

Please note that due to COVID and the APCM having to be cancelled these are incomplete reports for 2019. Apologies, we have done our best but like everything else it has been difficult. We pray that these reports give you a flavour of church life during normal times and we remember that our church is still alive and well although different from any previous time in our history. Thank you.

**CHRIST'S CHURCH, HARWOOD
Incumbent's Report 2019
Monday 19th October 2020 7pm via ZOOM**

You may remember that on our clergy Christmas Card in 2018, the verse was from Galatians 5 verses 22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

And in the Lomax Chapel Vic Morley has done a beautiful calligraphy depiction of it. Yes, he's continued to do it for us, even though he & Barbara have moved away now to be near their family.

CCH has always been known as a very welcoming congregation and as we grow in faith and trust in God, he by his HS starts to really bless us and give these amazing gifts:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

Each of us should pray for these gifts for ourselves, especially when challenged by another member of the fellowship – because let's face it we are all human and can have a bad day, lose our tempers, get cranky, be stressed, even be ill and may behave less than graciously towards each other.

And of course, God calls us to love one another – he does not say like everyone, which is very hard, but love one another as Christ loved us.

He loved us so much he was prepared to die for us so we might be set free.

Are we prepared to go the extra mile for each other so that God's church may be built up?

And so to 2019. We have enjoyed fellowship, fun and laughter together, and we have suffered together as well. It has been a year when some have moved on from our fellowship, either to pastures new or to meet their Lord and Saviour, but it has also been a year when new faces have appeared in our fellowship and it is great to welcome new folk amongst us.

In the year Jan-Dec 2019 there were 23 baptisms, 2 weddings, 11 funerals in church, 3 funerals at the crematorium, 3 burials in the churchyard and 16 interment of ashes.

Sadly, in 2019 we lost a number of loved ones from our fellowship and their families including: Margret Counsell, Barbara Walsh, Kathleen Street, Frank Punchaby, Alan Crossley, Len Anthony, Edith Lawrenson, Eddie Batty and Lee Wheatley
Our prayers go out to their families and all who have lost loved ones in the last year.

Thanks must go to our Bereavement Visiting Team and the Pastoral Visiting Team who have been able to get alongside those who are struggling with illness, both mind and body and grief. Also, a small bereavement support team has been meeting monthly to provide fellowship, sympathy and empathy to the bereaved and some lovely friendships have grown out of this group.

As usual you have a set of reports from all the committees and groups that meet in the parish – and it shows just how much we do and how many people we reach through the ministry of the church.

My report fills in a bit more and some "spiritual" events that have taken place here in what has been once again, a very, very busy year.

Services have been held for all the major festivals here in church beginning with Ash Wednesday

and Mothering Sunday, where once again flowers were given out. Palm Sunday is later in my report and then we travelled through the passion before celebrating Easter in fine style with moving and meaningful services which took us right to the heart of what Jesus did for each one of us on the cross.

Ascension Day followed and, in the week, up to Pentecost, the Church of England was once again invited by Archbishops Justin & John to take part on a project called Thy Kingdom Come.

The annual Service of Hope & Remembrance took place on Saturday 15 June meeting the needs of those who have lost loved ones and once again was a very moving and meaningful service.

Our Mission Action Plan really took off in 2019 and as Julia Gordon's report shows it has had an amazing effect within our church and our community. Do read her report in full to get the full story.

There were 2 adults confirmed this year by Bishop Mark Ashcroft, on 4th July here at CCH. We also admitted 3 children to HC prior to confirmation in Church on 14 July.

It is wonderful to see our children and young people grow in faith and Adrienne Morgan, Mike McGarry & Julia Gordon help lead the course which is a real privilege as we get to know the youngsters.

We regularly welcome our uniformed organisations into church for Worship For All Parade services for Harvest, Remembrance & Christmas and this year and although we don't have as many of these services it is good that we still get together and the units play such a large part in our Act of Remembrance each year. The girls provide poppy decorations in the steps of the arch, the beavers make a lovely wreath which is placed at the Cenotaph with wreaths from the Church and the Council. The other boys' groups decorate the church with pictures and poppies and they really make an impact. Thank you.

Following on from last year when Adrienne was ordained Deacon, this year on Saturday 22 June she was ordained priest. It was a lovely moving service and we have seen her grow in authority and confidence. We celebrated with her at church on the day after, Sunday 23rd June when she celebrated at 8.30 and 10.30am and we had a Bring and Share lunch. It was a great weekend.

Harvest followed in October and once again we supported both Urban Outreach and Fort Alice with our produce. The year ended with Remembrance, Advent, and once again very successful Christmas services, including an augmented choir for the Carol Service and ably led by Heather.

For the most part all were good services with healthy congregations and we pray that not only will our numbers grow, but that folk will leave here knowing they have met with our Almighty God, been challenged by His Word, worshipped with their hearts, soul, body and minds and be ready to share their faith in the world.

