

**The York City Centre Churches
of All Saints Pavement, St Denys,
St Helen with St Martin, and St Olave**

**Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2016**

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

**Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 7.00 pm
The National Centre for Early Music, York**



Election of Churchwardens & Annual Parochial Church Meetings to be held on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 7.00pm in The National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate followed by refreshments.

Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Appointment of clerk
3. Apologies
4. Election of Churchwardens. Nominations in writing in advance for each parish. In the event of more nominations than places, voting will be by parish. Only those on the electoral roll or who are resident of the particular parish may vote.

To note that the Admission of Churchwardens will be on Thursday 11 May 2017 in York Minster at 7pm

Annual Parochial Church Meetings Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 meeting.
3. Electoral Roll officers to report the numbers at 31 December 2016.
4. Report of PCCs for 2016. Summaries from secretaries
5. Safeguarding officers reports
6. Accounts & Financial Report for 2016. Summaries are included in this report

Full accounts and financial reports will be on the notice boards in the churches at least 14 days prior to the APCM.

A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting.

7. Church fabric and terrier reports.
8. Reports on church mission and ministry
9. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner as appropriate.
10. Election to PCCs.
11. Election of Sidespeople. Nominations to be received before the meeting.
12. Election of Deanery Synod representatives.
13. Priest-in-Charge: closing remarks and prayer

There will be a short meeting of the new PCCs immediately following the APCM to appoint the officers of the PCC:

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer

Where appropriate, two or more PCC members to the Standing Committee

[this applies at least to St Olave's]

Electoral Roll Reports

At 31 December 2016 the electoral roll numbers were:-

Electoral Roll 2016	All Saints	St Denys	St Helen with St Martin	St Olave
Number on Roll	94	58	42	208

Proceedings of the PCCs 2016

The PCCs of All Saints Pavement, St Denys, St Helen with St Martin and St Olave continue to meet regularly. The churchwardens and lay chairs from all of our churches meet with the clergy to discuss strategy and the challenges facing each PCC and church. We have all been pleased to note that the full time post has been filled and the work will commence later in 2017.

The duties of a PCC secretary include drawing up a draft agenda, taking minutes at meetings, dealing with the APCM paperwork etc. Each PCC must meet at least four times per year. The agendas include finance, fabric matters and worship. We give thanks for the work of the secretaries:-

All Saints Pavement	Joanna Finlay
St Denys	Maxine Waller
St Helen with St Martin	Kingsley Boulton
St Olave	Janet Fox

St Denys

PCC Summary: We continue to hold regular signed services at St Denys Church; these services draw many folk from around the county and have become extremely popular. At the beginning of the new year, Mr Stephen Clarkson, our long-term signer, resigned but the vacancy has been ably filled by a team of trained signers.

During the early months of 2016, St Denys Church Hall became a hub of activity, attracting volunteers from the local community and beyond. The volunteers helped with the distribution of various supplies to the flood victims of 2015.

In May 2016, our first round HLF Grant application, for repairs to the North Aisle, was approved. During 2016 investigations were carried out and possible causes of movement in the North Aisle were found. In support of this a Fund-Raising Group was formed to help raise valuable funds towards these repairs. During 2016 the Fund-Raising Group arranged and organised various events and activities including: York Residents Weekend, York 50+ Festival, various concerts and performances. During these events, St Denys Church revealed itself as a joyous contributor to the wider community and wonderfully embraced the diversity of cultures in York, whilst raising much needed funds.

Maxine Waller

St Helen with St Martin

The St Helen with St Martin Parochial Church Council met five times in 2016, and the Standing Committee twice. The PCC discussed various issues relating to the fabric of the two churches and to worship. Decisions included: the funding of the organ scholarship by the PCC; the purchase of new albs for servers at St Helen's; and a contribution towards the cost of reinstating the two bells at St Helen's.

Kingsley Boulton

St Olave's

The St Olave's Parochial Church Council met 6 times during 2016, with the Standing Committee meeting on 2 occasions. The meetings were chaired by Revd Jane Nattrass, our Priest-in-Charge. The sudden death of George Wells, a long serving member of the PCC and a dedicated and supportive Churchwarden, was deeply felt by all and his contribution will be greatly missed.

The year saw the completion of the work of replacing the nave roof, and plans being considered for the improvement of external access to the church and the installation of toilet facilities within the building. This has involved the investigation of and applications to a number of grant making trusts, along with various fund-raising events. Involvement in the city's Medieval Weekend in July proved a great success with a variety of stalls and events being organised both in the church and the churchyard. It is hoped that this will become a regular celebration.

The 'Ideas Exercise' begun in 2015 is still on-going with group members being encouraged to report back on the plans being made. The PCC was asked to think constructively about the mission and outreach of the church and to contribute practical ideas in areas covering 'Discipleship', 'Family' and 'Weddings'.

Janet Fox PCC Secretary. St Olave with St Giles.

Church Fabric and Terrier Reports

All Saints Pavement Fabric Report

Applications for the grant of Faculty. In 2016 we petitioned and were granted Faculty:

- a) To Improve part of the Churchyard of All Saints Pavement (granted 22 February 2016).
- b) To lay up the Standard of the Women's Section of the York Branch of The Royal British Legion in the North Aisle of All Saints Pavement (granted 24 January 2017).
- c) To conserve the Benefaction Boards on the two pillars at the West End of All Saints Pavement and the 'Haughton Trust Board' situated over the porch in the North Aisle (granted 24 January 2017).

Fall of the South Clock face. This was covered in the report to the APCM for 2015. Work to replace the fallen clock face and to carry out repairs to the South Aisle roof was completed in June 2016 under Faculty granted on 9 December 2015. The cost of this work amounted to £33,340.94 of which £24,971.54 was met by the Church's insurers and the balance of £8,369.40 from church funds.

All Saints Pavement Churchyard: Work to carry out improvements to the detached churchyard were completed in April 2016. This was carried out under Faculty granted on 22 February 2016 as a joint project with York Civic Trust, City of York Council and the PCC of All Saints Pavement. The total cost amounted to £11,800 which was met by City of York Council, Guildhall Ward City of York Council, The Feoffees of All Saints Pavement, The Feoffees of St Crux, The Company of Merchant Adventurers, Costa Coffee, High Ousegate, The Mary Clive Legacy, The Company of Butchers of the City of York and by the PCC. A fourth memorial bench was installed in the Autumn at no cost to the PCC.

High Level Inspection. Since the 'fall of the clock face' the PCC has instituted an annual high level inspection by the church architect and stonemason. This was carried out on 7 December 2016. Some relatively minor defects were found and were rectified on 2 March 2017 as List B Items approved by the Archdeacon on 2 February 2017. The cost was £1,272 (including VAT).

Minor Works to the Church: Annual safety inspections were completed of the boiler, CCTV system and fire-fighting equipment during 2016. A five-yearly inspection of the electrical wiring was carried out in September 2016 and minor remedial work was completed in early 2017. In addition, routine maintenance was completed on all rainwear, the exterior lights and several other minor areas.

St Crux Graveyard: As previously reported part of the retaining wall on the old St Crux Graveyard in Hungate collapsed in 2009. Legal advice was sought from the Diocesan Registrar in whose opinion the responsibility for repairs rests with the City of York Council even though the land is the property of the PCC of All Saints Pavement, as a churchyard closed by an Order in Council dated 11 December 1854. Barry Crux, Surveyor has been appointed by the PCC to assist it with the resolution of this matter and to negotiate on our behalf with the Lady Hewley's Trust for them to occupy the land under licence with a view to them turning it into a garden for use by the residents of their adjacent alms houses. Due to the lack of progress a Formal Complaint was submitted to the City of York Council on 15 December 2014 and this was subsequently raised to a Stage 3 complaint on 11 July 2016. Due to intervention by a Councillor and by the Chief Executive of City of York Council, the Council has now accepted responsibility for rebuilding the collapsed wall. The Council is currently working together with the Lady Hewley's Trust to prepare drawings and agree costings and so forth to allow us to apply for Faculty. Progress remains painfully slow but hopefully and at long last a solution to this long-running problem is in sight.

