

Annual Report 2025



ST MARY'S
· CHURCH ·
BEVERLEY

Introduction

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

As you will discover as you read this report, this year we have witnessed God at work in ways that continue to surprise and inspire us. We have made new friends, welcomed new worshippers and seen people grow in faith and leadership while responding to the call to ‘Make Disciples’.

We have sought to grow a community of faith in which people are encouraged to deepen their faith, to explore the bible, to ask questions and to develop the deep spiritual disciplines of prayer and worship. The Alpha Course has helped people begin that journey and enabled others to take a deeper look at Faith, the Discipleship Groups which meet during the week have supported people as they grow in faith. Bubble Church, Church Lads and Church Girl’s Brigade, Youth Group, The Children’s Summer Club, School Worship, and School Worship Club as well as Men Meet, Women Meet and Vintage have given the opportunity to share the Good News. We have seen our new people come to faith and have been delighted to welcome them.

We recognize that all members of the church are called to serve and use their gifts in the mission of the gospel and so we have created opportunities for people to grow as leaders and offer ministry in the church.

None of this could happen with the incredible team of people who oversee the day to day: the buildings, the administration, the communication and those working on our heritage bids to secure the future of our church building. We are blessed with an extraordinary church where so many people play their part. From the musicians to the wardens, from the children’s leaders to the vintage team, from the homegroup leaders to the ministers. From those who bring practical, financial and administrative skills, to those who bring creativity, poetry and art; we are so blessed.

I am incredibly proud of our church community and I want to thank you for being part of this exciting adventure as we seek to Make Disciples.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Becky Lumley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Lumley (Vicar, St Mary’s Beverley)

Worship

Introduction: Becky Lumley

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, Carolyn Kirk, Helena Wilson, Gill Gregory, John Edmond, Michael Yates, Simon Pike and Steve Parkin. We also give thanks for our amazing musicians – Berry, Michael and the choir, and Kathryn and the band.

Despite the challenges we face as a church in today's society, the numbers of those belonging to St Mary's continues to grow.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	281	341	-	196	298	233	376	380
0-17	46	66	-	36	28	43	59	70
18-69	165	200	-	100	180	140	245	230
70+	70	75	-	60	90	50	72	80
Age unspecified	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
Joiners	37	60	-	11	10	18	13	14
Leavers	2	6	-	4	4	12	8	5

Worshipping Community information has been collected from 2012 onwards.

Celebration services are extremely important because they allow us to share the Good News with people who would not otherwise hear. Christmas (Eve and Christmas Day) services and Easter Day services are extremely busy and have been growing over recent years.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Christmas	1867	1476	1490	1573	213	914	1750	1950	2382	2338
Easter	379	365	366	413	-	209	344	459	419	567

8am Holy Communion: Rachel Brooks

Our Sunday morning service is a small, quiet gathering of around twenty people, which gives it a deeply personal and friendly feel. Because the group is small, everyone is known by name and there is a genuine sense of belonging from the moment people arrive. The spoken service is gentle and unrushed, creating a calm and prayerful atmosphere that encourages stillness and reflection, allowing space for thoughts to settle and prayers to be formed in each person's own way.

With a four-weekly rota of readers, anyone who wants to can be actively involved, helping everyone feel part of the worship rather than simply observers. Hearing familiar voices reading and leading prayers adds to the sense of closeness and shared responsibility.

After the service, we share breakfast together, usually homemade marmalade or jam with freshly made toast. This simple but much-loved tradition reinforces the sense of friendship and sharing a meal together. People naturally help one another – pouring tea and coffee, serving toast, chatting around the table, and then washing up together afterwards.

Overall, the smaller service offers something very special: time to pause, reflect, and pray in a supportive, welcoming environment. It combines quiet worship with warm fellowship, making the 8am service both spiritually nourishing and socially enriching.

9.30am Holy Communion: Jill Edmond

Our 9.30am service is still well supported with the congregation, choir and ministers usually numbering somewhere between 60 and 90. We have had the pleasure of various members of our ministry team leading and preaching this year. It has been very interesting to experience the different preaching styles throughout the year. Thank you all for your faithful service and leadership in sharing God's word with us each week. The choir, lead by Berry, have excelled themselves again this year leading congregational singing and providing wonderful anthems and moments of quiet musical calm. Thank you for your contribution to the richness of our worship. Lynn and Rosemary thank you for the way you quietly and efficiently ensure we have people to read the lessons and lead prayers each week. Our team of 'communion cup washers' has grown this year - we are very grateful to you all for taking on this task with such enthusiasm. To those who organise refreshments between the 9.30 and 11.15 services thank you so much, it is a wonderful way to share fellowship between the two congregations.

During the year we maintained a list of approximately 40 people who read regularly at these services. This included 3 new volunteers. This means that everyone can read every 4 to 5 months. A suitable date is agreed in advance. A copy of the reading is then provided as well as being available on the day on the lectern. New readers are very welcome (please speak to Rosemary).

11.15am The 11.15 Service: Alex Kirby and Becky Lumley

The 11.15 Service filled with warmth, energy, and a strong sense of community. The congregation continues growing in number, with new families and visitors joining us. We now have over 100 adults and over 30 children and young people each week. The atmosphere is vibrant, welcoming, and spiritually uplifting with the band providing the worship.

The teaching seeks to offer deep theological understanding with practical insights and encouragement for the week ahead and the Faith in Everyday life part of the service (so wonderfully led by Alex Kirby) seeks to encourage us to see where God is involved in our daily lives and to consider how our everyday experiences impact upon our faith.

Before the service, people gather for refreshments and conversation with their friends from the 9.30 service. Newcomers were warmly welcomed, and the sense of a growing community is evident as people linger at the end of the service to connect, share stories, and support one another.

There are many areas to serve the church including leading intercessions and reading. In the summer of 2025, Leanne Firth very helpfully, took over the preparation of the reading rota, and has been doing a great job.

The children and youth gather for 'Sunday School classes' (see below) tailored to their age groups and they enjoy crafts, group discussions, and sweets!

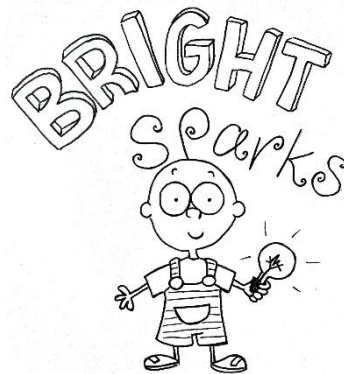
Bright Sparks: Anne Crossley

I have just read my report for the AGM last year to see if anything has changed since April 2025 and I have to say that the biggest change is the size of this group of pre-school children. It is still a delight to be a part of the Team of leaders for Bright Sparks, it is still a group of very enthusiastic children, we still meet in the Church Office and I'm still very aware of what a responsibility and privilege it is to be teaching this age group about Jesus and our faith. But I'm thrilled to be able to say that some weeks, the Church Office is not big enough!

This group has really grown in number and it is not unusual to have 11 or 12 children, some with Mums or Dads, in Bright Sparks on a Sunday morning. How amazing is that?!

We have, however, lost one of our faithful leaders in Linda and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for her support for and her commitment to this group. Linda joined us a few years ago at a time when this group was really a Creche, with very little input from the leaders. How times have

changed. We now follow some of the planning (adapted for pre-school children) from 'Roots on the Web' with bible stories and activities – that I think the parents enjoy as much as the children. It is a real pleasure to spend a Sunday morning with these children – and please pray with me that we outgrow the Church Office altogether!



