



St John's Clayton

Making Followers of Jesus

Who make a Difference Wherever they are



Life's a peach, not an orange.

Annual Report
Year Ending 31st December 2017

WELCOME to our annual reports for the year ending December 2017.

It is our hope that as you read this report you will catch a glimpse of all that God has been doing in us and through us, as we have sought to be devoted Followers of Jesus.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

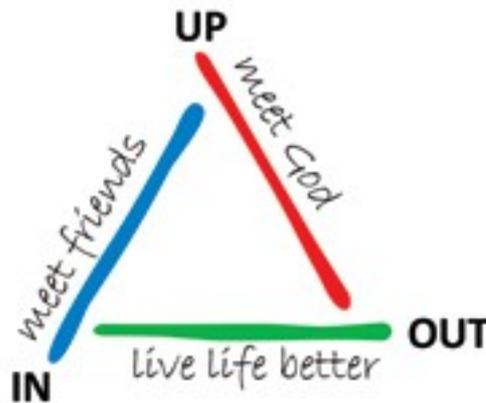
St John the Baptist Clayton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Vaughan Pollard, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We exist to make Followers of Jesus who make a difference wherever they are and our aim is to see Growth numerically, spiritually and in service to others.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become disciples of Jesus Christ in and through the activities of St John's.

In particular we encourage ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community:

- In Worship and Prayer. (UP)
- In supporting one and other as we learn more about the Gospel & develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. (IN)
- By actively seeking to love our neighbours. (OUT)



To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St John's Church & Community Rooms.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Throughout the year the PCC has promoted, encouraged, facilitated and supported a wide variety of activities:

In our **WORSHIP** we have endeavoured to provide a variety of services and experiences that are relevant to our situation at this time.

We have seen growth in our intergenerational group of **Instrumentalists and Singers** who have encouraged us to enter in to God's presence in our regular gatherings.

We have also been thankful for a small group of **AV Technicians** beavering away in the background.

The **Prayer Ministry Team** provide prayer for healing in our Communion Services at 10.30am.

Midweek our **Open Church Project** created space in church for quiet prayer and an opportunity to meet with others over refreshments. Twice a month we held a Communion Service prior to Open Church.

Opportunities for **LEARNING AND GROWTH** have been evident in a number of guises.

Discipleship Groups have continued to meet in people's homes Studying Scripture and Sharing their lives together.

A men's discipleship group was formed.

"We have prayed together, asked each other discipleship questions, explored topics and studied scripture. The 6 week prayer course was a particular highlight. However, above all, having the support of one another has been a blessing to all both in our meetings and at other times."

Others from the more established groups commented:

"We have become a small family that is a part of a big family and we have learnt so much along the way studying the bible regularly. Praying for each other and members of our church and fellowship is really a support and gives much comfort. It is a pleasure to meet every week and have some me time and God time. We have learnt we are not on our own in times of need, we each have our problems but we can discuss, share and hand them over to God. We are truly blessed Thankyou Lord."

"We appreciate regular meetings to grow in faith and knowledge, by studying together and by confidential, open discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. We enjoy the fellowship and mutual support, and the opportunity to respond to the needs of others by prayer and in practical ways."

"What we all seem to get from our meeting is the opportunity to study and discuss simple spiritual things and gain fresh understanding as well as a chat and catch up about church family matters i.e. who is ill who needs a bit of help."

Mothers Union

In 2017 our branch celebrated their 90th Anniversary with a wonderful display of articles, posters, photographs and various artefacts showing what Mothers' Union in Clayton has been achieving over the years. A Sunday service was led by members and two were presented with 40 year certificates.

In our monthly meetings we have had a variety of speakers on different subjects and in January we incorporated the Wave of Prayer into our Communion Service.

To raise money for the Mothers' Union charities we held a strawberry tea in June and a coffee morning in October raising over £700 in total.

Kidzone

What a joy and blessing it is to have 25+ children registered to our Kidzone groups.

The children are an inspiration to us. Jesus said, "let the children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt 19 v 14).

It has been rewarding to follow identical themes in Kidzone and mainstream Church from July until February. We have so much to learn from each other. Praise the Lord for the opportunities he gives us.