James Finlay

St Denys' Fabric Report

As usual for several years now, our main concern (apart from day to day maintenance) is the increasingly worrying state of the north aisle, which for some time has been parting company with the rest of the church. Thanks to a Stage 1 (development stage) grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund we have now really begun to get to grips with the problem. Grant-funded investigations directed by our architect Andrew Boyce (and attended at the outset by Giles Proctor of Historic England) began in July. What was found was neither unexpected nor very encouraging. A trench dug just outside the western end of the aisle proved that this part had scarcely any serious foundations at all. It also produced, almost as soon as we broke ground, no fewer than eight sacks of disarticulated human bones, almost certainly dumped there after they had been dug up when the new tower was built in 1846. Archaeologists were of course in attendance, and subsequent analysis of the bones showed that they represented at least 15 adults and three children, probably medieval in date. They will in due course be properly reburied.

Further investigations showed not only that the west wall itself was in poor condition but also that it concealed a perished Victorian iron bar, intended to support the west window but now bowing up to force its tracery badly out of true. Further east, the buttresses of the north wall had deteriorated badly: according to a faculty of 1928, they were in a bad state even then, but nothing was then done and they haven't improved since.

Meanwhile the north aisle's famous medieval glass was also surveyed, and not surprisingly found to be in urgent need of conservation. A survey of the roof also found at least one rotten rafter, but another review at least proved we have no bats! A programme of rectified photography was also undertaken, which should prove invaluable if and when we can undertake the fairly extensive north aisle repairs--including major underpinning--which the investigations proved beyond all doubt are vitally necessary. So, at the time of writing, we wait on tenterhooks to see whether our application for a Stage 2 ('delivery stage') grant from HLF to do the work will be successful. And even if (fingers crossed) it is, there will be formidable fund raising tasks ahead to top up the HLF funding. Watch this space.

Charles Kightly, Churchwarden

St Helen and St Martin

Matters relating to both churches

We inspected both churches visually in February 2017. They are weatherproof and watertight and we have no particular concerns. There has been no material damage or issues in the year. The biannual regime of gutter and roof inspection with appropriate cleaning of drainage gullies is proving beneficial. Our inspection showed that the roofs are clean of detritus and no drains are blocked.

Both gas installations have been inspected and issued with safety certificates.

The Smartwater protection on both churches was renewed by us in the Summer of 2016. This conforms to the manufacturer's recommendation.

The insurance cover for both buildings and contents has been revised and renewed.

The security of the interiors of both churches remain a source of concern as the PCC policy of leaving the churches open but unattended does mean that vigilance and frequent usage is important.

St Helen Stonegate

The rood cross fixings were examined and found to be sound. This check was prompted by our insurance company. There is no record of any such check in the past so no doubt this was overdue.

The ingress of water into the north wall from the flat roof of part of our neighbours properties appears to have been successfully stopped by the works undertaken in the Summer of 2015. The rotten damp plaster was removed so that the stonework beneath could dry out. It was replaced with lime mortar in the Summer of 2016. The wall was then repainted in January 2017, bringing this renovation project to an end.

The bell restoration project was delivered as planned in the first months of 2017. The two bells were successfully removed in January 2017 and taken to Whitechapel for conservation. They were found to be sound. The bell cote flooring and anti-pigeon netting was renewed. A new frame was commissioned from Whitechapel so that the bells could be rung once again. Automated hammers and a control system were installed so that the bells can be operated from within the church. They will also sound the hours and quarters automatically. The bells were reinstalled on Monday 6 March 2017 and tested satisfactorily the following day.

St Martin Coney Street

This church received major attention during the year. The project involved the cleaning of the East End window and stonework, the renewal of much eroded stonework on the Coney Street elevations, conservation of the ruined pillars in the courtyard plus the renewal of the drainage channel to the top of the ruined north wall of the courtyard.

Our Feoffees continue to provide very necessary financial support to the parish in respect of the considerable maintenance and conservation costs and certain regular expenditures too. In addition we have raised approx £8500 from other trusts and donors as contributions to the bell restoration project. We are extremely grateful for all this generosity which has encouraged us in the delivery of the various works.

Anthony & Margaret Hammersley

Churchwardens

3 March 2017

Churchwardens' Fabric Report—St Olave's

Our report begins with some sadness as we record the unstinting work of George Wells who died during his office as Churchwarden. Much of this report is a result of his work.

Following the obtaining of a faculty we have had made a new clergy board and during 2016 this will be painted and sign written and hung in the entrance to the bell tower opposite the existing board. In addition an organists' board will be installed next to the organ.

2016 has been an eventful year as regards the Nave Roof., work which was planned in 2015. A faculty was obtained with an original cost of approximately £137,000 with a Government Grant Receivable of £78,000 under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. Work commenced in September with a completion of the middle of January 2016. Following the removal of the temporary roof, three major problems were discovered.

a. Rotting boards above the ceiling. This had been caused by water retention in a horsehair quilt, between the ceiling and the roof boards.

b. Rotting beam ends and completely rotten roof plates (the wood which sits on the top of the walls to affix timber)

c. An 11 metre section of the wall parapet at high level was swaying (above the South Aisle).

Due to all of the extra work the total cost has risen to £371,344.00 and with internal scaffolding required inside the church to support the roof. A decision was made to close the church with effect from 27 December 2015. and we returned to church after Easter 2016. We were very grateful to Holy Trinity Micklegate who welcomed us for services.

During 2016 we have applied for various grants and launched an appeal which is going well and we hope to be back in church in late April with all the work being completed by late May.

We obtained a faculty and in early 2016 planning permission from City of York Council to do the following:-

1. To reconfigure entrance steps with a ramped path outside the north door together with a handrail.
2. Introduce a disabled assessable WC with associated drainage.
3. Re-siting of benefactions board and a flag.

This work will be completed by Easter 2017

Churchwardens of St Olave's

Sidespeople, Money Counters' and Washing of Silver Report

Thank you to all who have given their time this year to the setting up for church services, welcoming the congregation, tidying up and counting the offertory money – the help is much appreciated.

Special thanks to those who have helped this year:

Nina Wilson, Paul Walker, Jacqui Edwards, Andrew Brownlie, Christine Stanton, Barry Jubb, Doreen Gurry, Malcolm Smart, Gill Pace, Ruth Sillar, Richard Lambourn, Maureen Steel, Ann Hall, Jeremy Brooks, Steve King, Roger Lake, Lucy Hunter, Carol Pugh, Claire Howard, Vera Silberberg, Ann Macrory, Mike Hampton, Gail Murdon, Toni and Kate Nacz, Mike Thunder and Margarete Wells.

Liz Backhouse

Further Reports

Amnesty International Letter-Writing Group

For some years now a small group has met each month to write letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience. A number of cases are highlighted by Amnesty International every three months. Both the cases and the countries vary but they usually involve a serious infringement of human rights. There are instances of torture and maltreatment, of the failure to follow correct legal procedures, of unfair trials, and of the perpetrators evading justice. Normally we write both to the head of state or other senior official in the country concerned and to their ambassador in London, expressing our concern and asking for appropriate action to be taken. Very occasionally, a reply is received and sometimes we hear news of the individual's release. Even if nothing is heard, our letters and those of other groups and individuals remind officials that those who are imprisoned for promoting human rights or for the democratic expression of their views have not been forgotten by the outside world.

We would very much welcome new members to join us in this important work. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 11 am in the Upper Room at St Martin's, following the 10 am Eucharist. Stationery and address labels are provided, together with coffee and biscuits, and guidance if you have not done this before.

Kingsley Boulton

St Olave's Bellringers

We have not been able to ring as often as we would wish for Sunday services because of a lack of members. We hope that a band of ringers can be sought.

St Martin's Bellringers

A regular band of bellringers continues to ring on the first Saturday of the month before the 10.00 am service and at other times when a request is made. We have welcomed visiting ringing bands and are always pleased to offer such hospitality.

Foodbank

Sam Smith at St Denys' continues to collect food on behalf of the foodbank. We are grateful to Sam who collects and delivers the food on our behalf.

Coffee and Chat—Fellowship after Services

Thank you to a whole host of people from across the churches who ensure that refreshments and fellowship after services is the best it can be. They provide food and drink, but most importantly, a time for us all to meet with one another and to welcome strangers.

