



Annual Reports

2018-2019

Together with the
Annual Meeting Agenda
29th April 2019

PARISH OF RIPON CATHEDRAL WITH LITTLETHORPE

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thorpe Prebend House ● Monday 29th April 2018 ● 7.30pm

1. **Preparation – applies to both meetings**
 1. Opening prayers
 2. Apologies for Absence
2. **Annual Vestry meeting**
 1. Election of 2 Churchwardens – Ripon Cathedral
 2. Election of 2 Churchwardens – St Michael’s Littlethorpe
3. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**
 1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 23rd April 2018
 2. Presentation of the revised Electoral Roll
 3. Presentation of the Annual Parish Report
 4. Treasurer’s Report
 5. Elections
 - To the Parochial Church Council: up to 11 representatives
 - To the Cathedral Council: 2 representatives
 6. Appointments
 - Sidesmen and sideswomen
 - Auditor
 7. Any Other Business
 8. Closing Remarks from the Chair

PARISH OF RIPON CATHEDRAL WITH LITTLETHORPE

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thorpe Prebend House ● Monday 23rd April 2018 ● 7.30pm

	<p>Present</p> <p>In the Chair: Dean John</p> <p>In attendance (for both meetings) John Groves; Nigel Rawlinson; Jane Mansell; Clive Mansell; Jean Dunn; Hugh Dunn; Revd Caitlin Carmichael-Davies; John Baldini; Freda Bottomley; Sue Gill; David Hoskins; Liz Cooke; Edmund Cooke; Bill Kirtley; Joan Wilkinson; Janet Slater; Gill Steer; Janina Harrison; Colin Harrison; Michael Ring; Juliet Balme; Carole Perkins and Canon Ailsa.</p>
1	<p>Preparation (applies to both meetings)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening prayers were led by the Dean2. Apologies for absence were received from: Loretta Williams; Kathy Cork; Yvonne Jefferies; Anne-Marie and Dennis Tarter; Peter Moss; Kenneth Ridley; Iris Alderson; Hilary Ring; Jean Denny; Olive Eadle
2	<p>Annual Meeting of Parishioners</p> <p><i>Election of Churchwardens</i></p> <p>Nigel Rawlinson proposed by Hugh Dunn by and seconded by Jean Dunn; and John Groves proposed by Michael Ring and seconded by Juliet Balme were duly elected unopposed to serve for another year. They were thanked for the work that they had carried out in the last year.</p> <p>Iris Alderson and Peter Moss had been nominated and approved as churchwardens for St Michael Littlethorpe at that annual meeting and they were duly elected by the meeting.</p>
3	<p>Annual Parochial Parish Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 3rd April 2017. These were unanimously accepted as a true record by the meeting with the addition of the name of Michelle Dearlove as one of those present at the meeting and of Juliet Balme as one who had sent apologies.

2. **Presentation of the revised electoral roll.** Hugh Dunn reported that since he took over last May the Electoral Roll had been updated monthly and now stood at 395, an increase of 33 from last year. This partly represents an increase in membership and partly an increase in regular members signing up for the electoral roll.
3. **Presentation of the Annual Parish Report.** This was taken as read.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** John Groves reported that during the year the PCC had contributed £40,000 towards the appointment of a Cathedral Communications Officer. Meeting regular commitments to the Diocese and Chapter was challenging as income fluctuates through the year with the greatest income coming into the accounts in the Christmas period. John Groves moved the acceptance of the accounts and this was seconded by Colin Harrison. The accounts were accepted unanimously and the Dean expressed the meeting's thanks to John for his work on the accounts.
5. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council**
 - a. Freda Bottomley, proposed by John Groves and seconded by Nigel Rawlinson
 - b. David Hoskins, proposed by Dot Bowman and seconded by Juliet Balme
 - c. Michael Ring proposed by Juliet Balme and seconded by Nigel Rawlinson

These were duly elected unopposed. During the year Joan Wilkinson had stood down as Secretary and Liz Cooke was standing down as a member of the PCC at the meeting. The Dean thanked them both for the invaluable contribution they had made over the years to the life of the cathedral and the PCC.
6. **Appointments**
 - a. Sidesmen and women listed on the attached sheet were proposed by Colin Harrison and were elected en bloc.
 - b. Auditor. Andrew Walker was appointed again to continue as auditor.
7. **Any Other Business.** Michelle Dearlove proposed a vote of thanks to Judith Bustard for her invaluable help to volunteers in the cathedral. This was unanimously endorsed.
8. **Chairman's closing remarks.** The Dean reflected on how much had been achieved in the last year. The annual meeting illustrates all the different work going on at the cathedral and that reflects the growing of God's Kingdom here. He stressed that we can make a positive difference and we should celebrate the evidence that this growth is happening.

The meeting ended with the Grace

THE PCC IN THE LAST YEAR AN IN 2017/18

During the course of this year the PCC has moved onto a new pattern of working, with fewer full PCC meetings and a series of ministry working groups carrying out the work. This has meant that, from the APCM in April, the PCC has met roughly quarterly in June, September and November. It has been good to see the representation completed from all the benefice churches, St Michael's Littlethorpe, St Mary Magdalen's and St John's Bondgate. Each meeting now takes the form of reports on Adult Ministry, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Cathedral Community Connections, Community Building Committee and Finance as well as reports from the other churches. In addition, every meeting includes safeguarding as an agenda item.

