

# St Mary the Virgin



# Bury

# Annual General Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Report of Parish Activity 2017

**Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Bury**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting
3. Appointment of two Church Wardens

## **Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Apologies** were received from Steve Clark, Tracy Owen , Amy Webber, Keith and Pat Sedman, Ray Tait, Janice Hartley and Derek Calrow.

**Prayers** led by Rev. Rhiannon Jones

**Minutes.** These were noted as a true and correct record

### **Appointment of Church Wardens**

Owen Thomas and Ray Tait have been nominated and seconded. In the absence of any other nominees being proposed the list was closed and Owen and Ray were declared the new Church Wardens for the year.

At an extraordinary Vestry meeting held on April 30<sup>th</sup> it was unanimously accepted the Pat Webber should serve as an Assistant Warden for the coming twelve months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:35pm

# Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Bury

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

April 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous APCM
3. Matters arising from the APCM
4. Reports
5. Electoral Roll
6. PCC activity
7. Fabric , Goods and Ornaments ( Church Wardens)
8. Deanery Synod
9. Elections
10. Deanery Synod
11. Election to PCC
12. Appointments
13. Sidespersons
14. Independent Examiner
15. Rector's Report
16. A O B
17. Closing Prayers

## Electoral Roll Report 2016 to 2017

There were 475 on the Electoral Roll at December 2016, the majority of whom are not resident in the parish. During 2017 three names have been added, two people have gone into Nursing Homes fifteen people have moved away and eight people have died, making the number on the Electoral Roll at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 as 454.

Pat Uden  
*Electoral Roll Officer*

## PCC Report for the year 2017

### Aims and Purposes

The PCC of Saint Mary the Virgin, Bury has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd. Julian Heaton in promoting the ecclesiastical parish through the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church House complex.

### Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an over view of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our service can involve the many groups active therein. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year we have taken note of the CC guidance on public benefit and in particular the guidance for the advancement of religion. In particular we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus

Provision of pastoral care

Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work we realise the importance of maintaining the fabric of both the church and the Church House.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Worship and prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer to the community a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that are fulfilling. Weekday services, evensong etc. and also a quiet environment.

All are welcome to attend regular services.

Average weekly attendance during October was 125 adults and 28 children. It should be noted that this includes Harvest Festival.

As well as regular services we enable the celebration of milestones in people's lives.

Baptisms 41

Weddings 8

Funerals 27

### **Deanery Synod**

The church has seven representatives on Deanery Synod, one of whom is the lay chairman. Attached is a report giving further details.

### **The Church House complex**

This building plays a significant part in the life of B P C, being used on a daily basis by church members and organisations and not least by the contribution it makes to the finances of the church through lettings. A report from the Church House manager is attached.

**Pastoral care** is undertaken through the members of our ministry and by voluntary pastoral visitors.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

The Parish is beginning to explore ways in which the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared with the people of Bury. We are about to create a Mission Action Plan (MAP) which will focus our work and prioritise our energies. We are now engaged with a Food Bank and are about to grow our relationship with the work of Children's Society.

### **Ecumenical relationships**

We do not currently have a representative, barring the Rector, on Bury Churches Together and are actively searching for a volunteer. Members of the congregation participate in BCT Walk of Witness on Good Friday and individuals contribute to the work of Street Pastors in Bury.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

*See attachment*

## **RESERVES POLICY**

*See attachment*

## Volunteers

The church would not function without the large group of volunteers who undertake many responsibilities from youth work to flower arranging and dustbusters to choir and all stops in between.

## Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is a registered charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are actively encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The membership consists of

**Incumbent the Rector:** Revd. John Findon to January 2017

Revd. Julian Heaton from November 2017

**Associate Rector:** Revd. Rhiannon Jones

**Wardens:** Mrs Pat Webber to May 2017

Mr Owen Thomas

Mr Ray Tait from 2017

**Assistant Warden:** Mrs Pat Webber from May 2017

### Deanery Synod members ( ex Officio on PCC)

Hilary Ankers; John Ankers; Steve Clark (Chair); Preston Hulse; Kath Pollard (secretary ); Keith Sedman ( to May 2107); Pat Sedman ( to May 2107 ) Mr Lawrence Yarwood; Pat Webber and Keith Smith (from May 2017).

### PCC:

Ken Bowden, Derek Calrow, David Clarke, Terry Clarke, Eric Duckworth, David Fowler (from May 2017), Diana Hampson (Vice Chair), David Hartley, Janice Harvey (from May 2017), Chris Hughes, Kath Pollard, Nigel Rushworth (treasurer), Keith Sedman, Harold Smith, Keith Smith, Julie Spink (from May2017), Susan Sugden, John Uden, Pat Uden, Amy Webber (to May 2017), Dawn Wight (from May2017), Lawrence Yarwood.

The church also has a Standing Committee consisting of the Rector; the Vice Chair; PCC secretary; plus the Chairs of Finance; Fabric; Publicity; Social and Worship

## Review of the Year

The PCC met seven times during 2017 with an average attendance of 74%. The sub committees also met on a regular basis throughout the year.

This year has seen the church going through the period of a Vacancy. We said a sad farewell to John and Christa in January and faced the challenge of a time spent without a Rector at the helm. Thanks must go to everyone who served us through this time – Revd. Rhiannon, Revd. Ian McVeety; visiting clergy; wardens; standing Committee members, our Parish reps, John and Diana and many more. We welcomed Julian to the church at his Induction which was followed by a happy and busy gathering for refreshments in the Church House. The parish is delighted to have Julian, Jackie and their family in our community and we hope they will be very happy with us in Bury. Christmas was a busy time for the church as we hosted several Carol Concerts for the community and ourselves. Over eighty shoeboxes were filled by members of the congregation and sent abroad through the Samaritan's Purse Appeal.

The church continues to be open six days of the week, mainly thanks to the House on the Rock, and fulfils an obvious need in the community of Bury as a place for prayer, contemplation, peace and succour.

All the usual activities continued throughout the year, Lenten prayer meetings and study groups, parish lunches and, a new innovation, parish breakfasts, alongside social occasions and regular meetings of the uniformed organisations and TBC youth group.

