



Ripon Cathedral Annual Reports 2019

PARISH OF RIPON CATHEDRAL WITH LITTLETHORPE

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

12th October 2020 7 pm in the Cathedral (if possible) and by Zoom

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 29th April 2019
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 3 representatives
 - To the Deanery Synod: up to 6 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 29th April 2019 ● 7.30pm

	<p>Present</p> <p>In the Chair: Dean John</p> <p>In attendance (for both meetings) John Groves; Nigel Rawlinson; Freda Bottomley; Trina Knockton; Richard Knockton; John Baldini; Michelle Dearlove; Sue Fisk; Bill Kirtley; Stephen Pay; Tony Humphreys; Janina Harrison; Anne Pearson; Canon Michael Gisbourne; Gill Steer; Jean Dunn; Hugh Dunn; Yvonne Jeffries; Fiona Pearman; Juliet Balme; Loretta Williams; Sue Gill; Richard Coad; Graham Jelley; Janet Jelley; Michael Ring; Revd Caitlin Carmichael-Davies; Sarah Hobbs; Canon Ailsa Newby.</p>
1	<p>Preparation (applies to both meetings)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening prayers were led by the Dean 2. Apologies for absence were received from: Iris Alderson; Anne-Marie and Dennis Tarter; Dorothy Taylor, Sue Eddleston; Hilary Ring; Sarah Swift; Edmund Cooke
2	<p>Annual Meeting of Parishioners</p> <p><i>Election of Churchwardens</i></p> <p>Nigel Rawlinson proposed by Liz Thomas and seconded by Janet Slater; and Fiona Pearman proposed by Janet Slater and seconded by Nigel Rawlinson were duly elected unopposed. Nigel to serve for another year, Fiona for her first year in place. Nigel and John Groves were thanked for the work that they had carried out in the last year. Fiona was thanked for her willingness to take on the mantle of this role in the life of the Cathedral community.</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 23rd April 2018. These were unanimously accepted as a true record by the meeting.

2. **Presentation of the renewed electoral roll.** Given that this year we were required to fully renew our electoral roll, rather than revise it, Hugh Dunn provided an overview of the policy and process we have gone through to complete this exercise. He thanked Canon Ailsa, Lorretta Williams, Jackie Fox, Dorothy Taylor, Iris Alderson and Judith Bustard for their support in preparing the roll for this meeting. Since the last roll, 100 members were removed and 80 added. The roll now stands at 370. In the sight of the meeting, the roll was handed to the Dean.
3. **Presentation of the Annual Parish Report.** This was taken as read.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** John Groves reported that over the course of the year we had made a slight loss as income continues to move from collections to planned giving. This gives us greater security, but increasingly fewer congregation members can gift aid. Against that backdrop, however, we have increased both mission giving and our contribution to the Diocese and Chapter. Before moving the acceptance of the accounts, John expressed his gratitude in particular to Liz Thomas and Ron Darwin for their support this year. His proposal was seconded by Michelle Dearlove and the accounts were accepted unanimously. The Dean expressed the meeting's thanks to John for his work on the accounts.
5. **Elections**

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

 - a. Richard Coad, proposed by Fiona Pearman and seconded by Yvonne Jeffries
 - b. Anne-Marie Tarter proposed by Nigel Rawlinson and seconded by Sarah Hobbs
 - c. Juliet Balme proposed by Fiona Pearman and seconded by John Baldini
 - d. Sue Gill proposed by Michelle Dearlove and seconded by Freda Bottomley
 - e. Sarah Hobbs proposed by Juliet Balme and seconded by Joan Wilkinson
 - f. Stephen Pay proposed by Nigel Rawlinson and seconded by Liz Thomas
 - g. John Groves proposed by Nigel Rawlinson and seconded by Freda Bottomley
 - h. Sarah Swift proposed by Fiona Pearman and seconded by Liz Thomas

These were duly elected unopposed.

Elections to the Cathedral Council

 - a. John Baldini proposed by Stephen Pay and seconded by Fiona Pearman

These were duly elected unopposed.
6. **Appointments**
 - a. Sidesmen and women listed on the attached sheet were proposed by Liz Thomas and were elected en bloc.

	<p>b. Auditor. Andrew Walker was appointed again to continue as auditor.</p> <p>7. Any Other Business. There were no other points of business.</p> <p>8. Chairman’s closing remarks. The Dean thanked Canon Ailsa for her leadership and for reshaping the PCC structure and welcomed the new Canon Precentor to the Cathedral. He also offered thanks to the newly nominated PCC Secretary and Church Wardens for their hard work this year. Following the sad passing of Colin Harrison, the Dean reflected on his enormous contribution to Cathedral life and how difficult he has been to replace. Before updating the meeting on current progress on the building project he also congratulated Loretta Williams on being selected to receive Maundy money from the Queen this year.</p> <p>The meeting ended with the Grace</p>
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THE PCC IN THE LAST YEAR AN IN 2019/20

During the year, the PCC continued to work hard together, growing and developing to find ways to serve the broader Cathedral community. Each quarter we meet at Thorp Prebend, joined by representatives from all the benefice churches, St Michael’s Littlethorpe, St Mary Magdalen’s and St John’s Bondgate. Between our meetings, sub-groups gather to work together on different areas of ministry including: Adult Ministry, Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Cathedral Community Connections (C3), Community Building Committee and Finance. Those groups bring their latest news back to our main meetings. It is always fascinating and humbling to hear of the ways in which members of our Cathedral community seek to serve each other and the people of Ripon.

