

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HOGHTON

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

28th April 2019

REPORTS

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CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the blessings of our Lord and Saviour be with us always.

Opening thoughts

We continue to work with the Diocese to find a priest for this parish. There have been discussions with Archdeacon Mark to look at possible options and work done with Grant Ashton, Assistant Archdeacon, to review our MAP and Mission Statement.

Youth Ministry

Our children numbers have increased since we relaunched as HHTHH. It starts earlier than the main service and lasts for half an hour every week during term time. It takes place in church at the back, with the exception of the second Sunday when it is in the hall to avoid clashing with the communion service already taking place. Our thanks go to Howard, Donna, Sue Leigh and Gill Tasker who are the mainstays of leadership. It is a delight to see the parents not only staying with the children rather than leaving but taking an active part. It was a delight to see the adult's involvement in the Christmas service.

Music

We continue to be blessed with music at all our services and thank Donna for her contributions. During her absence from services we have used CDs. We would like to thank the Singing Group for their continued singing during communion services.

We have the bells rung most Sundays to call us to worship. We are delighted that the numbers have swelled recently due to the request for additional ringers for Remembrance Sunday; thank you to all who came forward. If anyone else would like to join them, please speak to Raymond, Viv or Donna and offer your services.

Finance

We are still financially solvent and again have not touched our reserves. As we have done in recent years, we make the plea for as many of the congregation as possible to pay by Standing Order and those who pay income tax to consider Gift Aiding their contributions. There are forms at the back of church you can fill in to do this; we are happy to help you complete them. If you do your banking online, it is very easy to set up a standing order. We are still without a treasurer; hence the request made last year for collection amounts to be published in the church magazine is ongoing.

Ministry Matters

As with previous years, we have continued to cover for Communion services as much as possible so as to ensure continuity with our service pattern. John Darch led most of the services until, his retirement and move out of the diocese. Cover was then arranged using a curate for the first Sunday and Canon David Gibb for the 4th Sunday; this sadly was short lived due to the curate being required elsewhere and David's decision to move. We are most grateful to our stalwarts, Jeff Fearnley for covering the 1st Sunday and John Scott for the 4th. The 9.00am service is still the most difficult to cover and we are grateful to Marc Wolverson for his assistance. As ever, we are grateful to Howard

and Christine for leading the other services as well as dealing with Baptisms, funerals and house visits. We held a mission weekend around the time of harvest when we were led in our services by Bishop Julian. One of the highlights for us was the visit he made round the parish collecting for the local foodbank. This was arranged by some of our youngsters and we have nothing but praise for Matt, Holly, James and Vicky who organised, promoted and did all the work with the collection. Such was additional food collected that we took three carloads to the foodbank on the Monday. Thanks also to Christine who facilitated visits by Bishop Julian to some of our congregation who are unable to attend church.

Servants and Service

We give thanks to Ray and Viv for the general upkeep of the church, to Veronica and the ladies who arrange the flowers each week, to the Mothers Union for all the work they do, to the coffee rota for providing refreshments, to our welcomers for handing out the books and counting collections.

Social Life

Our social life continues to thrive; we held another jigsaw festival which sadly was not as well attended as previous. Bishop Julian with his wife Heather joined us for several meals over the harvest weekend. For more years than we can remember, Russell and Sylvia have brought us a Christmas quiz; this has been a major source of church funds and our grateful thanks go to them and the team who assist bringing these events.

The Future

As mentioned earlier in this report, we are still without a priest. However, our neighbours at Higher Walton have also been without a priest since Simon Hunt's retirement in September and we were asked to look at the possibility of sharing a priest with them. Both PCCs met and discussed the idea of plurality which met with approval on all sides so formal proposals from each PCC have been sent to the diocese. These proposals will be discussed by the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee before a consultation process is set in motion by the Church Commissioners. We will be interviewing a candidate tomorrow and hope to bring positive news to you in the near future. We ask for your continuing prayer that a positive outcome may be achieved.

Once again, we make the plea for volunteers to join us in leading this church. We have mentioned that we need a treasurer and we have been operating without deputy wardens for quite a while now. If you believe you are being called to fill any of the roles within this church, please don't hesitate to come and talk to us; we are always available.