As can be seen the parish has once again had a very busy twelve months and we all look forward to working with Julian to move the church forward in faith.

Hilary Ankers  
*Secretary to the PCC*

## Churchwardens' Report

This is a brief synopsis of the fabric, goods and ornaments belonging to the Church/Church Buildings.

First of all I would like to pass on the Wardens sincere thanks and gratitude for the sterling management, guidance and expertise Diana Hampson has proffered over the last year/years. Along with all the Fabric Team/Committee in enabling us to enjoy this wonderful Church in the current condition.

My understanding is that all of the records are up to date as in the terrier, the inventory and the log book of alterations, additions and repairs. With the outstanding identified concerns from the Quinquennial inspection being tracked.

The main ongoing concern that we have being the presence of the uneven pathway at the side of the Church. Numerous options have been explored over the year/s, meetings with the council, proposed temporary options etc. This is a major concern as the situation is progressively deteriorating and becoming an escalating risk and genuine hazard to people using this route at the side of the Church.

The H&S Documents have been reviewed for 2018 see previous comments on the pathway concerns, along with the PAT testing lightning conductor tests (additional remediation works to be completed along with contract renewals) , fire extinguisher checks completed.

Further electrical tests are to be undertaken in the Church along with the view that we should consider a Fire Alarm in the main body of the Church also. (Fire/Smoke Alarms have been installed in the Church House and Wilson Hall).

Details of the Fabric works undertaken and ongoing for the future are accurately captured from the numerous fabric meeting that have been held over the year, please refer to them for details.

Owen Thomas  
*Senior Warden*

## Treasurer's Report

The figures I am presenting to the APCM are, as usual, a summary of the main report, which many find confusing in the form we are required to use. Copies of the full accounts are, of course, available.

You will see the figures divided into "General" and "Restricted" funds. Restricted money is given to the church for a particular purpose and the PCC has no discretion to spend it on anything else. This includes a Fabric Fund, Flowers, Missions and a number of others. By convention the comparative figures are the previous year totals – General plus Restricted.

### Income

The main income item for any church is "planned giving and gift aid" where we received gifts into the General Fund totalling £93,706 which is a very significant sum, but a reduction of 11% on the previous year. Income tax recoverable on gift aid held up well at £24,635 in the General Fund. This remains an essential element of our income and serves to highlight how important it is that we try to capture the "tax efficient" element in all gifts to the church.

Plate collections were almost identical to the previous year at £10,552. Donations to the General Fund increased by £5,380 to £9,023 and the donation box in church added a further £2,590, which is a small increase on the previous year.

Car park income contributed £25,295 and rents received from church hall bookings a further £27,907 which is a fantastic achievement and thanks is due to those concerned in managing this income.

Interest and dividends received continue to be subdued.

We were pleased to receive a grant of £7,500 from the Pilling Trust to support the work of the Choir School.

## Expenses

The Parish Share was again paid in full at £113,903. This is our contribution to the costs of clergy stipends, housing, training and pensions in the diocese.

All other church expenses were tightly managed with few requiring mention here (please note that the higher cost of fundraising events in the previous year is due to the cost of the Kings Singers concert).

The cost of church maintenance in the general fund was £6,972 which is a modest figure for a building insured for £28 million: no major works were undertaken and this mainly represents the cost of routine service contracts. Hall maintenance includes the cost of cleaning.

An insurance claim was made following an intruder in church with the main damage being a broken window in the choir vestry. Repair costs were £2,642.

The cost of church activities appears high, including the cost of a choir camp in the Lake District and a parish weekend at Grange. The total also includes the gift of £1,850 which was presented to John and Christa Findon from gifts collected.

Graeme Bigg resigned as Youth Worker to take up a new post shortly before his contract was due to expire in August. His role was funded by grants and donations received in previous years.

Transfers were made between Funds as follows:  
Following the resignation of the Youth Worker prior to the end of his contract the residual balance of £2,470 in the Youth Project fund was transferred to the General Fund following discussions with the donor.  
£165 was transferred from General fund to TBC (designated fund) to cover the year's shortfall.

## Major Projects

**Church Roof:** We have been aware that the roof was nearing the end of its life and is in need of replacement. Advice in 2016 was that this would need to take place in 3 stages over a period of up to 10 years. Following a letter from John Findon £24,190 has been given to support this work, with more pledged. However, changes in the grant procedures of English Heritage now mean that work can be done in one phase, which is unlikely to start in the next few years. All money received in advance will be held in a separate fund and can not be used for any other purpose.

**Church surrounds.** We are mindful of the dangerous state of the pathways around church and are in discussions with the local authority, which has responsibility for the maintenance of the area, with a view to a major overhaul of the area. This will possibly be a project done in partnership between the church and Bury MBC, but no agreement has yet been made and no provision for funding has been put in place. During 2017 the sum of £5,849 was spent on professional fees in this regard.

**Car Park at The Wylde.** An agreement has been made with Bury MBC to buy the car park on The Wylde with the intention to use this as a parish resource in the evenings and at weekends and to generate rental income during weekdays. This initiative has only been possible thanks to a very generous donation of £100,000 towards the purchase price.

## The House on The Rock

The shop started trading as a separate company falling under the control of the PCC from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and subsequent accounts are reported separately. However, a summary of the shop accounts is below.

	2017	2016
Sales	58,059	63,140
Cost of Sales	23,014	26,264
Gross Profit	35,045	36,876
Overheads	35,721	33,951
Profit / Loss	-676	2,925

### Summary

In the General Fund, then, we see a surplus of £28,180, following a fairly quiet year in which no major costs have been incurred.

Our investments rose modestly in value reflecting market conditions.

Across all funds we then show a surplus of £42,685 bringing our Total Assets to £464,238. This includes the asset value of the church hall. Remembering that we have the care of two listed buildings, insured last year for £22 million and £1.1 million, then the asset total looks altogether less comfortable. A full breakdown of the year-end assets can be found in the formal Annual Report.

