

## **Reports from Committees and Organisations for 2019**

### **Bellringers' Report**

The bellringing team had a rather uneventful year during 2019. We welcomed the return of Peter Jackson who was a ringer many years ago but moved away and also a new recruit Rose Gornall. Both of them have relatives in the choir and during their Sunday contact at Broughton chose to join the ringing team too.

The group as a whole stays committed, and regular teams attend Sunday service ringing, weddings and other church events as required.

The handbell ringers again entertained during the Christmas period. Performances were given at the Hospital, The Harris Museum (video evidence is available on their Facebook page) and Waitrose as well as the annual Church Carol Service. Monies raised were donated to Rosemere Cancer research and Fox Street Mission.

### **1st Broughton Scout Group.**

We are in the midst of finding new leaders for our busy sections. We are still maintaining good numbers in all Sections. We have 2 Beaver Colonies, 48 beavers in total, Monday and Wednesday. 3 cub packs Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with a total of 80 cubs. The scout section meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with 70 scouts in total. We try to have a good programme to keep everybody happy. We have got one or two new helpers, but they are not easy to find. We all hope that our group will continue for many years to come, where children can gain some skills for life.

### **Mothers' Union**

The Mothers Union had meetings with speakers until the end of June and the summer break. In September we had a quiz,

then emptied our cupboard, before the parish hall at St. Martins closed.

Since then we have met for coffee at the Black Bull a couple of times. In November we were joined by the Deanery and Diocesan presidents, who advised us the way to close the branch, as there is no one able to take over the running of the branch, having kept it going by committee, for the last couple of years.

Many thanks to the committee for all their work, and Ted Lowes for looking after our finances.

Some of the members have taken Deanery membership, which means, amongst other things, they will still receive the M.U. magazine. We will still meet for coffee at St. Martins House every so often.

It was a sad ending to the year when Edith Butler passed away. Edith was a committee member for many years until she became too frail. J.H.H.

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications committee continues to consider the articles that have been sent to the email address and our plea remains, as last year, for all organisations to send in articles and photos about their meetings and events. We do thank those who continue to send articles in monthly.

Brendan Hurley edits Outlook each month ready for the printer. The front covers which he produces are always very eye catching. Thank you to all those who willingly volunteer to deliver the Broughton Outlook round the parish each month and for collecting the annual subscriptions. If you feel you could help to distribute some magazines please talk to Vicki in the Parish Office.

The committee is in the process of updating and developing the website.

Thank you to Vicki Thornley who deals with the advertising together with sorting the magazines for distribution to the worship centres each month. Thanks also to Kath Morris who helps Vicki in the office. Vicki also compiles and prints the weekly pewsheet.

### **Social Committee**

The social committee, like everyone, has had a difficult year, trying to hold meetings and events.

The usual Rose Queen crowning did not take place in May, owing to insufficient children, across the Parish, of appropriate ages, wanting to form a retinue. Instead we had a celebration service at St John's where the retiring Queen was thanked for her work during her year's reign. She gave her retiring speech and was presented with a bible. Following this, teas, coffee and cakes were served in the school hall and £114.75 was raised for church funds.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, a Parish Picnic was held in the vicarage garden. We were blessed with good weather and those attending spent an enjoyable afternoon.

The Christmas Fair was held at St Peter's school in 2019 because of the closure of St Martin's complex. Preston Concert Band entertained us with their Christmas music. Despite fewer people attending, we made a profit of £1882.83. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped and supported us. We look forward to being able to resume social events as soon as building work and COVID19 allows. We will need to reform the socials committee, adding more volunteers to those who have worked so hard during the past, to raise money for Parish Funds.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the socials committee during the year.

Barry Townsend.

### **Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship had a reasonable start to the season but lack of numbers was a worry. It was decided by the committee after a lot of soul searching and heartache to cancel any further meetings and so the last meeting was held in December. Only the committee attended and it was very disappointing. I would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to our members and hope that deciding to hold a coffee and chat session at St Martin's house where the church office is for members to call in for a catch up would help to soften the blow. The first one is on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10am till 12noon. If it proves popular we will continue to meet on the first Tuesday each month. Thank you to everyone who made women's Fellowship what it was and for the friendships gained. Best wishes Brenda Clarke.

### **Fulwood St Peter's Primary School and Nursery.**

We have been looking at overall curriculum objectives for our children and changing the teaching and learning they experience. These are now as follows:

- Building confidence
- Making choices in learning
- Working independently
- Real life application of what is learnt
- Leading teams

Some of this was based on the findings of the national "*Drawing the Future*" survey of children's aspirations by the Education and Employers organisation. We asked parents of different occupations to come into school to talk about what they do. This varied from aircraft engineer and GP to beekeeper and shepherd.

