

# **AGM Report for Clifton Parish, York**



AGM March 30th 2009

7.30pm CPC

**Clifton Parish, York... consisting of:**

**Clifton Parish Church (CPC) St Philip and St James**

Clifton, York YO30 6BH

**St Mark's Church,**

Howard Drive, Rawcliffe, York

**The Church and Community Centre on Clifton Moor. (LEP)**

Rivelin Way, Clifton Moor, York.

**Parish Office:** Clifton Lodge, Clifton, York. YO30 6BH

**PCC MEMBERS**

David Casswell (s) Liz Marshman (s) Rosemary Facer (s) Simon Jones (s)

Michael Pinder (cw) Derek Paterson (cw)

**CPC**

Elliott Chandler, Ashley Judge, Charlotte Pinder, Tony Myers, Val Myers, Steven Ragg, Annette

**St Mark's**

Suzanne Barwick, Maureen Hudson , Sheila Hughes, Simon Mills, Paul Moorhouse, Liz Ramage, Clare Winstanley

**CM**

David Anderson, Tricia Fowler

Adrian Fuller: Treasurer

Julie Jones: Secretary

\*Staff (s) Churchwarden (cw) Deanery Synod rep (ds)

6 PCC members are elected from CPC and St Mark's, and up to 4 representatives from Clifton Moor. In addition we have the Deanery Synod Rep. from each Church, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

The PCC meets 4/5 times a Year, and a further 3 times as Area Church Councils ACCs

Clifton Moor have a separate Ecumenical Church Council ECC, which has representation from the parish and circuit staff, and from the PCC and Circuit Meetings.

## **AGM AGENDA 2009 Start 7.30pm**

1. Welcome intro and opening prayer. DC
2. Apologies for absence and electoral roll: J Jones
3. Minutes of last AGM: J Jones
4. Questions on the vicar's report on past year's highlights and CPC report: DC
5. Questions on report from St Mark's. EM
6. Questions on report from Clifton Moor: RF
7. David Godfrey on transfer of oversight of Clifton Moor.
8. Other ministries reports and questions Staff/M Pinder/D Paterson
9. Treasurers report (and acceptance of accounts): A Fuller
10. Election of officers: DC

Church Warden

Members of PCC

CPC

St Marks

Clifton Moor

Reps for Deanery Synod

Secretary

Treasurer

Independent Examiner

11. Vision for forthcoming year: DC
12. Any other Business
13. Closing Prayers

Coffee/tea and biscuits served by 9pm

## **VICAR'S REPORT**

To know Jesus and make known his transforming power, we aim to bring in, build up, equip and send out!

I hope you are inspired as you read the reports from different areas of our life together.

At the last AGM we set ourselves to work towards growing the church to 500 adults. The administrative structures are being improved to serve this growth. Letitia Chester started to train for ordination.

Alpha Courses, Back to Church Sunday, the Parenting Courses, the Mini Mag and the many other initiatives are designed to serve the community and let people know about Jesus.

This year we ran two youth alpha courses, the JAM club, Xtreme: Perfect: etc., all aimed at a new generation.

We've also been involved in the community through the monthly litter picking in Clifton as well as the one off clear-up in Rawcliffe/ Clifton Moor and the youth Besom project. Of course, Weddings, funerals and baptisms are also a way to serve and bless our community.

In addition our buildings are made available for many groups to use during the week, and we also host concerts and events. The Picture of Hope exhibition was an excellent link with our local schools, and the Open Gardens event and the Summer Fairs are good ways to break down barriers.

We've had the two Birthday celebrations at Clifton Moor (10 yrs in the building) and St Mark's (40 yrs). There have been two Parenting Courses hosted by St Mark's, provided by Family Matters York. The Spiritual Pathway Project was launched in November.

In September we hosted truly inspiring visits from our link missionaries, Andy and Susie Hart in Tanzania, and Alejandro Mesco in Peru, and in October we sent a team to Rwanda to repair houses damaged in the earthquake. Members also went to Uganda and Hungary. This year plans are afoot to send another team to help Pam as she establishes her work with children and families at Tubakunde. Also a possible trip to Hungary.

It has not been all plain sailing and we are facing a serious financial problem with prayer and action. But the Bible says: God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

We have launched 'Get in Gear' - a series of seminars to strengthen and focus our mission, vision and purpose. We plan to invite our children to fully participate in Holy Communion from Easter. We aim to pilot an exciting prayer initiative called 'Try Praying' in the summer.

I am so thankful for your partnership in the gospel. So many serve in different ways, and we need to develop the way that people can use their gifts.

This year we face several significant personal events; Geoff Goodall celebrates 50 years as a Reader; Rosemary Facer retires; Liz Marshman begins to look for a move; Celia Rutt will be licensed to the parish.

May we continue to seek God's ways together, and expect His blessing!

David

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial position of the Parish is covered in more detail in the accounts, which you will find at the back of this report. They show a Parish where the expenditure has exceeded the income significantly during this past year.

This has been largely the result of continued increases in the Quota to the diocese, (this has now increased to £8,000 per month in 2009) coupled with a reduction in the number of regular givers to the work of the Parish, combined with the extra costs of supporting the Youth ministry.

This position can be covered in 2008 by drawing on reserves from previous years, but those reserves have now been spent, so we need to make some hard decisions in 2009.

In particular we need to ensure that the regular giving to this Church is at a level where the continued ministry of the Church, through the Diocese and Simon, can be sustained.