And so, a very good year for the church, in financial terms at least. However, we do need to brace ourselves for the future as we face major expenditure on the church roof and curtilage. At the year end the PCC had given approval for a detailed survey of the church roof and for emergency repairs to the lead at an estimated cost of £20,000, for which no provision has been made in the 2015 accounts.

Nigel Rushworth,  
*Treasurer*

## Finance Committee

**This report is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The Committee has met 5 times during the year.

Our Parish Share to the Diocese of £113,903 has been paid in full for 2017.

The income from Car Park rents (£25,295) and Church Hall lettings (£27,907) in 2017 has been a very important source of income.

We have worked closely with the Fabric Committee with their Chairman, Diana Hampson attending some of our meetings to discuss and agree managing specific projects, primarily the resurfacing around Church, purchase of land adjacent to the Church House and the Church roof.

The Fabric Committee has highlighted problems with the South Chapel windows. One window is bowing very badly and the cost of restoration will be in excess of £2,500 plus VAT. There is no other solution and Pendle Stained Glass Ltd. in Padiham has been instructed to undertake the work. The condition of a further five windows will need to be monitored.

Certainly the next few years are going to be difficult, both in terms of managing the above projects and, more to the point, being able to fund them.

With the appointment of a new Rector, we have completed the necessary administrative arrangements associated with Bank Mandates and Director responsibilities of The House on The Rock.

The Committee is indebted to Nigel for all his work in making sure that the Church is abreast of current legislative and administrative activities and his thoroughness is fully appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee Members for their continued input to this committee. My thanks are also due to Margaret Bowden for her work as Free Will Offering Secretary.

Pat Uden  
*Chairman*



## Publicity Committee

Over the last 12 months, we have seen quite a bit of change at Bury Parish Church, and the publicity team has been working behind the scenes during those changes.

The website and social media has made quite a few strides. The change of style of the Concerts page means that visitors can see a little bit of information about concerts coming up over the next few months, and reduces the administration work needed to keep it up.

The noticeboards in and around the church have been refreshed, and a new external noticeboard with new logo and church details will be erected on the South side of the church over the coming months.

We saw the new Rector, Julian, join our congregation this year after a lot of hard work to build the Parish Profile. The profile now needs to be kept up to date so that it reflects the life of the parish and everything that is occurring within its boundaries.

The magazine is still selling, and with the new "Who's who?" section, we're hoping some more will sell.

Some statistics:

Facebook followers – 402

Twitter Followers – 152

Website Visits – 2,825

Tripadvisor – #9 of 38 things to do in Bury

Once again I would like to extend my thanks to Pat Uden for all she does to get the information to the relevant people regarding concerts and other church information, Chris Hughes for all her hard work in delivering fliers, contacting newspapers and her fundraising skills and for Peter Temple without whose talents and skills, we really could not do the vast majority of our work. And lastly, to everyone else who has helped me over the last 12 months, which has seen it's own fair amount of change; Thank you!

Keith Smith  
*Chair*

## Fabric Committee

The Committee has met regularly during the course of the year to consider works to the Church building, the Church House and the grounds.

The change in grant conditions for listed churches has meant that we do not now need to apply for grant funding on a piecemeal basis and we should concentrate our efforts on a single larger application when the time is right. The patch repairs that were carried out last year have bought time so the roof has not been our immediate focus.

The grounds however have occupied a lot of our time and we have been in discussions with Bury MBC to arrive at a solution for the north side of church. Discussions have been slow but we remain hopeful that a way forward can be reached.

We have also discussed the new car park to be purchased from the Council and work is in progress to secure planning permission.

In Church we have been arranging repairs to the stained glass windows in the south chapel

We have also dealt with routine matters in the church house, and snagging items following the kitchen installation have begun.

Once again I would like to express huge thanks to all the members of the Committee for their contributions in keeping our buildings and grounds in such good condition

Diana Hampson  
*Chair*

## Worship Committee

2017, a year when we were in interregnum, the worship committee meetings were fewer in number than usual, we were waiting for a fresh start with the arrival of our new Rector. Whatever we did may eventually change as Julian brought his ministry to Bury Parish Church. So rather than reflecting on what we did in 2017, I thought I would write about what has happened since Julian arrived.

We have a new pew sheet, which looks professional, offers a welcome to visitors, invites us to become more familiar with text in the Bible, but keep us informed of what's happening over the next few weeks.

The Intercessions list is now at the back of Church and congregation can write names on as they arrive, which makes the list of the sick a lot more personal and relevant. The anniversary list is now in the magazine so people can see the names of their loved ones.

There is a new service sheet for the parade service, one sheet containing the hymns and the service. We are looking for more people to lead us in intercessions. There is still the need for more Lay Readers, Crucifers and Intercessors.

The offertory will in future be brought to the alter by members of the congregation as soon as the offertory hymn starts, followed by the money offering brought by the wardens.

The service books will continue as they are for this year as some are quite new, but will be changed eventually. We are looking at eventually replacing the hymn books to the New Ancient & Modern Hymns

There will be a new mass setting to run alongside the Nicholson which we have sung for many years.

Kath Pollard  
*Chair*

## Social Committee

As usual the Social Committee has had a busy year. Sunday lunches have continued to be successful as have the Sunday breakfasts which have provided an opportunity for the "8'oclockers 's" and the "10 o'clockers " to chat together over tea, coffee, toast and the all important bacon butties.

The regular activities such as the Quiz Night have taken place and are enjoyed by all ages in the congregation. The committee has worked alongside willing volunteers to provide refreshments after Carol Services and other events such as the Come and Sing concerts.

We have also provide refreshments to follow John and Christa's Farewell Service, Julian's Induction and more

recently the Archdeacon's Collation – our congregation has the best bakers in Bury and they are also the most willing and our thanks must go to them as well as the committee members for their help and generosity.

Hot off the press! Look out for the new beakers which have been purchased to replace the plastic cups and to provide a friendly and safer way of holding a drink and a bite to eat.

