

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2018 - issue 2

Introducing the DAC team...

In 2017, the DAC team underwent several changes.



Following Sylvia Johnson's retirement, Lisa McIntyre (pictured) became DAC Secretary in July 2017. Lisa comes to Leeds from London, where she worked in the national

Church offices for the Church Buildings Council. As the daughter of a clergyman and a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, she combines knowledge both of the missional needs of parishes and of the practical and legal framework, which exist for both maintaining and developing church buildings.

Jen Read, previously the DAC Administrator, became an Assistant DAC Secretary in May.

As Jen has been working for the DAC since 2015 she will be familiar already to many churchwardens and clergy. Prior to this, Jen worked in church administration. She is also a Reader at her local church.

Stephen Craven also joined the DAC team as an Assistant DAC Secretary in May. Stephen previously worked for the Diocese as part of the Mission & Pastoral Team since 2015. Before that, he was part of the Diocese of Southwark's DAC team. Stephen has a background in civil engineering and, like Jen, is a Reader at his local church.

The team look forward to supporting churchwardens, clergy and parishes in maintaining and developing their church buildings in the future.

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Churchwarden Training 2018

Bradford

27 June, 7.15pm – 9.15pm
 (coffee from 7pm) – New churchwardens.

6 October, 10am – 12 noon
 (coffee from 9.45am) – Experienced churchwardens.

*Both at: Trinity Five Rise Centre,
 John Escritt Road, Bingley, BD16 2ST.*

Huddersfield

18 June 7.15pm – 9.15pm
 (coffee from 7pm) – New churchwardens.
*Dewsbury Minster, Rishworth Road, Dewsbury,
 WF12 8DD.*

19 September 7.15pm – 9.15pm
 (coffee from 7pm) – Experienced churchwardens.
*Holy Trinity, Trinity Street,
 Huddersfield, HD1 4DT.*

Leeds and Wakefield

17 July 7.30pm – 9.30pm
 (coffee from 7pm) – New churchwardens.
*St Catherine's Church, Doncaster Road,
 Wakefield, WF1 5HL.*

4 October 7.30pm – 9.30pm
 (coffee from 7pm) – Experienced churchwardens.
*Church House, 17-19 York Place,
 Leeds, LS1 2EX.*

Ripon

2 June 10am – 12 noon
 All churchwardens (includes DAC input).
*Christ Church, Church Square,
 Harrogate, HG1 4SW.*

24 September 7pm – 9pm
 All churchwardens.
All Saints, Ripley, HG3 3AD.

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The Ven. Paul Ayers writes about mission projects in the Leeds Archdeaconry:

In November, clergy couple Mark and Kathryn Harlow were licensed to serve at St Paul's Ireland Wood, and in January 45 former members from St George's Leeds joined them, with a prayerful and ambitious project to develop new outreach to the community there. This will include plans to improve the iconic octagonal building, known locally as the 'threepenny bit' as well as improving the heating, so that the congregation can experience the warmth of God's love without their feet freezing!

The congregation and clergy at St Luke's Holbeck are also praying and working hard to develop their building for mission, with a plan to extend the west end to accommodate their growing outreach work. There have been extensive in-depth consultations with the local community, the amenity societies, the DAC and funding bodies. The project is not in the bag yet, but it is a work in progress.

Not every parish, however, can come up with a 'flagship' project. Growing the church in numbers, in spiritual commitment and in service to others is mostly done in the everyday work of ordinary churches.

Signs of life I have noted in the last year in the Leeds Archdeaconry include:

- new monitor screens being installed at Christ Church, Upper Armley, to enhance the range of worship on offer
- new noticeboards being erected at St Martin's Potternewton to let the thousands that pass every day see that the church is there for them
- growing work at the Lighthouse with those who are battered by the storms of life, in close collaboration with the Crypt downstairs and the church upstairs
- risky and controversial change – change?! – to the Christingle Service at St John's Wortley bearing fruit, with over 200 attending
- a new page turned, literally, in the Confirmation Register at St Wilfrid's Halton with the first candidates for a number of years
- a new Saturday teatime Eucharist at Calverley, attracting 40 adults and 35 children, nearly all new to church and getting involved as helpers
- the list could go on...

'Echoes of War' at St John's Menston: 22 - 24 September 2017



It began as a Flower Festival with themes for arrangements chosen to depict events, personalities, poetry and songs of WW1 and of 1917, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. Yet it grew, and became an extremely successful and moving weekend, which encouraged participation from the Menston community at all levels.

In addition to the flowers there was a display of 26 textile hangings made in East Yorkshire by the Threads of War group. Some were hung in church, and others in the Parish Room, where there were also displays of WW1 artefacts,

paintings by local schoolchildren, information boards and some delicious cakes!