Kings Club ran from 29 July to 2nd August in St Catherine's with nearly 100 children and the 10.30am service on 4 August was moved to the school. Many families from the area attended. Once again it was a great success. Abby Latham-Holt fronted the event and with the team did a super job. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Our annual Moving On Service was held on 8 September and we commissioned all the leaders. It was wonderful to see the 20+ leaders of our children and youth work all at the front on that day. We also welcomed Connor Harmsworth as our part-time youth worker. He is part of the Children Changing Places Project in the Diocese and is working at St Catherine's spending some time with us each week to help in our youth work too. Thank you for all the work you do with your groups to help them learn more about Jesus Christ. It is great to see our children and YP groups thriving and youngsters growing not only older in ages but in maturity of faith. It was a great event and well supported. We then went outside and had a BBQ on the field. Thanks to all those who over the years have sponsored a child moving from FISH to CC through prayer and a donation towards their Bible.

At the end of the Summer Term Lilian Punchaby retired from leading our Toddler Group and it

was decided to close it and begin again in a different format in the Autumn. This too was part of the Changing Places Project and we received a grant of £2000 towards equipment etc to set up the new group called Little Fishes. A huge mobile cupboard was built at the back of church and each Wednesday from the end of October the church was transformed into a play area for Toddlers and their parents/carers. It has started to really take off. Jenny Plant and Rosie Lund head up a team of volunteers who get stuck in each week. Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

During Advent we had a traveling knitted nativity set that went home with families for 24 hours each. We saw some lovely photos of what they got up to and I believe baby Jesus even went to Morrison's one day too.

Our links with schools through assemblies continue and St Catherine's come into church regularly for services and we provide a communion service each term too.

Awesome has continued apace at St Catherine's, ably led by Adrienne Morgan, with volunteers from local churches. A big thank you to all our CC folk who turn up each week and to those who support the work through prayer or supplying biscuits and juice.

We had teams in the Bible Challenge quiz and our thanks go to those who took part and especially to Robert Molloy and his team who with a band of helpers put the whole event together.

We have continued working with our ecumenical partners here in Harwood, there was the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on 21 January, a Lent Course which travelled around the churches, and, what has now become an institution our Palm Sunday Procession and Walk of Witness with the donkey.

We held an Ecumenical Advent service delivered Christmas cards to all the streets covered by our churches and all were received well.

So, some brilliant things have happened in 2019 and apologies if I have missed something out....

All this just didn't happen though, and as usual there have been loads people in the background making things happen so thank you to every one of you, whatever you do from gardening team to flowers to making coffee to cleaning to... everything! Thank you!

Once again HUGE thanks to our wonderful wardens, Stewart Hargreaves and Rosie Lund who are both doing an amazing job. The help and support they have all given me as Vicar has been greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Mel Wadd our Treasurer, who does a brilliant job keeping us up to date with the finances.

Thanks to the Standing Committee especially Martin Morgan our PCC Sec and Gary Hampson our Vice-Chair.

Thanks to the PCC who have served us well as the PCC report testifies.

We pray that the newly elected PCC will continue to support the CWs, church and clergy with joy and enthusiasm.

Thanks go to Heather, Mike, Julia, Adrienne and our Reader Jane, for their ministry amongst us. They all work so hard to make sure that all our services are not just covered but very often exceptionally so.

Heather has continued overseeing the wedding preparation in the parish which is appreciated by the couples.

Prayer is one of the most important things we do because without it we take God out of agenda — and he is the one who should be setting the agenda. It is His church not ours and we should always remember that. Gail and her team also produce the monthly prayer diary for the whole parish, which means we are praying for the same things each day of the month.

A small group of us meet for Parish Prayers twice a week here in church. The prayer chain is also available for any prayer requests that are urgent and confidential. Then of course, we pray regularly for the sick on our Sunday list too. Please do keep up the good work! We have our prayer tree for those who are stable but long term sick and they are prayed for by name at Parish Prayers.

The Home Groups provide prayer, bible study, support and encouragement to many and if you want to know more see the magazine for details.

Thanks also to our Authorised Lay Ministers, Gail and Alison. We also welcomed 2 new 2 ALMs Rebecca Webster and Martin Morgan who were authorized on 22 September both involved in outreach into the community. Rebecca is working through social media and has started a new website for us which is amazing. Rebecca and Gail also ran an amazing Alternative Prayer Course in our Church Lounge which was recognized with a runner-up award in the Diocese. It was amazing. Thanks to our Lay Assistants and intercessors who enhance our worship so much.

The Parish Office is held on Tuesday Evenings during Term-time where baptisms can be booked and arranging the reading of banns can be done. Thanks to the volunteers who come each Tuesday evening during term-time to welcome people and get forms filled etc.

The Baptism team are here in church to welcome families and get the church ready after the morning services and they perform an invaluable service. Thank you.

Thanks to Stewart who continues to organize the rota of people to run the sound desk as they grow in confidence and ability. Thanks go to everyone who helps with worship from the sound and vision team to musicians: Mike, Ryan on the Laptop, to readers, intercessors, sides people etc etc etc THANK YOU!!

I believe that is just about 2019!

So what about 2020 – well it is off and running and loads of things have already happened which will be reported in full at next years APCM. However, sadly COVID then struck. Our churches closed and it has been hard and painful for many of us but we have endeavored to be church even if the building is closed the church is still open.

Thank you to all who have worked hard to be in touch and in contact with so many.

