

**The York City Centre Churches
of All Saints Pavement, St Denys,
St Helen with St Martin, and St Olave**

**Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017**

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

**Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 7.00 pm
The National Centre for Early Music, York**

Election of Churchwardens & Annual Parochial Church Meetings to be held on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 7.00pm in The National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate followed by refreshments.

Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Appointment of clerk
3. Apologies
4. Election of Churchwardens. Nominations in writing in advance for each parish. In the event of more nominations than places, voting will be by parish. Only those on the electoral roll or who are resident of the particular parish may vote.

To note that the Admission of Churchwardens will be on Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 7.30pm in All Saints Huntington

Annual Parochial Church Meetings Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 meeting.
3. Electoral Roll officers to report the numbers at 31 December 2017
4. Report of PCCs for 2017. Summaries from secretaries
5. Safeguarding officers reports
6. Accounts & Financial Report for 2017 Summaries are included in this report

Full accounts and financial reports will be on the notice boards in the churches at least 14 days prior to the APCM. A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting.

7. Church fabric and terrier reports.
8. Reports on church mission and ministry
9. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner as appropriate.
10. Election to PCCs.
11. Election of Sidespeople. Nominations to be received before the meeting.
12. Election of Deanery Synod representatives.
13. Priest-in-Charge: closing remarks and prayer

There will be a short meeting of the new PCCs immediately following the APCM to appoint the officers of the PCC:

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer

Where appropriate, two or more PCC members to the Standing Committee [applies to St Olave's]

Electoral Roll Reports

At 31 December 2017 the electoral roll numbers were:-

Electoral Roll 2017	All Saints	St Denys	St Helen with St Martin	St Olave
Number on Roll	100	58	42	215

Proceedings of the PCCs 2017

The PCCs of All Saints Pavement, St Denys, St Helen with St Martin and St Olave continue to meet regularly. The churchwardens and lay chairs from all of our churches meet with the clergy to discuss strategy and the challenges facing each PCC and church. All PCCs have responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding matters are correctly in place and in 2018 are preparing for the new regulations in data protection which will come into force in May 2018.

The duties of a PCC secretary include drawing up a draft agenda, taking minutes at meetings, dealing with the APCM paperwork etc. Each PCC must meet at least four times per year. The agendas include finance, fabric matters and worship. We give thanks for the work of the secretaries:-

All Saints Pavement	Joanna Finlay
St Denys	Maxine Waller
St Helen with St Martin	Kingsley Boulton
St Olave	Whitney Ivey

All Saints Pavement

All Saints Pavement PCC meets four times per year with standing committee meetings held before each PCC meeting to compile the agenda. The churchwardens report summaries the various building matters which have been discussed. We also report on the financial situation and projects. We were pleased to illuminate the Afghanistan Window and the west window so that passers by at night time can appreciate the craftsmanship. We were grateful to York Press, Feoffees and an individual for donations to make the work possible. We are embarking on WW1 commemorative events including an art installation for the city for the for 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on 11 Nov. We continue to welcome Guilds and Ex-services Associations as part of our congregation. All Saints Pavement is increasingly attracting a few weddings and we have seen an increase in concerts.

St Denys

PCC Summary: We continue to hold regular signed services at St Denys Church; these services draw many folk from around the county and have become extremely popular. In 2017 our second round HLF Grant application, for repairs to the North Aisle, was approved. During 2016 investigations had been carried out and in 2017 the work began. The Friends of St Denys act as a community to raise funds and to create a wide circle of individuals working together for the benefit of the church. The Friends arrange and organise various events and activities including: York Residents Weekend, York 50+ Festival, various concerts and performances. During these events, St Denys Church revealed itself as a joyous contributor to the wider community and wonderfully embraced the diversity of cultures in York, whilst raising much needed funds. A new sound and loop system was installed in 2017 and is much appreciated.

Maxine Waller

St Helen with St Martin

The St Helen with St Martin Parochial Church Council met five times in 2017, and the Standing Committee twice. The PCC discussed various issues relating to the fabric of the two churches and to worship. Decisions included: the restoration of the donor boards at St Helen's; and changes to the pattern of services at St Helen's from September, with the focus on a service every Saturday at noon, instead of just twice a month, and no services at other times. Unusually the first PCC meeting of the year took place not at St Martin's but at ASK, followed by a good meal and fellowship enjoyed by members of the two churches.

Kingsley Boulton

St Olave's

The St Olave's Parochial Church Council met 7 times during 2017. The meetings were chaired by Revd Jane Natrass, our Priest-in-Charge. The year saw the completion of the work of installing a toilet and improving access to the entrance to the church. This has involved the investigation of and applications to a number of grant making trusts, along with various fund-raising events. The PCC was asked to think constructively about the mission and outreach of the church and to contribute practical ideas in areas covering 'Discipleship', 'Family' and 'Weddings'.

Whitney Ivey PCC Secretary. St Olave with St Giles.

Church Fabric and Terrier Reports

All Saints Pavement Fabric Report

Applications for the grant of Faculty:

a. In 2016 we applied for the grant of Faculty for the following which were approved in 2017:

(1) To lay up the Standard of the Women's Section of the York Branch of The Royal British Legion in the North Aisle of All Saints Pavement (granted 24th January 2017). The Standard was laid up on 26th March 2017.

(2) To conserve the Benefaction Boards on the two pillars at the West end of All Saints Pavement and the 'Houghton Trust Board' situated over the porch in the North Aisle (granted 24th January 2017). The boards were returned to the church following restoration on 17th April 2017.

b. In 2017 we applied for the grant of Faculty as follows:

(1) The temporary removal of items of silver from the Minster Treasury to be displayed in Fairfax House as part of the 'Made in York' exhibition (granted 27th June 2017). The silver was returned to the Minster treasury on 14th November 2017.

(2) The restoration of St Crux Hall – first phase (granted 27th June 2017). Work was completed at the end of June 2017.

(3) To illuminate the Afghanistan Memorial Window and the Houghton Trust Board (granted 17th October 2017). The work was completed at the end of November 2017 and were 'switched on'

in the presence of the families on 13th December 2017.

(4) The restoration of St Crux Hall – second phase (granted 17th October 2017).

(5) To rebuild the collapsed wall of the St Crux detached churchyard in conjunction with the City of York Council and The Lady Hewley's Trust (granted 27th October 2017).

Minor Works to the Church: Annual safety inspections were completed of the boiler, CCTV system, clock and fire-fighting equipment during 2017. In addition, routine maintenance was completed on all rainwear, the exterior lights and several other minor areas.

Quinquennial Inspection. The Quinquennial Inspection of the Church and St Crux Hall will take place on 21st and 22nd May 2018.

Church Opening: With few essential exceptions the Church remained open to the public seven days per week during the summer months and six days during the winter. This resulted in donations to the church offertory box of £3,006 for the Restoration Fund (£2,245 in 2016, £3,303 in 2015, £3,914 in 2014, £2,654 in 2013, £3,219 in 2012, £2,983 in 2011 and £3,563 in 2010).

St Crux Hall: St Crux Hall was widely used throughout the year by many other local church and charitable organisations for fundraising activities. A payment of £16,000 was made to the Church General Fund in September 2017 in respect of 2016 and a further payment of £11,000 was made in January 2016 in respect of 2015. (£11,000 in 2015, £11,000 in 2014, £12,000 in 2013, £11,000 in 2012, £12,000 in 2011 and £9,000 in 2010). It was also used by us for fundraising by the Church on one occasion raising £1,006.00 for the General Fund (Approx £1,000 in 2016 and 2015, £3,099.00 in 2014, £2,726.00 in 2013, £3,696.00 in 2012, £3,801 in 2011 and £2,560 in 2010).

St Crux Detached Churchyard: As reported in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 part of the retaining wall on the detached St Crux Churchyard in Hungate collapsed in 2009. During 2017 agreement was eventually reached with the City of York Council and The Lady Hewley's Trust concerning responsibilities for the re-building of this wall. Faculty was applied for and granted in October 2017 and we now await the work to be undertaken. Costs will fall to the City of York Council and The Lady Hewley's Trust.

Restoration of St Crux Hall: Late in 2016 we were advised by the Feoffees of St Crux that they were starting major restoration work at St Crux Hall starting in January 2017. Not only had they not advised the PCC of this work but neither had they applied for Faculty or Listed Buildings Consent. Work was stopped in January 2017 and recommenced in February under an Emergency Faculty. Approximately half of the work was completed by the end of May and the costs fell to the Feoffees. The second part of the work will be completed under Faculty and Listed Buildings consent during the period January-May 2018. The cost amounting to around £55,000 will fall to the PCC as the Feoffees of St Crux have declined to the PCC's request for financial assistance.