St Olave's Coffee Team

The year 2016 proved to be very successful - with copious amounts of tea and coffee served (sometimes with cake and goodies) and the 'teams' jog along very well together. We can even boast a few 'stand ins', which bodes well for the future. I think, however, we have also enjoyed our rest while we were worshipping at Holy Trinity Micklegate

Molly Harris

Extracts from Accounts — full copies are available in the churches

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
		£	£	£	2016	2015
					£	£
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	34,448	750		35,198	25,357
Income from investments	2(b)		981	71	1,052	1,335
Church activities	2(c)	17,331	2,245		19,576	17,527
Other incoming resources	2(d)	45,725	-		45,725	29,839
Total Incoming Resources		97,504	3,976	71	101,551	74,058
Resources Expended						
Church activities	3(a)	102,888 -	4,597		98,291	64,668
Governance costs	3(b)	-	-		-	-
Fundraising costs		315			315	451
Staff costs	4(a)	571			571	671
Net Incoming Resources before other recognised gains and losses		103,774 -	4,597	-	99,177	65,790
Gains on investments			13		13	29
Net Incoming Resources		- 6,270	8,586	71	2,387	8,297
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2016		187,393	107,543	3,714	298,650	290,353
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2016		181,123	116,129	3,785	301,037	298,650

Extract from Accounts. Full copies are available in church
St Denys Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
		£	£	2016 £	2015 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary receipts from donors					
Planned Giving	2(a)	1,765	-	1,765	1,740
Income Tax Recovered				-	-
Other giving	2(b)	2,399	13,569	15,967	225
Collections	2(a)	5,555	260	5,815	5,264
Legacies		2,164	10,009	12,173	2,000
		11,883	23,837	35,720	9,229
Other voluntary receipts					
Activities for generating funds		4,098	1,682	5,780	1,895
Receipts from church activities		1,427		1,427	2,638
Investment income		54		54	667
					62
Total Receipts		17,462	25,519	42,981	14,491
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities					
Contribution to Diocesan Common Fund		5,000		5,000	5,000
Other Payments	3(a)	7,611	16,839	24,450	13,011
Total Payments		12,611	16,839	29,450	18,011
Excess of Receipts over Payments (payments over receipts)		4,851	8,681	13,531	- 3,521
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2016		6,888	8,429	6,888	18,837
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2016		£ 11,739	£ 17,110	£ 28,848	£ 15,316

**Extract from accounts. Full copies are available in church
St Helen with St Martin Receipts and Payments Account**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
		£	£	2016 £	2015 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Income	2(a)	12,986.00	647.17	13,633.17	11,281.18
Income from investments	2(b)	189.58	-	189.58	220.18
Church activities	2(c)	14,457.49	600.00	15,057.49	13,558.97
Other incoming resources	2(d)	71,613.40	2,000.00	73,613.40	49,567.58
Total Receipts		99,246.47	3,247.17	102,493.64	74,627.91
PAYMENTS					
Church activities	3(a)	96,365.94	1,980.45	98,346.39	79,632.21
Governance costs	3(b)	600.00	-	600.00	600.00
Total Payments		96,965.94	1,980.45	98,946.39	80,232.21
Excess of Receipts over Payments					
(payments over receipts)		2280.53	1266.72	3547.25 (5,604.30)	
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2016		54,434.98	-	54,434.98	60,039.28
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2016		£56,715.51	£ 1,266.72	£57,982.23	£54,434.98

Extract from accounts. Full copies are available in church.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Olave with St Giles

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
		£	£	£	2016 £	2015 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	74,613	46,195	-	120,808	65,611
Charitable activities	2(b)	6,251	-	-	6,251	4,477
Other trading activities	2(c)	14,495	-	-	14,495	13,806
Investments	2(d)	1,710	-	2,891	4,601	6,719
Other	2(e)	29,000	122,785	-	151,785	78,450
Total income		126,069	168,980	2,891	297,939	169,063
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	3	111,786	295,907	-	407,693	160,712
Total expenditure		111,786	295,907	-	407,693	160,712
Net income/expenditure before gains and losses on investments		14,283	(126,927)	2,891	(109,754)	8,351
Net gains/(losses) on investments		17,738	-	-	17,738	9,719
Net income/expenditure		32,021	(126,927)	2,891	(92,016)	18,070
Transfers between funds		(126,927)	126,927	-	-	-
Net movement in Funds		(94,906)	-	2,891	(92,016)	18,070
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2016		147,583	-	417,732	565,315	547,245
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2016		£ 52,677	£ -	£ 420,623	£ 473,300	£ 565,315

Church Halls

St Denys' and St Olave's halls are available for hire. In addition, All Saints' Pavement has use of the St Sampson Centre twice a year. St Olave's hall in particular is well used with many organisations making use of the facilities.

St Denys Church Hall

Our much-loved and much-used church hall--built in 1948 as a 'short-term measure'--had a thorough make-over last year, including an effectively new kitchen and new loos,. This has meant that we have seen an increase in usage in 2016.

St Crux Hall

The refurbishment of the kitchen area of St Crux, planned for the first six weeks in 2015, was unable to take place due to the delay in receiving confirmation that we did not require Planning Permission for this proposed work. However, we did not despair and the work was rescheduled to take place in 2016 instead.. It has been completed and we are pleased to be able to welcome many charities who raise funds and awareness of their work.

We were pleased to welcome an initiative to feed those who require food on Sunday mornings. The success of this meant that St Crux quickly become too small for the work and it was moved to The Spurriergate Centre. This is a 3 year project under the auspices of the PCC, with responsibility of the weekly management delegated to Dave Hobman, Reader.

As usual, the hall has been in great demand with some new charities, churches, etc. coming on board for the first time, together with the usual stalwarts! The few "returns" which I received were quickly snapped up by those on the Waiting List, so everyone was happy.

The bookings for 2017 dates opened in September and as a result nearly all the available dates have been taken up, with Saturdays being the most popular and Fridays now a close second.

Dorothy Lee, Bookings Secretary/Treasurer, St Crux Parish Hall

St Olave's Hall

The hall continues to be used regularly: the choir holds some practices, and Junior Choir [Tuesdays] in its room, occasionally providing a musical background for a group in the main hall.

Regular weekly sessions are held by many local groups and we accommodate bookings so maximise the income of the hall. It has been used for many purposes, including birthday parties, Mothers' Union and other religious groups, City5 youth socials, etc, and we are a regular polling station.

Our charges compare favourably with other similar venues, and we have the advantage of Marygate carpark next door. I am grateful that the accounts are maintained as part of the church funds.

Once again warmest thanks are due to Mrs Gloria Stead, for opening and locking the hall; she and Steve Turner keep it clean..

Vera Silberberg

Communications

We are grateful to Peter Wells and others who help to communicate what is going on in the parishes, including Kingsley Boulton who issues the service information. We record our grateful thanks to Vera Silberberg on the prayer diary, with Janet and Doreen Fox alongside Vera. Thank you.

Phone app and Music Clips

We continue to make good use of the phone app for use with smart phones. You can download the app for free—search for York City Churches. Each plug-in has 360o photography, information about the church and a welcome section etc; it is used by visitors and also by clergy when discussing services with wedding couples. They then send links to their family and friends so that they too can see where the wedding is taking place ... and that leads to youtube clips of the music for their weddings; it has transformed singing at weddings.

Touch Base Magazine Report

Touch Base continues to be produced monthly, with gaps in Summer and at Christmas. The estimated readership of the paper version is about 400, based on an average print run of 230 copies. *Touch Base* is also published online at www.yorkcitychurches.org.uk/magazine/, and a hit counter shows that this site is being accessed fairly regularly. In February 2016, the editorship of the magazine passed to us. We have unstinting support from Louise Amende, Jane and from the congregations. We all benefit from the highly professional service given by Louise Amende, who takes each edition through its final stages, including printing and distribution. We are grateful to all who send in regular contributions or one-off items. Please keep sending them to us. The deadline for submissions is the 22nd of each month, except August and December, and your contributions will always be welcome. Please send them to touchbase@yorkcitycentrechurches.org.uk.

Alison Prewer and Lucie Hunter

Website and Facebook

Thanks to Andrew Hingston and Peter Wells for continuing to move us forward with our communications. The website and Facebook page are updated regularly; it is now easier to edit and amend the website which helps enormously. We are able to see how many people view the sites—the record goes to St Denys, helped by students who performed a play in Advent through *The Lords of Misrule*. Their friends ensured that over 2,000 people knew that something special had happened. Being a large and active group of churches, we have plenty of colourful and exciting events to report, week by week, and thus spread the good news about what is going on around the area, and indeed around the world.

Our Facebook page is linked with the online edition of *Touch Base* at <https://sites.google.com/site/yorkcitycentrechurches/>, as well as the website for the city centre group at www.yorkcitychurches.org.uk from which you can reach the individual websites of all seven churches in the group (this also enables you to access the timetable for services for the month and other useful information). We also share posts from St Lawrence's, as well as the Diocese, the Church of England and other similar sites.