We should have had our APCM the week after the church closed but it had to be postponed until 19 October 2020, although it is still only a report on 2019. During the last few months various personnel have stood down from their roles:

Stewart Hargreaves – Church Warden, Buildings, Sound, Martin Morgan – PCC Secretary, Aaron Tibbitts – PCC member, Esther Mather – PCC members, Kings Club Admin and Events – more about them in our next APCM in 6 months time! Many, many, thanks to each and every one of them. They have all served our church unstintingly and we miss their input and support. We hope they will continue to serve CCH in new and exciting ways in the future. Once again thanks to you to all.

Christ's Church is an amazing church, filled with the most amazing people. It is a privilege to be your Vicar. I am still always blown away by the way your rise to any occasion, be it good or bad and get stuck in.

Thank you for your support, may the Lord bless you all.

Wendy

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT

Here we are in a new decade. Have you noticed they are passing rather too quickly these days? This last year has seen its usual challenges both positive and maybe not so much. We have started the Little Fishes toddler group in church on Wednesdays and have added the large cupboards at the back of church. The church itself is still in need of a bit of TLC, but more of that in the Buildings report, which may be hard reading. We continue to receive new young families to church but we need to work harder to welcome them and keep them. Younger families are our future.

Again this report wouldn't be complete without us giving our heartfelt thanks to the many people who give up their time, skills and ministry for Christ's Church, in particular, Wendy and our talented Ministry Team and our Sidespeople who assist us in ensuring each service runs smoothly as does the Sound and Vision team who make sure everyone can hear and see what's going on. There are many others to include, House Groups, Gardening Group, Cleaning Team, Lay Assistants, Prayer Ministry Team, Baptism Team, ChYp Team, Coffee Team and finally you the congregation.

Some of them have been volunteering since the last century and, while indispensable, are not getting any younger. We need new people to step up to help. Please pray and reflect on what you can do to help our wonderful church move forward into a new decade.

The coming year will pose new challenges. Changing personnel, financial and building challenges, mission action planning, outreach etc. Our God is a God of mercy and love and He knows what we need. Please pray for our church moving forward.

Churchwardens: Rosie Lund and Stewart Hargreaves

On a personal note, this year, at the APCM, I step down as churchwarden after five years. I have been privileged to be able to serve the church and the congregation during that time. With family commitments growing and the other roles I fill at church taking up time, I'm finding it increasingly difficult to spend the time the job needs. I'm sure my successor will do an even better job. I have to thank Rosie for the support she has given me during what have sometimes been challenging times.

Stewart

Buildings Committee Report

The Buildings Committee consists of the Vicar, the Chair (me), Rosie Lund, Liz Williams, Dave Wood, John Young and Linda Anthony (co-opted). They do a great job and thanks go from me to them.

This year has been a challenge, as all years are when your church building is 180 years old. Our main issue has been the water ingress in the church spire/tower and the damp coming through above the Lomax chapel and elsewhere in the church. These problems will involve re-pointing the tower and, once again, decoration repair inside the church.

In the churchyard we have over 70 mature trees. This year we had a tree survey done and identified the trees in most need. Some of these have dead wood in their crowns and are in need of work. This will begin shortly.

Work has commenced on the eventual Garden of Remembrance next to the path along the school fence and a path has been built to provide access to the cremation memorials at the rear of church (more work will be done on this).

Other small jobs have been completed, such as installing new water heaters in the organ vestry and kitchen/toilet at the back of church (thanks go to Dave Higson for those) and the Church Lounge has had a spruce up. The café continues to go from strength to strength.

Plans for 2020 include making the under stairs storage area and the sound desk safer and, of course, the tower pointing. This is not going to be easy. It is likely that the tower will need at least £40,000 spending on it and while the bulk of that will hopefully come from a grant provider we will need to raise some of it

ourselves. Add to that the £450 we need for work on the trees and, no doubt, a similar amount (if not more) to put right the paintwork in the church and you can see the financial outlay is significant. This all comes at a time when our parish share is rising and our income (giving) is falling. Our church is a wonderful building and visitors often praise it, but it won't remain so by itself. We need to think and pray about what we can do to help, both financially and with our time/skills.

The Building Committee thanks all those who give of their time and effort to keep the church in good order and repair. Let's hope as we enter a new decade, we can keep our precious church as a fitting place to worship God.

Stewart Hargreaves

Secretary's Report on the Business of the PCC

During 2019 the PCC met on a regular basis, all PCC meetings were well attended by both Lay and ordained members of the PCC. During the year Rev Wendy Oliver chaired most of our PCC meetings. In terms of membership of the PCC all changes in the PCC took place at the APCM.

A lot of the things we discuss at PCC is covered in other reports, such as: Events, Buildings, Vicar's Remarks and Finance. What follows here is a general overview of PCC business in 2019.

Finance was a constant feature of discussion at the PCC. By the end of 2019 we paid our Parish Share in full which was very pleasing. However meeting our Parish Share was a struggle during 2019- without the success of the cafe we would have struggled to meet all our financial commitments. There are important considerations to be made in the future about having enough money in the pot to meet our Parish Share, to spend money on essential building work and to give to our chosen charities. On behalf of the PCC thank you to all that you gave over 2019, and we totally appreciate that it's not always about financial giving! 2019 proved to be a very big year in continued growth of our Mission Action Plan (MAP), you can read more details on our MAP in the Vision team report.

