personal contact which made it quite an onerous task, but now we have "gone digital", so it is mainly done by email. This also means that each piece of information received can easily and accurately be circulated simultaneously among members who have email, without the risk of straying from the original message.

Another recent development has been meeting together; whereas the Saturday Morning Prayer Group has always met together, members of the Prayer Circle have prayed alone, so it has been quite a private activity. But several members had suggested they would like to come together occasionally, and someone who felt she had benefited from our prayers, as a "thank you" wanted to invite us all to afternoon tea in the hall, so the result was a very enjoyable afternoon just before Christmas. I personally felt it was so good to meet together and discover the different ways members pray for the people on our list, hear their suggestions, and learn how to develop my own prayer life and language. Privacy in prayer is good, and recommended by Jesus, but coming together can also make us and our prayers stronger because we know that where 2 or 3 are gathered together in His name, He is there with us.

Others must have felt the same, as we have already had another successful gathering this year, and hope to continue to meet occasionally in the future.

Results

We have seen some miraculous results in the way God has answered our prayers, not always what we expected or prayed for, sometimes happy and inspiring, sometimes sad and challenging, and sometimes those we have prayed for are so overcome with gratitude that they feel WE are responsible for the outcome they desired. Then we have the opportunity to point out that any strength we may have comes only from the Lord and it is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we are enabled. Jesus left the Holy Spirit to comfort and work for each one of us - we only have to ask, and keep asking, and so we do!

Am including below a grateful acknowledgment from Lorainne of the Lord's answer to prayer:-

"When the Lord's answer to prayer has resulted in an (*as yet*) unsaved loved one / friend experiencing a deep sense calm in their previously overwhelming medical situation, and seeing incomprehensible medical progress being made there too, this has piqued a totally new interest in God! We pray that this will be the first step in their walk with Jesus. Giving thanks to our Heavenly Father that His ways are above our ways, and that even the darkest situation can be used by Him, to draw everyone into His Kingdom. Praise the Lord!" (Lorainne)"

30. The Bible Course – Becky Lumley

The Bible Course offers a superb overview of the Bible, it built confidence, equipped us to read the Bible better. Over eight interactive sessions of video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings 40 people from St Mary's explored the Bible. It was an extremely fruitful experience.

Pastoral Care and Mission

31. Women's Fellowship—Lavinia Raynor

The Women's Fellowship meet up once a month on the last Monday of each month. During these sessions we have had various discussions regarding how we can improve the Fellowship to get more members. This has been done by creating a fun and creative experience for all, such as; a Quiz afternoon, Christmas party, and floral arrangements. Looking to the months ahead we are planning to go on outings to explore the local area, as well as meeting up in the church to learn new skills and to support one and another. We welcome all new members.



32. Men Meet – Steve Parkin

After lockdown numbers attending were very low. 3 months ago, Keith Gilson and myself decided to relaunch Men Meet and put together a provisional 12 month calendar. We have started with bowling having 2 successful gatherings and a Curry night which was very well attended. Future

meetings will include at day at the cricket in Scarborough, a day at the races, York Minster, a brewery trip and talks.

33. Thursday Coffee Mornings – Susan Walker and Ann Anderson

The Thursday Coffee Mornings offer refreshment and a warm welcome for church members and visitors alike. In addition, Margaret Roberts facilitates a Craft Group which is popular and enjoyed by many and Joan Husband provides a range of greeting cards and second-hand books to purchase in aid of the Childrens Society.



34. Pastoral Care Team Report – John Edmond

Over the last year PCM has sought to focus on the one particular objective set out in last year's report, namely to develop the Care Home Ministry initiative in Beverley.

St Mary's Church, as part of the Churches Together Beverley, led by John Edmond and Jill Edmond have worked alongside representatives from Beverley Minster to provide Pastoral Ministry to the Parklands and Claremont Residential Care Homes, respectively. We feel truly blessed by God to be able to participate in such enjoyable and humbling Ministry to the elderly in our community.

Over the last year we have established a pattern of Services that involved Parklands every second Wednesday of the month and Claremont every fourth Wednesday of the month. In planning for the services for the residents, we have followed the key festivals during the Church year. Hymns are sung and the good news of the Kingdom of God is preached together with Prayers and Intercessions.

We are very grateful for the kind assistance given by the staff in the Residential Care Homes for all their hard work and the highest levels of care, love, understanding and compassion they bring to their work.

From 1st June we will be adding a 3rd Residential Care Home Service to our rota. This will be at the new Chapter House Residential Care Home on Keldgate. We are all looking forward to starting our services at that venue.

An important part of our mission is being visible in warmly welcoming to those attending St Mary's and being a supportive church to all who attend – newcomers, visitors and existing congregation. It is important that all church members to continue to use their 'eyes and ears' when at church in ensuring all who attend, particularly if there are new faces or visitors, are warmly welcomed into the church community. In addition, the pastoral outreach is also about being aware within our midst of who may not have attended church for a little while or someone who is attending who may seem quiet or upset for any reason. If so, these matters can be brought to the attention of the Ministry Team or Church Wardens present. Becky is hoping to bring forward a Pastoral Worker to enable new ideas and objectives to be actively pursued. Funding for this post is presently being explored. As always, a central tenet of the PCM at St Mary's is to aim to create meaningful relationships and fellowship across the church and sharing in a love for Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank all the people who have been involved in the Residential Care Home Ministry over the last year, for their commitment and self-giving service to others. The time given to come alongside and help others in Christ's work is precious.

We pray that moving forward the Holy Spirit will move amongst us and direct our course in our future pastoral journey; and that we will be equipped, gifted and enabled through the energy of the Holy Spirit to take forward our PCM to serve God's purposes in our community, grounded in God's word and love for us and in our love for our neighbours.

Thanks be to God.

35. Safeguarding - Gill Gregory

As we know it is everyone's responsibility to think about safeguarding children and adults who are vulnerable. This is not optional as it involves caring for one another and most particularly the children or vulnerable people that we all have contact within the church family.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy closely follows the policy followed by York Diocese and is also available on request from me, on the church website and is on display in the parish hall and church. Also on display are a Safeguarding who's who poster and Promoting a Safer Church poster. The PCC has approved the procedure for responding to concerns at its last meeting on 14/03/2023.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is Rob Marshall with Sara Dickinson to assist. Andy Broom (Archdeacon) is also on the team. The Diocese provides a safeguarding section on their website which is very helpful and informative. This year they have been updating the training that they offer with the Leadership of Jenny Price. I am continuing as Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's working closely with Becky as our Vicar. We are also offering Safeguarding support to the Church at Kingswood with Rev. Ben Norton as Vicar.

As part of the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding policy, all those individuals who are involved in an activity that requires contact with Children or Vulnerable Adults need to complete a Disclosure and

Barring Service declaration (DBS). Also, there are policies regarding the use of social media or taking photographs. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to me.

When taking up a role with children or vulnerable adults or in leadership within the church a DBS is required. There is a straightforward online system for completing DBS. The diocese has now required that we renew DBS's every 3 years unless the person has a continuously updating DBS. Please let me know if you are taking on a new role in the church, which may require a DBS or if it is some time since you completed one.

DBS's:

DBS checks are required for all those doing children's work, pastoral work, the PCC, worship leaders, and various others. Becky and I are able to complete disclosures with those who require them.

People's data is subject to strict Data Protection law and only kept by the online disclosure team for the period of creating the clearance.

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to enable their checks to be completed.

Training:

There are a variety of Safeguarding training courses that are required to be completed depending on the role that church members take up. I can advise you regarding the required training for your role.

We are expecting a Safeguarding Audit by the Diocese of the church at some point in the Autumn.

We are compliant with the standards expected in most areas and have an Action plan approved by the PCC to complete all the tasks required.

If you have any concerns regarding Safeguarding or would like further information please do speak to Becky or myself.

36. Flowers - Lavinia Raynor

We have and will continue to provide flowers arrangements throughout each season and each occasion (weddings, funeral etc..). Over this past year of providing flowers in church I have noticed the increased cost. Like most things, the rising cost of flowers has substantially increased and this will only continue over the coming months. This may be a factor in people's decision to have or not to have them in church. I will, where possible try to keep costs down so that the flower arrangements can continue to be viable in church.



37. Church Welcomers Report - Carole, Rosemary, Tony

Thank you to all our wonderful Welcomers, you are fantastic. The time that you give to keep our beautiful building open to visitors and tourists is so appreciated.

Special events in 2022 hugely increased visitor numbers. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on June 3rd and 4th, with events in North Bar Within, attracted over 2,000 people into St Mary's Church.

Heritage Open Days on 9th - 11th September was lower key than usual owing to the death of the Queen on 8th September which brought additional people into the church on those days to sign the Book of Condolence and to pray. The visitor numbers were 964.

Beverley Festival of Angels was the biggest event for 'Welcoming opportunities' last year with opening hours extended into the evenings. Our Welcomers were assisted by other volunteers from St Mary's, HEY! (Culture) Volunteering, Beverley Civic Society and people from the community. There were 29,816 visitors recorded who came to see the Angels during the festival. An amazing and pleasing number!

We had 5 new Welcomers last year, but we do need more people to join the team. No commitment to certain days or hours. We enjoy monthly Coffee Mornings or tea and cake afternoons with updates on future events. Come and join us, we are a happy band of people and we do need you!

Buildings

38. Restoration - Becky Lumley

A full report of the restoration project can be found below in appendix 1.

39. Church Wardens Report – Jill Edmond

At our last APCM Gill Gregory, Jill Edmond and Keith Gilson were re-elected as Church Wardens with Allan Ball elected as our new Warden following Beverley Lawrence stepping down following an excellent six years in the role. We thank Bev for all her hard work during that period and for still being around to point us in the right direction when needed! The new team of Wardens have worked hard to support Becky in the many a varied aspects of the life of St Mary's in the last year. We thank

her for her continued dedication to her congregation, the church building and to the people and town of Beverley.

As the pandemic restrictions have finally been lifted some of the wardens' discovered parts of the job they didn't know existed because we hadn't been allowed to do things such as take a collection whilst we had been wardens. At times there were three of us learning the ropes, but I think we mainly carried it off without too many people noticing! It was a real joy to be able to stop and chat with the congregation again and to see so many returning to church and so many new faces in the congregation. The work Becky, her Ministry Team, the wardens and the PCC put in certainly seems to be paying off.

It has been interesting implementing the new way of taking communion at St Mary's after so many were not keen to share the common cup. We seem to have settled into a routine for setting up and clearing the little glasses and are very grateful to those congregation members who regularly help us to wash and dry the glasses between services. At this point we must thank Margaret Hairsine who has acted as the church sacristan but has decided that now is the right time for her to retire from that role. I am sure Margaret will be available to help any of the wardens out with queries in the future. We now welcome Ray Rumkee as crucifer.