James Finlay Churchwarden

FABRIC REPORT, 2017

Major restoration works on our endangered north aisle, generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with welcome contributions from the Feoffees of St. Michael Spurriergate, our own feoffees and several generous private donors, have been in full swing for much of this year. As might be expected with a building of this date (the north aisle was probably completed in the 1340s), there have been a few unwelcome surprises. When work began on the north aisle west wall, this alarmingly proved to be effectively a hollow shell. It was honeycombed

with previously invisible Georgian and Victorian flues from long-gone heating boilers, which had been merely capped off without being filled in--something which had to be done as a matter of urgency. The stone tracery of the three 14th-century north wall windows also turned out to be in worse than expected condition. Inside, the tracery was protected by multiple layers of limewash, which when removed revealed the original masons' marks and setting-out lines as crisp as if they'd been cut last week. But the unprotected outer faces, exposed for centuries to weather and pollution and patched with concrete, were in a terrible state. So the tracery of all three windows had to be removed altogether for repair in the masons' yard.

On the brighter side, the aisle's roof repairs are now complete, and thanks to the helpful co-operation of our dedicated team of contractors, Sunday worship as well as numerous events have continued (almost) unaffected, if draughtier. Both we and our neighbours, as well as many passers-by, have also been cheered by the vivid painting of the exterior scaffold-hoardings with striking heraldry and figures from the church's history, carried on through the worst of winter weather by Simon and his intrepid team of parishioners. We look forward to celebrating the completion of the north aisle restoration in mid-2018.

Charles Kightly, Churchwarden.

St Helen and St Martin

Matters relating to both churches

We inspected both churches visually in February 2018. They are weatherproof and watertight and we have no particular concerns. There has been no material damage or issues in the year. The steeplejacks attended to carry out the usual 6 monthly clean and inspection of gutters, towers and roofs.

Both gas installations have been inspected, serviced and issued with safety certificates.

The insurance cover for both buildings and contents has been revised and renewed.

The security of the interiors of both churches remain a source of concern as the PCC policy of leaving the churches open but unattended does mean that vigilance and frequent usage is important. There have been minor incidents of vandalism and damage but none of great concern.

The Quinquennial Inspections are scheduled for March/April 2018. It is therefore appropriate to record the significant works undertaken in the 5-year period now coming to a close.

St Helen Stonegate

- The interior was repainted and this has worn well and not suffered from significant damp damage.
- The East End stonework was repaired and repointed. Glazing repair and conservation was also undertaken.
- The West window was removed, conserved and reinstalled with additional external protection.
- The clergy vestry was renovated, re-equipped and brought into regular use.
- The parapet merlons have been reinforced.
- The external SW drain has been excavated and replaced.
- New lighting, lockable display noticeboards and a replacement radiator have been installed.
- The ingress of water into the north wall from our neighbours' properties has been successfully stopped and the interior wall renovated.
- The bell restoration project was delivered as planned in the first months of 2017 and they now ring for services and chime the hours and quarters. The bell cote floor was renewed due to rot.
- New ironwork has been installed above the side gate to enhance security.
- The donor and other wall mounted boards have been conserved.

St Martin Coney Street

- The East End window and stonework have been cleaned together with the renewal of much eroded

stonework on the Coney Street elevations, conservation of the ruined pillars in the courtyard plus the renewal of the drainage channel to the top of the ruined north wall of the courtyard.

- Lockable noticeboards and an internal stair handrail have been installed.
- The weather vane has been conserved and brought back into use.
- The access to the bell frame has been enhanced for safety reasons.
- Lead welding to the nave roof on two occasions.

We remain grateful to our Feoffees for their ongoing support which has funded much of the above.

Anthony & Margaret Hammersley

Churchwardens

Churchwardens' Fabric Report—St Olave's

During 2017 we have applied for various grants to help with improving the church building. We obtained a Faculty and brought to fruition the following:-

1. To reconfigure entrance steps with a ramped path outside the north door together with a handrail.
2. Introduce a disabled assessable WC with associated drainage.
3. Re-siting of benefactions board and a flag.

This work was completed by Easter 2017 and is appreciated by many.

In 2018, we are commissioning work to repair the organ and to repair the organ loft roof.

Churchwardens of St Olave's

Sidespeople, Money Counters' and Washing of Silver Report

Thank you to all who have given their time this year to the setting up for church services, welcoming the congregation, tidying up and counting the offertory money – the help is much appreciated.

Special thanks to those who have helped this year:

Nina Wilson, Paul Walker, Jacqui Edwards, Andrew Brownlie, Christine Stanton, Barry Jubb, Doreen Gurry, Malcolm Smart, Gill Pace, Ruth Sillar, Maureen Steel, Anne Hall, Jeremy Brooks, Steve King, Roger Lake, Lucy Hunter, Carol Pugh, Claire Howard, Vera Silberberg, Ann Macrory, Mike Hampton, Gail Murdon, Toni and Kate Naczka, Mike Thunder, Margarete Wells Liz Buck, Robert Brock, Michael Luck, Claire Steel-King and Buff Reid

Paul Towers

Safeguarding

The PCCs all adopted the Safeguarding Policy of York Diocese and have a named Parish Safeguarding Representative.

In 2017, there were regulated activities for children and vulnerable adults organised by the PCC of St Olave's and all PCCs recorded care concerns where appropriate.

The PCC has complied with section 5 Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults).

Further Reports

Amnesty International Letter-Writing Group

As in previous years, a small group has met each month to write letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience. A number of cases are highlighted by Amnesty International every three months. Both the cases and the countries vary but they usually involve a serious infringement of human rights. There are instances of torture and maltreatment, of the failure to follow correct legal procedures, of unfair trials, and of the perpetrators evading justice. Normally we write both to the head of state or other senior official in the country concerned and to their ambassador in London, expressing our concern and asking for appropriate action to be taken. Very occasionally, a reply is received and sometimes we hear news of the individual's release. Even if nothing is heard, our letters and those of other groups and individuals remind officials that those who are imprisoned for promoting human rights or for the democratic expression of their views have not been forgotten by the outside world.

We would very much welcome new members to join us in this important work. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 11 am in the Upper Room at St Martin's, following the 10 am Eucharist. Stationery and address labels are provided, together with coffee and biscuits, and guidance if you have not done this before.

Kingsley Boulton

St Olave's Bellringers

The bells at St Olave have not been rung often for Sunday services because of a lack of members but we record our thanks to visitors who ring for the services occasionally and we record our thanks to Tanya Green for arranging ringing for weddings. We hope that a band of ringers can be sought.

St Martin's Bellringers

A regular band of bellringers continues to ring on the first Saturday of the month before the 10.00 am service and at other times when a request is made. We have welcomed visiting ringing bands and are always pleased to offer such hospitality.

Foodbank

Sam Smith at St Denys' continues to collect food on behalf of the foodbank. We are grateful to Sam who collects and delivers the food on our behalf.

Coffee and Chat—Fellowship after Services

Thank you to a whole host of people from across the churches who ensure that refreshments and fellowship after services is the best it can be. They provide food and drink, but most importantly, a time for us all to meet with one another and to welcome strangers.

St Olave's Coffee Team

The teams have worked tirelessly throughout the year and are to be thanked for their loyalty. There have been a few minor glitches in recent weeks but there has been a good response to a recruitment drive and we now hope we shall go from strength to strength. (The strength of the coffee remains consistent though, we hope!)

Church Halls

St Denys' and St Olave's halls are available for hire. In addition, All Saints' Pavement has use of the St Sampson Centre twice a year. St Olave's hall in particular is well used with many organisations making use of the facilities. Thank you to Vera Silberberg who does sterling work in looking after the hall and bookings.

St Denys Church Hall

Our much-loved and much-used church hall--built in 1948 as a 'short-term measure'. We continue to accept bookings from local groups.

St Crux Hall

Unfortunately the 2017 season got off to a rather shaky start because of the unexpected essential repairs to the fabric of the building which had to be undertaken. Sadly the work overran and the scaffolding was still in place when the first of the hirers arrived at the hall.

Due to the inconvenience being experienced by the hirers, it was decided that the work should be halted at a convenient point and the remaining work be re-scheduled for the beginning of 2018.

Once the scaffolding was removed, the normal running of the hall resumed and the rest of the year went smoothly. As usual, requests for the hire of the hall outstripped the dates available resulting in disappointment.