Awards. We renewed our Green Flag Eco Schools mark (4<sup>th</sup> time), National Health School's status (2<sup>nd</sup>) and School Games Gold mark (2<sup>nd</sup> time).

We are in the final stages of acquiring a 50 year lease on some land next to school to use as a nature area. This will take time to develop and grow.

An article for Parliamentary Review was written on the significant impact that Teaching Assistants have on learning. Gareth Allen, our Deputy Head went to Parliament for the launch of the Review.

<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/fulwood-st-peter-s-ce-primary-school>

### **Broughton CE Primary School and Nursery**

2019 was another successful and enjoyable year for Broughton CE Primary School where we continued to live by our Christian Values of love and joy. We were delighted to be in the top 3% of schools nationally for the progress which children make between key stage 1 and key stage 2 and to have further increased our standards of attainment at the end of key stage 2. Although academic performance is important to us, we are committed to providing our children with a wide range of high quality experiences. Last year, we were crowned Lancashire Sports Hall Athletics Champions for the third year in a row and both the girls' and boys' football teams played at Deepdale for the final of the Dick Kerr Cup and Harold Slater Cup which both teams won decisively. The choir got through to the regional final of the prestigious 'Last Choir Singing' competition and they won the 'Primary Choir' category at Blackburn Music Festival. Our Year 6 children performed their end of year play at Broughton Social Club, Rock Bottom, to huge critical acclaim and, as ever, our nativity plays which involve all children in school were one of the many highlights of the year.

### **Fairtrade**

I have continued to try and obtain the best price for customers and the create a larger profit for the Church by sourcing Fairtrade items from Fairtrade Warehouse and Eden. Also, I have obtained chocolate at a discounted price at Booths as well as the usual outlet of Traidcraft.

There has been a reduction in the number Fairtrade stalls held in 2019 to mainly once a month. This was due to holding one Sunday service at either St Peter's or St. Martin's prior to the closure of the St. Martin's complex. This has also meant a decrease in the Fairtrade takings for 2019. Unfortunately, we have continued to suspend the monthly stall at St. John's due to previous lack of orders, if there is interest in 2020 at St John's then I will look at re-installing a monthly table.

Additional to the monthly stalls are orders for Easter Eggs and Christmas goods. For Easter 2019 we sold fifteen Fairtrade Easter Eggs with orders totalling £78. This was three more Easter Eggs sold and an increase of 19 pence.

Easter Eggs will be on sale again at the worship centres until the end of March, information will be noted onto the pew sheet.

There was a reduction in Christmas orders in 2019, with 20 items purchased totalling £85.02. This was 6 items and £39.27 less than the orders completed in Christmas 2018. The Traidcraft company did produce a separate Christmas Catalogue but this was only released in mid-November and was after our cut-off point for orders,

We also had a disappointing return from the Christmas Fair in 2019 with only £24.30 of orders sold, this was down by nearly two thirds from the Fair in 2018 and less than some Sunday services returns. The reduction was probably not helped as the stall was at the end of the corridor with no passing trade.

Fairtrade Fortnight will be back Monday 24 February - Sunday 8 March 2020. The focus in 2020 will be to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income, starting with cocoa farmers in West Africa.

Our aim in 2020 is again remaining to support and encourage the Fairtrade ethos within the Parish as I did in 2018 and 2019 at no cost to the Parish. Therefore, I will continue to provide Fairtrade Tea & Coffee to the St. Peter's service on a Sunday and the Friday service which has moved from St. Martin's to St. Margaret's. This has also included St. John's but I will need to know when these stocks are running low.

In my 2019 Fairtrade report it was noted that Traidcraft was suffering from financial difficulties and the company has re-launched and streamlined the business. Traidcraft has continued to stay in business and we have been able to purchase products from their catalogues.

Finally, a big thank you to the worship centre congregations who have purchased over £350 of Fairtrade items during 2019.

Thank you

Graham Riding

St. John's Parish Fairtrade Representative.

### Hall Players

I am pleased to report yet another successful season for The Hall Players. Audiences have remained plentiful and I feel this is mainly due to the hard work and talent of all our members. It is certainly something to be thankful for, as many other local groups report a steady decline in their numbers. We are so fortunate to have such hard-working team of members, both on and off the stage and our bank balance remains very healthy.