We are indebted to Chris Munday who acts as treasurer to the Wardens. We are grateful for his expertise, advice and commitment to us and the role. We also thank Chris and his team of helpers, John Hood, Chris Makepeace and Sallie Blake, for counting the cash taken as offerings and donations. Sallie has settled into her role looking after the church finances, ably abetted by Anne Mansfield, our Honorary Treasurer. We are all aware that Anne would like to step down, but we will have to watch this space and see if she is still here after the APCM! The Wardens Fund continues to cover the costs of bread and wine for communion and the insurance for the church building.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Catherine Ceely as she left for pastures new to an exciting role within the NHS. We have missed her excellent organization, her willingness to get stuck in to almost anything and especially her cheerful disposition. Becky was supported by the wardens and various members of the congregation during the period we were without an administrative assistant and managed to keep the whole ship afloat. We are so grateful to all those who helped keep us on an even keel. It was a real pleasure to welcome our new Parish Administrator, Gill Gregory, to the role in November.

We must also thank our teams of volunteers who carry out the side's person role for us at services, meeting and greeting the congregations; our band of welcoming volunteers who help keep the church open to visitors all year round; those who organize home groups, coffee mornings and who volunteer in any way. Church here would not be as it is without you.

We have also been delighted to have Amelia join the church in her role as children and youth worker. She, Anne Crossley and the team who help with our youth offering, including our fabulous toddler

group and children's choir, are doing a wonderful job. In the school summer holidays we ran a summer club from the Church Lads and Girls Brigade headquarters which was very well supported by church and non-church families. Good bonds were made with the young people some of whom also attended the holiday club this Easter. We are very excited to see the growing numbers of children in our services.

It was a quiet year for the fabric of the building with no major works. However, Becky and Keith have not been resting on their laurels and you may have seen plans for the new screen, which will hopefully be in place by the time of this meeting, and for the West entrance which are with the diocese for consideration.

Our beautiful church became a focal point for the community following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September last year. The church was opened with flowers candles and a condolence book from early the morning following her death and Becky managed to organize a service of commemoration for that evening. The services held in those days of mourning were very poignant. It was good to be able to offer a place of comfort for people to be able to come and spend some time whilst they paid their respects.

We must thank all who helped get our Festival of Angels off the ground. Without those of you who gave hours sticking tissue paper in place, those who climbed ladders to turn an Angels legs around when we had attached them the wrong way around, those who gave up night after night to welcome our visitors, serve drinks and treats or work with our young visitors in the creative area, the Festival just would not have happened and we are most grateful for what you did. The event was a huge success, with almost 30,000 visitors over the month it was open – that's the number of visitors we normally attract in a year. The conversations we had with our visitors were incredible and even before the event was over we had people who had visited who hadn't been in church for years attend some of our Services.

40. Parish Hall – Susan Walker

The Parish Hall diary bookings are going well and the diary through 2022 has been fairly busy. We had diverse regular weekly and monthly groups including various exercise and singing groups, choirs, dancing, children's classes, wine and guitar groups. The Hall is also used for church activities, including coffee mornings, church courses for Lent and Christmas and youth groups.

Hourly rates for the Parish Hall were increased slightly in Nov-22 and a new day rate introduced to assist in covering increased utility costs.

Catherine Ceely looked after the Parish Hall and diary until Sept-22 when she left us after 8 years of wonderful service until Gill Gregory took up the administrator role in Dec-22. Susan Walker agreed to pick up the monthly invoicing in the interim and with Becky looked after the diary including ad hoc booking requests. Anne Mansfield continued to oversee the Parish Hall bank account.

The hall had a few repairs in 2022 including plumbing to kitchen and toilets and a new Dishwasher was installed in Oct-22.

Church quiz in the hall



Wider Church Relationships

41. Deanery Synod Report – see main report below (page 26)

42. Churches Together in Beverley -Becky Lumley

Churches Together in Beverley has continued to support the churches in their ministries and is the vehicle for working together as Christians. Hope in Action, the ministry to the residential care homes and Beverley Schools Christian Trust have been supported and encouraged by CTB. CTB has provided opportunities for us to worship together at Christmas and Easter as well as the week of Christian Unity. It has promoted understanding and dialogue.

IV. Financial Reports

Stewardship for 2022 prepared by Susan Walker

The table below shows the outcome of Planned Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown in red.

					Year to 31.12.22 Year to 31.12.21	
	Gift Aid		Non Gift Aid		Totals	
	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.
Weekly Envelopes - general fund	£5,516	12	£541	4	£6,056	16
	£6,586	19	£1,052	6	£7,638	25
Standing Orders - general fund	£29,469	53	£4,940	16	£34,409	69
	£34,194	54	£4,540	17	£38,734	71
Standing Orders – via Parish Giving Scheme	£15,558	27	£920	3	£16,478	30
	£8,035	23	£0	0	£8,035	23
Standing Orders - organ fund	£600	1	0	0	£600	1
	£600	1	0	0	£600	1
Standing Orders - restoration fund	£880	3	0	0	£880	3
	£720	3	0	0	£720	3
Standing Orders – youth worker	£0	0	£180	1	£180	1
	£270	1	£135	1	£405	2
Column Totals	£52,023	96	£6,580	24	£58,603	120
	£50,405	101	£5,727	24	£56,132	125

HMRC Gift Aid Reclaim at 25%	£13,006
	£12,601

Note: The Parish Giving Scheme started in May 2021

The table below shows the outcome of Unplanned Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown in red.

Unplanned Gift Aid Donations	£17,941
	£19,429
HMRC Gift Aid Reclaim at 25%	£4,485
	£4,857

The above does not include Cash non gift aid donations or those from the Just Giving system

Please see Appendix 2 for Full Financial Accounts.

V. Annual Fabric Report from Church Wardens

General maintenance and repairs have continued throughout the year to preserve and enhance the fabric of the building. The church has been regularly monitored to ensure it is maintained to the best possible standards. Restoration works done in the church over the past year have been covered within Appendix 1. The 'Terrier' and 'Church Logbook' have been updated as necessary during the year.

We have responded to the Church of England Net Zero Carbon 2030 target during the year, with the introduction of LED lighting throughout the church. Not only has this provided a significant reduction in energy consumption the LED fittings are proving far more stable in operation, with zero failures and a complete absence of flickering and failure encountered with the fluorescent ones.

A small but significant reordering of the crypt by the installation of a partition has created a segregated storage area separated from the main crypt area. Decoration and a new carpet have brought the crypt "back to life" and provides a small, secluded area used once again for private prayer, meetings and young peoples' activities.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who keep the church clean and tidy, an ongoing task, you are very much appreciated.

There are works in process too, where the fruits of the preparatory work undertaken this year will be seen in the next.

A smart screen has been installed which will allow different methods of presenting our worship, facilitate opportunities for old and new users of the church and allow us to engage with the wider community.

A Faculty has been submitted for a glazed entrance to the West Door which will provide both draughtproofing / heat loss and enhance the appearance of the church as it allows the doors to remain open thus creating a more welcoming feel to the building.

In both instances consultation was undertaken with the relevant heritage bodies who assess the impact on our truly remarkable building; their assessment was favourable to the schemes proposed.

We continue to pursue grant applications for major restoration works. We are finding this avenue of funding increasingly difficult and competitive, nevertheless we remain in close contact with the funding bodies.

We can assure you that the fabric of the building continues to be our constant source of attention and that we will work diligently to maintain the high standard of architectural heritage.

VI. Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod 2019 – 2021 - Ed Norman

As a Deanery Leadership Team, we have continued to work on behalf of Beverley Deanery to develop a framework into which we can position the Archbishop of York's ten-year strategic initiative. We have produced a substantive document embracing the heart of the proposal.

Right now, church units within the Deanery are digesting the proposal and working individually and wherever possible collectively, with Bishop Eleanor and Archdeacon Andy, to progress ways of implementing the ideas contained in the Deanery proposal,

The essence of the Deanery proposal is contained in this section of the document

- To grow worshipping communities that are grounded in their local context but also informed and resourced from the wider Church family.
- Build bridges across rural-to-rural, town-to-town, and town-to-rural communities to enable mutual growth in discipleship, outreach, and pastoral care in all the Mission Units
- To release our paid ministers to be focused leaders in mission and ministry across the deanery to grow existing worshipping communities and to plant new ones.
- Make better and more sensible use of the gifts and talents of our stipendiary ministers to promote growth across all Mission Units in the deanery, including the provision of informal training and refresher courses locally.
- Seek out and put in place the support needed to equip, enable and empower lay leaders to sustain existing resources and systems. Provide, across the deanery, the required training and other resources needed to sustain and develop people, finance, and fabric.
- To address the structures that lead to the burdensome expectations of modern ministry and mission, which cause stress, busyness and prevent the church communities from reaching those they currently don't. Identify areas of useful collaboration between Mission Units and ecumenical partners so to share where we can for the good of the kingdom of God.
- To acknowledge and do everything we can to meet the challenges of change and transformation both locally and across the diocese.
- Develop healthy lines of accountability for those who lead in mission and ministry (ordained and lay) so to better support the changes required to face the challenges ahead.
- Improve communication across the deanery so we can make better use of the valuable resources we currently have.
- To develop and encourage the value of every worshipping community within the deanery; creating a mutual sense of belonging to one another.

St Mary's is currently, in response to the above priorities, exploring ways of engaging and supporting the church community at Leconfield. We are at present waiting to hear whether the church building will remain open for weekly worship and listening to the faithful Christians how have been looking after the church building there.

St Mary's discussing the deanery plan (below)



The Curious Carvings Project



Bringing to life the extraordinary heritage of St Mary's ceiling bosses, stimulating the renaissance of the church's identity, role and relevance in the community.

Our vision

To inspire appreciation and curiosity for the bosses at St Mary's: their artistry, meanings, and capacity to teach us about the past and ourselves.

Our mission

1. Introduction

This final evaluation report assesses the impact of the Curious Carvings Project which benefitted from £421,400 funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) representing 49.8% of the total project cost of £845,869.

The project took place from July 2019 to September 2022. This evaluation report was completed by the project board in Autumn 2022.

Background

The aim of this project was to preserve and interpret the extraordinary heritage of St Mary's Beverley while focussing on the extraordinary collection of 688 Tudor and medieval carved wooden roof bosses distributed throughout the ceiling of the church. Found throughout the church these bosses are a vibrant visual record chronicling the life, times, stories, hopes and dreams of our ancestors, and are unique in both design and number (please see appendices -section 1). This extraordinary heritage was at risk from decaying stonework and fragile windows. Our aim was to make sure that they were not only preserved but also interpreted, making them and the wider heritage of this church accessible for all people, with a particular emphasis on those who would not normally connect easily with churches or heritage sites.

The NLHF award letter of 13 March 2019 contained a list of Approved Purposes for St Mary's Church PCC to complete by the end of the funding period. The letter stated that NLHF *"will be monitoring your progress against the approved purposes of our grant and any areas of risk we have identified"*. The Approved Purposes, were:

Undertake capital repair works as per the scope of work: Repointing of open joints; conservation of the remains of carved elements; cleaning stonework; replacement/restoration of pinnacles, eroded weathering stones, window tracery, stones, grotesques, label stops and moulded stonework; wall void grouting; minor rainwater goods/leadwork repairs; window glazing overhaul; re-building of an unsafe pinnacle on the north transept; and the Installation of a fall restraint system.

Engage priority underrepresented groups as identified through the extensive consultation exercise undertaken during the Development phase.

Provide a definitive plan of activities broken down annually and based on the proposals within the Activity Plan as submitted. Provide an update on the delivery of these activities with each progress report.

