

Working Groups Annual Governance Reports

Presented to the PCC on 17 March 2025

& prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7 April 2025

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(up to April 2024), Karen Fritz, Alison Walters

During 2024 the Building and Fabric Working Group have, with the assistance of the Church Wardens and others, continued to maintain and improve both our Church buildings, and the grounds.

Work on the north aisle building extension at St Andrew's continued and was completed and opened for use in July. The new area extends the floor space whilst also adding a small refreshment kitchen, a new vestry, bench seating with heaters and storage and large windows and roof lights which improve the daylight throughout the building. Work then began to insulate and refurbish the south aisle with a boarded ceiling, new lighting, benches with heaters and new flooring. The badly leaking guttering on the south aisle was also replaced to match that of the north extension. Thanks are due to the many who have contributed in so many ways including providing labour, applying for grants, making contributions and providing encouragement. Work continues outside to landscape the garden and wildlife area alongside the new extension and the Sleeper Track.

Major restoration work was carried out at All Saints on the West Window. This involved removing panels and repairing sections as required by the last Quinquennial Inspection. Two new benches were installed in the church grounds in memory of church members, and they are well used. Improvements will continue next year to improve both our church buildings including consultations to reduce our carbon footprint.

Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the work of this Group or to the care of our buildings in any way this year.

Jonathan Leach
Chair

Green Group Working Group

Chair: Peter Aspin (and PCC)

PCC: Alison Hodgson, Elaine Harvie

Others: Trish Leach, Jane Mandley (up to Sept), Julia Stainforth Tony Street, Judith Twist, Tom Walters

Membership:

The Green Group is a designated 'Working Group' of the PCC and as such reports to the PCC regularly, including minutes of all its meetings. Currently the Chair and one additional Group Member are elected members of the PCC.

We have continued our focus as a church which cares for the environment and 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 returned to its original name, previously being called Eco Group and new members have come forward to join.

Activities:

The Snowdrop Festival was held again in February over a weekend. There were many visitors including young families. As well as the snowdrops, there were outdoor activities including making bird nest material dispensers to hang in gardens by children. Visitors were welcomed into All Saints Church where refreshments were available. Any donations went to the church and for use in "green projects" in the graveyard. Organ music was played by one of our organists. Visitors were encouraged to add prayers to a 'prayer tree', and prayers were said each hour.

In June we held a 'Caring for God's Acres - Churches Count on Nature' event with the focus on All Saints. The event started after the Sunday morning service and continued into the afternoon. Recordings were made of the insects, plants, birds and trees that were seen.

A bat walk was held in the grounds of All Saints church one summer evening at dusk. Special equipment allowed us to identify the bats in the churchyard. A 'dawn walk' also took place in May to listen to the dawn chorus.

A Fairtrade stall has been open after several Sunday Services in both churches. Food items, gifts and clothing were sold. Bicycle racks have been installed at All Saints; new Hedgehog Nests and Bird Feeders were installed at Saint Andrew's.

Having achieved the Bronze 'Eco Church' status two years ago, we have been making progress towards achieving the next level, Silver. This required a 50% level of achievement in each of seven categories – Worship, St Andrew's Building, All Saints Building, St Andrew's Land, All Saints Land, Lifestyle, and Community Working. At the end of the year news was received that we had been successful in achieving these standards, and the Church Website and Parish Noticeboards now carry the Eco Church Silver Award Logos.

The CofE has a target of achieving net carbon zero in the heating and lighting of its buildings by 2030. In response, a sub-group was set up to consider how we become a carbon-neutral church by this time. Several options are being considered and a draft plan developed. The costs of this task are currently estimated at around £90k over the next 5 years. If the PCC agrees to move this project forward, then there will be significant financial commitments required.

Safeguarding: The Group comply with Church Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and its training Requirements. The PCC Members of the Group complete three of the CofE online safeguarding modules: Basic Awareness, Foundations, Domestic Abuse. Training is renewed every 3 years.