The greatest community involvement came from the creation of over 2,000 knitted and crocheted poppies displayed at the church gates and outside the church door. The response from villagers to our appeal for help to create the poppies was fantastic. Many visitors came to the church, eager to find their own poppies. Most intriguing to visitors, however, was the six-foot high replica WW1 trench, which created a unique and memorable approach to St John's! Made from old doors, fencing, corrugated iron and sandbags, it was entitled 'Over the Top' and was a special tribute to the 50 Menston men who died in WW1.

The church was packed for an outstanding concert on the Saturday evening. St Peter's Singers, conducted by Simon Lindley, sang Faure's Requiem with Trio Literati interleaving selections of WW1 poetry. A 'Songs of Praise'-style service concluded the weekend, featuring well-known hymns from the time and more pieces of war poetry.



Celebrating the musical life of St John's Baildon

In October 2015, the choir of St John's Baildon consisted of just seven dedicated adults. Two and a half years later, there was a celebration on 3 February through worship, prayer and music of what has been achieved in such a short amount of time in the musical life of the parish. Those taking part included the choir (which at the last count has now reached twenty-three members, including thirteen talented and enthusiastic children), the massed chorus of St John's Voices (members of the local community), the younger children's St John's Little Voices, the parish's four highly skilled organists and pianists, and the newly-formed Worship Band.

Two of the original adults, Judith and Ian Ibbotson, talking about the musical life of the parish commented: "The children have really enhanced the leading of weekly worship with their enthusiasm, exuberance



and commitment; they are a joy and a blessing." Joan Dearnley (another long-standing member of the choir) has also been a founder member of the Worship Band, along with her husband Chris. "With piano, saxophone, clarinet, harp, violin, guitar, flute, cornet and drums played by musicians ranging from nine years old to retirement," Joan says, "this must be the most varied band in the diocese!"

'After the Flood' by The Revd Cathy Reardon, Vicar of Mytholmroyd



On Boxing Day 2015, a tremendous flood hit the Calder Valley. Homes, businesses, schools and churches were flooded, including St. Michael's Church. The water across the site was between three and four feet deep, affecting the church, church hall and the graveyard. Some twenty-two months later, on 5 November 2017, we were delighted to have the Archbishop of York come to re-dedicate the building and congregation to the service of God in Mytholmroyd.

So how did we get from a situation of complete devastation to one of rejoicing and celebration?

Well, the first thing to say is that it was a long, hard journey. We spent many months 'in exile.' Our services were held first in the local cricket club, then in our neighbouring Roman Catholic church, and finally in our own church hall until we were allowed back into the church. Each week we had to create and dismantle a worship space. Everything needed for Holy Communion was brought in and then taken away again. As a result, we abandoned hymn books in favour of printed sheets.

Then there were the meetings – so many meetings! With the architect, builders and loss adjuster. Hours spent going through lists of items trying to work out exactly what we had lost in the flood and trying to work out their



value. If you want a flavour of this, try standing in your own church and looking at everything below waist height and guess its value.

In spite of all this, I can say that all this was, in many respects, a good experience for us. People said that they enjoyed worshipping in smaller spaces; "it's much cosier and friendlier." We were able to reassess what we actually wanted in the church and take the opportunity to re-order the worship space.

The prompt actions and good advice of Archdeacon Anne, the Chancellor, the Registrar and the DAC were also valuable. Now, I know that the faculty process can be daunting and difficult to get to grips with, but to give credit where credit is due, all these people have been marvellous and tremendously helpful. Faculty permission for emergency work came through very quickly, and without their help our situation would have been a much more difficult experience.

So, yes, it was a hard experience, but also a time of blessing. We knew that God was with us and we leant heavily on Him. With God's help and support, and through the good auspices of the Diocese, St. Michael's congregation and our church building kept afloat and did not sink beneath the waters that had threatened to engulf us.

Safeguarding Update

New Practice Guidance: Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies. (October 2017) – Implications for churchwardens.

This important and useful document, endorsed by the House of Bishops, recognises that the Church of England is not a single entity and consists of many autonomous parts. The practice guidance document (available online from the Church of England's website) aims to clarify key safeguarding roles and responsibilities, as outlined by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016. This requires churchwardens to have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops, which means that a churchwarden is not free to disregard the guidance but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so.

In brief, in relation to safeguarding, churchwardens should work with the incumbent, PCC and parish safeguarding officer to:

- ensure that in the period of a vacancy the incumbent's safeguarding roles and responsibilities are fulfilled, in consultation with the PCC, parish safeguarding officer and the Area Dean
- pay attention to the specific needs of children and vulnerable adults when undertaking health and safety inspections and risk assessments
- ensure that risk assessments are carried out before new activities are undertaken
- ensure that all parish activities with children and vulnerable adults are adequately supervised and insured
- ensure that the parish has procedures for responding to complaints and grievances
- answer questions regarding safeguarding as they arise in the Archdeacon's visitations, and respond to any specific safeguarding advice that the Archdeacon may give.