However, I fear the disappointment will be even greater for those hoping to have a date in 2018 due to the shortage of dates available for hire. The work to be undertaken in 2018 will entail the closure of the Hall until at least the end of May. Hopefully the recent inclement weather will not mean the work extending into June!

I will of course do my best to find a date for as many people as I can, but the job will not be an easy one and is likely to take longer than usual in order to complete the task.

Dorothy Lee, Bookings Secretary/Treasurer, St Crux Parish Hall 28 February 2018

St Olave's Hall

The hall continues to be used regularly: the choir holds some practices, and Junior choir [Tuesdays] in its room, occasionally providing a musical background for a group in the main hall.

Regular weekly sessions are held by Yoga groups, also the Prima Vocal Ensemble, and some classes run by the West York Adult Education department as well as the W.E.A.. For the energetic, there is weekly Circle Dance. The very young [and their parents] are catered for by Toddler Sense on Monday mornings, with other groups starting out. York H.F. walking club, Unison (retired), a group from the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and the York Ornithological Club have monthly bookings, as does a Sunday contemplative group. Our ecumenical outreach has included Divali [celebrated for the last 3 years], the Madhyamaka Buddhists and Mindfulness groups. In addition, a Life Drawing group meets frequently.

Otherwise it has been used for many purposes, including birthday parties [yes we *can* accommodate a bouncy castle!], Workshop days, USPG days, school reunions, Iona group, etc. as well as a polling station. The local Lib Dem and Labour party groups have used the hall, but, so far, no Conservatives!

Our charges compare favourably with other similar venues, and we have the advantage of Marygate carpark next door. I am grateful that the accounts are maintained as part of the church funds.

Once again warmest thanks are due to Mrs Gloria Stead, for opening and locking the hall. She and Steve Turner also keep it clean, in between the busy times.

Vera Silberberg

We are grateful to Peter Wells and others who help to communicate what is going on in the parishes, including Kingsley Boulton who issues the service information. We record our grateful thanks to Vera Silberberg on the prayer diary, with Janet and Doreen Fox alongside Vera. Thank you.

Phone app and Music Clips

Unfortunately, the use of the phone app with smart phones is now limited to older style phones as there have been upgrades which are not compatible with the version of our app. The cost of upgrading the app will be in the region of £8,000 and we have not yet embarked on a project to upgrade. We continue to encourage couples who are preparing for their weddings to make use of clips of music from the internet for their weddings; they send clips to their guests and it has transformed singing at weddings.

Touch Base Magazine Report

Touch Base continues to be produced monthly, with gaps in Summer and at Christmas. The estimated readership of the paper version is about 400, based on an average print run of 230 copies. *Touch Base* is also published online at www.yorkcitychurches.org.uk/magazine/, and a hit counter shows that this site is being accessed fairly regularly. We have unstinting support from Louise Amende, Jane and from the congregations. We all benefit from the highly professional service given by Louise Amende, who takes each edition through its final stages, including printing and distribution. We are grateful to all who send in regular contributions or one-off items. Please keep sending them to us. The deadline for submissions is the 22nd of each month, except August and December, and your contributions will always be welcome. Please send them to touchbase@yorkcitycentrechurches.org.uk.

Alison Prewer and Lucie Hunter

Website and Facebook—Peter Wells

Thanks to Andrew Hingston and Peter Wells for continuing to move us forward with our communications. The website and Facebook page are updated regularly; it is now easier to edit and amend the website which helps enormously. The Group Facebook Page continued to grow over the past year. The number of people who have 'liked' our Page has now risen to well over 300.

The Page contains news of special events in our churches, and happily there is usually something interesting to report, with posts on average more than once a day. We share posts from the Facebook Pages of St Lawrence's, Holy Trinity Micklegate and All Saints Pavement (the most recent arrival on the block), as well as the Diocese, the Church of England, and other similar sites.

There are links to the online edition of Touch Base at <https://sites.google.com/site/yorkcitycentrechurches> as well as the website for the city centre group at <http://www.yorkcitychurches.org.uk>. From these you can reach the individual websites of all seven churches in the group, and access the timetable for Services for the month and other useful information, such as (for St Olave's) the Prayer Diary.

The administrators of the Page are Jane and Peter Wells, and the editorial team includes Alison Bailey, Derek Earis, Tim Moore, Sue Richmond, and Keith Wright. Please contact any of these people if you'd like anything to be put up on the Facebook Page, or have any comments about it. [Peter Wells](#)

Pastoral Care

There were a limited number of meetings of the Pastoral Group convened during 2017 but there remains an awareness of matters that need to be addressed.

Pastoral visiting was high on the agenda with a need to be aware of those members of our congregations who require home visits or home communion. It can be all too easy for people to slip through the net. Consideration should be given to putting together a group of volunteers willing to keep a 'watching brief' within our churches and also people willing to make visits.

There are some means of maintaining contact already in place. Touch Base is sent to members of our communities no longer able to collect them for themselves and, at the other end of the spectrum, birthday cards are sent out to all youngsters baptised in St. Olave's during the year.

It was reported that a new sound system with a full hearing loop was to be installed at St. Denys. The work of the Pastoral Group will continue in 2018 building on matters discussed.

Janet Fox

St Martin Coney Street, York
Community of the Cross of Nails
APCM Report for year ended 31st December 2017

Introduction

St Martin Coney Street, York became a partner in the international Community of the Cross of Nails on 29th April 2012, the 70th anniversary of the WW2 York air raid. We have developed a friendly relationship with St Mary's Church Lübeck, Germany, bombed by the Allies in March 1942. St Mary's is also a partner in the Community. The three remits which all partners endeavour to practise are:

Healing the Wounds of History

Learning to Live with Difference and to Celebrate Diversity

Building a Culture of Peace

These timeless remits apply in different ways - from the post WW2 reconciliation, to the York context and the world we inhabit to-day.

1. Planning Group and Meetings

Membership the Rev'd Jane Nattrass (Chair and PCC), Canon Dr Malcolm Grundy, Canon Derek Earis, (PCC), the Rev'd David Simpson, Kingsley Boulton, (Reader and PCC Sec), Anthony and Margaret Hammersley, (Churchwardens and PCC), Andrew Hingston, (PCC), Ruth Sillar, (PCC), Ken Thompson, (PCC), Ehren Mierau (PCC Treasurer), Monica Lawrence, (St Martin's).

Theological input is always needed for this work. Jane is generous with her time and action, and our Clergy are very supportive. Committed Lay input, with time to give, also forms a hugely significant role. Very many thanks to **everyone** who is active and enables progress.

The group met 4 times during 2017 to organise:

2. Four main annual events:

(i) Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January. This annual themed day is observed worldwide. The 2017 theme was *How Can Life Go On?* 30 people gathered at 12noon In St Martin's to pray the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation and to reflect on the utter destruction of people's lives caused by the Holocaust, genocides and persecutions. David provided a thought provoking DVD visual presentation and take-away resources from the HMD Trust.

(ii) St Martin's First Annual Reconciliation Lecture Jane arranged this during the York Festival of Ideas to encourage public attention. David produced a DVD visual presentation showing our

partnership over the last 6 years for people to watch before the lecture. Attendance was around 30-40 to hear Canon Dr Alan Billings' presentation: '*Is reconciliation possible in the light of the child sexual exploitation scandal in Rotherham?*' Dr Billings highlighted the personal nature of reconciliation, showing that for those concerned it is an individual journey with support needed for future wellbeing.

(iii) UN International Day of Peace and World Council of Churches Day of Prayer for Peace – 21st Sept. Theme: Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All

In collaboration with the Rev'd Annie Rowley, Chaplain, University of York St John, Jane organised a *Peace Prayer Pilgrimage* that began with prayer in the university Peace Garden, and continued around parts of York city centre, ending with a short service and the lighting of candles in St Martin's at noon, led by Kingsley. 24 people joined in.

iv) Reception and Distribution of the Bethlehem Light of Peace – December 23rd Scouts from Acomb, Venture Scouts, and Scouts from St Paul's Holgate, came to receive the Peace Light brought to St Martin's by the District Commissioner for Harrogate and Nidderdale and the Scout leader for Harrogate 20th. A service of reception was led by Jane.

3. Monthly, Weekly Prayer and Prayer Vigils. Prayer forms the foundation of our work. Monica prepares a monthly prayer that David emails to (currently) 97 much valued prayer supporters. Please email: stmartin.yorkgroupccn@gmail.com if you would like to join. The print version is often taken away by visitors to St Martin's.

