

## CHARITABLE GIVING

Lent	East Anglia Children's Hospice	253.00
Christian Aid Week		542.20
Lincs Churches Trust		850.50
Harvest	Red Cross	532.09
Royal British Legion		279.36
Advent	Crisis	1,763.39
Christingle	Children's Society	128.00
Ongoing	Children's Society boxes	153.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,501.54</b>

## PLANNED GIVING

In response to our Stewardship Campaign in 2017 our Planned Giving went up by £3,222 compared to 2016, with a total of £30,103. This is made up of £22,239 given by bankers order (£2,359 up on last year), £6,873 via the Envelope scheme (£270 more than last year) and £1000 paid by cheque or cash. The total giving, including casual giving, eligible for Gift Aid, was £26,873 which will produce £6,718 in tax relief.

Three people gave 35.5% of the total, six givers provided 49% and 52% of the total came from only nine givers. This is slightly less encouraging than the year before when 26% of the income came from two people but slightly better as in 2016 only eight provided 54% the total.

Though our income has been raised in response to the campaign there is no cause for complacency and will need to be monitored year on year.

If you would like to become part of the Planned Giving scheme and support the church on a regular budgeted basis it would be much appreciated. Please speak to Glyn - 01406 420485 or pick up a set of forms from the back of church.

*Glyn Ramsden*

**Vicar - Rev'd Rosamund Seal - 01406 424989**

**Assistant Curate - Rev'd Kate Plant - 01406 425016**

**P/T Associate Priest - Rev'd Michaela Dean - 01945 440347**

**Wardens - Margaret Whaley - 01406 422126**

**Nigel Beverley-Stone - 01406 259496**

**Treasurer - Carole Williams - 01406 423547**

## All Saints' Church, Holbeach

# Annual Report 2017



*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 24th April 7.30pm in church**, but please note that you are only entitled to vote if you are on the electoral roll.*

### OUR VISION

**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 Margaret and Nigel, our wardens and to Kate and Michaela our assistant ministers and to everyone who contributes in so many ways to the ongoing life of the church.

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

- The **2018 Electoral Roll** stands at 156 people. 5 members of the congregation have died during the last 12 months and 3 have moved away,

but we have gained 7 new members.

- Our **Junior Choir** has been running for two years now and though the numbers have inevitably dropped, they are a happy and largely very committed bunch of youngsters who have not only enjoyed their singing but are becoming very proficient recorder players.
- **Kate** was priested in July and her first Eucharist was celebrated in style on 2nd July with an all-Age Eucharist followed by a delightfully sunny, bring and share lunch which was enjoyed by many, including some of Kate's family
- **Michaela** completed her curacy and became our associate priest. She continues to organise the ministry to the Care Homes and is chaplain to Holbeach Hospital.
- We hosted the **deanery confirmation** in November with 6 of our own adult candidates and 6 members of our Junior Choir being confirmed.
- Under Nigel's chairmanship a long-awaited **fabric committee** has been formed and has embarked on a long overdue programme of works. The launch of the **Saturday Gang** has made a very positive contribution to many of the straightforward DIY and tidying up jobs in the church and churchyard.
- Welland Creative (Kevin Dodd and Martin Butler) have designed and acted as moderators for a wonderful new state of the art **website** which is the envy of many other churches. The content is very much better and we are much better at keeping it up to date.
- We also launched a **Facebook page** to promote upcoming activities and to reporting on events. We need to now increase the membership of this page.
- Carole was finally able to organise **online banking** for us and we now have two debit cards so that items can be purchased directly rather than requiring the reimbursement of the purchaser each time.
- The **finance and stewardship committee** launched a successful **planned giving campaign** which ran between January and April with the Mary Bass Trust funding the production of a glossy leaflet - see *Glyn's report for details*.
- Our 4th Noah's Ark themed **Flower Festival** produced some striking arrangements and raised **£3,470.46** for the church as well as being a wonderful community effort with some very creative displays. The outside stalls, activities and Family Fun-Day organised by Stephen Johnson adding to the attraction. A Pet's Service was a new and appreciated venture.
- The 4th **St Nicolas Fayre** raised **£1,947.59** for church funds largely from the huge catering effort both inside and outside the church. The St Nicholas Fayre is now a Community Interest Company in its own right and has become an integral part of the community life of the town. The event culminated in the Christingle service. Our thanks go to Jane Francis and the committee who made it all possible.