Jane

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Group meets three times a year and looks at issues relating to pastoral care across the parishes. The current membership is: Jane Natrass, David Simpson, Kingsley Boulton, Mary Brooks, Margaret Eyre, Janet Fox, Tessa Helstrip, Monica Lawrence and Tony Hunt, and we have just been joined by Liam Page.

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting we have continued to explore ways in which to welcome people and ensure that those who should be visited or be offered Communion at home do not fall through the net. It is thus important for clergy, Readers and the pastoral co-ordinators to be alerted to such needs.

The pastoral co-ordinators are:

All Saints Pavement: The Revd David Simpson

St Denys: The Revd Jane Natrass

St Helen with St Martin: Kingsley Boulton

St Olave: Janet Fox

We also continue to focus more generally on the needs of older members. Members of the Pastoral Group always welcome ideas, suggestions and being made aware of particular concerns.

Kingsley Boulton

Community of the Cross of Nails at St Martin's

The Community of the Cross of Nails in York, based at St Martin's, has had an active year; it organises Reconciliation Events: with focus on 4 events per year and a community of prayer

International Peace Day,

Holocaust Memorial Day,

Receiving the Bethlehem Peace Light

An annual lecture on Reconciliation.

Rev'd David Simpson sends out a prayer for peace each month. This is to a prayer community with membership via e-mail. Please do ask David if you would like to join in.

The United Nations International Peace Day was marked with a Peace Pilgrimage. The Civic Party and others joined us for a walk through the city. Starting at York St John University, prayers were led by the Chaplain Annie Borthwick in the Peace Garden. We walked to Holy Trinity Goodramgate, St Paul's Bookshop on Fossgate and the Merchant Adventurers' Hall to view the Peace Bells and to ring them! The morning pilgrimage ended with an act of worship in St Martin Coney Street.

Holocaust Memorial Day in January was observed with the lighting of the Peace Candle and an open church with helpful materials for prayer and reflection.

We were pleased to receive the Bethlehem Peace light in December. Many joined us to take a light to their own church along with the story of the Peace Light.

Some of the Coventry interns visited York in 2016. They made a short video for use on the website and also prepared posters to refresh the noticeboards on a seasonal basis. A meal in the Vicarage with members of the Community of the Cross of Nails in York was well received and gave an opportunity to discuss ideas about working with Coventry in the future. We also visited the team at Coventry to explore how we can do more together. The results of the conversation will unfold in 2017 with a visit by the interns to deliver a workshop on Reconciliation and also advertised the inaugural Lecture on Reconciliation to be given by Dr Alan Billings on Thursday 15 June at 7.30pm in All Saints Pavement. This is part of York Festival of Ideas' *The story of things*.

Attention has been paid to the regular liturgy at St Martin's with a role highlighting prayers for our partners in the Cross of Nails at the start of each Wednesday service and revising the position of the Litany. The Pew Prayers prepared by Monica have proved a useful part of this and all services at St Martin's and via the e-mail prayer community which now stands at over 60 members.

We have been very pleased to start Prayers for Peace on Fridays at Noon. These are led in the main by Kingsley Boulton. We are aware that our partners across the globe do the same. We are also lighting a candle in the courtyard as often as we can. Sadly, the increase in violent terrorism acts has increased. We light the candle to remember all who are affected and to invite people into St Martin's to pray.

Plans came to fruition for a visit to Lubeck in 2016 following an invitation from the Marienkirche to join them on the occasion of their 75th anniversary of receiving their Cross of Nails. It included a meeting with partners from Germany and beyond to share ideas. Rev'd Jane Natrass preached as Canon Sarah was unable to be present. We were very pleased with the input by John Bradbury and the St Helen Choral Scholars who sang at the service and at a concert.

Thanks are given to all who have enabled this busy programme and especially to Monica Lawrence for all her hard work as our Secretary.

Rev'd Jane Natrass

Sunday Feed at Spurriergate

This ministry is now in to its second year and developing as the months go by.

Originally known as the Big Breakfast and based in St Crux it soon became evident that larger premises and a kitchen were needed. Through contacts given by Jane we were able to negotiate a deal with the Spurriergate Centre Trustees. They agreed that we could take over the ground floor and use the kitchen facilities between 8.00 am and 9.30 am on Sunday mornings. This did however require the ministry to raise £2000 per year for rent! Due to an anonymous donation the first years rent was quickly covered.

The team of volunteers has risen from the original five to sixty, working one weekend in six in teams led by team leaders who are responsible for the running of their week. After a chance meeting at a York Guild of Butchers lunch a deal was struck with a bacon supplier to donate 40Kg of bacon as and when required. This brought a storage problem as that amount of bacon is very bulky, fortunately the fishmongers Cross of York agreed to store the bacon in their deepfreeze in Clifton and to deliver a quantity as needed. Milk and bread are supplied by Sainsbury's local supermarkets free of charge, a lady donates £20 every two weeks for sausages, eggs, butter, coffee etc and another donates £10 every four weeks for any other items needed. Through the charity Foodcloud, Tesco Clifton Moor donates bakery and fresh vegetables weekly.

On Christmas Day many volunteers gave up their own breakfast to go to the centre and help serve and give out shoe boxes with essential toiletries and other items in them. On New Year's Day a local fast food retailer and his wife and mother in law brought his burger van to the centre and served free breakfast at his expense.

The ministry has brought together people from all faiths and none, who work together each week serving up to 70 breakfasts and providing a shoulder to cry on or an ear to sit and listen. An open door policy is in place and no one is refused – unless they are drunk, high on drugs or dealing on the premises, in which case they are ejected and banned for a month. All those who come for breakfast are not living on the streets. The ministry is seeing more and more people who have been put "back into the care of the community" and have no idea how to cope. Another section are those who are on low incomes and being charged high rents and have to make the choice of food or somewhere to live.

In April 2017, the ministry is expanding to give an evening meal on Tuesdays. If this is a success it will, hopefully, continue.

Whilst funds have been raised from various sources, it is still a major problem raising sufficient money to pay the rent and any donations from PCCs would be gratefully accepted, especially as this is a City wide Ministry, not just in the area of All Saints Pavement.

All funds for rent and general expenses go through All Saints Pavement accounts and are ring fenced for the use of the breakfast. We are grateful to the PCC and treasurer for their ongoing support.

On behalf of all those who use the ministry please continue to support it...you can make a difference whether through prayer, practical help or a monetary donation.

Work with Young People (and their parents)

Regular Events have included a bespoke City5 birthday card being sent to every child who attends Sunday School ; Doreen Fox faithfully writes and sends these cards.

City 5 Youth Groups

We record our grateful thanks to Jo Jones who served all of the churches well with her work coordinating the youth and children's work. The young people all enjoyed the many and various activities. As is often the case, the young people have many calls on their time as they grow up. For now, the youth groups no longer meet.

Jo leaves a legacy of a flourishing Sunday School at St Olave's and BBT.

Bumps, Babies and Toddlers

2016 has been another good year for BBT, if a changeable one.

We began our year looking at the theme of fruit and vegetables. We provided snacks related to each fruit or vegetable we used as our craft each week. We then moved onto New Life, using *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* story as a focus and leading into the Easter story - rewritten in the style of the *Hungry Caterpillar* and exploring Jesus's emotions on each day of Holy Week. Annie Howard was a great help in the first half of the year and made a wonderful resource to accompany the *Hungry Caterpillar* book which we can continue to use each year.

Summer term was focused on musical instruments - a very noisy term - and a look at heroes. In a first outside of Christmas and Easter we used bible stories more regularly, alternating biblical and non biblical heroes. This seemed to go down well and will probably be repeated each year.

We ran through the Summer holidays once again, activities being focused on the Olympics, and thanks must go to all of the people who volunteered to help out in the Summer months as Jess took a (very brief) maternity leave. We welcomed 30 children to the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic and couldn't have done it without you!

Autumn term was a colourful one with activities related to the rainbow, and more sensory activities rather than toddler crafts to include more of our younger members. We again looked at the Christmas story after half term and held a Christingle to finish the year - always a popular session.

