

All Saints' Church, Holbeach

Annual Report 2016



This Annual Report is being circulated to everyone on the current electoral roll and also to those on the church contact list.

*If you do not want to receive this in future years please let me know. You are all invited to the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting - the APCM on Tuesday 25th April 7.30pm in church**, but please note that you are only entitled to vote if you are on the electoral roll.*

OUR VISION

In 5 years time we aim to be an intergenerational church at the heart of our community, helping to promote a town in which everyone can flourish, and where people can discover the extravagant love of God.

PARISH PRAYER

***Lord of Creation, Ever-present God,
Help us to be doers of the Word
and not hearers only.***

***Give us the grace to be patient, loving and tolerant,
and mindful of all Your people.***

***May we extend the hand of fellowship
and follow You wherever You lead.***

***We ask this in the name of our Saviour,
Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.***

Amen

VICAR'S REPORT

Thank you to Chris and Margaret, our wardens and to everyone who contributes in any way to the ongoing life of the church.

So what has been new or has developed during the past year?

- The **2017 Electoral Roll** stands at 157 people. 6 members of the congregation have died during the last 12 months and 8 have moved away

or ceased to be involved with the life of the church, but we have gained 14 new members.

- A key event of 2016 was the arrival of **Kate our curate**, who came to us from Mirfield and was ordained deacon at the beginning of July. Kate has made herself at home amongst our church community and has begun to contribute a great deal to the life of our church.
- The launch of our **Junior Choir** in April was the most significant piece of new work for us. We have a strong team who help lead the sessions which involve learning music theory, some basic Christian Education and learning to play the recorder as well as singing. We began with 21 children, which dropped to 18 in September when they started to join the robed choir once a month and to 15 by Christmas. The enthusiasm of those who have remained with us has been infectious. A new cohort of probationers joined us in February
- **Michaela** is now in the final year of her curacy and will become an associate priest during the course of 2017
- We took part in the diocesan **Developing Discipleship Programme** and produced a vision statement for the next 5 years.
- This was the first year since I came when we have had no **confirmation** candidates
- Very little work was done on the **fabric in 2016** though we were mightily pleased to finally conquer the 'pigeon problem' in the North porch thanks to the tenacity of David Arnold. A long-awaited new fabric committee has now been formed and has already embarked on a huge programme of works for 2017 which will include the appointment of a new architect and an overdue Quinquennial Inspection.
- 2016 has also been the year in which **our finances** have been tidied up in the hope that they are easier to understand. Though we currently still have two bank accounts we hope to transfer most of our day to day running costs to our Lloyds account. Carole has worked extremely hard to change all the bank mandates and to organise online banking for us and we hope that we will soon have two debit cards so that items can be purchased directly rather than requiring the reimbursement of the purchaser each time.
- The third **Flower Festival** on the theme of children's books produced some striking arrangements and raised £2,727 for the church as well as being a wonderful community effort with some delightfully creative displays and the outside stalls, activities and Family Fun-Day organised by Stephen Johnson adding to the attraction.
- Graham Rudkin of **Holbeach in Bloom** obtained a grant of £5000 from the

TESCO *Bags of Help* initiative towards the improvement of the churchyard. The work for this will hopefully be completed by this summer. As well as new benches and repaired railings we hope to considerably improve the area for cremated remains. The whole community is hugely indebted to the hard work put in by Graham & Carol and the Holbeach in Bloom workforce.

- The third **St Nicolas Fayre** raised £1,778.53 for church funds, largely from the huge catering effort both inside and outside the church. The St Nicholas Fayre is now a separate entity from the church and is forming a Community Interest company in its own right for future sustainability. Despite other events in town on the same weekend this was a very successful event with an increased number of stalls and a very much increased footfall. The event culminated in the Christingle service and the switching on of the tree lights in the churchyard. Our thanks go to Jane Francis and her team who made it all possible. In three years this event has grown considerably from my almost throw-away suggestion that we do something as a church to take the place of the defunct Holbeach Christmas Fayre.
- A number of our church family and volunteers from other churches and from the wider community form the core team of volunteers who support the work of **Holbeach Community Larder**. The Community Larder continues to feed 40-50 people each Friday with a nutritious 2 course meal prepared under the eagle eye of Linda Beverley-Stone with profit from the donations towards the cost of the meals supporting the foodbank and replenishing the facilities as needed. As well as the kitchen team there is the store room team headed up by Roger Seal and the Foodbank Reception desk team headed up by Jane Francis. A generous grant from the Bishops Social Justice Fund enabled us to replace our signage, and purchase new tables and tablecloths and to put aside some money for a review of our storage facilities as it is not sustainable in the long term for 90 trays of food to be stored in the Vicarage garage! The Community Larder continues to be well supported by local businesses particularly the market Veg stall and TESCO and the local schools and churches, and in 2016 there we gave out 192 parcels which was an increase on the 146 given out in 2015, we also made up and gave out 43 Christmas hampers.