Hilary Ankers

# Wider Reports

## Bury Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is the local decision making organisation for the Church of England. It sits between the Parochial Church Councils which manage the affairs of individual parishes, and the Diocesan Synod. This provides PCCs with an important link to the wider structures of the Church and the opportunity to influence national thinking in the church.

The number of lay people who can be elected from each parish is based on a formula taking into account the size of the parish's electoral roll. Bury Parish Church has seven lay people as representatives on the Deanery Synod namely John Ankers, Hilary Ankers, Steve Clark, Kath Pollard, Keith Smith, Pat Webber and Lawrence Yarwood

During 2017, in addition to having speakers such as James Emmerson the Diocesan Stewardship Officer, and the Bishop of Bolton, the major exercise that the Deanery is focussing on is its Mission Action Plan. A Mission Action Plan is a business plan which considers how the church community is to grow, both numerically and spiritually. Every parish has been writing their own MAP, and Bury Deanery is trying to get its head around the development of its own plan for growth, with the added challenge that the Deanery's MAP should dovetail in with those of the Parishes. This is not an easy task, and I hope that you will support your representatives on the Deanery who will be praying for the right answers.

Steve Clark  
*Lay Chair, Bury Deanery*

# Christian Formation

## Ministers' Team

As I settle into post, I want to express my boundless debt of gratitude to Rhiannon (and Ian) for holding the fort and continuing the evolving mission and ministry here. The weekly round of "ordinary" activities which most can see is the proverbial tip of the ministry iceberg and I am equally grateful for being steered in the right directions and made aware of potential issues.

The "Ministry" team, presently of clergy and Sheila Beattie, our ordinand, have begun to meet to do a number of things; one is the rather dull but necessary business of drawing up Rotas for worship. More importantly, from a ministerial viewpoint, has been the talk about people and ideas and activities which could feed into our life as a parish. We will see some of the outcome of this, we hope, in the "Thy Kingdom Come" season between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

One of our hopes is that we will enlarge this team to include lay ministers. I realise that much lay ministry already goes on at BPC and this is truly fantastic. My ambition is that we nurture authorised and licensed lay ministry for teaching and preaching and mission and will be actively listening out for the prompting of God in the lives of our congregation.

One word that we will be hearing much of over the next few years is the word MAP (Mission Action Planning). Essentially we have to tell the Diocese (and ourselves!) what precisely we are going to do to grow Bury Parish Church. We need to be creative, imaginative, and courageous. In our hearts, we need to think about BPC being a place of destination, a place known to offer hope, healing and holiness to all across the generations, and to be a place from which dynamic ministry and service flows out into the town of Bury. Your prayers, your support and your involvement are what we will be looking for. There is much to do, with Jesus Christ as our leader and guide.

Julian Heaton  
*Rector*

## Choir Report

Our choir continues to sing to a gratifyingly high standard. Four juniors have left, reasons include boys' voices breaking. They have done well in *The Voice for Life* tests. We study music notation and theory, as well as looking at liturgy and how the choir contributes to services. We need to constantly recruit new singers - two or three adult sopranos and importantly, boys and girls, particularly between the ages of 7 to 10.

2017 began with the farewell service to John and Christa. Several ex-choristers and organists joined us. Besides the weekly round of sung Eucharist and Evensong, we travelled to Carlisle to sing Evensong at the Cathedral in September. We also offered a varied repertoire for the Gallipoli Service, All Souls' service, Remembrance Day Civic Service and the Carol Service for Advent Sunday and the ever popular Nine Lessons and Carols. At our Friday Lunchtime concert in December our choir performed to great acclaim following the Greater Manchester Police Carol Service the previous evening.

The Good Friday 'Come and Sing Faure Requiem' was a great success with 78 singers.

We have received £7500 from the Pilling Trust to help finance our activities and they have promised us the same for 2018/9. We used part of this grant to have work done on our grand piano, building cupboard space, our music library and funding activities for our singers and our forthcoming trip to Gloucester Cathedral.

I would like to thank the clergy, churchwardens and PCC for your support and encouragement. Elin has been a great pillar too. There are many people who tirelessly to make the choir and choir school a success. I want to thank all our singers for their capacity for hard work and fun.

Marc Murray  
*Director of Music*

## Vergers Report

In 2017 we had the Interregnum, a year of uncertainty, but we all pulled together as a church family, none more so than Rhiannon and Ian. We now welcome Julian and family into our fold.

In 2017 -18 we had 39 Baptisms, 7 Weddings and 15 Funerals. Our Pricket Stand is well used by our congregation and by the general public, who just come into Church to light a candle and to pray.

The Church has its different seasons, but as Verger I find the busiest is Advent, with the Christmas Tree and the Crib being erected. We have our own services and carol concerts, plus those of Bury Church School and the Grammar School. The Bury Hospice also have a carol concert, as well as Bury Schools Junior Choirs, Air Training Cadets, and the Police Force.

There are many concerts held in the church: we have our own Friday concerts, and others such as Bury Choral Society, Black Dyke Band, The Festival of Light and many more.

There is a lot of work organizing the communion services: all the silver has to be cared for and set-up ready to go into the Sanctuary; there is a lot of background work which is not seen. I thank Margaret Hutchinson for the work she does setting-up for the weekday services.

Keith Sedman  
*Verger*

## Lay Assistants

Bury Parish Church has always been in the fortunate position to maintain a strong team of Lay Assistants and a full rota of Servers, Acolytes and Crucifers. In previous years we have been regularly oversubscribed in each category and able to operate a rota system of reserve personnel allowing for holidays and absences.

The format for both Sunday services has changed in recent years. We now have team members dedicated to the separate 8am and 10am services respectively out of a pool of personnel. Long serving colleagues, Roger Brown and Stewart Wilkinson assist solely at the early service with the balance dedicated to the 10am option.

Our available numbers for the 10 am service have considerably reduced following the retirement of highly committed and dedicated key personnel Alan Millward and Pat Sedman. We also lost a relative newcomer and are likely to feel the impact by expected ordination of our colleague, Sheila Beattie. On the plus side, we were

fortunate to acquire the services of Jean Sutcliffe and Peter Temple both of whom have added an extra dimension to our team. We also have the highly valued stalwarts John Vale, Margaret Hutchinson and Lawrence Yarwood.