We had a great year and welcomed 78 children in total. This can be broken down into 14 regulars who come most weeks, 58 others who may have only been once or twice or who drop in and out and, for me the most exciting, 6 who attend in school holidays. They may only come in the Summer but it shows that running through is worthwhile and we are maintaining relationships there even if visits are a year apart. We've also seen 4 children grow from bumps into babies.

Thanks go to Tarik and Nina for helping since Jo left us towards the end of the year.

We pray that BBT will continue to flourish through 2017 and beyond and more children will experience a safe experience in a church environment going forwards.

Jess Galley

St Olave's Sunday School

Sunday School continues to be a vibrant group and we have been pleased to welcome new families to our church family. We benefitted greatly from the work of Jo Jones who set a pattern for us to work to. We thank her for her work among us. The programme is done termly following biblical themes with challenging (for the adults!) crafts. Each week the children are invited to offer what they have been doing. We are all very pleased to be part of ensuring that the young people develop in their faith through the stories of the bible.

Music

The Church of All Saints Pavement

During 2016 the singers at All Saints Pavement have worked hard to build their confidence and musical skills so that we are ready to meet the musical needs of the church. We do this with a small but committed team, and there can be challenges choosing appropriate music depending who is available.

The singers always respond well when there is a full church, which we often enjoy when there is a Guild or Military service. I enjoyed my second Christmas at All Saints, since I knew what to expect and it was easier to choose music which would give enough sense of challenge and achievement, while being realistic on a small number of rehearsals. I'm always amazed by how willingly people commit themselves to welcome people to the church at this very busy time. Alongside this, I'm

delighted that we've been able to sing Evensong with increased confidence, even if, particularly in the dark evenings, the congregation is very small.

Sadly, during the course of the year, a number of very committed members of the choir have suffered from long term illness. We miss them and all they brought to the choir community. We've also welcomed a number of singers during the past year, particularly people who are also members of other congregations in York, but who enjoy being with us for one of our services. Please do encourage anyone who you think would feel at home at All Saints.

At the morning service, we now try to offer two Eucharists each month, when there are enough priests available and when we are not welcoming an outside group. Matins continues to offer us a more flexible framework within which to accommodate the different groups to which we offer hospitality and an opportunity to worship together on an annual basis.

Timothy Hone

Director of Music, All Saints' Pavement

St Helen with St Martin

The choral music at St Helen is flourishing and the regular pattern of Celtic Eucharists, Choral Masses and Evensongs has been maintained throughout the past year; it is encouraging to hear difficult repertoire being performed to such a high standard and there is now a real sense of ensemble as the scholars perform regularly together. We have also established the St Helen's Consort, a group of both singers and instrumentalists who support us in regular services as the repertoire demands, and there is a real sense of commitment from these 'extras' too.

The year began with an Epiphany Carol Service and was followed later in January with a 'Meditation' on Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. This service was originally devised for Radio 4, and we were delighted to welcome The Rev'd Canon Stephen Shipley, the BBC broadcaster and producer to St Helen's to lead that service; it was an imaginative and thoughtful marriage of prayers, readings, observations and Britten's hauntingly beautiful music. Felicity Day and Ada Cheong our soprano and alto choral scholars combined with some of our regular deputies and harpist, Georgina Wells to produce some of the finest singing of the term. It is becoming something of a tradition that term ends with a liturgical performance of a Bach cantata and this term was no exception. The scholars and consort performed Bach's Cantata 29 *Weinen, klagen*. During Holy Week, sopranos Felicity Day and Katie Ambrose with 'cellist William Descrettes and John Bradbury performed Couperin's *Leçons de Ténèbres* during a service of Tenebrae.

Apart from the regular services during the Summer term of 2016, the scholars and consort performed Bach's Cantata 29 and also had the privilege of representing York and the United Kingdom at the Cross of Nails commemorations in the Marienkirche in Lübeck. This was an extremely moving weekend and despite there only being four singers in our choir, they held their own against established choirs with many more members. The St Helen's Consort also provided York Minster with music during one of the weekends in July when they sang two Choral Evensongs, Matins and Choral Eucharist. We also said farewell to Christopher Oates, our bass Choral Scholar, who revealed a great sense of commitment over his 18 months with us, and to James Kenny, our Organ Scholar.

In October we welcomed Thomas Hawkes as our new Organ Scholar and he has proved to be a very good appointment. Samuel Foxon, our new bass scholar, is also a great asset. Both are from the University of York; Thomas is a post-graduate conducting student and Samuel is in his 3rd year as an undergraduate.

The Autumn Term is always a very busy one, and last year was no exception. Highlights were the All Souls' Requiem, when the Scholars and Consort performed the Requiem by Maurice Duruflé. It was a pleasure to welcome Tim Hone as our organist who accompanied this very difficult work superbly! On Advent Sunday we celebrated with Vièrne's *Messe solennelle*, ably accompanied by our Organ Scholar, Thomas Hawkes. During the latter part of the term, the scholars were invited to sing for the anniversary service at Central Methodist Church. The usual Bach cantata service was well attended and the term finished with the Stonegate Traders' annual Carol Service.

Organ Vespers have continued to be successful monthly events throughout the year. These are organized and played for by Philip Paul and, since his appointment in October, Thomas Hawkes has also played on several occasions.

We are very lucky in York, and it is encouraging that we are able to call upon the services of both professional musicians and students from both universities for our services. I should like to thank everyone for their continued support and commitment to the music at St Helen during the past year.

John Bradbury

Music and Choir Report for St Olave's Church

We began 2016 'in exile' – worshipping at Holy Trinity Micklegate during St Olave's period of closure for roof repairs to be carried out. We discovered a number of things immediately:

Firstly that there was a warm welcome – both metaphorically and physically (the church is so much warmer than St Olave's in the Winter, and the organist Adrian Crawford went out of his way to make us comfortable).

Secondly, that the choir-stalls at HTM are easier to use than our own, with more space to play with, and better-designed music desks, and

Thirdly, that the longer rehearsals we were able to have gave us time to prepare new music.

So, in addition to rehearsing the music for Sunday mornings in a little more detail than we might have become used to, we were able to add new pieces of repertoire – notably a couple of *Glorias* to go with existing mass settings.

We were also able to tackle a major addition to the Lenten musical diet: a performance of Bach's *St John Passion*, sung complete, in German. This was an enormous undertaking for the choir, and a challenge that they met head-on, with the bulk of the solo parts being sung by members of the choir (Katherine, Adam, Clive, Robert, Lizzy, Paul and James), and choir members (Alex, Kate and Ruth) also occupying key seats in the orchestra. The performance, in a cold St Peter's School Chapel, was outstanding – the dramatic story told in vivid colours from the first chord to the last. It was a memorable evening.

Our return to St Olave's happened at Eastertide, and we were relieved to find that after three months lying unused and wrapped in protective polythene the organ emerged unscathed and in good voice.

Later in the year we enjoyed a visit from a Danish choir, the Hjørring Kammerkor, with whom we sang a piece by Niels Gade, in Danish (see, those hours spent watching *The Bridge* boxed set were not wasted!).

In November we returned to singing in German to add the Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* to our repertoire of pieces for Remembrance Sunday. On this occasion we were accompanied by a piano duet pairing of Kate Ledger and Mark Edwards, and solo parts were excellently sung by Clare and Clive.

These are just some of the highlights. The routine work of the choir – the Sunday worship – should never feel 'routine', and the choir does its best to ensure that everything we do is done with care and love.

Numbers in the choir have remained good – departures and arrivals balancing each other, and the junior choir is currently strong, with eight youngsters all developing well, including two visitors from the USA, Faiz and Cora Wareh, who will sadly only be with us for this one academic year, but who have slotted so well into life in the church. Faiz is also learning the organ, and showing great promise; perhaps we will hear a voluntary or two from him before the year is out!

During the year it became obvious that the support given by Max Elliott had expanded beyond the role of Organ Scholar, and it is good to report that at the time of writing his tenure of the organ bench has been extended, and his title has been adjusted to Assistant Director of Music, which more nearly reflects the work that he does both in church and behind the scenes; it is much appreciated, and it is good to note his contribution formally here, with my thanks.

Keith Wright, March 2017

Safeguarding

The PCCs all adopted the Safeguarding Policy of York Diocese and have a named Parish Safeguarding Representative. In 2016, there were regulated activities for children and vulnerable adults organised by the PCC of St Olave's and all PCCs recorded care concerns where appropriate.

