

The Pilgrim Rabbit

Around and about St Mary's Church

Keeping you in touch

May-June 2019



St Mary's Church is an incredibly busy, vibrant place with lots going on. The Pilgrim Rabbit newsletter was set up on behalf of the St Mary's Development Project with several aims: to keep you informed about the progress of the restoration work; to excite you about the heritage of this amazing building; to let you know about the vast range of events and voluntary activities with which you may want to get involved; and to ask for your help in many areas.

Women's Fellowship

by Margaret Thomson (Secretary)

I first became a member when we were known as Young Wives. With the march of time, we called ourselves The Women's Fellowship and still have members from the early years. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2.30 in the Parish Hall. Our programme consists of speakers on varied subjects, such as supporting a charity, travel, local history, flower arranging or craft, quizzes etc. In February, we enjoy a lunch together in the town, an outing in the summer to local gardens or historical houses - always ending the day with afternoon tea! Our members contribute to the smooth running of the church; cleaning brasses, doing the flowers, Thursday Coffee Morning where there is an opportunity for a chat or maybe join the Craft Group to make or paint seasonal displays to be shown in the church.

If you have recently moved to Beverley or East Yorkshire or are looking to join the services at St. Mary's Church, you are welcome to come along to meet us. An example of our current programme can be found at the back of the church. We are always on the lookout for speakers so if you have a special interest or have a story to tell, please contact the Secretary, Margaret Thomson (01482 882410).

Afternoon tea

Now that Easter is over Lavinia's soup and natter has been replaced by afternoon tea every third Thursday between 2pm and 4pm. Timings of afternoon tea may change to accommodate other events so it would be a good idea to check with Lavinia first if you would like to come.



Healing - some thoughts

By Michael Yates

Since I came to faith in 1976, I have always had an interest in Christian healing. Once you mention the word healing people appear to have a number of varied views. Christian healing is done in the Name of Jesus Christ and is a bringing before God anything that troubles a person. The emphasis is on the love and compassion of God. It is not 'faith healing' which places an emphasis on the person themselves having faith. In Mark's Gospel 9:24 this point is emphasised.



A boy, ill from childhood, was brought to Jesus and the father asked, "... if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Jesus said "Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the

boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!".

The father did not fully believe but was open and honest both to himself and Christ, and asked for help with his unbelief and in this instance the child was healed. Healed, not by 'faith healing' but by the love and grace of the living God.

Sometimes people ask why someone is not healed. Occasionally we might have an answer but sometimes the reason lays within the mystery of God. It's a bit like the doctor's surgery. If we feel unwell, we go. If the medication works, we are thankful. If we continue to feel unwell, we keep going until the problem is sorted which may involve further trips to hospital etc. We do not usually give up after the first visit. In a sense this is what we are doing in St. Mary's. The aim of the occasional Healing services is to seek a more visible expression of God's grace, to see signs and wonders, to see the promises of scripture fulfilled. It is a journey of seeking and exploring and prayerfulness. Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" - Matt 7:7. May I invite you to be part of the journey. All are welcome. Thank you. M.Y.

Future services: July 28th, October 27th, January 26th 2020

A Church Warden's view

By Judith Fleming

I started coming to evensong at St Mary's in 1991, at which time the congregation sat in the misericords, which was lovely.



In 1996 David Hoskins, the previous Vicar, asked me to be the co-ordinator for the church watchers. My background had been in admin as Head of the Hearing Impairment Service in the Humberside Education Service. When I retired from this I worked as a part time inspector for Ofsted which required about 2 weeks of work out of every 4. I was therefore left with about 13 days with nothing to work on, which gave me the opportunity to do something different. I therefore accepted David's challenge. Getting more involved allowed me to find out more about the church, including the fascinating Priests' Rooms.

I was also invited to be a member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council), and a representative on the PCC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, which consists of 2 PCC members and the Church Wardens, meets prior to the PCC meetings and decides what the PCC meeting will cover.

In 2011 I was asked to be the Wardens' clerk. Prior to this the Wardens had taken it in turns to do the minutes of meetings and so on but they decided it would be better to have someone whose primary role was to act as a secretary to the Wardens, taking minutes and chasing actions that had not been carried out. When I

became a Church Warden myself I asked Anne Mansfield to take on the role of secretary, which she continues to this day.

