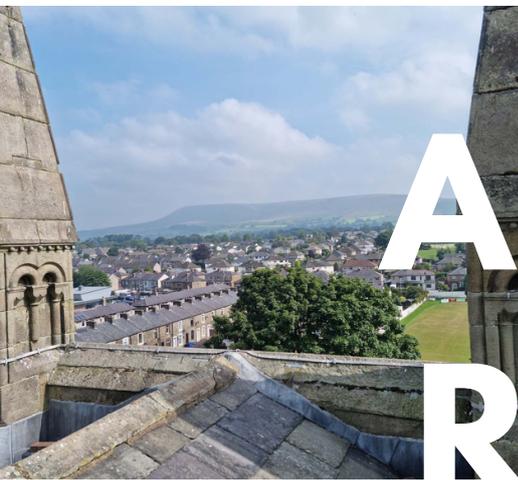
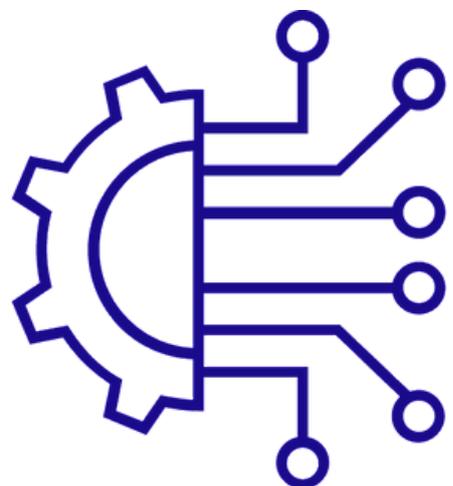
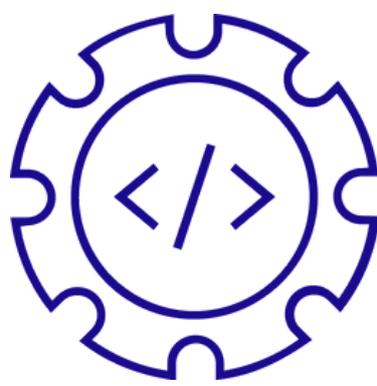




2021



ANNUAL REPORT



Foreword

Report writing sometimes isn't the most exciting thing to do or read. But as I read through these reports, I was increasingly thankful, sensing the excitement and passion of those that head up some of St James' ministries and increasingly encouraged by the number of lives touched by God even in this strangest of years. We often pay tribute to those who have gone before us and on who's legacy we build and I pray that as you read these reports you too will be grateful not just to those of the past, but those today who continue to serve and will consider your contribution to the life and ministry of the Church.

Rector's Report

Mark Pickett



We often hear the adage that the Church is not the building, but the people. At no time has this been more apparent than during the last two years. It is the people, that has meant that St James' has not just survived but has thrived through the pandemic. As I reflected on this last year, it is the teams of people that I want to highlight in my review.

Having a Staff Team has meant not just that things are well organised and communicated, nor that ministry to all ages has developed. The real joy of the staff team for me is the creativity that comes when we get together and bounce ideas off one another resulting in projects such as cream teas or plants and cards distributed to the isolated, doorstep Christingles and Easter outreach.

We have a committed Pastoral Team who meet regularly, visit the vulnerable, organise lifts and through the wonders

of WhatsApp, communicate regularly on those that need specific help.

Our Worship Teams commit themselves in preparation, rehearsal, and delivery on a Sunday morning to bring us creative, anointed worship that enables us to bring our praise to God, the subject and object of our worship.

Meeting regularly as a Teaching Team has brought creativity and consistency to our Sunday teaching and our service hosts endeavour to plan well and create space within our services for encounter with God. A particular highlight for me this year was our Advent series as we inhabited four of the Christmas characters.

The team of small group leaders have been amazing through the lockdown. Keeping in touch with members, flitting from in person meetings to zoom and back again. This term, we have coordinated the Sunday teaching with the small group material, seeking to

provide consistency, challenge, and encouragement around the area of mission.

New this year has been the establishment of the Social Justice team and their focus for this year has been on the care of creation. Following an eco-workshop day and some preliminary work on our building, we now have the eco church bronze award.

Which brings me to the Building Team which have been such a help to Naomi, not just in the practical work, (thank you Andrew Stevens,) but in the ongoing planning and maintenance of our old building. The exciting, and somewhat miraculous purchase of Seedles' yard is in the hands of the solicitors and by the time you read this the refurbishment of the Oasis room should be complete!