We will also need to review our commitments and possibly make some painful decisions as future expenditure is prioritised, if our giving is not sufficient to support everything we might wish to do as a Parish.

The Parish has also been able to fund the new Kitchen at CPC and the new Car Park at St. Mark's, largely as a result of funding received during the year. However our ability to fund future projects of this nature will be severely curtailed while we are not able to cover our ongoing running costs.

I would like to thank Maureen Hudson for taking on the position of Gift Aid Secretary during the year, and Pam Stubbs, who has relinquished this post after many years service. I would also like to thank Allan Rutt for his continued support, and for banking the collections every week.

Adrian Fuller

## **YOUTH WORK**

Ultimately the aim of most of the youth work over the past year has been to foster genuine caring relationships. Young people as much as adults need somewhere they can belong, somewhere they will be missed if they don't turn up, somewhere they can talk about their faith, hopes and doubts without fear of being laughed at. *JAM*, *Youth Cell* and *Youth Alpha* have all been about building relationships with a purpose; that purpose being to support, encourage, challenge and love one another through the faith-life journey we are all on. Relationships, as we all know, take time to develop and the times where we have seen more fruit in the youth work are after events like the sleepovers, the weekend away and when we have served at other church events. As such we are planning to have more of these extended times over the following year.

Of course reliable biblical teaching is an essential element of the parish youth work in the Sunday morning groups as much as the other youth activities. But, rather than memorising bible stories or simply talking about God, it is about discovering together and putting into practice the better way of life that God gives to us. Alongside meeting with God and serving him at the regular youth groups, the involvement of the young people in youth services, mini-mission and other church services has given them a way to express their faith and develop the gifts God has given them.

In keeping with the concept of helping the young people develop in their faith we are working with them to help them to reach out to their peers and share their faith. The first aspect of this is helping them understand their faith and become so excited by God and the reality of him in their lives that they

want to and are able to tell their friends. The second aspect is working with them to develop quality 'cringe-free' activities that they feel they can invite their friends along to. *Xtreme* for boys and *Perfect* for girls are groups that have been successful in making links with other young people; the challenge now is to encourage those young people into the other groups. This has been successful with a few coming into the *JAM* group and over time I am confident that more will follow.

One of the most exciting things about the youth work over the past year is how it has brought together young people from all 3 churches and none. They would identify themselves as a group of Christian young people rather than "St Mark's youth" or "Clifton Moor's youth." They have found strength and support in coming together and are not concerned about how or where they come together. To quote a famous comedian they "aren't bothered" whether it is to be waiters at the Clifton Moor over 60's Christmas lunch, to hang out at *JAM* at St Mark's or to lead a youth service based at CPC. What I believe is most important is that they find pride in identifying themselves firstly as followers of Christ and secondly as a group who support each other in their faith.

So what does this next year have in store? At *JAM* we are already part way through a very practical overview of the bible; the aim is to try and plot God's plan and activity throughout history, discover concepts about how we should live and work out our place in God's story. We are looking forward to welcoming the current year 6's into the group after Easter to ease their transition from primary to secondary school in September.

The *Youth Cell* for older teens will be focussing on learning how to read the bible intelligently to prepare them for life away from home and youth groups.

During the summer we are taking a group to a Christian festival called *Soul Survivor* where we will camp, play, worship and learn alongside thousands of other young people. This will be an amazing chance for the young people to grasp that they are part of something much greater but more importantly to meet with God and worship him in an amazing way.

What I am looking forward to this year is seeing what God can do with the relationships we have built up so far. I am also looking forward to continuing to build up the volunteer leader team as co-workers and friends to make sure the ministry is as effective as possible. I am excited by the prospect of us helping more young people to discover their God given gifts and having the privilege of nurturing and releasing them into using those gifts for the Kingdom of God.

Many thanks for your continued prayer and support. Simon Jones

## **PARISH MANAGER PROJECT**

In December 2007, the PCC received a report they had earlier commissioned from an independent church consultant John Truscott, on the administrative structure of Clifton Parish. One of the report's recommendations was "to work towards the appointment of an official Parish Manager within two years".

I was invited to explore over a two year period what this appointment might entail and I began work on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008. I spent the first few months meeting with different leaders in the three churches to listen to their impressions and concerns about administration in the parish and one concern common to all of them was the perceived lack of communications.

At the same time I began to have weekly meeting with Julie Jones, the Parish Secretary, and our aim has been to strengthen the role of the Parish Office as a centre for communication and information.

There is now an electronic parish calendar which can help the three churches avoid clashes when booking events. The parish database is a great resource and we have been looking at ways to keep it updated. One of the recommendations made in the Truscott report was that David should be relieved of some of the day to day administration and to that end, baptisms and weddings are now booked through the Parish Office.

Another area of concern expressed was what appeared to be large numbers of people involved in different groups and activities with no connection between them and conversely, at the CPC morning services, many new people not being involved in church activities and no way of knowing whether they were happy with that or not. Work is now being done on looking at a parish structure which would attempt to show the relationship between all these different groups and support systems for them. At the same time, at CPC, ways are being considered of drawing new people into the life of the church at the level they want.

While much of the work so far has focussed on CPC, I have been grateful to borrow material from Clifton Moor in particular. In the remaining months of this project it would be good to further explore ways in which the three churches can support each other.

Monica Dunham

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office serves two broad purposes: to be the centre for communication and information in the parish and to supply printing and administrative support for the work of the parish.

