

**The United Benefice of
Barlborough and Clowne**



*Annual Report of the
Parish of St John the Baptist, Clowne*

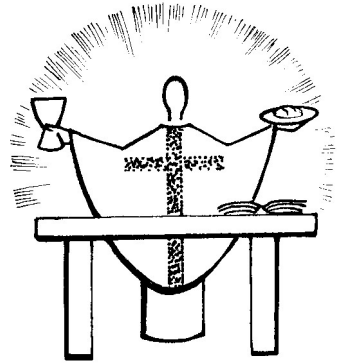


Sharing God's love in Clowne

2019-2020

Rector's report

This is a bitter-sweet report to write this year as I am writing it, not in the Spring but in the Autumn after our APCM was postponed because of the coronavirus. Having said that, I'm delighted that it is already my second annual report and I feel tremendously privileged to be your Rector. In these difficult times, I have been trying to encourage us to seek out the good and this report intends to do that by reporting on all we did together in 2019 in three interconnected areas:



WORSHIP

Our monthly Recharge Service is becoming a good part of our monthly routine, offering a service that is slightly different and more interactive so that if children are present they can join in too. A particular highlight in 2019 was the Plastic-Free Harvest Festival – we were able to get onto local radio to talk about this and attracted some new people to the service.

It was special to have our very first service of Stations of the Cross using our beautiful new stations bought in memory of Gerald Pears. This service was led by Rev'd David Hull who had also hung the stations on the wall.

Our Thursday morning eucharist in the Miners Chapel continues to be an oasis of calm for those who attend.

We began a Finding Faith course for seekers in March 2020 and I intend to relaunch this course using online video meeting tool Zoom.

Going forward: Since the pandemic we have had to adapt the ways in which we worship and we have seen a great deal of growth not just in personal faith but in new people accessing our worship via many different means both online and over the phone. What I am now calling 'hybrid' worship will be the new norm and I am excited by the possibilities.



Learning about reducing plastic at Harvest in 2019

Clowne Infant School comes to church for Christmas



EVENTS and COMMUNITY

We made a successful bid to Tesco Bags of Help that enabled us to create a beautiful mosaic for our Miners Chapel. I'm sure you'll agree that the chapel is now one of the must-see parts of our church where before it was a forgotten corner. The refurbished chapel is a beautiful place for quiet private prayer and for our Thursday morning Eucharist. It is also a lovely setting for wedding couples when they are signing the register.

The big highlight of 2019 was our Mining Festival that we ran over the weekend of our Patronal Festival in June. The intention was to launch our new community-created mosaic to the public alongside an exhibition of Mining heritage from Clowne History Society. We had glorious weather which enabled people to sit outside in the sun and reminisce. Local traders came and created a festival atmosphere outside selling local produce including honey and beer! It was a wonderful community event enjoyed by all and the added bonus was that we raised around £1000 for church funds. It was agreed that we would run similar festivals in future years.

In September we had our first 'Plastic-Free Harvest Festival' working in conjunction with Plastic Free Clowne. This attracted some children and new people to church and I would like us to see how we can connect more with tackling Climate Change as a church. We also had a successful Harvest Supper at Ashgate Hospice Coffee Shop raising funds for Ashgate Hospice and church.

Another highlight of the year was our Christmas Fayre which again raised a tremendous amount of money for church. A huge thank you to all involved.

Going forward: We need to find new creative ways of doing community events. We would love to build on the success of the Mining Festival in future years. One thing we are going to introduce is the ability for people to make donations via card ('contactless payments') in church and also donate to church

CHURCH BUILDING and MISSION

The church building has had some work done on it in 2020. The major change has been the introduction of the mosaic to the Miners Chapel which is now one of the first things I show visitors when they arrive at our beautiful church!

Our Mental Health support group Safe Space Clowne continues to meet and is becoming a much needed service in the area – we regularly get referrals from mental health workers. We have a core group of people attending this group and benefiting from a ‘safe space’ in which to chat, drink tea, eat cake and experience hospitality – a key part of what the church should be doing. I see Safe Space as one of our key areas of mission for the whole benefice, sharing the love of God with those most in need in our area. I am delighted that this is truly a benefice mission involving volunteers from Barlborough as well as Clowne. A big thank you must go to all the volunteers who keep this group going on a weekly basis. It is through this ministry that we have found a few people exploring faith through our Finding Faith course.

