

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, BARTON ON HUMBER FOR THE YEAR 2012

### Vicar's report

Those of you who can cast your mind back to early 2012 will remember a service at which the massive contribution made by many different people to the work of the parish church was celebrated. It is an image well worth bearing in mind throughout this meeting - some of the people and groups represented that evening are mentioned in the AGM report, others are not, but they are reminders that ministry is about what needs to be done for the spread of the Gospel, and it's not all about being up at the front. Please remember that throughout.

There is, I think, a feeling of relief in the diocese that it's being acknowledged that church life isn't easy. Over the years we've often been made to feel as though it's something we're doing wrong (and everywhere else is doing it right); it is much more pleasant to work in a world where the difficulties and frustrations of our work are out in the open. It's still not unknown for parishioners to tell their clergy and church officers that 'numbers are going down' - and make them feel personally responsible for the downfall of western civilisation! Bishop Christopher's review of how we do things and where we can do things better is welcome and overdue, and if his concern for the centrality of our core business - care, prayer and Christian learning (and the encouragement of good standards of worship) continues, certainly all the team here feel very affirmed by that.

I do find myself saying only half-jokingly that if Barton's got a parish priest at the moment it's not me. There's a huge amount of work carried by my ministerial colleagues and the church officers, much of it displaced onto them by my duties as Rural Dean with a dozen vacant parishes. It's good to have had Sue B join us from Ermine, and for Fr Ivan H and Valerie to move into the parish as well. It's been sad to lose Geoff L from the choir through his ill-health, and a particular blow that Rosemary has fallen so seriously ill, too. Ian H has decided it's time to step back from the lay chair role on PCC, and I'm personally very grateful for his kind and wise support these last eight years. Mike M has decided to reduce his duties as well and we thank him too for his hard work as caretaker and head server. Peter L spoke recently of the need for succession planning so that as vacancies appear in our structure, people are able to step into the posts. It's an important point he makes.

It is good that there's a sense in the diocese now that God is the most important thing we have to offer, and that everything else flows from that. It does rather pick up on what we've been trying to continue for many years here. It's a very simple vision we have - to try and make it a little easier for people to encounter the reality we call God. That's all that matters, since everything flows from it, and if the way it's being put across here now draws a little more than before on the catholic tradition within Anglicanism, then all that does is to widen the range of spirituality on offer in Barton. There is something delicious about the fact that the New Life charismatic evangelical congregation up at Baysgarth, poles apart from the BCP, Sung Evensong, statues of the BVM and all the rest have, found us to be their most supportive partners in their new mission! I'm delighted at that (never before have I preached a 40 minute sermon .... ) It's also interesting that as we have gone out to parishes in vacancy with our Barton service books, congregations are finding our way of doing worship helpful and accessible. We have something to offer.

Trying to build our mission on pastoral care, Christian learning and a real encounter with God must continue to be at the heart of what we do. We've made some moves in developing that further, but there are no quick fixes - there's plenty of work for us to do. That the building is seen as a place where the community is 'at home' is an important part of our pastoral care, too. Not just the concerts and things, but the heart-rending prayers left on our prayer board reveal that we are getting something right.

I started by recalling the celebration of ministries within the church, and I'd like to end there too with a note of thanks to the folk, high- and low-profile who keep things going at all levels. As Rural Dean, I see all sorts of difficulties in under-resourced parishes, and we are so very fortunate here. We take so much for granted - music, clean linen, clean church, bells, coffee, kids, half-a-dozen different preachers, quiet days, noisy days .... It's not like this everywhere and I'm very fortunate. And a personal word of thanks for the concerned support which I have received personally, especially from officers and colleagues. It hasn't been the easiest of years, especially with all the extra loading of work, and I really would have been lost without the time and kindness so generously given.

*David*

## Fabric Report

Most of our effort has gone into getting windows in the chancel, north aisle and tower repaired. Unfortunately, due to the type of glass involved, we need a full faculty. So far we have the approval of the DAC but we do not yet have the actual faculty from the Chancellor.