In terms of communication, the electronic calendar has been a helpful addition in keeping track of parish events and answering the numerous and varied e mails that come into the office daily. In terms of printing and administrative support, the office now handles wedding and baptism enquiries and bookings and continues to print most of the literature used in the parish - Info to go, the mini mags, Alpha literature, Get in Gear booklets, to name but a few.

The office is staffed entirely by volunteers and is run by the Parish Secretary Julie Jones, also in a voluntary capacity. In addition to the 6 hours a week the office is open, she works an average of a further 10 a week. This year she organised a successful parish weekend at Sneaton Castle, a new venue for the parish, established meetings with Sheila Hughes the Database Manager and editor of Info to go and with Monica Dunham as well as continuing her weekly meetings with David.

Thanks are due to her for the work she does as they are also due to Sheila Hughes and to Pam Stubbs, Eileen Wishart and Maureen Hudson who provide valuable administrative support.

Monica Dunham

### **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT (CPC)**

This has been my last year as your Churchwarden and I am pleased that we have at last managed to get the Kitchen completely refurbished and up and working. When I became churchwarden 6 years ago the kitchen was on the agenda then! Over the last year there has been so many things going on and I have been encouraged by the number of people willingly helping out at or with the events. So to all those who have helped at these events and at the services "Thank You, and please encourage each other as the church could not run so well without you."

The Church is a busy place and it needs people to be involved. So if you haven't found the place to volunteer yet, keep looking and asking, we need you, have a go, it's great fun.

I would like to finish this report by thanking all the people and past churchwardens who have given me

such support and advice and I wish my successor all the best in their term of office.  
Michael Pinder

### **CHURCH WARDENS REPORT (ST MARK'S)**

When I agreed to take on the role of church warden it seemed a good idea at the time. Churchwardens have a responsibility as the bishop's representative to look after the church buildings and also to build up the church i.e. God's people who form His family in St Mark's. As the year has progressed both these areas have produced their joys and pains.

The church family celebrated the church's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this involved the return of many older, familiar faces, which was a great joy as it showed again the faithfulness of God. There are those who have entered full time ministry so it was a real pleasure to see Rev. Nancy and John Eckersley, Rev. Rachel and Andy Hirst again. Rev. Sylvia Mutch, Rev. Robin and Rev. Sheila Fletcher who faithfully built up the church and pillars of the church like Edna Birch made the family reunion a great day. Those who attended, wrote their memories and helped put up the displays created a day in which thanksgiving to God and for each other's ministries was expressed and shared.

On the practical side the heating system's failure combined with problems of the parquet floor and of course the holes in the car park have required significant financial outlays. Maintaining the building is a responsibility of the church family and wise use of monies is a key issue especially in these times of recession. Many have given generously to fund the resurfacing of the car park which will be done soon!

The willing service of people who make the coffee, welcome visitors, run the Sunday School, drink coffee and share fellowship on Saturday mornings, provide the music, clear up, wash up and generally do whatever is required builds up the church family in St. Mark's. Every part of the body is vital so if you are not on the list of examples don't take it personally! I have been helped too by Steve Purton and Simon Mills who are acting as assistant wardens. Many thanks for all the hard work and willing service.

For the coming year we hope to see even more people join the church as has happened this year with two new couples joining. Above all else the family needs to grow in grace and share our common life in Christ with each other and with the people who live in the community around us.

Derek Paterson

### **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

During the course of 2008 the deanery synod met three times, 2 of which I was able to attend. In April the meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Micklegate. I found this of great interest, as it is a church with a lot of history behind it, which was very well explained to us all, on that evening. The presentation by David Goodhew, on the results of his research on New Churches was very enlightening.

The second meeting at Fulford Church was based on feedback on standard committee response to Bishop Martin.

The final meeting of 2008 took place at St Barnabas school, out of all the meetings I found this the most encouraging and inspirational. Presentations by Graham Martin on his role, as the C of E Youth council, included reporting on the massive development in youth and finance, which was great to hear as the people of the church of tomorrow! Tim Jones has lessons from America to explain, which included some really good ideas for us all on evangelism. His emphasis was also on the gospel relating to future generations. Here I found there was a lot to learn from methods in America. Through his experiences, of larger congregations there, which useful information on how to do the same here!

Next years development of the way ahead is of primary concern. As a parish, we are asked to look at our worship. As courses are being arranged for clergy to see gifts within their congregation. Which I found a powerful message to us all, as we retrospectively seek our own God given gifts to contribute.

Annette Wrigglesworth

## **OVERSEAS MISSION**

### **RWANDA AND TUBAKUNDE**

A team of 6 from CPC and Holy Trinity Church, Ripon went to Cyangugu in South West Rwanda in October 2008 and spent two weeks rebuilding houses for widows whose property had been destroyed in the earthquake of Spring 2008. Under the guidance of Charles Semwaga they were able to build two houses. The work was very fulfilling but at times was delayed because of the weather, it was the rainy season!

Rwanda is also feeling the effects of the credit crunch and the rate of exchange of francs to sterling is falling rapidly, this meant that the money taken out by the team did not go as far as in previous years. Each house cost around £1,500.00 to build.

#### **2009.**

Our intention this year is to take a small group out to Tubakunde to lead a workshop for Pam. She would like help in various areas: child development, nutrition, play, parenting, time management and team building etc. At the moment we are planning to go out in May for two weeks. Margaret Dyson is hoping to go out for two months to support Pam.