Health & Safety: The Group ensures that Risk Assessments are completed where necessary and adhered to at all its events. In this last year, the following Assessments have been used – Outdoor Events, Events remote from our Church Sites and Visiting the Belltower. We have not been able to provide for onsite qualified first aid support but ensure that children are accompanied by an adult / parent / carer.

Financial: As a Working Group we were able to request an Annual Budget in support of our ongoing activities. Donations received at the Snowdrop Event are divided equally between the General Church Account and the Green Group Activities in All Saints Graveyard. The benches installed in the graveyard have been funded by family donations.

Julia Stainforth
Co-chair

Mission and Outreach

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

PCC: Alan Adamson, David Chettle, Steve and Carol Gosling (from April 2024), Juliet Wright

Others: Philip Dennison, Pauline Simmons, Heather Wraight

What was previously called the LYCIG (Leading Your Church Into Growth) Group has now been renamed the Mission and Outreach Group.

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

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

We are hoping to follow up on the work that James has done once the new Rector is in post.

Christmas Card Delivery - Like last year we created a Christmas Card which the church family were invited to deliver to their 'people of peace.' Inside there was a flier advertising all of our Christmas services. Like last year we did not attempt the whole parish delivery this year in an attempt to focus our efforts.

Carol Service for York Against Cancer – This year we had the service in All Saints because there is no longer an available space in 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 have been bereaved or in other ways effected by Cancer.

Hayley Owen Carol Service – We held a carol service in All Saints which was hosted by Hayley Owen Funeral Directors and ourselves, specifically for the bereaved. Again, this was well attended.

Hartrigg Oaks - Hartrigg Oaks is a Continuing Care Retirement Community in New Earswick with 152 bungalows and a 42 bed Care Home. Whilst not part of All Saints and Saint Andrew's church, it is situated in the Parish.

Every Sunday there is an Anglican service on site attended by 16 - 26 residents plus some local people. Most Sundays this is a service of Holy Communion led by retired clergy but when a priest is not available to lead, our two Authorised Lay Ministers, Chris and Eleanor Clarke, lead a service of Morning Praise.

Eleanor also leads a twice monthly Bible Study - attendance is in the high teens. All are welcome to attend and several of the regulars are not Anglican.

In the Care Home, Chris and Eleanor lead a monthly service of prayers, readings, a homily and a hymn. Attendance is in the high teens. Once a month Chris and Eleanor take Home Communion to those who are unable to get to the Sunday service and whose families have asked for this ministry.

The congregation at Hartrigg Oaks supports our benefice financially on a regular basis throughout the year - giving £700 in the church year from Advent 2023 – November 2024. In addition, they gave £700 to other charities.

Rev'd. Chris Park
Chair

Pastoral Care Working Group

Chair: Vacant

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

PCC: Barbara Hemingway, Paul Tiffin and Ian Richardson (both from April 2024)

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

The Pastoral Care Working Group has not met this last year, so The Pastoral Care Visiting Team has taken on the job of the Working Group (some of the working group members are in this group.) This was supported by Rev'd Ian Birkinshaw who met regularly with this group during his time with us and until he left at Easter. Rev'd Chris Park met with us in May, and he was very complimentary of the work being done and he encouraged us to continue to do the work of the Working Group. This may change when our new Rector comes this coming year.

This year we have continued to build on our pastoral care ministry, offering face to face support to people with a variety of needs. Many of our home visits are for members of our congregation who are unable to get to church and there have been opportunities to listen to, to pray, and to support the care and practical needs of each person. We have also made regular visits to care homes in York and the surrounding area where several elderly members are now long-term residents.

The Pastoral Care team is headed up by Glenise Thompson and Judy Lyndsey and it has met 6 times this last year, approximately every 6-8 weeks. This is a time to hear about the folk we are visiting, to pray and to support each other, to give feedback when necessary and to keep clergy and other leaders up to date. We have had several bereavements this year and so our list reflects that.