In 2019 the cafe continued to be a great success, not only in financial terms, but more importantly we have reached out into our community and provided a warm and welcoming space for the people in our Parish and beyond. A huge amount of effort from our team of volunteers has enabled the cafe to be such a success, thank you so much!

As a Church we take our responsibilities for Safeguarding very seriously and Gina and Rosie made sure all appropriate checks were made in 2019. We continue to make sure we have a team of first aiders (more unsung heroes in the congregation).

As you can see from our Events report, 2019 was a busy year for events, our events team certainly put the "fun" into fundraising. We have a great balance of reaching out, fellowship and fund raising. Please do get involved in our events- volunteering is a great way to forge new relationships within the Church family. During 2019- we launched our brilliant new website- helping us to connect to a whole new audience. A major feature of Deanery Synod discussions concerned the changes to Deanery boundaries-with a proposal to reduce the number of Deaneries in the Manchester Diocese to seven.

I would like to say a huge thank you particularly to all those people who served on the Parochial Church Council during 2019. You have given your time and talents in service to our Lord and saviour. We always try to make sure all our discussions are rooted in Christ and all that we do is to serve Jesus Christ. Also my heartfelt thanks go out to our army of volunteers, every week you make our Church look wonderful, inside and out. But, most of all, Christ's Church continues to be a great place to worship, love and serve the Lord. To each and everyone of you - we make an amazing team, and the challenges we must face in the future will be conquered with faith, hope and Love. Thank You.

God Bless, Martin Morgan (PCC Secretary).

Christ's Church Harwood: Safeguarding Report 2019

The Policy Statement for Children and Young People at Christ's Church Harwood was agreed at the PCC Meeting held on 15th March 2020. A copy of the Policy Statement is attached.

In line with the policies directed by the Diocese, Christ's Church Harwood follows all appropriate procedures, which include Disclosure and Barring Service checks for new volunteers and on a five-yearly renewal cycle. The initial part of these checks is undertaken by Rosemary Lund, with whom I work closely as Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

All necessary documentation has been completed, or in the case of new volunteers is in the course of completion, in respect of all Church volunteers who may work with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. This includes self-declaration checks and references together with full DBS clearance.

The leaders for the Church Annual Holiday Club can vary each year. All new helpers complete the self declaration forms, undergo DBS clearance and complete Safeguarding training prior to the Club week.

The Uniformed Organisations (The Scout Association and The Guide Association) have their own policies and procedures in place to ensure that all leaders and helpers are DBS checked prior to working with young people and also undergo suitable safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

Administration

Christ's Church Child Protection Policy is displayed in Church and the Church Lounge, together with details on contact information.

Training

In the past year, all Volunteers have been updated with the latest Diocesan Safeguarding training, if they are involved with any aspect of working with Children and / or Vulnerable adults. Further training is planned for the coming year.

Additional Diocesan material relating to Safeguarding issues, policies and guidelines may be obtained from me, upon request.

Gina James,
Parish Safeguarding Coordinator,

08 March 2020

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Christ's Church Harwood was represented on Walmsley Deanery Synod by our clergy; Revd. Canon Wendy Oliver, Revd. Heather Molloy, Revd. Mike Frost, Revd Julia Gordon, and Revd Adrienne Morgan and also by the following lay members, Mrs Lisa Charles, Mrs Esther Mather, Mrs Doreen Pearson, Mrs Joyce Vickers and Mrs Liz Williams. Mr Robert Molloy is Walmsley Deanery Budget Secretary and Treasurer.

26th January St Stephen's School, Lever Bridge

Clergy, Deanery Synod and PCC members attended a Saturday morning meeting to discuss the Walmsley Deanery Mission Action Plan and the 'Children Changing Places' project.

There are 2 Team ministries and 3 'stand alone' churches in the Deanery with severe clergy shortages and no Area Dean. However, it was a positive meeting as we shared our concerns and our hopes for the future.

2nd July Christ Church Walmsley

Deanery Synod members discussed the proposed changes to the Deaneries within the Manchester Diocese. The proposals include the consolidation of the current 20 Deaneries into 7 Deaneries and the appointment of 7 new full-time Area Deans. The 3 Bolton Deaneries, Bolton, Deane and Walmsley would combine to become 1 BOLTON Deanery and similar amalgamations would happen in other parts of the

Diocese.

The Bishop of Bolton is to attend an open follow-up meeting of Walmsley Deanery Synod plus to be held on 23 January 2020 at St James Church Brightmet.

17th July St Paul's Astley Bridge.

An evening service took place and Revd Julian Hartley was licensed as Vicar of St Paul's Church Astley Bridge and Area Dean of Walmsley Deanery.
Joyce Vickers.

Mission Action Plan APCM 2019

It's already been a year since we launched our Mission Action Plan!

Last year we had a lot of ideas and we aimed high! But, just as we anticipated, we found that some things were not feasible – so probably not what God wanted us to do - and we were mindful of the need to continually review and challenge some of our ideas. And that was fine.

We began last year with a review of what activities we did, that were inward focused and outward focused. It turned out that 72% of activities were internal (for the existing congregation) and only 28% external (for the community). 12 months later, however, this has been totally turned on its head with 64% external activities and only 36% internally. This is brilliant news in terms of outreach.