Howard and Jean Dawson

### **THE GREEN GROUP**

Last February, Helen Harrison and Mark Hughes responded to a request for volunteers to address the issue of climate change as a church community. After an initial meeting with the leadership, a Film Night was arranged in June. Over 30 people attended St Mark's to watch and discuss Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth, a powerful film outlining the massive global challenges we face. As a result, more people expressed an interest in getting involved and the Green Group began to take shape.

Since September we have had much discussion around the importance of Christian involvement in green issues and how best to proceed. We have been pleased with the response to our Alternative Gift Catalogue distribution at Christmas and we are beginning to put regular Hints and Tips towards a sustainable lifestyle on Info to Go. We hope that people will read these and respond appropriately.

During the coming year, we will be discussing our Key Aims with the leadership and the PCC. We will encourage all church members to take seriously their duty of stewardship towards the environment in their daily life. We will encourage and support the three churches in carrying out an energy audit, probably through using the C of E "Shrinking the Footprint" materials, with the aim of developing a cycle of sustainability in all that we do as a church community.

If you would like more information or would like to join the group, please call me on 692980 or at [hmh.sjh@virgin.net](mailto:hmh.sjh@virgin.net). Thank you.

Helen Harrison, Clifton Moor Church

## **CLIFTON HANDBELLS**

The group is in its' 3rd year now, and we are told we are improving!. This Christmas season we have done our first two outside public performances. the first at Askham Bar Tesco for the Friends of York Hospital, and secondly in York Station for Christian Aid. We feel it did our confidence a lot of good.

During the year the team has changed a little, we have lost two members but have recently gained three new people. Our musical ability is developing enabling us to play with the music group at CPC, as we did during one of the carol services.

This year the team and I are both working on improving style, technique and expanding our repertoire. As last year our practice evening is Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm at CPC.

Tony Myers

## **ALPHA**

The Alpha course was run at Clifton Parish Church, every Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, commencing Wednesday 1st October for 10 weeks. At the start of the course there were approximately 30 participants, 10 of whom have now joined cell groups within the Parish, being from both church and non-church backgrounds.

Recommendations / Suggestions for Alpha 2009

- A dedicated team for advertising
- One launch event with a very high profile speaker
- More radio advertising
- Greater awareness of the course in workplaces through poster advertising / viral advertising at local gyms, hotels, restaurants and pubs
- Greater encouragement for the congregation to put up posters at their workplace, staff rooms etc
- Car boot sale at Knavesmire – raise funds and awareness
- An Alpha mobile number that can be advertised on the national website and allows people to contact the course by text and holds contact details of the catering, set-up teams, leaders etc.
- Early booking of weekend / day away venue
- Child-care provision
- Greater co-ordination with other Alpha groups in York

Cath Penfold - Alpha Administrator 2008

## **CELL GROUPS**

Church members need to experience both the larger gatherings and the small group too. The Cell groups serve this latter purpose. It is only in a small group that you can belong and get to know people. The structure of the group enables them to welcome new people, grow, function and multiply. On the whole they are working well, but we do need to appoint a Ministry Coordinator for Cells. This person can champion the Cells, and also be involved in training and development. If you think this may be your gifting... let us know.

David Casswell

## **VISION FUNDING GROUP**

This is a small group that is based across the Parish and started last year, we have started small but hope to have more people join. We are progressing and learning more about the art of Grant making. We applied for a few grants last year and were successful on one but not on the others. As stated we are a small group there are only 3 of us but we would welcome anyone who feels they can help, please don't feel shy come and speak to us.

Helen Patching – St. Marks  
Charlotte Pinder – C.P.C.  
Michael Pinder – C.P.C.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST'S AND EVENTS**

Things are looking up for the men's ministry in Clifton Parish! Thanks to the initial help of Margaret & Paul Norton the men's breakfasts are up and running again and will continue quarterly throughout the year despite the gathering of volunteers being problematic at times. Pray that people will want to help out!

January 2009 saw the start of our monthly curry evening. The first one was a success and we hope to have sampled the majority of York's finest Indian restaurants by this time next year.

There are several events planned for the coming year with the idea of helping men in our parish to feel comfortable in belonging as well as potential outreach. In 2009 we are looking at networking with other churches in York to find ways to reach out to men city wide as well as in our own parish. Please pray that God will reach out to our men and encourage them to get involved.

Steve Ragg

## **WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS**

Women's Breakfast has continued into a second year with a luxury continental breakfast for up to 60 of us, followed by worship and a talk. Church members come along with friends, relatives and neighbours and our worship is led by Eileen Robertson. Each breakfast we enjoy a talk from a member of our congregations, it's so encouraging to hear about the lives and faith stories of people we know. During this year we heard from Irene Waudby as Lord Mayor, Sheila Hughes reflecting on her recent illness and Helen Harrison on her involvement with Fair Trade. Helen also organised a fair trade breakfast for us which has made us stop and think about our sourcing for future breakfasts. We also held a bring, share & chat breakfast in the summer which gave us some social time together. We were sorry to cancel our November breakfast as it clashed with St Mark's 40th anniversary. We couldn't manage without the help of the men's team who *set up, serve up and wash up* for us – thank you to each of you – you are really appreciated! Any offers of more men would really help us – they have fun too, with a plentiful supply of chocolate croissants in the kitchen! This year we have planned three breakfasts with Rosemary Facer, Cathy Roberts and Jane Philpott and we'll probably slip in another bring, share and chat, so if you haven't been yet, come and join us!