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. Nigel Rawlinson continued as Churchwarden at the Cathedral and was joined by Fiona Pearman whose appointment was agreed at the APCM. John Groves continues to take an active role in the work of the PCC as Treasurer but decided to step down as Churchwarden. His work in that role was very much appreciated by both the PCC and the Cathedral community.

In 2019, Richard Coad was elected, and Tony Humphries was co-opted onto the PCC. Re-elected or confirmed into PCC membership were Juliet Balme, Sue Gill, Stephen Pay, Amy Payne, Anne-Marie Tarter, Sarah Swift, John Groves, Richard Knockton and Sarah Hobbs. The appointment of Sarah Hobbs and John Groves into the role of PCC Secretary and Treasurer respectively were also confirmed at our APCM.

Sarah Hobbs

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 the major seasonal services at Christmas and Easter we are on duty at the Plough Service, Candlemass, Mothering Sunday, Golden Wedding Service, Installation Services, Civic Services and the Battle of Britain Service to name just a few. This year we were able to be present to assist the many schools who hold their Carol Services here in the Cathedral.

Our annual thankyou to the Sidespeople took place at Minster House kindly hosted by Dean John and Nicola and it was lovely to see so many there. We had invited the Cathedral Chaplains to join us and it was good to meet and get to know more of them.

We are as always very grateful to the team of Sidespeople who help us each Sunday and we were pleased to welcome Gillian Molloy as a new member. Loretta Williams will also be coming to help this year. We are delighted that some have offered to help at the bigger services and occasional weekday services such as the Nine lessons and Carols Services and Candlemass. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome.

Select Vestry: Liz Thomas (Chair) Sue Fisk (Deputy Chair) Janet Slater, Nigel Rawlinson, Colin Little, Richard Knockton, Ron Darwin, Tony Milsom, and Peter Liddle. Ron, Tony and Peter are all now emeritus and have between them contributed many years of loyal and dedicated service for which we are very grateful.

*Liz Thomas
Chair*

DEANERY SYNOD

We continue our four meetings a year, using different churches in the Deanery and hearing from each one about activities in the respective churches. We have had a variety of speakers during the year, most of which are open meetings and also have a meal and social evening once a year. In 2019, we had a 'mystery murder' at Mowbray Hall, Kirby Malzeard and a 'bring and share' tea.

Revd Tony Collins is now Area Dean and thanks have been given to his predecessor, Revd Darryl Hall for all his work as Area Dean.

*Loretta Williams
Lay Chair*

PLANNED GIVING REPORT

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

Figures for *period January – December 2019 (2018 in brackets)*

Classification	Number	Amount Given	
		2019	2018
Planned Giving Envelopes	33	19946.00	(24465.00)
Gift Aid Envelopes (planned)	9	1499.00	(1581.00)
Standing Orders	92	73537.00	(76170.00)
CAF	5	2291.00	(5112.00)
Totals	139	97273.00	(107328.00)

During 2019

Number started	4
Number stopped	12
Number increased	5
Number decreased	1

Number able to Gift Aid their donations 101

*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 many other services throughout the year.

Sadly, Norman Kitney had to take an enforced break from the team following his illness. We hope that his health continues to improve. He still remains a source of wise counsel on all serving matters.

I would like to thank Canon Michael for his advice and encouragement and for keeping us all smiling.

I am very grateful to everyone in the serving team for their commitment and the obliging way in which they help me to fill any unavoidable gaps in the rota.

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

*Edward Scott
Head Server*

CHILDREN'S MISSION AND OUTREACH REPORT

Children's Church

Once more I am delighted to report that we have seen a growth in numbers attending Children's Church on a regular basis. Attendance can be erratic with just a few children one week and as many as fifteen the next, but it keeps the leaders on our toes! It is challenging working with an age group, which can vary from three to eleven, but it all adds to the lovely family atmosphere. Parents are really supportive and I know they appreciate our efforts. It is very rewarding to see that our children's knowledge of Bible stories and the liturgical year is very strong. I think the congregation enjoy seeing the lovely "work" the children produce and we are proud of how confident they are at sharing what they have learned. Wilfrid Prayer Bear continues to go home and shares the contents of his rucksack with our families. He has certainly had some interesting adventures, including going to Australia and meeting up with a fellow Prayer Bear in Melbourne Cathedral. Wilfrid is now proudly wearing the alb which Joan made for him with two of our members, Petra and Thora, during the summer break.