## 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. It has been good to have Kevin Dodd take over the design and formatting of the content of the magazine in 2018.

*Rosamund Seal*

## HOLBEACH COMMUNITY FLOWER FESTIVAL

Our theme for 2017 was Noah's Ark which inspired some terrific displays that were enjoyed by young and old alike. Clare's Money Ark attracted a lot of attention and the street entertainment, garden games, parachuting teddy bears, bell ringing and dog show were well supported and £3,470.46 raised for church funds. Particular thanks go once again to Christine Penney, Stephen Johnson, 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*

## FINANCES

In 2017 our total Income was £104,464 and our expenses totalled £111,981 so there can be no complacency about the future.

There are many calls upon our finances: maintenance, Parish Share, mission events to the town and Charities. At the end of the year we were able to pay our Parish Share in full. This was an amazing achievement but did mean that we overspent. Not something to repeat but a one-off decision. We must be very careful not to overspend again.

The Mary Bass Fund has continued to support us with grants for Insurance and Maintenance and Children's work as well as the roof Security Alarm and the Smart Water application. This means that our insurance premium now covers the roof for the full value, so we are in a much safer place.

Fund raising continues to be vital, and funds raised via the Flower Festival and the St Nicholas Fayre are essential to our income. However, it is to our credit that in this time of financial difficulty we have raised significantly larger amounts for charities over the course of the year.

We give thanks for the continued support and kindness of members of the congregation and outsiders too.

*Carole Williams*

## CHILDREN'S WORK

The focus of our work with children has been via the Junior Choir and the nativity figure workshops, but also a series of confirmation preparation sessions. In 2017 we also repeated a successful Messy Easter event on Maundy Thursday. We look forward to the arrival of the Mary Bass funded children's worker, Emily Taylor, and hope that she will be able to help us revitalise and develop our work with children in 2018

*Rosamund Seal*

## DISCIPLESHIP, STUDY AND PRAYER

Kate ran a successful Adult Confirmation course using the Pilgrim material in the Autumn. We used the Pilgrim Course on the Beattitudes for our Lent Course this year and the diocesan Advent Course. The fortnightly Prayer Group held in Pam Rix's home has continued to sustain the parish in prayer.

*Rosamund Seal*

## LADIES' GROUP

During 2017 members enjoyed a varied programme of events. We began with an introduction to Assistant Curate, Rev'd Kate Plant, an enjoyable evening where members were able to get to know Kate and welcome her to Holbeach.

Over the year we welcomed a variety of speakers and demonstrators to our meetings. We were introduced to the world of spoon whittling by Derek Smith and one lucky lady won a cherry wood spoon carefully carved by Derek. At our May meeting veterinary nurses from Sutterton came and gave us an insight into their work with all nature of domestic animals. The meeting ended with a question and answer session which proved very informative.

2017 was a year that saw us have close connections to Spalding Water Taxi. We had a visit from Anthony Grunwell who told us how the water taxi idea came to fruition and the members were so inspired by his talk that we went for a ride on the water taxi on a gloriously hot afternoon in June. This outing culminated in afternoon tea at Hill's department store.

After a summer break our September speaker was Joley Garner from Sue Ryder Care who was able to tell us of the work and care carried out at Thorpe Hall Hospice, Peterborough. In October, TV's Bargain Hunt came to Holbeach in the shape of Susan and Stuart who told us of their experience on the popular antique show. We were all able to revisit our childhood in November when Val Venables told us of the history of some of our favourite nursery rhymes.

The Christmas lunch was once again held at the Spalding Golf Club where we enjoyed a traditional meal in picturesque surroundings.

