

# Reports to the ACM 2018

First of all, thank you for the warm welcome Eileen and I received on joining the church in January 2017. Thank you to all those who worked so hard during the interregnum and prepared the way for our arrival. Thank you too to all the trustees who worked hard on your behalf and supported me. It is a privilege to serve as Minister of this church.

The church has a remarkable talent pool with many gifts and talents. Members have worked hard in the worship offered in church life, the background maintenance of the buildings, leading and empowering people through the house groups, in helping our younger members grow in faith, in managing the finances, the building project and fundraising efforts. All this has been done for the glory of our God.

2017 was an exciting year with the significant development in September of the start of the new Church Hall together with its complete funding. This is something we really can thank God for; and also underscores the commitment members have made to the future of the church. It is appropriate to thank the Project Board, ably led by Alan Brown, the various fund-raising groups and Richard Arnold in his role of project manager. Without their, and others, hard work we would not be looking at opening the Church Hall in June 2018.

Messy Church and Sunday Worship has continued in good spirits and our fellowship has continued to be an uplifting place. Those who have led worship and who have been invited to tell us about other aspects of mission out in our communities have blessed the church in a number of ways.

A real bonus on joining was to find that the church has a wonderful pastoral support network in place; led by folk who willingly offer love, support and prayers to those who need encouragement and a listening ear; and I know many have benefited from this.

As ever 2017 saw a number of faithful members called home; we grieve for them but give thanks to God for their commitment to the church over so many years. May they rest in peace and rise in glory at the coming of the Lord.

One concern expressed by Rev Ruth Crompton in her 2017 comments was that my arrival might lead to a relinquishing of roles. I'm delighted to state that this has not happened; and it's been a pleasure to find so many willing volunteers keen to do the Lord's work in so many different ways and areas.

As Ruth said the task of the church is never completed and Christ's disciples are always called to strive for the kingdom. So, in March 2018 the trustees together with Ven. Andy Jolley and Rev Barbara Walls will be spending 24 hours listening to God to refine the church's vision and strategic plan in the light of that with the intention of sharing their conclusions at the ACM (due to snow, this time of reflection has been postponed until after the ACM).

So here is to 2018, a year which shall see some of our dreams and hopes come about. Let us continue to work together never losing sight of our calling to enable others to see the light of Christ and to point to Him who is our refuge and our strength at all times. For The Eldwick Church to be the lighthouse and a place of safety to the people of Eldwick.

God bless,

*Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith*

## **Finance Report for Year to December 2017**

### ***Overview of Financial Year 2017***

The details of our financial performance and position are set out in the statutory accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017. There is a commentary on the results in the Trustees' Report, which is incorporated within those accounts. These will be presented for adoption at the ACM on 8th April 2018. A briefer summary of this appears below.

This was another good year for our finances. In particular the trustees are grateful that everyone continued to support regular giving whilst making such generous donations to the Building Fund.

### ***Financial Highlights 2017***

- Despite so much effort going into fund raising for the Building Fund we were able to generate a surplus of £2,265 in 2017 on our regular activities. This was due in part to some people reviewing their regular giving (which was much appreciated) and others joining the regular giving scheme either through standing orders or envelopes. We also benefitted from people donating time and expertise for building work, which saved expenditure.
- Tuesday Café has continued to be an invaluable source of friendship and income in 2017. Numbers attending increased during the year and the Café raised £3,441 in the year. Thanks are due to the cake makers and all those who work hard each week to provide the welcome, set up the Café after church on a Sunday or put the church back to rights after Café.
- Although we were not able to pay the full Share requested in 2017 (£51,486), we did increase our Share contribution to £48,000 (2016 - £46,818). In accord with the agreement between the denominations, £32,000 was paid to the Diocese and £16,000 to the Circuit.
- We paid £6,589 to various mission projects as well as using £973 for Messy Church and other local outreach work. This comprised just over 10% of our total income.