Revd Rosamund Seal

PCC REPORT

The 2016 PCC included Revd. Rosamund Seal (Chair), Margaret Whaley and Chris Penney (Churchwardens), Carole Williams (Treasurer), Tracy Ford (Secretary), Andrew Sykes, George Phillips, Barbara Phillips, Nigel Beverley-

Stone, Shep Shepherd, Pam Rix, Lynne Barks, Jude Browes and David Arnold (who stood down during the course of the year)

The PCC are indebted to Carole Williams for the mammoth task of sorting out the accounts following the death of Ken Hull the previous year.

Following the AGM in April 2016, the PCC met in May, July, September, November, January and March.

The PCC discussed a number of key issues during the year. These included all matters relating to the fabric of the church and church life. Key decisions included: (1) Underpaying our Parish Share by £10,000 because our current expenditure exceeds income; (2) Completing the Developing Discipleship programme – during 3 open meetings we explored what type of church we are and where we want to be in the future and producing a Growth Plan for the next 5 years; (3) The Finance & Stewardship sub-committee started work on the planned giving campaign that was launched in January 2017: All PCC minutes are available at the back of church in a green folder.

Tracy Ford

STATISTICS for 2016 (2012-2015 for comparison)

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Electoral Roll	156	178	157	154 new	172
Av Sun Attend	73 adults + 5 children	73 + 4	73 + 4	71 + 6	70 + 5
Baptisms	37	35	34	33	19
Weddings	8	8	10 + 2	5	12 + 1
Funerals	30 church + 17 crem	31 + 30	32 + 23	28 + 14	22 + 9

CHURCH FABRIC

At the start of 2016 David Arnold announced that he would not be standing as Church Warden again. David has been Churchwarden for 17 years and we say thank you to him for all that he has done for the Church. Fortunately, he is continuing with the rotas and the photocopying of the pew sheet.

We would also like to thank everyone who in any way has helped in keeping the Church in a reasonable state of repair and tidiness, especially Peter Fines, Michael Boylan, David Arnold and Michael Slater, who looks after and repairs anything with regards to the bells and tower saving the church a great deal of money. If there is anybody else who could help with small tasks or repairs please have a word with the Churchwardens.

The gutters are being cleaned out on a more regular basis as a local person has been found to do this and there have not been many problems since.

Most of the jobs mentioned by the Health and Safety Officer have been carried out. White paint around the font steps. Still to do is to strengthen the front rail south side of the nave and the odd floor boards to repair.

The wall memorials in church still need to be checked for stability. The two which have already fallen have been priced, but the repairs have been put on hold due to lack of funds.

The pigeon problem in the North porch has now been resolved by the fitting of a netted ceiling which has been very successful.

Chris Penney & Margaret Whaley

THE CHOIR

The number of adult choir members remains stationary at around fourteen. The number of Junior members is also fourteen, with around six probationers. We are currently desperately short of men, however.

Membership varies in terms of musical skills from professional musicians to those who just enjoy singing, but can't read a note of music. The age range is equally as varied, and there can be few groups which support such a wide age range. One of the wonderful aspects of our church choir is the juxtaposition of different age groups working together as a team in a Christian context.

It is also a fact that very few parish churches in the Lincoln Diocese are fortunate enough to be able to maintain a Choir, let alone a fully choral tradition, singing some of the cathedral repertoire as we do, and maintaining a weekly service of Choral Evensong. Our Evensong service is open to all singers within the Deanery and beyond, who do not have the opportunity to sing this wonderful service, and we regularly attract four or five additional singers from other churches.

Members must be congratulated on their dedication, conscientiousness, enthusiasm and commitment to leading the singing in our weekly Eucharist & Evensong, and at all the other major festivals of the church's year to which they give of their time so willingly.