During the year we joined the Church Repair Society which is prepared to advance us a loan of £7,000 for the window repairs. In fact we have already started repaying this money, and as the work has not yet been done, we are earning interest on the repayments! We have had several meetings with Tim P, the architect, in our efforts to move things forward.

Our heating system has had a much easier time this year. The boilers in both the church and hall were serviced in August, Smartwater was applied to the lead on the roof and the gutters were cleaned, for which we thank Dave C.

In September we had a review from Scott Baron of Ecclesiastical Insurance. Unfortunately this is expected to lead to an increased premium next year. Kaye Electrical have carried out an electrical inspection which is to be done every five years, and have replaced the fuse board in the Hall.

Ian W is in the process of repairing and painting the windows in the Hall. Brian P has been as busy as ever, notably in refixing downpipes on the south side of the church. We are grateful for the skill and generosity of both gentlemen, and a last word of thanks is due to our volunteer cleaners, organised by Val D.

*Geoff B*

## Organ Report

During the last year we have obtained a faculty for repairs to the Pedal Organ. Problems with one of the soundboards have resulted in several missing pedal notes. Work, costing £1,870, has been done, but the results are not yet satisfactory and we are waiting for a return visit from the builder. We do not expect the bill until everything is working!

The faculty also covers repairs to the largest pipes of the Pedal Trombone stop, which are collapsing under their own weight. They will be taken away and re-made in the next few months at a cost of £ 1,980.

Otherwise the organ is in good shape, and remains the best organ in our area. Barton Arts are planning to promote an Organ Recital here, given by Geoffrey and Christopher B on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

*Geoff B*

## Choir Report

The Choir has had an eventful year, with the usual high points in the form of the Carol Service and the various choral services throughout the year. We have also been delighted to welcome Sallyann M and Grace H as new members of the Choir.

After more than 40 years as Choirmaster, Alan decided that he needed a break from the constraints of this demanding role, especially in the light of various health problems and difficulty with his eyes. Geoff has taken over this responsibility for now, and he, Alan and David intend to get together in the near future and discuss the way forward. Alan's contribution to the musical tradition in Barton has been outstanding and apart from extending our thanks to him for all he's done, we hope he will continue to be involved in the music of St Mary's once both his eyeballs are more firmly anchored. The Choir are proving very adaptable - and Geoff has, discovered that he hasn't quite forgotten the art of choral conducting since his days at university.

*Liz B*

### St Mary's Servers.

My thanks go to all of St Mary's servers for their commitment to the job. Thanks and congratulations go out also to Matthew H and Brian C on attending their first masses as Servers. As you may have heard, Mike M will be retiring as Head Server at the end of the Month; my thanks go out for his contribution to the worship here for the past years, as well as guiding me on my first steps as a server to where I am today. On behalf of Father Liz, the clergy and St Mary's servers, I thank you Mike for your service to St Mary's, and all the best for the future. Mike's retirement will mean I will be taking up the role of Head Server at the end of the month and there will be a vacancy for a new Deputy Head Server. Once again, Father Liz and I plead for more names to add to the Servers' rota. If anybody is interested in becoming a server they will be more than welcome. Serving is easy to learn and full training will be given, please contact Father Liz Brown or myself if you are at all interested.

Once again, the servers gathered with family and friends at the Wheatsheaf this year for the annual server's dinner. It was a very enjoyable evening and hopefully will be held again next year. Join the team, and you can join the dinner too.

*Andrew L (deputy head server)*

### St. Mary's Ladies' Group

The group continues to flourish with over 100 members obviously providing a need as a 'Women's evening meeting. Our new Leader Shan Hewson began the year introducing Crystal Ness, fund raising manager for Macmillan Cancer support services and volunteer and chairman of the Scunthorpe committee Jenni Martin. A cheque for £3,000 raised by several events including sponsored line dancing, sales of jams and chutneys and a raffle was presented to them by our retiring leader Pauline Chapman and treasurer Kath Smith. Crystal and Jenni were delighted to accept the cheque and both spoke about the varied work of the Macmillan services which is almost entirely funded by voluntary donations.

