

**Working Groups Annual Governance Reports &
Deanery Synod Report
Presented to the PCC on 18 March 2024
& the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 22 April 2024**

Buildings & Fabric Working Group Chair: Jonathan Leach

Vice Chair: Keith Blanshard (and PCC)

PCC: Liz Barker, John Farrall, Andrew Coombes, Alison Hodgson, Wendy Smith

Others: Adele Birkinshaw, Karen Fritz, Alison Walters

During 2023 the Building and Fabric Working Group have, with the assistance of the Church Wardens and others, continued to maintain and improve both Church buildings, and the grounds.

Work on the extension at St Andrew's continued and as the project nears completion, it can now be seen how this will improve the building. Thanks are due to Keith Blanshard and his team for their efforts. You can read more detail of this below.

Thanks are also due to all those who have in any way contributed to the work of the Group.

Jonathan Leach
Chair

St Andrew's Extension and Refurbishment Work 2023

In 2023 significant progress was made in building the North aisle of St Andrew's. We were blessed with grants, fund raising and kind donations by people and organisations. We were also blessed with volunteer skilled and unskilled labour to keep the cost of this self-build project down without compromising on the vision for the building and its surroundings.

Brickwork started above ground level in February. This continued until April. We were thankful for free scaffold hire. The windows openings and undercroft doors were starting to take shape. The building of the insulated roof, roof trusses and roof lights continued in April and May.

The larger windows and roof lights all positioned opposite each arch will give more daylight into the worship area. Recycled slate tiles were fitted in June. This gave us almost a waterproof building envelope. We built a temporary exterior door to allow construction to continue without the need to gain access through the existing church and causing disruption while work carried on.

A temporary wall of plastic sheets and insulation was built on the inside of the existing building. This gave us the opportunity to remove the existing brickwork between the arches without effecting the activities of the existing building. A nervous time taking out one brick at a time. Our excitement was two-fold a) the infill brick arches were made to come out one day and were not fixed into the retained brickwork and b) we uncovered 4 stone pillars built behind the external brickwork. These individual pillars were in very good condition and will be in keeping with the existing church pillars after some cleaning and repair. After removing the old temporary brickwork (built 1937) we started to lay an insulated concrete floor in July. Crittall windows were fitted into oak frames in August/September. Our focus then was the fitting out of the inside. This comprised of the first fix electrics and plumbing with a timber boarded ceiling. The cladding of the roof trusses started to take shape. We also carefully removed the old oak Vestry screen from the existing building and reused it to form the new vestry in the extension. The advantage to this move is we will see more daylight in the worship area on the South side which is not usually seen.

Our work and fundraising will continue into 2024 when this part of our improvement to St Andrew's will be complete.

Keith Blanshard
Vice Chair

Eco Working Group

Chair: Shared Role

PCC: Peter Aspin, Alison Hodgson, Julia Stainforth

Others: Trish Leach, Jane Mandley, Tony Street, Judith Twist, Tom Walters, Molly Simister

We have continued our focus as a church, which cares for the environment, mindful of the Church of England's 5th Mark of Mission: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

The Green Group has continued with a name-change to Eco Group and new members have come forward to join. Having achieved bronze 'eco church' status last year, we are now making progress towards achieving the silver award level.

A Snowdrop Festival was held again in February over a weekend. There were many visitors including many families. As well as the snowdrops, there were outdoor activities including making bird feeders based on pinecones to hang in gardens by children. Visitors were welcomed into All Saints where refreshments were available. Any donations went to the church. This year we invited visitors to write a verse from Mark, chapter 4 as part of a project to hand-write the Gospel for King Charles for his coronation.

In June we held a 'Caring for God's Acres - Churches count on Nature' event with the focus on St Andrew's. The event started with Forest church and continued into the afternoon. Recordings were made of insects, plants, birds and trees that were seen. There has been a bat walk in the grounds of All Saints church one summer evening at dusk using special equipment which allowed us to identify the bats in the church yard. A 'dawn walk' also took place in May to listen to the dawn chorus.