Finally

Thank you for your support and prayers during the past year.

May the Blessing of Almighty God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon and with us and those that we know, love and hold dear, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Bob Collins

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Representatives for Hoghton Holy Trinity at Deanery Synod in 2018/2019 were Tim Burridge, Bob Collins, Veronica Roper and Howard Watson.

Deanery Synod met three times during the year in June, November and February. The November meeting was hosted by Hoghton Holy Trinity and also saw Tim take his first meeting as Lay Chair.

Each meeting had a 'guest speaker'; the Reverend Canon Dr. Simon Cox, Area Dean of Blackpool; the Right Reverend Jill Duff, Suffragan Bishop of Lancaster and David Barlow the Chair of Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance. Although each spoke on various matters and delivered their message in different ways each had a common theme which highlighted the need for everyone to work together.

Copies of the minutes of Deanery Synod meetings are available for those wishing to have further insight into the meetings of Deanery Synod.

If there is an issue or matter that you would like to progress within the church then please raise it with one of the Deanery Synod representatives.

Tim Burridge

FABRIC REPORT

Substantial investigation work has been undertaken to establish the problem with the church drains and to seek a remedy. An investigatory excavation (by Colin Braithwaite, IWA,) in the pavement outside Church has revealed that the drain from the Walmsley Vault feeds into a soakaway with a stone slab on top; this was silted up and following clearance of the obstruction has cleared fairly quickly. Bob and Raymond are monitoring this to ascertain if this is the sole reason for the drainage problem.

There is work planned to maintain and improve the path lights; this is currently awaiting planning permission from Chorley Council.

Although functioning correctly the church heating system is not performing adequately. Investigation has been commenced into improving or updating the heating system; initial findings by John Pearson indicate that this is likely to be a substantial cost item. Investigations into costs and options for the heating system are ongoing.

The Lychgate roof is still awaiting repair and is scheduled for action in the coming months.

Stephen Ormerod remains the contractor responsible for the maintenance of the church grounds and continues to carry out his work out in an excellent manner.

It has been noted that the church hall carpet is in need of attention; this will be progressed at the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Finally, as ever we are indebted to Raymond for his continued and often unseen work and knowledge of the church. Without his awareness and actions with regards to various items some work could have easily turned from minor cost to major expense.

Tim Burridge

SECRETARY'S REPORT

PCC met ten times during the last year. There were no Standing Committee Meetings.

Electoral Roll: The electoral roll is renewed every six years. If you wish to be included, you MUST fill out a form; Even if you have been on the roll for many years, you must still fill out a form. At the moment the figure for the new roll stands at 103

Vacancy. Meetings have been held with All Saints, Higher Walton, to explore and discuss the possibility of Plurality, and this seems to be a sensible way forward. There is also a scheduled interview with a possible candidate in the next couple of weeks.

Vision 2026. This is to celebrate the Diocese 100th year in 2026. Gill Tasker our Vision Champion is working hard for ideas and initiatives for the longer term.

Social. Lots of events happening during the year, more from their report.

Website. We need your photographs, and news items for the website. Speak to Viv or Tim.

I would like to thank our dedicated team who work so hard looking after all that goes on in Church, mainly, Tim, Bob, Christine, Howard, Donna, Raymond and Viv.

Judith Pearson

SOCIAL TEAM REPORT

The Social Group organise events during the year, with the aim of raising funds for Church and also to organise purely social events so we can perhaps get to know one another a little more.

Table Top Sale 15th April: £196.10

Coffee Morning 12th May: Proceeds were donated to MAF Approximately £181

Family Party Queens Birthday: 6th June:

Summer Fair & Jigsaw Festival 6th, 7th & 8th July Proceeds £810.23

Harfest Weekend: 12th- 14th October: This was a non-profit weekend, lots of events over the weekend

10th March Pancake Sunday: Was a lot of fun, and everyone enjoyed themselves. I think this one may be on the cards again for next year.

