

St Aidan's Church Skelmanthorpe



Annual Report & Financial Review for year ending 31st December 2020...

The Parish Church of St Aidan's is situated on Radcliffe Street, Skelmanthorpe
HD8 9AF within the Deanery of Kirkburton and Almondbury, of the Diocese of
Leeds, within the Church of England

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www.staidanschurch-skelmanthorpe.org.uk

Facebook: St Aidan's Church, Skelmanthorpe

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

St Aidan's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge Rev Kate Currie in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social, and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC

Committee members

Rev Kate Currie (Chair), Rev Evelyne Barrow,

Trevor Langley & Carole Senior (Churchwardens & Deanery Synod Representatives)

Geoff Wrigglesworth, Mike Townsend, Chris Hobson, Ruth Sherrin, Gill Millman, John Britton and Hazel Banks

Hazel Banks term of office concluded at the November APCM

- a) Vice Chair – Trevor Langley
- b) Treasurer - Geoff Wrigglesworth
- c) Secretary - Ruth Sherrin
- d) Standing Committee - Rev Kate Currie, Rev Evelyne Barrow, Trevor Langley, Carole Senior, Geoff Wrigglesworth, Ruth Sherrin
- e) Electoral Roll Officer - Ruth Sherrin

Other officer posts

Parish Giving Officer -Trevor Langley

Data controller + Compliance Officer – Rev Kate Currie

Safeguarding Officer - Gill Millman

Environmental Officer – Mike Townsend

Health and Safety Officer – Carole Senior

Disability Officer – Gill Millman

Sides persons – Carole Senior, Pat and John Britton, Jackie and Russ Clarkson, Geoff Wigglesworth, Gary Firth, Chris Hobson

- ❖ The PCC has met on 8 occasions during 2020. Due to the Covid -19 pandemic the 2020 APCM was delayed from April 19th 2020 until 1st November 2020
- ❖ On 6th July a consultation was held using ZOOM to pass the following resolution:- *The priest in charge and the PCC acting jointly authorize dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening prayer as required by Canon B11 and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B14 on the following occasions 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th July 2020 The reason for the dispensation was that in the light of the Governments guidance on preventing the spread of Coronavirus there was no church in the Benefice which could be used safely for public worship.*
- ❖ The annual servicing of gas boiler, fire extinguishers and organ plus PAT and fire alarm testing has been carried out.
- ❖ On the 30th November 2020 the PCC members once again affirmed their due regard and commitment to the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy, '**Promoting a Safer Church, House of Bishops, 2017**' Safeguarding now appears as a regular item on PCC agendas.
- ❖ Issues concerning private cars parking on church land have been addressed.
- ❖ The Memorial garden rules were reviewed
- ❖ In line with the latest Quinquennial further advice regarding future ways to heat the church are being sought. Although working well at the moment the gas boiler is ancient.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2020.

The Annual Report for 2020 will be different from previous years because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, there will be no reports from the Charity Shop; Messy Church; the Mothers' Union; the youth drama and singing group and the toddler group, because they were all unable to function due to Government restrictions.

At the start of the New Year there was a growing awareness of the impact that the virus was having on the other side of the world, but life at St Aidan's continued as 2019 had ended, in vacancy. On 2nd March, 2020 a licensing service was held in St Aidan's church led by Bishop Nicholas Baines, Bishop of Leeds, to license Revd Mrs. Evelyn Barrow as Associate Priest and Revd Kate Currie as Priest-in-Charge. It was a lovely evening and the church was full of friends, old and new. The children from St Aidan's (CE) Academy came and sang to us, and we all enjoyed refreshments together at the end.

Covid-19 rapidly made its way to this country and its impact was quickly felt on church life. Holy Communion was received in one kind only, and the use of the common cup was suspended. The first of two national lockdowns in 2020 began on 23rd March. Churches were closed for the first time in many hundreds of years and quickly Holy Communion was being celebrated from the priests own home.

At the start of 2020 not many of us were familiar with the word Zoom, but by the end of the year this had all changed. New ways of worshipping and keeping in touch with each other saw the need to embrace technology. On Easter Sunday, 2020, the first service was relayed over Zoom. New ways of being together as a church were experimented with. Coffee and Prayers started up on a Saturday morning and the first Pilgrim course began in the Autumn. This did not, however, take away the fact that people were missing meeting at the Coffee Mornings and other social events.