We had a very successful few days during Holy Week when we produced some Easter crafts and took part in the all age service on Good Friday morning when we acted out the Easter story. Hopefully this will happen again this Easter.

Another highlight of the year was our outing to Monk Park Farm. We successfully bid for some funding from Ripon Girls' Club which enabled us to take all our families and siblings for a day out. It was a very happy occasion which we hope to repeat next year. The funds from the charity have also enabled us to purchase further resources for our various activities.

We continue to be grateful for the services of our dedicated band of leaders and assistants, including our junior leader, Rory, and for the support we have from the clergy.

Cathedral Primary School

Our links with Cathedral Primary School are becoming very strong. Rev Caitlin and Canon Ailsa share a weekly worship with our children and in addition, Caitlin operates Cathedral Club once a week. This is a very popular activity in school and continues to be oversubscribed. Freda and Jenny very kindly support Caitlin each week. The school has had our lovely seasonal visits when the Cathedral has hosted our Nativity, Harvest Festival and Easter Service. We are also very grateful to the PCC for funding our beautiful Christingle Service again. Children from a number of classes have paid educational visits to the Cathedral, one memorable occasion being Y5 taking part in a pilgrimage in the footsteps of

the monks, from the Cathedral to Fountains Abbey. This was after their visit to Lindisfarne and was much enjoyed by everyone and made the history alive. *Breakfast Natters* Our merry band of parents, grandparents and toddlers has grown considerably over the last year. We have a lovely time nattering and playing while sustaining ourselves with coffee and cake and toddler snacks. We are very grateful for the help of school governors who join us.

It is a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to meet together. Tracey, our Cathedral Music Outreach Worker, has made these sessions even more enjoyable with musical activities for the children. All are welcome to join us...toddler not essential! We rely very heavily on our dedicated volunteers for making all these things happen. Thank you to all of you and to the Cathedral congregation and PCC for all your support.

Jean Denney

GOD TALK

A new initiative in the autumn term of 2019, this is a discussion group for children and teenagers from Year 6 age upwards (including choristers) held during the Sung Eucharist each Sunday in term-time. The aim is to give young people in that age group some age-appropriate Christian teaching based around the readings of the day or seasonal themes and it is led by one of a team of the clergy, Canon Richard Noake, and Yvonne Jefferies. We simply gather up those who are interested as the gospel procession returns to the sanctuary and pop into the Chapter House for a discussion through the part of the service that covers the sermon, creed and intercessions, returning at the peace. We hope in this way to encourage young people to engage thoughtfully with the scripture passages being read in the service and to grow in faith.

Canon Ailsa

MESSY CATHEDRAL

2019 saw our first full year of Messy Cathedral services. Held at 4.30-5.30 on a Sunday, we aim to run 2 per term though fitting 2 into the cathedral calendar in the summer proved difficult. Attendance has fluctuated with sometimes over 50 children with 50-plus adults in tow and sometimes much smaller numbers. The difference tends to be partly caused by weather: the first nice Sunday of the year proved too attractive to be inside and publicity is really important to remind people of the date. The format is simple: some fun craft activities, some singing led by Tracey the Music Outreach Worker, some story time and prayers, followed by a sandwich tea. Parents seem really to appreciate it and the children clearly enjoy themselves. All is made possible by the splendid team of volunteers who brainstorm the ideas and pull it all together, without whom it just wouldn't be possible. So huge thanks to Sarah Hobbs, Freda Bottomley, Victoria Kirkman, Victoria Bishop, Grace Spackman, Alison Davies and Jenny Riley. With the appointment of Rachel Halkyard as our Children and Family Worker we aim to increase the numbers of Messy Cathedral services through the year in 2020 and beyond.

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. During our Christmas meeting we had a full Christmas dinner, made advent wreaths and discussed who Jesus is. Throughout Lent, we will consider God's creation and how we can care better for it, responding to the Lent themes we are considering as a congregation. Membership of the group has remained stable throughout the last few years, but it has been difficult to introduce new members, partly as the existing group works so well together. As most of the current members head off to university at the end of this year, it will then be time to reconsider and relaunch the group with a new membership. I think the sessions have been valuable to the current members both as an opportunity to ask questions about faith and as a means of support through exam stress.

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. I'm pleased to say that in 2019 we had some new volunteers join the group. There is always scope for more and more care of people so if you might like to join the group (or find out more about it) please have a word with me.

Canon Ailsa

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at Ripon Cathedral is managed by Julia Barker (Cathedral Safeguarding Coordinator), assisted by Fiona Gillies, with Canon Ailsa (Cathedral Safeguarding Representative). During 2019 we have been focussing on ensuring all relevant people have done DBS checks and confidential declarations and this work has largely been completed. We are keen to ensure that the safeguarding of both vulnerable adults and children visiting the cathedral or within the cathedral community is paramount in all our minds and so this is not just about a 'tick box' exercise but rather one where we are working to embed the principles of safeguarding in our culture. To this end we have been training guides and Welcomers as well as PCC members, the Music Department and the wider staff to ensure the principles are well-known and everyone knows how, if they have a concern, where it should be reported. It is always bound to be, in a large complex organisation, work in progress.