Christmas Fair 8th December: £783.43

Christmas Quiz Saturday 15th December: As always organised by Father and Mrs Christmas i.e. Russell and Sylvia. Thank you to you both funds raised approx. £900

We try and have lots of fun during our events throughout the year, some are much better attended than others and we are always looking for new ideas, so if you would like to be involved, or have any suggestions, they would be most welcome.

The Social Team would like to say a huge thankyou to all who volunteer throughout the year, (you know who you are). We could not manage without you. If you have any ideas for events, social or fundraising, please let us know.

Judith Pearson

HHTHH REPORT

(HOGHTON HOLY TRINITY HALF HOUR)

Our HHTHH has continued to meet every Sunday at 9:15 for our half hour worship of God. I am pleased to say that we have 15 children from seven families registered with us. Most of our children are under nine years old, so we have to cater the material to fit all the ages that are present. Our Sunday club also uses the parents who attend each week to help with the practical work.

We usually start our worship with a modern hymn followed by a short video on the topic that is being studied. There is then a selection of colouring pages for the younger members, word searches and crosswords for the older children to do. Some topics lend themselves more towards craft work and one occasions all our worship will be given over to that work.

So far this year we have studied, prayer; some of the healing miracles of Jesus; the feeding of the five thousand; Remembrance; Samson, Samuel and David from the old testament and the Easter story.

We also prepare and run two church services a year. One at Christmas and the other, at the end of our teaching year, in July. In these services both parents and children participate in the leading of the service and in some dramatic part of the service. Our aim is to include all of our HHTHH, including the younger children who are below three years old in these productions, with all of the children taking part and most of the adults.

The church continues to supply an advent calendar and a Christmas present for the children and Easter egg at Easter.

My thanks go to Sue Leigh and Gill Tasker, who help out each week with the planning and running of HHTHH and to Viv and Raymond Clayton who open the church and help to get the church ready for us.

HHTHH meet every Sunday at 9:15 except for a break at Christmas, Easter and the Summer Holidays. All our sessions last for half an hour. If you want any more details please speak to Howard, Sue or Gill and we will be pleased to help.

Howard Watson

BELLRINGERS REPORT

Once again, we have had a successful year and have rung for almost all Sunday services.

The "Ringing Remembers" recruiting campaign, where there was symbolic replacement of the 1.400 ringers lost in the First World War, has recruited over 2.000 new ringers throughout the country. We have done our bit by gaining 3 new ringers through this, Deborah Preston, Ian Murray and John Pearson, while Alison Harrigan-Doyle returned to ringing having learned to ring at Ribchester some years ago. Due also to the return to ringing of John and Jan Reeves after a short break, we now have 10 of our own ringers, and this has resulted in our being able to ring all 8 bells many Sunday mornings, and our practice nights on Wednesdays being well attended. We are still also joined sometimes by visiting ringers from Whittle le Woods, without whom we would have struggled to ring at all on some Sundays in the past.

We have rung for 6 weddings during the past year and one funeral. We have had a band of visiting ringers on 2 occasions as part of their tours of the area, and the annual Lancashire Association training day took place at Hoghton in March, where there was a good turnout of improving ringers and helpers.

We have rung the bells half-muffled during Holy Week, Remembrance Sunday and for a Nora Sawle's funeral.

Hand bells were rung at the Carol service. We took part in the 6-bell tower bell striking competition in June and 3 of our ringers were also in the 8-bell competition but we were unplaced in either this time.

On Remembrance Sunday we opened up the tower to anyone wanting to come up and take a look at what goes on, and also to see the view from the top of the tower. About 40 people came up and as it was a clear day they were rewarded with spectacular views.

On Maundy Thursday evening, at the request of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Prime Minister, we and many other towers around the country rang for 7 minutes to show our support for the situation of Notre Dame following the horrific fire there, which destroyed the 3 bells which were in the spire, although fortunately the bells in the towers were saved. Our ringers on this occasion were Ray Clayton, Viv Clayton, Ian Murray, Stephen Niven (from Higher Walton), John Pearson and Judith Pearson.

Last year the bell fittings were cleaned and painted. This was last done in 1970. Also, a start has been made on re-painting the ringing room.