A massive thank you to those on the Finance Team who's on going management has resulted in a comprehensible and clear balance sheet that enables us to plan. Thank you to all those who give to St James' and we will continue to keep you regularly updated on the state of our finances, thanked for your generosity as well as encouraging new and increased giving.

As we move forward our priority is also about people. Our church is growing, and we need to identify, mobilise, train, and support new leaders. My hope is that by the end of this year we will have leaders ready to take on leadership of alpha groups and new small groups. People serving on children's and youth teams. More worship leaders and more serving on all the other teams. I hope, like me, you love St James', and as you read these reports, I pray that you will feel inspired to pray, inspired to give and inspired to serve the people of God in this place and reach those that do not yet know Him.

Wardens Report

Mary Haworth

Another year gone by, and what a lot has happened. Andrew Stevens became Church Warden, and Roger Price continued as Deputy Warden. It's been a challenging year for all of us, as a church together; there have been a number of changes, and the purchase of Seedle's Yard has given us all something to pray about, and to seek what God has planned for us as to how to move forward. Please keep praying for God to reveal His vision for our future.

There have been numerous changes to life in St James, as some of our congregation has passed on to be with the Lord, new ones have stepped into the situation, bringing their gifts and talents, seeking for God to use them, and it's exciting to see this happening - especially as Covid has taken its toll amongst us, and we are moving in different circles. It's good to see new families exploring and seeking Jesus, and the building being used more, reaching the community in many different ways.

We have so much to thank God for, his faithfulness, his grace, his peace in difficult times, his love and his promise that he will never leave us. What more could we ask for or expect?

We give thanks and praise every day, for you and our church family, for all your support in so many ways, both practical and spiritual, we all have different needs, but without God in the centre, we are nothing.

May we encourage all of you to play your part, whatever that may be, and continue to transform St James into the church that God intends it to be.

God bless you all,

Mary and Andrew

Curate's Report

Ian Sarginson

It is fair to say that my curacy had not been as I imagined when I turned up in the Summer of 2019. Only a few months in and the world was in the grip of Covid-19 and all of the change that brought. We responded to that as a church and individually as a minister I had to learn new skills that college and training had not prepared me for.

2021 was much of the same, with each week seemingly bringing a relaxation of restrictions or a heightening of restrictions and new government guidance. It was important to still find ways to bring the message of hope of the good news of Jesus to people, and that is what I and indeed St James' church sought to do.

In August 2021 my focus shifted to the early birth of our son Victor and the challenges that his early arrival presented him and us with. That led to over 3 months in intensive care in Burnley and for that period the majority of my focus was on that ward. I learnt a lot about myself and my faith in those days and hours that will undoubtedly benefit me in the future. I also learned of the power of the local church to support, encourage and care in even the darkest and scariest of times. We as a family will ever be grateful to the people of St James for their prayers, cards, gifts, food, encouragement and love in those times and since. It taught me so much about the power of a community seeking to share God's love and will for sure shape my ministry and influence the kind of church that I want to be involved in leading.

So allow me to thank you all for that, you will never fully know the difference that you have made.

This was the final year of my curacy and at the end of 2021 I was signed off for my curacy and will soon be heading to my first incumbency at Buckshaw Village.

I have learned so much from my time at St James' and it will always hold as special place in my heart for so many reasons.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Thank you St James' church!

Operations

Naomi Lynas

2021 felt like a slow climb – uphill, but definitely slow. From the January lockdown, to gradually opening up throughout the year, it's felt like a year in which we've wrestled through things to bring clarity and strong systems into place.

One of my aims for 2021 was to review all our Policies – from our Health and Safety Policy to our Staff Absence Policy. The poor PCC must have been sick of being asked to approve yet another policy! But, I've discovered, the very process of writing a policy helps you to make decisions, ensure consistency and ensure a smoother running of operations.

2021 was also the year in which we brought clarity to our leadership structure. We now have a Vision and Alignment team which really spends time praying into and seeking God for the vision and direction of the church. Our Leadership Team – which is made up of everyone who leads an area of ministry – then shapes that vision. Ministry teams serve into the vision, and the PCC has overall responsibility for the stewardship. We're still working through this structure, but it does seem to be working for most ministry areas. My main highlight of the year has to be the day that we heard we'd agreed a sale for Seedle's Yard. This took me personally by surprise – I had actually drafted letters making arrangements to transfer donations back to the donors – when we heard that Mr. Seedle had accepted our offer. This is a huge testimony to God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of our Church family, and an amazing investment for future generations.