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. This year we have continued to work with our partner charities: The Salvation Army Food Bank, Ripon City of Sanctuary, Dementia Forward, Jennyruth Workshops, Christian Aid, Ripon Community Link/ The Walled Garden. We have also added as a new partner the Ripon YMCA. We work closely with the Cathedral Chaplains in terms of being available to the residents of the YMCA, and also to help the YMCA in providing basic resources (simple food items, warm clothing, sleeping bags, and advice) for people in need of emergency housing or similar help. In order to encourage volunteering in the community in general C3 is also involved with Harrogate Borough Council's My Neighborhood Project that sponsors the yearly Sights and Sounds of Ripon. As well, C3 is a member of the Ripon forum of the Harrogate and Area Council of Voluntary Services (HARCVS) and has hosted one of the area meetings. There have been a variety of ways in which the Cathedral has made significant contributions to our partnerships this year:

Prayer Support: C3 together with Ripon City of Sanctuary organised a Prayer Vigil in the Cathedral in support of all those refugees who lost their lives trying to escape into Europe this year. There were two Dementia Friendly services followed by afternoon teas during the year run in conjunction with Dementia Forward.

Some highlights of this year's activities: C3 facilitated the Cathedral's participation in The Sights and Sounds of Ripon, an event organized by the My Neighbourhood project that attracted over 600 people onto the Cathedral during the day. Visitors enjoyed a variety of information stalls, a Lego workshop, bell-tower tours, and a café run by the Walled Garden. Throughout the day entertainment was provided by 6 local voluntary choirs. This was a highly successful event and the Cathedral's ongoing support of this initiative to create a more inclusive community has been highly praised. The Congregation continues to support the Salvation Army's Food Bank through weekly donations at Sunday services. The Cathedral is now the most consistent and reliable source of voluntary contribution to the Salvation Army's local food bank, contributing over half of all food donations. The YMCA's Homeless not Faceless photographic Exhibition was launched on the evening of 28th February and ran until 17th March. Forty people attended the launch event, including The Lord Lieutenant, the mayors of Ripon and Harrogate, and several Ripon councillors. Canon Wendy, representing the Cathedral Chaplains, opened the evening by highlighting the Cathedral's traditional role as a place of sanctuary and support for those in need. Other speakers included Lucy Gratton, the CEO of the Ripon YMCA, and Maggie Gibson, the Senior Housing Options Officer for Harrogate Borough Council. There was a great interest in seeking ways of supporting people with housing issues in Ripon. With support from the Diocesan Training Office C3 organised a day's course on Building Dementia Friendly Churches on Saturday, 8th June. Revd Dan Sladden, Dementia Forward's Jill Quinn and guest speaker Gaynor Hammond delivered the day of training to 30 members of clergy and laity from churches in the Diocese. This was a very successful day that we hope to repeat in the future. In January Matthew Evason from the Jennyruth Workshop began as a trainee Welcomer. He is accompanied on each shift by a support worker. Clive Mansell and Jill

Bolland have worked quite hard with JRW in creating a solid foundation of procedures that safeguard both the JRW volunteer and the Cathedral volunteers.

Ripon City of Sanctuary In partnership with Ripon City of Sanctuary continuing our Cathedral's historic tradition as a place of Sanctuary and Welcome in several key ways: Supporting Refugees at Hull Open Doors and Wakefield by donating quality clothes and toiletries Hosting and supporting a Prayer Vigil at Ripon Cathedral remembering those who have fled their homeland and the thousands of lives lost at sea in attempts to flee to a place of safety Supporting local School of Sanctuary Outwood Primary Academy Greystone with a donation of £70 worth of books by award winning authors raising awareness of issues facing Refugees and Asylum Seekers Leading educational workshops featuring Paddington Bear and Boat building activities to raise awareness of the plight of Refugees and Asylum Seekers at Queen Mary School as part of their Awe and Wonder Day with Afghan Refugee and Author Gulwali Passarlay as guest speaker Preparing for our second Thanksgiving Schools of Sanctuary Service during Refugee Week June 2020 inviting local schools to take part. Masham CE Primary and Queen Mary School are working towards becoming Schools of Sanctuary Funding 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. An evening was spent with Dr Ahmed Khaleel from York University in June and Jack Mapanje exiled Malawi Poet Oct 2019 Providing financial support for a fundraising piano recital in terms of cash contributions with the provision of refreshments for Classical Pianist Margaret Fingerhut's Performance 'Far from Home' at Sharrow.