Partners pray for each other in a cycle of prayer, and in common with partners throughout the world, the **Coventry Litany of Reconciliation** is prayed at 12noon on Fridays. In St Martin's, it is led by Kingsley. This Litany that seeks God's forgiveness, encompasses several aspects of reconciliation. Do come sometimes if you are free then. Kingsley's weekly reflections here are also on St Martin's website.

St Martin's Peace Candle lantern is placed outside among the bombed ruins whenever there is national or international loss of life, or emergency, to signify solidarity. In 2017, prayer was offered for all involved in the terrorist attacks.

4. Contact with Coventry Cathedral and Partners

A monthly **newsletter** keeps all partners in touch with one another other and the Reconciliation Team at Coventry. Last Autumn, this team introduced **Thought for the Week** – it promises to be a treasure trove of experiences and thoughts from international partners - theologians and people who in so many different ways are living reconciliation.

For the past 2 years interns based at Coventry have visited. Subject to what Coventry can offer, these visits are helpful to us and are designed to give the different interns each year an idea of how a UK partner may work, as well as a look at another English city such as York. In May, the interns presented an excellent workshop: *The Reconciliation Debate – What's at Stake?* Participants (about 25), were in conversations about essential elements of a journey in reconciliation – *Mercy, Justice, Truth and Peace*.

Later that month, Ruth attended an initial meeting in Coventry about their proposal of forming a UK Board of Partnerships, similar to those in Germany and America. St Martin's York, could have a role in this once a structural model has been set up.

5. Future Plans

It is envisaged our 4 main annual events will continue to develop.

We hope Pastor Robert Pfeiffer from St Mary's Lübeck can come in June for St Martin's Second Annual Reconciliation Lecture during the York Festival of Ideas – theme: *Imagining the Impossible*. If the interns from Coventry are available to visit then it would be good.

Plans are progressing to distribute the Bethlehem Light of Peace from St Martin's more widely around York in December, with the help of more local Scouts and Guides.

Change and development in York, and nationally, will shape our future. York has become the first UK City of Human Rights. It is now a City of Sanctuary with charitable status, taking its share of Syrian refugees, and the new York Mosque is opening its doors to the wider York community. The 2018 Ebor series of lectures is about peace and reconciliation. There are many strands to peace and reconciliation!

To have a sustainable working model to hand on to a future generation is not only desirable, but important. Currently, we have a faithful, relatively small, active membership of people who also have other church duties. A crucial process of prayerful discernment of where God is at work in York and in this country, showing how or where we could realistically make a contribution, or sometimes work together, will occupy a place on our agenda at least over the coming year.

Conclusion

There are limitless opportunities in this work for spiritual growth; plus interaction with many diverse people of all ages in the Community of the Cross of Nails in this country, Germany, and around the world. If any of the remits mentioned above and the work glimpsed here appeal to you, and you could give some time, please do visit the Community of the Cross of Nails website: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn, then have a word with any of the York group members shown at the beginning of this report. We will be pleased to welcome you.

Monica Lawrence

Sunday Feed at Spurriergate

This ministry is now in to its third year and developing as the months go by.

Originally known as the Big Breakfast and based in St Crux it soon became evident that larger premises and a kitchen were needed. Through contacts given by Jane we were able to negotiate a deal with the Spurriergate Centre Trustees. They agreed that we could take over the ground floor and use the kitchen facilities between 8.00 am and 9.30 am on Sunday mornings and it has been expanded to provide similar facilities on Tuesday evenings. .

On Christmas Day many volunteers gave up their own breakfast to go to the centre and help serve and give out shoe boxes with essential toiletries and other items in them. The ministry has brought together people from all faiths and none, who work together each week serving up to 70 breakfasts and providing a shoulder to cry on or an ear to sit and listen. An open door policy is in place and no one is refused – unless they are drunk, high on drugs or dealing on the premises, in which case they are ejected and banned for a month. All those who come for breakfast are not living on the streets. The ministry is seeing more and more people who have been put “back into the care of the community” and have no idea how

to cope. Another section are those who are on low incomes and being charged high rents and have to make the choice of food or somewhere to live.

Whilst funds have been raised from various sources, it is still a major problem raising sufficient money to pay the rent and any donations from PCCs would be gratefully accepted, especially as this is a City wide Ministry, not just in the area of All Saints Pavement.

All funds for rent and general expenses go through All Saints Pavement accounts and are ring fenced for the use of the breakfast. We are grateful to the PCC and treasurer for their ongoing support.

On behalf of all those who use the ministry please continue to support it...you can make a difference whether through prayer, practical help or a monetary donation.

The success of the project means that in 2018 the project will move from the aegis of All Saints Pavement PCC to a newly formed charity which will be run by some of the volunteers. Kitchen for Everyone York (KEY) will welcome financial contributions and volunteers.

Work with Young People (and their parents)

Thank you to Doreen Fox who faithfully writes and sends birthday cards to the young people of St Olave's.

Bumps, Babies and Toddlers

2017 was another busy year for BBT.

All of our regular families continued attending and we welcomed 43 children in total over the year.

One regular has moved on to school in September but still attends during school holidays with his younger brother. There is also a new bump within the family so we won't be saying goodbye to them any time soon!

We've also seen a new regular attendee of St Olave's Sunday school after one family came to BBT from church hopping at Christmas and Easter for a number of years and realised the two churches were linked.

We welcomed a visiting family from overseas through the summer months - reaching out to families like this is one of the reasons I run through holidays where we can.

Another thing I'm very proud of is that we now have children being invited to each other's birthday parties - and mums having nights out and supporting each other through difficult times. Knowing that lasting friendships are being formed is really special.

Themes included New Life, being thankful and a look at Advent. We lit our advent wreath and had a Christmas party. Our annual teddy bears picnic was a success and blessed with good weather so we moved from St Martin's to museum gardens for the second half.

The group runs very well and mum's are very helpful in helping with tidying away and washing up etc. However my main concern is the fact that if I am away or unavailable we are forced to cancel as no one else knows the set up routine or programme of crafts. I'm not sure what the answer is to that one but we pray about it every week.

Looking forward to another successful year - and many more welcomes.

In 2018 we are inviting Bumps, Babies and Toddlers from across York to a storytelling event for Pentecost in York Minster as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative and York Deanery Mission.

Jess Galley

St Olave's Sunday School

Sunday School continues to be a vibrant group and we have been pleased to welcome new families to our church family. The programme is done termly usually following the Gospel stories used in church services. Each week the children are invited to offer what they have been doing. We are all very pleased to be part of ensuring that the young people develop in their faith through the stories of the bible. In 2017 we embarked on a Run and Study group which meets on Saturday mornings. We run (while Jane looks after some of the children) then study the Pilgrim Course together.

Music

The Church of All Saints Pavement

During 2017 the singers at All Saints Pavement have continued to work hard to build their confidence and musical skills so that we are ready to meet the musical needs of the church. Although we have welcomed some new singers, the core group is still small, and I am grateful to them for their commitment and dedication.

The Guild and Military services are usually well-attended, and the singers appreciate being able to sing to a full church. Christmas is another busy time, but the music is joyful and the sopranos enjoy the opportunity to sing the descants. Many members of the choir join the congregation in the ministry of welcome, and it is good to provide opportunities for the Guilds and other groups to mark Christmas with us in this way. The congregations at Evensong, although still small, have seen a slight upwards trend, even during the dark (and sometimes cold) winter months.

We are always glad to welcome new singers who enjoy singing in a small but committed team. Please do encourage anyone who you think would feel at home at All Saints.

Timothy Hone Director of Music, All Saints' Pavement

St Helen with St Martin

This was very much a year in two halves – one with the Choral Scholars and one without. We enjoyed the contribution of our Choral Scholars from January until June, directed by John Bradbury. During that time they sang at Celtic and Choral Eucharists, Choral Evensongs, a Bach Cantata "Weinen, Klagen" and finished with the stirring Vivaldi "Gloria". We also give thanks for the generous financial support of the Pilling Trust. The Scholars, Felicity Day (soprano); Ada Cheong (Alto); Christopher Limbert (Tenor); and Samuel Foxtton (Bass), were accompanied from time to time by the St Helen's Consort and by guest singers. The range of music in this part of the year was impressive from Masses by Byrd, Victoria and Haydn to more romantic settings from Brahms, Schubert and Rossini as well as many fine anthems from a variety of periods. All were excellently sung by our talented scholars. During this period there was also an emphasis on the re-dedication of the bells with John Bradbury composing a special Introit "Ring out wild bells". Sadly all this came to an end in June when the terms of the scholars came to an end and because of a change in circumstances John Bradbury was no longer able to continue. Whereas at one time it was hoped to reform the scholars at the end of the autumn term, this has not proved possible. This has been a source of sadness to many, for the reputation of music at St Helen's had reached far and wide – including, I recently discovered, those at the Royal School of Church Music. At the end of this Chapter we give thanks to John Bradbury for all his expert choral work which has been undertaken voluntarily as well as thanking Thomas Hawkes our talented organ scholar during the period of the Scholars and, of course, to the Scholars themselves, visiting soloists and the members of the St Helen's Consort.