In this way it is hoped the PCC will start to have a more strategic overview of the ministry of the churches within the benefice. The Standing Committee, which also forms the Growth Committee, meets before each PCC meeting to set the agenda and to review growth and mission strategy.

Iris Alderson and Peter Moss continued as Churchwardens for St Michael's Littlethorpe and Nigel Rawlinson and John Groves continued as Churchwardens at the Cathedral, with John also in the role of PCC Treasurer. Freda Bottomley and Michael Ring were elected members at the APCM and during the course of the year Sarah Swift and Sarah Hobbs were co-opted members. We were particularly grateful that Sarah Hobbs was willing to take up the vacant role of PCC secretary, a position which had been vacant.

Canon Ailsa

SELECT VESTRY OF CHURCH WARDENS

The Select Vestry continue to support the Cathedral's ministry of welcome at the 8am, 10.30am and 3.30pm services on Sundays and at the many special services that take place throughout the year. In addition to our major seasonal services at Christmas, Easter and Candlemas the number of very large services at the Cathedral continues at a high level. These included the Plough Service, Mothering Sunday, The Golden Wedding Service, Confirmation Services, Installation of Canons, Civic Services, and the largest this year, the Remembrance Centenary Service in November. The workload at these services is intensive and demanding and we are most grateful to the Cathedral Sidespeople and Collectors who help steward on these occasions. Without their help such events would be very difficult for the Cathedral to manage.

Dean John and Nicola kindly hosted a 'thank you' evening for Sidespeople in September as a small token of our appreciation. At Canon Wendy's suggestion we were delighted to include the Cathedral Chaplains at this evening.

We were pleased to welcome Richard and Trina Knockton as new Sidespeople during 2018. As Richard has now become a member of Select Vestry he is no longer on the list'. Three new people have agreed to be sidespeople this year. They are Simon Balme, Felicity Hydes and Carolyn Sands. We look forward to welcoming them.

We were greatly saddened in November when Colin Harrison told us how seriously ill he was. Colin had been a member and friend of Select Vestry for many years and an outstanding Chair. As in everything he did Colin made an important and significant contribution to the Vestry. He is greatly missed.

Ever practical Colin Harrison said he was going to become emeritus with immediate effect. At his suggestion and the full agreement of the Select Vestry Richard Knockton was admitted by the Dean in December as a full member. We were also delighted to welcome back Linda and Richard Bennett as emeriti. It was agreed that Liz Thomas become Chair of the Select Vestry it was also decided that in view of the long and loyal service to the Select Vestry and to the 8'o'clock service, Sue Fisk should become Deputy Chair

Select Vestry 2019: Liz Thomas (Chair), Sue Fisk (Deputy Chair) Colin Little, Tony Milsom, Nigel Rawlinson, Janet Slater. Richard Knockton, Peter Liddle – full members.
Ron Darwin, Linda Bennett, Richard Bennett, - emeriti

*Liz Thomas
Select Vestry Chair*

DEANERY SYNOD

We have our representatives from the PCC who attend the 4 meetings per year of the Synod – the second level of synodical process which allows items of importance to be discussed and passed through from PCC, to Deanery Synod, to Diocesan Synod – and perhaps, to General Synod.

Most of our meetings are open to anyone interested in the subject under discussion. We have had a book by Ian Black to read and a discussion with a part on a particular session, including the author and Bishop Helen-Ann.

Each meeting is hosted by a different church in the Deanery and is introduced by the incumbent so we all learn about worship, mission and ministry in our Deanery. Once a year, we enjoy a social event with a good meal, also hosted by one of the churches in the Deanery.

*Loretta Williams
Lay Chair*

PLANNED GIVING REPORT

Planned Giving is making a regular financial commitment to Ripon Cathedral PCC enabling us to manage our finances effectively.

During Spring 2018 we had a Stewardship Campaign the results of which are reflected in the 2018 figures. *The total figure for 2018 includes 6/7 months of these increases not a full year.

	2017	2018
<u>Number of Members in the Scheme</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>146</u>
New Members	1	14
Members who cancelled	7	5
Existing Members who have increased their giving	3	47
Existing Members who have decreased their giving	1	3
Total given for the year	£94,368.00	*£107,328,00
Number of Members able to Gift Aid	118	111
Amount of Gift Aid from Planned Giving and one-off donations in the offertory bags	£26,635.00	£26,169.00

*Liz Thomas
Planned Giving Officer*

CATHEDRAL SERVERS

The Cathedral servers have continued to have the privilege of providing a team to serve at the altar at the 10.30 Eucharist each Sunday as well as at various other special services throughout the year.

The team has bid farewell to four of our number during the year. Colin Harrison, among his many other Cathedral roles, was a dedicated member of the team who also made our tasks much easier with his light-handed advice. He is much missed.

I would like to record my appreciation to Liz Cooke, John Groves and Blair Radford, for their dedication and reliability. Liz, especially, has been a server for a long number of years.

On the plus side, we have been most pleased to welcome Nick Mackrill to the team.

We would love to welcome other new members to the team. If you would like to know any more about what is involved do have a chat with one of the clergy or any of the serving team.