Anne Marie Tarter Yvonne Jefferies

MUSIC GROUP

The Cathedral Music Group usually 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 services 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 healing service at the Cathedral in November. We currently have 14 regular 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 a very inclusive and supportive group of people and we are very well supported by the Cathedral Music Department and the director of music, Andrew Bryden, usually plays for the Distinctive service and our rehearsals.

Sue Gill

SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

2019 saw our numbers decrease slightly on those of 2018 and we now have around 20 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 learner is still at primary school and our longest-serving members are some 70

years older! We have rung all 12 bells on the vast majority of Sundays. In addition to Sunday service ringing, we enjoy special ringing for major services. In 2019, these included the Oakleaf service, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Ordination of women, the Diocesan “Thy Kingdom Come” service, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, the two Nine Lessons and Carols services and the services at Christmas. We rang to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the arrival of Dean John and Nicola, both of whom are now valued members of the band! In January, we were able to ring (at the request of his family) both before and after the service of Thanksgiving for the life of Canon Colin Harrison - we remember him as a great supporter of the bells and bell ringers. We also dedicated a quarter peal to his memory. We rang for the Sung Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, ending with 7 minutes of “continental style” ringing at 7pm – ringing that was observed throughout the country in solidarity with Notre Dame de Paris after the devastating fire there. We have welcomed visiting groups to the Ringing room. These have included the Welsh Colleges Guild, a group from Bristol, the Yorkshire Tykes, who are the current holders of the national under-18 cup and the RAF Guild, who joined us to ring on Battle of Britain Sunday. We were also delighted to welcome The Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire, Jo Ropner, and her husband Robert to one of our practices.

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; we were pleased with our ringing and came second to a band from Leeds Minster (this band is excellent, having come 4th in the national 12-bell contest last year!). For the first time ever, we were able to ring a quarter-peal with all 12 ringers being members of the Sunday service band. This level is attained by only 5% or so of ringers nationally; it is a huge achievement that comes about only after significant hours of practice are undertaken. For four of the band, this was their first-ever quarter on 12 bells.

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, on a very warm day, to ring at a number of towers in Durham. We were privileged to be asked to ring for the Ordination service at Durham Cathedral – there are 325 steps to the ringing room and the bells are difficult to ring - it made us appreciate our own tower even more! Our Annual Dinner was held in March at The Old Deanery and our more informal Christmas meal was held at Valentino’s. For many years, we have manned the first session in the beer tent at the beer festival, and we did so again in 2019! I thank The Dean and Chapter for their evident and continuing support. The ringers are pleased that Canon Michael manages the stairs on most Sunday mornings in order to lead our prayers. I am fortunate to lead ringers who are endowed with high levels of commitment, industry and good humour!

Anne V Wood Tower Captain

MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP

The Group has continued to meet once each month mostly 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 though it is a pity, I think, that more people don't avail themselves of the opportunity. The meditation is led, often in 3 or 4 short periods of silence interspersed with prayer suggestions and, after compline we leave quietly. It has been a pleasure this year to increase the team leading it from Loretta Williams and myself to include Elaine Gisbourne.

If you'd like to try it, pick up the card with the list of dates from the notice boards in the crossing and just come to the west door of the cathedral before 7.30pm (as we lock the doors then).

Canon Ailsa

MOTHER'S UNION

There have been several changes for Ripon Cathedral Branch of the Mothers Union I this past year. Our move to St Johns Bondgate has proved a good one. We are warmer and our monthly rent is significantly less. Elizabeth Everett came to the end of her six years as Branch Leader and we thank her for that. No one was willing to take on full responsibility as Leader so it was decided that we all took some responsibility for refreshments, prayers etc but that Josie Birley would coordinate all of that. Josie has a role as Ripon Episcopal Area

President for another two years and hopes someone will take on full leadership of the Branch which would be the "gold standard". Ann Pearson has now taken the Treasurer's role from Christine Alderson who has given us many years of service. Our Advent Sunday homemade stall was very well supported and we were able to provide items for the Baby Bag Project at Wetherby prison and also to provide mattresses for Leeds Baby Bank. We have supported the "Books for Schools" and the "Books for Hospitals" project and provided Care Homes with Twiddle Muffs and quilts for dementia sufferers. All our work is underpinned by prayer and members attended the Diocesan Lady Day Service and the Episcopal Area Advent Service. Our new Worldwide President was commissioned and we enjoyed a visit from her. We have welcomed many interesting speakers and our summer outing was spent on the Wensleydale Railway. Our membership in Ripon remains fairly constant but we welcome new members to help us grow our branch and make an even bigger contribution in the coming year.