*Sharon Cole*

- **The papier-mache Nativity figures** made at a series of children's workshops hosted by Linda Beverley-Stone over the summer, came into their own in Advent. Beginning their journey to Bethlehem at our Christingle service and arriving as an integral part of our Crib Service they were a much appreciated and significant feature of all our Christmas services. I am very grateful to Linda for the design and implementation of this as I have long wanted to replace the rather battered plaster models with something more home-grown and dramatic and this was most certainly achieved.
- Thanks to a generous donation of £2000 from the Worth foundation and further support from Mr Staunton we were able to refurbish the **WW1 memorial** in time for this year's Remembrance service.
- We introduced a monthly service of **Wholeness and Healing** on the 4th Thursday of each month. These have been well received by those who have attended but the consensus is that possibly bi-monthly is sufficient.
- Kate, Linda Beverley-Stone and Carol Hellen completed the diocesan **Mission-Shaped Ministry** course in order to help us think about how we might do mission more effectively.
- **Holbeach Community Larder and Cafe** is well supported by our church and other churches and schools in the deanery. During the course of the year the foodbank was finally registered as a charity and the café as a Community Interest Company whose profits support the work of the foodbank. It continues to feed 30-40 people each Friday with profits from donations towards the cost of the meals supporting the foodbank and replenishing the facilities as needed. Some volunteers have moved on but new ones have taken their places, though we are still on the look out for one or two more cooks. New shelving has been erected in the store room to maximise our storage and much of our excess stock is currently stored in the cemetery chapels which is proving very useful. It continues to be well supported by local businesses particularly the market veg stall, TESCO and Marks & Spencers and local schools and churches. In 2017, 202 parcels were given out (192 in 2016) and we also made up and gave out 42 Christmas hampers.

*Revd Rosamund Seal*

## PCC REPORT

The 2017 PCC included Revd Rosamund Seal (Chair), Margaret Whaley and Nigel Beverley-Stone (Churchwardens), Carole Williams (Treasurer), Tracy Ford (Secretary) Andrew Sykes, George Phillips, Barbara Phillips, Shep Shepherd, Pam Rix, Lynne Barks, Jude Browes, Mick Boylan & Sue Sims. Sadly Tracy stood down as PCC secretary in July and being without a secretary since, has not made life easy. Andy Skyes and Shep also stood down during the course of the year.

Following the AGM in April, 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) Paying our Parish Share in full for the first time in 5 years 2) Drawing up a contract between the St Nicholas Community Fayre and the church 3) Appointing Peter Slinger as our architect and commissioning & discussing the Quinquennial report. The Finance & Stewardship sub-committee launched our Planned Giving Campaign in January 2017 which was completed by Easter: All PCC minutes are available at the back of church in a green folder.

*Rev'd Rosamund Seal*

### STATISTICS for 2017 (2012-2016 for comparison)

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Electoral Roll	156	157	178	157	154 new	172
Av Sun Attend	71 + 6 children	73 + 5	73 + 4	73 + 4	71 + 6	70 + 5
Baptisms	24	37	35	34	33	19
Weddings	6	8	8	10 + 2	5	12 + 1
Funerals	20 + 22 crem	30 + 17	31 + 30	32 + 23	28 + 14	22 + 9

### CHURCH FABRIC

Thank you to all those who have helped with the upkeep of the church during 2017-18. The re-introduction of the 'gang' who came together and threw themselves into working on the church and the grounds on some Saturday mornings was one of the most important tasks we achieved.

During the year we managed to catch up with some scheduled jobs. The most important of these was to select and appoint an architect to carry out the quinquennial inspection. Peter Slinger was a great find and has supported us through the year to achieve good standards with the work carried out.

Using the inspection report we carried out virtually all the jobs which were immediately needed, working from roof to drains. We now have a new tower door to keep the weather and pigeons out, we have cleaned gutters, repaired leaks and fitted a very necessary alarm to our roof which proved it's worth within weeks, preventing two persons from 'finding a lost football at 2am on the boiler house roof'.

The Saturday gang did a great job of clearing vegetation and creating a weed break around the entire church and inside the church they removed unsuitable

### BELL RINGERS

We have had a successful year ringing for the 10.30 service every Sunday with visiting ringers often enabling us to ring all 8 bells. 5 visiting groups came to ring peals during the course of the year. Michael Slater & Meg Newey have both updated their safeguarding training. Michael continues to teach at our regular Tuesday morning practices. We rang bells for weddings and from 2018 have decided to offer couple 6 bells for £90 or 8 bells for £120. We were delighted to have all 8 Holbeach ringers ring for Kex and Michaela's Golden Wedding renewal of vows.