A Pie and Pea Harvest Supper on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. was once again catered for by Cooks of New Holland. For a change we enjoyed steak and kidney pie (the meat melted in one's mouth!) with mushy peas followed by fresh fruit Pavlova. A quiz followed, the topic of which was names of shops in the High Street (with cryptic clues.)

The speaker at the second meeting was Terry Richards from Hull accompanied by his wife, his talk was entitled 'Radio Nostalgia' (which means 'a sentimental journey into the past'.) An enjoyable trip down memory lane followed starting with the BBC's first broadcast in 1922 'Calling the world from London'

Sue W welcomed and introduced Elsa to nearly 60 ladies who attended this meeting, proving how popular card making is. Elsa had spent a lot of time preparing for the evening, providing the materials to make 2 cards each. She also brought a variety of cards for us to purchase explaining that all the money she makes from the cards is donated to Childline. Over the last 3 years she has raised over £5,000

Shan reported that forty six shoe boxes had been prepared and dispatched for the Christmas Shoebox appeal.

The cake stall at the Church Fair had made £140 for the Church, and £198 from Elsa Cox's card making meeting had been donated to Childline. A large variety of goods for the Barton Food Bank had been brought to the meeting for later distribution.

Three lively and enthusiastic speakers, two Terry's and a Daniel, from Unique Auctioneers and Valuers from Lincoln, between them emphasized that an auctioneer's is the best place to value antiques and collectables and that research into all aspects of the item is vital. The value of any object is affected by factors such as date, maker, rarity and desirability, and sometimes a personal story relating to that object.

The Scunthorpe pantomime was excellent - who needs to pay Hull prices or see the 'Chuckle Brothers' yet again!! Dame' Anny Fanny' was amazing as were all the cast. The Christmas meal at Glanford Park was superb and most of the members were unaware that anyone can go to the restaurant on weekday lunchtimes and the weekends too,

As a complete contrast Geoff Bryant spoke at our first January meeting about the customs and procedures surrounding Childbirth, Baptism and Churching in late medieval times. He was greeted with an enthusiastic welcome and entertained us with a lively, sometimes funny and sometimes serious talk.

Our most recent talk was given by Mr. Gary Hunter, Practice Manager at Central Surgery, who described how the surgery 'works'. The most topical item was the appointment system which causes a lot of concern.

As you can see our programme is varied and we raise a lot of money both for the church and for local charities. The meeting aims to provide something of interest for everyone, not forgetting our church 'roots'-originally as an offshoot of the Mothers' Union for 'Young Families'

*Sue W*

### **Social Committee**

The Social committee has had a busy and very successful year. The New Year, Midsummer and Harvest Supper were very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The Garden Party and Bazaar were also enjoyed. The Jubilee Flower Festival exceeded all our hopes and it was very rewarding to see many people enjoying the flowers in church.

Finally I would like to thank all the helpers involved in these events for their hard work. We look forward to the coming year and hope you will continue to support us.

*Auriol T.*

### **Barton Area Food Bank**

As most people now know, the churches (together with several schools and community groups), in and around Barton play a key role in the work of the food bank. ALL denominations of the Christian Church are involved to varying degrees. The work is rooted in the churches. Every session starts with a prayer for those helpers who come.

The people of St. Mary's have taken an active role from the beginning, when the idea was first mooted by Rev. Kathy C in early 2011. Little did Kathy know what she was starting! !! It has come a long way since then, and our church has been instrumental in its success. Many church members give generously in the church collection box each week. St. Mary's volunteers are in every aspect of the work---food collections, distribution, storage and liaison with the Partner Agencies, who assess clients to receive our Food Bank vouchers.