Josie Birley

THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild had another very busy and very rewarding year. We continue to have twenty-three members who are divided between 3 groups of arrangers. This year has seen some of our members retire and some new members join us. The most notable retirement was that of Sue Woods who has been the leader of the Flower Guild for many years. Over the years Sue has organised many large -scale events such as flower festivals as well as seasonal displays for Christmas, Easter, Harvest, the Dean's Banquet, and a variety of Civic events. At one stage Sue was Co-Ordinator, Treasurer AND Secretary, along with help from her husband Barry who was computer master and photographer. Many times Sue and Barry could be seen heading for the flower room to tackle the rotten job of getting rid of the old oasis, sorting silk flowers into their correct boxes, making sure there was always plenty of oasis, organising refreshments for all occasions. Sue took on all the thankless jobs that are

needed to ensure that the flowers at all times were of a remarkable standard, and she did all this with a smile continuously on her face. She was a charismatic leader who encouraged and developed the talents of every member of the Guild. We are very grateful that she is to remain a member of the Guild. The leadership of The Guild has been taken on by Caroline Baldwin who in her new role did a magnificent job of organizing a very special Christmas display on the theme of Peace on Earth. Earlier in the year before taking on the leadership role, Caroline was the Guild' wedding coordinator, organizing all the flowers for the seven weddings.

Anne Marie Tarter

CATHEDRAL PARISH LUNCH

This continues to flourish with at least 28 people coming to the Cathedral Hall on the first Saturday of the month to enjoy a home cooked meal (with choices) and for it also to be a time of real fellowship. After our expenses, we are able to give an average of £50 to fund parish mission as well as £165 to Crisis at Christmas in 2019. It would be good to have more Cathedral members to meet with those from other churches, care homes, Almshouses and other villages. Please take this as an open invitation, no booking required! My thanks, as always to fellow cooks and hosts: Jean Dunn, Tricia Knockton, Anne Lancaster, Wendy Richardson and Carolyn Sands.

Loretta Williams

THE BOOK BOX

The shelves are rarely empty, so thank you to all who fill them. "Buy a book, give one away" should be our motto! We rely on the generosity of the purchaser and raise funds for mission giving in the parish. Please look at your bookshelves and keep the book box full!

Loretta Williams

ST MARY MAGDALEN – THE LEPER CHAPEL

As you know the Revd Prebendary Jackie Fox stood down as Chaplain in the summer and the Revd Cliff Bowman was commissioned as Chaplain at the beginning of September. Since then there have been three exciting events. The first was the visit of BBC Radio York on the 14th of September. This coincided with one of our Heritage Open Days and helped to raise awareness of the superb 'History of the Hospital' display that had been created by Peter Sutton and Anne Priestly. Secondly, in middle of October we hosted the last event of the Ripon Poetry Festival in which Bob Beagrie, dressed in full seventeenth century costume, and supported by a bank of musicians, gave an extremely dramatic reading from his new book "Civil Insolences." Then, just before December we were fortunate enough to host a sell out Christmas carol concert given by a group of 'Sheffield Carollers'. This was a both a wonderful and informative evening. Originally, in England, the church frowned on Christmas carols because they were rather simple, communal folk songs with very natural harmonies and choruses. We helped to counter any residual snobbiness, and within minutes we were all anticipating the flow of the melodies and singing along. I can honestly say that the Carol,

'While shepherd watched their flocks' sounds much more exciting when sung to the tune 'On Ilkley moor baht tat.'" After the concert, true to their cultural roots, the carollers (and a sizeable proportion of the congregation) decanted to the Magdalen's pub to be welcomed by the Mayor and to deliver part two of their evening's engagements. On a quieter and more conventional note, our Candlelit Midnight mass and Christmas day services were both very atmospheric and well attended. It was also a joy to gain great benefit from our new heating system; the chapel is now Holy, intimate and warm. Further improvements to the fabric of the building may follow the Architect's Quinquennial inspection which took place on the 17th of January and detailed plans for the development of the outhouses will be submitted in due course. On a personal note we would like to record our thanks and appreciation to Jackie for her years of hard work as chaplain. Maintaining the life and witness of the chapel at the present level means that the task is more than a half time post and Jackie has been an industrious and exemplary chaplain. Thanks are also due to both to our wonderful team of lay helpers and to the Revd. Martin Bull, who after years of retirement ministry as a frequent celebrant and preacher at the chapel, has decided that the time has finally come to step back and have a rest. Thank you to Martin and to all those chapel members who serve our Lord with such love and devotion.

Revd. Cliff Bowman Chaplain, St MM

MAGDALEN FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship membership has fluctuated as several of our members are either no longer physically able to attend or who have moved out of the area, but at the same time we have also gained new members this year. At present there are 30 members in total with an average weekly attendance of 18-20. 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 June our annual Quiet Day was led by Revd Ruth Parry and was held at St. George's Court in Grantley. This is a beautiful 'B and B' in the countryside that also is available to hire for quiet days. We have a very special day and hope to be able to return there again in 2020. Our July Eucharist was to have been celebrated by Revd Derek Ching who had been a member of the Fellowship for many years before he moved south to be nearer his children. Sadly the day before he was due to be with us, he died very suddenly. He was a very beloved member of our group and our prayers are with his wife Kath and their family. In August we had a lovely outing to visit Ampleforth Abbey where we had a very enjoyable tour of the buildings by one of the brothers, joined in the service of midday sung prayers, enjoyed a lovely lunch and then spent time in silence either in the grounds or in the chapel. It was a truly refreshing day for us all.