Livewires: Anne Crossley

Unlike Bright Sparks, the number of children in this primary school age group (5 – 11 yrs) varies immensely from week to week. It's always a guess, when preparing for this group, as to how many children we will be welcoming each Sunday – some regulars and some visitors. We continue to follow the planning from 'Roots on the Web', but will sometimes add our own ideas if the published material isn't suitable for our group. It is a much more settled group than it was this time last year and the lower numbers some weeks allow for more relaxed, question and discussion-based sessions which are a real privilege to lead – and it makes it easier to get to know the children better.

We have welcomed two new volunteers to the Livewires Team – Steph and Fay, so we now have 5 adults plus 4 helpers on the rota to lead this group and we still have support from our Church Wardens each week. It's great to have an extra pair of hands in case of an emergency.

It's an honour to sow the seeds of faith in these children and to watch them grow. Please remember them in your prayers – and the volunteer staff too. Thank you.

Power Surge: Amelia French

Powersurge is a youth session which is offered during our 11.15am service. Powersurge allows young people to explore faith and develop understandings of Bible teachings which occur in the main service. Powersurge look at the Bible teachings and usually use a hands on approach to create something which links to the story. For example, in September, Powersurge looked at the story of Philemon. They discussed it being the shortest letter that Paul writes on behalf of Onesimus. They discussed Onesimus and made flowers to represent a new start and God forgiving. Powersurge aims to allow young people deepen their faiths, whilst also getting to know other Christians.

Intercessions Rota (9.30 and 11.15): Lynn Pratt

A big thank you to all the people who faithfully volunteer to read the prayers at the 9.30 and the 11.15 Sunday services. It has been a blessing this year to have a number of people who were willing to write their own prayers, and it is good to have some different styles to enrich our worship. It would be really helpful to have some additional volunteers, maybe some of our youngsters - so please do have a word if you would like to help with this important ministry. Written prayers can be emailed to you the week before, and you can amend them or just read them as they are. Many thanks, Lynn

Evensong / BCP Communion: Jane Northmore

The 6.30 pm services are all full of beautiful music sung by our wonderful choir as they are all choral. The services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer so are very peaceful and traditional. There is a Communion service on the first Sunday and Compline on any fifth Sunday with Evensong on the other three Sundays each month. There is a regular very companionable and core congregation of about 30 who also love welcoming visitors. Special thanks go to the sides people who do the duties so regularly, and to the excellent readers who contribute so valuably to the services.

Bubble Church: Helena Wilson

Bubble Church has continued to go from strength to strength this year. We have a really supportive core team of Alex, Louisa, Richard, Anne and Helen, who have been really great at helping to choose the themes for future Bubble Church services, in addition to some new helpers (Jo, Steph and Lynn) who have been available to help when other regular team members have been unable to attend. We have also continued to be supported by Anna, Amy and Emily who are wonderful CLCGB senior members, plus Ben, Iris, Thomas and Emily.

Attendance of Bubble Church services continues to be high, with a number of regular attending families (8-10 families) who come most months or every month. Baptism families have also continued to attend to collect their baptism certificates and candles which is lovely to make links between the different St Mary's families.

Attendance in June and August was lower than average – August was due to being in the summer holiday break. However, most months in the past year have had double figures of families attending and almost every month there have been new attendees, almost all of whom are 'unchurched'.

We have continued to see consistently attending families most months as well as families who are attending as part of their 'qualifying connection' in advance of their wedding (who are also attending the 'in-church' services too).

Date	Adults	Children	Families	New attendees	Baptism families
11/05/2025	23	20	13	9	2
08/06/2025	8	8	6	0	
13/07/2025	15	18	10	10	1
10/08/2025	9	8	6	3	
14/09/2025	20	18	11	11	1
12/10/2025	24	24	14	16	2
09/11/2025	16	12	7	9	2
14/12/2025	23	19	11	10	
11/01/2026	12	12	9	9	
08/02/2026	9	13	6	13	
08/03/2026	13	14	10	3	
12/04/2026	17	22	10	12	1

Bubble Church action songs also continue to be popular at both Allsorts Playgroup and several families have attended after having previously been to playgroup.

The Praise Service: Anne McGowan

The Praise Service is held in the Church Hall the second Sunday of the month in the Evening. The service focuses on welcome - we have coffee, tea, biscuits & a chat via myself and husband Christian McGowan. Community relationships are very much built at this service. People attend from all different churches also. The service provides beautiful worship contemporary & traditional. Sung worship is very much a large part of the service. The service centres around Themes within the Bible which practically fit into our everyday lives.

The teachings this season have concentrated on how we live as Christians in a digital age. A chance to reflect on our online lives and lives offline. The teachings are detailed, theology based yet providing a holistic viewpoint of the world we live in today. Reflection and connection very much part of this service. Teachings from Rev Becky Lumley, Gill Gregory, Ian Jackson & members of the congregation such as Sun Park and David Arrowsmith- Cooper.

Music is directed and played by Kathryn Arrowsmith-Cooper & David Arrowsmith- Cooper. The music team consists of 6/7 members which include keyboard, guitar, trumpet, violin and bass guitar. A central part of this service which provides highly professional worship band.

This service is well attended by leaders within the different spheres of our diverse church and members of the community. Some travel from out of the Beverley area to attend. There is a Youth Worker present (Amelia McGowan) when youth attend. Some stay in the service and others go to a group to discuss the theme and have games. The numbers remain constant 35-40 with this amount increasing within certain times of the Church Calendar such as Lent, Easter, Christmas for example.

We have placed an emphasis of sharing the Praise Service online and at notices in Church.

Thursday Communion: Allan Ball

The Thursday morning service continues to be a simple Said Service, led by a rich variety of wonderful people, comprising our Priests, Readers and of course, Vicar Becky. We have 10 – 20 regular attendees, plus occasional visitors, some of whom only came for a look around the church but stayed to join in.

Our regular attendees are a combination of those for whom this is their only service, in addition to others who routinely also attend other services. We are a friendly group who look forward to worshipping together, followed by informal discussions, reflections, or random chatting in the hall for coffee, cakes and biscuits after the service.

Newcomers are always welcome and appreciated.

Celtic Services: John Edmond & Steve Parkin

All Celtic Services are candle lit, reflective, quiet and simple to follow – all set in the beautiful and historic environments presented by St Mary's Church and St Catherine's Church, Leconfield. The Services are held at St Mary's at 7pm every 2nd Saturday (Celtic Evening Prayer) and 4th Saturday (Celtic Communion, occasionally with Healing) each month.

The Services at St Catherine's are held at 7pm on the 4th Thursday at of the month, alternating each month between Celtic Evening Prayer and Celtic Communion. The liturgies are based around the

Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer and Iona Daily Prayer interspersed with a sprinkle of Wildgoose. We number between 15-25 for Services at both Churches, and our pilgrims are growing!

On Saturday 13th September 2025 Roy Searle, with other members of the Northumbria Community who he founded, spent spending a wonderful day with us and a congregation of circa 80 people talking about what we can learn from Celtic Christianity today, enjoying singing Celtic hymns and experiencing the peace and reflection of a Celtic Labyrinth.