Our ministry continues not only in our building but also online. We have an active Facebook Page (facebook.com/stjohnthebaptistclowne), a weekly email newsletter and a joint benefice website at bcjj.org.uk. This online presence is vital in reaching those on the edges of our church life.

We purchased a new photocopier for the benefice in 2019 which has seriously changed my life! We can now produce high quality colour copies and also folded and stapled booklets at the click of a button. This has been almost like having an administrator – it has really saved a lot of my time. After we got the new photocopier we launched in 2019 a paper newsletter called the Clowne Herald. This has worked very effectively – we have already had a wedding booking from this advertising that we wouldn’t otherwise have had. It turns out people do still like to receive a physical newsletter and they like to pass it on to friends. It also boosts our profile in the village as a loving and active church community.

A quick pandemic note: of course the new photocopier enabled me to produce the Upper Room, a vital communication newsletter sent out during lockdown and providing a much needed link to church life, especially for those who are not online.

I continue to work closely with Clowne Infants and Clowne Junior and Heritage schools and we have had children into church again for a Prayer Space experience which is proving to be really helpful for children's mental health. I have also had visits from local cubs and scouts.

Going Forward: we are doing further work to improve the new burial of ashes plot in the churchyard. We also intend to refurbish the lychgate in memory of Stan Needham who died in 2019 (and who originally erected the lychgate in the 1970s).

THANK YOU

None of these exciting things would have happened without the enthusiasm and sacrifice of all of you. I am now feeling very settled in the parish and I'm looking forward to what we can do over the next few years to really make an impact for Christ in our community. May the people of Clowne know we are Christians by our love.

Thank you to the PCC members for all the work you do. Special thanks must go to the Church Wardens Hilary Wignell and Roger Street to the PCC Secretary Molly Carpenter for keeping me straight and working hard to keep our church running smoothly.

I am so sad to be writing this after the death of our dear associate priest Rev'd David Hull. David has left his mark on all of us and I am glad that one of the last services he took in the church was to use the Stations of the Cross that he had put up in our church in memory of Gerald Pears – we'll also remember David now each time we see them. David's love and ministry to so many in our parish will never be forgotten. Thank you for everything David!

Thanks also to Rev'd Adrian Murray-Leslie for your part in our church life both liturgical and practical.

It's also been a pleasure to have Malcolm Pyatt on placement with us from Brimington Parish Church and we wish Malcolm all the best for his curacy as he leaves us.

A big thank you to Judith Paddock our vergier for doing so much behind the scenes and ensuring our church is a welcoming place to be.

Thank you must also go to our steadfast organist Arthur Stamper who faithfully serves us come rain or shine.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” - John 13:34-35

My hope and prayer is that we will be a church that is at the heart of its community, providing a safe space for people to encounter God and know that they are loved and also providing families with experiences they will never forget. I hope you will join with me in praying for renewal in Clowne and for Christ to be made known in this place.

Rev'd Bryony Taylor, Rector



PRAISE
the
LORD!



Charlotte Milner with the new mosaic. RIP Charlotte—oldest person to help with the mosaic!



One of our 2019 weddings



Evan enjoying our Plastic Free Harvest activities



Harvest Supper 2019



Church full of visitors at the Mining Festival 2019



Our new Mining Mosaic

Treasurer's Report Commentary to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Overview

The Church has made a profit in the year of £2192.

This is a fantastic result compared to last year which was loss making and is down to increased income over the period.

The proactive efforts to increase income, such as the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme and the Mining Festival have been very successful. Voluntary Giving in the year has also increased, both planned giving and collections in Church significantly.

Income & Planned Giving

This is made up of Gift Aid Direct Debits, Parish Giving Scheme and the Envelope scheme. Income is up by £1.5k this year due to maintaining the envelope scheme collections whilst increasing the Parish Scheme collections via new donators and automatic annual inflation increases. The Envelope scheme brought in on average £210 per month and the Parish Giving Scheme £525. (Compared to last year's £240 and £370.)

