

## The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Ribby cum Wrea - Annual Report for 2019

### Background

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church and churchyard.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Provided all the places are filled, there are Twelve elected members of the PCC, four being elected each year for a term of three years. During the year 2019, the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar: The Reverend Philip Chew from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019

Wardens: Mr Roy Griffiths

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mrs Sandy Harris

Mr Kelvyn Norris (Resigned March 2019)

Elected Members:

Until 2020

Until 2021

Until 2022

Mr Stanley Parkinson  
Mrs Brenda Cooper-Longworth  
Mrs Julie Carter-Lindsay  
Mr Frank Andrews

Mrs Liz Almond (Treasurer)  
Mrs Susan Jones  
Mrs Carole Williams  
Mrs Ros Cockrill

Dr Cheryl Rees  
Mrs Rachael Rosser  
Mrs Janet Reeh  
Mr John Kelso  
(Resigned Sept 2019)

There are seven PCC committees.

**Standing Committee:**

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power, if required, to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council, but its usual task is to prepare agendas before PCC meetings

**Finance Committee:**

This committee oversees the general financial dimension of the work of St Nicholas', by budgeting and monitoring income and expenditure.

**Social Committee:**

This committee organises a variety of social events, some to raise money, all to encourage a growing fellowship within the congregation.

**Stewardship Committee:**

This committee is responsible for organising our Stewardship Campaigns, for managing our Stewardship scheme and, when appropriate, inviting new people to join.

**Building Committee:**

This committee is responsible for maintaining the church building and the churchyard.

**SNAPS: (St Nicholas Action People)**

This committee is responsible for Mission.

**Centre Committee:**

This committee is responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of the Church and Community Centre.

Church Electoral Roll: There were 123 Parishioners on the new 2019 Church Electoral Roll.

## **Vicar's Report to the AGM April 2020**

It is usually the Vicar's responsibility to present a report to the AGM. Having only been in post since November there isn't much I can report on. My induction and institution as Vicar of the joint benefice of Wrea Green, Ballam with Weeton went well and many who came remarked upon the welcome and generosity of the people here.

The Christmas period was very busy with several hundred people crossing the threshold of our churches to enjoy our various services, nativities and concerts. I for one was impressed with the high numbers at the Nicholas's Singers Nine Lessons and Carols in Wrea Green. There had to be extra seating provided in the Community Centre to accommodate them all.

I have also been impressed by the work and commitment given by so many people in the various aspects of the life of our churches. There are reports from different groups like PCC, JAM and the Ladies Christian Fellowship to be given at the AGM. Having stated that there are many other important tasks done by the laity to keep our churches running efficiently and spiritually aware. Apart from thanking all the people who organise the big groups I would also like to thank all those who do the little things that would be missed if they didn't do them. Prayer rotas and prayer leaders, readers rotas and those that read the scriptures for our benefit on Sundays, the leaders and organisers of our home groups, SNAPS and our social committee, our PCC and those who creatively write and deliver our children's talks and those who welcome people at our doors Sunday by Sunday.

Together we are on a journey to be the people that God wants us to be. I look forward to continuing my first year of ministry with you all. God Bless

Rev Philip

## **SNAPs (St Nicholas Action People) Annual Report**

The committee met five times throughout the year and consists of Frank Andrews (chairman), Cheryl Rees (secretary), Sandy Harris, Kelvyn Norris, James Carter-Lindsay, Brenda Cooper-Longworth and Kelly Ford.

We have continued throughout the year to send email copies of our weekly notices to all members of the congregation who have requested their own copy; the number of recipients has grown marginally as the year progressed. These normally go out on a Saturday morning and are screened again before Services on Sundays.

The St Nicholas Church leaflet was produced and printed shortly before our last Vicar retired. An updated version is now needed. Plans to investigate the viability of placing a camera in church to enhance the lines of vision has been deliberately put on hold until our new vicar has settled in.

Welcome Packs have continued to be given out throughout the year to ensure new residents felt personally welcomed by the church. In Langton Lane alone there are 88 new homes being built and due to the large number, these new houses have received a reduced Welcome Pack comprising of a letter from the Vicar and a current copy of the latest Parish magazine. More help is needed to cover this and other roads that don't currently have the benefit of a church "Spotter".

A Parish Weekend at Rydal Hall at the end of August and was regarded as highly successful. Rev Ann Wood lead the morning sessions and Bishop Jill Duff joined us on the Sunday. Saturday afternoon found many walking and all enjoying the beauty of the Lakes. Several people kept us entertained in a most enjoyable concert on Saturday evening. The next parish weekend is planned for 10-12 September 2021 at Rydal Hall.

Fresh coffee after services. A long-held ambition to serve fresh coffee after the main services has been achieved and Fair-Trade coffee is being used as standard.

3 SNAP members attended the Festival of Baptism in Blackburn Cathedral and benefitted from a useful guide for the self-examination of our consciences.

Men's Breakfasts. One breakfast was held in December which was regarded as successful but more hosts are needed for these events to be scheduled more regularly.