And with regard of the Building Project:

- We have raised £573,217 for the project in 2017. Of this £425,779 has come from grants from the Methodist & Anglican Churches, and various other grant making bodies. Some £147,438 has come from the congregation, village residents and through many and varied fundraising activities.
- Work began on the new hall in September 2017 and to date we have capitalised £173,000 of expenditure. Phase 1 (the new hall) is fully funded and there is a significant surplus of secured funding (over £90k) to carry forward into Phase 2 (church refurbishment and link to new hall).
- To enable us to cover the full project budget cost (which includes the provision of a reasonable amount of contingency costs), and to clear all/any project related debt we need to raise a further £137k (approximately).
- Our plan/approach to meet this gap is to continue our local fundraising efforts through to early 2019 (generating about £15k to 17k) and to pursue more grant applications. There are a number of the latter in progress, with the potential to raise between £100k and £130k. If these are successful, the project will be fully funded by the end of 2018. Obviously, the corollary is that

if we are not we will need to unearth other significant sources of funding. Options have been identified, but please pray hard that this will not be necessary!

Finally, a vote of thanks to our Independent Examiner, Emma Wilson, who continues to give useful advice and support whenever we ask and require.

Sharron Arnold

### **Worship Steering Group**

Members of the Group: Judy Ash, Alan Brown, Anne Brown (Trustee link), Margaret Hartley, Margaret Long, Sue Oldfield (Minutes Secretary), Jenny Reavill and Dorothy Walker.

First of all a big thank you to all who have contributed to our worship as a congregation, which includes everyone who ever attends as well as those who read, pray, sing, play, welcome, warm, tidy, clean, prepare, teach, lead, love, care, etc.

The Worship Steering Group continues to review and plan for the special seasons and Sundays of the Church year. A letter has been developed whose aim is to help visiting preachers understand The Eldwick Church. Preaching themes have been followed.

We have encouraged the Pause to Pray sessions and are especially grateful to Douglas and Audrey Holdsworth for taking a lead in being there and facilitating the sessions during the early part of 2017. Because of the building work these are now held at the Vicarage. Once all the work is complete it is intended to move back into church (probably around January 2019).

A separate working party called the 10<sup>th</sup> June group were delegated to plan the opening service for the new Church Hall due to take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Present at the service will be Bishop Toby Howarth and Dr Roger Walton. This group will continue afterwards to plan the opening & dedication service for the completed project sometime in January 2019.

We have continued to experiment with turning the seating sideways for worship. We look forward to the opportunities and possibilities for worship which will be available when the building is refurbished and enlarged in January 2019

*Peter Mayo-Smith*

### **Sunday Club**

The Sunday Club restarted in 2017 with Susan Robinson, Anita Armstrong and Eileen Mayo-Smith leading. Other church members have volunteered to support the work.

However, attendance of children at church is rather haphazard ranging from no children to up 8 on some Sundays. Although lessons are prepared each Sunday they are not always required. The range of age groups also makes planning difficult. All

this is quite disheartening. However, people are committed to this valuable and important work and therefore it should be a focus for the church's prayer life during 2018.

*Eileen Mayo-Smith*

### **Pastoral**

The past year has kept our Pastoral visitors busy. As always quite a few changes have taken place, and as expected our Pastoral lists have needed to be brought up to date. In November we held our annual Pastoral Visitors meeting, which was well attended.

Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith and Trustee John Wyborn were invited. We were delighted to welcome Carole O'Neill as a new team member. We were also glad to have Jenny Behrendt back with us after a long absence, due to family commitments. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to three elderly members of our Congregation, Donald Hanson (our Church Organist for over 40 years) Jack Morrell, Bill Oldham and one of our younger members, Elizabeth Huby who died in August 2017. We welcome new Church members Helen & Tim Newman, Thomas and Samuel, also Louise Morgan & family. Lastly, sincere thanks to our team of visitors for their help and support. It is very much appreciated by us all.

*Sandra Brown (Senior)  
Faith Richards*

### **Mission & Outreach**

At the start of 2017 the Committee Members were Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith, Peter Nunn, Susan Oldfield, Chris O'Neill, Catherine Osborne, Jackie Burrows (Secretary), Jeanette Wallace (Chair).