Before David left as Vicar in 2012 he asked me and Jennifer Smith, who was already a Warden, to look after the paperwork required for weddings and baptisms during the interregnum. I found this to be a fascinating role.

Although I had been asked to be a Church Warden previously (c.2005) I was unable to do so because I was spending every day visiting and caring for my elderly aunt, who lived to be 104 years old and died in 2008. I was asked again in 2013 after Becky had taken up her role as the new Vicar, and at this time I was pleased to take up the role.

At the time Chris Hairsine was the only Warden remaining in post so Chris Munday, Lavinia Raynor and I were all brought in at the same time. Chris H left the following year, Chris M stayed for 3 years, Lavinia for 5, and I have been in post for 6 years, which is the maximum allowed. I am therefore stepping down now.

As the result of 17th century charter St Mary's has four Church Wardens who take on responsibility for the smooth running of the church. Each Warden takes on roles suited to their interests and experience. Chris M, who was an accountant, therefore took on the role of treasurer, Lavinia took on management of the flowers and the cleaner, and introduced lunches and afternoon teas, while I undertook the paperwork. After David Warren took over from Chris Hairsine he also took over Chris's work of looking after the building fabric, a role for which he is particularly suited with his qualifications in historical building conservation.

At the start the four of us were all retired, which made it very easy to manage the work between us. Each Warden takes over on Sunday and then manages all the activities during the week, ensuring that everything is in place and there are sufficient people in attendance to cover the event. Since more of the new Wardens are still in employment it has been necessary to change the roles from doing the work oneself to ensuring that it is being done by others. For example, instead of counting the collection every Monday ourselves we now have a rota of 12 people who do it.

All of the Wardens are on the PCC, which also consists of elected members from each of the various service congregations (maximum of 21 members), as well as the Vicar (chair), the PCC secretary and the PCC treasurer. If one particular congregation is under-represented it is also possible to co-opt members. The PCC meets five times a year in the Parish Hall, and the Wardens meet four times a year in one of the Wardens' houses (cake is always supplied).

In addition to managing the day-to-day running of the church the Wardens are also trustees of the "Wardens' Fund". From this we are expected to pay for cleaning/ caretaking, the wine and wafers, the church insurance, and we also currently contribute to the management of the Development Office.

Wardens serve for a maximum of six years, but can serve less. If no-one is available to be appointed as replacement one further year can be served. It is possible to serve again after a gap of two years. During my six years as a Church Warden I have:

- Been Vice Chair of the PCC (I chaired my first meeting only a few weeks before leaving).

- Designed an office in the Parish Hall which folds away securely into cupboards when not in use, then (with the Vicar) appointed the Church Administrator who works in it.
- Submitted an ever-increasing number of Faculties (these are the administration procedures required whenever any changes are made).
- Kept the church log book as a record of all happenings other than services.
- Been non-spiritual mentor to our Associate Vicar, Ali Doolan, during her Curacy.
- Represented the church at outside meetings and events.
- Reported to the APCM and PCC.
- And, latterly, managed the cleaner.

As a team we have also raised money for a new sound system and the much-needed toilets at the back of the church. We are also now undertaking major fund-raising projects for the current restoration project.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Church Warden, and all my other roles. I look forward to new challenges within the church, and would like to wish the new team every success in the coming years.



News from the Development Project

By Roland Deller

We are delighted to report that The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded St Mary's a grant of up to £421,400 for the Bosses Project. It is a pleasure to provide this short summary of this exciting project and to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and interest.

The project focuses on St Mary's extraordinary collection of over 600 wooden roof bosses. These carvings present a vibrant visual record of the lives, hopes and dreams of our medieval and Tudor ancestors. This exceptional heritage is at serious risk due to Mary's crumbling stonework which needs to be repaired urgently.



The project will conserve a vulnerable area of the building in which a number of these 'curious carvings' are housed - the North Nave Clerestory.