Our Easter Day Sunrise Service at 6.30am (followed by breakfast) attracted nearly 40 people and God delivered with a truly spiritual and biblical sunrise. A true highlight of our year. In January 2025 we started a book club on the 4th Wednesday with over 25 attending our first session from both St Mary's and St Catherine's The book club is now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 2pm. All are cordially invited to our services

Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals: Becky Lumley

Occasional offices remain an essential part of our mission and ministry. The national long-term trend is away from weddings and church funerals, but we are working hard to maintain our community connections and see these as an important part of our mission. We are constantly seeking ways to help people connect with regular worship after coming to us after these services and in particular this year we have connected baptism families with Bubble Church which seems to be bearing fruit.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptisms	36	21	36	38	11	22	43	28	32	37
Marriages	26	16	24	38	4	19	25	18	9	14
Funerals	29	46	51	49	42	25	29	34	42	21

- Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
- Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
- Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Music



Choir and Organ: Berenice Lewis

The choir of St. Mary's church has had another great year, continuing in its well-established role - choral services at 9.30am and 6.30pm on Sundays, plus wholehearted support of the church generally. Our singers demonstrate outstanding commitment to worship and frequently make themselves available for 'extras': special events, weddings, funerals and so on. We love making music together and our little community is a very happy and supportive one!

A new tenor, Dmitri, has been attending rehearsals recently and we hope he'll be able to join us for services soon. Long-time alto Nick Rodger has now moved into the bass section, and we're so pleased he is still singing in the choir.

Michael Ellerington is our regular organist for evening services (plus choir rehearsals), and his contribution is very important and much appreciated. His musicianship and commitment are second to none. We have also been fortunate in having Fiona Latham step in to play for a few morning services again this year, and I want to register sincere thanks to her for doing so. Choir members have freely given their support in so many ways; I thank them all!

Our Viscount digital organ (installed in 2023) continues to prove itself a wonderful resource, for our regular church services and also for special events. The instrument's sound is excellent, and it's very reassuring to know that the Viscount team are efficient when responding to any issues – much helped by the relationships forged and maintained by Michael. It was sad but also fascinating to witness the old pipe organ being dismantled and removed from St. Mary's, and we hope it will have an amazing new 'life' in Norway.

I'd like to express special thanks to Derek Fisher, who devotes a lot of time and energy to organising our music copies and supporting the choir in numerous ways. Despite ongoing health concerns, Derek is extremely diligent in his role and we truly appreciate him.

I look forward to another year of music and friendship.

Music Group: Berenice Lewis

The Music Group continues to fulfil its role in worship: hymns and songs before and during the 9.30am service once a month (normally the fourth Sunday). We meet for a short rehearsal in church during the week prior. Our small group of friends is deeply committed to worship, and we love making music together. Carolyn Kirk regularly adds to our songs with her lovely viola playing, which is so appreciated. I want to offer special thanks to Rosemary Williams, who organises our music copies and is always so efficient and supportive.

We are keen to welcome new singers. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to contact me direct (email berrylewis2019@gmail.com).

11:15 Worship Group: Kathryn Arrowsmith-Cooper

Psalms 96:1-3

¹ *Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

² *Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

³ *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.*

This has been a year of development and change for the 11:15 worship band. The new staging is in place, we have a new sound desk and new stage box (that all the cables plug in to), and new presentation software for the services. One aim is to make the set up between services smoother, allowing more time for a sound-check, and hopefully trouble-shoot any problems before the start of the service. By raising the band, it also hopefully allows us to 'lead' in worship more effectively as we can both be seen, and see, better. As ever we are thankful for the skills, knowledge and service offered by Martin, Carl, and others in supporting the technology.

Working with our musicians and leading worship is a great privilege. We have enjoyed leading the praise in our regular morning service, at the monthly evening Praise Services, at the Deanery Encounter Services at St Mary's, being involved in the music for Scrooge, and for the Easter Passion Play. As always, a highlight is working with Berry, the choir and organist for joint services at Christmas and Easter, both enjoying their wonderful worship, and sharing our more modern approach.

Developments for next year will be hopefully expanding our core musicians so we are all able to worship in the congregation some weeks; and also looking at a more regular rehearsal time where we can practise in church with the drums, develop arrangements for songs we currently use and explore new songs to further develop our worship. My thanks go to Alan, Becky, Fay, Hannah, Josh, Lesley, and Tom for their service, their commitment, their energy and their talents given so generously this year.

Children and Youth

Allsorts Toddler Group: Anne Crossley

Our Toddler Group continues to meet on Friday mornings in the Church Hall during term time and is a really happy and popular place to be on a Friday morning. We often hear comments from the Mums about the fact that we are a very friendly and welcoming group, making sure that newcomers are especially welcomed and introduced to others. The word must be spreading because our numbers seem to be increasing – in recent weeks reaching 28 Mums with one or two children each. That's an amazing 'buzz' in our Church Hall – and great to be a part of.



We still have a dedicated group of volunteers, although since my last report, we have lost two of them, Vicki and Helena, who have both had a big impact on the group and we will miss both of them very much.

Over a cuppa, some snacks and homemade cakes (one of our children refers to us as ‘food playgroup’!), we have time to chat with those who attend and a chance to form new relationships, and we sometimes find the opportunity to offer prayer for them or for any family problems that they share with us. Our sessions always finish with a circle time of singing, a story, or a bit of both. The Toddlers Group gives us a great opportunity to advertise the Bubble Church meeting on the second Sunday of each month and encourage parents to try us out. Since last year, 4 or 5 toddlers with their parents have joined us which is really exciting. We also use some of the Bubble Church songs during Toddlers – to give them a taste of what to expect when they come. As I reported last year, to watch this group of Mums and children singing ‘Everybody praise the Lord’ or ‘Our God is a great big God’ is such an incredibly uplifting way to end our Toddlers session – and a lot of the Mums report back to us how their children are singing these songs all week – and that the Mums can’t get the songs out of their heads either! Little do we realise the impact these songs have on their lives and I thank God for the opportunity to be part of this ministry.

Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade: Melanie Bruton



We have over 90 children and young people between the ages of 4 and 18 who meet weekly at our George Street Head Quarters. We do lots of activities games, friendship and faith. We hold camps throughout the year, we have recently visited Raywell Scout park for weekend Camps in March and April as well as going on a day trip on the Saturday we took part in games on the site which promoted team working, communication and having fun. We also hold sleepovers at CLCGB and day trips.

We have 4 age group sections Martins, Y.Team, JTC and Seniors, which meet each week, taking part in activities including sports, craft, team working, cooking and Christian fellowship (with Bible stories and prayers from Becky).

We also have two bands which meets each week the Junior and Senior Band, teaching the children a skill of a musical instrument from all ages and abilities. They have a Proms night, and Christmas concert. The band also lead in the remembrance parade and in the Christmas Eve Christingle service.

We have over 40 adult members and leaders over the age of 18 that help the Brigade function. We were delighted to award long service medals to

- Glen 50 years
- Andy 40 years
- Lesley 45 years
- John 45 years

An incredible achievement!

All members and leaders over the age of 18 have completed a DBS, safeguarding training and other relevant training to support the children and young people.