Other highlights in particular have been seeing teams rebuilt as services opened back up, and week after week in September – and this is continuing – where we are welcoming new people to our services. Between September and October, we welcomed 75 new people, mostly families. This is amazing, and definitely something to be celebrated, but also something that may make us think. Research shows that once a church service hits 80% capacity, it won't grow any further. Why? Because people come i

in but assume there's no space for them. So if we want to continue to grow, we have to build capacity – in services, in small groups, in leadership and in ministry teams. Finally, one of the real highlights of 2021 for me personally has been to see the development of the Social Justice group and especially the achievement of Eco Church Bronze Award. We played our part in hosting the Camino to COP Pilgrimage, and my small group studied Ruth Valerio's 'Saying Yes to Life,' which I found both inspiring and challenging, and I'm really looking forward to moving towards our Silver Eco Church award.

Someone asked me last week how I thought Covid had affected the direction and movement of the church towards its vision. My response was, 'I think we're moving in exactly the right direction, but Covid just made us go a bit more slowly.' It's a slow uphill climb sometimes, but I think we're gaining momentum.



Finances Report

Naomi Lynas

2 years ago, in February 2020, Mark Pickett and I stood at the front of church, sharing areas for prayer and giving in the following:

- A need for £50,000 to refurbish the Oasis Room, which was very run down and unsuitable for worshipful Children's Ministry
- A forecasted need for additional monthly income of £7,300 a month (£87,000 a year) by 2022
- A tiny possibility that the land known as Seedles Yard, adjacent to the churchyard, may come up for sale in future, and the owner would like to offer it to the church for purchase if that was the case.

These were big, bold plans and called for real faith in our finances, even before the pandemic.

Over the past 24 months, I have watched each of these prayers be answered.

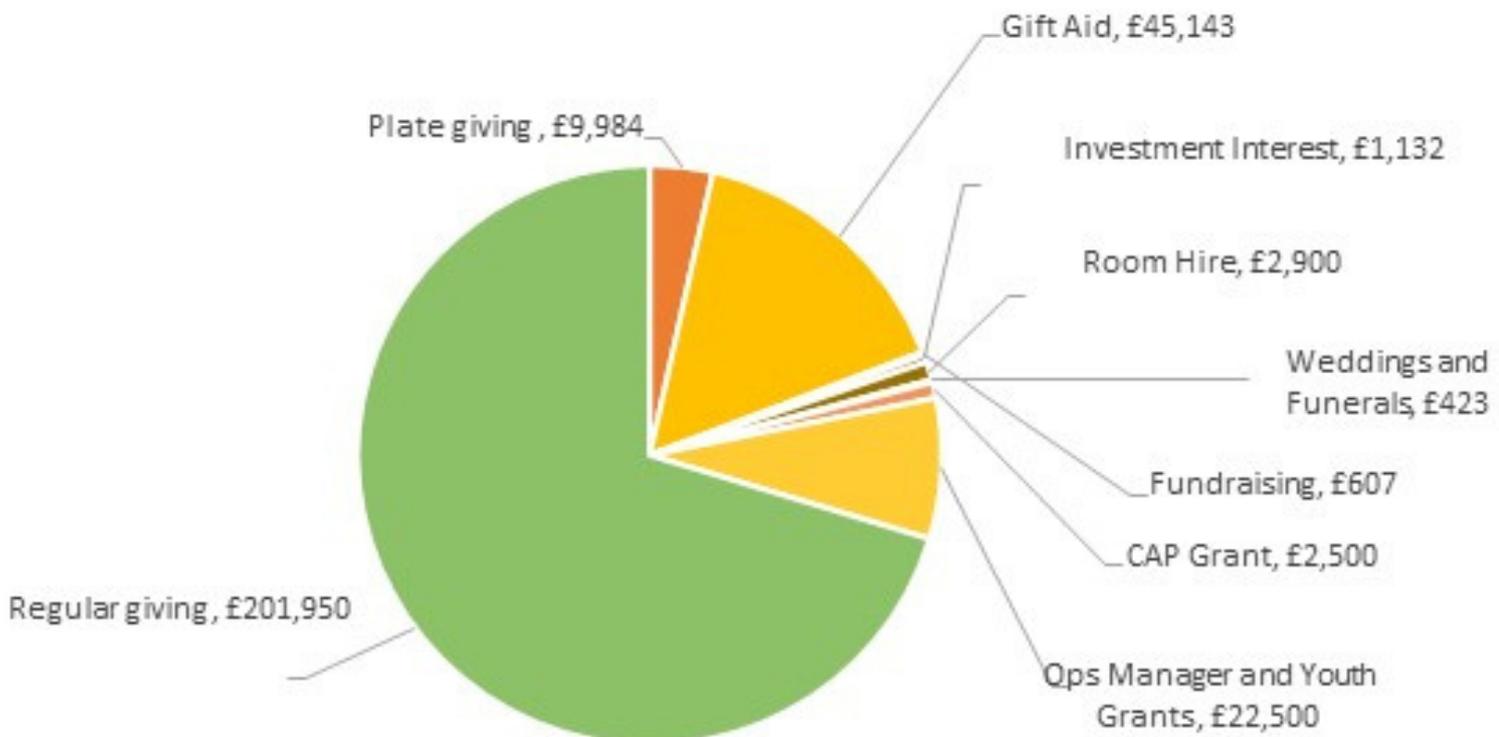
- 2021 was the first year in many that we set a break-even budget, rather than a deficit one.
- In December, we received an amazing legacy from the estate of Jack Pickup of £72,000. The PCC had decided to allocate this to the refurbishment of the Oasis Room when we were informed of it.
- Throughout the first few months of 2021, as we shared the possibility of purchasing Seedle's Yard, I watched incredible donations and pledges come in. We agreed to purchase this - following an additional gift of £20,000 - in August 2021.