The first production of 2019, our pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast', was yet another huge feat of organisation requiring a large amount of time and effort from a large number of people and I give a very big thank you to all those involved in any way. We could not stage a production of this size without each and every one of our members. The pantomime was well received and the band, props, wigs (15 in all) and effects added enormously to the professionalism of the production. A

special thank you, however, must go to Steve Dobson and Laura Forshaw for taking on the mammoth task of directing & producing.

In January we received four NODA nominations, 3 of which were for parts in the plays written by Andy Bennison:-

#### **Farndale Avenue 'Macbeth'**

Best Actress - Maureen Nickson for 'Thelma' (and a number of other roles)

#### **'Any Other Business'**

Best Supporting Actress - Carol Buckley for 'Antonia'

Best Actor - Paul Armitt for 'Gerald'

#### **Eager Beavers**

Most entertaining female - Carol Buckley for 'Sylvia'

Our final play of the season was 'Time of My Life' by Alan Ayckbourn.

Gerry Stratton (Paul) organized a family dinner with his sons, Glyn

(Clive-wearing a wig to make him look younger) and Adam (played by Lee), at his favourite restaurant to celebrate his wife Laura's (Carol) 54th birthday. Glyn is with his long - suffering wife Stephanie (Diana-wearing a wig in the final scene); their marriage looks to be on firmer ground than it once was. Adam has brought along his new girlfriend (Becca appearing in 5 different wigs) as an outrageous hairdresser and Dominic excelled and enjoyed himself by also appearing in 5 different wigs as 5 different waiters. A very big thank you to our directors John Ellis and Maureen Nickson; Maureen kindly stepped in to direct whilst John was exploring India. The cast were indeed very grateful to have two very experienced directors to guide them through their paces.

A big thank you should go to our backstage team who haven't had the glory of applause on stage this year but who have supported the actors by working so incredibly hard to make our productions as professional as possible. In no particular order we thank: Ian K, Chris, Les, Pete, Laura, Janet, Jan, Ian B, Lisa, Harry, Howard, Pat, Carol, Ozgur, Simon, Christine,

Mark, Gaynor, Claire, Tracy, Julie, Maggie, Penny and Helene.

The Hall Players moved to their new home (Preston Playhouse) for their first production of the season in October. Their production of 'Breezeblock Park' by Willy Russell was very well received and we played to packed houses over 4 nights.

Finally a presentation, on behalf of the Hall Players, was made at our AGM in May, to Bette Bell. Bette has put in a huge amount of time and effort over a very long period of time, contributing in such a big way to the success of our plays. Bette has given up an enormous amount of time to run our box office for over 40 years and we presented her with a token of our appreciation. Thank you, to Bette, for the tremendous amount of dedication you have given to the Hall Players, in particular with the smooth running of the box office.

### **St John Baptist Church Club**

2019 was again a fairly successful year and we showed a reasonable profit.

We continued with our fortnightly quizzes which are well attended.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of our Social secretary, Carol Jones, we have managed to squeeze in 2 dances this year, which were well attended.

At the Club AGM it was decided that every member would receive a letter giving them the option to decide what they wanted the clubs monies and assets to be used for when the Club closed. It was decided that the Club assets and goods e.g. bar stock, would be sold and the proceeds given to a homeless charity.

The sale of assets raised £1155 which was sent to Emmaus Preston.

The Bowling Club also sold their mowing machine, which raised £1250 which has been sent to St Catherines Hospice.

The remaining money is being either given back to the members, or given to Charities of their choice.

The Spring dance raised £148 for St Catherines.

Stan Woodcock's Quiz raised another £350 for St Catherines.

Brian Taylor organised a Quiz which raised £220 for Rosemere Cancer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and our amazing team of volunteers for all their support and dedication to the Club over the years and it was very sad to close the doors for the final time on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Lynne Ward

Secretary

### **Friends, Food and Fellowship**

We started the lunches May 2017. We had 7 lunches last year 2019, 5 in the Parish Hall and 2 lunches at the Phantom Winger. We have between 19 & 28 people coming. All of them enjoy the lunch and the company of each other as some live alone. We donated £150 to Church Funds last year.

June Eccles

### **Knit and Natter**

Knit &Natter has been going since October 2018. It has become a very successful group with approximately 20 members. The group meets now at St Martins House on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 2pm to 4 pm with tea and coffee and biscuits. So far we have raised £255 for the Royal British Legion by knitting poppies for Remembrance day and did displays for the 2 church centres, also Easter Chicks which were sold in church and raised £70 the proceeds were shared between the church and the food bank. Sue Stephenson