The Group took part in the Green Corridors Project with a stall at New Earswick involving several local groups connected with the river Foss and surroundings. In October, a working group cleared areas in All Saints church yard. Some interesting types of fungi were discovered!

A Fairtrade stall has been open on several Sundays in both churches after services selling food items, gifts and clothing. Bicycle racks and Bird Feeders have been installed at Saint Andrew's.

Looking to the future, whilst we have developed well in the past year on ecological aspects, our aim is to balance our emphasis for green and environmental issues with those of Fairtrade, Justice and becoming Net Carbon Zero. In response, a sub-group has been established to consider how we become a carbon neutral church by 2030. Several options are being considered with the direction of travel towards full electrification at both churches. The costs are likely to be challenging.

Julia Stainforth
Co-Chair

LYCIG – Leading Your Church into Growth Working Group

Chair: Rev'd. Chris Park (and PCC)

Clergy: Rev'd. Ian Birkinshaw (and PCC)

PCC: Alan Adamson (from April 2023), Peter Aspin (up to April 2023), James Simister (Youth & Pioneer Leader), Juliet Wright

Others: Philip Dennison (from December 2023), Ian Richardson (up to April 2023), Pauline Simmons, Heather Wraight

Much of the ministry of All Saints and St Andrew's centres around the Children and Youth Work, Cake and Company, Presence, and the developing Eco Group. We have a very large fringe at All Saints and St Andrew's.

In addition, the LYCIG Group (Leading Your Church into Growth) has organised other initiatives to develop the mission of the Church. Highlights included:

The Gospel of Mark – The Rector performed his one man play in the Folk Hall on Maundy Thursday. Many members of the church took the opportunity to invite guests and the auditorium was full.

On this Rock – the material from this booklet was used to form the Autumn term sermon series. The LYCIG group are continuing to look at any practical lessons we can learn.

The LYCIG group are also exploring the things which the Youth & Pioneer Leader learned during his sabbatical about keeping our focus on children and young people, and how these lessons are put into practice.

Christmas Card Delivery - This year we ran a competition among the young people to design a Christmas card. These were then sent out via the church family to our 'people of peace'. We did not attempt the whole parish delivery this year in an attempt to focus our efforts.

Carol Service for York Against Cancer - Once again, we supported this event at the Ryedale Stadium. This was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to share something of the good news of Christmas with families and folk who may have been affected by Cancer.

Alpha - We ran Alpha during the first part of the year in St Andrew's with three guests.

Rev'd. Chris Park
Chair

Pastoral Care Working Group

Chair: Vacant

Clergy: Rev'd. Judy Lindsey (and PCC)

PCC: Barbara Hemingway

Others: Graham Baylis, Ruth Mear, Joan Sargent, Janet Stephen, Glenise Thompson

There continues to be no Chairperson in place since the last Chair stepped down in August 2022. This Group has therefore not met during the past year.

However, the Pastoral Visiting Team have met regularly to identify ongoing needs and to strengthen communication networks in order to provide a better understanding of what the pastoral needs are and how these might effectively be met, and by whom. As the pastoral needs always outstrip our resources, we continue our aim to recruit new helpers and visitors, and to invite all those who are involved in pastoral care visiting to attend training events to refresh skills.

This year it has been a real encouragement to resume pastoral care on a face to face, personal front without restrictions or lockdowns. We have been able to meet regularly conducting home visits again for those unable to get to church and supporting the care and practical needs for members of our congregation. We have also resumed regular visits to care homes in York where several elderly members are now long-term residents.

Whilst the Pastoral Visiting Team itself has reduced in numbers at times, due to personal illness or family responsibilities, we consider that the whole church share in this important work, whether praying, shopping, cooking, home visiting, transporting to appointments, telephoning etc.

Our Small Groups, whom we consider to be the front line of pastoral care, and Staff Team also provided much needed care at times. The Telephone Prayer Chain operated as usual providing a means of urgent prayer and contact when needed.

We continue to receive many testimonies of kindnesses shown to one another and we are grateful to God for His many blessings to us and his protection on us in this important aspect of ministry.