As you will see from the charts and figures below, our income was slightly below our expected budget. This was due to a significant decrease in plate giving, impacted by lockdowns and limited numbers attending worship services, and also due to a drop in Gift Aid - so if you're able to Gift Aid, please make sure you do so! We were able to make up some of the increase through room hire, but our income was still lower than expected.

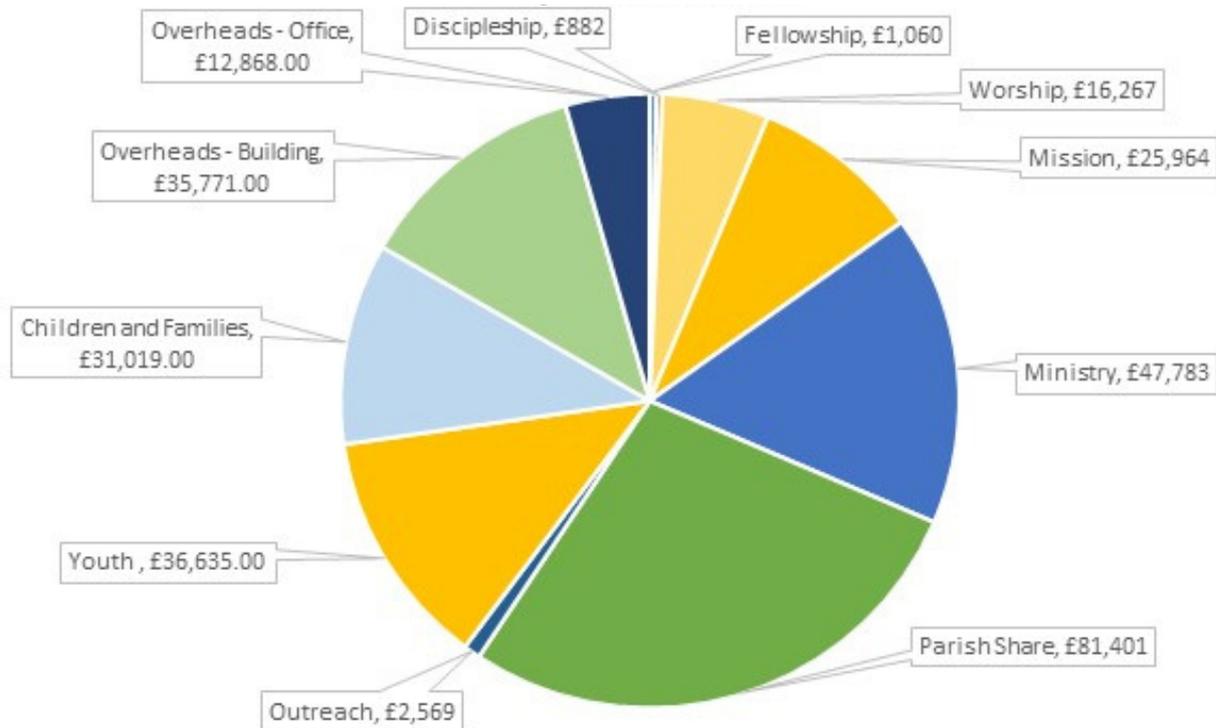
Income and Expenditure 2021 Budget vs Actual