Evaluation

NLHF request that grant holders evaluate their projects. NLHF Evaluation Guidance states that the process aims to establish how well a project has met its objectives, as well as how effective, efficient, and sustainable it was. For us, this evaluation also provided an opportunity to learn and grow throughout the project. We took note of the things that were working well and celebrated them and learned from those things which were less effective.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the project and has been an important consideration throughout this evaluation. The first COVID related lockdown in March 2020 occurred as the project was just gaining ground and connecting with visitors and the community. We were swift to do things differently and the creativity surrounding the project may not have developed if COVID hadn't inspired us to think quickly. We kept in regular contact with NLHF and were encouraged by our assigned officer, and that support has been invaluable as plans had to evolve to continue to meet the stated outcomes.

Report

The report is structured as follows:

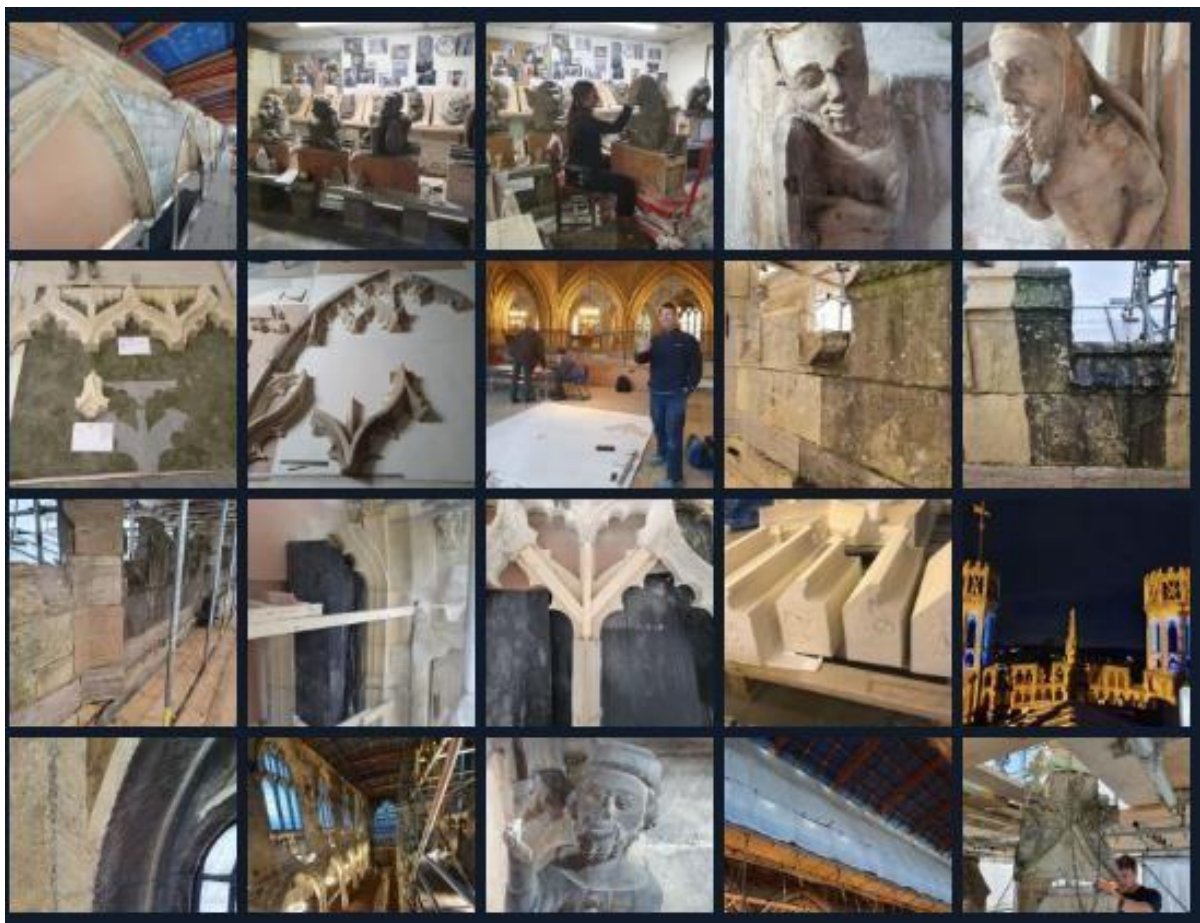
Section 2. Reviews project governance, management and relationships.

Section 3. Focuses on the capital works to church fabric.

Section 4. Assesses the project's activity programme.

Section 5. Assesses the wider impact and media response.

Section 6. Our conclusions.



The restoration

2. Governance and Management

This section looks at governance and management of the Curious Carvings team – Project Board, staff and volunteers, along with partnership working.

The NLHF funding was awarded to St Mary's PCC, which held ultimate responsibility for overseeing the project, but the day-to-day running of the project was overseen by the Curious Carvings Project Board (known as the Bosses Board). The structural and building work was overseen by a subcommittee of this board, who met bi-monthly to keep the project on track.

The Bosses Board

The Bosses Board worked to make sure the project had a strong and clear vision and mission and that it was able to fulfil the requirements of the NLHF.

Bringing to life the extraordinary heritage of St Mary's ceiling bosses, stimulating the renaissance of the church's identity, role and relevance in the community.

Our vision

To inspire appreciation and curiosity for the bosses at St Mary's: their artistry, meanings, and capacity to teach us about the past and ourselves.

Our mission

We drew together an outstanding team of volunteers to oversee the project who were invited because of the skills and expertise they brought.

Skills required on the board	Person
Chair and project director	Roland Deller
Vision and project direction	Becky Lumley
Administration, Governance and Leadership	David Smith Wilf Fowler
Vision	Ed Norman
Education Outreach KS 1 and 2	Lucy Jordan
Education Outreach KS 3 and 4	David Moore
College and further education	David Cooper Trevor Wray
Law, Employment and Governance	Lynsey Howells
Project Management	Pete Ashcroft Jon Charlton

Finance and HR	Anne Mansfield
Building Restoration	David Warren
Contracts and procurement and building restoration	Keith Gilson

The board met monthly for the duration of most of the project. When COVID struck, meetings were held online but care and attention was given to encourage members to participate as fully as they would face to face. The project manager provided updates at each meeting, and the minutes show that discussions took place on key issues before decisions were made. The wisdom and diverse experience and skills of the board led to rich discussion and positive outcomes.

We were very sad to say goodbye to David Smith who died during the project and also to Wilf Fowler and Roland Deller who both moved house during the final year, but the strength of the board lay in its capacity to keep driving forward.

“He loved the teamwork and was thrilled with the outcome to get the funding. Although he never saw it finished. It was a very satisfying end to his life” Jennifer Smith (David’s widow)

The board undertook regular governance reviews and we worked hard to make sure all voices could be heard, and that communication was effective. In order to support the work of the board we created subcommittees to oversee the day-to-day practical tasks and management. This allowed the project to move forward and respond to changing situations swiftly.

Management

The board appointed a subcommittee for the appointment process of the Heritage Learning Officer and after a rigorous and competitive appointment process Dr Jennie England was appointed. The board then created a subcommittee to help support Jennie in her work and get the best we could out of the project. The committee included experts in the fields of Education and Management.

Skills / role	Person
Education	David Cooper
Management and Finance	Anne Mansfield
Project Management / Heritage Projects (ERYC)	Pete Ashcroft / Jon Charlton

We were delighted to work with our partners in delivering this project and thanks go to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for their support around project management.

3. Capital Works

The poor condition of the stonework at St Mary’s Church has been a serious concern for many years and as we undertook surveys and began the restoration works, we discovered just how serious was the damage to the building.

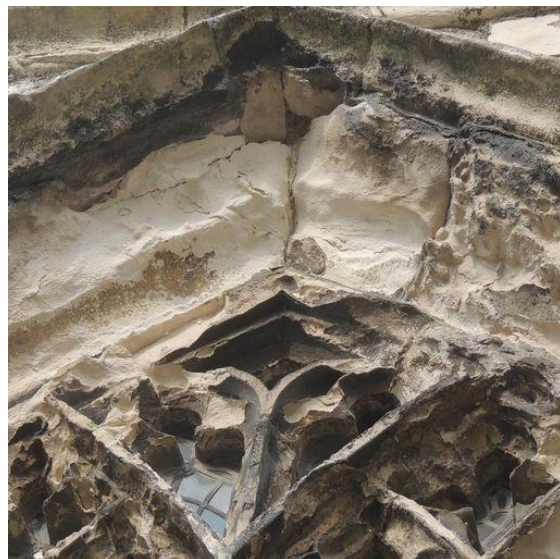
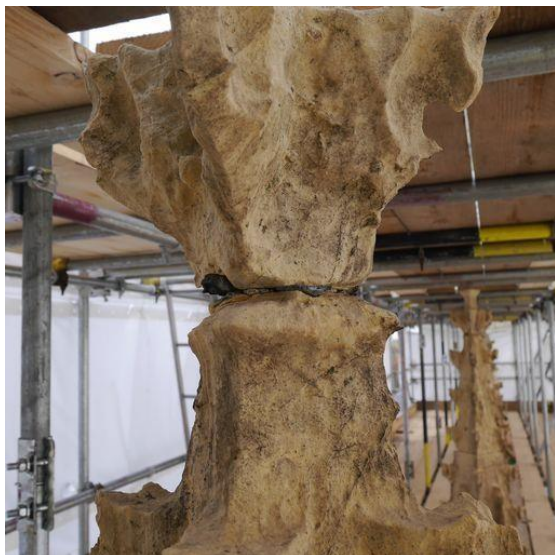
Target:***To leave the heritage in a better condition***

The capital works were overseen by a subcommittee of The Bosses Board who worked with the multidisciplinary team of experts. We met every month to review the work and reports were shared with the Bosses Board and in turn with the PCC.

The team comprised:

Skills / role	Person
Chair and project director	Roland Deller
Oversight and church vision	Becky Lumley
Building Restoration	David Warren
Contracts and procurement and building restoration	Keith Gilson
Project management	Pete Ashcroft (ERYC)
Architect	Andy Burrell
Structural Engineer	James Stevenson
Quantity Surveyor	Richard Wooley
Contractor and stonemason team	Matthias Garn

Before restoration



The pinnacle stones were found to have multiple fractures which made them dangerous, and likely to collapse if left untreated. Each stone was assessed and where possible reused.