This group has once again been very active. Two strands to our work continued- a people focussed programme and financial support together with practical help.

#### **People Focus:**

Fifth Sundays in the Month are identified as Mission Sundays. In April we welcomed The Alzheimer's Society and at another service Embrace (Support for Children affected by Violent Crimes), in July the Salvation Army spoke to us about their work with trafficked people, which was an extremely moving service, and in October the oldest armed forces Charity SSAFA spoke to us about their work.

The charity baskets at the back of church receive offerings for the Bingley Food Bank and Joy. The Holme Wood project continues to receive any children's items and values our continued support.

Pause for Prayer provides an opportunity for quiet reflection and shared prayer and

meets in the vicarage on alternate Wednesdays at 2-3pm.

In addition to these activities in May the Church provided Victorian Children's Games at 'A Right Royal Do' in support of the Prince of Wales Park Friends. It was a very busy afternoon and lots of children participated in the games. The Gala Cafe was as busy as ever in the Hall in addition to several stalls in the Church.

A new Outreach event was the Advent Trail in which twenty four windows were illuminated on a daily basis throughout the village. Twelve businesses/educational establishments and twelve domestic venues took part in this event. The windows remained lit until 6th January 2018 and both participants and recipients responded enthusiastically. The community at the top of Swan Avenue were particularly pleased to be invited to take part and some of the artwork and compositions displayed were of a very high standard. Several people commented that this is the type of activity which fosters unity in the village.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was well attended even without the donkey.

### **Financial Support/Practical Help:**

The Church continues to make monthly donations to:

The Kathryn Mercy & Joan Grace Homes in Southern India and the Education of an Ecuadorian boy through Plan international. The work of the Children's Society and Action for Children is supported through coffee mornings and other events.

Sunday morning coffee money was donated to the Bradford Soup Run, Embrace (Support for Children affected by Violent Crimes), Beacon (Supports Refugees rehomed in Bradford) and Inn Churches. Donations have been given after services in response to individual crises throughout the world.

### **Other Activities:**

On Friday 2nd March 2018 the Eldwick Church will host World Women's Day of Prayer. The service this year has been prepared by the ladies of Suriname.

The Church Café at Eldwick Gala will be on June 30th.

### **The Future:**

By the beginning of 2018 three members of this group had resigned because they have been involved for over ten years with this particular committee. Another member had moved to another church. The work of the group has changed in the last four years and it has been suggested to the Trustees that the responsibilities of this committee be re-assessed in relation to the work of other committees. Presently three Mission services are scheduled in 2018 and the Gala Committee have again invited us to provide the main cafe on June 30th.

Sincere thanks are expressed to those who have served on this Committee.

Jeanette Wallace.

## **MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church continues to meet monthly (from 4pm – 6) with the help of an amazing team of volunteers to run it. The themes we cover vary from bible stories to thinking about friendships and everything else in between! We start off by doing a variety of craft activities and sometimes even have activities for just the adults to do, but usually the children like to help them. After this we go into Church for a game, a story, singing (we must thank one of the parents –Alistair for playing his guitar to accompany us) and finish with a circle prayer time and grace. Then it is back to the hall for tea. The volunteers will have cleared everything away, set the tables, cooked the tea and are ready to serve. We all sit down together and share a meal before going home.

Messy Church introduces children and their families to Church and the teachings of Jesus in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

We hope that Messy Church continues to thrive and involves more and more families.

Susan Rishworth

## **CAFÉ**

Café is going from strength to strength with numbers of around 50 every week. It is seen as an excellent community event and meets the needs of many.

We are thankful to the Bingley Co-op for their donation of Fair Trade coffee and tea.

There are many people to thank, so here is a list of thanks:-

To those who put the tables and chairs out after Sunday Service

To those who set up the café on a Monday

To those who bake

To those who serve

To those who wash up

To those who put the tables and chairs away after café

To those who help at the drop of a hat.