Income 2021



Expenditure 2021



In terms of Capital Income, we are moving towards using Legacies for Capital Projects – such as the Oasis Room refurbishment. The funds donated for Seedle’s Yard are also ring-fenced.

We received a legacy of £72,813. This will be tithed, and the remaining £65,532 will go towards Capital Projects, including the Oasis Room refurbishment.

The total funds available for Seedle's Yard stand at £197,625. This will almost exactly cover the purchase and the legal fees associated with this.

For 2022, we have had to set a deficit budget, with a potential deficit of £17,000. This is due to one grant (for the Operations Manager role) ending, and a second grant (for the Youth Minister role) being reduced. We do currently have reserves which would allow us to run a deficit budget of this kind for 2-3 years, but that leaves nothing for Capital Projects. We would love to reach a point where our regular income covers our running costs, so do please consider starting to give or increasing your regular giving if you are able.

These financial reports in particular are an amazing testimony to God’s faithfulness and the faithful, committed giving by so many of our Church family.

Huge thanks go to the Finance Team, who take real care to steward our finances well and ensure our accounting is transparent, communicated effectively and up to date: Jonathan Frank, Sue Clark and myself.

Fabric Report

Naomi Lynas and Andrew Stevens



Back in May 2021, when Andrew Stevens took over as Church Warden, we did a walk-through of the building, creating a job list. Andrew has worked really diligently to tackle many of the small but annoying jobs, often ensuring they don't become bigger problems.

One big thing on our list was improving access to the tower. We had been aware of pigeons in the tower for some time, but over the summer, James Robinson launched 'Project Pigeons Out.' He and his partner Michelle took every single pigeon out of the tower, and with Andrew, netted all the louvres and windows. Andrew then took up the challenge of improving the access to the tower, and – after clearing out a lot of junk and replacing various ladders – it's now possible to access the top of the tower without risking life or limb (but we do insist he wears a safety harness to do so).

Another 'big ticket item' in the Summer was the front steps. For many years, Andrew and others had been repairing the slabs when they came off, and finally, the steps had crumbled away so that it was impossible to repair them. Deciding to re-do them was one of the fastest PCC decisions I have ever seen! This was a significant spend but did uncover the root of the crumbling steps and the occasional terrible smell that hung around the front

doors – a broken drain. Many people have commented on how good the steps now look, and as an added bonus, they haven't needed gritting this winter.

The other big Summer project was the redecoration of the upstairs rooms, as they were going to be used on a permanent basis by Gateway. Ali and her trustees spent a long time working out the best furniture to ensure that the rooms could be used at the evening and weekends by the church, and having the walls and ceilings painted, and the carpets cleaned, has made a huge difference – if you haven't been up there for a while, I encourage you to do so.

At the time of writing, work has just started on a project that has been in the pipeline for nearly 5 years – the refurbishment of the Oasis Room. While I know this is disruptive, we've already seen the fruits of last year's disruption, and I'm looking forward to seeing the finished result.

I am incredibly grateful particularly to Andrew for all that he has done around the building, and for the PCC for supporting us in some difficult decisions over the past year.



Teaching Team

Mark Pickett

Consisting of those who lead and preach at our services, the teaching team have met regularly this year to create, shape, and evaluate our public worship. A particular challenge as we have returned to in person worship has been to continue to engage our online congregation. Our priority, however, will always be our gathered congregation in the building.

Our main Sunday service has a flexible pattern

First, we do family: engaging all the generations in praise, worship, and learning. Secondly, we do faith: this would include testimonies, sharing from areas of church life, and interviews. Third we do Word: by reading and exploring Scripture. Fourth we do response: this takes many forms including sung worship, prayers, prayer ministry, creative take home activities, and just silence. In all this we seek to be open to change as we host both the congregation and sense the moving of God's Spirit.