The PCC has complied with section 5 Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding at St Helen's and St Martin's

Relevant diocesan documents are available in a file kept in the Upper Room at St Martin, Coney Street. The diocesan website has all the most recent updates and contact details. Ruth Sillar, as Parish Safeguarding Representative, has attended diocesan training meetings (in December 2015 and January 2017) and reported back to the PCC of St Helen and St Martin. A handy 'good practice guide for quick reference', suitable for a wallet or purse, was issued to all members of the PCC in 2015.

Dave Finan was appointed as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser towards the end of 2015 and, in his presentations, helped us to understand that Safeguarding is not only about 'children and vulnerable adults' but is about providing a safe environment for EVERYONE in our churches. This means that more of us will need to attend some safeguarding training in the future.

Our policy is up-to-date and there are posters giving useful contact details in each of the two churches. We also display posters produced by Childline and IDAS (domestic abuse), as recommended in the guidelines. Ruth Sillar and Gill Pace (St Olave) liaise with each other as much of our work with children and young people covers more than one parish.

Ruth Sillar, Child Protection Representative, St Helen and St Martin

Safeguarding At St Olave's

During the short time I have been P.S.R. [Parish Safeguarding Representative] there have been numerous new legal obligations of which, as a church, we need to be aware. These will take time to implement, even when we are all willing to play our part. For example many of us who are in a position of trust will now have to complete a Confidential Declaration Form, even if we do not need to apply for a DBS [Disclosure and Barring Service.] certificate. Those who have a DBS certificate will now also need to fill in the CDF.

There are more areas of church life which will have to show a regard for safeguarding issues in that CDFs and/or DBS will need to be filled in. It is not only children's welfare we need to keep in mind but also 'vulnerable adults'. So activities such as pastoral visits and driving children or vulnerable adults on behalf of the church are included.

During the safeguarding course I attended in January 2017 we were informed that the position of Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is vacant. However we will still be able to obtain advice from those who are part the Diocesan Office at Clifton Moor and Bishopthorpe Palace.

A file with safeguarding documents will be placed in the St Giles Room for anyone who is interested in reading some recent safeguarding information. There will be NO confidential papers.

Ruth Sillar, who is the P.S.R. for St Helen and St Martin, and I have liaised with each other during the past few months. This is a very useful time for both of us.

I would like to thank Christine Tuck for giving me an overview of what being a P.S.R. means and being willing to answer all my questions when I was new to the task.

Gillian Pace

We record our thanks to Sharon Hobman (All Saints Pavement), Maxine Waller (St Denys), Ruth Sillar (St Helen with St Martin) and Gill Pace (St Olave's) for their work in ensuring that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a priority.

Holy Dusters at St Olave's

2016 was a Stop & Go year for our friendly group of 10 holy dusters, 4 of whom also do flower or sacristy duties. We swept, tidied, dusted and polished every Friday morning until the big build began, when roofers and scaffolding moved into St Olave's and the congregation moved out to Holy Trinity, Micklegate. Through the months of building, when St Olave's was not being used, holy dusters continued to meet for lunch and birthday celebrations every few weeks at The Spurriergate Centre, thus keeping in touch with each other and former 'dusters'.

Cleaning up at the end of the roof construction was a mammoth task and we very much appreciated help given by volunteers from the congregation. Thereafter we reverted to our Friday morning session. Happily our numbers have remained steady throughout 2016 and we manage without the formality of a duty rota, which greatly simplifies running the group. If anyone would like to join us, either on a regular or occasional basis, we would be delighted to welcome him or her. We do have one brave man, Malcolm Smart, whose efforts we enjoy !

Janette Lake

We are very grateful to teams of people across the parishes who keep our churches in good order—this is cleanliness, tidiness and sparkling brass and silver as well as polished wood, clean sinks, etc.

Thank you.

Flower Arrangers' Reports

The flower arrangers in our churches continue to provide stunning displays throughout the year. They are especially busy at Easter and Christmas. To all who buy, cut material from their gardens, water daily and arrange the flowers—thank you.

St Olave's Church

Our group of arrangers met in November last year to arrange the rota for 2016. At present the arrangers are Rosemary Davis, Wendy Grundy, Anne Hall, Ann Mackrory, Gillian Pace and Jane Read. We also appreciate Buff Reid's help at times when we are short handed especially at Christmas and Easter. Penny Jubb doing the mid week watering of the arrangements is a very welcome contribution. When the church was closed for roof repairs, the beginning of 2016 was a quiet time for us once we had dismantled and distributed the Christmas arrangements and removed the decorations. We did however meet with the Holy Dusters on a regular basis to maintain our fellowship with them until we were able to return to St Olave's.

I would like to thank the team for the work they do during the year in keeping the church decorated with flowers and also the members of the congregation who generously contribute donations towards the cost of providing flowers especially at Easter and Christmas.

Thanks also to Holy Trinity Church in Micklegate for welcoming us to do the daffodils on Mothering Sunday when we worshiped there during the closure of St Olave's for the roof repair work being done there.

If anyone would like to join our group you would be made most welcome and I can give details if you wish to know more.

Ann Mackrory

Thank you to all who prepare floral arrangements in our churches and take care of them during the week. They are always magnificent and enhance the beauty of the churches.

Readers

Our city centre parishes are served by four Readers: Kingsley Boulton, Janet Fox, Dave Hobman and Tony Hunt, together with Peter Marsland at Holy Trinity Micklegate, Clive Jackson at St Lawrence and Peter Wells in training.

We are fortunate to be given the opportunity to exercise our episcopally authorized lay ministry in a number of different ways in the different churches, through assisting at the Eucharist and other services, officiating at Mattins, Evensong and other services of the Word, taking Communion to people in their homes and sharing in pastoral work. Janet, Tony and Kingsley serve on the Pastoral Group. Kingsley has also conducted the funerals of some longstanding members of St Olave's. The distinctive contribution of the Reader, as opposed to other forms of lay ministry, however, is arguably our authorization to preach. To mark that as in previous years the Diocese of York again designated the Sunday next before Lent as Reader Sunday.

Although ill-health has prevented Tony from the active ministry he once exercised he continues at 92 to preach occasionally in his home parish church of St Clement's.

Janet continues to lead the coffee morning and Bible Study Afresh on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11 am to 12 noon, as well as serving as St Olave's PCC Secretary. Kingsley serves as St Helen with St Martin's PCC Secretary.

Later this year Dave will be ordained to the permanent diaconate and Peter will be admitted as a Reader. Also Jose Linnane is actively exploring Reader ministry and has formally been invited to attend the Discernment Day on 6 May. We hold them all in our prayers and look forward to the new stages of their ministry.

Kingsley Boulton

Altar Servers' Group

Thanks to all those who have served at services at St Helen's and St Olave's during the past year. St Olave's has as near as is possible a full team every Sunday for the sung Eucharist. St Helen's has a choral Eucharist on the evening of the last Sunday of most months, and a team helps at those, as well as on some other specific occasions at both churches.

When I write the names down, I realise that there are a lot of people who, during the time-frame of this report, have made a substantial contribution to this creating liturgical excellence. So, here they are: Polly Backhouse, Bill Read, Charlie King, Daisy and Alex Pugh, Ehren Mierau, Maxine Waller, Leah Ward, Keziah Brookes, Andrew Waller, Kingsley Boulton, Rosemary Davis, Janet Fox, Vera Silverberg, Alexandra Coleman, Tessa Helstrip, David Rushton, Simon Carter, Paul Walker and Peter Wells. At the time of writing, Thomas Newby has been a part of the team over the past month.

Occasionally, I find myself musing over what benefits are achieved by what might be viewed as a stylized liturgical happening. Somebody recently commented to me that a well-ordered group of servers, seen but not noticed, does offer assurance and a measure of harmony which aids worship. There may be less chance of exiting the church feeling in disarray when there is confidence that order, and not chaos, has been the over-riding sensation.

So back to the servers' rota!

Simon Lockley

Learning Together

There is a regular Wednesday Study Group, a monthly Bible Study Afresh group and a new Christian book club which meets monthly on Thursdays. In 2016 Lent lectures at All Saints' Pavement on the theme of Pilgrimage with sessions led by the clergy of York Minster. These were very well received.

Bible Study Afresh & Coffee Morning

Our monthly meetings in 2016 began mainly in the Vicarage, moving back into the St Giles Room at the back of St Olave's once the building work on the Nave roof was complete. Despite our varying venues we have continued to enjoy coffee, conversation and good company throughout the year. There can be anything from four or five of us up to a dozen or more, but numbers are not important; the real value lies in the shared friendship and chat that goes on. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in December, and are sufficiently flexible to be able to change dates that coincide with any special events, for example Maundy Thursday.