Friday Night Group: Amelia French

FNG is a Church Youth Group where we are able to discuss faith and young people are able to develop and create new friendships. FNG has grown in number since September and we are proud to be able to welcome young people from all aspects of their faith journeys. FNG follows the Youth For Christ sessions which allows our young people to engage in our Christian Faith and deepen their experiences. FNG is a community group, where we take part in lots of activities such as baking, games, and going on adventures in our local community. FNG is a safe space, where exploring faith and questioning is encouraged alongside developing social skills and creating friendship

School Holiday Meals and Activities: Becky Lumley

During the summer holidays in 2026 we provided a safe place and a cooked meal to children living in poverty in our town. This is an important part of social action and outreach.

Over 15 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. On order to make this happen we recruited 22 volunteers.

We are also grateful to Tina Cerutii who helped with magnificent food and of course Mel Bruton and our lovely Church Lads Church Girls for the use of the George Street facilities.

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. I lead worship in school every Wednesday with special services in church for festivals (Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance etc.). I continue to serve on the finance and resources committee as well as being vice chair and the governor with responsibility for safeguarding. We said a big thank you to Corrie Sykes-Cook and Kate Jenks who are foundation governors, representing the church and Christian values of the school and bring with them a great deal of wisdom and hands on experience. Kate is about to move away to be near family in Leeds but we are delighted that Beverley Lawrence will be taking her place.

Discipleship Groups and Prayer Ministry



Alpha Course: Ian Jackson

There have been two completed Alpha courses this year and one which is currently suspended with the intention of starting up again soon. Each course is approximately nine weeks long and offers

people the chance to explore faith and to ask questions in an open and accessible way. The groups range in size from half a dozen to fifteen or so and have generally been well attended and valued. Those who have joined us have included people who are longstanding in their discipleship but wanted the opportunity to explore things more, some who are returning to faith after a while away, and others who are new to Christianity. All can share the points of confusion and doubt alongside the celebration and hope that growing in faith can bring.

Alpha is one of the key ways we seek to enable people to explore and find faith at St Mary's; it is open to all and a gateway to other forms of belonging and sharing in church. We will continue to run courses regularly and welcome interest from anyone, whatever their current commitment or position in church. Please contact Becky if you are interested in joining such a course

Monday Afternoon Group: Allan Ball

We are a varied group of ages, backgrounds and life experiences. As with most groups meeting in each other's homes, our numbers are restricted by the space available.

Since our last report we have studied Mark's Gospel, Daniel, 1,2 & 3 John, Pilgrim Course: The Creeds, Advent Course: Angels, 1 Corinthians, a Lent Course, and we are currently looking at John's Gospel.

We truly are a GIFT to each other as we Grow In Faith Together.

Tuesday Home Group: Gill Gregory

We are a Small Group that meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm in the Church hall or on Wednesdays if there has been a Vintage Lunch that week. There is prayer, debate, and laughter as we share ideas, mutual support and there are always good biscuits and hot drinks.

Areas of study this year have been Mark's Gospel, the Angel's Advent course, and John's gospel during Lent. We are open to new ideas for future studies and hope to follow the Pilgrim theme soon in May with the other home groups. If you are interested in joining us please do speak to me and all are welcome,

Wednesday Night Group: Carl Dixon

The homegroup began meeting in October and has enjoyed a very encouraging first few months. We started as a gathering of 10 members and have since grown to 14 on our books. We meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings, which has proven to be an effective rhythm for our members, seeing a consistent and healthy average attendance of 8–9 people each session.

Our studies began in the autumn with a series focused on Angels, aligning with the church's focus during the Advent season. Following the Christmas break, we have been using the study "Meeting God in John," written by Ian Jackson. To suit our fortnightly schedule, I have adapted the materials slightly to ensure the sessions remain cohesive and impactful for the group.

A particular highlight has been the hospitality of our members. We rotate our meetings between different homes depending on work schedules, which has created a wonderfully welcoming and flexible environment. It has been a genuine delight to watch the group grow and flourish; I feel truly privileged to lead such a wonderful group of people as we get to know one another more deeply in faith.

Looking ahead, we are planning our first group social for the period after Easter. We are particularly excited about this event as an opportunity to include partners and "other halves" who might not usually attend due to work commitments or where they currently find themselves in their faith journey. We look forward with anticipation to seeing how the group continues to develop in the coming year.

Thursday Afternoon Group: Erik Wilson

The Dominicans continued to benefit from studying the material provided by the church over this past year. We have gained from one another's experiences and insights as we have shared together. The group prays regularly for one another, with our WhatsApp group proving a keen resource for prayer requests. We have been mindful of our group members who have suffered major bereavements recently and seek to be a holding place for one another.

Thursday Night Group: Steve Crossley

The Thursday night group, run by Steve and Anne Crossley, continues to provide a lively and challenging series of studies for us all. This year our studies have been on Moses, Daniel (as we joined in with fellow Homegroups) and the Minor Prophets with the main focus on Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. We are 18 in number, meeting every week in one of two homes – and attendance varies between a full house and a smaller number, but it's always exciting to meet to grow in our faith together.

As well as our weekly studies, we also support each other during the week through our WhatsApp group and regular social events. Those who are free meet regularly for coffee and the occasional outing over a weekend, and we all recently had a weekend away together in Scarborough. Also this year, with the help of Becky and our lovely congregation at St Mary's we undertook the challenge of raising £15,000 for one of our members, Kathryn, to be able to buy an Eye Gaze Communication Device for her daughter, Rosalind. This was a great opportunity to pull together, to put love into action and to involve so many members of our congregation.

Thursday Night Home Group: Ian Jackson

It has been a varied time for our home group this year. High spots have included the wedding of two of our key members, some wonderful social activities and profound studies together with a deep sharing of insight and experience. Attendance has oscillated significantly for a variety of reasons, a few have left the group and others joined. But we give thanks to God for the growth in fellowship and discipleship which we experience.

Our study programme has included topics on the Eucharist, the Book of Daniel, the experience of Calling, Christian responses to ethical dilemmas such as Assisted Dying, Angels and the Gospel of John.

We begin our new programme at the end of April and, of course, would welcome anyone who is keen to join together to share faith and grow in discipleship - contact Becky if you would like to know more.

Celtic Christianity Book Group: John Edmond

In January 2025 we started a book club on the 4th Wednesday with over 25 attending our first session. This has continued to grow with both St Mary's and St Catherine's people attending. We have been Studying Michael Mittons book "Restoring The Woven Cord" and also "The Lent Book" by David Cole Discussion is always lively, convivial and informative with the fellowship very much appreciated. The book club is now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 2pm.

St Mary's Prayer Circle: Anne Mansfield

At St Mary's we are blessed with a group of twenty volunteers who pray quietly, patiently and consistently in their own homes, guided by the Holy Spirit, for those who have requested prayer for themselves, family members, or friends.

We keep a confidential list, members do not always know the reason why someone is on the list, or indeed their full name. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining contact either myself, Jennifer Smith or Margaret Hairsine. Two new members joined in 2025

We use Whatsapp to keep in touch with each other, and updated, and to add new prayer requests, and this is working successfully.

In addition, we meet face to face four times a year, on the 2nd Tuesday of every third month, March, June, September and December, to support each other and those we pray for.

There are three co-ordinators and they review the list three times a year to ensure it is current and correct.

I feel blessed that I am part of this lovely group who support, strengthen and encourage each other as well as the wider community. We learned that amazing things happen when you pray for others, God has answered our prayers, not always in the way we expect. We get messages from those we pray for showing their gratitude as they see our prayers have made a difference in their lives. Some have turned to faith as a result of the support and fellowship.