The Ven. Beverley Mason writes:

Vision 2030

A huge thank you to all parishes that have participated in the Vision 2030 consultations. We asked parishes to look at how they imagined their churches would look against the backdrop of reduction in numbers of full-time stipendiary clergy, declining numbers of church attendances and the challenges of finances. Key questions included which churches need to be resourced so that they can resource smaller churches, what might that look like, and what do we need to be working on now to equip our churches for 2030.

We have now processed the feedback and parishes can access this on the Ripon EA

resource page of the Diocesan website.

The second stage of Vision 2030 is now beginning as we formulate a strategy from your feedback. This will be will run out across the Episcopal Area later in the year and will feed into the wider Diocesan Strategy. Please watch out for it.

PCC structures

The Vision 2030 consultations have highlighted the complexities of rural multi-parish ministry. In particular, we can see that many multi-parish benefices are operating as though they were a sole church benefice. As we steer through Vision 2030, we shall be prioritising church structures and working

with parishes to encourage multi-parish benefices to adopt a more practical, efficient and effective model of PCC meetings which addresses ministry and mission while reducing the number of meetings for the incumbent.

Fundraising and resourcing

Finally, I would like to thank the Ripon EA for its impressive commitment to paying the Parish Share. For many churches, this has meant some very imaginative and immense fun, fundraising events. Please will you consider sharing your good ideas? We are creating a fundraising page on the Ripon Area website. Please submit your ideas with any photos (please obtain the permission of any people who appear in your photos!) to chloe.drummond@leeds.anglican.org

Refreshing Ministry and Mission at Castleford (Pontefract Archdeaconry)

Castleford Team, with its four churches serving a population of 42,000, has recently engaged in some serious reflection. The context was a familiar one: declining church attendance, a changing community and financial concern over maintaining buildings. Proposals included closing two or three churches or even all four, replacing them with a new purpose built church.

There is no escaping the grit and heartache of turning a key for the last time in a church door. The overwhelming sense for us was the need to pray, listen and act on the blessings and opportunities God would put in our path. And God spoke into our situation with amazing clarity and joy. What a difference we felt when the conversation changed from doubt, fear and uncertainty to faith, trust and hope. What we realised, and what we became excited about, is that God wants to be present in our community, that he is working through us to touch lives for good. Four churches is the best way for this to happen in Castleford. This involves both business as usual and a radical rethink of how God wants us to be as the Church.

We began joining the dots in ways we had never imagined. Partnering a boxing club with an



inclusive vision of fitness and social/emotional wellbeing will enable us to reach people and places where the Church doesn't often venture. A 'Support Hub' for veterans and their families, again developed in partnership, is offering another new way of using our buildings to reach out to those in need. A paid Children's Worker,

focusing her energy at one of our churches, is bringing families together and creating a network of support for local children. A dementia 'pop-up' café is thinking how better it can support those with dementia and their carers. An award and a grant from Age Concern is helping create a safe welcoming space at another of our churches.

Good things are happening when we pray, listen and act on God's promptings. We are growing in confidence seeing the blessings and the love that are present in our community. At the heart of what we do are our five Sunday masses and five weekday masses. Our social action is an intentional response to the Sacrament of the Altar. We have some huge challenges ahead but with God, all things are possible.

Michael Palin, a famous Yorkshireman, once wrote that in Yorkshire they don't call a spade a spade, they call it a shovel. Yorkshire virtues of direct speaking, no nonsense, grit, graft, honesty and openness have been tremendous advantages in facing our problems, changing our attitudes and not being shy in asking God to prosper the work of our hands. Our vision to touch lives for good will be an opportunity to touch them for God. We give thanks that in 2018 all of our four churches are open for worship, mission and service.

The Revd Kathy Robertson writes:

After 12 years working in the Dewsbury Team, I am now serving as a part-time Associate Priest in the parishes of St Andrews and St Mary's Church in Wakefield and St Catherine's Sandal to work with The Revd David Gerrard and the church families there.

Although both churches serve very different communities, each has a heart for mission reaching out to their respective communities in different ways. St Catherine's has a ministry to those in need who receive unconditional love and support from a dedicated team of volunteers together with a bowl of soup and, if needed, a life-saving food parcel. There is also a day care service for the frail elderly and the church is regularly buzzing with other groups



such as the community choir, the 'meet and eat' group and the gardening club. St Andrew's is also rooted in its community through the St Swithin's Community Centre on the Eastmoor Estate – again buzzing with different groups

reaching out to every generation and ensuring that the church building remains a resource for mission and ministry.

Several church members are actively involved in the governing body of St Mary's C of E school where we receive a warm welcome from staff and students. I have also arrived at a time where both churches have begun the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' journey. We are just launching our mission plans with new things on the horizon for 2018, including a new Monday evening service for those who use the St Catherine's centre and a new flexible monthly Sunday evening service.

It feels like exciting times in this part of Wakefield and I look with anticipation to what God has in store for us all as we work together to grow His kingdom.

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