But the exercise was not to beat ourselves up about what we had been doing, rather improve and extend what we could do. And it's important to recognise that we were already getting a lot of things right. We already had good uniformed organisations; links with the other churches in Harwood and with the primary schools, not to mention King's Club which has been going for at least 30 years if not more! We had a lot of social events, not all fundraisers that brought our church family and the community together.

We had the lovely bunch of ladies and one gent who take flowers out to various people every week who are ill or just going through a tough time. There's the art and craft groups, a sizeable Mother's Union group who support each other, and others, pastorally; Awesome at St Catherine's; pastoral and bereavement ministry teams, baptism team of helpers, gardening group and FISH.

So, next we looked at what the challenges were in our community and how we were perceived as a church and what we could do to address those challenges.

There was the divide between Brightmet and Harwood with Brightmet residents, in the main, not feeling much of a connection to the church or having any relevance in their lives. There were financial struggles and anti-social behavior which took precedence over building a relationship with Christ's Church.

Withins Action Group had recently formed and were meeting in the Elderdale Centre. The different activities and social issues they were addressing were far more relevant to the community and we as a church should be part of that – and now we are. I attend the Monday sessions and we hold our Messy Church there. Messy Church has been going for 12 months now and although the numbers can be low sometimes, the impact on those who do come is lovely to see and with each session I feel that they are taking it on board that Messy Church is their church and they are open to what is being taught. The food is always popular and that's an added bonus as far as I'm concerned.

The Mobile Food Pantry has opened with Christ's Church providing *all* the volunteers – something which Dave Bagley from Urban Outreach commented on as extraordinary for a church to provide so much support on its own. The food pantry is addressing the food poverty in the area and the links with UCAN are generating resources and relationships with the community.

The Carol Lambert Holiday Project with St James's, Brightmet will be taking 20 children from the Brightmet area to an activity weekend in May, which will, again, help us to build relationships with the

hardest hit families in terms of deprivation.

The Brightmet Cohesion Group is a recent development – it's the local Councils meeting with churches and schools to share information and resources for those most in need and Christ's Church are an established part of that.

The survey we conducted last year also said that "current worshippers are happy in their C of E bubble", that there were no connections between the generations and loneliness and isolation were major contributors to the poor wellbeing of people in the area. So, we ran a discipleship course – which is ongoing – to remind us that we are all called to disciple others, to love and care for each other, as Jesus would want us to.

The Family party we had in January was a great success with many new faces joining us and helping us to build relationships with one another. The Social Media course that Rebecca ran a couple of weeks ago bridges the gap between the generations – improving communication and enabling us all to speak the same language, so to speak.

The Lounge Café has come on in leaps and bounds and we've had some lovely feedback in terms of welcome and loving service.

The new Toddler Group – Little Fishes – is going from strength to strength and drawing in families who are getting to know more about Jesus and the Christian faith.

It was felt that there was a lack of communication and encouragement for people to come to church. So Nikki is in the middle of developing a welcome pack for new people which will include the parish magazine, information on our services and groups, website, a personalized pen and other bits and bobs to help people engage with us on their first visit. Rebecca has done a sterling job on the new website and social media so we can connect with more people.

Open church events, like the family party and a free BBQ, which although had to be cancelled last year because of the atrocious weather, it will happen once we've sorted out where we will be holding it.

Not bad, eh?

However, we can't be complacent and the glory of what we have achieved so far goes to God 100%. The Mission Action Plan is a rolling cycle and the next stage is to review challenges still to be met.

I was at New Wine earlier this week and one of the speakers Nichola Neal talked to us about the fig tree. Remember? Jesus saw a fig tree in the distance and went over to it to eat its fruit but when he got there, there was no fruit. It was all leaves. So he cursed it and it withered. I always struggled with that passage. Why would Jesus curse a fig tree when it wasn't even in its season? Because the fig tree, from a distance, looked like it was doing a good thing – it was flourishing. But look at it closely and it was a hollow pretension. We need to be careful we don't fall into the same trap. From a distance we look like we're doing all the right things, but when Jesus sees us closely, do we bear fruit? Let's not get complacent and pat ourselves on the back – God wants fruit, not just leaves.

So, guided by God's Spirit through worship, prayer and His word, we will continue to be led by the will of God - for His purposes for our future, - confident that, as Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians:

"God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Eph 3: 20).

Julia Gordon

Baptism

Thanks to all who have helped out with the baptisms over this last year, the team is vital in this ministry as they meet the families before the services, so they have a familiar face on the day.

We have had a few changes in our team over the last year, so thanks again to those who have had to step down due to other commitment, and welcome to our new members.

We have had another busy year, and due to members of the team being involved in other things within our church we have at time found it difficult to cover some of the baptism services, but we managed, we are still looking for more help, and not just from the ladies, so gents if you feel you can give up an hour once every other month please have a chat with me or a member of the clergy.

Prayer Ministry

We are all called to a prayer ministry of some kind, personal prayer, fellowship groups or within our parish prayer held during the week, some prayer are answered, and some are not, or we feel they are not, and at time we have to pray for things that are difficult, but all prayer are answered in Gods time and the best for that person or situation.

Along with our prayer list we have on Sunday Morning we also have a wide range of occasions we can use for prayers.