Facebook Evening Prayers: Alice Lee

Thank you to the team of people who take the time to read the Evening prayers for Facebook each evening, to the people who stepped down this last year and to those new people who have joined the team. It is wonderful that you all want to share your love of God to our congregation and those further afield who join in with the prayers because they can wherever in the UK, they live even some watch from abroad. It is a very special and humbling time.

Even six years on - yes Evening prayers was set up back in the early days of Lockdown when we were all asked to stay home the lighting of the candle and the coming together in prayer at 7pm was for many a highlight of their day and still today our prayers bring the continued love and comfort to many, taking the quiet moment at the end of the day and thanking the Lord God for his presence in our day.

We all live very different lives, but faith and God bring us all together and that we can celebrate.

If you are reading my report and thinking you would like to be a part of the team, then do be in touch

Pastoral Care, Social Action and Mission

VINTAGE MINISTRY: Carolyn Kirk



Throughout 2025, our hallmark Vintage Lunches were held monthly, excluding August and December, offering themed gatherings that combine friendship, good food, and conversation. Alongside these, we ran a Spiritual Care Course to strengthen pastoral awareness and a Retiring Well Course to help participants approach later life with faith and purpose.

Creative and social activities have continued to flourish. In small “vintage workshops,” participants produced marmalade and lemon curd for church breakfasts, while a growing library and bookstall has supported those navigating the later stages of life. Members also made regular home and care-home visits, often including Home Communion, maintaining connection with those unable to attend church.

Monthly Pilgrim Parties and Garden Pilgrimages offered prayerful companionship in parishioners’ homes and gardens. We held a Christmas Tea and Carols at Harvest Court and other festive gatherings across the parish. Smaller musical and social events like chamber music, piano duets, and informal lunches, continued to provide friendship and laughter.

In September 2025, the team assumed leadership of “Monday Singalong,” featuring popular songs from earlier decades. “Rusty Fingering” vintage musicians have also offered music and singalongs at care homes, hopefully bringing joy and reminiscence through music.

In November, Carolyn Kirk was commissioned as Anna Chaplain, and St Mary’s Anna Chaplaincy was formally inaugurated. Eight Anna Friends were recognized for their pastoral service in areas such as visiting, bereavement support, and residential care. Their contributions have greatly enriched our ministry to older people.

We extend sincere thanks to all involved—especially to Casandra Newbold, our church chef, whose work makes the lunches possible; to the Anna Friends and Vintage Lunches Team for their dedication; and to the Pastoral Care Committee, Vicar Becky, the PCC, and the Treasurers for their continuing guidance and support.

The Vintage Years Ministry welcomes all, typically from ages fifty to one hundred, but open to others seeking fellowship through opportunities for ministry. Intergenerational participation continues to deepen community life, strengthening St Mary’s witness of shared joy, service, and compassion.

Thursday Morning Coffee: Susan Walker & Ann Anderson

The Thursday Coffee Mornings offer a regular weekly opportunity for fellowship, refreshment and a warm welcome for church members and visitors alike. Similarly, the Craft group facilitated by Margaret Roberts is popular and well attended with various crafts often displayed in church for special occasions. Joan Husband provides a range of second hand books and jigsaws to purchase in aid of the Children’s Society.

Residential Care Homes Services: John Edmond

As part of Churches Together Beverley, St Mary’s Church (John Edmond) along with Beverley Baptist Church (Christine Larson) and Beverley Minster (Louise McPhee) lead Christian Ministry to three Care Homes within Beverley: Chapter House, Claremont, and Parklands.

We are also assisted by very able helpers from other Churches who all contribute by talking with the residents and helping them through the Services. This is such fulfilling and humbling ministry for all involved, and we are warmly welcomed into each Care Home by its staff and those who may be present visiting the residents.

We held Christmas Carols at each Care Home before Christmas, which was enjoyed by all attending. We also make ourselves available during the week to residents to conduct, as required, Holy Communion with individuals in their room or to just sit with them in communal area and listen and reminisce with them, which is greatly appreciated by residents, staff and relatives alike. Through this Ministry we witness God's love and grace in action.

Men Meet: Steve Parkin

We continue to meet and go bowling. We regularly have over 20 attending with new people attending each time. This proves very popular every time we meet with new people joining each event. We also held a successful Curry night in the parish hall with Eric Wilson on the 20th February with 24 attending. Everyone enjoyed it and we had to turn a few people away. We are looking at a brewery visit to York and an evening at Beverley Races in the future.

Women's Meet: Alice Lee

Where can you find like-minded women who want to make new friends, have something in the diary to look forward to, eat cake, drink tea/coffee, laugh, chat, walk, create creation and sing two words – Women's Meet.

We are a group that meet once a month, not too meets are ever the same as I like to make memories for the women who attend. We ended 2025 enjoying a light illumination show around the beautiful grounds of Elsham. We welcomed in 2026 with a walk to Bishop Burton along the new foot path, passing by the Lamars in a farmer's field who came over to say hello as we made our way to the Altisidora for lunch. In March some of the ladies attended a session in the Crafty Cafe and where we learnt how to needle felt some Easter themed designs, and in April a few of us attended the Songs of Praise sing in the Holy Trinity Church now known as Hull Minster. I so look forward to our monthly meet ups, and I hope that we continue to welcome in new women and as well to all the existing women who make this group a joy to be apart of.

Church Welcomers Report: Jill Edmond

St Mary's is open to visitors Monday to Saturday from 11am until 4pm in the summer months, closing an hour earlier in the winter. This is only possible because we have a fantastic team of volunteers. Some are members of our congregation and some local, and not so local, people who love the church and the town and want to help promote its history and significance.

Visitors don't always remember the facts you have given them, but they do remember how you made them feel. If you look through the visitor's book at the South entrance you will see many lovely comments about what the team do, the knowledge they have passed on, the warm welcome and kindness they impart, their helpfulness. They are a team we should all be proud of, I know I am.

Rosemary and Carole thank you for your dedication to organising rotas for the team.

Without you no one would know where they were meant to be. It is not always easy to get all the slots filled especially once we have longer summer opening and our team start to take their summer holidays!

We hold monthly coffee mornings or afternoon teas as a thank you to the team. They are a good opportunity to get together in fellowship to learn from and to support each other and eat cake. They are well supported and much fun.

Do you have an hour or so to spare each week or even once a month? Do you love our church building but would like to know more about its history? Do you like meeting new people? If you might be interested please contact the office to be put in touch with me.

Church Guide: Fiona Jenkinson

St Mary's Church now has a guide on the Bloomberg Connects app. This was launched in August 2025, and since then has been visited 339 times, mostly by English and American users, but also via users in other languages, including Swedish, Dutch and Romanian. The guide can be accessed online or through an app that can be downloaded before visiting, or by using a QR code in the church. It contains a map, accessibility information and a wealth of history, including a look at the contents of the priests' rooms, which is particularly useful when these are not available to visit. Future plans to develop the guide include the addition of audio tours, information on the Enhancing Life Through Heritage project and fundraising opportunities, as well as other smaller changes.

Hope into Action Report

John Edmond

We had a family move into the Hope into Action House in June 2025. They have settled well and their young son now attends a local school following our support to gain a place.

We continue to offer support to the Tenants, and we are now actively engaged with them exploring opportunities for them to gain independent living and work in Beverley.