During the past year we have been looking at various saints and their relevance to our current world. We covered city centre patronal saints, saints celebrated in specific months, Celtic saints, Bible saints, international saints – ranging from Cyril & Methodius to Polycarp via Pareskeva and Pelagia - - leaving many more still to be explored. Various members of the group chose a saint that appealed to them and we all gained much from their presentations. Our discussions were wide ranging and always entertaining. We looked at art work and even had musical accompaniment on one occasion. We are not an 'academic' study group, we just enjoy sharing our knowledge and experiences and it is amazing how rewarding our discussions can be.

The Coffee Mornings begin at 11.00 am then, after a little refreshment, we begin our discussions at about 11.15 am, and we aim to finish by Noon. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome and everyone's views are valued.

Janet Fox

The Wednesday Study Group

The group continues to meet almost every Wednesday at 11.00 am in the Upper Room. Numbers remain steady; we have been delighted to welcome newcomers to replace those who are no longer able to attend regularly, and it is pleasing that those who come tend to stay for years. There is, though, no formal membership and no obligation to make a regular commitment.

Church study groups take a variety of forms. Some are consciously aimed at those who may be exploring Christianity for the first time, some follow a strict course of scripture study or guided programme, some prefer to avoid the Bible in favour of other works, not necessarily overtly religious. Others gather for free discussion on topics which the group find relevant to their lives. No one approach can meet every need, and our group continues to find it most helpful to follow the course of the lectionary readings prescribed for the following Sunday, aided by a fairly advanced commentary, as a prelude to a free discussion of the points that have meaning to us. In doing so, we hope to fill a hole that the regular sermon cannot. As an added bonus, real coffee and the option to stay for the 12.15 pm Eucharist afterwards.

Andrew Hingston

Christian Book Club

We've taken something of a sabbatical over the Autumn and Winter but regrouped for Lent; our book for discussion was *Dethroning Mammon* by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There seems to have been a very positive reaction to this book, the Archbishop's first, both in the public sphere and in our own group. Justin Welby's background before he was ordained was in finance and business and this not unsurprisingly makes him well suited for a Christian examination of the subject of money and materialism. There are texts from the New Testament together with some searching questions as well as his own thoughts. Our thanks to both Jane and Derek for kindly hosting two of the sessions.

We will be meeting again on the last Thursday of each month and for the end of April (Thursday 27th) will be discussing *Something More* by John Pritchard, published by SPCK last year. Do please come along if interested, 53 St Denys Road, and usual time 7.30 pm.

Rodney Troubridge

Social Events—Hospitality

Social Events at All Saints' Pavement

We had splendid numbers at our Christmas lunch at Castlegate; it is gratifying to feel part of all that goes on and it makes a difference when so many wish to be at the social events.

St Denys

St Denys' Church had a very enjoyable lunch at The Vale of Pickering Hotel and continue to benefit from the gift of cakes on the first Sunday of every month. Thank you to everyone who organises the hospitality for us all. New in 2016 was the formation of **The Friends of St Denys**. The following is an extract from the first newsletter.

2016, an important year at St Denys

Background: early in 2016 St Denys PCC made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to address major concerns with the built fabric of our beloved Church – the north aisle was very evidently moving away from the main structure! This being a challenge to congregation, community AND conservationists of important heritage, we determined that a process of engaging community friends, alongside the urgent and important exploratory building works agenda, was a priority. And it encouraged us to seek the help of our friends ie YOU!

Across the year we have built on our reputation as a friendly, welcoming church community, and on earlier outreach work, particularly in York's Walmgate area. We intend to make the church more accessible to our good neighbours and to those from further afield....and to celebrate its heritage and future place in the story that is York.

Opening Our Doors

January 2016 **Residents Festival:** a joyous weekend of hospitality & heritage; dance & music.

January 2016 **Launching Friends of St Denys:** welcome & signing up of many new friends to aid our mission to conserve for the future our splendid community church

Summer/Autumn **Open Church Days:** "welcomers" from the congregation open church three half days per week;

Autumn onwards Two local groups share our space & hospitality

October 2016 **50+ Festival:** song, poetry & dance; parade in Fossgate/ Walmgate; hospitality & heritage

January 2017 **Residents' Festival:** more hospitality and heritage tours plus organ recitals

Dianne Willcocks

Social times at St Helen and St Martin

The annual gathering was at ASK, slightly later than St Martin's Day but it was a very enjoyable occasion. We are also making use of the York Medical Society Rooms in Stonegate for extra-special events . It is always good to eat together. The Community of the Cross of Nails also provided refreshments when interns from Coventry Cathedral visited St Martin's. The Upper Room continues to be well used for bring your own lunches on Wednesdays.

Social Committee at St Olave's

The St Olave's Social Committee met four times at Ruth Sillar's house in 2016. In February, Doreen Gurrey convened a meeting to begin the planning for our first 'Medieval Day', which was held in July. This newer, and very enthusiastic, group met in York seven times, hosted either by Doreen or by Liz Backhouse, and some of us also had a day out at Ampleforth Abbey: to buy raffle prizes in the gift shop, look at the visitor centre, sample the food in the café and, of course, attend the Saturday midday service. For our future committee meetings, we now have a planning group of at least a dozen people (currently an all-female group!).

We have aimed to have some type of 'event' each month, sometimes in collaboration with our friends from other churches, and have achieved this for every month except September. Our St Olave's events

in 2016 have included: a curry lunch and talk from Miriam Eyre about her year in India (January), a fundraising day at St Crux (April), a Trinity Sunday picnic in the Vicarage garden to celebrate our return to St Olave's after our 'exile' during the building works (May), a guided tour of the Living Heritage Exhibition and lunch at the Bar Convent (June), the Medieval Day/Open Church, plus a talk about St Olaf in the evening from Professor Sid Bradley (July), the now traditional bike ride/picnic to Beningborough Hall (August), a bring and share lunch with illustrated talk from Kingsley Boulton, about the pilgrimage to Greece (October), another illustrated talk from Penny Jubb and her grandson, about their trip to Boer War battlefields in South Africa (November), the Ceilidh (November) and, in November and December, Christmas craft sales after church on three Sundays.

The Medieval Day was another new venture for us and we were delighted that it proved to be an enjoyable, family-friendly event, bringing many visitors into the churchyard via the gate from the Museum Gardens and then into the church. There were refreshments for sale, interesting information boards prepared by Helen Fields and craft activities for both children and adults. At a subsequent committee meeting, we came up with plenty of ideas for enhancing the experience in July 2017.

Our second Ceilidh was also very successful, with an age range of 5 years to 94 years. Wendy Grundy and her team of helpers produced excellent food for the interval. We have already booked the same venue and band, Fiddlers Wreck, for Saturday 16th November 2017.

Of course, for every successful occasion there is always plenty of 'behind the scenes' activity. Thank you to **everyone** who has been involved, in whatever way.

Ruth Sillar

(on behalf of the St Olave's Social Committee)

The Candlemas Supper and the Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday, which was held at St Lawrence, proved to be very popular. The Vicarage is a place of hospitality and a warm welcome was given to hundreds over the year for meetings, overnight stays, meals and parties, wedding preparations and many pastoral conversations.

Weddings

Weddings in our churches are increasing in number. Six years ago, there were 9 weddings booked. At the end of 2016 54 weddings had been taken or booked, some for this year and we have had more booked since then. Thanks to the staff at the Merchant Adventurers Hall, weddings at All Saints Pavement have increased, the staff at the Hospitium send couples to get married at St Olave's and Greys Court Hotel have also been sending couples to ask for a wedding in church. We continue to extend a very warm welcome to couples who ask to marry.

It is good to see that some couples who started to attend our churches when they were preparing for marriage are now on PCCs, serving on coffee rotas, part of leading children's work etc. Thank you to all who ring bells, verger, provide music and a very warm welcome to all who attend weddings.

Publicity has been put into our churches to try to further the work of weddings in our churches. The days have gone when couples were seen to be 'using' the church for pretty photographs. Many of the couples now keep their links with the church and continue to attend long after their weddings. It is a joy to welcome them into the family of the church.

