



Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe

Available on our church website, www.briercliffestjames.co.uk

Issue 9 - June 2021



Sharon writes

Well, I have finally arrived in Briercliffe and at St James as your new Vicar. The move went as well as could be expected and it was heartening to be on the receiving end of so many warm welcomes, cards, and bottles of wine! The Induction service on the 26th May went well despite all the Covid restrictions. It truly was a special occasion and celebration. And as I said during the service, remember we are on a journey together – helping, encouraging, enabling, supporting one another, sharing our Good News stories of a God who loves us abundantly and who journeys with us through the good times and the bad. It is a journey of prayerful witness, intimate discipleship and of growth both individually and as a Church and it is a marathon not a sprint. A big thank you for all the self-made cards I have had from St James' Lanehead Primary School – I really can't wait to meet with all the staff and pupils – and thank you also to the children of St James' church, for your cards, prayers and the wonderful banner!! I look forward to seeing you all very soon. It would be great to see you all in church at some point now that the usual pattern of services are to resume from 1st June. In the meantime, stay safe, take care and in all that you do, do so for the glory of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. TTFN



Reverend Sharon



Here is the link if anyone wishes to watch my induction service held on Wednesday 26th May. You don't have to have a Facebook account to watch it, just copy the link and paste into your web browser. <https://fb.watch/5OwZ-8Kb9B/>

Financial Statement for 2020 by the Treasurer

The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 have been examined and found to be a true record with no issues to report. Thank you to Diane Harvey for examining the accounts.

2020 was an unusual year due to the Covid-19 pandemic which closed our church for parts of the year making our financial situation difficult.

The total receipts for the year as detailed in the attached financial statement were £51,643 whilst the expenditure was £48,791 giving a net gain over the year of £2,852.

On the income side, planned giving was £16,869, up by £2,485 from last year while open plate and gift aid collections were £3,402, down by £4,033. Tax reclaimed on gift aid was also up by £2,946 to £8,203. Charitable donations in 2020 were £1,030, PCC Fees were £2,089. We had some large donations during the year totalling £16,869.

On the expenditure side, the Diocesan parish share amounted to £31,008, this excludes the assigned fees which are payable to the DBF for weddings, funerals, etc and which are not accounted for in these accounts. It should be noted that we are still not paying the full share but are in the middle of a 3-year plan agreed with the Diocesan Finance Team of incremental increases in the parish share put in place in order to arrive at the correct share figure in 2022. Church running expenses were £4,136 (gas, electricity, water rates & insurance) and maintenance of the Churchyard cost £2,952. Ongoing maintenance work and repairs to the roof cost £4,175. The above is just a sample of where the income is being spent.

Our total fund balances at the end of the year were £81,391 of which £67,226 was unrestricted and £14,165 was restricted. These funds are in accounts at Yorkshire Bank Plc (Current A/c) Skipton Building Society (60-day account) and in deposit accounts at the Central Board of Finance at the Church of England.

If we are not to erode our reserves further and at the same time meet all our commitments, which amongst others are the increasing parish share and ongoing maintenance costs, then we will need to drastically increase both stewardship and other giving in future years.

A new post for Father Paul

Father Paul is the new Warden of Spiritual Directors in the Blackburn Diocese. He will oversee the growth and development of the ministry of Spiritual Direction as it seeks to serve the church in accompanying groups and individuals on their journey of faith, witness and discipleship.

Archdeacon Mark has commented, 'Spiritual direction is a life giving ministry which enables individuals to flourish and grow as disciples of Christ. I am delighted to welcome Paul as he takes on this role and am especially pleased he will be using Whalley Abbey as a base for his ministry, as part of our vision for the Abbey to be a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer.'

Church Business News – APCM and Vestry Meetings

The Rev'd Sharon Greensmith, our new vicar, conducted her first service on Trinity Sunday 30th May. This was followed by the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The former elected Andrea Bettany and Chris Holdsworth to continue as the Churchwardens and the latter elected Jennifer Bolton, Debbie Hallam and Christine Hewitson as members of the Parochial Church Council.

In the APCM the following reports were given:- Church Attendance, Electoral Roll, PCC Secretary's Report, Churchwardens' Report and the Financial Statement.

In 2020 the Covid -19 epidemic inevitably affected church attendance with periods of lockdown, restrictions and social distancing once church reopened.

There were no services at Easter or Christmas, no baptisms and 2 weddings.

The Treasurer, Alec Oldham, gave his report on the finances in 2020 and it is printed in full on the front of this newsletter.

Much of the content of the Secretary's report has been reported in previous newsletters. Secretary Pam Vincent added, "During the last year, all PCC members have contributed and worked hard to support our church and to maintain a strong church presence within the community."

The Churchwardens' Report, presented by Chris Holdsworth, highlighted the continuing work needed to maintain the fabric of the church building. The report of the Quinquennial Inspection, undertaken in May, is awaited by the PCC for further planning of necessary work. Thanks were given, "to everyone who has acted as stewards in order to meet Covid protocols and to Alec for his valuable work as Administrator... and... Fr Tim Kaye for his ministry during the vacancy in very trying times."

Copies of the Reports & Financial Statement for 2020 are available in church, *please take a copy.*

St. James Lanehead C of E School

Go to our church website and click on the link to read their newsletter for May.



Burnley Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank by donating at the Spar Shop; the need will be even greater as the year progresses.



Church Opening

St. James' Church is now open for the normal pattern of worship - Wednesday at 9.30am., Thursday at 6.30pm. and Sunday at 9.00am. & 10.15am.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all those who donated this year, the total was **£167.30**. Another £22.50 will be claimed by Christian Aid through Gift Aid.



Vision 2026 Prayer

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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