Liz Marshman and Lynne Mills

## **GUARDIAN COURT**

The team of 7 have enjoyed another year at Guardian Court leading a friendly time of worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening of each month. This includes Bible readings, prayers, a 10 minute talk and the singing of hymns and choruses. During Lent and Harvest time Holy Communion is celebrated by a member of the clergy. The theme for 2009 is each member of the team has chosen to speak about one of Jesus' disciples which, hopefully, will encourage some of the residents to share their favourite choice of disciple!! (if they have one). Another very much appreciated time of worship is an annual 'Songs of Praise', often including personal favourite hymns of both residents and the team. The only problem is that the time goes by so quickly and many would like us to stay longer.

Last year we included small gifts of flowers, chocolates and cards at the nearest services to Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Apart from making the room look attractive, we felt this gesture would make these Christian festivals something special; also being inclusive, especially for those residents to have no family or friends living near.

Unfortunately, we have recently lost a few regular members. Some have had to move into nursing homes or move away, and one or two have died. We are always encouraging new residents to join us by delivering individual invitations to each flat for any of our 'special evenings, but because the age limit has dropped to 55, most new people now coming to live in Guardian Court are married, still working, and live a very active life.

Aims for the future:

1. Add to the service book we previously compiled.
2. Continue to minister to, and affirm God's love, to the elderly residents who join us each month.

Val Myers

## **AMELIA HOUSE**

We have continued to hold Communion Services at Amelia House each month, and attendance has been around 12 people. Sometimes an individual cannot get to the service, and communion is shared with them in their room, or sometimes prayer is requested. The Activities Co-ordinator leads the singing with well known hymns.

The folk at Amelia House need regular events or visits to stimulate them and to give their lives some special interest. A visit from a musical group, an accompanied young child, a handler with a well trained dog, or a caring adult would be greatly appreciated. So if there are any members of the church family who would like go along there, on a one-off, or a periodic basis please let me know and I will make the arrangements, or I can put you in touch with the Activities Co-ordinator.

Ron Philpott

## **MULBERRY COURT**

The members of the church who live and meet in Mulberry Court value their link with St Mark's and Clifton. As ever the privilege of sharing communion with those older in the faith is a reminder that God has no age discrimination policy. Indeed the presentation of Christ His Son *first* to the elderly Simeon and Anna (a mere 84 years old), plus the scriptural injunction to care for widows and to respect the elders in the church mean that this is a vital ministry within the church worldwide as well as in our parish.

The care home has over the last year increased the number of residents who come for palliative care and thus the numbers who are physically able to attend the downstairs communion has been reduced. Increasingly the work involves visiting individuals but this is still a vital ministry. The nursing staff are very positive and keen to encourage people to attend communion or to ask for communion. The staff themselves need our prayers too as many are from abroad. This is an area where there are possibilities of being good neighbours by inviting them to meals and when visiting just thanking them for their service.

Pauline and Thelma who have given of their time freely over the last few years are no longer able to commit as much time as before. Douglas too has faithfully played the piano. Their loving service has been much appreciated by the residents.

Anyone interested in helping should contact David Casswell, Liz Marshman or Derek Paterson  
Derek Paterson

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

The Prayer Chain has been operating for more than two years, and is a great resource for the Parish to have. The Prayer Chain operates, in the main, through the Cell Groups, and there are some 70 people involved, and it simply involves praying for those who need our prayers during times of illness or of great stress. In 2008 there were some three dozen calls received in respect of individuals and families. Prayer may be urgent and over a short period of time, or the needs of others may be over a sustained period.

If as a Cell, or as an individual, you wish to be involved in the Prayer Chain please contact Ron Philpott or Letitia Chester.

## **LISTENING GROUP**

This year has been a year of consolidation for the team of Trained Christian Listeners within the Parish. Letitia is taking a break while training as an ordinand, but we have been delighted to welcome Julie Jones on the team, and also Karin Bunting from Clifton Moor, who has recently completed the Acorn Training Programme (anyone interested in finding out more please speak to Julie at the parish Office).

We have met regularly as a team – sometimes including oversight from one of the Acorn Supervisors; sometimes as an “informal” at the pub; sometimes as a “refresh” training opportunity. Some have also enjoyed larger Acorn celebrations at York and Ripon, while Rosemary has helped tutor various “Learning to Listen” courses in the Diocese.

As a group we have spent time reviewing our own practice, and with the help and inspiration of the Beverley Listening Team we have just re-launched our “Listen-in” leaflet introducing a new dedicated phone line. This means one of our team will check the phone each day, and be able to arrange a specific listening time to suit the enquirer. The service is open to church members and non-church members alike.

Besides the formal appointment system we realise the importance of listening *informally*, and that will be our focus for 2009 – together with chatting to more people about what it’s about. Our long term aim is to establish much more of a listening culture within our churches – and also to be able to offer the service more widely outside the church.

Rosemary Facer

## **CPC REPORT**

### **9.15am SERVICE**

It has been another good year with encouraging growth in numbers and regular attendance. This confirms it is meeting the need for a quieter, more traditional, meaningful Service.

We are blessed by willing valued team work.

We look forward to further growth and consolidation. To God be the glory.

### **10.45am (now 11am) SERVICE**

The service time changed to 11am in January. This was to celebrate the steady growth in both services and give more room for the handover both in the building and in the car park.

We have seen new leaders and preachers released this year, and have concentrated on making sure that guests are welcomed and can join in easily. We are aiming for consistency, so that members can invite friends any and every week.