We also have opportunity to hear about other pastoral care happening in our churches. The Pastoral Care Team are just part of the overall pastoral work in our churches. We recognise that the whole church share in this important work, including praying, shopping, cooking, home visiting, transporting to appointments, telephoning, etc. Our Small Groups have continued to be the front line of pastoral care, and the Staff Team has also provided much needed care, especially with those bereaved. Our Cake and Company ministry has offered a warm space with friendship. The Telephone Prayer Chain operated as usual, providing a means of urgent prayer and contact when needed.

This year we have focussed on safeguarding, and we have held 'safeguarding parties' to encourage all our leaders and volunteers to do the Diocesan modular training. All the Pastoral Care team have done the training as well as the Cake and Company team. We are grateful to Dot Bevington, our Safeguarding Officer, who has kept us on track with this. Some have also joined in with the annual joint safeguarding training at St Andrew's.

We have received many expressions of gratitude and letters of appreciation from those we have supported, and we are grateful to God for His many blessings to us and His protection on us in this important aspect of ministry.

Report respectively submitted Joan Sargent

Youth and Children's Working Group

Chair: Heather Wraight

Clergy: Chris Park

Co-opted Youth & Children's Leader: Aimee Crossland (from July 2024)

Co-opted Youth & Children's Intern: Britney Brett (from September 2024)

Secretary: Sue Duffield

PCC: Liz Barker

Others: Sarah Griffiths (Ben for budget items), Jenny Kilmartin, Rev'd Terence McDonough, Robbie and Sarah O'Brien, Joy Tiffin, Tom Walters

The Youth & Children's Working Group is a sub-Group of PCC and as such reports to PCC regularly.

This is done in two ways: the minutes of all meetings are submitted to PCC, and the Youth & Children's Leader is a co-opted member of PCC and able therefore to report personally, while one of the Working Group members is also a PCC member.

Safeguarding children and young people is a major part of the Group's work, which was enhanced in 2024 by the appointment of a new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). The biggest task arose because of the departure in February 2024 of the Youth & Children's Leader who had been in post for 12 years. In the 4½ month gap before a new Leader was in place, there were two main aspects of work which were mainly run by Heather Wraight, the Chair of the Group, and Joy Tiffin in consultation with Rev Chris Park. Initially, interim arrangements were needed to continue activities: all new volunteers were recruited using the principles of Safer Recruitment. Safer Recruitment was also followed for other new volunteers during the year, while during the year all volunteers were given a Role Description.

The process for recruiting a new Youth & Children's Leader was led by four people (Heather, Joy, Liz Barker, a Churchwarden, and Rev Chris Park). They produced the required documents which were checked by a person experienced in writing such material and approved by Standing Committee. Following a full interview process Aimee Crossland was appointed, completed the Safer Recruitment requirements and took up her role at the beginning of July.

Previously the Parish has had two Safeguarding Policies, one for youth and children and the other for vulnerable adults. During the year the PSO combined these into one Policy. It includes a requirement that all new volunteers should complete the online training provided by the Church of

England. This online training must be repeated every three years, and a Group Safeguarding training session arranged annually.

At the time of the annual training morning in September there were 43 volunteers, nine of whom had not completed the online training by then. The training was attended by 27 people. The PSO has ensured that by the end of the year all volunteers had completed the online training. The number of active volunteers at the end of the year was 39.

The other Policy for which Y&CWG was previously responsible is Pastoral Care and IT related to youth and children. (This is now a Procedure as it is closely related to Safeguarding). A new churchwide Social Media Policy is being created but the old Policy still applied throughout 2024. In accordance with the Policy there are no longer any social media contacts or Groups for anyone aged under 16. Contact with under 16s is via their parents using email or text messages. Parents were asked for their consent to this to comply with GDPR.

Other Parish policies were complied with:

Financial procedures – a review of expenditure against the budget at each Working Group meeting. Risk management – the Parish Health & Safety Officer circulated the risk assessment for each activity to the leader for them to review and suggest any changes. He reported to the Working Group. Serious incident – there were none during the year, while minor accidents were reported according to the procedure required.

Lone Working – the Youth & Children's Leader complies with this when necessary.

Note: The Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade company, which is part of the church, is responsible to the national organisation and is required to operate under their policies.

Heather Wraight
Chair