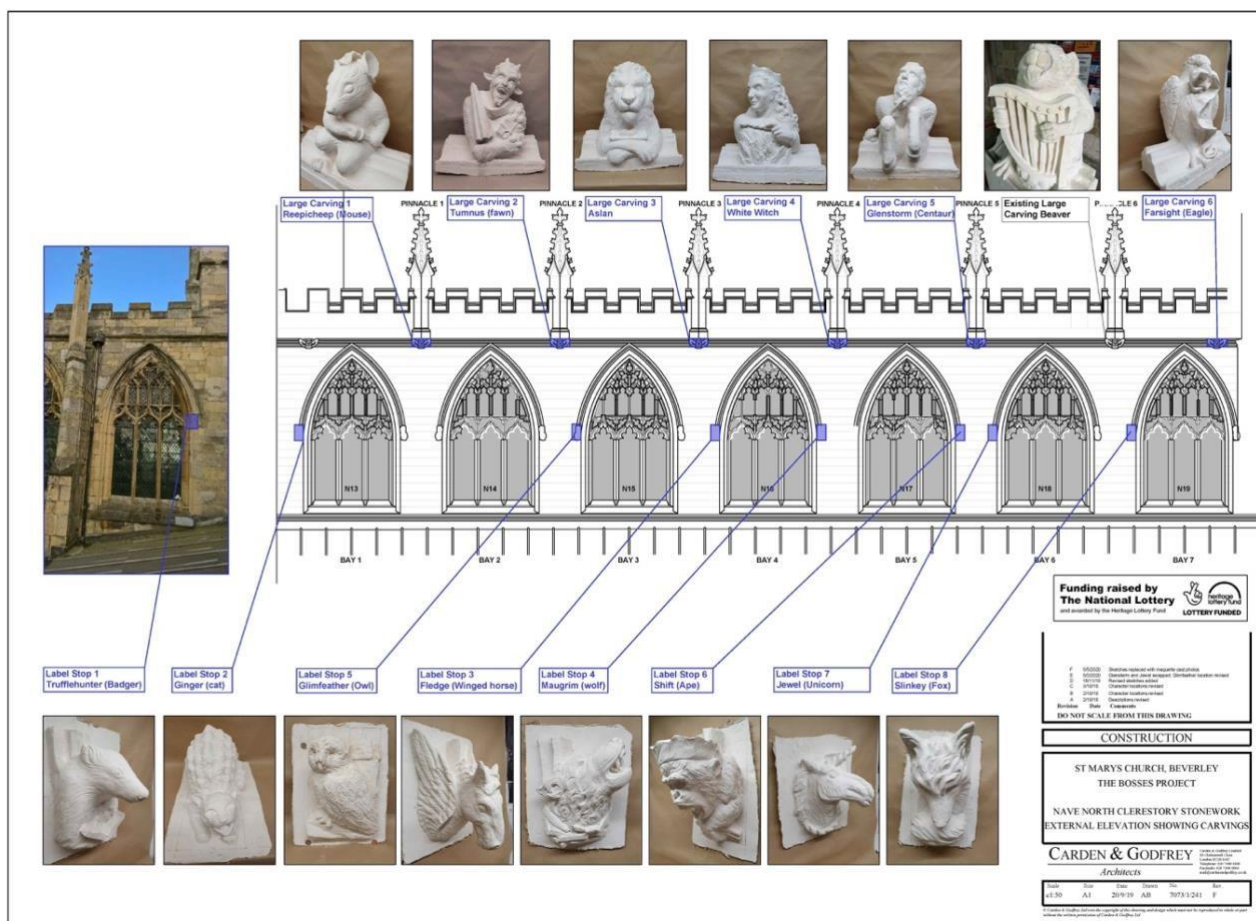


The carved elements are a distinctive feature of St Mary's Church, primarily label stops and grotesques on the high-level string course. The loss of detail on these carved elements was a serious threat to the character of the building as well as the loss of an important historical record. Where there was discernible shape left, the carvings were carefully cleaned and conserved with limewash to slow down the decay, but where the carved elements were too badly eroded, they have been replaced with new carvings.



Careful consideration was given to the subject matter of these carvings, and we consulted widely, including drawing on our connections with the local further education college – where design students offered suggestions and drawings for the project. It was decided that the new carvings should be based on characters from the Chronicles of Narnia, which not only connects to the theme of children’s literature and the link with Lewis Carroll (whose white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland is said to have been inspired by the St Mary’s Pilgrim Hare carving) but also points to the Christian story. Care and attention were given to make sure the work followed the tradition of the carvings already in church. The designs and clay maquettes were developed by sculptor Kibby Schaefer and the stone was carved by various carvers.





The stonework was cleaned inside and out to remove layers of atmospheric dirt, algae and internally-applied finishes. One of the principal benefits of cleaning was to allow the new work to blend with the existing; however, cleaning also revealed extensive microcracking in the high-level stonework, so these most vulnerable elements were treated with bespoke limewashes, primarily to fill the microcracks and extend the life of the stone.

Awards



Shortlisted
**John Betjeman
Award**



The quality of the workmanship achieved by the Stonemasons is exemplary, and the end results have set a very high standard for future repairs on the building. This work has been recognised for its quality by experts in the field and St Mary's is just one of four projects to be shortlisted for the 'King of Prussia Gold Medal' a national award which recognises 'innovative, high quality church conservation or repair that overcomes the greatest aesthetic or technical challenge'.

We are also one of just four buildings to been shortlisted for the SPAB John Betjeman Award which celebrates conservation and repair in places of worship.

We will find out later this year whether we have been successful in achieving these awards.

In undertaking the capital repair works as per the scope of work:

- Repointing of open joints
 - Conservation of the remains of carved elements
 - Cleaning stonework
 - Replacing / restoring of pinnacles, eroded weathering stones, window tracery, stones, grotesques, label stops and moulded stonework; wall void grouting; minor rainwater goods/leadwork repairs; window glazing overhaul
- The installation of a fall restraint system ***we have fulfilled our target of leaving the heritage in a better condition.***

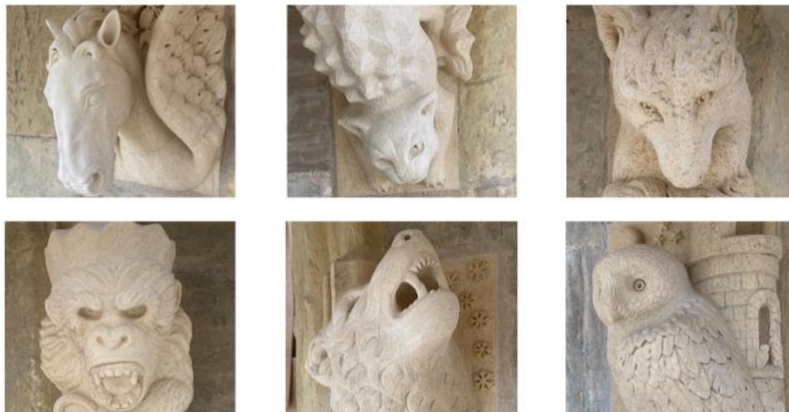


Please see YouTube for images

Our Restoration Showreel <https://youtu.be/cdUTyKrWk20>



But more than that, in choosing a theme for the carvings which captured the imagination and executing them with such skill St Mary's has become an example of excellent practice.



The project has attracted national attention and created generated national and international interest with people travelling from all over the world to see the Narnia Carvings.

This became the foundation for the next phase of restoration – The North Nave Clerestory and the Women of Influence Designs – which also received high acclaim.



Building on the success of the Curious Carvings Project – The Women of Influence Project

See here for a BBC article and video which clearly connects the two projects

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber57171650>

4. Activity programme

This section focuses on the Curious Carvings

interpretation, outreach and events and working with volunteers. We will also explain how the project achieved the following targets despite the challenges of Covid, we will show how the project adapted to respond to the situation.

Targets:

- A. More people and a wider range of people are engaging with our heritage and people are learning about heritage.
- B. Our heritage is being better interpreted and explained.
- C. Our heritage is being identified and recorded.
- D. People are developing skills.
- E. People are having an enjoyable experience.
- F. People are volunteering time.

A. More people and a wider range of people are engaging with our heritage and people are learning about heritage.

Despite the challenges presented due to Covid the project was able to fulfil almost all the aims of the activity plan, including increasing the footfall into church, which is remarkable given the periods of lockdown.

Increased footfall in church as recorded by welcomers, measured against the target specified in the activity plan.

	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-Sep 2022	2019-2022	2019-Sep 2022

Visitors	19000	27,711	22,800	29,426	25,080	30,778	66,880	87,915
% increase on target		46%		29%		22%		32%

As you will see, the project far exceeded the targets around fulfilling our objectives of increasing footfall into the building. During times of Covid the project turned to technology to deliver the program, and we will explore that later, but for now we turn to the headline figures in terms of formal learners.

Target outreach for formal learner and the achieved outreach

	Target number of classes	Actual number of classes (in person)	Actual number of classes (zoom virtual lessons)	Total number of classes	Target number of children	Actual number of children (in person)	Actual number of children (virtual)	Actual number of children (total)	% increase or decrease on reach
KS 1 and KS 2 children	54	24	28	52	1,120	2508	2,122	4,630	313%
KS 3 children	3		6	6	75		180	180	
Special Needs Schools					150	20	-	20	-87.7%

The work with special needs schools was very difficult to fulfil due to the vulnerability of children and young people during Covid. However, the project far exceeded its targets for engaging with schools. Activities contributing to this success included the Woodcarving Workshops, and our new and ongoing collaboration with Beverley Minster, with whom we have developed, organised, and led joint full-day school visits across the two sites. In these visits, students receive different educational workshops themed around the history of the buildings. We are hopeful that these joint visits will continue to offer an attractive option for visiting and local schools alike.

The only areas in which the project did not reach its targets was with Special Educational Needs Schools. In the context of the pandemic and its aftermath, it was our experience that these groups were reluctant to undertake visits. However, we made an extra effort to support mainstream schools which have large percentage of SEND within their communities, and we provided other ways for underrepresented groups engage with the project as you will see later.

We also engaged four classes of KS4 and KS5 students – neither of which were in our project target groups. We are particularly hopeful that we have initiated lasting links with local colleges, for whom we provided curriculum specific content for students undertaking History as an A-Level.

One good example of our face-to-face work as in January 2022, when we initiated a collaboration with a local woodcarver, Allen Stichler, who runs woodcarving workshops with schools and local community groups.

The participating groups were:

- Skidby Primary School
- Newland St John's Primary Academy
- St James' Primary Academy
- Newport Primary School
- Mires Beck Nursery (a registered charity that provides work experience and social therapeutic horticulture for adults with learning difficulties, Autism and physical disabilities).

We targeted these specific groups because they included people from low-income backgrounds (determined by the school having a percentage above the national average of pupils qualifying for free school meals) and children and adults with learning difficulties. The workshops were designed to be easily adapted to the abilities or needs of the participants. For example, at St James' Academy it was reported by the teachers that on one of the days 40-50% of the participants had SEND.

Allen provided feedback from some of the workshops:

"Great couple of days at Newport....it was a real success and has gone down an absolute storm. The kids absolutely loved it. They have a large number of SEN there and the staff loved how they were able to participate on a level with the other pupils...Every single pupil was involved (except one class on a residential trip)".

"[Newland St John workshops] were really good and the kids loved it once again ~ it seemed to go down well with the staff, who came and looked at the progress throughout".