In addition to the huge time commitment involved in regular services, members of the choir have also sung in numerous special services in the past year both as All Saints Choir and as the main contributors to the Elloe East Deanery Choir:

Flower Festival Songs of Praise; Ascension day Eucharist, a Songs of Praise in Whaplode; the annual Lincoln diocese RSCM Festival in Lincoln Cathedral; the Deanery Advent service in All Saints', Moulton; and Carol services at Beech Lodge, and in our own church on 18th December.

Congratulations go to two of our members who were successful in gaining the 'Bishop's Chorister' award. Jane Francis and Andrew Sykes spent a few months studying hard for this rigorous exam which involved both practical and theoretical musical aspects, as well as a sound knowledge of Christian beliefs and the liturgy. Their ribbons (purple) were presented at the Royal School of Church Music annual Festival in Lincoln Cathedral on 15th October.

Our special thanks go to Gill Graper and Clare Stupples who have done another splendid year as Choir secretary and Choir librarian respectively, making sure that, in the choir vestry 'all is well'.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR

Since its inception in April 2016, the Junior Choir has been a wonderful success story, introducing young people and some of their parents to our church and its teaching. The aim, as well as introducing them to the Christian faith, is to provide them with a quality musical education free of charge, and to encourage them to be permanent members of our Choir. Each week, they learn how to sing, how to play a musical instrument (recorder), music theory and Christian teaching. They took part in their first service on 3rd July, when they were privileged to be presented with their certificates of membership by the Bishop of Grantham. Since then, they have joined the main choir, usually once a month, to assist in leading the singing at services, as well as leading the spoken parts and playing pre-service voluntaries on their recorders! They made a wonderful contribution over the Christmas period, including the Crib service and the Carols by candlelight.

It was pleasing to see them all complete the next stage of their training when they received their surplices, presented at the service on 26th February, by the Archdeacon of Boston.

Barry and Rosamund went into the two primary schools to do a presentation about the choir in February, and, consequently, around six more probationers have joined the choir. These numbers are currently fluctuating in both directions, but will eventually stabilise.

The next stage in their musical development was to achieve the RSCM light blue ribbon award, and the first cohort of seven did this on Saturday 25th March, and Rosamund presented the ribbons at the service on Sunday 26th March.

The Junior Choir takes an immense amount of time and dedication, both musical and pastoral, from the adult team who operate it. A very big thank you go to Kim Biggs (Singing/theory) Tracy Ford (Co-ordinator), Rosamund (Recorder) and Sara Williams (Pastoral Care). Without their time, dedication and enthusiasm, which is given so freely, this venture would not be successful.

We hope that the Junior section in our Choir will continue to thrive and develop in the forthcoming year, and that some more men come to join the adults. Or do we have to wait until our boys become men??

Barry Lancaster

SCHOOLS

William Stukeley School held 4 church services, including a communion service with us this year and each year group has used the building as a class room as we have developed a series of teaching resources for each Key Stage. Judy Kelly, Jane Francis, Mary Dack & Sarah Pogson served on the governing body as Foundation Governors during the year and I am an ex-officio governor.

Holbeach Primary Academy have held three services in church (one led by the Methodist Minister Alan Barker) though they have not yet taken us up on the offer of providing curriculum resources.

The University Academy have long used the church for their very successful Christmas Concert but for the second year running they also held a Christingle Service for year 7 pupils and all their year 7 children spent a session exploring the church and learning about Communion. It is unfortunate that for health and safety reasons this has not been repeated this year.

Small Saints preschool came into church for their harvest service and activity as they do every year and I took a pre-school Praise service into their two older groups on 6 further occasions in the year.

Rosamund Seal

SOCIAL EVENTS

The year began with an Epiphany Party for the PCC and Ministry Team at the Vicarage. All-Age Dog walks became a feature of the year, with a walk along the river at Fosdyke in February, Snettisham to Heacham and back at Easter, and two summer walks - around the RSPB reserve at Frampton and along the beach at Hunstanton which included a Fish and Chip lunch.

The Joint Christian Aid Quiz we ran with the Methodist Church was so enjoyed it was decided to have a more regular church quiz as a fundraiser and the first of these was held in church with a ploughman's supper in August.

Our Lent Lunches were moved to Saturday lunchtimes and proved so popular we decided to continue to run them on the first Saturday of every month for Church funds as a regular event, and every Saturday in October for our Harvest charity.

Our Harvest Supper again began with a short act of worship, boosted by the choir and was followed by cold meats, baked potatoes and salad and lots of

donated fruit desserts.

There were fewer social group trips in 2016 and the Cake and Bric-a-brac stall held on the first Saturday of each month was discontinued.

