

## All Saints Anchorsholme - Report to AGM 2011

### **Reflection**

"I have come that you might have life," said Jesus "life abundantly, life to the full."

The disciples found it hard to keep up with Jesus, but were glued to him. As the established Church of England we are called to serve (be here for) our community, our Parish, which we welcome and consider a privilege. We are also called to follow this lively, holy maverick Jesus, through whom, and only through whom, we have the life-transforming presence in which we can fulfil all.

And so, another year on in the lifetime of All Saints, and we find we are able to continue the activities we celebrated 12 months ago, we have established fresh links and activities within our parish, and everything we have done and do has been touched by the Holy Spirit of God.

We remain centred on Jesus, rooted in love, and looking outward in our mission to serve.

### **Prayer**

The patterns of public prayer, from the weekday 7.30am meeting, the weekly 10.30am, and the fortnightly 8.00pm remain essential gatherings. We also gather for half-nights of prayer, and January saw the beginning of a Fylde churches prayer network, in which we took active part.

Prayer is integral to every gathering in Jesus name, whether for formal fellowship or informal recreation. And prayer is, as it should be, as natural as breathing to all who are called of God.

All Saints remains a key venue for prayer for our nation and the world through the ministry of the monthly Prayer Barn, whose members have largely taken up the call to be part of a national prayer network for revival, set up county by county.

Prayer Ministry is available from the Prayer Ministry Team formally after every 10.30am service, and during the receiving of Holy Communion at the 10.30am and 6.30pm services.

### **Formal Worship**

The Sunday pattern of a prayer book service at 8.45am, a more contemporary styled service at 10.30am, and a more reflective service, allowing variation, at 6.30pm have continued to serve the congregation's needs. Throughout the year we have seen a steady stream of people welcomed into services, always finding refreshment and testifying to the relevance of what they experience. Alongside the main services, the quarterly 'parallel' service in the Hall is looked forward to. The overspill of the growing activities of the Kids Club is also encroaching pleasingly into Sunday worship at 10.30am, and causing natural development of All Age Worship in response to what is being found to be effective in engaging in young people and their families.

The Worship Music Group has grown in members overall, and developed a different style of leadership under Barry Chiver's and Amanda Campbell's guidance. Different members of the Group regularly take responsibility to choose worship songs and styles along-side the service leader and preacher. There is a greater diversity of styles with a stronger sense of unity and purpose.

Following consultation with our local Primary School, and building on established links, School Church started in September 2010. It is a project to establish a worshipping congregation for children and their parents at the School, based around them learning and worshipping together. So far 'Messy

Church' activities have provided an excellent basis, and we are seeing slow but steady growth. It meets fortnightly on a Wednesday after school.

Other opportunities to engage with the community in worship remain well-established and popular. The school use the building for Christmas and Easter and Leavers' services. Carols in the Car Park was very popular at Christmas, and the Christingle Service was the best attended service over the season. Likewise, the Remembrance Service, to which many invited people came to remember their deceased loved ones, was packed.

Rev Keith Ashworth continues to lead worship monthly on Wednesday morning. Opportunities are arising to conduct worship in other locations in our parish which we hope we will develop.

Outreach activities initiated last year have led to an established presence at Warren Drive, SevenOaks Community Centre, and the Nightingales Care Home. At SevenOaks and Nightingales we have a monthly service of worship, and conducted a Carol Services at all three last year. Relationships between staff, residents and church are very fruitful.

The parents and toddlers group that runs on Thursday afternoons continues to provide a vital meeting place and oasis for families with pre-school children, which is not readily available elsewhere. The songs and stories shared are enjoyed just as much as the opportunity for everyone to play and talk.

Ecumenical involvement has grown on the activities established last year, with All Saints hosting the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. Shared services with Anchorsholme Methodists are now part of the calendar.

The 'Building Project' completed its work on a future All Saints, imagining a diverse church presence, united in purpose, but dispersed at different places in the community. The ideas will be tasked for development to a PCC group.

From needs highlighted by the Building Project report, and the Key Leaders feeling of a need to celebrate our identity, particularly this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, the PCC agreed a 'statement of belonging' to commend to the church:

We, as members of Christ's Church at All Saints, agree...