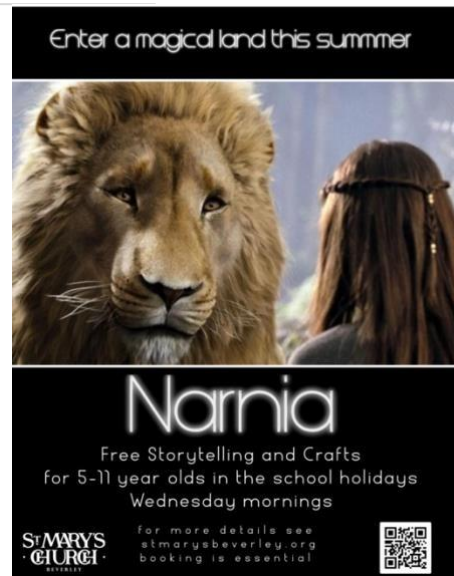
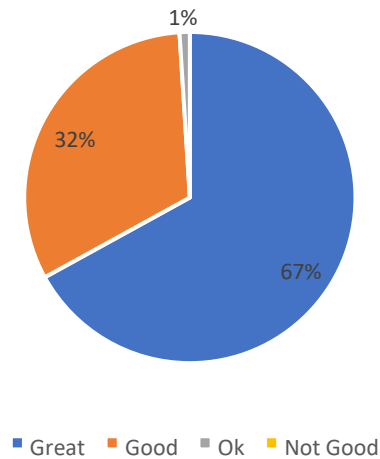
Informal Learners

We made every effort to keep church open and to provide face-to-face activities when we could do so safely. This meant offering numerous sessions over a relatively short period of time rather than over the full three years.

So, for example, we offered a series of storytelling and craft sessions in the church during the summer holidays for children and families (rather than monthly groups as specified in the activity plan). These weekly sessions (which were free) ran 28th July - 1st September 2021 and were based on 'The Chronicles of Narnia' by C.S. Lewis (the inspiration for the new stone carvings made as part of the project).

A trail of 14 animals found among the curious carvings in the church was prepared especially for the event. The sessions attracted a total of 252 attendees (including 143 children). Audience feedback was positive: 67% of respondents rated the sessions as great, 32% good and 1% OK.

Feedback Narnia Summer Activities



Another highlight was the Beverley 1300 festival, a major community event celebrating the 1300th anniversary of the death of St John of Beverley. The festival ran from 22nd - 25th October 2021 with the bosses being central to the activities, and over 1300 scallop shells were collected by visitors to take on their 'Pilgrimage' with their 'Pilgrim Passport' inspired by our Pilgrim Rabbit Carving (who carries a scallop shell – a sign of pilgrimage) in church. In order to make this as exciting as possible and safe (as people were still concerned about being inside) we joined up with other heritage sites.





Alongside this was an incredibly popular evening with Professor Dawn Maskell (Director of the International Centre for Brewing & Distilling at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh) who spoke about the science of beer tasting and with the evening connected to the project by an introduction by Dr Jennie England to the 'Ale Wife' boss.

The variety and creativity of the events meant that there was something for everyone, and we tried to connect the history and heritage with experiences today. One excellent example was that of a talk given by stonemason David Switalla who followed the example of the medieval masons and craftsmen and women when he embarked on his Journeyman Years. It was an event which was attracted a large audience in church but also online.



How we adapted our plans to deliver the project during Covid

We had to think carefully about how we might reach people and reveal the heritage to communities and individuals when it was not possible to visit the church physically or when people were fearful (particularly the vulnerable groups). 'The Lion, The Unicorn and Me' is a good example of how we sought to deliver the project, giving priority to underrepresented groups, during a time of Covid.

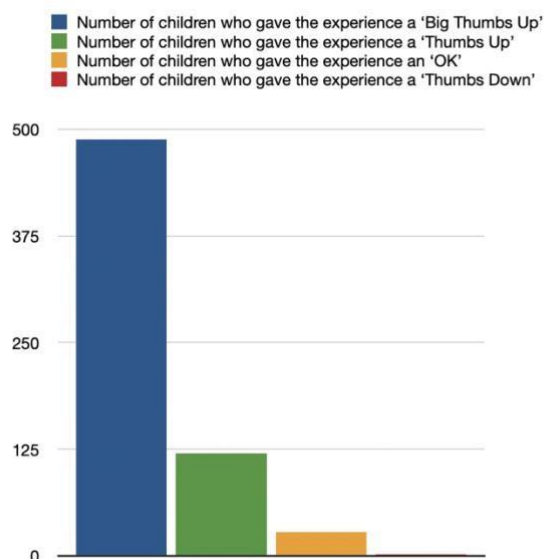
The Lion, the Unicorn and Me

We identified schools in hard-to-reach communities and offered them the opportunity to engage with the bosses project through Jeanette Winterson's beautiful story 'The Lion, The Unicorn and Me'. We offered a beautifully produced film, a book for each child, and zoom lessons which connected the symbolism of four of the bosses (angel, donkey, lion and unicorn) with the characters in the story. We asked teachers how this project could best help them post-Covid and they identified the importance of reading and literacy, so we made sure the heritage we were drawing on allowed us to engage the children in storytelling and language.



Schools

- 2,122 children across 17 schools took part in the project.
- 1,079 children followed this up by taking part in 28 zoom lessons
- We prioritised schools in 'hard to reach communities' and just under 1/2 of the schools who decided to take part in our project are in these communities. [Feedback](#)



- 76% of children thought it was 'brilliant', 19% 'good', 4% 'ok' and less than 1% 'not good'.

- 100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

This was an enjoyable experience for the children

This experience helped support a love of story and language.

This experience would make me want to visit St Mary's Church (again)

Community

In addition, 1,954 people viewed the production on YouTube from the 11th - 31st December 2020 with excellent reviews.

AMAZING AND WONDERFUL your Winterson story, very very well done to all. I was entirely absorbed, and many congratulations to all. You are all stars. Professor Barbara English

Just watched it - how amazing and magical
Mandy Beck

Can I have your permission to use it at Newsigate. Felt like a real spiritual moment when I viewed it. Story telling at its best. Thank you Noelle Coe

This is one of the most lovely things I have seen produces this season (or for many in the past). It has genuine magic, my five year old immediately demanded to watch it again. I am so impressed by the acting but also the use of the beautiful church building - deceptive simplicity with a child's eye for how spaces, doorways etc can become other and marvellous.
Arabella Milbank

Further virtual outreach

In addition to the 'Lion, the Unicorn and Me' we released the following high-quality videos to engage audiences with our heritage.

Where was it released	Title	Views
National Centre for Early Music	Dr Jennie England – Invites us into St Mary's Beverley	75
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	Dr Jennie England -The Fall of the Tower	853
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	Dr Jennie England - The Beastly Bosses	284
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	The Narnia Carvings	1500
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	Our Restoration Showreel	62
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	Medieval Beverley	25
St Mary's Church – Heritage and Restoration	The Priests Rooms	610

Social Media and website presence

We recognised that our social media and website presence was even more important during the times of lockdown so we worked very hard on these and exceeded our targets in every area.

Activities	Targets from Activity Plan	2019	2020	2021	2022 To date Sep 22
Increase number of annual website hits to	34,500	36,821	51,828	46,926	35,250 (predicted to exceed 50,000)
New Twitter Account number of followers	500				641 followers
Grow following on Facebook to	700				1,456 followers of page + Group members 705
Launch Instagram	350				798 followers
Launch YouTube channel	No target specified				33,055 Views

Moving the exhibitions onto the High Street

We recognise that many of the 'underrepresented' groups with which we were working might not have access to technology, and so we moved the exhibitions onto the high street. We secured a shop and used the window space to display the maquettes and stone carvings of Narnia and displays of the Tudor History of the bosses.

The pop-up display - which included information about, and images of, the bosses, plus backdrops created by a local artist - ran from 18th July to 10th September 2020 and included a holiday activity for children and families (to identify all 14 carvings - the display changed every fortnight). All primary schools in Beverley were informed about the activity and promoted it in their end of term letters to parents. Over 800 activity sheets were downloaded from our website and more than 20 young people completed the entire summer-long challenge, with some of them submitting their own artwork inspired by the carvings. Celebrating the heritage skills of the artisan craftsmen carrying out the restoration works has proved to be a highly effective way of engaging people in the heritage of St Mary's.

It is almost impossible to measure the numbers and impact but in the space of just 2 hours over 125 people stopped to linger at the window. We estimate that overall tens of thousand people stopped to look at the exhibition.

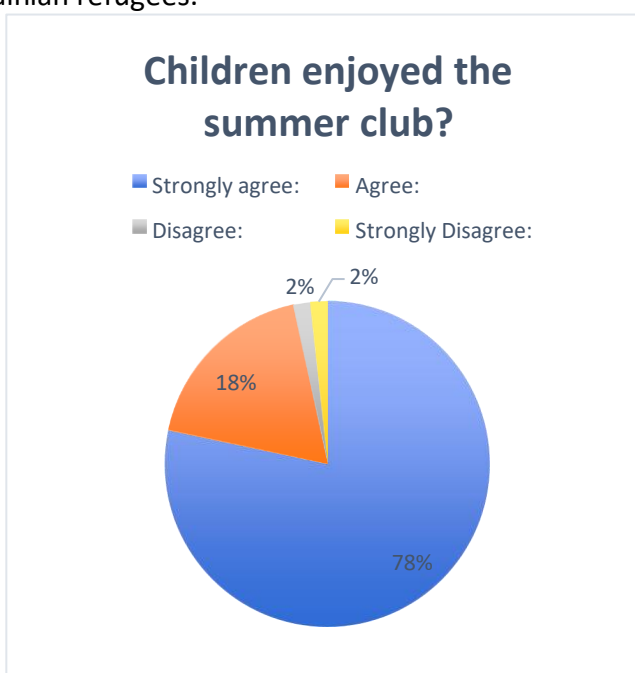
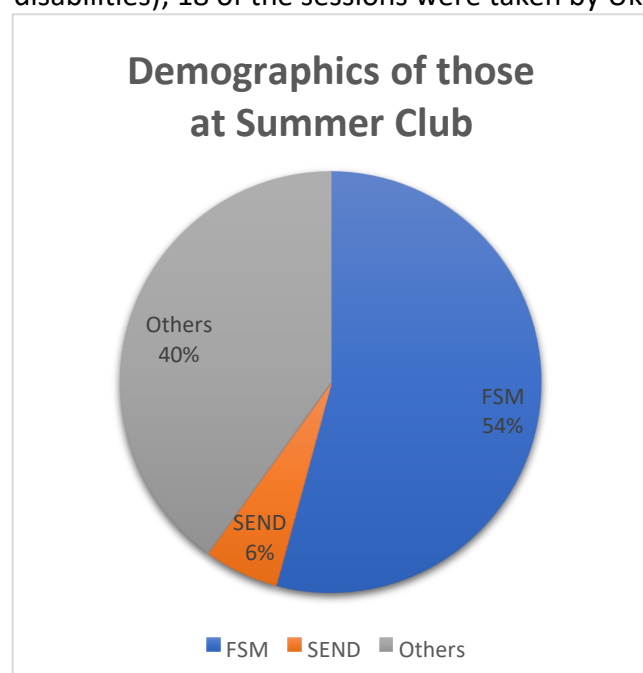


Engaging underrepresented groups

We found that an effective way was to reach those underrepresented communities through identifying schools where a high percentage of children receive free school meals or pupil premium. This was very effective, and we did all we could to engage the children and, by extension, their families in the project. We were delighted by the results of the woodcarver and the work done with schools such as Newland St John and St James Academy in Hull, as well as Mires Beck Nursery (a registered charity that provides work experience and social therapeutic horticulture for adults with learning difficulties, autism and physical disabilities).