As you can see it involves a number of volunteers for the café to work but at the moment we are struggling for people to help.

On the first Tuesday of the month we also run a book stall and craft stall in the café. Many thanks go to those people who provide books and crafts to sell, especially those who come to Wednesday Craft Club. Another thank you goes to Kathleen and Charley Bolt who organise and run the book stall.

We have many compliments from people who come to café from far and near, all comment on the friendly welcome they receive and say what good value the café is.

We pray that this wonderful outreach will continue to grow.

Susan Rishworth

## **Church Flowers**

June and I would like to express our thanks to all who have contributed money and/or flowers to enable us to have flowers in church each week.

We know the flowers are appreciated by those people who receive them following a service, but unfortunately, we do not get them taken out as often as we would like.

We would also like to thank the people who help with particular times in the year such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas and who give willingly of their time and talents.

Anne Wyborn

## **The Eldwick Church Fellowship**

2017 has seen a variety of different activities and speakers starting in January when Jeanette Wallace who took us on a very interesting journey to China. The following month Val Pearson gave a very informative talk on "The Making of Theatrical Wigs", she also had some interesting stories about the famous people she had encountered.

In March Rev Peter Mayo-Smith gave a fascinating talk on the Brontes and his involvement with the Bronte Society.

Our speaker in May should have been Alan Bonson from JAK Travel but as he had to cancel Mike Bamford gave us an insight into his family tree and the skeletons in the cupboard!

Our coffee evening in June was, once again, held in the Church where many attended and we raised a good amount for The Children's Society. Our lunch outing in July was at the Five Rise Hotel where again we had a good meal. In September Bruce Grainger gave a presentation on Israel and Palestine.

Our AGM was not very well attended but we had a good meeting and finished off with a quiz.

In November Rodney Davey came again and demonstrated how to decorate Christmas Cakes, which were then raffled, and finally Harmony, a group of ladies from Baildon Methodist Church joined us at our Christmas Party, and then sang a medley of Christmas songs. A good end to which I hope was another successful year.

Our Flower Secretary, Mollie Brumfitt, continues to take out cards and flowers to our members who are unwell.

We asked Tony Clegg to paint a picture of St Lawrence's Church, which he had framed, for our previous Secretary of many years, Sylvia Bradley, who is in Silsden Court Nursing Home. She was very pleased and it will be hung on the wall in her room.

We have had quite a few visitors to our meetings this year and we have a varied and interesting programme for the coming year which we hope will encourage more

new members to come along and join us in fellowship. We offer a very warm welcome to all.

Dorothy Walker

### **Friday Footsteps**

We have, again, had a variety of walks during 2017. We started the year with a walk to St Ives returning to the Church Hall for, what is now, our annual "Soup and a Roll" lunch. February was our Fish and Chip walk round Baildon Moor, again this has become an annual event along with Bolton Abbey, the latter was an extremely muddy walk. We have walked through the bluebells, around Silsden, Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs, through Golden Acre Park, and to Malham via Janet's Foss, Burley Moor, and a very icy walk to East Morton with lunch at Five Rise Café. We have welcomed new members this year and have had as many as 28 people. Our walks average 4/5, sometimes 6 miles, which seems to suit the members of our group, although some seem longer especially when we are going uphill or trying to navigate very wet and muddy areas! The weather, as usual, has been mixed but we are always prepared for anything.

Friday Footsteps is a very friendly, social group including non-church members, who enjoy a good walk and a good chat with friends.

Dorothy Walker and Anne Barraclough

### **Property**

Apart from normal maintenance the major job this year has been the removal of the organ. Grateful thanks to Chris O'Neill for arranging for its removal, and to Chris Richards for installing the flooring and storage units.

John Rishworth stood down as chairman of the committee at the end of the year and many thanks for his years of input and organisation.

Because of the new build and alteration of the church in 2018 it was decided that the committee would cease to meet and would re-convene in 2019 with a new chair to be appointed.

John Wyborn