We are very fortunate in having as our resident organist and Musical Director Philip Paul who again has worked tirelessly and unpaid for St Helen's over many years. He with the new organ scholar Jonty Ward have maintained the organ accompaniment at the Celtic Eucharists in the second part of the year. Phillip Sangwine has also kindly helped. Philip Paul continued with Organ Vespers throughout the year and worked hard to persuade and enable a talented local choir ("Prima Vox") to be our guests to sing solos and accompany the singing for the annual Carol Service. We are most grateful to all who have supported the music for worship at St Helen's during the past year.

Derek Earis

Music at St Olave's Church, 2017

2017 has been another excellent year for music at St Olave's Church. Numbers in the choir remain strong and stable, with a small but dedicated group of junior choristers who are consistently growing as singers and gaining in confidence. Although we were sad to see Cora and Faiz Wareh return to the USA mid-year after their stay in York, we were delighted to welcome Molly Snow into the ranks of the juniors. Will Latham, meanwhile, after a short period with us, auditioned successfully for the Minster choir, and we look forward to watching his development there over the coming years. Sunday mornings frequently see the stalls full, and it is remarkable that on some days the tenors are out in the greatest numbers!

The consistency of the choir has enabled us to keep the repertoire wide and varied, and to add new pieces from time to time. I am impressed, week-in, week-out, how well the choir copes with the demands I make upon them: learning music in double-quick time, and performing it with style and assurance. A particular highlight was the Remembrance Sunday evening service of music and readings, in which the choir sang Herbert Howells' *Requiem* alongside four of Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, and Hilary Layton read a letter recounting the story of the death of her ancestor, William Lindsay, at Passchendale in 1917: it all made for a memorable and moving service. Earlier in the term the choir marked the 100th birthday of Francis Jackson with a service featuring music by Dr Jackson, in the presence of the composer. He was on excellent form, joking that he didn't recognise his anthem *The Lamb's High Banquet* ('this is rather fine – who is it by?'), before joining us for a lovely team photograph.

Not everything has gone smoothly, however. A consistent worry has been the deterioration of some aspects of the organ: materials used in the major rebuild of 1978 have proved to be less durable than they should have been, and parts of the action have ceased to function properly. A grant from the John Pilling Trust was agreed in the autumn, and repairs to put the organ back into a fully-functioning state should be carried out in the first half of 2018, along with a handful of small but desirable improvements to other parts of the instrument.

I finish with some thanks. Throughout the year, I have relied enormously on my Assistant, Max Elliott, who has gamely struggled to find ways around the organ's failings. Max has also been proactive in re-ordering and labelling the choir library (a job which can feel a little like painting the Forth Rail Bridge – no sooner have you reached 'Zemlinsky' when it's time to return to 'Allegri' and start again!), and helping with junior choir practices, in addition to the weekly diet of conducting and playing, and deputising for me from time to time. Tina Sanderson keeps a watchful eye on the provision of robes and hymn-books, ensuring that all are in good repair – this can be especially hard when our 'away' members return for Christmas, but is done efficiently and with good humour. Duncan Campbell keeps the choir's online diary updated and functioning properly, and Philip Lankester both enhances some of our greater holy days with additional plainsong, but administers the list of cantors for the Gospel acclamations, even during holiday periods. The parents who keep the junior choir running to schedule deserve a special mention, battling through the traffic and juggling the school pick-up and evening commitments: it isn't easy, and I am very grateful. Final thanks go firstly to all the singers, who give me unstinting support, and secondly to the clergy and congregation who are so generous with their comments, paying a keen interest in what is sung, and how it is sung.

Keith Wright, Holy Week 2018

Safeguarding
Safeguarding Report for 2017

Safeguarding at t.Helen with St. Martin.

In the Spring I became the PSA for the above churches.

Posters for both churches , detailing who the PSA is and how to get in touch ,have been placed in prominent places

During this period the PCC were asked to complete the online CO Module, Basic Safeguarding from the cofeportal site.

So far it has not been required for PCC members for these two churches to apply for Enhanced DBS. It is good to note that a few of the members are also part of St. Olave's PCC and therefore have an Enhanced DBS certificate. This will be a useful starting point if for e.g. either Church begins child activities .

Although St. Martin's holds the weekly BBT play group (pre school children) with Jess Galley leading , it comes under the aegis of St. Olave's Church.

Gillian Pace. March 2018

Safeguarding at St. Olave's

2017 has been busy with new safeguarding regulations for members of the PCC and volunteers to be informed about and undertake.

The helpers and leader of the Sunday School were all asked to return a CDF (Confidential Declaration Form) to the PSA. (Parish Safeguarding Adviser).All those involved have completed and returned the form. A new, simplified version of the CDF ,was produced by the Rev'd Jane Nattrass and myself for those volunteers who do not require a DBS check ,due to the nature of their role . We are very fortunate to have adults who also have DBS clearance due to the nature of their jobs.

Also, the Rev'd Jane Nattrass and myself made the layout of the SDF (self Declaration Form) less intimidating. These forms are for those whose role within the church require them to apply for DBS clearance.

In July all members of the PCC were asked to complete an on line Basic Safeguarding

module from the cofeportal site. The objective being when completed, participants would be aware of basic safeguarding issues. Certificates are given on completion and then there would be the opportunity to enrol on other safeguarding courses. I had the opportunity to complete a Safeguarding Surgery Course in January 2017, plus another one, C1 ,in December 2017. One of the Church Wardens , Paul Towers , was also able to attend the C1 course.

Until the summer those applying for a DBS certificate had to do so by paper documents . This was a lengthy and time consuming process . In late July the Rev'd Jane Nattrass and PSA were informed that the online DBS service was ready to be used. The position of Verifier and Deputy Verifier (now known as Recruiters)were registered with CCPAS-E-Bulk System for being persons who could administer online checks. (CCPAS stands for Churches Child Protection Advisory Service)

A large amount of information was sent explaining the system, which took time to go through. In September one PCC member undertook to apply online for the Enhanced DBS check. It proved to be straight forward and no problems with this new system arose. The PCC and other members of the congregation who have leadership roles, whether paid or voluntary, have also applied for Enhanced DBS. But it has taken a longer time than envisaged ,to do.

Posters detailing who the PSA is and how to get in touch have been updated and are in prominent places in Church and the Church Hall.

Gillian Pace . March 2018

We record our thanks to Sharon Hobman (All Saints Pavement), Maxine Waller (St Denys), and Gill Pace (St Olave's) and St Marting with St Helen) for their work in ensuring that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a priority.

Holy Dusters at St Olave's

I can't recall any wild excitement this year for our faithfully regular attenders, who currently number ten, including one brave gentleman, and four ladies who also do the flowers. Probably the "main event" was the opening of the splendid new **indoor** loo -- long awaited by all of us and now much appreciated!

Holy Dusters meet every Friday between 9.00 and 11.30 a.m., spend an hour or more polishing and dusting wood, brass, silver, and glass, sweeping high and low with feather dusters and brushes, and talking to the frequent visitors. We enjoy these tasks more when Max comes to practise -- or, as we see

it, play for us!

When the work is done, we refresh ourselves with drinks and biscuits and support each other by exchanging news and views. Birthdays are important and always celebrated -- usually with cards, cake, and flowers -- and periods of sickness and injury likewise acknowledged. Our average age creeps ever higher and we now have three amazingly energetic ladies in their late eighties, with others not so far behind. Do join us if you think you can keep up!

Janette Lake

We are very grateful to teams of people across the parishes who keep our churches in good order—this is cleanliness, tidiness and sparkling brass and silver as well as polished wood, clean sinks, etc.

Thank you.

Flower Arrangers' Reports

The flower arrangers in our churches continue to provide stunning displays throughout the year. They are especially busy at Easter and Christmas. To all who buy, cut material from their gardens, water daily and arrange the flowers—thank you.