*Edward Scott
Head Server*

CHILDREN'S MISSION AND OUTREACH REPORT

Children's Church

We have had a very exciting year where we have seen growth in numbers of children who attend regularly and in adult helpers. We now have a team of five leaders and five supporters. We also have Rory who has graduated to become a Junior Leader. This has made a difference to workload and has given us an opportunity to get to know one another better.

It can be quite challenging working with a diverse age group from toddlers to older juniors, but we manage to keep them all interested and purposefully employed.

The new recruits are developing their knowledge of Godly Play, which is our primary learning resource. Canon Ailsa has kindly hosted a meal for us on several occasions where we have had the opportunity to share and learn new ideas in a relaxed setting.

The children who are regular attenders are displaying an excellent knowledge of Bible stories and always look forward to sharing these with the congregation and showing off their lovely craft work and sharing prayers.

Wilfrid Prayer Bear has had a lovely year visiting our families and encouraging them to pray and share stories from his books. He even went on holiday to Minorca! He has been joined by his cousin, Peter, who goes home for cuddles with the children.

We look forward to continuing to grow in number and are very grateful for support from parents and our Cathedral community.

Cathedral Primary School

We continue to develop our links with our primary school. Ailsa and Caitlin regularly lead worship sessions and Foundation governors visit school frequently. The school is very grateful for the help and support of some members of our congregation who go into school to listen to children read. The children enjoy this enormously and certainly grow in confidence and develop reading skills as a result.

The school would love to hear from anyone who feels they can give up a couple of hours per week to join our existing volunteers.

The school is grateful for the use of the Cathedral to hold its Nativity, Easter and Harvest Festival services. The PCC has, for the third year, supported a whole school Christingle, which has been well received by parents and friends. This magical service has become part of school culture.

We employed a new Headteacher, Steven Holmes, in September. He has settled in very well and enjoys our links with our Parish Church, the Cathedral.

Children from different year groups have enjoyed using the cathedral as an education resource and have made many class visits.

Breakfast Natters

We continue to meet with parents, carers and toddlers every first Thursday of the month in the Cathedral Hall. We drink tea and coffee and eat cake while the little ones share snacks and play.

We now have Hayley and Tracey from the Cathedral Music Outreach who come to each session and lead lovely singing and musical activities.

We have a strong following from school but would like to be joined by more of our Baptism families. It is great fun!

It has been lovely to see our Breakfast Natters family taking part in the recent very successful Messy Cathedral sessions alongside families from the wider community.

None of this work would happen without the help and support of our wonderful volunteers from the Cathedral and from school. We are deeply grateful to them all for making these activities possible.

*Jean Denney
Children's Church Co-ordinator*

MESSY CATHEDRAL

This is a new initiative started on a November Sunday, at 4.30pm when the 'probationer' choristers and other children gathered with parents for a fun exploration entitled 'Angels, Advent and Me'. We sang songs, listened to the story of the Angel Gabriel telling Mary about expecting Jesus, made angels to go on our Christmas trees and shared a tea together. Over 30 children and 50 adults came along. We plan to continue to pilot this idea through 2019 to see if it becomes a good stable way to engage with families.

Canon Ailsa

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group continues to meet once a month. Each meeting we cook, eat together, discuss an aspect of faith and complete a craft activity. In recent meetings we have taken photographs in the Cathedral in the evening after closing time, planted spring house plants, done prayerful origami, made flatbreads, curry and pizza. We have celebrated Christmas, and discussed life after death, suffering, and the conflict (or compatibility) of science and religion. Throughout Lent, we will explore different prayer techniques together.

The group numbers remain stable, but relatively small. In order to try and expand the numbers, I am planning to improve our connections with Ripon senior schools and to explore doing something social and/or faith linked at the end of Youth Choir.

Rev Caitlin Carmichael-Davies

PASTORAL VISITING GROUP

All members of the Cathedral Parish community are entitled to be offered pastoral care by the cathedral and this group of people, co-ordinated by me, does that work alongside the clergy. We undertake to organise the regular visiting of members of the congregation who are house-bound or living in care homes. A number of our members have people they undertake to visit about once a month. In addition, two of the Cathedral Readers, Nina Harrison and Loretta Williams, take regular services in care homes in the parish with Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament. There is also some general visiting in the care homes of the parish that takes place as well, particularly at Lister House. The clergy, particularly Revd Caitlin and me, visit people in hospital and those who are terminally ill.

There is always more that we can do, and if you are interested in knowing more about this work please do have a word.

Canon Ailsa

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at Ripon Cathedral is managed by Julia Barker (Cathedral Safeguarding Co-ordinator), assisted by Fiona Gillies, with Canon Ailsa (Cathedral Safeguarding Representative).

This year we have been reviewing all the categories of people within the Cathedral community who are required to have a DBS check. This now includes, as well as all those who work with vulnerable adults or children, those who have governance supervision over such work. This has meant all members of Chapter and members of the PCC now need to be checked. As well as completing a DBS all people who are checked also complete a Confidential Self-Declaration about their suitability for these roles. During the course of 2018 all but two people completed the checks, and those two people have started the process.

We have also been focussing on safeguarding training for people who work with children and vulnerable adults. Because of the numbers needing to be trained, we commissioned one of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors to run a number of basic safeguarding courses (at C1 level) in the autumn tailor-made for the particular circumstances of the cathedral. However as new people volunteer at the cathedral and new members of staff start work there is a constant need to ensure that checks and training are kept up to date and so we aim to be ever-vigilant.