During the summer of 2022 we set up a scheme to provide food and activities during the holidays for low-income families. We received some funding from the government's Holidays, Activities and Food program and offered 18 days of activities. We recruited 22 volunteers to help run these sessions and offered heritage related activities during these sessions. Our Heritage Learning Officer supported this work on 3 of the sessions.

342 of the 631 places were taken by children in receipt of free school meals, and 36 places were taken by those identified as non-free school meals but SEND (special educational needs and disabilities); 18 of the sessions were taken by Ukrainian refugees.



Feedback from families was very positive

"My children loved attending, after an anxious start they looked forward to each session and came out beaming, keen to talk about the new friends they made and activities they enjoyed. As a family on a tight budget this summer camp has enabled them to experience something normally beyond our financial reach. It has helped us tremendously as a family over the summer, we cannot praise or thank Becky and the team enough."

"Amazing job by everyone. It's been a huge help for us as parents and enjoyment for the children. Thank you so much"

"My daughter said that the leaders were all fabulous. She really enjoyed meeting new people from different schools and loved making a puppet and creating animals out of clay. It was wonderful. Thank you so much for helping us during the long holidays!"

Partnership with the NHS mental health service

It was a challenge to reach other community groups who had been working with adults with mental health problems, as many struggled to keep going through and beyond the pandemic. By definition, many of the members of these groups are vulnerable and were very anxious about Covid. Instead, we worked hard to establish a relationship with Humber NHS Mental Health Trust. We offered our church as a social prescribing centre, and we invited people through the mental health service to join us for wellbeing sessions. Six wellbeing workshops were held across June, July, and August 2022. These workshops were led by the artist Claire West and were aimed at people seeking to explore how being creative can benefit mental health. Each workshop was 3 hours long, and participants were taken through different activities and techniques. No previous skill or knowledge was required, and the activities took inspiration from the art and heritage in St Mary's Church.

Again, the feedback was incredibly positive:

"Thank you so much for providing this workshop. I have been having a difficult time for the last few months and know my mental health has suffered. I really enjoyed the workshop and have developed a real love for collage. I have never done any art before but I didn't feel at any disadvantage. Clare was generous, enthusiastic and her cheerful positive approach was great and we were lucky to have her expertise to guide us. I 'stepped out of my own head' for a few hours and benefitted immensely."

"I booked on the workshop to 'take me out of myself' and didn't know what to expect. I'm often under pressure from family obligations, which I enjoy, but with health issues it's been hard to find time for me. Before I realised I was relaxed, creative and I felt it was calming and restorative. I wish there were more sessions available as I would love to be able to recommend to others, (I did feel happy and motivated doing something for myself!) and return if I could!"



WELLBEING ART WORKSHOPS WITH ARTIST CLAIRE WEST

Join artist Claire West for FREE workshops that explore how art and colour can help promote happiness and wellbeing.

Each workshop will contain a different creative activity, drawing inspiration from the nature that can be found all around us.

Participants will be guided through the activities by Claire in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

We are running 3 different three-hour workshops. You can sign up for morning or afternoon sessions for any of the workshops.

Print and Drawing.....	Tuesday 7th June,	9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm
Have Fun with Paint...	Tuesday 5th July,	9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm
Let's be Creative.....	Saturday 6th August,	9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm

All workshops are at: St Mary's Church Parish Hall,
North Bar Within, Beverley, HU17 8DL

TO BOOK A PLACE Phone: 01482 869137
Email: learning@stmarysbeverley.org

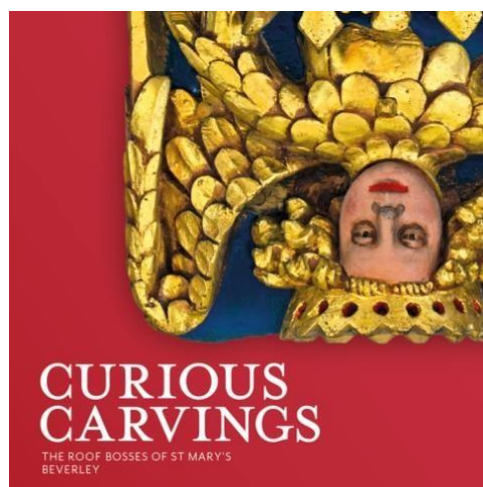
This demonstrates that 'more people and a wider range of people are engaging with our heritage' with a particular emphasis on the underrepresented groups identified in our activity plan.

B. Our heritage is being better interpreted and explained

During periods of lockdown, we were able to focus on interpretation and excellent resources were created to explain and interpret the heritage. They were carefully considered, making them inviting and accessible those who may not have formal education (in line with our desire to reach the underrepresented groups).

Therefore, guidebooks were designed which not only educated but inspired with beautiful pictures of the bosses written by Dr Jennie England. We are indebted to Jon Butterworth (an award-winning Creative Designer) for his invaluable support and guidance in this area.

Likewise, we are very grateful to Fiona Jenkinson who added to our offer by creating 10 Pilgrim Rabbit magazines focussing on the heritage, which were distributed to 506 subscribers by email in addition to the 100 printed copies. This legacy is continuing as Fiona has volunteered to continue producing these popular magazines.



A database containing information and high-definition photos of all 688 bosses is now available on a touchscreen for visitors, and on the internet for those unable to visit in person. We have also created 3D printed images of the most popular bosses which can be touched and handled in church along with interpretation banners and trails around church.

Special Exhibitions

'Reform, Rebellion, Restoration: St Mary's, Beverley & the Tudors' was a free exhibition which connected paintings in the National Portrait Gallery to characters and events linked with St Mary's, Beverley, and the roof bosses. It included artwork by local artist Emma Garness.



The exhibition begins near the font, in the nave

Introducing the key players in one of the most transformative periods of English history. Click on each portrait for an insight into the life of one of the great personalities of Tudor England and discover some Beverley connections:

The event attracted 1,010 visitors into church during the one week it was open (October half term), before lockdown brought it to a premature close. We estimate that 1,000 people looked at the display about the exhibition in the windows of an unused shop of the high street; the homepage of the digital version of the exhibition on our website attracted 1,111 hits. In addition: 51 people attended the preview for our volunteer Welcomers.

Awareness of the exhibition in the region had been stimulated by front page coverage in the weekend edition of the Yorkshire Post on 24th October 2020.

The pinnacle of the exhibition was a webcast by historian Tracy Borman, joint Chief Curator for Historic Royal Palaces who told the story of Henry VIII (thought to be influential in the rebuilding of St Mary's and Tudor Bosses). This online talk was attended by 100 people.

In 2020, we began a series of rolling exhibitions in St Mary's. We found that these allowed more people, and a wider range of people, to learn about the church's heritage. Although some of the exhibitions had advertised run periods, they each have (or will) continued to be displayed in the church in some way, making them more economically and environmentally sustainable options than, for example, printed leaflets.

Between October 2021 and September 2022, the following exhibitions were displayed:

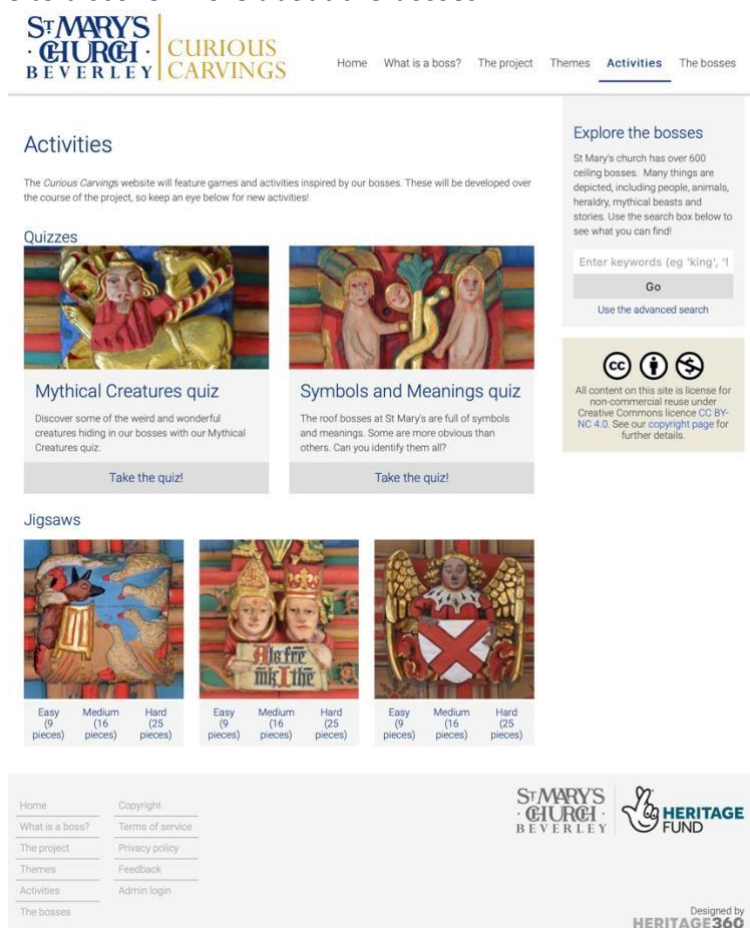
- "The Roof Bosses of St Mary's Church" – introduction to the roof bosses and their meanings. Included a display of 3D printed bosses. After being up in the South Transept for seven months, the exhibition was rearranged to be a display area around the new touchscreen.
- "Women of Influence" – a display of the plaster casts for the new scheme of carvings on the external south side of the church.
- "Carved Roof Bosses" – display of the 5 wooden bosses made as a part of the woodcarving workshops.

- “Heritage Banners” - A series of pull-up banners that showcase elements of heritage in the church including, among others, the font, the Ceiling of Kings, and the Minstrels’ Pillar.

It has been our experience that the exhibitions have been a point of interest for visitors, increasing dwell time in the building, as well as providing an additional reason for people to visit the church.

The Curious Carvings Touchscreen

The touchscreen was accessed in the following between October 21 and November 2022 to explain and encourage people to discover more about the bosses.