The posada initiative was implemented before Christmas and was considered to be successful by all who took part. The Prayer Circle has continued in operation throughout the year ensuring that all SNAP and church concerns are based in prayer. These specially written prayers expertly drafted by Sandy can readily be made available to PCC and

other church members if desired. Easter and Christmas letters were again written and enclosed with the church Easter & Christmas cards and delivered to every household in Wrea Green.

Frank Andrews

### **Deanery Synod Report 2019**

Deanery Synod has this year met more regularly, with meetings arranged to take place in different parts of the Deanery. Advertisements have informed of opportunities for attend open events.

**-April - Palm Sunday Diocesan Walk of Witness** – People walked from opposite coastal ends of the Deanery to meet at Squire's Gate for a service.

**- May - A Rogationtide event** with a 'Crop Blessing Service' held at St John the Evangelist, Lund

**- June** saw an excellent meeting at Christ Church, Wesham when **David Barlow, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance**, talked about 3yr budgets being set in future; and the use of reserves to support the work of Vision 2026. In opening a discussion about **Parish Share**, he explained that the National Church now insists that the 'Lower Income Funding' they provide us, be moved into supporting the lower 20% of Parishes, undoubted increasing Parish Share for the rest of the Parishes. He asked how Kirkham Deanery's churches raised their Parish Shares, recognising that most churches struggle to do so with 'straight giving'. There followed a useful discussion which resulting in compiling a list of helpful strategies. This is now on file for our future reference.

David said that average individual giving was around £9 per week but a large number of parishioners gave £5 or less. He informed us that the need was around £16 to £20 per week – (*This of course then has implications for people who are able, to bear a burden that subsidises the less able.*) He said there was a real need for education about 'giving,' to inform people about the costs of Ministry & its Mission.

**- August - 'Praise on the Prom'** at St Anne's bandstand

**-October - A Vision 2026 workshop** at St Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven. As requested by Bishop Philip, our Synod discussed how each of our churches had moved on in the times since our Crossroads events. We considered and shared our assessments in the categories of, 'Making Disciples', Being Witnesses' and 'Growing Leaders'

**- November** - celebrating, '**Christ the King**', - a **Deanery Choral Event** at St Thomas' Church St. Annes

**- December** - A general invitation to '**Carols at the Winter Garden**'

**- January** – **Epiphany Service** at Christ Church Wesham

**- February - Steven Whittaker, Director of Education & Opa Geibel** talked about the work of the **Youth Provision Development Team**. Regarding people ceasing to be members of faith, statistics showed this happened to 34% of 11 to 18yr olds and 60% before the age of 24. This points to the need to support and encourage these groups.

### **In addition, this year**

\* A Deanery Book Club open to all, has now begun meeting in Kingfisher pub, near St George's Park.

\* Deanery Synod regularly discussed feedback from Diocesan and General Synod meetings.

\* In February 2020, our New Archdeacon of Lancaster, the 'Venerable David Picken' was installed. He was formerly Archdeacon of Newark in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

### **Representation on Deanery Synod**

According to the size of our electoral role our church is entitled to 3 representatives on Deanery Synod. It is pleasing that after years of trying to reach a full complement, more people might be coming forward this year and I would happily stand down. General Synod recently decreed that at a future date a rule should be implemented limiting a person's service to 2 terms of 3 years. Currently, churches are stating this would limit their opportunities for full representation if insufficient new volunteers are coming forward and thus the matter is being sent back to General Synod for reconsideration.

Sandy Harris

## **JAM says 'Jesus and Me!' and it is our Junior Church.**

We continue to meet in Church at 9.30am each Sunday and go into the upper room in the centre, returning into church much later in the service during the Eucharist, or during the peace in the case of Service of the word. Occasionally we fail to return because we are too busy with our activities!

We welcome all ages and try to enrich spiritual lives having special time with the older as well as the younger children. We greatly appreciate those who present the children's time at the start of the service. This makes us feel we are an important part of God's family worshipping in church.

We stay in church for family services and on very special occasions such as Easter Sunday.

During our time in the upper room together we enjoy sharing news, the bible story, worshipping with songs, drama and action prayers and a craft activity. We usually follow the lectionary and most of the time our theme will be the same as the church service.

We have again organised some of the Family services in 2019 - Mothering Sunday, JAM celebration in November and the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

JAM planned the Mothering Sunday Family Service on 31 March with enthusiasm

The young people in JAM chose to think about the parable of the sower and God's message from that story.

The seed that the sower throws goes everywhere regardless of the environment – such is the extravagance of God. We are aiming to be good soil and listen to God's word, and then produce a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

We learnt in our service about how God cares for each one of us, his children, we thanked him for our parents, who have also loved us and cared for us. Archie led the service, Hannah provided expert IT support.

Nathaniel, Thomas, Olivia, Elena, Miles, Thomas, Emily, Henry, Kyle, Connell and Penny read poems, words of thanks and prayers beautifully. All the children acted in a drama of the parable. We would like to thank all the ladies who prepared the beautiful posies of flowers which were distributed in the service. JAM has a small collection each time we meet and from this we usually donate to the Marie Curie Cancer Care daffodil appeal. We are very pleased to say that JAM has been able to donate £150 this year to this very worthy cause.