At the end of 2012, having had clients for ten and a half months, we had helped 364 families, totalling 564 adults and 363 children. Some of these figures, of course, are due to double counting, as sadly clients' personal problems are not always resolved quickly. Some people, finding casual work in agriculture in the summer, then often return to benefits, or may have drastic cuts. It is not all about benefits, but also about working people struggling on low incomes, being confronted by a large unforeseen bill for perhaps a washer repair or regular transport to hospital etc. The list is endless.

To the end of this February, St. Mary's members have left almost 860kgs of food and toiletries in the church collection bin. This does not include the amount which some also put in the supermarket collection bins, and making cash donations. Any cash is then spent on items which are not so regularly given, such as toiletries, nappies and hygiene products.

The Food Bank would like to express thanks to everyone in St. Mary's; helpers, givers, intercessors etc. It is much appreciated. We know our clients appreciate your giving, and from time to time ask for details of services in the various churches. Thanks again.

*Margaret S*

### **Toddler Time**

Toddler time has continued to grow in numbers and we regularly have eight or nine mums and often more. The earlier start of 9.30am has benefited our group with mums coming in directly from the school or playgroup run. The poster on the outdoor notice board and the flyers given out at baptism services has brought us some new mums to the group who, in turn, have told others. Consequently we have become a very large and lively group.

We have tried to incorporate a craft type activity in the sessions, which seems to be well received by both parents and toddlers alike. As a result we have spent a little more money to replenish craft materials. We had a Christmas party and some of the group came to the Christingle service in church.

Thanks must be given to Sue and Mavis for all that they do in the group and a special thanks to Auriol for providing the refreshments and giving generously from the money she collects. Sue has found it increasingly difficult to lead the group due to increasing work commitments so I have volunteered to take on the role of toddler time leader all of the time with Sue helping out when she can.

*Michelle W*

## **Junior Church**

It has been decided that we will no longer run the Junior Church group due to insufficient numbers.

I ran the group monthly through to the summer last year and more often than not there were only two in attendance. In consultation with Father David it was decided that the group was no longer viable. I ran a group during Advent which again only had an average of two per session. I have attended a course on the Godly Plays to see if their ideas could help. I found that the ideas and resources from the course would be useful but only as part of an existing group and not as a way to attract more people in.

I have made some Toddler Bags which can be found in a box by the children's table in church which contain books, paper, colouring books, pens and puzzles that children can use during any of the church services. Although I am no longer running this group I am still working with children in the church in my new role of Toddler Time leader.

*Michelle W*

## **EIW**

We continue to be very fortunate in our youth group. Numbers are holding up, with new members coming on board and enjoying a variety of activities, usually on a Friday evening. There are few other such groups across the diocese, and the collapse of youth work in the county makes what we are able to offer even more important.

2012 has seen our usual round of outings and themed meals, with occasional forays into services (the Holocaust Memorial Day Eucharist which the young people worked on with the leaders falls outside the 2012 bracket on any strict interpretation, but should be mentioned as a remarkable piece of worship). We made our presence felt at the Youth Walsingham (the priests' arm-wrestling competition is still somewhere on YouTube) and are trying to promote that across the diocese again this year. And we managed to enjoy the envy of loads of young (and not-so-young) people across the country by visiting the 2012 Olympics from a base in a church hall in Blackheath, London. We're very appreciative of the support we receive from members of St Mary's, some of whom have never knowingly missed one of our social events in several years - and have lived to tell the tale! Occasionally we do encounter church people who aren't aware that we have a youth group - perhaps we're not noisy enough?

## **Mothers' Union**

We have shared some interesting and inspiring afternoons from a variety of clergy, gaped in wonder at other people's talents and enjoyed fellowship together during our 'in house' events. In January many members attended a service of Thanksgiving reflecting the variety of ministries exercised by people in St Mary's and from the Mothers' Union. We acknowledged Marriage Week In February with a display behind the Trinity altar and on the Mothers' Union notice board, and on Lady Day we celebrated with a Eucharist and admitted a new member.