We are grateful to report that both Pat Sedman and June Thompson (having retired from altar duties) have taken their skills and the Church out into the community, conscientiously undertaking weekly home communions.

As we are sure you will have witnessed our Lay Assistants regularly substitute (in their own peculiar style) to replace absentee colleagues almost weekly in the roles of Servers, Acolytes and Crucifers in addition to their altar duties.

As you can see from this brief report, we are somewhat thin on the ground in all departments at present and are seeking support from any members of the church (no age limit) willing to join us in any capacity....they will enjoy an amazing experience! You are sure to find us a friendly bunch which works well together.

Lawrence Yarwood  
*on behalf of the Lay Assistants*

## Churches Together in Bury

Churches Together in Bury are a gathering of local Christian churches across the denominations, who serve and witness to Jesus Christ in the centre of our town. They meet about four times a year and share current activities and plan joint worship and service. A monthly prayer meeting takes place on a Friday.

The most visible activity is the Good Friday Walk of Witness. This procession starts on the Rock and stops in three other places—by the Robert Peel statue, in Kay Gardens and by St Marie's. It is well supported and organised. Carol singing, on the Rock, also takes place. On both occasions, Christian literature is offered.

CTiB have tried, this year, to engage the local community through providing food in School holidays at one school in the town (St Thomas'). The pilot was not a great success, not due to energy on CTiB side but on the apparent

reluctance of parents to let their children attend. We are looking into this and seeing how we might engage again.

Members of CTiB support and are involved in the Street Pastors Ministry.

We could do with active participation in this group. Presently we appear to have no one involved. If you would like to know more, please see Julian.

Julian Heaton  
*Rector*

## Pastoral Care

### Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Firstly, my thanks must go to the growing number of people who are willing to give their time to support our child and young people and those in our church family who may find it difficult to get out and about. You do an amazing job and are very much appreciated by those you look after and visit. DBS checks are ongoing.

There is still one safeguarding covenant in place. It is important that we all know how to keep our children and adults at risk safe. Bury Parish church will be hosting a safeguarding training event in May, the training lasts for a couple of hours on one evening and is very informative. If you are working with children or adults at risk and have not yet had the opportunity to complete this training or would like to attend please contact me.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, which gives us guidance on procedures we need to use to ensure we are protecting our children and adults at risk and what we need to do should the worst happen has now been adopted by the PCC. If anybody would like to see a copy please speak to me.

Finally, should anybody have any concerns about our children or adults at risk please speak to me even if it is just something you are just not sure of. Everything will be kept confidential.

Dawn Wight  
*Safeguarding Office*

### Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group is a band of 15 people visiting church members both past and present who for a variety of reasons are needing some interaction with a present church attendee. A meeting was held in the Wilson Hall in March 2017, chaired by Rhiannon, with 7 people present. It's aim was to help the few already visiting and to add to the number of folk already receiving a visit.

A list had been drawn up by those already involved and added to by Isobel Matthews who was aware of those people receiving Easter baskets. St. Paul's congregation was included.

On a local basis those present took on the task of allocating the 33 named, some of whom were already receiving visits (and Communion) from our church members.

"Advertising" paid off and to our small band have been added a further 6 enthusiastic visitors, not all of whom have folk to visit at present.

Death, moves and some people simply not wanting a visit have reduced the list significantly. Rhiannon, Sheila, Pat and June take Communion where requested and the rest of us simply call and chat.

Sometimes when life (even for the retired ) is particularly hectic visiting can seem to be a chore to be side lined but I always feel the visiting is a two way benefit. Well at least I always come away heartened and glad that I had made the time and effort. Hopefully my visitees get some benefit also.

Liz Dyson  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

## Adult Ministry

### Mothers' Union

There are currently 44 branch members, which includes 5 "indoor members.

The Women's World Day was hosted by the Branch on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The Lady Day service was incorporated into the morning

service on Mothering Sunday, when the Mothers' Union Banner was paraded.

Small Easter eggs were again generously provided by members for all the children at St. Paul's school, the children in our Congregation and the Toddler group. 14<sup>th</sup> May we provided the Parish Lunch.

We hosted the Deanery AGM in May.

2<sup>nd</sup> August members attended Bury Deanery Festival at St. Paul's, Ramsbottom.

Candles are lit in memory of Mothers' Union members who have died during the year and this year in memory of the 22 people who perished in the Manchester Arena bomb attack.

In August a very successful afternoon tea was held to raise money for the "Summer of Hope" appeal which helps families and communities globally. £125.00 was raised. Chris Foote-Wood, Victoria Wood's brother was our speaker.

Our fostering of links with St. Paul's continues. Two "new to you" sales were held during the year and a small group of ladies, not all Mothers' Union members, go into St. Paul's each week to hear children read.

A bring and buy sale to raise money to support AFIA (Away from it all) was held in October.

We continue to supply food and toiletry items to support the homeless and our faithful band of knitters keep the baby units at our local hospitals well stocked with little jackets and hats.

We have had some high Calibre Speakers, including members from our Congregation – Janice Harvey, David Winterbottom and our own Rhiannon.

Our thanks must go to Ian McVeety and Rhiannon for keeping things running smoothly during the Inter Regnum.

Susan, our Branch Leader has again ensured that our meetings and activities are well organised. We very much appreciate her hard work.

Edith Hayhurst  
*Secretary*

## **In House**

If you happened to drop by the House on the Rock between 1pm and 3pm on a Monday afternoon, you'd see a bunch of people sipping the finest coffee in Bury whilst swapping stories about their week, admiring one of Ayliffe's latest crafty creations or even laughing at one of Mike Cawley's jokes! In House is a coffee and chat group where people can stop off for 5 minutes or a couple of hours to forge new friendships or rekindle old ones. We have people from every congregation in BPC coming along; folks who worship at other churches but who welcome a bit of fellowship during the week and 'ships in the night' who are just passing through. Everyone is welcome-all ages and stages-and it's been wonderful to see friendships blossom across the generations. If the mood takes us, we may do a quiz, or some crafts, or even a cheeky jigsaw.