A team of volunteers have regularly delivered orders of service; monthly notice sheets and prayer booklets to parishioner's homes. Pastoral support has been provided by emails and telephone calls. The charitable work of the church continues with support given to Mara; the Barnsley Women's Refuge; Christian Aid; the British Legion; Dewsbury South Covid Support; Shelter and the Church Army. Our church families have received by email monthly 'Messy at Home' sessions plus a Christmas activity was delivered to each home.

St Aidan's church did open for public worship and private prayer in between the two lockdowns, and in time for Christmas. There were, however, difficulties with the sound system and trying to relay services both to a congregation in church and at home over Zoom had its challenges. This resulted in a temporary minor reordering certificate being obtained for the introduction of a Nave altar. This has improved the sound quality for both congregations.

We look forward to welcoming Revd Canon Joyce Jones who will be licensed to Clayton West, Scissett and Skelmanthorpe as a Self Supporting Minister (SSM) on 6th April, 2021.

WORSHIP

We have continued to celebrate Holy Communion each Sunday at 10.00 experiencing spiritual communion when service have only been relayed on Zoom. Risk assessments were carried out for the church building which meant seats had to be arranged two metres apart limiting the capacity to thirty people. The mandatory wearing of masks became the norm.

When services have been relayed only over Zoom the average attendance has been twenty seven. When services have taken place in church and also relayed over Zoom the average attendance has been thirty five. Singing has not been allowed in church. We have missed hearing Griff and Claire playing for our services and we are grateful to Jude who has regularly come into church to play the organ to help maintain it. In 2020 congregants were invited to join with Clayton West and Scissett each Tuesday morning at 9.15 for a mid-week Eucharist. Regrettably, Home Communion and visits to Care Homes have not be possible.

We were able to hold the annual Remembrance Day Service but with just a small team of people in church. The service included a recording of the last post from James Roberts. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial on a separate occasion. A Christmas Carol Service was held in December and this year's Midnight Communion was relayed from St Augustine's church Scissett because of the restrictions of Covid regulations.

We look forward to the renewal of all-age, contemporary, Book of Common Prayer and all other forms of worship that have been put on hold during the pandemic. There have been no baptisms nor weddings in church but seven funerals have taken place, four in church and three at a crematorium. Links with the Methodist Church are being strengthened and plans are in place for joint events in the future.

On December 6th the churchwardens were licensed within the Sunday morning service instead of the usual Archdeacons Visitation service. Bishop Jonathan has provided regular sermons that have been either read or shown by video.

Church life has been very different in 2020 for everyone. It is hard adapting to change but we have focused on what we can do in this most challenging of years. Sincere thanks go to everyone for the unstinting help, support and love shown.

Revd Kate Currie

ELECTORAL ROLL

91 Persons registered

69 Households

12 Non residents

79 Resident in parish

29 Male

62 Female

Ruth Sherrin

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The detailed financial position for the year to 31st December 2020 is set out in the annual financial statements which are available to view by contacting Trevor Langley (Churchwarden). Despite being in the 'Covid' situation, our finances have remained satisfactory.

The New Entrance Project balance stood at £2794 having incurred costs of £3180 for major roofing repairs and £2636 kitchen flooring repairs. The retention of £1907 payable to the builder for the major kitchen works was released during the year. VAT on these costs was recovered under the Listed Buildings Scheme.

Purchases of armchairs, tables and kitchen utensils amounting to £2639 were made under the Co-op Community grant received last year. Repairs to flooring and the replacement of our community notice boards cost £2726. A small balance remains in this fund.

During the early stages of the Covid pandemic there was great uncertainty regarding our resources and the PCC decided that we should keep a reasonable reserve in our General Fund to cover future eventualities. Further lockdowns and closure of the church has resulted in weekly collections, fees and donations, fund raising events and our monthly coffee mornings being seriously affected. The charity shop closed in March and has not re-opened despite receiving a Kirklees small business grant of £10,000. On a more positive note the planned giving shows an increase on the previous year.

A plea to our regular parishioners to contribute their weekly giving by bank standing order rather than cash has been successful and gives financial security. The charitable donations were maintained.