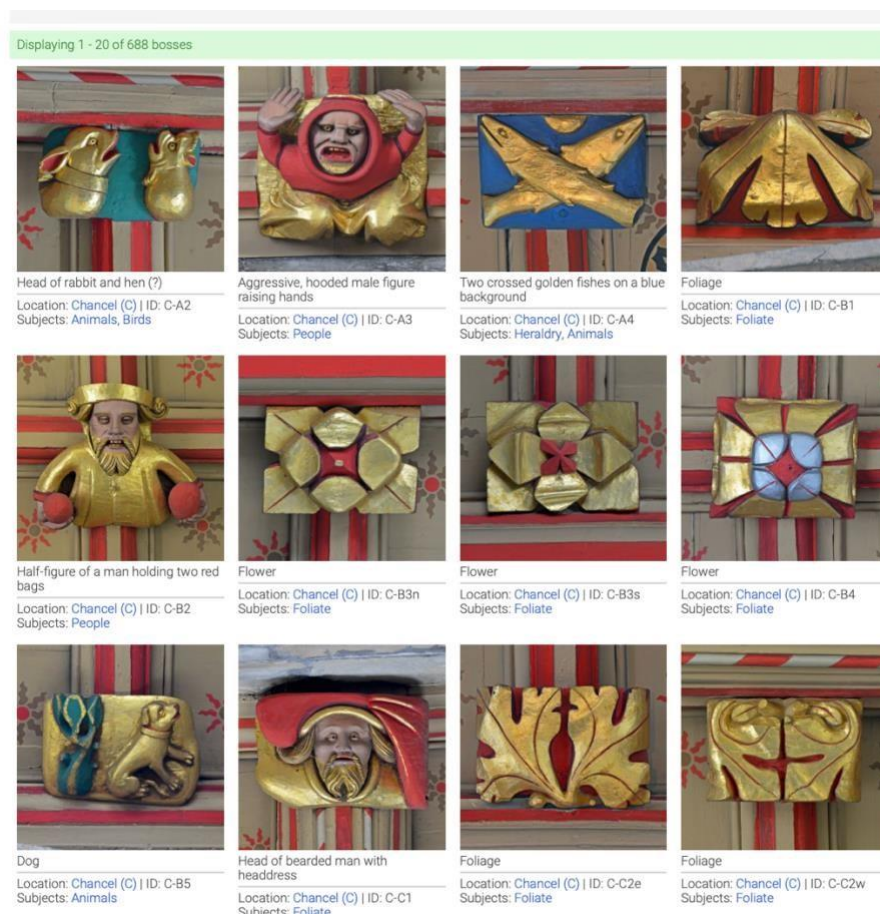


Oct 21-Nov 22	Numbers using the touchscreen
Curious Carvings Touch Screen	6,376

This demonstrates that ‘our heritage is being better interpreted and explained’ and ‘people are leaning about heritage’

C. Our heritage is being identified and recorded.

As part of the project, we commissioned a team from York University to photograph and record in high detail all 688 bosses. This information is invaluable for future repairs and restorations of the building but has also given us extraordinary insight into the life and times of Tudor and Medieval England. The findings from this research are shared through the Curious Carvings database catalogued by Dr Jennie England which will continue to grow and develop over the years as new discoveries are made.



In addition, paintwork samples have given a fascinating insight into the materials used to create these vibrant and fascinating pieces of artwork.

We have also recorded areas of the church which are normally inaccessible. So, carvings high up in the clerestories and graffiti not normally visible have been uncovered. We have photographed and logged this information, which again not only provides insight into the heritage but will be valuable for future repairs and restorations.

D. People are developing skills

Throughout the project volunteers were invited to learn more about their heritage and were invited to receive heritage training.

In addition, we were able to offer very specific opportunities for two students from University of York's History of Art Department to develop their skills further.

The focus for these placements was for the students to develop new skills. This was assessed by the students' goals and ambitions being discussed at the beginning of their placement, and then monitored throughout. The overall aim was to work with Dr Jennie England to create an exhibition. For example, the two students in the 2021/22 academic year worked on the Heritage Banners.

In addition to these formal placements, across the last two years, Jennie has supported a student undertaking MA and then PhD level research on the roof bosses in St Mary's.

Feedback collected from the students is testament of the success of these placements:

"My placement experience at St. Mary's Church, Beverley, was overwhelmingly positive. One of the best aspects of the placement, which I know was a priority of Jennie's, was that it was tailored to my own needs and interests. I felt like I had a great deal of autonomy throughout the whole placement, and by consequence, feel as though I can take joint ownership over the exhibition. Jennie made sure I was involved in all aspects of planning the exhibition, from determining the show's overall message, selecting the objects to be displayed, and writing and designing wall labels and banners. I learned a lot about what goes into planning an exhibition...I always felt like my voice was valued, and that was a great feeling." - MA student who undertook placement at St Mary's.

"From the beginning, I felt as if my ideas were genuinely valued and I was able to ask for further guidance on developing my ideas whenever it was needed...Furthermore, I found the independence of the internship really useful for future experiences. Having no set deadlines or a outlined checklist of activities set for me, I was able to develop my time management skills, setting personal deadlines and goals. ... It was a pleasure to collaborate on the project with [Jennie] and I feel I have gained some incredibly valuable experience. I feel very lucky to have been placed at St Mary's Beverley for my internship". - BA student who undertook placement at St Mary's.

"Once restrictions started to come into force with the Covid-19 pandemic, the support and resources the project shared with me became even more important for the success of my dissertation. I was unable to visit the site so being able to access the wonderful archive of high-quality images of the bosses was really important...Jennie was also very helpful during this time... I think simply knowing there was someone I could contact with any questions was a great confidence boost during that time of uncertainty – I don't think I would have been able to carry on with the project otherwise."

- MA student who undertook research on the roof bosses.

This demonstrates that our heritage has and is being better identified and recorded.

E. People are having an enjoyable experience

We worked hard to make sure that we collected feedback from each session and visit. We tried to keep this as accessible as possible for those who were visiting or using our resources, so for example, after consulting with teachers we used a very simple data collection method for schools which involved smileys. The children were invited to tick a smiley face to represent how they felt about the visit.



The feedback we gathered from students and teachers coming to visit St Mary's has been highly positive. For students, at the end of visits we handed around a feedback sheet which had the following questions/tasks:

What did you enjoy about the visit?

- I think it was historic, fun and enjoyable
- I enjoyed that we got to learn a lot about the church
- I enjoyed drawing the [ceiling] bosses

The results were as follows



91%

8%

1%

What would have made the visit better?

- Nothing!!!
- If we got longer to draw the building
- If we got to explore more rooms

We also gathered positive feedback from the attending teachers, including:

"Thank you for today- our children really enjoyed it!"

“Our pupils absolutely loved the day and had lots to talk about once back in school. The activities were engaging and were pitched at just the right level for our pupils. They loved that they could bring home the planted seeds etc. From my perspective it was great to see their engagement and to hear and see their 'expression of wonder' when walking up to and into the wonderful buildings. I really feel this was a valuable experience for our pupils and an important part of their RE learning journey.”

“It was ideal to be able to tailor the visit to the needs of our pupils. I am very grateful for the amount of time Dr England gave us. They felt very confident and comfortable in asking questions and exploring the site. In lots of ways, it has informed my future teaching of the module because I am now much more aware of gaps in their knowledge and things that I may have taken for granted previously. The pupils claim that they are likely to step inside churches elsewhere now, and I am inclined to believe them!”

Other evidence was collected through surveys and social media and has been included in other parts of this report.

F. People are volunteering time

During the pandemic we lost some volunteers but the projected help us to recruit and retain others meaning that we are still able to keep church open every day and offer a warm welcome to visitors. We have no paid staff ‘on duty’ so this is a real achievement.

Alongside the important role of welcoming, people developed skills and volunteered their time in a wide variety of ways including:

- Offering expert advice on history
- Producing publicity and magazines
- Work with children and young people
- Overseeing finance and governance
- Supporting media and video output
- Project management



5. Media response

A real excitement about this project was generated in the national and local press, making people proud of their heritage. The excitement around the new carvings was particularly notable and the increase of visitors to church is no doubt related to this theme. We made sure that we thanked the NLHF and acknowledge the grant at each press release and media appearance (sadly these were not always recorded) but all the signage and information shared included the HLHF logo.



Date	Media / Newspaper	Title
11 December 2019	Yorkshire Post	Urgent restoration works begin at St Mary's with National Lottery support
30 April 2020	Yorkshire Post	Halfway Stage for renovation on poignant day for church https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Yorkshire-Post-30th-April-2020-Page-12.pdf
22 June 2020	BBC News website	Narnia Stone Carvings Chosen for Beverley Church
23 June 2020	The i newspaper	Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-i-article-of-23-June2020.jpg
23 June 2020	Yorkshire Post	Mane attraction: Aslan the lion carves starring role at church https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-andretro/heritage/stone-carvings-chronicles-narniacharacters-appear-yorkshire-church-2891739

24 June 2020	The York Press	Sculptor based near York creates characters from The Chronicles of Narnia
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		https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/18538647.sculptorbased-near-york-creates-characters-chronicles-narnia/
3 July 2020	The Church Times	Carvings of Narnia characters to feature in medieval church https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/3july/news/uk/carvings-of-narnia-characters-to-feature-in-medieval-church
18 August 2020	The Daily Telegraph	Lord's lion Bishop of Hull Alison White blesses a bust of Aslan from the Chronicles of Narnia, one of 14 children's characters sculpted for St Mary's Church, in Beverley. https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/Daily-Telegraph-1.pdf
18 August 2020	The Times	Alison White, bishop of Hull, blesses a carving of Aslan, the lion who protects CS Lewis' Narnia from evil, for the north nave of St Mary's Church, Beverley https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/The-Times-1.pdf
18 August 2020	Western Daily Press	The Bishop of Hull Alison White blesses a statue of Aslan, a character from the Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis, at St Mary's Church in Beverley, East Yorkshire. https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Western-Daily-Press.pdf
19 August 2020	The Guardian	Yorkshire church to be adorned with Chronicles of Narnia statues: St Mary's church in Beverley commissions sculptures of CS Lewis characters to replace medieval carvings. https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/19/yorkshire-church-adorned-chroniclesof-narnia-carvings-st-marys-beverley
21 August 2020	Smithsonian Magazine	Stone Sculptures of <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> Characters to Adorn Medieval Church; Statues of Aslan, the White Witch and other mythical beings will replace weathered carvings at St. Mary's Church in Yorkshire. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/chronicle-narnia-statues-will-ornament-medievalchurch-180975611/

23 August 2020	BBC 1 - Sunday Morning Live	
Regular Updates	BBC Radio Humberside	For example - https://www.stmarysbeverley.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/05/BBC-Radio-HumbersideAfternoon-Show-with-Andy-Comfort-on-29th-April-2020.mp3
Regular Updates	BBC Look North	

6. Conclusions

This report has shown how effectively the Curious Carvings Project responded to extremely challenging circumstances. We have met our targets in the following ways:

- (1) Our heritage is being better managed. The project has raised the profile of St Mary's and attracted investment from others, including a grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund which is enabling us to restore the south nave clerestory.
- (2) Our heritage is in much better condition. The repairs which have now been carried out will protect the building from further decay and loss.
- (3) Our heritage is being better interpreted and explained. The bosses are being presented and interpreted in the brochure, on social media and the website, and in learning resources.
- (4) Our heritage is being identified and recorded. Professional photographs of all 688 bosses have now been taken and will appear in the visual database. We have a better understanding of the bosses in terms of the themes represented and their original craftsmanship, including the paint composition.
- (5) People are developing skills. Training is being delivered to our volunteers, and the project team is increasing its experience and project management skills. Volunteers have been trained in hospitality and welcome, safeguarding, and some have received first aid training. They have taken up leadership and oversight of some events and have been involved in recording, interpreting and sharing the heritage.
- (6) People are learning about heritage. The variety of activities and events which have advanced knowledge about our heritage and allowed us to show share that knowledge widely.
- (7) People are changing their attitudes. The celebration of the project and the heritage in the media has generated a sense of pride in the local community (with many people visiting St Mary's for the first time) and a desire to get involved (with new volunteers coming forward).
- (8) People are having an enjoyable experience. We are gathering a variety of feedback from visitors which reveals that they are engaging with the heritage at an emotional and intellectual level.