Glenise Thompson & Rev'd. Judy Lindsey
Pastoral Visiting Team

Policy Management Group

Chair: Ben Griffiths (and PCC)

Clergy: Nil

PCC: Chris Clarke, Andrew Coombes

We have started by looking at the policies we already have and what we could do to improve the situation with them. This has involved a lot of discussion and we have now agreed on a format and structure which will involve all the documents being contained in one, easy to locate, document with some appendix items. We are currently in the process of transferring some of these policies to the new agreed format to see what we think and then will then have the not so small task of rewriting the remainder of the policies.

Hopefully by the time we are finished we will have something that is more usable, something that is easier to read and also to see any shortcomings or gaps in what we already have. This is a long-term goal but hopefully something we will be able to achieve as soon as possible. As always, prayer for guidance and perseverance would be much appreciated.

Ben Griffiths

Chair

Youth and Children's Working Group

Chair: Heather Wraight

Clergy: Chris Park (from December 2023)

Co-opted Youth & Children's Leader: James Simister

Co-opted Youth & Children's Intern: Tom Walters

Secretary: Sue Duffield

PCC: Liz Barker

Others: Jenny Kilmartin, Joy Tiffin, Sarah Griffiths (Ben for budget items), Robbie and Sarah O'Brien (from June 2023), Jane Mandley (until July 2023), Terence McDonough (from November 2023).

In 2023 the group met five times. Four of these followed our regular pattern: reports from James Simister and discussion of future plans; reports from leaders of the various Sunday and midweek activities; regular review of our expenditure against budget as well as setting one for 2024. We have an annual schedule for reviewing policies and procedures prior to submitting them to Standing Committee and continued to follow that. We spent some time considering the restarting of Brigade and were pleased to welcome Robbie and/or Sarah to the group.

The various changes to the membership of the group helped to strengthen it, though we would like to have another PCC member. Tom Walters was appointed as a Youth and Children's Intern in January and in July agreed to stay on until the end of the year. He made a very helpful contribution to our youth and children's work. In the second half of the summer term James had 6 weeks study leave and we were grateful for volunteers who stepped in to keep activities running while he was away. In August James and his wife Katy were leaders of the junior age York Christian Youth Holiday at Whithaugh Park with several of our young people going as either campers or leaders. In September Heyin Chun became an Intern for the whole church and became involved in some of the youth activities. The annual training morning in September particularly focused on James' report of his study leave, consideration of which is ongoing, as well as the annual Safeguarding refresher.

In November we were stunned when James announced that he would be leaving All Saints and St Andrew's in February 2024. An extra meeting was held in December specifically to consider the implications. Chris Park joined us and will continue as a member of the group.

Heather Wraight
Chair

Deanery Synod

Clergy: Rev'd. Ian Birkinshaw, Rev'd. Chris Park, Rev'd. Judy Lindsey

Lay Members: Peter Aspin (up to April 2023), Pamela Baylis (from April 2023), John Farrall

At our last APCM in April, we elected two lay members to Deanery Synod: John Farrall and Pamela Baylis.

Along with Clergy, Pam or I have attended on the four occasions Synod has met in the past year to consider a range of issues and to meet new staff changes. These have included an introduction to the new head of Strategic Transformations, who addressed the features of the Diocesan and Deanery Plans and facilitated an interactive session to identify some of the difficulties that are likely to arise and how they might impact on progress.

In April, the Synod was updated on the approval of the Deanery Plan, and received a presentation on Lay/Ordained Vocations from members of the Mission and Ministry Team and which included the different models of vocation and discernment into church ministry.

In July various elections to Deanery Leadership Team and the Diocesan Synod, plus presentation and discussions led by the Diocesan Growing Healthy Churches Advisor, on Growing Healthy Churches & Revitalise.

In October, there was a brief progress report on the Belfrey Impact Project (St. Michael le Belfrey) followed by a presentation about the climate crisis and the Church's response from A Rocha/Eco Church. There are currently over 6,000 churches engaged in the achievement of Bronze, Silver and/or Gold status. Our church has achieved Bronze status, and are working towards obtaining the silver award in 2024.

John Farrall
Lay Member