But most of all it's a space for anyone to turn up and to be welcomed as Christ has welcomed us. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a bit of a chat and support in this way, do let them know about the group -or why not pop along yourself and see what's going on? You're guaranteed a warm welcome - and excellent coffee!

Rhiannon Jones

## **Book Group**

A group has been meeting at the Rectory since January. We have got off to a great start, with lively discussions about three very diverse books. We started with a look at life in the American military around the time of the civil war, with a novel by Sebastian Barry called 'Days without end'. We then read a contemporary novel: 'Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine' by Gail Honeyman, a wonderful story of a young women isolated and lonely who starts to face the trauma of her past once she starts to make friends. Despite the subject matter, a really uplifting and funny novel. We then returned to north America for our third choice: 'Hag-seed' by Margaret Atwood. A brilliant novel based on the story of Shakespeare's 'The tempest'. There was lots to talk about in this clever re-working of an old story.

In April we are going to talk about 'Magpie Murders' by Anthony Horowitz, a classic 'who dunnit' by a gifted story

teller. We are then going to read 'Fatherland' by Robert Harris a thriller set in an alternative past, 1964 Germany with Hitler still in charge. This was first published in 1992, so should be widely available in libraries, charity shops, and on people's shelves. It is also currently in Tesco. So it would be great if others have a go at reading it and come along to join us at our Thursday evening meetings on 26<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Jackie Heaton

## Bell Report

Another year has passed in the belfry. We have lost our visitors from Stand as they are once again able to ring in their own tower. However we have had some interest shown in learning how to ring and at the moment have a few learners. However, there is always room for some more.

This year sees the anniversary of the end of the Great War and ringers across the country are being asked to ring on Armistice Day. We are hoping that this will be possible. As usual our Tower has played host to visiting groups who have enjoyed their time in Bury. Sometimes they have been locals who know the area and sometimes they have been from further afield visiting the market or the trains. Again I must say a big thank you to my band who keep me sane and accept my mistakes. They make everything worthwhile. Once again I have to thank Anthony for looking after the replacing of stays. Considering he is not a bell ringer he is always willing to help.

Marilyn Smith  
*Tower Captain*

## Flower Arrangers

### Mothering Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March

We made 150 posies for Mothering Sunday to be handed out at the 8-00am, 10-00am and Evensong. Last year we had some flowers left over but we decided to make up the same number again and this year we found we needed more. Next we will increase the number once again.

### Easter and Harvest

For Easter we concentrated on a large pedestal which was white and yellow and we decorated the window ledges in spring colours. Isobel and her team made up the baskets

which were later distributed to the sick, elderly or housebound. Harvest was celebrated with displays of foliage and flowers in bright autumnal colours arranged in pumpkins.

### Patsy Wolstenholme

Sadly in April Patsy passed away. She had been a member of the team for quite a few years but in the latter years her health deteriorated and she was unable to continue. She loved flower arranging and had a style of her own. She will be missed.

### Christmas

Christmas is always a special time and this year we decided to try something a little different. We asked the congregation to donate £5 (maybe as a memorial or just as a gift). The response was amazing. We were able to buy 58 red poinsettias which were arranged on the window ledges with white glitter twigs. The effect received many compliments A special thank you to John Ainscow from Summerseat garden centre who supplied the plants. We welcome Lucy Webber and Susan Sugden onto our team. We have plans to organise a workshop to encourage anyone interested in joining the arrangers.

Thank you to the ladies for their hard work and dedication.

Gloria Wardle

## Friday Lunchtime Concerts

We presented 43 lunchtime concerts for the year 2017, attracting an average of 45 attendees each week. Through these concerts, we are able to offer a platform for musicians, from those beginning their career to well-established artists. Several artists are on the graduate performing course at the Royal Northern College of Music. We welcome at least one local community based music group each year and this year Radcliffe Male Voice choir raised the rafters. Our own parish choir perform at the final concert each year.

Through a generous grant from the Pillings Trust for our choir and instruments, we were able to have our grand piano refurbished.

Until the summer, lunch was served in the Blackburne Hall, where audience members could enjoy a bite to eat ahead of the concerts. It was decided to discontinue the lunches, as numbers had declined and some of the ladies

who prepared the lunches, were preparing to step down in this role. We thank Elizabeth Sykes and her team for their support over many years. However, several concert goers are now enjoying the café ahead of concerts.

We are indebted to our volunteers who sell tickets each week. We thank them for their patience.

I wish to pay tribute to Pat Uden for all she has done to make the concerts a success.

The concerts do not generate a vast income for the church, but we cover all our costs. The concerts are a perfect opportunity for members of the public and the church to spend an hour in our beautiful parish enjoying excellent music-making

Marc Murray  
*Director of Music*

## Walking Group

The walking group at this present time is a small number of people. We welcome new members of any age. You do not have to come on all walks or be a member of the church. Walks are every other weekend alternating Saturday longer walks, when you will need a packed lunch, with Sunday shorter walks. We do not walk in December. Walks are planned for the year but can be changed due to weather condition or church events. Leaflets can be found at the back of church with times dates and walk information.

Walks are varied along rivers and canals or reservoirs. Over fields or moorland disused railway lines. Sometimes near the grounds of historical houses and churches. We often stop to look at things, for example an old stream crane left on the canal tow path. A cheese press on the drive way of a farm. Animal sculptures that give a drift wood affect. A sculpture of Alice Nutter a witch at Roughlee. Stone carvings at Stonyhurst. One walk took us past Lyme Hall along a path to the bird cage a building used for hunting parties. Many beautiful views of the countryside. There is also a lot of towers and parts of industrial buildings and ruined farm houses. Some of these hardly noticeable but for being pointed out in the walk instructions. We have seem all the usual farm animals including Llamas. Wild deer often seen as they run for cover. So why not come and join us?

Judith Norris

## Food Bank—Chesham Community Centre

This is a charitable trust without Gift Aid status run by a committee of 8 plus volunteers. Among the things they run is a Food Bank.