Collections

This is made up of the Gift Aid envelopes collected in Church along with the cash donations. Both up this year. Gift Aid brought in an average of £140 per month and plate collections £400 per month. Compared to last year's £80 and £275. Meaning extra income this year of £2.2k

All other Donations

This category covers any other one off Donations received during th year, such as from the Friends Scheme or Ladies Townend Fellowship. The £2000 received from Tesco is included here, so if this was excluded the amount would be similar to last year.

Gift Aid Recovered

This is high in the year as two claims went through. 2017's return had never been completed. So 2017 and 2018 claims make up the £3403

Charlotte Pearson

	Current Year 12 Months to Dec-19	Prior Year 12 Months to Dec-18
Incoming Resources		
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>		
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	8,909	7,449
Collections	6,511	4,279
All other Donations	3,140	1,376
Gift Aid Recovered	3,403	2,318
<u>Events & Activities</u>		
Statutory Fees retained by PCC (weddings and funerals etc)	4,298	4,512
<u>Fundraising</u>		
(Christmas Fayre, raffles etc)	2,348	1,870
<u>Income From Trading</u>		
(Hall Lettings, Book Sales etc)	3,938	4,356
<u>Income from Investments</u>		
Deposit Account Interest	453	323
Total Receipts	33,000	26,483
Resources Expended		
<u>Related to the work of the Church</u>		
Diocesan Parish Share Contribution	19,195	18,636
Clergy & Staff Wages & Expenses	2,538	1,731
<u>Church Expenses</u>		
Service Expenses	605	748
Insurance	2,935	2,867
Repairs & Renewals	2,625	3,718
Church Utility Bills	1,278	994
Admin & Sundry	582	708
Depreciation	1,051	519
Total Payments	30,808	29,920
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	2,192	- 3,437
Balance B/f	101,849	105,286
Unrestricted Reserves for the Year	1,502	
Designated Funds for Miners Chapel	440	
Designated Funds for Safe Space	250	
Revaluation on Investment	427	
Reserves	104,468	101,849
Statement of Assets and Liabilities		
Tangible Assets	9,456	4,667
Investments	2,561	2,134
Loan	600	3,000
Cash at Bank	91,620	91,911
Cash in Hand	231	138
	104,468	101,849

Going Forward:

We will be introducing a system which will enable people to give donations online and also via a contactless payment machine in church, this should increase donations especially at occasional offices and also our fairs and fundraisers. It will also enable us to run online fundraising events. This is more necessary than ever since the pandemic as people use less and less cash. Please consider signing up to give regularly to church via the Parish Giving Scheme, it gives us an excellent cash flow without the need to count money out and pay it into the bank physically and gives you peace of mind as well for when you are not able to get to church.

Thank you very much to Charlotte Pearson for running our accounts so well for us.

Our Parish Giving code is: **120612060**



PARISHGIVINGScheme

To set up giving to church by Direct Debit
ring (Mon-Fri 9-5)

0333 002 1271

You will need your bank details and
name of church you want to give to.
It takes about 15 mins. Thank you.

Deanery Synod Report

We have three synod representatives at present, Molly, Wendy and me, but the number per Church has been changed, so in future we will have just two. I have completed my three year stint so will no longer be a representative. During the year there have been three meetings, each following a similar plan:

- Opening with prayer and welcome.
- A presentation/speaker.
- Business meeting.

1st Meeting. 18th June 2019 St. Giles Church, Killamarsh.

This meeting was based on “Church Planting”, considering the need for, and development, of new Churches and where would we plant one. We should ask :

Where does God want us to be? Where do we need a Church?

Where do we NOT need a Church? Where would we plant such a Church? Schools, colleges, empty shops in shopping centres, any other suitable building.

2nd Meeting. 2nd October 2019 St. John`s Church Newbold.