We are very grateful to Michael who regularly checks the bells and ropes and makes sure they are in good order and, having had no official tower captain for the last 7 years, we are really pleased that Michaela had agreed to take on this role from 2018

*Meg Newey*

### MOTHERS' UNION

Members continue to 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 and during the year a variety of activities have been enjoyed by members. These have included a craft afternoon, our Christmas Service and Celebration, discussions and fundraising through the May Tea and a number of raffles. The July meeting began with a Communion Service.

With 8 members our group is small but we are very active in raising funds for Mothers' Union charities. Members continue to donate to the Overseas Fund supporting Mothers' Union mission groups throughout the world. Members enrich 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.

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, a Quiet Time morning at Dawsmere and the Women's World Day of Prayer service.

Sadly two much loved and admired members, Sylvia Howell and Mary Hackney have died during the last year. Sylvia joined All Saints Mothers' Union in 1978. Mary joined Mothers' Union in 1948. Both gave unstinting support to All Saints Mothers' Union and they are greatly missed.

New members and guests are always welcome.

*Jackie Sheldrake*

Small Saints preschool came into church for their harvest service and activity as they do every year but unfortunately I did not get into the pre-school for as many worship sessions as I would have liked. I am trying to do better this year!

*Rosamund Seal*

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The year began with an Epiphany Party for the PCC and Ministry Team at the Vicarage. The All-Age Dog walks dropped off somewhat - though we did manage a good walk in Bourne Woods. Maybe these need someone other than the vicar to organise them if they are to really get off the ground as a regular feature of our church life!

The Joint Christian Aid Quiz was successfully held in the Methodist Church this year as was a further quiz at the Horse and Groom.

An additional event this year was the Eve of Pentecost wonderful Family Hoedown held in the WI hall organised by Nigel & Linda Beverley-Stone with Kim's band - Akmed's Camel

Our Saturday Lunches for our Lent charity and for our Harvest charity continued but the regular monthly lunches seemed to attract fewer people than last year.

Our Harvest Supper again began with a short act of worship, boosted by the choir and was followed by shepherd's and gardener's pies and mixed veg and lots of donated fruit desserts.

*Rosamund Seal*

## **AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS**

During the year both Tracy Ford and Carole Williams stepped down as Lay Ministers and George is standing down this year for health reasons. However the PCC have accepted Carol Hellen as an ALM following her completion of the Mission Shaped Ministry course. She has however yet to be authorized.

The team continue to meet monthly and work alongside the clergy to monitor and develop our Worship, Pastoral care and Mission. They continue to visit and lead worship 4 Care Homes and Holbeach Hospital each month and take communion to the housebound

During the year a decision was made to stop running the monthly Tea & Chat bereavement support group due to poor attendance, but Joyce continues to send the annual In Memoriam cards. Judy continues to assist with the administration of our Baptism Services.

ALMs who took part in the Worship Leading course also assist with All-Age Worship from time to time.

*Rosamund Seal*

carpet from the Sanctuary and tidied up the South Porch.

In the colder months of the year we introduced a practice of keeping the church heating on to maintain a regular 15 degree temperature which the organ seemed to enjoy, extending the normal tuning period by at least three months. The congregation also liked the extra heat and we received many favourable comments from visitors as to how pleasant and welcoming the church has felt.

The heating boiler and the fire extinguishers were serviced and the whole electrical system of the church was given it's five year test and passed with flying colours, no extra work needed.

It is very important that we should thank the Mary Bass Trust for their support during the year. It was their help which allowed many of the most expensive items to be carried out and we intend to seek their support again in 2018.

There are already a number of target projects identified for this year, the Palmer Memorial, the cremated remains area and our gates and fences. We have also recruited a member of the congregation who will during this summer undertake to paint wherever necessary so word of warning to all, don't stand still too long!

*Nigel Beverley-Stone & Margaret Whaley*

## **THE CHOIR**

The number of adult choir members remains at around thirteen. The number of Junior members is also thirteen. We are currently desperately short of men, which, coupled with spasmodic attendance, does jeopardise the Choir from singing much of the standard repertoire.

Membership varies in musical skill, from professional musicians to those who just enjoy singing, but can't read a note of music. The age range is equally varied. One of the wonderful aspects of our church choir is the juxtaposition of different age groups working together for the good of the church.