St Olave's Church

Our team of flower arrangers remains unchanged and we met in November for our annual meeting and to compile the rota for 2018. Anyone wishing to join our group would be made welcome. The arranging is done on Friday mornings, time we share with the Holy Dusters.

Unfortunately we were very disappointed in the quality of the flowers supplied for Easter by the new florist so have decided to buy from the market or supermarket and will review these arrangements in 2018. Thank you to Buff Reid who collected the flowers for Christmas from the Barrow (opposite Betty's). Helen's care in the garden is appreciated as we can use greenery from there on occasion.

I would like to thank the team who do the arranging for the dedicated service they give, to Anne Hall for her hospitality at our annual meeting and to Penny Jubb for the mid week watering of arrangements. Not forgetting those in the congregation who so generously give donations towards the cost of providing flowers.

Ann Mackrory

Readers

According to the York Diocese website, "Through their preaching and teaching and in their pastoral work, Readers help others explore the Gospel message, encourage people to make connections between the church and daily living, and share in the Church's work of caring for people in Christ's name." Readers act as Eucharistic Ministers, lead services of the Word, visit the sick, and take Communion to the housebound.

Our city centre parishes are served by four Readers: Kingsley Boulton, Janet Fox, Tony Hunt and Peter Wells, who was admitted as a Reader in November. Janet leads Bible Study Afresh each month, and Kingsley serves as PCC Secretary for St Helen and St Martin, where he is involved with the Community of the Cross of Nails. Kingsley also produces the monthly list of services for all our seven churches. Peter is one of the Administrators of the City Centre Churches Facebook Page. Although well into his nineties, Tony tries to be as active as possible, and takes an interest in all that is going on. We also celebrate the ministry of Readers in our sister-churches: Peter Marsland at Holy Trinity Micklegate, and Clive Jackson at St Lawrence's.

In recent years there has been a good deal of discussion about the function of Readers, as the Church seeks to develop its ministry in order to confront the challenges of the 21st Century. While the place of Readers seems to be assured for the foreseeable future, the role of Distinctive Deacon is being revived in our Diocese. A Distinctive (Permanent, or Vocational) Deacon is ordained, rather than lay, but is not in transition to priesthood. According to the Ordinal, "[Deacons] are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love." A fuller account of their ministry can be found in the

February and March editions of *Touch Base*, which are available at <https://sites.google.com/site/yorkcitycentrechurches>

During 2017 Dave Hobman, formerly one of our Readers, was ordained to the Distinctive Diaconate, and towards the end of the year we learned that Kingsley has accepted that calling also. This means that, after serving as a Reader for 35 years, Kingsley will be leaving that role and moving on spiritually (though physically still very much in the same places as he has been for so long!). We all wish him well in his new ministry.

Peter Wells

Altar Servers' Group

Another year of serving past! This year though, has been quite vibrant in the sense that keen volunteers have been available and willing to be a part of the continuing core. Many thanks to all who have offered, and helped, over the year.

The arrangement at St. Helen's, whereby servers were used once a month at the Sunday evening sung Eucharist with the choral scholars ended during the year, following the revamping of the city-centre responsibilities. We did though join in at their yearly local carol-service before Christmas.

By their presence, the serving role enhances and highlights what is effectively a closely scripted, well-oiled dramatic show. As in any performance, the expectation is that the actors will enter the prescribed role and play the allotted parts accordingly, as part of the comprehensive whole. In doing so, it follows that the congregation can adopt various levels of attentiveness, knowing that the performance goes on in front, above, and around them. For the service to be able to offer that kind of secure, but elastic holding seems to me to be a worthwhile exercise.

For the dramatis personae, therefore, we are all grateful: Polly Backhouse, Bill Read, Charlie King, Daisy and Alex Pugh, Ehren Mierau, Leah Ward, Keziah Brookes, Kingsley Boulton, Rosemary Davis, Janet Fox, Vera Silverberg, Alexandra Coleman, Tessa Helstrip, David Rushton, Paul Walker, Peter Wells, Thomas Newby, Liam Page, and Philip Lankester.

Simon Lockley

Learning Together

There is a regular Wednesday Study Group, a monthly Bible Study Afresh group, a Christian book club which meets monthly on Thursdays and a Run and Study Group which meets on Saturday morning. In 2017 Lent lectures at All Saints' Pavement on the theme of Pilgrimage with sessions led by the clergy of York Minster. These were very well received.

Bible Study Afresh & Coffee Morning

Our monthly meetings in 2017 were mostly held in the comfort of the Vicarage (with the odd trip to the St. Giles Room). There can be anything from four or five of us up to a dozen or more, but numbers are not important, the real value lies in the shared friendship and chat that goes on. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, except December, and are sufficiently flexible to be able to change dates that coincide with any special events, for example Maundy Thursday.

During the past year we looked at the shorter Letters of the New Testament – James, Peter, John & Jude and Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus & Philemon. We gained some valuable insights from our wide ranging discussions of the texts, especially when varying preferred Bible translations were encountered. Our discussions were wide ranging, thought provoking and always entertaining. We are not an 'academic' study group, we just enjoy sharing our knowledge and experiences and it is amazing how rewarding our discussions can be.

The Coffee Mornings begin at 11.00 then, after a little refreshment, we begin our discussions at and we aim to finish by noon. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome and everyone's views are valued.

The Wednesday Study Group

The Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday are followed by most major Western churches. They do not just give shape to the Christian year; over the three year cycle they offer a broad instruction of the basis of orthodox Christian teaching. Unfortunately, there is not always time to give them due weight during a service. Some churches do not follow them, and preachers often want to talk about topics of their own rather than struggle with what might seem abstruse problems of theology or biblical criticism.

The Wednesday study group, which meets in the Upper Room of St Martin Coney Street almost every Wednesday at 11.00, offers a solution. Using a commentary aimed at preachers but within our grasp, we examine each of the readings and discuss their possible meaning and significance. Unlike listening passively to a sermon there is an opportunity to disagree with each other and even with the text as usually understood. Whilst not, perhaps, for everyone, the group offers an opportunity to broaden our understanding of Christianity in a friendly atmosphere. There is no formal membership, and churchgoers are very welcome to drop in and see for themselves, but most people attend regularly; the average number each time has remained stable for some years at around eight to ten, which seems optimum for such groups.

Andrew Hingston

Christian Book Club

We continue to meet on the last Thursday of each month to discuss Christian based books which prompt questions and discussions. We also contribute to Diocesan News through book summaries to highlight the breadth of books available from St Paul's Bookshop in Fossegate and elsewhere. Do please come along if interested, 53 St Denys Road, and usual time 7.30 pm.

Rodney Troubridge

Social Events—Hospitality

Social Events at All Saints' Pavement

We had splendid numbers at our Christmas lunch at Castlegate; it is gratifying to feel part of all that goes on and it makes a difference when so many wish to be at the social events. A calendar of events has been put in place for 2017.

The Friends of St Denys

2017 will be remembered as our *annus mirabilis* - a brilliant year for the St Denys community! As we committed energetically to supporting a major regeneration project for the North Aisle of the church – and securing the important Heritage Lottery Grant necessary to (literally) underpin the works, our wider community engagement programme moved on apace. Here are some highlights.

In January we launched a quarterly newsletter for the growing body of signed-up Friends of St Denys and we participated in the Residents Festival. In the late Spring we introduced *our Stories from St Denys* series of public lectures which drew an appreciative audience from across the parish and beyond. In July we were hosted by Jane to welcome a diverse gathering for “*Brunch and Bubbly with the Vicar*”; and this was the point at which the Lottery monies became secure. In October the scaffolding went up, but heroically, we continued to open our doors for the 50+ Festival, with Radio York visiting and supporting us at the start of their early morning *Finders Keepers* trail. The newsletters continued too, and the number of friends grew rapidly, as the church lost its stained glass heritage to storage, temporarily, and winter chill advanced. We then worked together to produce new interpretive materials about St Denys: beautiful note-lets postcards, bookmarks and an exciting children's trail together with first thoughts on a grand new guide and history-telling pop-up banners. Then a stunning intervention in December: graffiti with a Christian purpose! The builders' hoardings came to radiant life as a team from the congregation sprayed glorious images onto the erstwhile bland metal surfaces. This created a high-impact outdoor art gallery championing our proud past in Walmgate. Finally, our traditional Christmas lunch outing and a

much-loved carol service offered a fitting community coming-together and seasonal reminder of our Christian mission.