Anne Marie Tarter

ST JOHN'S CHAPEL

The Sunday services at St John's continue to follow the pattern of interleaving eucharistic and non-eucharistic services. Second and fourth Sundays in each month follow a modern

communion service with hymns, whilst other Sundays are a more informal service, usually led by a reader. Typical weekly attendance is around 25-30. Hospitality and welcome are hallmarks of the community at St John's. Visitors often comment on first entering the Chapel that they are surprised by how light, warm and friendly the space is. We are a deliberately inclusive church at which all are welcome. The Chapel continues to be well used during the week as a venue not only for funerals but also for community groups such as 'Knit and Natter', U3A classes and the Wakeman Lectures. Our long time de facto Church Warden and Reader Richard Moore retired at Easter along with his wife Dot who was our committee secretary for some years. We took the opportunity to thank them for their service and wish them both well in their retirement at a well-attended lunch on Palm Sunday. Alongside our in-house leaders, we are blessed to be well supported by readers and clergy from the Cathedral and are very grateful for their contributions to our worship.

Rev Dan Sladden

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

At St Michael's we have Regular Parish Communion 3 Sundays and one Non Eucharistic Service a month, all held at 10.30am. This last Service is taken by the Cathedral Readers and is very much appreciated. Thanks to Judith our rota works well and we have continuity, in particular with the Cathedral Clergy and Readers, through their regular visits. The Revd. Martin Bull is not able to take services at the moment and we are uncertain as to whether he will be carrying on. In the event of his retirement we will need a priest for the 3rd. Sunday of each month which we hope that the Dean will arrange for us. The congregation is elderly and in some cases very elderly and so there is some pastoral work to be done in addition to the splendid care that the congregation takes of each other. The Courses for Lent and Advent provided by the Cathedral are advertised and promoted, as are the events featured in the Monthly Newsletter. Our church services are advertised on the Village Web site and in Roundabout. Special care is taken to ensure all are invited to the events at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and our summer 'Friends' event. The 'Friends' Organisation has been successful in drawing in those who live in the village and wider community. Our weekly average attendance is 25, with more at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. During 2019 we held 2 Baptisms, 1 Wedding and 1 Funeral. Roland Curtis died in May and his death was a significant loss to St. Michael's. Not only did he deal with the fabric of the church but he was always there to sort out any problems that arose, many of which were unseen and unnoticed. His funeral was a wonderful tribute to a very caring, generous, hardworking man whom we all deeply miss. Our church committee is a very supportive and hardworking team whose work is very much appreciated by the clergy and congregation alike.

Iris Alderson, Churchwarden

CHRISTIAN AID 2019

The support of the parish and clergy toward Christian Aid is once again appreciated by our small committee. The Cathedral provides members to the Ripon Churches Committee, which also has representatives from Holy Trinity, Sharow and the Methodist churches. Christian Aid Week raised the combined Ripon total of £6929 (£6564 in 2018) of which the Cathedral's 21 house-to-house collectors, plus 1 from another church, raised £1688 (£1595).

We are grateful to all our wonderful collectors, but do need more willing volunteers. Christina Hoare will be pleased to provide details of where help might be required between 10th and 17th May, in 2020. House to house collections nationally were £7.56 m. We started Christian Aid Week with a dedicated evensong, when Janice Clark, a Methodist Missionary, spoke of the work of Christian Aid supporting women in Sierra Leone. This year we plan to make envelopes more readily available within the Cathedral during Christian Aid Week. Once again, the Lent lunches provided more opportunities to support Christian Aid and for that we are grateful. In January, we were invited as a committee to provide breakfast during the week of Christian Unity and this was extremely well attended but disappointingly with few Cathedral worshipers attending. However, the proceeds (£700) will go toward a continuation of our project, along with churches in Northallerton and Thirsk, to provide education to Syrian refugees in the Lebanon and Iraq. Our social events, also supporting this project, have been the Quiz Evening, raising £1055 and a Ripon City Band Concert which also raised over £1000. The total we have now raised for this project is close to £10,000 and this will be match funded six times by another charity, making a staggering contribution of £70,000. We will be starting a new match-funded project in 2020. In closing, I would like to thank Stephanie Cooper, our regional co-ordinator, for her guidance over a number of years and who stepped down from her post this year.

David Wells Chair of Ripon Churches Christian Aid 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. SPACE has moved back into Thorpe Prebend as the space over two floors within the building lends itself more easily to private, silent contemplation. Due to family illness the coordinator, Anne-Marie Tarter, was only able to offer 2 SPACE days this year. The day in July took the theme of **Rejoice: finding a deeper joy in life** and other day in November was on the theme of **v**. Grateful thanks to Jean Denney, Michelle Dearlove, and Helen Ball who worked with Anne-Marie in the delivery of each day. Their creativity and artistic inspiration (not to overlook their baking skills!) are indispensable to SPACE.