In terms of teaching we prayerfully consider what God may want to teach us in the context in which we find ourselves. This year as we returned to public worship we explored the book of Ezra and the Israelites return to build the temple. As further restrictions eased we spent 8 weeks exploring the subject of connecting and our calling as the Church to the 5 marks of mission. Finally, exploring some of the less famous characters in the book of Acts, we are being challenged how we can share the Good News of Jesus in our own lives.

We are so blessed to have such a creative teaching team who not only contribute to our two Sunday services, but also to our mid-week service on a Wednesday. This is a lovely, growing congregation ably assisted in worship by James our organist. Following the lectionary readings, this weekly communion service is an oasis in the middle of a week and one which I would encourage you to join.

Children and Families

Helen Potts



Once again it's been a roller coaster of a year! The constant change in restrictions was physically and emotionally draining, but there is so much to celebrate and be grateful for. I am so grateful for the blessing of my church family and staff team who have encouraged and supported me this last year. A special thank you to the people who have been part of the team ministering with me this year. Without your help none of this would happen! You are God's special agents and have said yes to his call to be missional. Thank you so much , you know who you are! You constantly offer your little to God and he turns it into a feast.

Baby Fishes and Little Fishes continues to grow and thrive. It fills my heart with joy to welcome around 50 families every Monday. We continue to ask God how we can share his love and good news with these families. We listen to their stories, remember their stories, we pray, we invite them to other events, we celebrate Easter and Christmas. In November we started Soul Food on a Thursday morning, a space to come and talk about faith and to be prayed for. It has started slowly and gently, but feels that God is there in its midst.

I heard the following quote at a conference recently, 'If you want to change the world, start a toddler group!' This is our vision!

Kingdom Kids and Tiddlers is a wonderful place to be on a Sunday morning. After a time of intergenerational worship and sharing with their St. James' family, the children then move to their age appropriate teaching, where they can explore the weeks teaching with games, play, discussion, art and other activities. It is such an honour to be with the children as they listen to God and share what God is saying with each other, then pray for each. I love learning from the children. Their faith inspires me!

Intergenerational Worship allows all of us as a church family to grow, serve and worship together. It creates a space where each of us can learn from the others, whatever our ages. On a Sunday morning we have tried to allow space for this to happen, thinking about song choices, being creative in how we present Bible readings, including talking points and discussion times.

Forest Church continues to provide a much appreciated space for family faith, which is key to the discipleship of our children. It is also a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational worship, as families plan and lead different activities and children are free to grab the microphone and share what God is teaching them. The friendly, informal feel to Forest Church allows us to invite community families to join us. God's creation draws us close to God and each other. We are all so grateful for the opportunity to meet once a month and to God for how he blesses us.



Rockin is thriving, led by an amazing team. I am so grateful for the team that have sacrificially served over the last year. Connections with families have never been so strong and numbers are growing. The children love the acceptance and love they get at Rockin and are keen to invite their friends along too.

St James School continue to offer me opportunities to share God's love by supporting the teachers, the children and their families. Throughout Covid restrictions it has been great to support and encourage them whenever I could, with video assemblies, outdoor activities, family visits and carefully planned 1:1 sessions.

Since September it has been wonderful to be with the children as I lead assemblies, to be able to chat to them during playtimes and to once again welcome them to church for special services and for their Nativity play.

I'm so happy Bible Diggers has restarted and with nearly 30 enthusiastic children coming each week. We now alternate Bible Diggers with a club more suitable for Y5 and Y6, called Excavate, we drink hot chocolate and talk about Jesus. Wonderful! Another opportunity has been an emotional well-being lunchtime group, to support children struggling with worries and anxieties.

In a few weeks time I'm looking forward to setting up an Easter prayer space for the school, either indoors or outdoors. So exciting!

So much to celebrate and thank God for.

St James School Governors

Mark Clayton, Chair of Governors

This year has witnessed a gradual return to school life as we once knew it. Children were keen to be back with their friends and teachers and the staff and school welcomed each and every one of them back with open arms. I'm sure many parents were also pleased to see the children back in school full time! All the staff and children have worked tremendously hard to catch up on lost time but their tenacity and enthusiasm is ensuring they are learning and developing better than ever. My thanks, on behalf of all the governors, to the staff who have worked so tirelessly during the pandemic, to the parents for their ongoing support and, of course, to our amazing children who will value so much.