Canon Ailsa

C3: CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

C3 was founded in September 2016 to develop partnerships between the Cathedral and organizations serving the community of Ripon. The intention is to build up the Cathedral's presence in the local community, and to highlight our commitment to God through service in the world.

We have continued to work with the initial 5 charities we started with in 2017: The Salvation Army Food Bank, Dementia Forward, Ripon Community Link and The Walled Garden, Ripon City of Sanctuary, and Jennyruth Workshops. We also have continued our active participation in Harrogate Borough Council's 'My Neighbourhood', and the HARCVS which encourages the voluntary sector in the District. Toward the end of the year we invited the Christian Aid group within the Cathedral to become another partner of C3.

There have been a variety of ways in which the Cathedral has made significant contributions to our partnerships this year:

- Prayer Support:
 - C3 organised a prayer station called *Living Waters* around the font which highlighted the work of our partners which was launched on Yorkshire Day in July and continued until the end of August.
 - There were two Dementia Friendly services followed by afternoon teas during the year run in conjunction with Dementia Forward.
 - As part of the celebration of National Volunteer Week, a special evensong was organized to which all the local volunteer agencies were invited. Seventy people came and afterwards enjoyed a tea and discussion session about volunteering.
- Activities:
 - C3 facilitated the Cathedral's participation in *The Sights and Sounds of Ripon*, an event organized by the *My Neighbourhood* project, attracting over 400 people onto the Cathedral during the day. Visitors enjoyed a variety of information stalls, craft workshop, treasure trails, a café run by the Walled Garden and singing by a visiting American choir.
 - The Congregation continues to support the Salvation Army's Food Bank through weekly donations at Sunday services. A special collection of toys and Christmas foods was made during a special service in December.

- C3 initiated the use of the Catering Services offered by the Walled Garden into the Cathedral's suppliers. They have provided a wide range of products for Cathedral functions, thereby raising funds for their services to adults with special needs.
 - C3 has created a leaflet outlining services available to people needing emergency housing. This joins the leaflet that was published last year that outlined local services available to vulnerable people. Both of these leaflets, plus emergency snacks and gloves and hats are all available in the Chapter House for the chaplains or vergers to make available to people in need.
 - C3 worked with the Cathedral Volunteers and Jennyruth Workshops in establishing protocols to introduce adults with special needs into the Cathedral's corps of Welcomers. The first Welcomer, Matthew Evason, has begun to work as a Cathedral Welcomer, supported by a volunteer from Jennyruth Workshops.
 - C3 took part in a national survey undertaken by Gloucester Cathedral in investigating how Cathedrals support the vulnerable in their respective communities. Ripon Cathedral was highly praised for the work undertaken so far by C3.
- In partnership with Ripon City of Sanctuary continuing our Cathedral's historic tradition as a place of Sanctuary and Welcome by having:
 - *Funded hire costs of Thorpe Prebend so that meetings can be held raising awareness of issues facing Refugees and Asylum seekers; to facilitate and offer hospitality events there to meet our local Syrian families or listen to poets and authors sharing what is like as a Refugee.*
 - *Assisted in offering hospitality to Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Hull so they could visit our Cathedral and have a short tour of Ripon.*
 - *Supported Refugees at Hull Open Doors and Wakefield by donating quality clothes and toiletries*
 - *Hosted our Thanksgiving Schools of Sanctuary Service during Refugee Week when all our five primary schools in Ripon took part in a celebration of welcome. Children from Greystone Outward Academy and Moorside Community Primary formed a joint choir, Ripon Cathedral School performed the parable of the Good Samaritan, Holy Trinity Ripon led our focus on Being Thankful and St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary led our intercessions.*
 - *Prayerfully supported our work in Schools as we work within our local area to build up a culture of understanding and welcome.*
 - *Supported our stand at Ripon Sights and Sounds when we were joined by the Student Parliament from Greystones Primary or visited our Market stand in Ripon.*
 - *Provided an Arabic translation guide for our visitors to the Cathedral*
 - *Joined Rev Caitlin on her Sanctuary walk when we prayerfully remembered those seeking sanctuary.*

Anne-Marie Tarter
Yvonne Jefferies

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Two successful and well supported events have been organised by the group. A Valentine Evening with a light-hearted presentation by Lynne Ditchburn and Dorothy Taylor based on traditions of the season followed by a supper with a Valentine flavour.

The Harvest Supper was held on the crossing of the cathedral on the Saturday following the Dean's Banquet so the flowers etc were available to use as decoration. A delicious ploughman supper with apple juice was followed by lively folk music provided by Cobblers Wax. Later it was a delight to see people joining in country dancing organised by the group.

Dorothy Taylor

MUSIC GROUP

The Cathedral Music Group meet every Thursday during term time between 7.00pm and 8.00pm at Thorpe Prebend House. We rehearse songs and hymns for the Distinctive Cafe Church which takes place on the third Sunday of every month. In addition to this regular service, we usually lead the music at all-age worship on Good Friday and Christmas Eve. This year we joined singers from other churches in the parish to form a choir of about 40 to take part in a special service at the Cathedral to mark St Wilfred's Day.

We currently have 14 members, all singers at the moment, but have had woodwind and brass players as part of the group in the past and we welcome any instrumentalists and singers who wish to join us. We are supported by the Cathedral Music Department and organ scholar, Alana Brook, usually plays for the Distinctive service and our rehearsals.