JAM celebrated their twelfth birthday on Sunday 17 November with an all age service. This was based on the gospel theme for the day 'Security in turmoil', exploring Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple. Instead of a building, however wonderful, Jesus tells his followers to put their trust in him and the help he will give them, even in the most difficult times.

This was devised and well led by the young people.

Of course, cake and refreshments followed when donations were collected for the charity 'Life Now' following the charity Bunko event the previous evening.

JAM then turned their energy to planning and leading the Crib service on Christmas eve. This was greatly enjoyable, and every credit should be given to all participants from the smallest fluffy sheep to the older teenagers playing instruments and singing so well to celebrate the nativity. The children performed extremely well especially considering the little time we have in which to practise. Once again, we were delighted with the attendance.

The members on our roll continue to grow and Cheryl and Annie are grateful to have the help of Penny and Carole

*Cheryl and Annie.*

## **Nicholas Bear Club**

Nicholas Bear Club is held in the church and centre on alternate Wednesday afternoons. We start at the back of church with a theme related informal service. The theme maybe a bible story or even 'Going on a bear hunt' but the message is about God's love and our care for one another. We sing theme related songs with live music (Ros plays the guitar which the children love) and there is time for children to choose their own songs. We then move into the centre for a craft activity, play and refreshments with a chat.

NBC invites preschool children (any age, we love babies!) and whoever is looking after them but welcomes everyone. We start at 2.30 and finish at 3.30 but assure people that it is fine to arrive and leave whenever convenient.

We have a short break during the summer, although we usually hold a party one Wednesday afternoon in August. It wasn't easy to find a Wednesday afternoon in August for a summer party in the centre this year, so we decided to have a party during our last session on 24 July and invite a few older children and families.

Twenty young people and seventeen older people celebrated 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and how the caterpillar changed from old life through a cocoon into new life in the beautiful butterfly. There were games and songs, action and of course, party food to share.

We greatly appreciate the help of Avril and Penny who make a wonderful job of providing refreshments.

Nicholas Bear Club has been fairly well attended and we continue to welcome new members and new babies.

Contact Cheryl 07778 734719 or Ros 07967 996071

## Report from the Building Committee

There has been no major work undertaken in the year ending 31/12/19 with just a few minor repairs and replacement of light fittings.

We had intended to have the 5 yearly inspection completed in the Autumn but this has been delayed until 14/4/20 as we had difficulty in finding an appropriate organisation to carry out the work.

The Church yard and grounds have been kept to their usual high standard by Stanley and he has been more than ably assisted by Jack each week. The Church yard was again judged best in Lancashire.

Roy Griffiths

## The Social Committee Report

The year started with a very successful Buffet Supper and Concert by Dr Kevin Morgan with solos by Virginia Leigh using both the Church and Parish Centre. Our annual Church BBQ was moved into July in the hope of attracting families and with an earlier start time. Again, we were very lucky to have the use of Cookson's Old Farmyard and it was a most successful afternoon. Our annual Strawberry Tea with Fizz was this year held on a Sunday afternoon in August and although not as well attended as usual, it was a lovely afternoon.

September was the Harvest Festival Service followed by a Scarecrow Hunt for the young families. In October we had a wonderful evening listening to Sarah the owner and founder of Lytham Gin Distillery and sampling her gins.

At the beginning of November, we welcomed Rev Philip Chew as our new Vicar and the Social Committee catered for his licensing. We provided a knife and fork buffet in the School Hall for 150 people. Also, in November we again had our fun Bunko Charity Evening. This year we supported Rev George Thomas's Charity "Life Now" in appreciation for all the help and services he had given for St Nicholas during the Vacancy.

Besides these social events we have provided refreshments at the following church services Christingle Service, Carol Service, and for the St Nicholas Singers Summer Concert.

Sue Jones

## Financial Review

During the year we have incurred a deficit of £6,145 for the year with surplus resources at a reduced level of £14,486.06. The cost of Ministry is £56,855, including a contribution of £54,725 to the Diocesan Parish Share, which largely provides for the stipends, pensions and housing for the clergy. The "fixed" cost of ministry at £56,855 is 71% of our regular annual expenditure of £80,372 incurred in the cost of running and maintaining the church, leaving £23,517 as "variable" costs and there is little margin to reduce this expenditure.

We are most grateful for all the ongoing financial support received from the community, including a number of legacies over recent years, but we have needed to draw on our Reserves to finance ongoing costs. We received one legacy in 2019.

We are pleased to report that the Parish Church and Community Centre continues to be self-supporting on a charitable non-profit basis, with a sum of £26,598 held on long term Repairs and Renewals account.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) which equates to approximately twelve months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £14,486 on unrestricted funds at the year-end compares with an expected unrestricted expenditure of circa £80,000 in 2020.

Liz Almond

**Approved by the PCC on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

**Signed on behalf of the PCC  
Reverend Philip Chew**