We sadly said goodbye to our head teacher, Fiona Pattison as she retired from her post at Christmas. We wish her and her family well as she embarks on this new stage in her life. We know that the St. James family will remain in her thoughts and prayers and that we will all have many happy memories of her time within our family.

We are in the process of recruiting our next head teacher and in the midst of developing some wonderful new buildings to take our school forward. Exciting times ahead so please keep us in your prayers.

Mark Clayton, Chair of Governors.

March 2022

St James Youth

Lucy Skelton

With restrictions lifting and being able to do more in person work, the youth ministry has had the ability to really start to take shape. The youth team and I have been running various activities all designed to meet one of the 3 steps (Connecting, changing, transforming) and we have added a fourth step (engaging) as we felt that we needed a step between changing and transforming which allows young people to have a go at serving and being part of a transforming community. The aim is to have young people connect through connecting activities which are safe and gentle, then for them to gradually move through to a changing activity then take up an engaging activity and finally begin serving as part of the wider church community.

Connecting Activities:

Friday Funday Club (FFC) - Fridays, 6:30pm-8:30pm,

School years 7-11 (6 after Easter) - FFC started last April as soon as the national youth agency gave the green light for in person activities to start back after the lockdown. We now have over 40 young people (mainly year 7s) who attend each week. They enjoy sports, table sports, games consoles, crafts, big group games and a 15-20 minute together time where we look at a theme or big question which has been selected by them.



Homework club, Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:30pm, Youth room, school years 7-11 -

Home work club is a quiet, safe space for young people to come and be at after school. It is an opportunity to start homework, have some space to reflect on the day and talk if they need to. We hand out almost 30 free hot chocolates each week and have around 15 who stay for the whole time. I find opportunity to talk to them about Jesus, faith and life as we sit and spend time together.

Changing activities.

Rockin Youth, Tuesdays 7pm-8:30pm, school years 7-11 (6 after Easter) -

Rockin youth is a step 1 of changing activities. The aim is to offer young people an opportunity to ask questions and explore what it means to be a Christian. At the end of the last school year we had a reasonably large group attending, however we lost quite a lot of them when they started secondary school. We have recently only had 2-5 young people and so have decided to pause Rockin Youth until after Easter when we will have the year 6s moving up.

412, Wednesdays 7pm-9pm, school years 7-13 - 412 is our step 2 changing group, this is a place for young people who have their own faith or who are wanting to go further with their understanding of Jesus. At 412 we have a time of worship (sometimes the youth lead this live), teaching/discussion, prayer time including praying for each other and time to play games and have fellowship. This year we have had on average around 10-14 attending most weeks. 412 tends to follow the Bible passage from the Sunday morning service prior.

Engaging activities:

Youth worship team - The youth worship team is open to all young people who love Jesus. If they already have a skill in an instrument or singing that is great but we don't set a standard for joining. Youth worship team has gone from being a small group to a large group, the ones who this time last year were only tiptoeing in the shallow end, now lead the group and encourage the new members to have a go, to not feel nervous and help them to feel like they belong.

Currently I am giving drum lessons to 4 young people, helping 2 to learn to play the guitar and have given some basic instructions to another on how to play the bass. We have just discussed with Helen about allowing children from Kingdom kids in school years 5 and 6 to join if they already have an instrument they play or if they can sing. It is such a beautiful thing to be part of, watching young people encourage each other, lead each other and help each other grow in their faith, confidence and understanding of musical worship.

Young Leaders – Young leaders is an opportunity for the young people to learn to lead others. They mainly help on a Friday evening at Youth club, the organize games, the register, tuck shop and lots of other things. They are developing their managerial, people and organizational skills all while being part of the youth team. They are so committed and work so hard! I have no age limit to be a young leader and I allow them to start being a young leader from school year 7. However, I do have other criteria. To be a young leader they need to attend Tuesday or Wednesday evening groups so that I know they are getting input and having time to be a young person rather than leading. I also have to feel they are responsible, reliable and capable of being in a position of authority without them becoming an authoritarian. They are given non-formal supervisions where we discuss how they are doing and sometimes have to think about how they might do something different next time.

Transforming – The aim is once a young person has reached the engaging stage even if they don't become a young leader or join the youth worship team, that they will be encouraged and supported to begin serving in the wider church community. The young leader scheme helps me to identify areas that would suit them but is not essential to be able to give them roles. We have at least one young person who serves Helen with Kingdom kids as he has shown a gift for working with under 5s.