We are a very happy, supportive group, and we can guarantee a warm welcome to any new members, singers or instrumentalists who would like to join us.

Sue Gill

SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

Our numbers have increased slightly in the last year and we now have around 25 full members of the Society. These members range from very experienced ringers right through to learners who are not yet at "Sunday service" standard. We have a wide age-range too; our youngest learners are still at primary school and our longest-serving members are some 60 years older!

We have rung all 12 bells on the vast majority of Sundays, but holidays and commitments elsewhere have had an impact both on the complexity of method and on the number of bells we have been able to ring. We have responded positively when The Dean and Chapter have asked for special ringing for major services including Volunteers' Evensong, two Ordination services, the 70th anniversary of the NHS, the Yorkshire Day civic service, the Golden Wedding service, Ascension Day, Candlemas and Ash Wednesday. We were very pleased to ring the bells at Christmas, with full-circle ringing for both services of Nine

Lessons and Carols, for the Christmas Eve Eucharist (Midnight Mass) and for the Christmas morning Eucharist. On New Year's Eve, we rang for the Watchnight service.

In addition to Sunday mornings, we have rung to celebrate several national events, including the marriage of Prince Henry of Wales and Ms Meghan Markle. Most recently, we rang for Sights and Sounds. Without doubt, our most special ringing in the last year was in connection with the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. We rang a full peal on 23rd August, with the bells half-muffled, to remember all Riponians killed during the Great War. This date was chosen as William Thorpe, a Ripon ringer, was killed in action on 23rd August 1918. As part of the national act of Remembrance, we rang a quarter peal, with the bells half-muffled, after the Civic service on Sunday, 11th November and then quickly removed the muffles to take part in the national event "Ringing for Peace" - a total of 23 ringers were involved in this, ranging from The Dean to complete beginners (who needed some assistance, but were determined to be part of the celebration). Their names are all recorded in our book, and we have purchased special commemorative badges.

Requests for ringing for weddings continue to decline, but we have been able to ring whenever requested. Weekday weddings are increasing and, as a number of our band are in paid employment, we only manage to ring for these with the support of ringers from other local towers.

We entered two competitions this year – for the fifth year running, we won the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Sunday service striking contest. We then represented the branch at the Yorkshire Association contest, and retained the title - we are, once again, Yorkshire champions!

We are a happy and sociable band – as well as ringing for services and on practice night, we have enjoyed trips out to ring elsewhere. Our outing in August saw us head north, ringing at a number of towers in County Durham and ending up with a meal back in Ripon. Our Annual Dinner was held in March at The Old Deanery and our more informal Christmas meal was held at Valentino's. We have also, for many years, manned the first session in the beer tent at the beer festival!

I thank The Dean and Chapter for their evident and continuing support and my fellow ringers for their commitment, hard work and good humour!

*Anne Wood
Tower Captain*

MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP

The Group meets once each month on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm for an hour of meditative prayer ending with compline. The atmosphere of the silent, empty cathedral in the dark of winter or the gathering summer evening light enables a wonderfully prayerful atmosphere. It is a privilege to have the space all to ourselves. The meditation is led, often in 3 or 4 short periods of silence interspersed with prayer suggestions and, after compline we leave quietly. Just come on the first Monday evening of the month to the west door of the cathedral before 7.30 (as we lock the doors then) if you would like to try it.

Canon Ailsa

MOTHER'S UNION

2018 was a testing year for Mothers' Union. We addressed the issues of dwindling membership, partly due to some sad losses, and also the apparent lack of a Branch Leader to take over in January 2019, when Elizabeth's term of office ended. During the year we wrote several pieces for the monthly newsletter and are pleased to say that new members are now joining us. Thanks to the determination of Area President Josie, we continue to function as a team.

During 2018 we concentrated on Diocesan MU projects. In February members supplied 17 emergency hospital bags, which went to Airedale hospital, and in August we donated 6 hand-made 'Fiddle Quilts' to a Ripon care-home, for the use of dementia sufferers. In October, when Cathedral Reader Yvonne told us about work with Syrian refugees in Yorkshire, and Ripon's involvement as a City of Sanctuary, members donated a huge quantity of toiletries which were taken to a reception centre in Wakefield.

In a varied programme, we had speakers who were in turn inspiring, informative, challenging, and amusing. We have also been out and about: many of us attended the Lady Day service in Bedale (followed by a superb tea), and in July a group of us visited Coxwold, where the curator of Shandy Hall gave us a guided tour of the Church and a talk about the writings of the C18th vicar, Laurence Sterne.

In March we had the company of our Methodist friends, and in August we were pleased to offer hospitality in the Cathedral to a visiting group from Wetherby; their generosity helped us to make a generous donation the MU 'Away From It All' scheme.

We have decided to move our venue to St John's Church, Bondgate, and held our first meeting there in January 2019; it was well attended, and the ambience much appreciated by all.

Mother's Union Branch Chair

THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild had another very busy and very rewarding year. Our twenty-three members are divided between 3 groups of arrangers who between them provide flower arrangements throughout the year. Periodically we are joined by very talented members of local Flower Clubs who enjoy the challenge of working in the large scale required of Cathedral arrangements. We are very grateful for their contributions.