- to spend time in prayer daily, worshipping and interceding
- to read the Bible prayerfully, seeking to hear and listen to God's living word
- to belong to a fellowship group to grow in love with others,
- to seek God's leading into ways to use our time, talents and money, as God gives, to the life and work of the church
- to share in ministry with others as God leads.
- to regularly attend public worship to bear witness to, and proclaim, the gospel
- to seek to witness to God's saving power in our daily lives

As in previous years, Brian Rowe has carefully compiled our Mission Action Plan (MAP) which is submitted to the Diocese. It gives us a comprehensive view of what we do, and how we are achieving the goals we set ourselves. The PCC also agreed on four short-term priorities to prayerfully focus on seeing develop this year. They are:

1. outreach to young people
  - seeing involvement of new young people in new ways
  - seeing involvement of their families
  - 100 at the next Holiday Club

2. church building-based work for single people, focused to address social needs  
(we are seeing steady growth in work to older single people outside the church building)
3. culture of mutual care  
nurture of the wide range of groups we have to be effective  
want to be ready to respond to needs emerging from the recession
4. media presence  
to see investment in our website to be an active ministry through internet  
to develop and manage our publicity effectively to witness to and share Jesus

### **Junior All Saints (JAS)**

We continue to be blessed with plenty of children and young people at All Saints. JAS continues to be focal point of our young people's teaching. All sessions are Bible based and provide a fun environment for our youngsters to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

Due to a higher than normal movement between Eureka and TGWNN, our oldest group has seen the biggest increase in number. Two of the members of this group were confirmed last year, and another member has joined the welcome team.

All Age Worship has benefited from regular contributions from our JAS groups, with the 2010 Nativity being truly special.

### **TGWNN Mid-week group (alternate Thursday evening)**

This is an extension of JAS and meets specifically to engage with young people in school year 8 or higher who are unable to join us on a Sunday (currently the majority are aged between 12-14). During last year the focus has been one of 'reaping' (from Youth Group) and as a result 17 members of Youth Group have attended TGWNN, with many now regulars.

The group will commence a new series called CY Nano in March 2011, which is the teenage version of Christianity Explored. The approach has similarities to Youth Alpha and will require a significant prayer commitment during the first half of 2011.

### **Youth Group**

Weekly attendance was lower than the previous year (the average for 2009 was 39 per week), however this has provided an opportunity to build more meaningful relationships. It's great to report that we received answers to our prayers, with many of the young people encouraged to join the mid-week version of TGWNN.

During the year the fellowship were invited to share gifts and talents with the young people, and this quickly became a popular and regular feature. The year has started well with the current average around 44 per week.

### **Shipshapes**

Shipshapes provides a safe and caring environment for children of junior school age to have fun and socialise. The evening starts and ends with structured games, with a pause half way through for refreshment and a message (usually a Bible story).

The group has seen a slight reduction in numbers (averaging around 20), with very few children from JAS. This has resulted in a focus to really outreach into our local community, and provides a natural feed into Youth Group (currently there are a lot children in the final year of junior school).

### **Kids (Holiday) Club**

The Holiday Club, running for the second time this year for the last week in August 2010, has grown into Saturday events and Sunday 10.30am services, running in October, December and March. At each event, many of the same children (pre-school and primary age) have taken part, some with no other connection to All Saints. It has been good to see parents coming along also.

## **The Future**

Whilst it's great to reflect on the past and in particular the highlights, we also need to look to the future. The two biggest challenges facing us in our children's ministry are:

- Engaging with an increasingly un-churched society where so many young people are now being raised by parents who are also un-churched; and
- Retaining our older children with so many given the freedom to choose whether they come to church at an increasingly younger age

In grappling with these challenges we will need to be even more flexible in the way we minister to our young people. In recognising that this trend is unlikely to change quickly we need to commit even more of our time in prayer for this vital aspect of our ministry.

All Saints have qualified for the 'Child Friendly' Award which is being presented in April

Steve Green

## **Outreach Ministry**

Though overseen under the watchful eye of the Mission Group, outreach is embedded in all our activities, and has many facets. A sub-group, for the specific planning of Anniversary Year events, was constituted to run along-side, also under Arthur Broadhurst's supervision.

Specific events this year included social events such as the Barn Dance, Quiz Nights, and a Church Meal in Scorton. Weekend events were also organised around the visit of Paul and Sarah Tester, one of our Link Missionaries.

The Alpha Course proved once again to be an indispensable tool, run once between Sept and Dec. In particular, it was instrumental in drawing new members of church into fellowship. The START course ran once, and has been used in a homegroup setting, but otherwise has remained 'in the box.'

Plans to run a marriage enrichment course and a parenting course were not brought to fruition this year, but remain firmly 'on the cards.'

Progress has been made with the Church Website, but may be subject to a more structural review in the light of plans to make a concerted effort to use media more effectively, as indicated above.

Our approach in making the reality of the gospel known is generally through welcoming people to 'Belong,' giving them the opportunity to see and 'Believe' for themselves, and in coming to faith equip them to 'Behave' as disciples of the Lord Jesus.

## **Fellowship and Teaching**

It is an arguably unique feature of All Saints that God has drawn together such a family of individuals with diverse experiences and backgrounds, welcome because of, and with, their unique experiences and

testimony of God's saving power. We have so much to share with each other, and an exciting challenge to receive and live out God's message to us.

And, equally, we are blessed with many teachers, formal and informal, and a diversity of opportunities to learn in different ways, geared to different ages. As with use of media, the challenge is to make ourselves aware of what means there are to learn (and teach) and to take the opportunities available.