The Experience

Our weekly meetings are well attended by a wide age range with a wide range of Christian understanding and experience. Both of which bring joys and challenges.

- Our leadership Team has developed in confidence and support for one and other.
- We joined 'Unite' a monthly gathering of small church youth groups from around Bradford.
- We have merged with Clayton Baptist Youth Group.

Our sponsored **Uniformed Organisations** continue to meet in the Community Rooms;

1st Clayton Brownies Highlights - giving decorated pots with pansies to the Lunch Club, baking, growing sunflowers and gaining their World Guiding Badge, which included making contact with a Girl Scout Troop in Kentucky. The Brownies have had great fun writing, making gifts and creating a Pack newspaper to send. They have received lots of exciting parcels back too.

61st Bradford South (Clayton Parish Church) Scout Group The Scout Group, has 60+ YP, aged 6 to 18yrs attending activities helping to develop them physically, mentally and spiritually, this includes 4 14-18yr who help run sections on a weekly basis as Young Leaders. There have been Nights Away adventures, including Winter Camp and Beaver Sleepovers.

We welcome visitors from Church to see what we do, watching activities or joining in one of the many in-depth discussions.

The **Clayton St John Art Class** is a group of amateur artists who paint for the sheer enjoyment of painting. We paint in the very friendly and casual atmosphere of the Community Rooms each Thursday morning.

The **Community Choir** goes from strength to strength.

We are always welcoming new members and the total number of singers varies from 20 to 40.

We had many events in 2017 including concerts in church and in the community and the Dickensian Market. We have a number of events planned for 2018. We meet in the Community Rooms, Thursdays at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

The church is heavily involved in the life of our local **Primary Schools**.

Early in 2017 Clayton CE Primary School was evaluated as *Inadequate* by Ofsted and the School became an Academy with Bradford Diocesan Academy Trust. There have been a number of significant changes throughout the year:

- The school was renamed **Clayton St John CofE Primary School**.
- The Governing Body has become smaller and we currently have 3 active members of the church playing their part, the Vicar has become Vice Chair, Anne Hilton is a Staff Governor and Emma Mavin is a Parent Governor.
- The Senior Leadership Team has developed and a great deal of support is being given to the Staff and Children as we look to the future

The Clergy Team are involved in **Collective Worship** and delivery of the curriculum via occasional lessons at Clayton St John Primary and **Clayton Village Primary**.

The church also runs **Clayton C of E Care Club** a before and after school provision, early in 2017 after a review of some of its policies it received a GOOD Ofsted assessment.

The **REWIND** to Christmas (year 6) and Easter (year 5) events have been a huge success this year. They told the true Christmas and Easter stories in fun, interactive and engaging ways to the students. Both events reached the 120 children in that year group across the three Clayton schools. A great team effort from volunteers from churches in Clayton.

Through our **PASTORAL CARE** we aim to show our love for our neighbour. This care reveals itself through a whole host of individuals in the life of the church.

The **Pastoral Care Team**, alongside others, aims to love and care in Jesus name. We offer friendship and support to those who are ill, bereaved, housebound or just want someone alongside. We visit people in their homes, care homes and in hospital. We also run an emergency prayer chain.

At the beginning of November the **Memorial Service** again provided a special time to remember loved ones who had died recently. At Christmas time we also provided a **Blue Christmas** Service attended by 67 people who due to bereavement find the time of year difficult.

In conjunction with our **Ecumenical Partners** we have led monthly Services at Rowanberries Methodist Homes for the Aged and Holly Park Care Home and have regularly visited individuals who are sick or housebound in their homes and /or in hospitals.

Throughout 2017 we gave financial and prayer support to a number of **MISSIONARY AGENCIES** at work at home and abroad.

The agencies for 2017 were:

Bradford Street Angels, Innchurches, Christians Against Poverty, Reach Beyond, Barnabas Fund, Compassion, Christian Aid, Bradford Metropolitan Foodbank and The Children's Society.