Deanery Synod

2017 will see elections to Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod Report – York Deanery Synod met a final time on 22nd February. Our Rural Dean (and soon to be Area Dean) The meeting received two presentations, the first from Rev John Day, Archbishop's Advisor on Mission Strategy and Church Revitalisation. His big challenge to everyone, both present and in our respective PCCs, was to consider the time in our lives when we first took on our beliefs for ourselves - and to reflect on the ways our church seeks to reach out to and minister to that age group. He acknowledged that Evangelism is a word many feel uncomfortable with, but encouraged us as PCC's to wrestle with it collectively.

The second presentation came from Rev Jackie Doyle-Brett, Assistant Diocesan Advisor on Young Vocations. Charlie and I were delighted to be one of only two delegations who could say a Reader would be preaching in their church on Reader Sunday. There was a reminder to see Vocations Sunday as an opportunity for encouraging reflection on both ordained and lay vocations. Our churches' recent, strong history in identifying vocations to the priesthood stood out - something to be proud of! We were reminded that we all have a role in identifying the vocations of those around us.

Terina Hurley, Deanery Finance Advisor, was happy to report that every parish had achieved its Free Will Offering contributions, and reminded us of the benefits of paying by Standing Order. She also reminded us to notify her or Terence of new Deanery Synod members. Finally, we received advance warning of a service at York Minster on Saturday 23rd September to commission the new deanery structures.

York City Centre Churches of All Saints Pavement, St Denys, St Helen, St Martin, and St Olave

The Annual meetings are an opportunity to hear about the good work across the churches in the year ended 31 December 2016 and to look forward to see what God might have in store for us this year.

The following gives an indication of how we are joining in where we have seen God at work and where we have offered Christian Hospitality.

What the churches in our parishes contribute to National Church, Diocese, Deanery, Parishes and the City of York – visitors, tourism, heritage, history

People

Ordinands – there are 7 people exploring a vocation to the priesthood from our parishes. Placements for ordinands – we welcome many people who spend time in our parishes to widen their experience and gain knowledge of the breadth of the Church of England.

Dave Hobman will be ordained as a Deacon on 2 July 2017 in York Minster

Peter Wells will be licensed as a Reader in November 2017 and there is 1 person exploring a vocation to be a Reader

Generous Giving – contributions to the Common Fund 2016

All Saints Pavement	31,000
St Denys	5,000
St Olave	56,000
St Helen with St Martin	1,250
Holy Trinity Micklegate	11,000
St Lawrence	4,000
Sub Total	£108,250

Plus payments from Holy Trinity Micklegate for half time priest and accommodation.

Church Commissioners rent to Diocese for Holy Trinity Micklegate Rectory to provide a Bishop's Residence.

Housing for University Chaplain in St Lawrence Rectory

All Saints Pavement Rectory being used for the full time priest at St Lawrence

Contributions to engaging with the City of York

We work with others in the city: Civic services and Civic Party, Richard III, York BID, Make it York, Visit York, Civic Trust, Charitable Donations from funerals and mission giving from churches, York St John University, The University of York, Community of the Cross of Nails, Changing Lives, Carecent, City of York Council, Foodbank, Guilds of York. Support for St Paul's Bookshop, St Sampsons, St Crux supporting charities (£290,000 annually), retail chaplaincy, Churches Together in York, Prayer Book Society, Sunday Breakfast, Pop Church, Amnesty Group, Student meals, reading and study groups, turning visitors into pilgrims, open churches, sacred space in the city. Sunday School. Apps and interpretation work with

The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York.

Weddings – the number of weddings has increased and we work in partnership with reception venues especially the Hospitium and the Merchant Adventurers’ Hall.

Festivals – Festival of Ideas, Food Festival, Jorvik Festival, Micklegate Forum

Schools – The clergy and others join in with worship at St Peter’s, St Lawrence and Queen Margaret’s. We have good links with Bootham School and All Saints RC School. There is Sunday School at St Lawrence and St Olave and Messy Church has started at Holy Trinity Micklegate.

Prayers – our churches are open, offering the opportunity to leave prayers on prayer trees, prayer boards or to light candles. .

Work among the homeless and beggars especially the Sunday Breakfast in Spurriergate .

Contributions to the Music – secular and sacred

Choirs – St Olave, All Saints Pavement, St Lawrence and plans for Holy Trinity Micklegate

Choral Scholars – St Helen, with funding in place for All Saints Pavement and Holy Trinity Micklegate

Junior Choir at St Olave

Organist bursary – St Denys, St Helen and St Olave (Assistant Director of Music)

Venues for York District Organists Association and concerts

St Olave’s Academy, Micklegate Singers, Cansing, Cantores, Ebor Singers, St Helen’s Consort and so on.

Choirs from USA, Sweden, Norway, Holland, good links with London agencies especially at St Helen

Norwegian Choirs Festival with Make it York

Hall provision

Our halls provide venues for many groups across the city to gather for various activities serving communities - St Olave, Jacob’s Well, St Martin Upper Room, St Lawrence, St Sampson, St Crux. The Vicarage too is used for many meetings.

Staffing

Priest-in-Charge

Jane Natrass

Assistant priests

Derek Earis

David Simpson

Peter Jones (moved in May 2016)

Eric Robinson (Holy Trinity Micklegate)

Retired clergy Malcolm Grundy, Sue Rushton, Gwynne Wright, Brian Harris and Stephen Griffiths; Sue Nightingale serves at Wandesford House and at St Sampson’s

Readers

Kingsley Boulton

Tony Hunt

Janet Fox

David Hobman

Peter Marsland (Holy Trinity Micklegate)

BBT

Jess Galley and many others.....

Recognised Parish Assistant

Jack Ward (works at St Lawrence)

Vergers—we are grateful for the work of Gabrielle Martin, Will Ellis , Kingsley Boulton and Kizzie Brooks in the role of verger for weddings and funerals at St Olave’s. To all who act as vergers for weddings and funerals across our churches—thank you.

Organists/Directors of Music – Alan Hardwick, Keith Wright, Timothy Hone, Philip Paul, Josie Tomlin , Alison Bailey, Max Elliott, and others. John Bradbury is the Director of Choral Scholars at St Helen’s. Thank you for the music and the beautiful singing from the choirs. We welcomed Tom Hawkes at St Helen’s and Jonty Ward at St Denys in 2017.

We record our grateful thanks to Canon Peter Jones who left us in May 2016. Peter became well known in and around the vicinity of All Saints Pavement and St Denys.

And finally.....thank you. There are many people to thank for all they do – churchwardens, PCC members, secretaries and treasurers, those who look after halls, flower teams, coffee providers, cleaners, launderers, servers, musicians, bell ringers, intercessors, those who compile prayer diaries, magazine contributors and editor, architects, sidespeople, Sunday School and BBT leaders, gardeners, social organisers, vergers, those who visit, Readers and clergy, those who give money generously, Louise Amende our administrator, our architects , Feoffees.....it continues to be a delight to be part of all that is going on. Our generous God is providing..... All we have to do is join in where we see God at work.

Jane

Growing Together

I came that they might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10) Come and see (John 1:39)

Christian Hospitality is being used as a means to grow our churches across the City Centre with focussed tasks for each of the parishes. Alongside this, we will seek ways to add to the life of the City of York and join in where we see God at work. These two ideas are intertwined. Parishes have begun a series of Vision discussions to change focus or to join in new work.

All Saints – to build on links through the BCP with the life of the Guilds and Regiments and to help ensure that St Crux can be used to support charities. Also, to work with the homeless.

St Denys – to build on hospitality to visitors on the tourist trail and in the community and to pay our parish share.

St Helen and St Martin — to build on peace and reconciliation and to sustain the new work at St Helen.

St Olave – to build on family life in every sense of the word and to encourage marriage.

For all churches— hospitality. Our churches will become known for a high standard of Christian hospitality to further the kingdom of God and to grow our churches.

We will have in common across the parishes:-

1. Saying YES to individuals and groups who ask for a venue for a service or event which means that we will be good neighbours in our communities and across the city centre.
2. Offering refreshment to visiting groups with several congregation members present and refreshing the welcome tourists.
3. Saying to others ‘*Come and see*’ (John 1:39) and call them by name.
4. Ensuring that everyone who uses our churches and halls knows that they are in a space where a warm welcome, friendship and hospitality are very important.
5. Continue to ensure that visitors can make donations (using the small gift aid scheme and giving by text.) And, for our congregations, to donate weekly or monthly via standing order rather than cash on the collection plate.
6. Summer and Winter programme of social events to build relationships across the congregations.

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