Cathy Roberts has stepped into more responsibility as Music Ministry Coordinator, and she and David Boyd have begun to lead the worship more regularly.

The welcome Cards have provided valuable feedback each week about new people, those wanting to join a cell group or Alpha, prayer requests and praise reports, notes to the staff, as well as contact details.

Junior church is led by Jane Wingrove and Margaret Dyson and a great team - and we have seen some new people willing to lead and help. The enthusiasm of the children and young people is a testament to the care of this team. It is fantastic to have children and families in worship and it is delightful to see the development of this important area in our church life.

We have also had more students joining CPC. They are a welcome addition, and we want to help them to be encouraged and built up. Simon Jones is exploring with them, ways that they can be more integrated, and we're also being advised by Fusion (an organisation dedicated to linking students to churches).

### **REVIVE AT FIVE**

The parish evening service has seen some changes. We have introduced a pattern of differing services. The first Sunday of the month is a Youth Led service. The second a worship and ministry service, and the third a more contemplative style. The fourth Sunday was set aside to have the Get in Gear seminars.

All these services have seen blessing in different ways, but we are aware that they are not all well attended. We will continue to monitor the situation and respond as the Lord leads us.

David Casswell

### **JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT CPC**

After many meetings Margaret and I decided that there should be three groups and after many prayers we were able to enlist just enough volunteers to make this happen. Each group has its own dedicated leader who oversees the work. Each session is recorded in a log book and Margaret keeps a weekly register. After a meeting with other leaders we decided to try and follow the themes for the talks in the main service. This is in its early stages and will be reviewed in our termly meetings.

We also wanted the children to be part of the main service and so they now share what they have been doing with the congregation and also collect the cards and bring them up with the offertory. We have also established links with the children in Tubakunde.

Future plans involve the making of a banner and a flier which we can hand out in church and possibly distribute to our local schools. All this takes time but we are all excited about the future. More volunteers are always welcome!

Margaret and I would like to extend our thanks to our present team for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Jane Wingrove

Margaret Dyson

### **BARLEYFIELDS**

Age, illness, movements away have led to a reduction in the numbers who share our informal Worship and Fellowship (normally 4th Sunday at 6.30pm). Efforts continue to introduce the newcomers.

Wider contact is still maintained through visits and a monthly letter I take to all Residents.

Perhaps we might attract more response and make a greater impact by arranging a Coffee Morning or an occasional Activity Time "in house" for them. Something to be explored.

My thanks are due to the Warden and Staff for their welcome and co-operation.

Geoff Goodall (Reader)

### **HOME COMMUNIONS**

Those who share and receive this Ministry are blessed, both the regulars and others who have participated as need has arisen.

Our hope is that this meaningful part of our Pastoral work will increase. The Sacrament is always available, so please do ask and encourage others to receive too.

Geoff Goodall (Reader)

### **LITTER PICKING**

The Litter picking group has met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month during the last year. We meet at 11.00am. and spend around one hour picking up litter in the vicinity of Clifton Green and Croft Alley. Each time there has been a group of between 2 and 5 people offering to help.

Cllr. Helen Douglas has succeeded in her request for York City Council to adopt Croft Alley, in reality this means that a council worker walks the alley once a week and picks up litter etc. Helen Douglas also arranged for The Prince's Trust to plant a small garden area down the alley. This has proved reasonably successful and one of our Church members keeps this area weeded etc.

As a result of these actions the Alley is much improved in appearance and people walking along it have made comments to that effect. We also report to the Council any graffiti or property damage that we find in this area.

It would be worthwhile to continue with this project. We have an excellent relationship with the local Police Support Officers and they would encourage us to continue. It is felt to be a useful community project and also witness to the locality.  
Howard Dawson

### **CLIFTON OPEN GARDENS FOR HOPE 08**

As part of the Parish Outreach locally and tied in with HOPE 08, it was decided that we would try to organise an afternoon of Open Gardens for local people to visit on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The plan was to integrate gardens of church members and hopefully some local gardens belonging to people not previously associated with the church. Unfortunately for that part of the outreach, despite some initial interest from 'outside', we had seven Open Gardens kindly offered by CPC members on the day.

The gardens were open from 2 to 5 pm and cream teas were served at CPC, where there was an

excellent exhibition of flower-arranging, followed by the 'Revive @ 5' evening service which had a horticultural theme.

Over 100 people from within and outside the parish visited and more than £600 was raised for the Youth Fund.

Everyone who opened or visited the gardens seemed to enjoy their experience and a number of people saw the inside of CPC who might otherwise not have done; with the money raised, this was a very encouraging day.

There are no plans to repeat this during the current year as it seems to work better if there are a few years between openings.

John Hamilton.

### **SPIRITUAL PATHWAY PROJECT**

Last year saw the beginnings of the CPC Spiritual Pathway Project taking shape, as part of the Hope 08 initiative. Three full day mosaic workshops took place throughout November. Both the church and the wider community in York were involved, each person given the task of completing a mosaic letter within a square panel. These will eventually form part of the specially designed mosaic pathway, and the message for all to see will read "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31). Its function, therefore, is to lead all who may chance upon it up to the church door, with a message of hope and give them the confidence to open the door and come inside.

Running the project and organising the workshops has been such fun for all of us involved, and immensely rewarding. We received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the workshops which was very encouraging. We are aiming to restart workshops again in April for those who want to come back and finish what they have started. There are also a few opportunities left for anyone who has not yet been involved to come and have a go. Following on from that we would like to encourage participation in helping to grout all 74 panels, during the warm summer months!