We provided 140 posies for Mothering Sunday, attended the Methodist Rally in April and hosted the Deanery Festival in May on the theme 'Your Gift - Discover and celebrate', sending the collection to the 'Wheels Appeal'

We also raised funds for St Mary's with our efforts at the Garden Party and Autumn Bazaar. We meet three

*Linda B*

times each month; the first Wednesday 9.30 am for Corporate Communion, the third Wednesday 2pm for

## **Worship Group ,(residential homes)**

Services in residential homes are now in their forty third year. This has been our first full year taking services at Westbridge House, following a well received Carol Service in 2011. The age range of residents here is varied, so we try a wider choice of hymns, often of a more modern nature. They don't mind being 'experimented' upon, although as yet, we have stopped short of trying to sing 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God' in rounds, but it will come! It was lovely for the regular helpers to be invited to Westbridge House's pantomime of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Tony B, the handyman for both Westbridge House and Eagle House helped out by playing Jack. For those of you who are old enough to remember Stanley C and his variety concerts at the old Oxford cinema in Newport, Tony is Stan's grandson. He has

our meeting, and from April - October on the fourth Wednesday 2pm for our prayer group. Visitors are always welcome.

certainly inherited his Grandad's dramatic flair, and had everyone in stitches. Pauline E and other staff then laid on a splendid buffet.

December was again a very busy month for Carol Services at all the residential homes, together with the Day Centre and Victoria House. We did miss attending St. Peter's Court this year, as most people will know that most of the residents have been relocated already, in readiness for new development there.

We have seen many comings and goings as usual in the past year. Some old friends in the homes are sadly no longer with us, but we give thanks that they have felt able to share in worship with us. In July, we were pleased to be able to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Herbert D on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at Beech House. It was a warm day and Herbert and Beryl sat in the shade for the service outside. They are not always well enough to come, but when they do, their favourite hymn is always 'How Great Thou Art'.

Another centenarian this month is Ivy B, who comes to the services at the Willows joined by her sister, Elsie N, who joins in as a most welcome visitor.

Eagle House enjoyed their Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year. We try to find familiar hymns and some real oldies. Again this year, we printed out the words for the old hymn 'Bringing in the Sheaves'. They enjoyed the chorus so much, and one group of ladies were so carried away swaying and clapping that we repeated it for them. It rather reminded me of the nuns' choir in the Whoopi Goldberg comedy film, 'Sister Act', as they were so animated! One of our ladies assumes the role of conductor, whilst others can be seen to be quietly tapping hands or feet. We know that the Christian message is being received, as many residents have life-long experiences of church life and Christian service.

We find it especially encouraging when visiting friends and relatives stay to share the service with us, and help swell the singing. The staff also join in wherever possible. We would still welcome more people to help with the services, particularly at Eagle House, where most of the residents need support. We can all share with one another.

Times of the services are to be found on the weekly service sheets and also in the parish magazine.

I reiterate what I said last year that the opportunity to talk with residents is so important. Keeping the channels of communication open to any person is vital, however briefly or hesitantly we do this, and no **matter** what the response. We can all talk to others. It is a simple ministry we can all exercise

I extend my thanks to everyone from all the churches who take part. Finally, if I may I would like to express our thanks for all Margaret M did both in and outside of the services in residential homes. 'Mac' as many people know, died this January, but left a lasting example of Christian witness wherever she went and with whomever she met

*Margaret E. S*

### **Bell Ringers' Report**

We rang for all Sunday morning services in 2012 but only managed to ring 8 or more bells for 49 of the 52 Sundays. The most prolific ringers for Sundays were Linda (49), Donald (49) and George (47).

Tuesday practice nights have always had a good level of attendance with most of our 14 members turning up most of the time. We have regular visitors from Goxhill who come to join us and occasionally some other visitors come from elsewhere. There were 5 quarter peals successfully rung in 2012 by a local band. The most notable of these were Geoff's 1000th and Robert's first.