Rosamund Seal

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

The Group of Lay Ministers started with 9 members, but Glyn retired during the year so now we are 8. We carry out a range of activities in the Church. Several members go to the Care Homes monthly to give Holy Communion, as well as Carol Services at Christmas, and a visit to church in August for tea and cakes. We also take Communion to the homes of those who are housebound, and generally have an overview of the Pastoral Care Network.

From time to time we share in taking the All-Age Worship Services, and Lynne and Kex have developed a Morning Service for Whaplode while they are in vacancy.

Joyce runs the Bereavement Group and has been joined by Lynne this year.

Judy runs the administration for Baptisms, and after an inspiring course developed the Baptism Reunion Service and arranges a display of photos of the Infants.

Then there was the Queen's 90th Service and at Christmas a Quiet Christmas Service.

During the year the group discussed the coffee after services, and with Kate's inspiration we decided to try real coffee, and cake for the AAW services. It seems to encourage more people to stay after services to chat. Also out of the group discussions came the Quizes and Lent Soup Lunches that grew into monthly Soup lunches.

Carole Williams

BELL RINGERS

Once again many thanks to Michael Slater for checking the bells and seeing that they are in good working order. Michael also continues the ringing training sessions on Tuesday mornings for learners. We have 2 new ringers doing very well. We manage to ring most Sundays for the 10.30 am service and by borrowing from other towers we get enough for weddings.

Meg Newey

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union members meet on the third Friday of the Month in the Mary Bass Room at 2.00 pm. Each meeting allows time for fellowship and a short

service of prayer and reflection. During the year a variety of activities are enjoyed by members. These have included our Christmas Service and Celebration, discussions and fundraising through the May Tea and a number of raffles. Guest speakers, each giving informative and enjoyable talks, have at times added to the enjoyment of our meetings. Among highlights were Lenten Reminiscences by Michaela and a visit by Kate outlining her personal story on the journey to priesthood.

With 11 members our group is small but we are very active in raising funds for Mothers' Union charities. Together with members' collections for the Overseas Fund we have donated £250 to Mothers' Union mission groups both in the Diocese and throughout the world. AFIA (away from it all) is one such group that benefits local and diocesan families, couples and individuals by the provision of a holiday or much needed time away from home.

The life of Mothers' Union beyond Holbeach is supported and celebrated through our links with fellow Deanery and Diocesan members. Events attended include the Deanery Songs of Praise celebration and the Women's World Day of Prayer service. Members enrich other areas of life in Holbeach and district through supporting the Flower Festival, providing flowers for the Lady Chapel and Holbeach Hospital, organising the collection and delivery of our appeal for Boston Women's Aid and the collection and delivery of used stamps to EACH (East Anglican Children's Hospice). Our thanks go to everyone who contributes. New members and guests are always welcome.

Jackie Sheldrake

CHILDREN'S WORK

The Oasis Club which had been run by Gill Graper and Act 11 finished after 5 successful years in January 2016 and a meeting was held soon afterwards to plan what kind of children's work we thought should replace it. It was at this meeting that the idea of a Junior Choir was launched. We considered other workshop ideas and Messy Church but so far have not yet been able to initiate any other viable children's work. We have however built on our work with Baptism families - with 4 of us attending a Baptism Matters conference which revitalised our work and gave rise to the cards we sign and the Baptism roll-call display and the Reunion worship and tea we held in June.

Rosamund Seal

DISCIPLESHIP, STUDY AND PRAYER

We have only managed two courses during 2016 rather than the four we had planned and which we managed to run in 2015. We used the much appreciate

diocesan Lent Course based on paintings from the Methodist Collection of Christian Art, and an Advent course. The fortnightly Prayer Group has moved from the Beverley-Stone's to Pam Rix's home where it has continued to sustain the parish in prayer. Sadly there was no confirmation course or candidates this year.

Rosamund Seal

LADIES' GROUP

At our monthly meetings throughout 2016 members enjoyed a programme that included a variety of speakers and demonstrations. We learnt about the day to day life of a journalist from Trish Burgess of the Free Press and heard of the family history of 'Laddies Famous Ices' from local business man Rick Ladbrook.