OUTREACH in 2017

In line with our **Plan for Growth** we held a series of **Social Events** to help people to come to know us in an informal atmosphere. Between Ascension Day & Pentecost Sunday we played our part in the international **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative, praying for renewal in people's lives. In September an open air **Family Fun Day** took place in the Church grounds this was attended by many people from the local Community. Across the Autumn we ran two **Alpha** Courses, one in the Community Rooms and another in a local sheltered housing scheme to help people explore what the Christian faith means for them. The **Lunch Club** has had another successful year. We usually get 30+ members each week. This makes us self-financing, paying room hire and we were able to offer a free Christmas lunch. Everyone enjoys the home cooked lunches and fellowship which includes a free raffle and quiz. A big thank you to all the helpers who make this possible. If you are interested in volunteering to be a relief helper then please do get in touch.

We were approached by the local community to become involved in work on the Thornaby Estate and in May 2017 volunteers from the church took part in free fun day to engage the community and invite them to our new **'Place of Welcome**, which we have held every Thursday from 10- 12noon. What started as just a handful of people coming for a free tea/ coffee, biscuit and a chat, is now, a lively space to chat, have breakfast, play board games etc. Last year also saw the Hub provide Kids' Breakfasts, host a walking bus for local primary schools, Chess Club, Craft Club, a story time session provided by Lidget Green Children's Centre and a Monday Café. We also had a vintage coffee morning raising funds for Macmillan. With more volunteers, it has great potential for 2018.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

158 on the Electoral Roll. 1 new member has joined.

There are 50 male and 108 female members on the roll of which 43 live outside the parish.

Our condolences to the families of June Gallop & Betty Hartley as we record their passing on to glory

FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS

2017 has been a particularly frustrating year as far as the Fabric of the building is concerned. There has been slow progress towards the repairs needed to the south roof & roof above the church lounge & similarly the Garden of Rest extension/wall conversion. Please be assured that the PCC & Buildings Committee are doing all that they can to move things along as swiftly as possible within the rules/regulations imposed upon them.

Goods, Ornaments & Registers are all in good order. Current Safeguarding & Childline information, along with an up to date church copyright licence is now on display at both public entrances to the site as recommended.

As always, there are lots of people who volunteer their time each week in many ways to help with the upkeep of the church building & grounds & ensure the smooth running of the Sunday services & other church events. A special thank you to those who cleaned up after the organ repairs earlier in the year.

Alison Birkinshaw & Neil Topham 2017 Churchwardens

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** met 11 times during the year.

Most of our discussion focussed on our Plan for Growth and the challenges we face in keeping our church buildings fit for purpose.

PCC members who have served since the last APCM are:

Incumbent:	Revd Vaughan Pollard	Chairman
Wardens:	Neil Topham & Alison Birkinshaw	
Elected Members:	Brian Cresswell David Fox Joanne Gilpin Lynn Hammill John Lynch Richard Scatchard Penny Silson Paul Sunderland Charles Wilkinson	Treasurer Health & Safety Officer Safeguarding Officer PCC Secretary
Deanery Representatives	Kevin Appleyard Angela Hamilton Jeanette Sunderland	
Curate in Training	Revd Timothy Roberts	
Readers	Brian Horsfall Anne Hilton Angela Smith	Deputy Safeguarding Officer
<i>Co-opted Members</i>	Revd Pamela Coles	Associate Priest

DEANERY SYNOD / BRADFORD EPISCOPAL AREA FORUM

In our Deanery meetings this year we focussed on the Diocesan Plan for Growth based on two seminal Church of England Reform & Renewal Reports: 'Setting God's People Free' & 'Serving Together'

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Richard Scatchard is Health and Safety Officer.

This has continued to be a regular agenda item in our Parochial Church Council meetings and responses have been made when concerns have been raised.

DISABILITY

We have commenced a review of our Disability procedures in relation to our church plant. A visit of the Diocesan Disability Officer took place and we have formed a Team to take recommendations forward.

SAFEGUARDING

All appropriate personnel have completed Confidentiality Declarations and DBS checks are being undertaken as required. As a regular agenda item on our Parochial Church council we have reviewed and updated policies in line with Diocesan and National guidelines. Module 1 Training Sessions/Updates took place at St Johns in January 2018.

**St John the Baptist Parish Church Clayton.
Clayton Lane, Bradford. West Yorkshire. BD14 6AX.**

Deanery of Outer Bradford

Diocese of Leeds

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