As well as providing flowers every week to compliment the Cathedral's worship, this year the Guild provided flowers for seven weddings, and large-scale floral displays for events in the Cathedral calendar, such as Christmas, Easter, the Golden Wedding Service, and Harvest. The Guild also filled the Cathedral with red poppies in a variety of stunning arrangements as part of the city-wide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The effect was essentially a mini-flower festival and was enjoyed by the many visitors who came to see the special art exhibition "Fields of Mud, Seeds of Glory".

What is often overlooked is the impact that the flowers can have on the overall mission of the Cathedral. Many visitors stop to tell us how much they appreciate the beauty of the flowers. The arrangers themselves come from many different backgrounds and many arrange at their own local church as well as at the Cathedral. But all of them feel they are a special part of what the Cathedral offers in God's name to everyone who enters into the building.

Anne Marie Tarter

CATHEDRAL PARISH LUNCH

This monthly event continues to welcome members of Ripon community. We regularly welcome members of other churches – ever as far away as Ripley! Residents of Ripon's Almshouses and other visitors and a few members of the Cathedral congregation. All enjoy a choice of a main course and desserts – all home cooked, with tea and coffee for £4. This sounds like a small amount, but customers are very generous. After cook's expenses are covered and a contribution to Hall expenses, a donation is made to our parish mission giving – very often over £50. Our Christmas donation of £250 was made to Crisis at Christmas and £55 donated for a boy's school in Jerusalem.

My thanks to Jean Dunn, Terina Knockton, Ann Lancaster and Carolyn Sands who are part of the cooks team, giving generously of their skills and time.

Loretta Williams

THE BOOK BOX

This is an additional fund-raising activity for parish mission which depends entirely on those who keep the book box gull! The books are not priced, but over £600 per year is raised – people are very generous. Once every month, I have a ‘sort through’ and anything that has overstayed its welcome is moved to another worthy cause! If you work, when buying books on the ‘one in, one out’ principle, please remember the books box – we never know what people enjoy, so it needs a good variety of contents.

Loretta Williams

ST MARY MAGDALEN CHAPEL

‘The Leper Chapel’ continues to offer a haven of peace and sanctuary as attested by our visitors’ comments.

There is an overwhelming sense of relief amongst the Chapel congregation that there is, at last, a solution to our heating problem. We are enduring temperatures of below 10, certainly not recommended temperature for those of more mature years! The news that the Trustees have agreed to install a Gas heating system ASAP and to abandon the Air Source Heat Pump, has been greeted with unanimous support.

The regular use of the chapel had been disturbed with the stonework repair and maintenance. Since that has been successfully completed, use has been disturbed by the lack of heat, however there continues to be an enthusiasm and commitment amongst members and casual attendees to be with us. Magdalen Fellowship has returned to us and continues on Monday mornings. PSL (Ponder, Share, Learn) a group that studies a book and discusses it, meets monthly on a Tuesday, at present in a home, though generally there is favour for using the chapel when possible again. Reflection & Compline, another monthly event on Wednesday evening, does meet in the chapel- we recommend warm clothing, especially as being still is part of the exercise.

The Chapel remains active in support for both local causes and more international situations. We especially support ‘The Food Bank’ and ‘City of Sanctuary’, a number of members sending to Julian Smith for a reconsideration of the asylum seekers inability to seek employment. True to our heritage we support the work of The Leprosy Mission. The chapel has had a further donation of honey to sell in aid of the next project, at the moment this is designated for work on the outhouses including upgrading the toilet to a disabled friendly facility. A Poetry evening has also been organised for Saturday 16th March (£8 tickets) ‘Love is in the Air’ organised for us by Allison Clarke tickets available from The Cathedral Bookshop, Ripon Little Bookshop or from Jackie

*Revd Prebendary Jackie Fox
Chaplain: St Mary Magdalen’s*

MAGDALEN FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship continues to grow with an increase of 5 new members, 28 in total, and a weekly attendance of 18-20 members. We continue in our pattern of weekly reflections followed by the Litany of Healing, and a monthly Eucharist with a Laying on of Hands on the first Monday of the month. All of the prayer requests made at the Cathedral each week are offered up in prayer during our weekly service. Those prayer requests are then divided between the members of the Fellowship who continue to hold them in private prayer for a month.

In April the Fellowship went on their annual Quiet Day to a new venue for us: 'The Briary' in Ilkley. We were led by Ruth Eglin-Pugh, a spiritual director from Bradford. The focus of the day's reflections were the words 'But what can'st thou say....' The day ended with a Eucharist celebrated by Cliff Bowman in the lovely chapel of the Briary.

We had three interesting outings this summer. In June we visited St. Mary's Masham, a lovely church on our doorstep, and our Eucharist was led by Rev. Cliff Bowman, followed by lunch at the Black Sheep Brewery Bistro. We ventured further afield in July when we visited Canon Paul in Hull where he celebrated the Eucharist for us, then led us on a fascinating tour of The Master's House and gardens and the old quarter of Hull, followed by a pub lunch at the Lion & Key Pub. In September we drove to visit the fascinating church of St. Margaret's Ilkley which was a visual delight and new to most of us., with the Eucharist celebrated by one of the retired clergy from that church. Afterwards we had lunch at the Cow and Calf Pub, but sadly the views were spoilt by a very heavy mist and rain.