Our Empowerment Worker is leaving at the end of April and we are looking to recruit a replacement as soon as is reasonably possible. The role is 8 hours per week and if anyone is interested in exploring this opportunity please contact me (07770 586448 or John.Edmond@hopeintoaction.org.uk) for further details. We are blessed by a committed Friendship and Support Group from St Mary's Church and Beverley Minster, who complement the work of our Empowerment Worker with our tenants.

We have a Management Board, which oversees the running of the project which meets monthly and reports as required to Hope into Action UK, and quarterly to our Investors.

Church Wardens

Warden's Report: Jill Edmond (Ian Jackson, Ruth Stebbens Nigel Whiting)

As another busy year at St Mary's comes to an end I look back on how fortunate we all are to be members of this church community. We have an amazing ministry team who provide such a wealth of service options, alongside home groups and pastoral opportunities with a varied cultural program for our growing congregation and the people of Beverley. There is so much happening that I could report here, but much is already in other reports in this booklet so I hope you have enjoyed reading about it all in those reports.

At the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting Keith Gilson stood down as a warden and Nigel Whiting was elected in his place. Nigel very quickly proved himself to be a safe pair of hands - his diligence, attention to detail are incredible as is his ability to get involved and see a project through. Ian, Ruth and I are delighted to have him in the team.

All the wardens have been very busy during the year working on various projects alongside supporting Becky and the ministry team. One thing I must mention is our Christmas 2025 show Scrooge. This event was the brainchild of Ian and it was a resounding success. It was brilliant to enable some of our younger

congregation members to take part and to have our choir playing such an important role too. How lovely to see those people come together again at Easter to perform the newly revamped Passion play.

One final thing to do is to thank Becky for her tireless drive, energy, commitment and enthusiastic encouragement - making being part of this church an exciting and challenging place to be. God truly blessed our congregations when he called Becky, along with Tom and Simon, back to Beverley to minister at St Mary's.

Safeguarding

SAFEGUARDING: James Haggart

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 has been revised and approved by the PCC this year. It 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.

I have recently taken on the role as Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's working closely with Becky as our Vicar and Gill Gregory - Administrator. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is Rob Marshall with Sara Dickinson and Kirsty Parr 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. 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). When taking up a role with children or vulnerable adults or in leadership within the church a DBS is required. DBS checks are required for all those doing children's work, pastoral work, the PCC, worship leaders, and various others. There is a straightforward online system for completing DBS and I can help anyone who is unsure about how to complete it and can also organise the use of a computer.

The diocese has now required that we renew DBS's every 3 years unless the person has a continuously updating DBS. We will advise anyone who's DBS needs to be renewed before the renewal date, so that there is plenty of time to complete the online process. If you are taking on a new role in the church, which may require a DBS, please let me know or if it is some time since you completed one. Individual's data is subject to strict Data Protection law. Thank you to everyone who has had a check this year.

Training is offered with the leadership of Jenny Price – York Diocese Safeguarding Trainer. There are a variety of Safeguarding training courses that are required to be completed depending on the role that church members take up. I am happy to advise you regarding the required training for your role, please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance. If anyone has an interest in Safeguarding and would like to help in particular areas such as children's work or working with older people, please do speak with me. If you have any concerns regarding Safeguarding or would like further information, please speak to me or Becky.

Restoration Project

Our beautiful church faces significant structural challenges. While the restoration project completed in 2022 was highly successful, further work remains essential. The most urgent priorities are the

restoration of the north transept and the tower. These needs present clear challenges, but also important opportunities.

In 2024, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) awarded St Mary's funding to undertake a feasibility study exploring the creation of a traditional skills teaching module, designed specifically for young people who are neurodiverse or disengaged from academic education. This project, titled Enhancing Life Through Heritage, also considers the next phase of essential building works and brings these strands together through the opportunities created by the removal of the non-functioning organ from the north transept. Although the organ's removal was necessary to allow restoration of the transept interior, it also enables the creation of a fully accessible entrance from the new garden as well as a new space which could be developed further after the restoration work is completed.

The feasibility study is now nearing completion, with a report due to be submitted to the NLHF in the summer. Trial sessions held at East Riding College in spring 2025 demonstrated strong enthusiasm among students for learning traditional skills, with several expressing an interest in pursuing a career in this field. Beyond the East Riding, relevant professional bodies have also been consulted and have shown significant interest in the opportunities offered by this proposed teaching module.

The church community has been consulted on both the teaching module and the proposed changes to the north transept. While some reservations were raised, the majority of feedback was positive.

The organ has now been removed, and although further work is required to fully clear the transept, the immediate impact has been striking. The space is now filled with increased natural light, opening up views of the stunning tracery of the north windows, previously unseen bosses, and a number of highly intriguing grotesques beside the north doors.

As we now await the decision from NLHF on funding the next phase of the project, we will also begin local fundraising. This will not only support future work but will demonstrate our commitment and ability to contribute financially to the ongoing restoration.

Buildings

Church hall report: Gill Gregory

The Parish Hall diary bookings are going well and the diary through 2025 has been busy. We had diverse regular weekly and monthly groups including various exercise and singing groups, choirs, dancing classes, children's classes, yoga, wine, and art groups.

It is also often booked for birthday parties and other one-off events. The Hall is also used for church activities, including services, meetings, coffee mornings, various church courses such as Alpha, Bible study courses, home groups, Christmas activities, Allsorts Toddlers group and other children's activities. Throughout 2025 we have had an average of 15 external hirers per week covering an average of 25 hourly sessions. This roughly meant that the hall was booked for 1,200 hours / sessions through the year by external groups.

Gill Gregory manages the bookings and Susan Walker does the monthly invoicing on Tuesday mornings. Sally Blake acts as Treasurer and Anne Mansfield oversaw the Parish Hall bank account.

The hall had a few repairs in 2025 including to the cupboard and office doors. Six windows were damaged due to vandalism and they have been mended as well as several misted windows all of

which have been replaced. The sound desk sound system has been improved. All safety checks and insurance are up to date.

Church buildings report: Nigel Whiting

Several projects have been carried out during the year on the church.

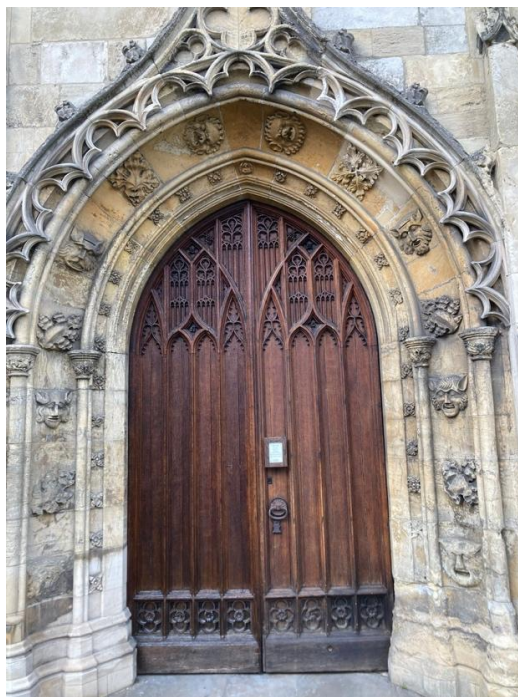
Church Door Refurbishment

The external church doors were in a poor condition and in need of refurbishment to protect against deterioration. The doors were cleaned and oiled with products approved by our architect.