24th May 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, and there are plans to ring the bells to celebrate the occasion.

Raymond & Viv Clayton

STAMP TRIMMING.

Many thanks to all those who save their stamps and so give a group of us the chance to meet each month to trim them and have a chat. We are an ecumenical group and the clipping of scissors and conversation compete!

It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy. But the fact is that it can! Over the past 30 years, TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised more than £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided to people in desperate need. I have just delivered several weighty bags of stamps, postcards and change to Leprosy Headquarters and they were extremely grateful. So do come and join us on the fourth Wednesday of most months, or if you are unable to do so keep saving stamps, postcards and foreign money left over from holidays.

Elisabeth Sawle

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

We have had a very interesting year with excellent speakers arranged by Judith, it is not an easy job, thank you very much.

We had sadness in the branch Valerie died recently after a long illness bravely borne – she was always willing to do things, very good Literature rep & loved the lunches with Averil who very kindly brought her, hopefully she will continue to come.

A big thank you for all your donations of items & the time spent in making the stalls the Summer & Christmas Fairs such a success. Thank you also for all the cakes that you make for the stalls on Church Parade Sundays, unfortunately there does not seem as many people coming in for coffee nowadays so we have reduced the number of times we have a stall – ' though we are having a stall for the Missionary weekend & also the Caravan Fund – Gill Cass make ducks, hedgehogs etc /Easter eggs for the caravan fund, thank you very much indeed. As the caravan provides holidays for needy families – one our objects – helping families in adversity.

Christmas meal was at the Boars Head which again was excellent – thank you Judith for arranging it.

We continue to provide toilet bags for the Medical Assessment Unit at Royal Preston but we have come to a full stop as we combs & flannels – we have loads of everything else

Make a Mothers 'Day again was a great success – the money was sent to help various projects -- all money raised for MU goes directly to the projects or the Diocesan workers e.g. Emergency Relief fund, there is no middle man, thank you Judith for organising it.

Wedding cards & Crosses in your pocket are given to newly married couples at the time of their wedding in Church – Pauline makes them – thanks you so much

Baptism cards are given to children up to their 5th anniversary – thank you Janet for this important work also we present a book to each child during the baptism service also Cross in your Pocket to the parents & god parents

Judith organised the summer outing to Rufford Hall which was very interesting – thank you Judith

We continue to have our lunches on the 1st Tuesday of each month & we visit different venues or sometimes return to a previous one, it is enjoyed by 8 to 10 people – it is a fellowship time with members & friends – do come along & bring a friend we would love to see you.

The Big project of the year was the POPPY project – it was so successful only started by putting 17 poppies on a wreath – over 900 poppies were produced with the help of the congregation, friends & WI – it was amazing so many + comments – fellowship – we have had a Thank you card from the PCC.

We raised money for a new caravan & the money was presented at the Mary Sumner Day service again brilliant

I would like to thank all the members & friends for their hard work & support which makes our branch very successful & to the excellent committee who are very hard working & committed to their individual roles & fantastic support you all give to me & thank you Judith for taking over from me while I was off sick & all the kind wishes & support – We have missed Jill Cass for a few months as she has been in Greece with the family where she has done a sterling job in very difficult & sad circumstances – we are in contact with her my email & she is coming back on the 6th Feb – we do miss her input n to the branch & beyond , Also we miss Pauline who has not been able to come because of John been very poorly also she has had an op & is doing very well – we took her flowers & cards & we do update her with what is going on & again thank you Pauline for all the work you do . As I do this report it makes me realise what a lot of work, we have done brilliant

As you know MU is the largest International Women's Faith Organisation in the world & has increased to 4 million members in 83 countries BUT we must not rest on our laurels – Lynne Tenby now retired WWP has been awarded a OBE for her work over the last 6 years – she has worked very hard .The new WWP is Sheila Harper from Guyana she was born in UK – she attended University in Guyana & she is Physiotherapist but after 17 years she wanted to devote her life to MU – there was lovely thanksgiving service at the Cathedral in Guyana - - it is the first time the WWP comes from overseas she is a Central Trustee.

Veronica Roper