We welcome our new members to our prayer chain team, and now have 5 prayer chains running within our church for confidential prayer request, the prayers are kept on the chain for 2 months when updates are taken, so it can be kept on longer if needed, we have had some amazing answered prayers and we thank God for them, and we continue to pray for those not yet answered.

The prayer tree is as full as ever, with long term or ongoing illnesses, each person is prayed for at our parish prayer time, the pray tree is there for anyone to place a name or situation on and again all prayers requests will be include in our parish prayers, and are kept on the prayer tree for around 2 months.

Our Prayer ministry team have been giving thanks for some answered prayer this year, members of the team are available in the Lomax chapel during and after all the services for anyone who would like prayers for themselves, someone else or a situation.

Names and prayer request can be added to any of these lists by contacting any member of our ministry team who will suggest which would be best.

Gail

Marriage Preparation & Follow up Jan – Dec 2019

There were four weddings in 2019 (plus a renewal of vows). The Marriage Preparation course was delivered on two separate Saturdays as, although one couple had already done their preparation in 2018 a couple who are getting married in March 2020 did the course in 2019. The first day had three couples and the second was done with just one couple at my home, as they could not make the earlier date.

As always the couples came along a little apprehensive and unsure of what to expect, but went away having enjoyed their day if only because they had the chance to spend time, just the two of them, talking about themselves and their hopes for the future.

Robert, as always, was there to play background music at appropriate times, serve tea and coffee, wash up and just be my 'technical support' should anything go amiss with TV or DVD player; there were no technical hitches this time but I am really grateful for his presence during the day and we get to have a few minutes every now and then when the couples are talking together, which is lovely.

The day runs from 9.30 until around 3.30, there are several breaks for drinks and biscuits and a buffet lunch is served at 12.45. The couples spend a significant part of the time on their own, just the two of them, sitting

at a table with a pretty tablecloth and little posy of flowers (kindly arranged by Pam); talking while music is played quietly in the background so conversations cannot be overheard. This is a gift from the church to the couples, no charge is made – and they even get to take their flowers home at the end of the day.

I am registered online with the Life Events Diary (previously called the Pastoral Services Diary) which sends me reminders of when certain things need to be done; such as when to send a card inviting couples to hear the reading of their banns or a card to congratulate them on the first anniversary of their marriage. These things help us to stay in touch with the couples more during the run up to their weddings and also to keep some sort of contact with them for a while after their marriages.

For your information, at this moment we have two weddings booked in for 2020, and four for 2021. Please pray for this ministry as we seek to both equip couples for marriage and also forge links with them for the future.

We really need someone to step forward to continue this ministry as I will be stepping down in four years or sooner and need to be able to ease people into the role before I stop. You do not have to be ordained to do this and it would be ideal if a couple could take it on. Please prayerfully consider whether this ministry is something that you could be involved in and have a word with me to find out more.

Heather Molloy

FISH Annual Report 2019

We have had a consistent number of children attending Fish throughout 2019, with the number of registered children being around 40 which is comparable with recent years.

The challenge continues to be ensuring that the sessions are relevant and appropriate for all ages, as we have a number of younger children (3 and 4 years old) through to children who are 10 years old. The Bible Curriculum resources provide a good structure and, in most cases, can be adapted to include a younger audience.

We have 6 Fish leaders who have now been in place for a number of years and provide great support in delivering the sessions.

CC – Church Collective

The leaders were Eleanor Molloy, Simon Webster, Martin Morgan, Alison Young. Adrienne Morgan and Julia Gordon were leaders until summer 2019. We thank them all very much for the support they've shown for CC during 2019.

There are 14 children on the register. The Sunday morning sessions were held in term time in the church lounge, except when it was the family service, when we were in church. During the session we shared a snack, news and prayed for each other, our families, our friends and for the wider world. We used the online resources from Scripture Union's Lightlive as a basis for our discussions.

Connor Harmondsworth joined us in September, we welcomed him and all that his understanding of youth work, enthusiasm and witness brought. He was commissioned with all the leaders of the children and young people's groups at the moving on service. Following this service, a BBQ was shared with the families and friends of all our young people. A very enjoyable bowling event took place during the October half term holiday for our CC members and leaders. Connor lead our new Monday evening group, which started early in November, for Years 6 and 7 - 6pm until 7.15pm, and years 8 - 7.30pm until 9pm. The group shared music, games, challenges and discussions based on the Bible.

A very successful Christmas celebration was held, beginning with pizza and followed by bowling.

House Groups Report 2020

House Group membership has again decreased this year – 43 as opposed to 47 last year - owing to illness and bereavement. A new daytime group started on Wednesdays at 10.30 in the Church Lounge, but owing to illness and other commitments it had to be paused for a while and will restart (hopefully) after Easter (new members welcome). However House Groups continue to meet as follows:

Tuesday 8pm	Julia Gordon	24 Fellside
Tuesday 8.00pm	Stewart & Helen Hargreaves	14 Ashurst Close
Wednesday 10.30am (after Easter)	Gail Spence	Church Lounge
Wednesday 7.30pm	Jane Mann & Martin Morgan	435 Hough Fold Way
Thursday 8.00pm	Fred Vickers / Roger Berry	10 Appledore Drive
Friday 7.45pm	Peggy Hilton / Sandra Longbottom	24, Fellside

Sadly Fred Vickers, who has led the Thursday House Group for years (dare I say decades?), has been ill for some time, so a special thank-you to Roger Berry (and his resources assistant Lynn Mortimer) who has taken over leadership of the group during Fred's absence.