Example Before



After



Urgent repairs to pinnacles on South Transept

The December 2024 QI survey highlighted urgent work to be carried out on one pinnacle on the South Transept. Stone mason Matthias Garn assessed all the South Transept pinnacles and carried out necessary repairs including stabilising a second pinnacle and replacing some pointing to help protect this area from water ingress.

West entrance glass doors

After some challenges the final glass doors have been installed in the west entrance. Outstanding items are the installation of draft excluders on the bottom of the doors, finishing off wood details at the top and installation of the permanent handrails on the steps.

West entrance steps

The new steps leading down from the west doors had been chipped. The stone mason advised (supported by our architect Andy Burrell) that rounding the edges of the steps would significantly reduce the likelihood of further damage and remove the unsightly damage. This work was successfully carried out.

West entrance cupboards

Cupboards have been installed either side of the west entrance. These are in use as display cabinets, service sheet storage and a desk for the church welcomers.

Organ removal

The church pipe organ has been defunct for many years and would be extremely expensive to fix. The North Transept where the organ was located is also in urgent need of restoration. For these reasons it was decided that the organ had to be removed.

Trinity church in Oslo, Norway, is building an organ for their church. They came over to view the organ and decided it was a good fit for their project. A faculty application was submitted and approved for the removal of the organ. They dismantled the whole organ, at their cost, in March 2026. It is really pleasing that the organ will be given a new life in Oslo.

Church history, previously covered by the organ, is now visible and options will be explored for the use of this space. Level access into the church will also be possible once the garden project is completed and changes are made to the entrance step and floor (a future project).

Church internal changes

Several items regularly used for church activities had become unreliable or unsafe and have been replaced.

Stage

The stage used for events was damaged and difficult to move and set up safely. A new stage system has been purchased which is easier to store, setup and provides more flexible configuration options. The stage is used for the Sunday 11:15 worship band and has been setup for many events in various configurations.

New WiFi

A new WiFi system has been installed in the church, much improving the cover, signal strength and functionality. A guest network is now available for visitors to view information about the church.

Sound System

The sound desk and cabling used for church services and events had become unreliable. An updated, easier to use system has been installed.

Church hall maintenance report

Hall heating

The church hall heating system is very old and inefficient. The outside toilet block that houses the boiler for the hall is also due to be demolished as part of the garden of life project. Consultants were engaged to assess the replacement options. It has been decided to replace the old boiler system with Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs). This project will be completed as part of the garden project in 2026.

Replacing broken hall windows

Some of the hall windows were broken through an act of vandalism and were replaced, funded through our insurance.

Garden project update

After some delay the garden project has been restarted with the current wardens taking the lead. The original architects who produced the design have been re-engaged and an assessment of the site carried out.

Final design, cost assessment, tendering and construction will take place in 2026 with completion expected late summer 2026.

Bells

Bell Tower Report

John Atkinson

Once again, the bells at St Mary's have rung out over the town on many occasions during 2025. In addition to our Church service obligations, peal ringing, visiting bands, weddings and civic events have provided the opportunity for the bells to be heard.

Early in the year St Mary's band hosted a qualifier event as part of the National 12 Bell Striking Competition. The day was very successful; the ringing drawing in many members of the public as well as more than 150 ringers enjoying the challenge of ringing 12 bells in a competitive setting. The band from St Mary's Beverley entered the competition and achieved a very high standard of ringing competing against several bands who regularly ring changes on 12 for Sunday Service.

Band members have also facilitated a series of tower tours as part of the programme of Church tours and Heritage Open Days.

Wedding ringing in 2025 was significantly reduced with ringers required on only eight occasions. As in previous years the ringing for weddings would not have taken place without the support of friends from local (and not so local) towers helping us. We are grateful for the work undertaken by Ann Hughes in co-ordinating arrangements for wedding ringing.

We were pleased to welcome visiting peal bands to St Mary's and three were scored (one of Spliced Treble Dodging Maximus, one of Bristol Surprise Maximus and one of Cambridge Surprise Maximus) all of a very high standard. Our thanks go to Neil Donovan who is responsible to co-ordinating arrangements for visiting peal bands.

Once again In October the band, with assistance from members of other local towers, entered the White Rose Striking Competition held in Bradford Cathedral.

Routine inspections have been undertaken during the year by our Maintenance Officer James Blackburn assisted by, Secretary, Ann Hughes for which we are grateful.

Our PCC provide very welcome financial support towards the cost of maintenance, and the bell installation is in good condition. This year the initial focus was on preparing the bells for hosting the national 12 bell qualifier which happened in March. This included work to view the bells via video link to the ringing chamber and to project the images to the main screen in the church and our bi-annual inspection and maintenance of the bell installation by White's of Appleton (Bell Hangers). All went well and was a great success. Following this we have continued with regular maintenance and inspections of the bells throughout the year, we have installed a new dynema topped rope (a new development aimed at reducing rope wear and tear) on the sharp second and we have now moved it on to the 7th and we are collecting feedback for when we order some new ropes in 2026. We have also supported the Flamborough band and North Cave band by loaning some of our spare ropes to bridge the gap between ordering and delivery or repair of their own.

As we reflect on a very positive year at St Mary's It is appropriate to thank our Vicar Rev Becky Lumley and the PCC for their continued support.

Wider Church Relationships

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.

Deanery: Gill Gregory**Beverley Deanery Report**

Tim Kelly (Rector of The Benefice of Walkington, Bishop Burton, Rowley and Skidby) became Area Dean, taking over from Richard Parkison in May.

The deanery has a Facebook page called Church of England, Beverley where events in different churches are listed and the Encounter service are advertised. This is available for all to join.

St Mary's has been working with the rest of the deanery to build wider children's work. St Mary's has also been supporting the Leconfield.

Thank you to Becky, Erik, Michael, Steve Parkin and John Edmond for all that you have given.

Extracts taken from the Beverley Deanery Annual Report for 2025**Celebrations and Encouragements**

The Encounter services continue to be a significant deanery-wide success, offering shared worship, collaboration, and growing sense of identity across parishes.

Clergy collaboration and mutual support continue to be strong noticeably, with a positive culture of honesty, courage, hopefulness, faith, and resilience.

The Deanery Renewal Day on Prayer (4 October) was a major highlight – with Bishop John Pritchard and contributions from across the deanery and diocese. Over 40 people attended, deepening unity and spiritual renewal.

A renewed Deanery Synod has been established with planned meeting dates, responding directly to one of the key gaps identified last year.

The Greater Chapter Meeting was well-attended and valued for collegial reflection and planning.

Launch of the new Church of England Beverley website (www.cofebeverley.org) has strengthened communication and visibility.

Priorities for the Next 12 Months

Deepening Discipleship and Prayer – building on the momentum of the Renewal Day through follow-up gatherings, local prayer initiatives, and practical spiritual resourcing.

Youth, Families, and Schools Engagement – supporting parishes to collaborate where energy already exists; exploring shared approaches to Open the Book, Messy Church, and school partnerships.

Strengthening Lay Leadership – encouraging development, mentoring, and peer learning among lay leaders and wardens.

Re-energising Mission Action Plans and Accountability – making them more visible and usable at deanery level.

New Housing and Mission Opportunities – especially in areas of population growth around Beverley and nearby villages.