Most general running costs are slightly reduced from the previous year due to the church closure and we have paid £14,000 towards our Parish Share

Geoff Wrigglesworth

SAFEGUARDING

The Church of St Aidan's is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and vulnerable adults. Our church safeguarding policy which is reviewed by the PCC annually may be seen by all as it is posted in the porch. Beside the contact details of our church safeguarding officer there are contact details for the Diocese safeguarding team displayed on our website. All Disclosure and Barring checks for the members of our church who require them are up to date. Online safeguard training is available through the Diocese website and members of the PCC have been encouraged to complete this training

Gill Millman

FABRIC, ORNAMENTS and MAINTENANCE

Log Book Entries:

January Smoke alarm fitted in the vestry. Vicarage vacated.

February Antique chair in sanctuary repaired by the Men's Shed.
Eight small and two large tables purchased from the Co-operative Grant.
Cover and handrail for the cellar steps fitted. Loose stones at the top of the steps secured.
Overflow from heating header tank redirected from the cellar to a soak away. (All of these works completed by John Watson).

March Floor in nave sanded and varnished. Loose blocks re-seated. C J
Flooring

- May** Two major areas of roofing concern as highlighted in the Quinquennial Report, one above the vestry and one on the corner of the east and north walls of the sanctuary, dealt with by Boylan roofing. All parts of the roof were also retreated with Smartwater.
- June** Noticeboards replaced by Bobby Dazzler, Skelmanthorpe.
Fence between church and the fire station repaired by fire station staff following our request,
Four chairs with arms and vinyl seat purchased from Church Buying Group.
- July** Minor pointing identified in the Quinquennial inspection completed by Simon Allott.
- August** Sink in sacristy replaced. (John Watson).
- September** Kitchen floor sealed to cure damp problem. Organised by Barkers.
Gas meter in the cellar replaced.
Temporary Faculty granted for relocation of the altar until Sept 2022.
Temporary altar created.
- October** Two large tables and a further 12 chairs with arms purchased using Co-op grant money.
Gas boiler serviced by ACES Combustion & Commercial Heating

The fabric and ornaments appear in reasonable condition although the Altar frontals are showing signs of age

The lawns have been contract mown (The Garden Barber) and the gardens kept immaculate by Mike Townsend

Trevor Langley

SYNOD

Huddersfield and Almondbury Zoom meeting 2 November 2020 attended by **Trevor Langley and Carole Senior**

The Church of England ***Living in Love and Faith*** project is propelled by the Church's desire to learn how relationships, marriage and sexuality fit within the bigger picture of a humanity that is liberated by Jesus Christ and infused by the Spirit to reflect the image of God in which we are created.

Perspectives on gender, identity and sexuality are evolving and the Church wants to explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say. We hope to stimulate thinking and learning that helps us to understand what it means to embody a Christian vision of living in love and faith in our culture. The project is led by the bishops because of their particular responsibility for upholding and teaching the Christian faith.

The Church of England is keenly aware that issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience; their sense of identity; their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. We also know that the life and mission of our Church – and of the worldwide Anglican Communion – are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements among us which have been debated and discussed on many occasions over the years. These divisions have come into sharper focus because of society's changing perspectives and practices, especially in relation to lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and intersex people. The Church wants to understand what it means to follow Christ in love and faith given the questions about human identity and the variety of patterns of relationship emerging in our society, including marriage, civil partnership, cohabitation, celibacy and friendship. These are vital matters which affect the well being of individuals and communities and which have a profound spiritual dimension founded on the truth that every human being is of infinite value in God's sight.

We hope to produce resources that will help bishops to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It will tackle the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change.

We are planning to produce a range of resources in a variety of formats that we hope will be accessible, helpful and attractive to a wide range of people.

We are inviting everyone involved in producing and engaging with the resources to do so with a desire to see Christ in one another as we forge deeper relationships with people from whom we differ. We are embarking on this project with openness to being surprised and challenged by what it means to be the body of Christ in England in the 21st century.

The bishops are committed to developing the project in a way that enables people to be informed and involved throughout the project's development. Members of General Synod and other stakeholders of the Church of England have been invited to participate at regular intervals in the process of developing the resources.