Anne-Marie Tarter

CATHEDRAL ECO GROUP

The Cathedral Eco Group meets about once a month. We have been working to reduce the carbon footprint of the cathedral, to increase the biodiversity of the church yard and to encourage our community and the wider area to consider how they could care better for God's Earth. This year we have introduced washable mugs instead of disposable cups for regular services, replaced disposable handouts for visitors with returnable sheets printed onto biodegradable hardboard, worked to replace cathedral lighting with LED alternatives and started to introduce more environmentally friendly cleaning products. This year the cathedral has focused on the environment during Lent and we have set up a prayer station

to encourage visitors and the congregation to make a pledge to care better for creation. This work has enabled us to gain a bronze Eco Church award. Significant ongoing projects include plans to improve the biodiversity of the churchyard, continuing investigations into the existing church building and its carbon footprint, and discussions about the environmental sustainability of Ripon Cathedral Renewed.

Rev Caitlin Carmichael-Davies

CATHEDRAL READERS' REPORT

Ripon Cathedral Readers now consist of 7 including those with PTO, who undertake a range of activities bringing the words and comfort of Christ to visitors and worshippers to Ripon Cathedral and further afield. Cathedral Reader Team carry out their ministry in a number of varied ways including preaching in the Cathedral and serving at the 8 am and 12.30 services and serving at 10:30 services, acting as sidespeople and welcomers as well as administering communion and taking funerals. The Cathedral Reader Team also support churches locally, through taking services, including those at St John the Baptist Chapel Bondgate, St Mary Magdalen's, St. Michael's and All Angels Littlethorpe, St Leonards in Burton Leonard, Nun Monkton and Hunsingore, where they also share and take part in Messy Church. At St John the Baptist Chapel Bondgate there has been an increase in the number attending and there is a real desire to be involved in the services and social events. A successful Alpha Course took place which will be repeated later this year. The Strawberry Tea and a Craft Fair brought in others, and to help the bond of the congregation tea and lunches have been organised. An exciting new venture is the setting up of a pastoral team. The Reader Team visit other places in the community, taking a monthly assembly at Greystone's Academy, and other pastoral visits and also taking communion to those unable to attend the Cathedral. This includes regular communion to the residents of Longmeadow, Borrage House and the Moors Care Homes within Colsterdale Lodge at Lister House. Working with the Activity Organiser at The Moors, there is now an extra group meeting once every fortnight. Communion has also been taken to Sunnyfield Lodge and Skell Lodge residential homes in addition to home communions. Readers also represent Ripon Cathedral on a number of committees and groups including, C3 in partnership with Ripon City of Sanctuary building community connections, Magdalen Fellowship, PCC, Deanery Synod and Cathedral Council. They have helped facilitate community-based initiatives like Space, which is a way for people to explore spirituality in a compassionate and creative way. Finally, Readers have supported chaplaincy activity both in the Cathedral and in the local hospital. Readers report feeling privileged, proud and are fulfilled in their work and would like to thank all who encourage and support them in their ministry.

John Baldini, Michelle Dearlove, Nina Harrison, Loretta Williams, John Whelan and Yvonne Jefferies

CATHEDRAL CURATE'S REPORT

I have now been at the Cathedral for almost three years. It has been a privilege to work with such a welcoming and wise congregation, and I have learnt so much from the experienced priests whom I work alongside. I continue to visit those who are ill or who can no longer get to church, lead funerals, baptisms and weddings and prepare candidates for

confirmation. I am a member of the Pilgrimage Committee and lead the Cathedral's Eco group and youth group. Being at Ripon Cathedral gives me the opportunity to engage with pastoral ministry in our parish and to observe the planning of cathedral services and the forming of strategies for the future. It is a very good place to learn. Every week I run Cathedral Club, an after-school club at the cathedral primary, which involves stories, craft and prayer. This is a great opportunity to connect with children who would not otherwise come to church, and effectively brings Children's Church to them. It also helps me to get to know some of the children better and creates a link between the school and cathedral. Some members of Cathedral Club now attend Messy Cathedral, are members of the cathedral choirs and will be confirmed at Easter. In January I led the cathedral retreat to Parcevall Hall, where we reflected on the themes of Epiphany and how to approach reading the Bible. It was a lovely, though chilly, week where friendships were formed and developed. I certainly learned a lot, and I hope those who attended did too. I have recently been spending time at Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard, while they are looking for a new priest. It has been really interesting to minister in a village context, and to get to know different communities. I will be leading services over Easter, which I am very much looking forward to. As I prepare to move on at some point during the next year, I have a real sense of gratitude for all I have experienced in Ripon and particularly for the grace and encouragement of the community which worships and works in this ancient building.

CANON PASTOR'S REPORT