In Summary:

Beverley Deanery is in a good place – prayer, collaboration, and communication have grown. The key challenge now is to translate this renewed spiritual and relational energy into shared, practical action in mission and leadership development over the next twelve months.

Finance

Stewardship: Susan Walker

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

APCM Report on Stewardship for 2025						
Prepared by Susan Walker						
The table below shows the Planned Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown below these figures in red.						
					Year to 31.12.25	
					Year to 31.12.24	
	Gift Aid		Non Gift Aid		Totals	
	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.
Weekly Envelopes - general fund	£4,929	8	£155	1	£5,084	9
	£3,075	11	£137	1	£3,212	12
Standing Orders - general fund	£31,884	40	£4,020	12	£35,904	52
	£33,869	53	£4,760	12	£38,629	70
Standing Orders –via Parish Giving Scheme	£29,319	55	£1,944	6	£31,263	61
	£20,091	30	£1,310	4	£21,401	34
Standing Orders - restoration fund	£300	1	0	0	£300	1
	£300	1	0	0	£300	1
Column Totals	£66,432	104	£6,119	19	£72,551	123
	£57,335	100	£6,387	18	£63,722	118
HMRC Gift Aid Reclaim at 25%	£16,850					
	£14,334					
The table below shows the Unplanned Gift Aid Envelope Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown below these figures in red.						
Unplanned Gift Aid Donations	£20,564					
	£19,327					
HMRC Gift Aid Reclaim at 25%	£5,141					
	£4,832					
The above does not include Cash non gift aid donations or those from the Just Giving website or those from the Electronic Devices in Church.						

Financial position: Richard Mattock

Total receipts for the general running of the church were £228,911 which included:-

- Legacies £4,250-
- Other activities £40.829
- Planned giving, donations and gift aid £153.075
- Plus the sale of the Lairgate property of £162,500

So total was £391,411

Total expenditure for the unrestricted fund was £238,274 which included:

- Final payment on the new boiler £17,874
- The new staging £11,746
- The Parish Freewill Offering to the Diocese £74,500

So an overall gain of £153,137

The General Fund Balance as at 31st December 2025 increased by £103,075 to £1,058,202 .

Mainly due to the sale of the Lairgate Property, but less £33,220 as our investments decreased in value. As mentioned in previous years our investment values go up and down each year dependent on Worldwide economic factors.

Total Income throughout all the PCC Funds was £464,753 and expenditure was £389,234 a surplus of £75,519.

Two major projects continued

1. The Garden Project and will be completed in the Autumn 2.
2. The ELtH (Enhancing Life through Heritage) which involves working with the local college.

The balance of all PCC Funds at 31st December 2025 stood at £3,032,979 a decrease of £11,594 on the previous year.

For full accounts please contact the Church Office.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDING 2024

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Held on Monday 18th May 2025 at 1245

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

Janet Osgerby acted as Clerk.

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th April 2024 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Vicar, Becky Lumley.

There were no matters arising.

Elections

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

Becky thanked the church wardens of the previous year. Becky thanked each one individually. Keith was thanked for his time as warden as he wants to step down from this role and wants to focus on working on the building.

Those nominated were Ian Jackson, Jill Edmond, Ruth Stebbens and Nigel Whiting. There being no other nominations, all four were thanked and were duly elected.

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 2024. Received and accepted.

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

minutes by Janet Osgerby

Held on Sunday 18th May 2025 at 1300.

Electoral Roll Report: There were 262 people on the electoral roll when the report was written.

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:

All clergy beneficed in or licensed to the parish Becky Lumley

Readers chosen to serve on PCC at APCM Steve Parkin John Edmond Gill Gregory Jo Boulter

Church Warden

- 1 Ruth Stebbens
- 2 Jill Edmond
- 3 Ian Jackson
- 4 Nigel Whiting

Deanery Representatives (ex officio members of PCC)

- 1 Jo Boulter
- 2 Jill Edmond
- 3 Gill Gregory

Members

- 1 Allan Ball
- 2 Anne Crossley
- 3 Richard Mattock
- 4 Graham White
- 5 Janet Osgerby (secretary)
- 6 Alice Lee
- 7 Anne Mansfield (treasurer)
- 8 Jane Jackson
- 9 Beverley Lawrence
- 10 James Heggitt
- 11 Alex Kirby
- 12 Ashley Brooks
- 13 James Haggart

- 14 Martin Frankland (co-opted)
- 15 Carolyn Kirk (co-opted)

Reports received.

Received a report from the Secretary to the Sidesmen and Sideswomen and to elect persons to serve for that ensuing year: Again, there was no secretary. A list of people has been created from those currently generously offering their time as Sidesmen and Sideswomen. This was read to the meeting:

The meeting accepted the elections.

Becky asked for any person interested in undertaking the Secretary of the Sides persons role to contact her.

Received the PCC Secretary's report on the proceedings of the Council during the year now ended: within the Financial Report for the year ended 2024 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 2024, together with a statement of the funds and property of the Council. The accounts were presented by Anne Mansfield (Treasurer) and were accepted by the meeting.

Received the Stewardship Report: See APCM Report 2024. Becky thanked Susan Walker for her work throughout the year on compiling this report.

Received the Electoral Roll Report: see Annual Report 2024.

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: See APCM Report 2024. The major item noted was the addition of the screen. There have been ongoing problems with the crypt flooding.

Received a report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod: APCM Report 2024

Reports were also received from all the main services and activities – see Annual Report for details.

Vicar's Report: Becky Lumley briefly went through the reports submitted for 2024, with the contribution of some volunteers present, who summarised their reports verbally. See Annual Report 2024 for details.

Summary - see Vicars report in main report.

Becky highlighted the church's broad ministry, in 2024, and the importance of listening through the annual survey, which offered positive insights. The church is committed to ongoing development, despite any challenges which we may face.

The team that leads worship is amazing. All of the worship team, ministry staff, and background helpers are highly appreciated. Online ministry continues to thrive, with outreach on Facebook and prayer sessions, and special recognition went to Alice Lee for her contributions.

Daily mission includes weddings, baptisms, and funerals; while weddings have declined nationally, baptisms have increased.

The detailed reports from musicians and leadership teams show strong traditional and contemporary worship and sincere thanks were given to Berry Lewis and Kathryn Arrowsmith-Cooper. Both traditional and contemporary are held in celebration.

Children and youth ministries, are extensive and impactful, fostering growth and belonging with over 100 children regularly involved. Sunday groups and CLCGB; led by Anne and Mel, bringing faith together. Teenagers who attend independently have demonstrated remarkable development.

Discipleship groups remain essential and are the backbone of the church, with active faith growth and ongoing prayer through prayer groups, social media channels, social groups, home groups and much more. All of the above coordinated by dedicated volunteers.

Carolyn Kirk, in Vintage, has built a vibrant ministry. This is supported by social groups like coffee and craft gatherings, which strengthen community ties. Susan Walker and Gill Gregory manage bookings and facility upkeep for outreach initiatives. Susan was also thanked for looking after the Gift Aid and Stewardship, ensuring generous giving supports key ministries.

Anne Mansfield, after ten years as Treasurer, is stepping down but will continue supporting the church; her successor is Richard Mattock. Formal thanks were expressed to Anne, for her generosity and kindness in helping to keep the church going and in particular for assistance with the restoration projects.

Matters of general church interest:

1. No questions were received; there were no further comments and the meeting was closed.