During the year two of our groups have studied John's gospel, Hebrews, the "Whole of Life for Christ" Course, and an Advent Course (one of which was entitled "Making Room for Jesus", while one group studied "The Uniqueness of Faith", and another a Lent Course. One group learned about the early Church and its struggles in the letters of Colossians and Philemon and in a series of studies entitled "People Like Us" found it fascinating to see the people of the Bible facing the same struggles as we do centuries down the line. Well-known figures like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, and Peter have been studied, as have more obscure characters like Gideon, Hannah, and Dorcas.

Wading through the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Deuteronomy and following the Jews on their journey to the Promised Land helped one group to understand the Laws which the Jews still hold on to; and when they followed Paul's missionary journeys in the New Testament they were provided with printed maps of Paul's journeys as well as diagrams showing specific places such as the tabernacle in the desert and the walls of Jericho – brilliant visual aids which bring the stories to life.

The groups feature study and prayer each week, refreshments are usually provided at some point in the evening, and some groups often finish the year with a Christmas party, a quiz and wonderful food (not to mention drink and/or a meal out.) – in fact one group has a party at the end of each term!

However long we have been Christians we find the discussions stimulating and a valuable addition to our faith and daily living. We share readily and are very willing to learn from each other. All are free to contribute to the discussions or just to listen; and we feel that the time that we meet is an oasis in the midst of a busy life. Fellowship is comforting and prayerfully supportive to those members who struggle with challenges during the year. Clearly there is a varied programme to choose from and if you would like to join one of the House Groups, you will be given a warm welcome at any of them. And of course we all feel that we need the fellowship, friendship, and support which the House Groups afford in a non-threatening atmosphere in which we can ask questions (including what you might think are 'stupid' ones), express our doubts, deepen our faith, share our joys and sorrows, pray for ourselves and others, and get closer to God and each other.

House Groups are where we laugh and cry and importantly where we are fed spiritually and empowered to live the life to which Jesus has called us. When will **YOU** come and eat with us?

Mike Frost.

Men's Group Report 2020

Christ's Church Harwood Men's Group began in March 2011 and during 2019 we met as follows:

Mon 28th Jan 8pm in Lounge - Sheila Dale presented The Eddie Stobart Story;
Fri 5th April 7pm - Visit to Men in Sheds at Earls Farm with Chris Massey;
Fri 7th June 7.30pm in Lounge - Brian White presented the Amazon and Andes Photo Exhibition.

Unfortunately I have closed the Men's Group owing to lack of support and insufficient funds. On Friday 7th June there were 2 others besides myself for an amazing Amazon Photo Exhibition which cost £48. Owing to a few generous donations we still had £85.00 in the kitty, which I gave to Urban Outreach, our chosen charity.

However this is not all bad news, as I shall continue to arrange (courtesy of Terry Kirane) the occasional walk and pub lunch and also the popular Christmas meal, which was once again at the Blundell Arms in 2019.

Mike Frost.

EVENTS

Dave Wood continues doing a great job as chairman of the Events committee along with his many other roles in church. Thank you Dave.

The committee have met regularly throughout the year. The events which took place in 2019 are:

Saturday 9 th February	Rosemere AODS did a music evening in church, this was very well attended and much enjoyed.
Saturday 27 th April	Spring gardens and graveyard clean-up with shared lunch.
Saturday 8 th June	A Free BBQ was planned at Brightmet but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to terribly bad weather.
Saturday 22 nd June	Adrienne's Priesting at Manchester Cathedral, a very joyous occasion.
Sunday 23 rd June	A lovely shared lunch to celebrate Adrienne's Priesting.
Saturday 13 th July	Summer Fair, another successful event and we were blessed with good weather.
Monday 29 th July - Friday 2 nd August	Kings Club, another successful year, the children were amazing. We really do need more volunteers for this event, please give it some thought and prayer, it's a fabulous week.
Thursday 17 th October	Chocolate Evening, this was a really good event enjoyed by many.
Saturday 2 nd November	Family Firework evening, very well attended & much enjoyed.
Friday 15 th November	Annual Dinner Dance at Brightmet Golf Club, a great evening enjoyed by all.
Saturday 23 rd November	Christmas Fair & Tree Festival in church, a successful event.
Saturday 30 th November	Church clean-up day, could have used more volunteers.
Sunday 15 th December	Christmas Bring & Share Lunch in church, this was very well attended and provided great fellowship & fun.

These events take a lot of planning and hard work, BIG THANKS go out to all who were involved in the planning, organisation & lifting & carrying (believe me there's a lot) for the above events.

A lot of us, in fact most of us on the committee are not getting any younger and do struggle when it comes to moving furniture, boxes, erecting marquees, gazebos etc. and other heavy work, it would be nice to have a list of young men (or women) who we could call on to come and help with setting up and clearing away

when we are having an event. Please give this your consideration and prayer.

Of course none of these events could have taken place without the tremendous support of our congregation, friends and families. Thank you for buying the tickets, bringing in items to sell and generally joining in the fun. Please continue to give us your support, a lot of these events provide good outreach to the community.