Anne-Marie Tarter

ST JOHN'S CHAPEL

St John's continues to provide an important community role in the parish as a venue for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as hosting a growing congregation on Sunday mornings. During 2018, there were 5 baptisms and 24 funerals (unusually no weddings) and the regular 10.45am Sunday congregation comprises well over 20. Christmas Day reflected the community nature of the congregation with 30 people celebrating our Lord's birthday together. We are a deliberately inclusive church at which all are welcome.

Services are Holy Communion (CW) on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month with a Service of the Word on other Sundays. We sing a mixture of traditional and more modern hymns accompanied by our fine 1902 pipe organ, which had a major overhaul during 2018. Sadly, one of our regular organists and valued member of our congregation Gordon Appleton died prematurely on Easter Sunday 2018. To quote from his obituary in the Church Times: "Just returned from holiday in his beloved Australia, Gordon was given a terminal diagnosis of cancer on Holy Monday. He died, suddenly, on Easter Day, at the organ bench [in St John's], stops ready for the first hymn. It was how he would have wished the end of his earthly journey to be: quiet and without fuss." His funeral in the cathedral on 27 April was a huge celebration of his life.

Following his relocation from Harris Manchester College, Oxford, we are delighted that Myles Hartley FRCO has joined us to help us keep up our tradition of enthusiastic hymn singing.

Since its refurbishment in 2015, the chapel is being used regularly more and more during the week by various community groups, such as the Wakeman Lectures on Friday mornings. We also hosted an Alpha Course and a Lent Course, both led by our chaplain, Rev'd Dan Sladden. In addition, the chapel is a popular venue for one-off events.

In 2018, the £20,000 project to install improved refreshment facilities was completed. We are now able to prepare and serve hot drinks at the back of the chapel. These facilities, situated right opposite the entrance, help to emphasise the importance we place on hospitality. Indeed, many first-time visitors to the chapel comment on how surprisingly warm, light and welcoming the chapel is, not to mention the fully compliant disabled toilet of which we are justifiably proud!

Rev Dan Sladden

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, LITTLETHORPE Chapel of Ease of Ripon Cathedral

Once again, thank you to Dean John and his colleagues for the continued help and support received during the year. It has been good to have continuity with the visiting clergy. We were particularly pleased to welcome Canon Richard Cooper as our link with the cathedral. He conducts one service per month (more in December), supports the church wardens and covers the pastoral visiting. See the Littlethorpe web site to see how far the pastoral visits extend!

In August the Rev'd Kenneth Crossley decided to retire, after being with us for 9 years as priest and member of the church family. Introduced by Canon Michael, he was our link during the various changes and we were enriched by his services and friendship.

During the year we had 1 baptism, 2 weddings and we lost 3 of our loyal and staunch members of the congregation. Amazingly, and despite age and mobility, numbers attending services have risen slightly. In the autumn, at the suggestion of a committee member, 'The Friends of St. Michael's' was launched at an evening event in the Village Hall. After a splendid supper, Canon Richard spoke on the topic 'from Littlethorpe choir boy to Chaplain to the Queen... An Unlikely Story. It was a very well attended, hugely entertaining, village evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We continued with various fundraising events, which included a joint event with the Village Hall. This year our charitable giving has supported Dementia Forward, The Children's Society, The Salvation Army Food Bank (all the Harvest produce, which included a large contribution from Appletree's Nursery), the Samaritans Christmas Shoe Box Appeal and Eckersley House at St. James's Hospital Leeds (in lieu of accountants' fees)

Recently the Nave and Chancel have been redecorated, and, thanks to the cooperation of the Parish Council, the footpath outside the church gate has been repaired.

We continue to offer a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us. 10.30am every Sunday morning, ..

*Iris Alderson,
Churchwarden*

Post script: As a Chapel of Ease to the Cathedral, our Parish Church, we do try and promote what the Cathedral offers in terms of study-groups, special services and events so that the members of the congregation do not feel that they are being denied them by not being provided at St. Michael's. Of course if they so wished for special services to take place there, then they would be provided, such as Holy Week.

Canon Richard Cooper.

PARISH CLERK

The number of weddings in 2018 was 15 – the number has increased from last year. The Clergy held the annual Wedding Preparation Event at the beginning of the year to which all couples booked in to get married at the Cathedral are invited. This event gives the couples an opportunity to meet the Music Department, and Flower Guild as well as the member of Clergy officiating.

Baptisms – 37 services took place in 2018 of which 6 were held at St John's Bondgate. This is a similar number to last year. The 'Baptism Surgery' which was introduced in 2016 continues to be successful. Baptism families, with Godparents if they so wish, are invited to a morning to learn more about what baptisms are all about. This has brought together families for whom we are conducting baptisms. Keeping connections with baptism families extends to sending out a Christmas gift to all those who have been baptised that year. The families were also invited to the main Eucharist on Mothering Sunday to receive bibles. All this is overseen by Nina Harrison, Cathedral Reader (under the supervision of Canon Ailsa, Canon Pastor).

22 Funerals were conducted in the Cathedral. 24 were conducted were conducted at St John's Bondgate, 12 at Stonefall Crematorium, 4 at Lister House. The annual Bereavement Service took place on 4th November when all families who have had a funeral conducted in the Cathedral, St John's Bondgate, Stonefall and Lister House, are invited to this special service.