(9) People are volunteering time. Our community of volunteers is growing, and the project is creating more opportunities for people to get involved.

(10) More people, and a wider range of people, are engaging with our heritage. The big growth in our audience during the period has been digital. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, we will be seeking to work with more schools and community groups during the year ahead.

(11) The project is making the local area a better place to live, work and visit. The free events and activities generated by the project (such as the Tudor portrait exhibition which was open during half-term) foster a sense of ownership of St Mary's in the local community - that it is the "town's church" and for the benefit of its people.

(12) Our organisation is becoming more resilient. The capacity and capability which we have built during the development and delivery of the project enabled us to continue our restoration with another major heritage project – the restoration of the south nave clerestory which has also received high acclaim and has inspired us to continue moving forward.

None of this could have been achieved without the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Lottery players. We are particularly grateful for all the support and guidance given during this project by Roberta Lane and her colleagues from the Leeds office.





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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS for year ending 2021

Held on Monday 30th May 2022 at 7:30pm in the Church.

The Chairman, Becky Lumley, commenced the meeting with a prayer.

Those present, listed as having attended the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which followed.

Janet Osgerby acted as Clerk.

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 9th May 2021 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Vicar, Becky Lumley.

There were no matters arising.

To elect four persons to serve as Churchwardens for the ensuing year.

Those nominated were Gill Gregory, Jill Edmond, Keith Gilson and Allan Ball. There being no other nominations, all four were thanked and were duly elected. Becky thanked Beverley Lawrence for her significant contribution to the warden role over her six years in office. She added that Beverley was often the linchpin for the team, with her consistent hard work and attention to detail. The meeting showed its appreciation for Beverley through a round of applause.

To receive the Annual financial statement of the trust known as “The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary’s Beverley” for the year to 31st December 2021.

Appointing a Church Auditor for the ensuing year: Sowerby’s were unanimously elected.

There was no further business and the meeting closed.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING for year ending 2021

Minutes by Janet Osgerby

Held on Sunday 30th May 2022 at 1215 in the Church Hall.

Present:

Becky Lumley, Beverley Lawrence, David Warren, Jill Edmond, Gill Gregory, Keith Gilson, Jane Lumb, Janet Osgerby, Anne Mansfield, Steve Clarke, Allan Ball, Kathy Ball, Diana Pocock, Peter Pocock, Emma Holdstock, Lavinia Raynor, Ed Norman, Anne Crossley, Steve Crossley, Steve Parkin, Penny Ward, Eric Wilson, Jane Wilson, Richard Mattock, Martin Franklin, Mark Merryweather, Kathryn Arrowsmith Cooper, Andrew Allison, Alice Lee, Simon Pike.

Total in attendance: 30

Electoral Roll Report: Emma Holdstock reported that there were 229 people on the electoral roll when the report was written. For more information please see page 8 of Annual Report 2022.

To elect representatives to the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

We are entitled to 3 deanery synod representatives and 13 elected representatives of the laity.

Due and proper elections took place and the following people will serve on the PCC:

Roles		Name		
All clergy beneficed in or licensed to the parish		Becky Lumley		
Readers chosen to serve on PCC at APCM		Steve Parkin		
		John Edmond		
Church Warden				
1		Keith Gilson	April 21	
2		Jill Edmond	April 20	
3		Gill Gregory	April 18	
4		Allan Ball	May 2022	
Roles		Name	Date first elected to this current role	Present term of office remaining (years)
Deanery Representatives (ex officio members of PCC)				
1	Jo Boulter		July 20	1
2	Ed Norman		July 20	1
3	Lavinia Raynor		July 20	1
Members				
1	David Warren		Oct 20	1
2	Claire-Louise Raynor		Oct 20	1
3	Anne Crossley		May 2022	3
4	Rhys Davies		April 18	2
5	Richard Mattocks		April 19	3
6	Margaret Hairsine		Oct 20	2
7	Mark Merryweather		April 19	3
8	Simon Pike		April 19	3
9	Janet Osgerby (secretary)		Oct 20	3
10	Alice Lee		Oct 20	1
11	Anne Mansfield (treasurer)		April 21	2
12	Emma Holdstock (electoral role officer)			2
13	Andrew Allison		May 2022	3

Co-opted			
	Beverley Lawrence	May 2022	3

Received a report from the Secretary to the Sidesmen and Sideswomen and to elect persons to serve for that ensuing year: Page 8 of APCM Report 2022. Here, Becky explained that this post was currently vacant. A list of people has been created from those currently generously offering their time as Sidesmen and Sideswomen. She asked for any person interested in undertaking the role to contact her.

Received the PCC Secretary's report on the proceedings of the Council during the year now ended: page 4 of the Financial Report for the year ended 2021 entitled 'Review of the Year' This was received with no questions being raised.

Received the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, together with a statement of the funds and property of the Council.

FINANCIAL REVIEW for AGM – Anne Mansfield

Anne reported to the meeting that she had undertaken the Treasurer's role for six years and last year decided to step down. It has not been possible to find a replacement. After consultation with the Diocese, it was decided that Anne would stay on as Honorary Treasurer and that a bookkeeper would be employed. Anne reported that this role is working out well and Sallie Blake has been appointed. Anne will supervise twice a month to ensure everything is correct and will remain responsible for the year-end financial reports and statements.

Anne was happy to report we are in good shape financially after overcoming the restrictions of Covid, and with the financial requirements of restoring the North Nave, and the south nave in previous years.

Anne reported initially regarding the Financial Review which is at the bottom of Page 4. This review refers to the Statement of Financial activity (On Page 8).

The first column on the Statement of Financial Activity is headed the "Unrestricted Fund" which is the general fund for the running of the church.

Total receipts show £162,554 an increase of £7,539 on the previous year of £155,015. This was in the main due to restrictions being lifted during part of 2021 to allow weddings and fund-raising events. Income includes £5,327 which was received from the Government under the Job Retention Scheme (which ended in September). Total expenditure was £158,084 so a reduction of £12,335 on 2020 expenditure, of £170,419, in part due to closure of the Development office and our Development Director leaving post. So the overall result, before taking into account unrealised investment gains, was a gain of £4,470.

The Parish Freewill Offering of £72,500 was paid in full to the Diocese.

The General Fund Balance as at 31st December 2021 increased by £63,517 to £527,734. Despite Covid our investments continued to do well.

The Total Income throughout all the PCC Funds was £829,061 and expenditure was £912,072 producing a deficit of £83,011. This was because of the match funding from PCC resources for restoration work on the North Nave We did have a welcome contribution from the Ecclesiastical Fund (also known as the Warden's fund), as well as regular payments from the Culture Recovery fund grant.

The balance of all PCC Funds at 31st December 2021 stood at £2,370,701 an increase of £173,710 on the previous year.

To summarise, the figures are healthy to allow us to move forward with our plans to expand the Church and to continue some of the necessary restoration work, subject to grants from outside sources.

Anne asked for approval of the accounts and they were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Receive the Stewardship Report: page 9 of APCM Report 2022. Becky thanked Susan Walker for her work throughout the year on compiling this report.

Appointing a Church Auditor for the ensuing year: Sowerby's Chartered Account were elected unanimously.

Received a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and the Warden's Report: page 11 & 14 of APCM Report 2022

Received a report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod: page 25 of APCM Report 2022

Reports were also received from:

8am Service	9.45am Service
11.15am Service	6.30pm Service
The Praise Service	Online Worship
Evening prayer on Facebook	Thursday Morning Service
Healing Service	Celtic Evening Prayer
Easter/Christmas	Readers for 9.45am
Intercessions for 9.45am	Rota for online
Choir & Organ	Music Group
11.15 Band	Church Wardens' Report
Bell Tower Report	Children's Ministry
Church Lads and Girls Brigade	St Mary's School
Sunday Night Youth Group	Allsorts Playgroup
Monday homegroup	Monday eve homegroup
Tuesday am homegroup	Thursday pm homegroup

Thursday eve homegroup
Prayer Circle
Social Media
Pastoral Care
Flowers
Restoration
Parish Hall

Saturday am prayer group
The Bible Course
Women's Fellowship
Safeguarding
Church Welcomers
Heritage Outreach
Deanery Synod

Vicar's Report: Becky Lumley briefly went through the reports submitted for 2022, with the contribution of some volunteers present, who summarised their reports verbally. John Edmond expanded on his Pastoral Care report, explaining that care home visits had resumed in part and plans to increase them were in place. Lavinia Raynor suggested that plans should be built upon previous links and volunteering. Lavinia also explained how the Women's Fellowship has reformed, post covid. Ed Norman detailed the complex work, which is taking place within the Deanery, in response to the Archbishop of York Initiative. Becky then went on to her main report.

Summary of the Vicars Report for the year ending 21

In the last few weeks we have, in our worship, been reflecting on the extraordinary vision from the book of Revelation. It was a book written during times of trouble and persecution, the kind we could barely begin to imagine but it brings hope. It reminds us that whatever we may experience God is the alpha and omega—the beginning and the end. The vision tells us that Christ has conquered. It is a powerful image that says despite all appearances, and even if its effects are not yet seen, the victory of Christ has already taken place and is final. It gives us the impetus to persevere in working for the sake of the gospel. This is powerful and is something we need to hold on to. For, I think it is fair to say, that for all of us in some way, this year has posed a challenge. The ongoing disruption to worship caused by the pandemic, the extra stresses and worries about personal finance (and most recently war). Yet, perseverance has been evident.

Worship has continued and new people have found a place in our worshipping community, the youth ministry has blossomed and the opportunities for outreach are far greater than we could have imagined. The impact of the 'Women of Influence' and the restoration project has been immense—indeed picked up by national and international news outlets. This work with the Narnia project will become foundational in mission for years to come. We have said farewell to our talented Director of Development as he has gone on to fulfil his passion for music and we have welcomed some amazing new people to the team.

The ongoing perseverance of our fabulous wardens, wise ministry team, Catherine in the office, the PCC members, Janet and Anne as office holders, the Thursday Coffee team, those who lead the home groups / discipleship groups.... (and the list goes on—see the reports in this document) is testament to God at work in this place. Perseverance based on faith is witnessed in the lives of those who have prayed throughout this year, those who have loved and showed the kindness of Christ, those who

have rolled their sleeves up and made things happen for the good of the community and for the growth of this church.

It is the gift we will continue to need as we move forward into 2022, for there is much we still need to do. Listening to where God is calling us and clarifying our vision will be essential this year (work has already begun on this).

On a personal note, I would like to thank all who have encouraged, supported, prayed and cared for me and my family over the last year. Most especially, I would like to thank Beverley as her role here changes.

Matters of general church interest:

The meeting was asked for any further comments. Alice Lee was interested as to the progress of the Youth and Children's Worker. Becky Lumley explained that it was proving difficult to recruit and so far, no suitable candidate had been found. There is a limited pool of workers for this area who fulfil the needs of the church. David Warren thanked Becky for the enormous amount she does for St. Mary's, working under a great deal of pressure. He thanked her for all the hours of work she has done for the church and its parishioners.

There were no further comments, and the meeting was closed.