We are always ready to listen to suggestions so please have a word with one of the team if you have an idea for a future event or if you would like to join the team who are :

Rev Wendy Oliver, Dave Wood, Sue Wood, Esther Mather, Rebecca Webster, Rod Ashworth, Pam Cliff, Liz Williams, Elaine Shuttleworth, Doreen Pearson, Rosie Lund, plus the CC catering team Rebecca Webster, Elaine Shuttleworth, Stewart & Helen Hargreaves, Martin & Adrienne Morgan.

Esther Mather.

Cafe Report

The café has been running since 14th June 2018 and I recently presented a 6 month update to the PCC. I thought it would be good to share some of the facts and figures from the first 6 months. I hope you find it interesting!

In terms of footfall - Over 1200 customers served – an average of 46 per week

Hot drinks sold - 1135

Cold drinks sold - 80

Slices of cake sold - 846

Savoury snacks sold - 431

Best selling drink is Americano!

Average income £124.35 per week

Average spend per head £2.70

Trendline shows a upward trend

We've had some lovely feedback from our customers who've said things including, "such a fabulous café, everyone was so nice. Thank you for an excellent coffee", "I loved all the little touches from the door mat and welcome sign to the homely feel", and "What a great café run by great people! So much better than a coffee shop chain!"

The café has been an overwhelming success in terms of outreach and engaging with the wider community. We have an extremely dedicated and passionate team of volunteers who either work in the café and/or bake on a regular basis. We wouldn't be able to continue without their support and we are very grateful to them.

The income from the café has already paid for some much needed improvements to the lounge building which I'm sure you've all seen. We have more plans for improvements in the near future.

We will review the café again in January 2020.

Rebecca Webster

CHRIST'S CHURCH HARWOOD MOTHERS' UNION

" TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD".

PSALM 37 : 3

" Listen, Observe, Act - instep with God " was the Mothers' Union theme for 2019. Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in 1876. Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity with a global membership of over four million members in 83 countries who are sharing God's love practically as they support families and communities in their particular context.

Our branch meetings begin with hymns, prayers and a time for sharing our concerns and our good news. Throughout 2019 our members have enjoyed a varied and interesting range of speakers; topics including:- February - Saints B to V, Retail Chaplaincy, LEARN, Lost villages, Woodbine Willy, Wildest parts of Britain, , spiritual care in healthcare, Christmas crafts and stained glass A-Z. We held our annual fun auction and members and friends enjoyed a Summer lunch and a Christmas meal at Harwood Golf Club.

There have been Diocesan and Archdeaconry events and we have taken part in the Mothers' Union " Wave of prayer." We have joined with other branches for the annual Spring and Autumn deanery meetings and for the Walmsley Deanery Mothers' Union Festival held this year at St. Maxentius Church, Bradshaw. Members have partaken of Holy Communion at meetings throughout the year and we have held a service to celebrate Lady Day. Our Lenten devotions included the Service of Compline and our Lenten discipline of Prayer Partners. At the start of Advent we enjoyed an afternoon of carols, readings and seasonal fayre.

Members of our branch contribute regularly to various Mothers' Union projects, financially, materially and spiritually. In 2019 our donations to Mothers' Union charities included: £100 to the Overseas Fund, £200 to the Relief Fund, £25 to AFIA (Away from it all), £25 to IMPC (Indoor members' prayer circle) and £50 towards our Mothers' Union Diocesan projects in the university, prisons, hospitals and for the virtual babies. We support the "Make a Mother's Day " appeal - give an ethical gift on Mothering Sunday and support the Mothers' Union around the world. We donated £20 for Christmas gifts for young women in the Beeches Hostel. Members of our branch regularly donate items for Fortalice and in 2019 we donated Mothering Sunday and Christmas gifts for the mothers in the refuge. Members generously donated £274 to the charity " LEARN," Lifechanging Education for All in Rural Nepal.

Members of our branch are involved with the Baptism Ministry within our church family, including visiting and welcoming families. A member is responsible for the church Baptism Register and distributes Baptism anniversary cards, up to and including the 4th anniversary and we gave Mothering Sunday cards to mum's, grandparents and carers in our Mums and Toddlers group. All these cards are provided by members of the Mothers' Union. Members are also involved with prayer ministry, pastoral visiting, marriage preparation days and working with young people. As individuals we undertake many roles within the life of our church and the community.

In 2019 our branch membership grew to 34. Prayer and fellowship are the mainstays of our branch, we share happiness, sadness, encouragement and inspiration and it is a pleasure and a privilege to be a member of the Mothers' Union.

In December 2019 I stepped down as Branch Leader and on Sunday 1st December Hazel Kirane was commissioned as new Branch Leader of Christ's Church Harwood Mothers' Union.

The Mothers' Union theme for 2020 is , " In Hope and Confidence" and looking forward, on the 14th December 2020 Christ's Church Harwood Mothers' Union will be celebrating our 100th birthday.

On Wednesday, 1st July 2020 at 7 30 pm the Walmsley Deanery Mothers' Union Festival will be held in Christ's Church Harwood - "An Evening of Celebration"

As we look forward to the future we will build on our heritage, living out the Mothers' Union vision and mission in a 21st century context," in hope and confidence".

" PRAISE FOR THE PAST !

FAITH IN THE FUTURE. "

Joyce Vickers.