Prof Dianne Willcocks

Social times at St Helen and St Martin

The annual gathering was at ASK, slightly later than St Martin's Day but it was a very enjoyable occasion. We are also making use of the York Medical Society Rooms in Stonegate for extra-special events. It is always good to eat together. The Community of the Cross of Nails also provided refreshments when interns from Coventry Cathedral visited St Martin's. The Upper Room continues to be well used for bring your own lunches on Wednesdays. We are also pleased to offer hospitality after services on Saturdays in St Helen. We welcomed Changing Lives for services and refreshments giving them time and space to remember those who suffer from illnesses caused by addictions and to remember those who have died.

Social Committee at St Olave's

The St Olave Social/Events Team has met on a number of occasions, hosted by either Ruth Sillar or Doreen Gurrey. In addition, many arrangements have been discussed, altered or confirmed via email, after-church conversations and visits to some of York's many coffee shops.

There has been some kind of event each month, except for January and March, with different people taking the role of main organiser. In February, the talk on The Cult of St Olaf, given by Canon John Toy, was advertised as part of the Viking Festival and we welcomed visitors to a soup lunch beforehand. Chris Acton organised another parish lunch in April and gave a presentation on 'Accomplish', a charity now supported by St Olave's, mainly due to Chris's enthusiasm and encouragement.

Then Janet Fox and a talented group of readers provided us with an entertaining evening in May: another of Janet's Murder Mysteries.

A great many people helped Liz Backhouse at the St Crux Day (fundraising) in June. An after-church picnic in the Museum Gardens required far less organising! We were able to use our path and gateway from the churchyard and those without chairs or picnic rugs found a picturesque group of stones on which to sit. It was great to have an age range of 5 to 94 years on this occasion. The gateway from the Museum Gardens was open again for our second Medieval Day in July and, once again, Doreen Gurrey was the main organiser. There were refreshments, church and garden tours, children's activities and music to delight the tourists.

As well as August's picnic/bike ride to Beningborough Hall, Simon and Jane Lockley also organised a parish lunch in October, which was followed by a fascinating and illuminating talk on their rather more extensive bike ride from Berlin to Kaliningrad, a distance of almost 1,000 kilometres. In early September, eleven people from St Olave's went to a meal held at St Edward the Confessor in aid of USPG and had the privilege of meeting Archbishop Halapua of Polynesia.

Our third Ceilidh was another highly enjoyable, all-age occasion. Once again, thanks must be given to the caterers, chiefly Wendy Grundy and Mary Earis. The evening of Christmas Entertainment (songs, readings and recitations) was a new venture, revealing a great deal of 'hidden talent' within our congregation. Don't miss the next one!

This is not a fundraising group but we have made a profit on each occasion, contributing to parish funds or to other charities. People have been generous with time, money, energy and ideas. Thank you to **everyone** who has helped to make a success of our events in 2017.

Ruth Sillar

(on behalf of the St Olave's Social Committee)

The Vicarage is a place of hospitality and a warm welcome was given to hundreds over the year for meetings, overnight stays, meals and parties, wedding preparations and many pastoral conversations.

Weddings

Weddings in our churches continue to increase in number with 55 weddings been taken or booked, some for this year and we have had more booked since then. It has been particularly pleasing to book weddings at St Denys and All Saints Pavement where few weddings have taken place over many years. Thanks to the staff at the Merchant Adventurers Hall, weddings at All Saints Pavement have increased, the staff at the Hospitium send couples to get married at St Olave's and Greys Court Hotel have also been sending couples to ask for a wedding in church. We continue to extend a very warm welcome to couples who ask to marry.

It is good to see that some couples who started to attend our churches when they were preparing for marriage are now on PCCs, serving on coffee rotas, part of leading children's work etc. Thank you to all who ring bells, verger, provide music and a very warm welcome to all who attend weddings.

Publicity has been put into our churches to try to further the work of weddings in our churches. The days have gone when couples were seen to be 'using' the church for pretty photographs. Many of the couples now keep their links with the church and continue to attend long after their weddings. It is a joy to welcome them into the family of the church.

Deanery Synod

2017 saw elections to Deanery Synod and the new Synod has been exploring ways to work together across the Deanery with new structures highlighted at a service at York Minster on Saturday 23rd September. The Deanery leadership team is working on plans for the Deanery, ably supported by Paul Tyack from St Olave's who is now Deanery Secretary.

York City Centre Churches of All Saints Pavement, St Denys, St Helen, St Martin, and St Olave

The Annual meetings are an opportunity to hear about the good work across the churches in the year ended 31 December 2017 and to look forward to see what God might have in store for us this year.

The following gives an indication of how we are joining in where we have seen God at work and where we have offered Christian Hospitality.

Plans in the parishes are based on Christian Hospitality. We aim to respond with generosity to our Generous God who gives us life. The Eucharist is at the heart of our activities. We use two verses of scripture - Jesus said 'I came that they should have life, and life in abundance' and 'Come and you will see'. We see ministry, joining in with God's mission for the redemption of the world, as action to grow the churches and further the kingdom of God.

Ministry in the City Centre of York is about joining in where we see God at work. We are encouraged by the vision for York Diocese for Generous churches making and nurturing disciples and the ensuing action which is taking place in the Diocese to find ways of :-

Reaching those we currently don't : the 20s-40s

Reaching People in Poverty

Achieving Sustainable Finance

What the churches in our parishes contribute to National Church, Diocese, Deanery, Parishes and the City of York – visitors, tourism, heritage, history

People

3 ordinands have been called and sent to theological colleges for training for the priesthood in 2017.

2 exploring a vocation to the diaconate.

2 exploring a vocation to the priesthood

1 was ordained Deacon in 2017 and 1 will be ordained Deacon in 2018

1 was be licensed as a Reader in Nov 2017

1 Reader in training

Placements for ordinands – we welcome many people who spend time in our parishes to widen their experience and gain

knowledge of the breadth of the Church of England.

Our churches community has grown in recent years **from around 400 to over 1,000** (excluding St Lawrence School) in the last 7 years and there is of course scope for further growth, to which we are all committed. Although the pattern of attending church each week has changed, we have been very pleased to see sustained weekly growth too. In addition, we are pleased with social media presence – a Facebook post was viewed by over 3,000 recently.

All Saints Pavement	31,000
St Denys	5,000
St Olave	50,000
St Helen with St Martin	1,250
Holy Trinity Micklegate	11,000
St Lawrence	<u>4,000</u>
Sub Total	£102,250

Plus

Payments from Holy Trinity Micklegate for half time priest and accommodation and Pastoral Assistant

.5 Stipend	12,452	
Housing – Council tax	2,035	
Rent and water	18,095	
Pastoral Assistant bursary	<u>18,000</u> (2017)	
Total for ministry at HTM		£50,582

Plus

i. Holy Trinity Micklegate Rectory use		
ii. University chaplain housing at St Lawrence		
iii. P/t stipendiary priest in own home		
3 x £10,000		£30,000

Plus

For two half time post pension priests		
Employers NIC not payable	£2,000	
Pension contributions not payable	£6,200	£8,200

Total £191,032

This compares to £140,000 cost of ministry estimated by the Diocese

Contributions to engaging with the City of York

Partners in the City

We work actively to seek partnerships and collaborative working with others in the city: Civic services and Civic Party, Richard III, York BID, Make it York, Visit York, Civic Trust, Charitable Donations from funerals and mission giving from churches, York St John University, York University, Community of the Cross of Nails, Changing Lives, York in Recovery, Carecent, York City Council, Foodbank, Guilds of York, Mystery Plays, Micklegate Business Group, Yorkshire Museums Trust, National Centre for Early Music and York Archaeological Trust. Support for St Paul’s Bookshop, St Sampsons, St Crux supporting charities (£290,000 annually), retail chaplaincy, Churches Together in York, Prayer Book Society and a Womens Network of CEOs.

Ministry directly from the churches: Signed services, Sunday Breakfast and Tuesday evening meal for the homeless and lonely, Pop Church, Amnesty Group, Student meals, Age UK lunches/day club, Luncheon Clubs, Darby and Joan club, Toddler group, reading and study groups, turning visitors into Pilgrims, open churches, sacred space in the city. Sunday Schools, Worship in Schools, School Governors; Home Communion in nursing homes; Apps and interpretation work with the Centre of Christian and Culture at York University, Mediaeval Guilds, CCT at Holy Trinity Goodramgate, city centre chaplaincies in theatre, retailers, two Quaker Schools and Richard III Society. Active members of the Economic Strategy Group and York Cultural Leaders Group – both through Make it York.