The project on the whole is quite a long one that has already taken a year of planning to get to this stage, and we still need to raise funds for additional materials and the final installation of the pathway. Importantly though, not only should we look towards the end product, but also enjoy the whole process. It will provide us with many positive, sociable and creative opportunities along the way for our community.

Helen Bower

### **ST MARK'S**

## **ST MARK'S – 40 years of being church in Rawcliffe**

Jesus said, 'Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them'.

St Mark's is part of the Christian community in and through which Christ lives today. So, in a nutshell, how have we functioned as the Body of Christ during the past year? Christ gives us life and gifts. Some of these gifts are being used and we should be encouraged as we see the 'green shoots' of God at work among us. This year we have seen Derek Paterson established as Church Warden and beyond that, the benefits to St Mark's of his gifting as a lay leader. We are enjoying getting to know our new members and making our visitors welcome. We see 'new shoots' clearly flourishing in: Little Gems, our See and Know group for 0-3's on Sunday mornings; in the vision and development of the youth and children's programmes; in the 'Prayer Lights' scattered around the area; in setting up a rolling programme of parenting courses for parents of toddlers, primary school and teens with Family Matters York, actively supported by our cell groups; in Messy Church; and also in the group attending the Worship Leaders Course to help us explore and develop our times of worship together.

We have other indicators of healthy growth in the spiritual life of our church: the growing number of people contributing their gifts on Sunday mornings; this year groups went off to Spring Harvest and New Wine; each of the cell groups are developing their contribution to the wider life and outreach of the church; the prayer and community response that has enabled us to fund the re-surfacing of the car park; the on-going prayer, care and support for each other. We also minister by using our building for youth activities; for the Women's breakfasts; for Godly Play workshops; for Coffee Morning; for holding Rawcliffe Infants School's day about 'Christianity'; for welcoming Playgroup, Song Box, Slimming World and the Uniformed organisations.

It was a highlight of the year when these groups helped us celebrate our 40th Anniversary in November with a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival Weekend that attracted over 250 people followed by our celebration service on Sunday when we were joined by friends who have contributed to the ministry of St Mark's over the 40 years.

Another highlight was the Civic Service that we hosted for the Lord Mayor, Irene, who is a member of our congregation. The church was packed and we were joined by the Civic Leaders who thoroughly enjoyed our style of worship and the involvement of the children in the occasion. The Leader of the Council then came along a few weeks later to help us with our Hope 08 Lakeside cleanup.

As we come to the end of this year we are preparing to include children at Communion on Easter Day, because as we say on Sunday mornings 'Though we are many, we are one Body because we all share in one bread'.

So where do we go from here? St Mark's should now begin to look forward to the next phase of its life – where is God taking us, what gifts has he given us for the task? We will be thinking about how we can better care for each other and those we are in contact with; how we can grow the prayer and worshipping life of the church in a way that is relevant to the needs of our members in their daily lives. We will be identifying opportunities for outreach and service, and ways of 'being Christ' during the hours we are not in church!

Liz Marshman

## **ST MARK'S SUNDAY CLUB**

The Sunday Club groups are thriving at St Mark's. We have 5 groups including Little Gems a group for

the under 3's which was started in September last year and provides a teaching and activity session for the younger children who were previously looked after in the creche. Most weeks we have between 15 -20 children in the Sunday club groups and two of the groups are supported by some of the young people. We have a fantastic team of committed group leaders, but we are always trying to encourage others to join us.

Lis Ramage

### **THE SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING (St Mark's)**

The coffee morning continues to flourish. It is well supported by people from our three churches, and also by non churchgoers.

Our numbers have increased this year, and people do come regularly which is very encouraging.

I think its strength is being welcoming and friendly. A place where we feel comfortable and can have a chat and share with each other

I do feel it has an important role in the life of our church. This year the money we raise will go to the fund to support Simon our Youth Worker.

Margaret Horsley

### **CLIFTON MOOR REPORT**

2008 has been a special year for Clifton Moor – celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the building, and renewing its vision for reaching the community! It has been exciting to see how the lay leadership has grown – and is taking on board the working out of the Outreach vision in practical ways. (see Mark's report) Thanks are due to the Stewards and Worship Leaders for initiating much of this development. Thanks are also due to Richard Cave – not only for his contributions in the services – but also for the increasing role he has taken in heading up the Childrens' work. (see Richard's report)

David Anderson continues to keep the Church Council on its toes – particularly in the follow up of the Day of Discovery.

In the area of Pastoral Care it was felt that we might benefit from a more specific Care structure being put in place, so this is being looked at. "Listening" is a skill that links very well with this area, so we are delighted that Karin Bunting has now completed her training as an "Acorn Listener" (see report on Listeners), and look forward to this being encouraged more widely. Another area under review is Worship, and several members of the congregation have joined in a stimulating ecumenical Worship Leaders Training Course (run by William Swires who led our Day of Discovery earlier in the year) – hopefully resulting in a larger support team for Julie Cave and William Jenkyns, our current Worship Leaders!

On the wider front, many enjoyed the Parish Weekend at Sneaton Castle, and then, more recently, the Prayer Walk and Labyrinth with Clifton Methodist Church as part of their Centenary Celebrations. From further afield, during the summer, we met with Friday Kasonde from Zambia who was staying with Gift and Clementinah. (his daughter) He encouraged our newly-formed Singing Group, and "provoked" us with his preaching on discipleship! From my many conversations with him, I miss his depth of prayer – and radiant everyday faith in Jesus.