Members enjoyed a fun quiz night at the Reading Rooms and at a visit to Bookmark in Spalding we learnt how Christine, the owner at the time, built up the business into a friendly book store and coffee shop. Our summer outing was to Elston Hall near Peterborough where members enjoyed a guided tour of the Hall followed by afternoon tea in the garden centre cafe. For our meeting in September we welcomed Tracy from Wiltshire Farm Foods who introduced us to the extensive menu options they can deliver direct to your home. As the evening drew to a close we all had the chance to taste some of their more popular dishes.

In November we were visited by Joanne Halford and her husband who told us of their work with the Little Miracles group that meet in Holbeach each week. This is a charity that helps additional needs children and their families.

The Christmas lunch was held at Spalding golf club where everyone enjoyed a traditional meal in convivial surroundings.

Sharon Cole

PARISH MAGAZINE

I have continued to edit the magazine and it has been relatively easy to fill the 24 pages each month. The Saint of the Month contributed by Kex has been a welcome addition. The magazine pretty much pays for itself via advertising and subscriptions. Now that the format is well established it would be good to find a new editor and build on the range or potential contributors.

Rosamund Seal

HOLBEACH COMMUNITY FLOWER FESTIVAL

Our theme for 2016 was Children's books which inspired some terrific displays that were enjoyed by young and old alike. Linda Beverley Stone and her team

provided Sunday Lunch for a coach party which was an excellent fund raiser. The street entertainment, garden games, parachuting teddy bears, bell ringing and dog show were well supported and £2,727 raised for church funds. Particular thanks go once again to Christine Penney, Stephen Johnson, Yolanda Stanberry, Rachel Flood and Carol & Graham Rudkin and the catering team and to all who contributed, including Sam Graper who organized the hugely enjoyable schools concert on the Thursday night.

Rosamund Seal

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Support Group has continued to offer support to the bereaved throughout the year by making contact after the funeral has taken place and by providing a listening and chatting session (Tea and Chat) in the Mary Bass Room on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm. The group also send an invitation to the family to attend the 10.30 Sunday service on the first anniversary, when the person will be remembered by name. The impression is that the latter is appreciated by many of the recipients.

Joyce Fines

FINANCES

With considerable help from Chris Penney I took over the role of Treasurer at the beginning of the year. During 2016 we kept the Expenses and Income roughly equal so that at the end of the year we had maintained our reserves. It did mean underpaying the Parish Share by £10,000. We paid £35,000 out of an invoiced total of £45,000. If we are ever to be able to pay the whole amount we shall have to encourage people to give more, and invest our reserves wisely in this difficult climate of low interest rates.

We have been lucky over the past twelve months. The year passed with very little maintenance needed to the Church, a state of affairs which is unlikely to continue. The Quinquennial Report is due and we will need to spend money on repairs in the coming year according to the report's findings. All Saints' is a magnificent building and it needs to be nurtured. The Mary Bass Fund helps us along with six other parishes. Without their help to pay maintenance, insurance, children's work etc. we should not be in such a good position. We cannot be complacent and expect this continuing support forever. The future looks daunting.

Carole Williams

CHARITABLE GIVING

Lent	Leprosy Mission	425.50
Christian Aid Week		316.85
Harvest	LincsArk	169.25
	UNICEF	169.25
Advent	Children's Society	124.04
	UNHCR	207.10
	SENSE	207.10
Ongoing	Children's Society boxes	158.04
Total		1777.13

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving during 2016 was down by £3,136 compared to 2015 with a total of £26,881. This is made up of £19,880 given by bankers order, £6,601 via the envelope scheme and £400 paid by cheque or cash. The total giving, including casual giving, eligible for Gift aid was £24,552 which will produce £6,138 in tax relief. Seven of those who gave in 2015 were not able to continue in 2016. It is therefore important that people respond to the 2017 Planned Giving Campaign in order to ensure our giving is not reduced.

Two people gave 26% of the total, six givers provided 47% and 54% of the total came from only eight givers. This is slightly worse than the year before when a 23.5% of the income came from two people and only nine provided half the total. This situation continues to be a cause for grave concern.

Please respond to the 2017 Campaign. If you would like to know more please speak to Glyn - 01406 420485 or if you do not have the 2017 forms please pick up a set from the back of church.

Glyn Ramsden

Vicar - Rev'd Rosamund Seal - 01406 424989

Assistant Curate - Rev'd Kate Plant - 01406 425016

P/T Assistant Curate - Rev'd Michaela Dean - 01945 440347

Wardens - Margaret Whaley - 01406 422126

Chris Penney - 01406 426918

PCC Secretary - Tracy Ford

Treasurer - Carole Williams - 01406 423547