Few parish churches in the Diocese are fortunate enough to be able to maintain a Choir which sings a weekly service of Choral Evensong. Our Evensong service is open to all singers within the Deanery and beyond, who do not otherwise 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 enthusiasm and commitment in leading the singing at our weekly services, 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, the choir have also sung in other special services in the past year including a 'Come and Sing' performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Passion Sunday, with a numbers of singers and an even larger congregation (a performance enhanced by a

couple of top soloists - Howard Clinkard (Tenor) and Dominic Rose (Baritone) from Leeds Cathedral); Ascension day Eucharist at Fleet; the annual Lincoln diocese RSCM Festival in Lincoln Cathedral in October; the Deanery Advent Carol service in All Saints', and carol services at Beech Lodge, Holbeach Hospital and also our own Candlelit Carol service.

Special thanks go to Kim Biggs, who has been a real tower of strength as Assistant Organist and Choir Trainer. It is easy to take this for granted, but we are so fortunate at All Saints' to have a musician of Kim's calibre to call upon, and I, especially, am most grateful.

Our thanks also to Gill Graper who has done another splendid year as Choir secretary, keeping us all on our toes with the weekly Choir music menus and useful information regarding dates contained therein.

It is a pity that Clare has not been well enough to sing with us or perform her librarian duties for the past year, and we have missed her enormously and hope that she will be able to join us again soon.

*Barry Lancaster*

## **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 singing, playing the recorder, music theory and Christian teaching.

During the past year, they took part in the Flower Festival Schools Concert and had their own Concert and Awards evening in May. This was a delightful event, and many of them performed solos on other instruments as well as receiving their awards. We were thrilled on this occasion, to be able to appoint Paige Burton as Head Chorister and Gracie-Mae Elgie as her deputy, as well as giving Matthew Simons the award of best all-round musician.

Their next big event was Kate's first Eucharist, following her ordination on 1<sup>st</sup> July. At this service also, our probationers (Charlotte Simons, Grace Mc Namara and Lily Pearson) were admitted as full members of the Choir. Term ended with a splendid BBQ and games in the Vicarage garden, courtesy of Rosamund.

The first big event of the Autumn term was the Deanery Confirmation service on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. This was a great success, and it was wonderful to see six of our Juniors plus Sara, one of their adult leaders, confirmed with other members of the congregation.

The following Saturday, a great afternoon out was enjoyed by all of the Juniors when they went to the 'High Ropes' at Baytree, Weston. They sung at the Town

Remembrance service, and made major contributions to the St Nicholas Fayre, the Christingle service, the Candlelight Carol service (at which Matthew Simons gave a brilliant rendition of the first verse of 'Once in royal David's city') and they also took the lead in the Christmas Eve Crib service.

During the summer they contributed to the making of the papier-mache Nativity figures which gave us all so much pleasure over the Christmas period. They experienced the other side of Christmas with an Advent stable Sleep Over raising £1,045 in sponsorship for the homelessness charity 'Crisis'.

Barry, Kim and Rosamund went into the two primary schools to do a presentation about the choir in February this year, but, unfortunately, the three 'snow days' immediately following this presentation meant that we lost the impetus and gained no new junior members.

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 goes to Sara (Events/Pastoral Care), Kim (Singing/theory), Rosamund (Recorders) Carole Hellen (Christian teaching) and Kate. Without their time, dedication and enthusiasm, which is given so freely, this venture would not be successful.

Above all, for the music in any church to thrive, the positive support of the Incumbent is paramount. We are very blessed at All Saints' to have that full support from Rosamund as well as her active involvement in the musical life of the church. For this, we thank God.

*Barry Lancaster*

## **SCHOOLS**

William Stukeley School held 4 church services, including a Candlemas Communion service with us this year and each year group used the building as a class room using a series of teaching resources we have developed for each of the Key Stages. Judy Kelly, Kate Plant, Mary Dack, Carole Williams & Iain Braid served on the governing body as Foundation Governors during the year and I am an ex-officio governor.

Holbeach Primary Academy have held three church services (one led by the Methodist Minister Alan Barker and one of which had to be relocated to the school). Sadly, despite all my efforts they have not yet taken us up on the offer of providing curriculum resources.

The University Academy continue to use the church for their very successful Christmas Concert, and for the third year running held a Christingle Service for year 7 pupils. It is unfortunate that, for whatever reason, they have not seen fit to reintroduce the year 7 teaching sessions in church which were so successful in 2016.