Entitled “Faith Pictures”, this meeting considered how easily, or otherwise, we can talk to people about our faith and how we feel about discussing a very personal subject. We were given some suggestions of “starter words” to begin a conversation in the hope of easing the process of getting people to talk about Faith.

3rd Meeting. 5th February 2020. St Thomas` Brampton

The presentation at this meeting was based on vulnerable children and adults sucked into the sordid world of County Lines, the drug trafficking system running through the country. Given some tell-tale signs to look for, we were urged to be alert for concerning signs and follow the procedure for reporting these, contacting: the safeguarding officer the incumbent, the diocesan safeguarding team. The synod is now at the end of a 3yr cycle, the next begins in July. A levy of £24 per representative has been agreed, therefore we will pay £48 for two representatives. I have found the meetings very interesting and informative and hope our representatives will continue to keep our Church in contact with the deanery.

Hilary Wignell

Church Wardens' Report

The past twelve months have been varied, successful, imaginative and very interesting.

Services have been covered by Rev. Bryony Taylor, Rev. David Hull and ordinand Malcolm Pyatt, on Thursdays, Sundays, all special Church celebrations and service visits to the village nursing homes.

All equipment maintenance checks have been carried out : the tower clock, organ, boiler, PAT testing of small electrical goods, with the fire extinguishers and lightning conductor to be done soon. Roof maintenance, particularly the possibility of a leak, is currently being investigated.

The fitting of carpet on the stairs and balcony saw the completion of a job which has made our Church look much smarter. A recent radiator leak from the back pew suggests we should have the system drained and flushed.

Early in the year work began on planning and making the mosaic, now fitted to the front of the altar in the miner`s chapel, a memorial to miners of the area. The headgear candle holder was donated by the Local History Group.

On our patronal festival weekend we held the Mining Festival, a great exhibition provided by Mr.Allan Bailey and the history group, attracted many people making the event a great success.

A very valuable asset has been the introduction of Safe Space, providing a safe space for anyone suffering mental health difficulties to meet, have a chat and a cuppa. Increasing numbers of people attending prove its usefulness and success.

Rev. Bryony`s closer links with our schools have resulted in groups of children from the junior school coming to Church for “prayer space” meetings, the effects of these being appreciated by the children, teachers and parents.

The harvest supper, at the hospice cafe and the Christmas fair were great successes, raising valuable funds and furthering connections with the community.

In the Churchyard a new cremation plot has been made and is now in use. We are in further communication with the council regarding grass cutting and tree maintenance.

Many people have worked hard through the year, for which we say thank you, those thanks going specially to Rev. Hull and Rev. Bryony for her hard work and imaginative inspiration, without which many of these reported details would not have happened.

Hilary Wignell

Flower Arranging Report

Short and sweet. There are two of us arranging the flowers in Church, Brenda Gauntley and Hilary Wignell. Brenda has the help of a friend, not a congregation member of St John the Baptist Church. We would very much appreciate some help. Flowers are funded from the general account of Church and personal donations.

Hilary Wignell



Electoral Roll 2020

We currently have 50 people on the electoral roll. Sadly some church members have died this year.

Samuel Clarke

Hybrid Church!

We have had to be creative to find ways of enabling all to worship with us, this is how you can worship with us now, have you tried them all?

Online provision

Visit our website <http://bcjj.org.uk> to find our daily prayer podcast, our services and sermons all in one place.

All services are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel after broadcast live. To find our channel put 'Barlborough and Clowne' into the search bar on YouTube. If you have a smart TV you may be able to watch our services on your TV!

Phone provision

Dial a Sermon is always available. Ring **01246 388487** to listen to this week's sermon at any time of day or night.

We have a Phone Church Communion Service every Thursday morning, 9.15am Clowne, 10.15am Barlborough. Dial **0333 0164 757** and then dial 51074674 # this is the Room Number, and 5602 # this is the Guest Pin. You can dial in from a mobile or landline and the call is either free (if you have bundled minutes in your contract) or local cost. You're welcome to join either service!

In Person Provision

We have a Sunday Eucharist each week at 10.00am in one of our churches. Church services are live streamed on Facebook and then uploaded to YouTube with the words on screen to follow at home by the evening.