The Tenants and Residents Association receive supplies from churches, schools and sometimes supermarkets. These are divided into parcels with sufficient food for 2 days for each person. Distribution is once a week. To receive these an applicant fills in a form listing the number of people at each address as well as the reason for the need.

Numbers over the last few weeks (February/March) have been 41, 45, 71 and 21. There are plans for the future to install a kitchen and laundry facilities. Equipment will be given by Six Town Housing. A kitchen garden is planned for the future.

They thank Bury Parish Church for our contribution via Facebook and will be so in the next News Letter. They are grateful for our continued support.

John Clegg and Judith Norris

## Children's Ministry

### Tiddlers

We are a happy bunch of parents / carers who meet in the Blackburne Hall between 10:30 and 12 noon every Thursday come rain or shine. There is no structure to our meetings as it is mainly a chat for the adults and play time for the children. Numbers vary from week to week but on average we have around 10 children of preschool age and 8 adults ( age unspecified! ) but numbers swell when it is the school holidays when the older children come along. There is no charge other than 20p for tea and coffee but quite often more is put into the box.

Pat Webber



## Sunday School

Unfortunately the number of children attending Sunday School has dropped over the last year, there is a core of about 8 children who attend regularly and there are another 10 or so who attend on a more join us occasionally.

Up until January, the youngest children enjoyed listening to bible stories, drawing pictures and playing with their friends and the older children, whilst still enjoying spending time with their friends took a more detailed look at the bible.

We have recently started on a new scheme. It ties in more with the readings in church. The children are grouped together at the start for prayers and the story. They then go off into their own groups for further activities.

We also have an amazing group of leaders who dedicate their time so that our children can get to know God's word. We have also welcomed Jackie as a leader. Thank you to them all.

Dawn Wight.

## TBC Youth

Church House on a Monday night continues to be a dynamic place. In the spring term, pancake flipping and a bowling trip fitted round a four-part series on love and relationships. Summer saw sessions looking at war, money and death – topics that might seem heavy but are every bit as relevant to 11-16s as they are to adults. One of these sessions was led by an older TBC member, who had given a great deal of thought and time to tackling a sensitive subject. Despite the changing weather forecasts we managed to have an evening of games at Burrs again (and, unlike 2016, the youth worker hadn't scheduled a clash with an England game), as well as a mocktail evening and treasure hunt around Bury town centre. The summer concluded with a farewell barbecue, Graeme Bigg moving on to new pastures as his church contract expired, but he didn't quite get the hint and returned in September as a volunteer.

The autumn term saw a range of evenings on topics suggested by the TBC membership – online safety, Hallowe'en, tolerance and Remembrance, as well as a

small ceilidh and a couple of other seasonal parties. A group of seven young people and three leaders joined the Church Weekend Away at the end of October, sampling the challenges of a high ropes course by Windermere and the fresh breezes of the Grange-over-Sands promenade; thanks go to Steve and Sandra, Chrissy and Richard for all your help. As 2018 commences Graeme has now properly left, but the impressively dedicated Elin Rees, Richard Moore and Richard Percival continue, who are to be celebrated for their hard work – as are Rev'd Rhiannon Jones and Rev'd Julian Heaton for their support. With a change of helm TBC continues its voyage into exciting new waters, and while the crew are skilled if you'd like to come on board please get in touch! Young people matter, and if you're willing to share your life with them and let them share theirs with you, you'd be amazed at what you can learn.

Elin, Richard & Richard  
*TBC Leaders*

## 44th (Bury) ROBOT

### Beavers

The past 12 months have been extremely busy, a total of 82 badges have been given out, they have got very messy and played lots of games.

The Beavers have enjoyed learning about the planets, stars and making telescopes resulting in them gaining their space badge. They have also gained their skills, world and teamwork challenge badges and their stage I emergency aid badge.

The summer months saw us joining together with the cubs to complete the adventure challenge badge at Ashworth Valley camp site. The children took part in a variety of activities including den building, tracking and lighting fires using flints, I'm not sure who enjoyed the activities of most parents or children, thank you to the parents who joined us and help with the activities.

St George's Day parade was well attended as was Remembrance Day parade, the beavers were very smart, well behaved and a credit to the Scout group.

Matthew left us to start life at university, we all miss him

very much and look forward to his visits whenever he is available. Amy and Ken continue to do an amazing job, Amy recently completed her getting started training, well done Amy. Thank you for everything you do. We are grateful to the parents who come along on a Thursday night to help activities.

We recently sent a large group up to cubs so we have some vacancies please let me know if your child would like to join.

Dawn Wight

## Cub Scouts

Jon and I, Angus have taken control of cub scouts with support from Dawn Wight, Louise Rostron Young leader Dominic Rostron, Keeley Knight and Explorer Scout Joel Brody.

We had a good turnout for **ST. Georges** day in April. We had a **CUB Fun day** at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp on 20<sup>th</sup> **May** 2017. Were they gained new skills for badges and had fun on inflatables and the ice creams were nice. More **badge** work in **June**.

In **July** we were invited to Elton Reservoir by Mike Seger for a taster session in **sailing**. The night was perfect. Also in **July / August** as the holidays were to start Ken Bowden fixed up 4 weeks at Ashworth Valley for cub scouts and beavers to join forces and do some badge work together outside.

Then in **September** we joined forces with 52<sup>nd</sup> cub scouts at Unsworth for a joint Summer camp.

**October** we celebrated Halloween with a fancy dress party and cake decorating. Also this month saw Jon and Dawn gain their Archery permits.

We had a remembrance march on 12th **November**. We had a fantastic turnout. Also we asked our parents to look after our car park for us. This they did and Justin's (mum) said she would organise our volunteers.

In **December** we went to Hewlett court to celebrate Christmas with the residents had a Christmas party, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

By **January** we awarded 2 cubs with their Chief Scouts Award Badges.

Up to 2<sup>nd</sup> **February** 2018 we have delivered 164 badges to our young stars. These cover 20 assorted themes also another 2 cubs achieved there **Silver Chief Scout making the total 4**.