We had some memorable trips away from Barton last year giving us the opportunity to ring on different bells. The first was to Howden Minster in April where we rang for evensong. Probably the most exciting trip was to Liverpool Cathedral on 26<sup>th</sup> May arranged by Geoff. Here we all attempted ringing on the highest and 'biggest' bells in the world. A number of us went to ring for evensong at Lincoln Cathedral 19<sup>th</sup> August where we had more experience of ringing on 12 bells and did this very well. In November George ably arranged a walking tour of 4 towers in York.

We have been very successful at ringing for a number of Civic, Local and National events including St Georges Day, HRH Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games and the Christmas fair, to name a few.

We held a tower open afternoon on 14<sup>th</sup> July to publicise bellringing and enable visitors to have a try. This was a very exciting afternoon where we generated a lot of interest and were able to recruit some learners to the art. We are hoping to do the same again this year.

Learners practices have been up and down during the year, mainly due to availability of learners, tutors and helpers as well as what has been going on in church. We have had 9 people wanting to learn, unfortunately only one of them has decided to keep coming along. We also have had a new, very competent ringer move in to the area and come to join us and we have welcomed Ivan with open arms.

I am very proud to report that we were able to enter a team in to the Northern Branch striking competition in June, in which came first. This enabled us to go forward to the Lincoln Diocese Guild Striking Competition in September where we were able to enter two teams. The only other team to enter two teams was Lincoln cathedral!

Our tower AGM was held recently (5<sup>th</sup> March) where elections took place. I would like to congratulate 16 year old George T for being elected Ringing Master. George is responsible for running the ringing in the tower, arranging outings, competition bands and quarter peals. We all wish him well in this new job. He is doing his GCSE exams this year which obviously are a higher priority and Jenny will help him out as much as is necessary until they are finished.

I am very proud of the achievements of the St Mary's ringers and the level of commitment to attendance during 2012 and feel that we are a very lucky tower with so many people willing and capable to keep the bells well maintained (thanks to Linda for leading this) and able to teach learners (thanks to Geoff). There are many towers nationwide that are struggling to ring their bells on Sundays due to lack of ringers and even more that have not got the capabilities to recruit and teach as well.

*Andy B, Tower Captain, St Mary's Ringers*

### **Treasurer's Report 2012**

In presenting my report for the year ending December 2012 I would first like to thank Val and Geoff the Churchwardens for their help. Without them and their team of helpers counting and organising the collection monies on Sunday mornings my job would be so much more complicated. **It** is these unsung helpers that are the backbone of most organisations and this is very much the case at St. Mary's. I would also like to thank David Dukes for the efficient processing of all our Gift Aided receipts which enable us to claim the maximum amount back from the Inland Revenue. This is a significant amount over the year and without it we would be in a direr situation than we are.

I now turn to the more unpleasant side of my report. As you will recall I predicted a large deficit for the year and unfortunately this has proved to be the case, although this year we have managed to pay our parish contribution and not fall into a default situation as we did last year. This is almost totally due to fall in giving. Our cost control continues to be excellent and our other areas of income (fees, interest and magazine advertising) maintain their level and in some areas increase. **It** would be a good time now to highlight one of these areas and the contribution it makes.

Many regard the church magazine, quite rightly, as our outreach to the wider community and as such a necessary expense. However under the stewardship of Mike S and his team advertising revenue continues to flourish to a point where not only it covers the costs of the actual magazine but generates a contribution to the Church. **It** is at times like this when we are all under financial pressure that these contributions become more and more important.

I will not dwell on this year's deficit as we are all aware of the current economic situation where we all have limited income and increasing expense. Giving fell last year by 5% and it is for us all to examine our own situations and assess that we are making the correct contribution when determining our giving.

As you will see from my budget for 2013 I again predict a large deficit and wonder how long we can sustain these losses without having to curtail our services to the wider community. Many will remember when the boiler broke how cold the church was, this could well be the normal situation if we cannot afford our increasing gas and electric bills.

*A.R.M A.CIB Treasurer.*