Judith Bustard

CHRISTIAN AID 2018

Thank you to all in this parish who support Christian Aid. This was a significant year for representation on the committee, as after many years of dedicated service, Rev. Simon Hoare reluctantly stood down. We are grateful for his efforts, in particular with regard to organising Christian Aid Week, which is no mean task. For 2019, Christina Hoare will take over and now is the time to consider volunteering for this valuable contribution to Christian Aid's work around the globe. We are pleased to have gained Loretta Williams as a committee member. Loretta, also has for many years been a supporter of Christian Aid and no less so in organising our Lent Lunches, at which donations to the charity are always welcome. Liz Kemball makes up our small team.

The total raised this year by the Ripon Churches Committee, which also has representatives from Holy Trinity, Sharow and the Methodist churches was £11,363 (£10987 for 2017). Christian Aid Week raised the combined Ripon total of £6564 (£7362) of which the Cathedral's 25 house-to-house collectors, plus 2 from other churches, raised £1595 (£2090). We are grateful to all our wonderful collectors. House to house collections nationally were down during this period.

The Cathedral's contribution of £296 (£1010) from the Lent lunches was welcome. Apart from Christian Aid Week and our two social events this is the only opportunity we provide for the worshipping congregation as a whole to make donations.

This year we supported a project providing education to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Iraq. Match Funding was provided by a German charity "Bread of Heaven" at 6 times the total we could raise. Ripon is linked with Northallerton and Thirsk in this project. Ripon contributed £900 raised at the Quiz evening and £1364 raised at a wonderful Festival of Music Concert, at which the youth of Ripon expressed its many musical talents, together with a donation from a committee member's significant birthday party.

David Wells
Chair of Ripon Churches Committee

SPACE QUIET DAYS

SPACE was founded to provide days of silence and guided reflection for people of all stages of the spiritual journey. The days are designed so that people, from all faiths or with no specific identifiable faith, could find a common ground on which to seek for God's presence. Through guided reflection, periods of silence, and simple activities, participants are encouraged to deepen their personal experience of the Divine and to develop their practice of prayer.

This year there were 3 SPACE days
The Pearls of Life: creating and using a prayer bracelet (March)
Exploring Silence (May)
Learning to Walk in the Dark (November)

The group met from 10 am – 4 pm at St. John’s Bondgate Chapel. The sessions were open to anyone, and there are currently 36 people from across the region on the SPACE mailing list and 10-20 people who attended each session.

Anne-Marie Tarter

CATHEDRAL CURATE’S REPORT

In the past year and a half, I have enjoyed being a part of such a dynamic and welcoming community. On a typical day, I might take a home communion to someone who can no longer get to church, write a sermon, and run a session for the youngest choristers on faith or the life of the cathedral — so very varied! Being able to spend time with people and hear about their joys and challenges is a great honour. I love listening to other people’s stories.

I am also part of the Pilgrimage Committee and have enjoyed exploring how to engage our visitors better as pilgrims through trails in the cathedral and around the surrounding area, parish visits and exhibitions. I am planning an exhibition in 2020 around “Wilfrid and the Beauty of Holiness”, looking at Wilfrid’s legacy in bringing light, colour, music, and beauty into worship. I am also helping plan the Son et Lumiere event in March, which should also help people to engage with the building and its sacred atmosphere in a new way, while raising money for the choir.

Being a curate here gives me the opportunity to experience parish life — baptisms, marriages, funerals, pastoral care, schools work, a stable worshipping community. But I am also able to encounter the work of a Cathedral— longer term strategy and planning, decision making in teams and committees, spectacular services, and large-scale exhibitions and events. So, a great place to learn, I think.

Rev Caitlin Carmichael-Davies

CANON PASTOR’S REPORT

You will see from all these reports how much goes on in the cathedral community and how many people are involved in our ministry here. It is good, too, this year to see new people being drawn into our work and thriving in it. Thank you – a profound thank you - to everyone who has contributed for years to our work and for those who have volunteered more recently. It is all vital to all that we do. The work of growing God’s Kingdom never diminishes and there is always more that can be done.

We have a way to go yet in developing the opportunities for adults and children alike to find faith here, to worship and develop that faith and to grow into the people God creates them to be. You’ll see reports above about our developing work with children in which progress has been made this year. During the course of 2018 I have been running a series of evenings discussing the ‘hot potatoes’ of faith, such as salvation, resurrection and sexuality. Over a jacket potato supper the subject is introduced and a discussion follows. They have been both enjoyable and thought-provoking and that pattern will continue.

In the autumn we initiated *The Way*, as a programme for adults to develop in the faith with study groups and other opportunities for engaging with Christian life beyond the Sung Eucharist on Sundays. *The Way*, the oldest known name for the followers of Jesus, mentioned in Acts of the Apostles, makes clear that being a disciple of Jesus is a matter of constantly following him: a dynamic process of travelling in the company of our risen Lord as we grow and deepen our faith. As part of that I started a new mid-week evening reflective eucharist called Space for Grace which has attracted a number of people who do not otherwise attend weekday services. So Space for Grace has continued into 2019 and you will have seen The Way in Lent materials following on from the autumn programme.

We have started in 2018 with our new structure of Ministry Working Groups and I'm conscious that we need to build on that in 2019. I said at the start of this how wonderful it is to have so many of you volunteering in cathedral life and as we build on that it would be good to see more people engaging with the work of planning and visioning all that we do to grow the Kingdom of God in this place.

Canon Ailsa