The original plan was to complete the *Living in Love and Faith* resources in June 2020 and for members of the Church of England's General Synod to engage with the resources in their meeting in July 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, [the House of Bishops decided to postpone the publication of the resources to early November 2020.](#)

The plan is to enable bishops, dioceses, deaneries and local church communities to explore the resources together from the beginning of 2021. Engagement with the materials will need to be responsive to local contexts as churches and dioceses consider the impact of COVID-19 and other challenges on the health, the economy and the well being of the nation. It is envisaged that in 2022 learning and engagement with the materials will move to discernment, decision-making and if necessary, synodical processes. The group that will take this part of the LLF process forward on behalf of the House of Bishops will be led by Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM ST AIDAN'S CE ACADEMY

The Year 2020 brought many challenges for everyone and school has been impacted through lockdowns and closures. However, because of its special Christian Character we have tackled this new challenge head on and have lived out our vision of Love, Laugh, Learn, Live which is based on the biblical understanding that God sent his Son into the world to give us life in all its fullness. We continue to be passionate about being a school of religious character and our Christian ethos and even though there have been changes over the past year and things have not been 'normal', our school is extremely proud of our links with you its Parish Church and this remains a key focus for us and central to our vision for the future of St Aidan's and its children and families.

We were delighted to welcome Rev Kate Currie to our church and Rev E Barrow. The children and staff from school attended a special service at Church in March last year to welcome them both to the church and it is a wonderful way to still have links with Mrs Barrow as part of our school community. We have worked closely with Rev Kate Currie to build up an excellent working relationship with school. Even during lockdown Kate was in touch to support with Collective worship, services and kind wishes. The addition of Rev Kate as school Governor and also been fundamental in securing the positive relationship with school.

Trevor and Ruth have continued to work closely with School and the worship group, supporting in any way they can and liaising closely with Miss Ford. Church have also funded a scheme for collective worship in school which will be rolled out in the next month. It was wonderful that Trevor and Ruth were able to attend the Year 5 leavers service in the summer to hand out a special bible from the Church community. This service was also a special opportunity for Rev E Barrow to end the service with a special blessing for each child as they continued on their learning journey.

St Aidan's Church of England Academy continues to build God's kingdom and share God's love within the community. We work closely with the other school's in our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) Learning Accord and use each other's expertise to reflect on our achievements and keep striving to improve. Our MAT currently has 6 schools which allows us to continue to share good practice, learn from each other and support our own and others school improvement. The MAT Academy Improvement Officer, Jassmine Manning, regular CEO visits from Elaine Watson, joint learning walks, joint INSET days and Joint staff meetings impacts positively on school improvement and school performance.

As a result of Mrs Barrow securing the permanent position at New Mill. Mrs Willimott has taken on the position of Substantive Headteacher and Mrs Burkinshaw has moved into the position of Assistant Headteacher. The school continues to be a strong team and have risen to the challenge and opportunities that this year has brought. Miss Ford continues to do an excellent job at preparing for the school for SIAMS and has worked closely alongside Rev Kate Currie and Ruth and Trevor. School has a new diocesan advisor, Lee Talbot and is working closely with school to help them prepare for the SIAMS inspection which is due in the next year. Lee has been very supportive and delivered SIAMS training for all governors in school. Mrs Willimott is now actively involved in the new church Heads network and accesses regular training via the Diocese.

The school continues to be popular and we work hard to safeguard our positive reputation. The popular Facebook page enriches our communication with parents and the local community allowing us to share curriculum developments, visits, visitors and the vast range of experiences that our children enjoy. This has also been a useful resource during lockdown as it let us keep in touch with our local community. We have strived to deliver a broad and rich curriculum, regardless of the impact of lockdown. This is incredibly important to us as it gives opportunity for pupils to shine in different areas and subjects beyond English and Maths and to develop important personal development skills.

The behaviour of pupils continues to be extremely good, virtually all pupils behave well and keep our rules of Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be responsible showing good manners and having a positive attitude to their learning. There is a very small number of SEND pupils who present with challenging behaviour but these are very well managed, utilising appropriate support and advice. We are proud to be an inclusive school providing a good education for those pupils with additional needs. We work hard with the parents of these children and other outside agencies to provide support for them and to enable all pupils regardless of ability, background or gender to Learn the best they can and Live life to their full potential. We have to work hard to promote this vision with all parents who worry reasonably about the impact of SEND pupils on their own children's progress and achievement. We have supported all learners and families during lockdown and have made sure that we focus on children's mental health in school.

Future Developments:

Support all pupils to make sure they are supported after lockdown and on their return to school.
To build on and develop our strong community and church links
Develop a love of reading and thirst for knowledge in all our pupils
To raise the aspirations of pupils to prepare the for the next stages in learning and for life in modern Britain.