City of Festivals - We offer space for partners in many festivals in the city - Festival of Ideas, Food Festival, Jorvik Festival, Micklegate Business Forum and also hold special services and put on events to enhance what is going on in the Festivals so that the Christian faith is part of most of the festivals in the city centre.

Weddings, working with reception venues – weddings increased from 11 to 54 completed or booked in a year, with plans to continue to increase the number of weddings. It is estimated that each wedding contributes £36K to the economy. Source:

<http://hitched-wife.org/wedding-facts-economics/summary-stats> Through the grace of God and our welcome, around 50% of the couples remain members of the churches after their wedding. Some are now PCC members, PCC secretaries etc. Of the other 50%, around three-quarters live away from York but we see some of them for the wedding anniversaries, Christmas and Easter. The result, especially at St Olave's, has meant a reduction in the average age of the congregation of around 70 years of age to around 40 years of age in the last seven years.

Schools – We regularly work in St Peters, Bootham, St Lawrence and the Mount School. There is good collaboration between schools, clergy and laity. E.g. There is worship led by clergy and Open The Book Sessions every week at St Lawrence School and we assist with a bible based after school club. The school attends church 6 times per year for services and members of the church are Governors. At other schools we lead worship, give addresses and are official listeners for boarding pupils.

Prayers – there are prayer trees, prayer boards and opportunities for lighting candles in the churches. These are well used and we pray regularly for those named and those who are mentioned on prayers left in the churches. There are morning and evening prayer offices during the week and the Community of the Cross of Nails prayers for peace are held every Friday.

Work with the Homeless, beggars and the lonely on the streets of the city – assisting with policies and action in the city, including a Deacon who takes an active interest in those who find themselves in difficulty and oversees two sessions for food provision.

Contributions to the Music – secular and sacred

Choirs – St Olave, All Saints Pavement, St Lawrence and plans for Holy Trinity Micklegate

Choral Scholarships – these are at St Helen and shortly to be in place, with funding, for All Saints Pavement and Holy Trinity Micklegate. The students at St Lawrence sing Evensong during term time on a voluntary basis.

Junior Choir at St Olave

Organist bursaries are in place at St Denys, St Helen, St Olave (Assistant Director of Music) and St Lawrence

Venues are provided for York District Organists Association and concerts

St Olave's Academy, Micklegate Singers, Cansing, Cantores, Ebor Singers, St Helen's Consort

Choirs from USA, Sweden, Norway, Holland, are regular bookings and there are good links with London agencies especially at St Helen. We have been surprised by the numbers attending concerts at St Helen. They are mostly visitors and we seek to find ways of seeing them as pilgrims rather than as visitors. This is done by offering the best hospitality we can with hosts from the churches ensuring a warm welcome.

The Norwegian Choirs Festival with Make it York is now a regular feature of church life each year in the city. In addition, we have welcome 230 choir members from the Norwegian Church Music Association and ensured that they could sing at their concert as well as at church services throughout the city.

Hall provision

St Olave's Hall, St Denys Hall, Jacob's Well, St Martin's Upper Room, St Lawrence, St Sampson, St Crux all provide space for community activities in the city. They are well used for all kinds of activities which allow people to meet together. We are very grateful to the volunteers who manage the venues.

Heritage/Conservation/Building Projects

We continue to strive for good repair of our church buildings. In the last two years this has included:-

All Saints Pavement – clock repair and roof repairs following the falling of the clock due to the breakage of stays; work with Civic Trust to improve the detached churchyard area; restoration of benefaction boards.

St Denys – embarked on a major project to reconnect the north aisle to the church

St Helen- ingress of water repairs, damp repairs and bell restoration; restoration of benefaction boards

St Martin – pinnacles at high level made safe, ruined pillars in the courtyard conservation work, renewal of drainage channel

St Olave nave roof replacement – following lead thefts; installation of accessible toilet and ramp

Holy Trinity Micklegate – interior lighting scheme, carpet and kneelers replacement, floor renovation and care of stone and

NOTES

wood projects, updating of the Monks of Micklegate Exhibition and Educational Resources in the church.

St Lawrence – community hall refurbishment, underfloor heating in church, lighting improvements, sound system installed

The cost of the above works exceeds £1 million. We are grateful to all who generously give donations for projects and to grant making bodies. We benefited from small grants from the Diocese too, which gave much encouragement. The churchwardens oversee much of the work, unseen and often taken for granted. We record our appreciation. Some might ask why £1 million should be spent on church buildings. We do this for several reasons:-

To fulfil our aims in mission to evangelise. All of our work is to reflect the person of Christ.

The churches in the city stand to the glory of God. Those who came before us had confidence that the churches would be in use for millennia, with some leaving legacies as a sign of that confidence – we should have the same confidence.

We have a duty to care for the heritage in the City of York to add to the economy via the tourist industry and the local economy. The churches are well used by the city as we share in the work of promoting well-being and tourism albeit from our own perspective of seeing tourists as pilgrims and the prospect of making and nurturing disciples..

We aim to start and complete projects to ensure that charities (such as Feoffees) can fulfil their objectives – either by paying for the repairs or supporting community groups. This is especially important in times of funding cuts elsewhere so that employment is supported.

We aim to ensure that traditional crafts are maintained and supported – especially stonemasonry, carpentry, stained glass and conservation work.

Our churches are of historical significance sited in the mediaeval parishes of York representing some of the oldest signs of a Christian presence in York.

Staffing

Priest-in-Charge Jane Nattrass

Assistant priests Derek Earis, David Simpson , James McDonald (St Lawrence) , Eric Robinson (Holy Trinity Micklegate)

Deacon David Hobman

Retired clergy Malcolm Grundy, Sue Rushton, Gwynne Wright, Brian Harris and Stephen Griffiths;
Sue Nightingale serves at Wandesford House and at St Sampson's

Readers Kingsley Boulton, Tony Hunt , Janet Fox, Peter Wells , Peter Marsland (Holy Trinity Micklegate)

BBT Jess Galley and many others.....

Recognised Parish Assistant Jack Ward (works at St Lawrence)

Vergers—we are grateful for the work of vergers for weddings and funerals . To all who act as vergers for weddings and funerals across our churches—thank you.

Organists/Directors of Music –

We are grateful for the work of Keith Wright, Timothy Hone, Philip Paul, Josie Tomlin , Clark Brydon, Alison Bailey, Max Elliott, Phillip Sangwine and others. Alan Hardwick, resigned on 8 March 2017 and we record our thanks to Alan for his work as organist at St Denys. John Bradbury was the Director of Choral Scholars at St Helen's until Sept 2017 . We welcomed Tom Hawkes at St Helen's; Jonty Ward and David Norman at St Denys; Clark Brydon at St Lawrence and Joel Starkie arrived to lead the student evensong choir at St Lawrence. in 2017. Thank you for the music and the beautiful singing from the choirs.

And finally.....thank you. There are many people to thank for all they do – churchwardens, PCC members, secretaries and treasurers, those who look after halls, flower teams, coffee providers, cleaners, launderers, servers, musicians, bell ringers, intercessors, those who compile prayer diaries, magazine contributors and editor, architects, sidespeople, Sunday School and BBT leaders, gardeners, social organisers, vergers, those who visit, Readers and clergy, those who give money generously, Louise Amende our administrator, our architects , Feoffees.....It was a pleasure to welcome Revd James McDonald in Sept 2017. James works across the parishes and has special responsibility for St Lawrence

Church. It continues to be a delight to be part of all that is going on. Our generous God is providing..... All we have to do is join in where we see God at work. *Jane*

Growing Together

I came that they might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10) Come and see (John 1:39)

Christian Hospitality is being used as a means to grow our churches across the City Centre with focussed tasks for each of the parishes. Alongside this, we will seek ways to add to the life of the City of York and join in where we see God at work. These two ideas are intertwined. Parishes have begun a series of Vision discussions to change focus or to join in new work.

All Saints – to build on links through the BCP with the life of the Guilds and Regiments and to help ensure that St Crux can be used to support charities. Also, to work with the homeless.

St Denys – to build on hospitality to visitors on the tourist trail and in the community and to pay our parish share.

St Helen and St Martin — to build on peace and reconciliation and to sustain the new work at St Helen.

St Olave – to build on family life in every sense of the word and to encourage marriage.

For all churches— hospitality. Our churches will become known for a high standard of Christian hospitality to further the kingdom of God and to grow our churches.