**March** saw four of our cubs move up to Scouts.

We have also roped in another trainee leader Chris who's partner Keeley is already here.

In **April** we hope to return to Ashy valley with the children to teach them more bush-craft.

## Scouts

I am pleased to report that the Scout Section is doing well with 24 Scouts currently on the roll, 14 boys and 10 girls in no less than five patrols.

We have had a very active year; last December we had a sleepover during which we prepared a full formal Christmas Dinner in the Blackburne Hall, January and February saw us undertake a series of progressively harder hikes leading up to the Peelers Hike in March when all the Scouts that entered finished the demanding route, becoming the youngest ever to do so. In February we travelled by train to Hesley Wood Camp site near Sheffield to take part in the annual Freezer Camp with Scouts from far and wide. Activities included Quad biking, Axe Throwing and Crate Climbing.

In April we entered the County Gaddum Shield competition, and won for the third year running, this meant that we represented the County at the North West Regional Lord Derby competition, held this year at Tatton Park where we achieved a creditable sixth place.

The Escape Ramsbottom event in July was cancelled at the last minute, so we quickly re-imagined it and did our own hike over the route rather than miss out on a day outdoors.

Also in July we ran a Barbecue as a thank you to Graeme Bigg, the Church Youth worker who had been very involved in the running the troop, and who will be missed by us all.

In September we held two camps, one an activities camp for Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders at Linnet Clough where Archery, Air Rifles and Cube Climbing were on the menu, and most recently we had a one night "taster" camp for our recently created Training Patrol of new scouts, where, with the help of Pl's Ellie and Freya, they learned to pitch and use our new Vango tents, how to cook on a Trangia stove, how to chill out around a fire pit with toasted marshmallows, cocoa and cool music with an amazing light show, and many other basic skills you need to survive a wet 18 hours at Ashworth Valley.

As well as all this the regular Wednesday meetings have included lots of indoor and outdoor activities such as omelette making, fire lighting, model camp sites, drawing up a code of conduct, poster making and, of course, lots of games.

We have been embracing new technology, getting to grips with OSM as an administrative tool, and we have our own secure facebook group to share pics and information. The office/computer room has been re equipped, and we have a new printer, and a huge screen for projecting presentations.

The monthly car parking has been an invaluable help financially, and it is good to see more parents getting involved, and it makes life a little easier for the leaders, allowing us to sort out equipment etc.

Credit must go to all the people who have put in a huge amount of sheer hard graft to make all this happen; Simon who as well as helping plan the programme, has obtained both his camping and Archery permits, Chris who is our IT wizard, Graeme, Amy S and Amy W who helped us at Freezer Camp and other times, Dawn for helping us out on our hikes, Courtney and Jackson who as Junior leaders have helped with meetings, and to Rebecca Greenwood who at the eleventh hour signed up as a Section Assistant so that two of our girls didn't miss the Activity Camp at Linnet Clough.

No doubt I have missed out other activities and helpers, for this I apologise, but it has been such a busy year I hope you will understand.

David Fox.  
*Scout Section Leader*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Bury Guides**

After a visit to Jump Extreme the Guides then planned our 100 year Anniversary where we held an extra special Mothers' Day Meal. Past leaders were invited and I am pleased to say we had past Guiders of the unit turn up. These included Marilyn Smith, Susan Ruddock, Margaret Kenny and Eve Burt. The evening was a huge success, we had 30 guests turn up and the girls did an excellent job of serving them. Special thanks must go to Elaine Schofield for all her help I receive from her and especially on that evening.

As it was our 100 year anniversary the girls completed many challenges around the number 100. Some of these were collecting 100 coins and making the money grow. We had cake stalls at guides, guess the name of the teddy. All money raised helped fund the Anniversary Evening.

The Guides also spent an evening at Burrs Country Park Orienteering.

In December the girls ended the year with a trip to Ice Skating and Frankie and Benny's.

Karen Tomlinson  
*Guide Guider in Charge*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Bury Brownies**

Last year the Brownies had another fun packed year starting with a trip to Jump Extreme. For Mothers Day the girls invited their mums to Brownies where they served them High Tea and completing their Hostess Badge. Other Badges gained throughout the year were Designer, Agility, First Aid, Environment and Brownie Traditions. In the summer we enjoyed a trip to Burrs Country Park where the girls completed their Out and About Badge. New skills were learned after an evening of the girls sewing and trying different stitches. Other crafts included making bracelets and re-cycling old t-shirts.

During October and November the girls along with the Rainbows and Guides made Harvest Posters and Poppy Posters that were displayed in Church.

The Brownies completed two challenge badges these being The Firework Challenge and Happy Christmas Challenge. We collected food to be donated to the Porch Operation.

We ended the year with a trip to the Pantomime and a trip to Frankie and Benny's

Karen Tomlinson  
*Brownie Leader in Charge*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Bury Rainbows**

We have had a busy time at Rainbows this year. We have been on a visit to Tesco to take part in their Farm to Fork project. The girls learned about where food comes from and how it ends up in the store. They also learned about healthy eating and got to try lots of different foods. We have been to Pets at Home where they learned about caring for animals. We went to visit the Mayor at Bury Town Hall. The girls asked lots of questions and really enjoyed the visit.

In the summer we had a treasure hunt and called into McDonalds for a treat. We went to Burrs Country Park and also had a BBQ when the girls enjoyed toasting marshmallows. We held a summer Olympics and the girls received medals for taking part.

During our weekly meetings we celebrated Shrove Tuesday by having pancakes, Chinese New Year by trying some Chinese food and completed several badges including Road Safety and a Disney themed badge. We are currently doing a badge about witches and wizards. We do lots of crafts, play games and learn new songs.

We took part in the Remembrance Parade and learned why we wear poppies.

At Christmas we had a party at Frankie and Benny's and went to see Aladdin at the Village Hotel after church parade.

Quite a few of our Rainbows have recently moved on to Brownies so we are currently looking for more girls to come and join us.

*Dawn Kenny*