On a more personal note, I have continued to enjoy my visits to CPC and St Mark's – as well as different Methodist Churches in the Circuit – on various preaching engagements. I have also appreciated the opportunity of developing the evening reflective service at CPC (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the

month) with Liz Marshman and Cathy Roberts. Soon I shall be saying goodbye, when I retire to another beautiful part of the country – Cumbria. My thanks to all of you for your support and fellowship during my 8 years here; Sun 17 May will be my last morning service at Clifton Moor – then a Parish tea in the afternoon, and chance to chat with you all – and finally a quiet, reflective service at CPC to finish. Whether I manage to sort, clear, and leave the house empty by then remains to be seen.....!!!

Rosemary Facer

## **CLIFTON MOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Clifton Moor Sunday School consists of 3 groups plus Crèche:

The numbers are approximately:

Crèche	1-4	Pre-school
Younger group	6-10	Key Stage 1
Middle group	6-10	Key Stage 2
Older group	2-14	High School

There are 3 helpers on a rota to cover the Crèche each week. The Crèche is available at any time during every service and parents are welcome to stay with the children or leave them and rejoin the congregation. It is great to have the Crèche up and running again as there are a few young children coming with potentially many more now that the Crèche is available. The leaders have recently obtained drawings depicting Bible stories to colour in.

The Youngest Group are taught Bible stories, usually focusing on Biblical characters to give them an introduction to the Bible. Crafts are often used as illustrations with the children showing off their work to the congregation at the end of the service.

The Middle Group continue to teach Bible stories using Scripture Union material but take the teaching a stage further by also teaching the truths behind the stories as well as fundamental Christian values. Again sometimes crafts are used as well as drama and other medium to illustrate the teaching.

In the Oldest Group the children take part in discussions and learn how to apply the Bible teachings to their own lives in a practical way. Again the lessons are based on Scripture Union material. Simon also leads this group once a month.

The leadership of each group is carried out on a rota basis with 2 leaders assigned to each of the younger groups and 3 to the oldest group. The younger groups also have 3 helpers each on a rota ensuring there always 2 leaders to each class at all times.

This year we have maintained our same excellent teachers and helpers as last year which has been good for continuity and helps in getting to know the children as well as their needs and levels of understanding. Due to the reintroduction of the Crèche, there have been some changes to the helpers with additional stand-in helpers to cover if required.

Virtually all leaders and helpers have now been CRB checked.

Numbers are similar to last year but there have been a few newcomers, especially in the Middle Group and the Crèche. Due to the size of the Middle Group, the Year 6 children were moved up to the Oldest Group at Christmas. The Oldest Group is the one with the least consistency in its attendance with numbers being very low some weeks.

I feel that the Sunday School is well placed to continue with a good number of children receiving good teaching and encouragement from their leaders. As a church we aim to include children as we

consider ourselves a family church and are looking at ways to ensure the children feel part of that family.

The only area of concern is at the top end where attendance falls off. We need to help the older children / youth feel part of the church and are considering ways of achieving this.

Richard Cave

## **CLIFTON MOOR – STEWARDS REPORT**

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2008 was Clifton Moors 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building and 15 years of people meeting together as The Church on Clifton Moor. There have been some great things happening throughout the year. Back in March we had a Day of Discovery for every member to come along to review what we were doing as a church, talk about where they had a passion and what they thought, we as a church needed to be doing in the future. It was a fantastic way to share and understand how we can do church better. One of the main things which came out of it was that we all wanted to make sure the church was a central part of the community.

Later in the year a small group organized a Summer Fair for all the community with lots of volunteers from the Church and Playgroup helping on the day. The whole thing went down very well, with Bouncy Castles, Hot Dogs, Ice Creams, stalls for everyone, and we saw lots of people from all over Clifton Moor who came along to have fun.

The summer saw William Jenkyns forming a singing group which has sung at Sunday services and other events. It has been a real blessing to those taking part and hopefully those listening too. Also in the summer Sarah Mills started a children's band to play a couple of set pieces at special services and again those who took part really enjoyed it and they sounded fantastic.

October saw our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Party weekend with a celebration meal and service on the Friday night with over 100 people enjoying Spaghetti Bolognese and wonderful service led by our founding clergy, Canon Robin Fletcher & Rev. Martin Amery. Another special service on the Sunday with over 150 people and both the Band & Singers taking part at both events. It was very good to hear that Clifton Moor Church was founded to be a central part of the Community and definitely remains one of our aims.

At the end of the year we arranged a Turkey Dinner for the local OAPs with 38 people enjoying a fantastic meal with songs and carols afterwards courtesy of the singing group. Many people pitched in giving lifts, cooking, young people waiting, washing up, sing etc.

Finally the end of the year finished with our traditional Nativity play with all the children and even a few adults donning costumes to tell out the Christmas story with the Band playing and Singers singing and even a couple of solos from some very brave men.

The year has been one of great blessing with a few new people joining throughout the year, and the Family of Clifton Moor Church working together to achieve much. Thanks go to all those who not only made the big events happen but also the smaller things each week like putting out the chairs, tables, reading, giving out hymn books, sound etc. We hope and pray that we can continue to build on this next year and continue to get the church out in to the community and the community in to church.

Mark Mills  
Senior Steward