The work to be done on this area of the building includes:

- repointing open joints;
- replacing two pinnacles which are structurally precarious;

- replacing heavily eroded carved grotesques and label stops;
- removing algae and dark sulphates which have built up on the surface of some stones;
- replacing eroded, cracked and structurally vulnerable window tracery stones which are letting through water.

St Mary's new inspecting architect, Andy Burrell from Carden & Godfrey Architects, is the lead consultant on the project and will oversee the capital works which will take place over the next two years.

As well as the works on the building, there will be a vibrant new programme of events and activities which interpret the bosses and make them more accessible for people to see and enjoy. That programme will be delivered mainly by a Learning Events Officer, a new member of staff at St Mary's to be recruited in the months ahead.

Some of the goals for the project include:

- increasing the number of people coming into St. Mary's;
- increasing the number of visiting school groups; and
- increasing the number of volunteers at St Mary's.

We are hugely grateful to everyone at St Mary's for your support and encouragement during the development of this project and we now greatly look forward to seeing it delivered! Please contact the Development Office if you have any questions - we would be pleased to talk about the project with you.



We want to hear from you

This newsletter is by you and for you. Please contact us using the email:

stmarysbevnews@gmail.com

The current aim is to publish this newsletter approximately every two months. The deadline for items to be included will be two weeks before the date of the edition.

The deadline for the next issue is June 20th.

If you prefer to provide your information in written format please give these to Fiona Jenkinson in the church choir at the 9.45am or 6.30pm services, or to any of the other choir members who will pass them on.

News and events

Experience Worldwide Christianity

At the end of May and the beginning of June children from Beverley, St Mary's Primary school and Newland St John Primary will have the opportunity to learn about the global nature of Christianity.

Christianity is the world's biggest religion, with about 2.1 billion followers worldwide. Through the different activities and stories, the children will journey from Russia, to Italy, sub-Saharan Africa to the Americas and even Asia. We tend to think of Christianity in terms of how it is expressed here in the UK but we are going to learn about different traditions throughout the world and what they mean to others.

24-26 May (various)

St Mary's Church will welcome the Early Music Festival for several concerts. Please see www.ncem.co.uk/bemf

Thursday 30 May, 7.30pm

Special Ascension Day Service when we reflect on the presence of Christ with us in word and image.

9 June: Pentecost Celebration

The morning services will celebrate the church's birthday and the arrival of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost praise will take place at 6.30pm and all the Churches in Beverley are invited.

19 May, 11.15am

A special service to celebrate our

work with children and young people.

We will be welcoming our children and youngsters and their leaders to celebrate the amazing work that they do, their energy, commitment and creativity. The young people will help plan and lead the service.

Thy Kingdom Come

Archbishop Welby invites Christians worldwide to a special time of prayer from 30 May to 9 June 2019. Look out for the leaflets in church with more information.



From February's Rabbit

Please note that Beverley Lawrence's email address was incorrect in the two previous newsletter editions. This is the correct address: blawrence@blawrence.karoo.co.uk

Bullet in the pew

Extract from *"Times of Old Retold. Memories of life in the East Riding during the twentieth century."* Ed. Dr Alex Ombler, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. (Available in the Tourist Information Centre)

A Beverlonian's wartime memory from childhood: *"It was Sunday October 27th 1940, and a group of us were playing round the corner in Albert Terrace. ... A stray German plane flew over very low ... and it shot at us. ... The plane went over Wood Lane very very low ... he swung round and put a bullet in*

through the window at St Mary's Church – it lodged in one of the pews and the hole is still there, and the patch in the stained glass window is still there, and he turned again and fired some shots ... that went round the Cottage Hospital just off Morton Lane. ... Mr Field's budgie fell off its perch and died of shock!"



Bullet hole

Other witnesses who have visited St Mary's recall a plane circling low around the North Bar end of town, spraying machine gun fire on several streets. Some other properties were damaged, including the Nat West bank, and two people were injured.

The Pilgrim Rabbit / Hare

St Mary's church guide shows a photo of the Pilgrim Hare or Rabbit carrying a satchel on which is carved a small purse. It has been assumed by many that the purse, triangular in shape, shows the outline of a scallop shell.

What do you think?