Our main service teaching programmes have been put together by Hannah Boyd, Karen Herschell, Jess Rowe and Stef Dnistrianskyj and have covered the Work and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the first book of John, Proverbs, Bible Characters and Parables of the Kingdom.

Homegroups follow their own teaching programmes, which range from Bible Books, Bible Topics, Contemporary Films and Books, Church History and Church Praxis (e.g. Tear Fund), as well as Activity to put into practice received teaching! Nexus seeks to explore topics of interest with a view to asking tough questions of scripture; the Ladies Fellowship and Tuesday Break both actively give an audience for outside guests.

We rightly expect teaching to be Biblically based, Spirit-led, relevant, challenging and inspiring.

### **Caring**

'By this will all know that you are my disciples, because you have love one for another.'

Whether it is by a stray smile, a remembering of a name, the beauty of a flower arrangement, the quiet removal of smear marks from the door, a card, a meal, a prayer shared only between you and God, care is endemic in All Saints, and care inspires care. It is reflected beyond the walls of our community, in Fair Trade and with our Mission Partners, but most of all it shapes our attitude to everything. It is not to be neglected or taken for granted, but we need to continue to encourage each other by our examples.

More formally, the Association of Christian Counsellors Pastoral Course was run successfully in the Autumn, mainly to church members, and has broadened the pastoral skills available to the church. The listening service at the Olive Branch Cafe, instigated by Norma Elkington, has become widely used, and is being made available at SevenOaks.

We welcomed Andrew Ducker as a newly licensed Pastoral Assistant in September 2010. Andrew had fulfilled this role as a member of St Thomas's, and continues his involvement in the Visiting and Prayer Ministry Teams.

Though run through its own Board, the Playgroup is an integral part of church, and is part of our care for the community. This year has seen the day-to-day running pass from Annie James (formerly Greaves) to Jane Loveland. Jane, as well as completing her EYPS (Early Years Professional Status) qualification, has skilfully taken over the multi-faceted responsibility that Annie developed so well over her time with us. She has made changes, including improvements funded from successful grant applications, but most of all has worked hard to provide an effective learning and nurture environment for our young clients, as well as a working environment to enable the ministry of her staff.

### **Financial activities in 2010**

We have prepared the accounts in the usual way using the accrual system which conforms with instructions both from the Diocese and the Charity Commissioners. A copy of the balance sheet and receipts and payments account are available to members of All Saints at this meeting. Further reports giving details of our charity giving are also available for those who require them.

The balance sheet shows a small deficit of £1,258 although we have made adjustments for Gift Aid owing from July to December 2010 of £7,401. We have forecast a budget deficit of £10,000 in 2011 due to reductions in Hall rentals with the loss of the booking for the After School Club (£9,000) and a small reduction in Gift Aid. If however we are able to secure a small increase in giving from the fellowship we are hopeful that all the Mission and Children's activities can continue to be fully funded by the Church.

The treasurer and I would like to thank the members for all their financial support to the Church especially at this time when we all have extra demands on our disposable income. Thanks is also due to all who help with the management of the finances, John Cookson with the Gift Aid, Christine Wilks for the recording of the accounts and Ian Bedford our Auditor. There are also banking, recording of envelopes and weekly counting duties which need to be completed, thank you to all who help with these tasks which are so important to the smooth running of our Church.

The All Saints PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. All Saints PCC banks with Yorkshire Bank PLC, 12a Crescent East, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 SLR. All Saint PCC accounts are audited by Mr Ian Bedford, Chartered Accountant of 52 Luton Road, Thornton-Cleveleys.

#### **Legal and Administrative Information**

The parish of Anchorsholme, All Saints, Diocese of Blackburn.

Correspondence address: All Saints Church, North Drive, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 3HT, 01253 823904.

#### **Oversight of the Church**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the body which oversees the work of the church, co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It is made up according to the rules of the Church of England, consisting of the Vicar, 1 Lay Reader, 2 Churchwardens elected annually, 4 Deanery Synod representatives elected tri-annually, and 15 members, elected for 3 years each, with 5 retiring each year. Currently we also have 1 church member serving on Diocesan Synod, and therefore also a member of PCC. All elections take place at the church's annual meeting held in accordance with the rules of the Church of England.

The current membership (April 2011) is as follows:

Elected:	Hannah Boyd, Arthur Broadhurst, Peter Brooks, Barry Chivers, Grant Davies, Steve Green, Karen Herschell, Ethel Hinton, Irene Kendall, Ian Marsh, Peter Munro, John Rawlings, Brian Rowe, David Tarbuck, Mandy Taylor, Steve Wardle, Ian Wilks.
Deanery Synod:	Edith Bate, Judith Bleakley, Marjorie Ellison.
Diocesan Synod:	Richard Bibby.
Ex officio:	Rev Stef Dnistrianskyj, Jess Rowe.