Other work:

Schools: - I have been running 3 lunch clubs since December. 2 that happen on a Wednesday at Ribblesdale and one that happens at Bowland High. These are called 'Connect Club' and are a safe space for young people to come and be at lunch time. I take in free drinks and snacks as well as games, colouring and simple crafts. These are spaces for me to do more connection work and invite the young people to our other activities.

I have also carried out some training with students at Ribblesdale who are wellbeing leaders, we talked about how to support other students who may be finding things difficult.

Ribble Valley Youth(RVY) - RVY has continued this year, we did some detached sessions in the castle grounds during the summer months, we have had a bi-weekly online gaming week during the winter and held 3 very successful youth gatherings.

Abide Bitesize Youth event - In January the Diocese Board of Education held a small youth event at the church and we invited the young people from all the church based activities. We had over 40 young people at it. It was a fantastic event and the young people had a really great evening of worship (led by our youth worship team), teaching and discussion, prayer response and games. This was a warm up event in preparation for the big event at the end of March which we are planning on attending.

Youth team: The youth team has grown this year, however we still really need more people to join the team so that we can not only reach more young people but so we can do so more effectively. 5 of the youth team went away to the National Youth Ministry Weekend in November and gained some much from it.

It has been an amazing year with so many things starting up and so many young people being in touch with the church each week. On average over 100 each week come to at least one of the groups either in the church, at a school or through RVY. Thank you for all your support whether it be financial, prayer or in-person which has meant we have been able to do so much.

CAP

Graham Haldane

CAP services returned to face-to-face delivery in mid-2021, initially meeting clients at St James' Church, where it was easier to ensure social distancing, and eventually back to visiting clients in their own homes. Client numbers are beginning to pick up again nationally and locally, but with a trend towards a higher proportion of debts arising from arrears on priority bills (rather than credit cards, loans etc). A higher proportion of clients also seem to have mental health issues contributing to their ability to handle their finances. We saw 13 new clients in 2021 and saw 2 clients go debt free during the year, with others on track either on long-term repayments plans or awaiting insolvency.

CAP Money continues to be a really useful resource. We ran 5 CAP Money courses during 2021 - two public and three with rehabilitation charities (Recycling Lives and Elisha House). Graham has also been involved in a project redeveloping the CAP Money course to be fit for the future.

In November 2021, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the CAP Clitheroe Debt Centre with a CAP Celebration Sunday service and a lunch for volunteers, clients and referrers. It was really great to acknowledge all those helped in some way over those ten years, signified by the 164 paper figures hanging on strings across the church. We were struggling with having enough befrienders, but after an appeal a significant number of new people came forward, for which I am really grateful. We had a team training day and lunch together in January 2022, and the new befrienders are already proving invaluable, resourceful and very caring to clients.



Worship

Jonathan Berry

In some ways it has been a challenging year for the worship team. COVID yet again played a significant role in shaping the worship team's capacity and work. Despite this, a lot has happened as the year has progressed. I would like to note that:

- It has been great to see the team recover after COVID as new members join, and old members return. I am so grateful for the faithful ministry of everyone in the team.
- Jenna Potts' leadership has been a particular blessing this year for both myself and the church.
- I am delighted that Dan Finn has agreed to join the team as a worship leader. Dan is setting up the house of prayer at Turret House and brings with him a wealth of experience in musical and spiritual leadership.
- I really hope to kick start more team building and training this year. I'm excited about the prospect of engaging with other churches across Lancashire as we do this.
- From a resourcing perspective, we're especially praying for more bassists and guitarists.
- During this past year I have been reminded of the power of corporate worship. I believe worship is fuel for the church. Our love for God powers everything that we do. The more we worship together, the more energy and capacity we have to do God's work.

Pastoral Care

Peter Williams

Pastoral work at St James is a multi-layered thing, in which we seek to keep people connected, and to support those in need in either physical, spiritual or emotional ways.

Much of this work happens through the small group network, where relationships are strong, and loving and caring for one another happens regularly and practically. Problems that arise can be channelled to the right person – for example clergy, or counselling support.

In addition to this, we have a brilliant team of pastoral workers who strive, mainly, to be the eyes and ears of the church, spotting needs, supporting in a variety of ways, and keeping people connected. Again this team can signpost people to the right source of help and support. Through this process we have fed those in times of difficulty, ministered to the dying, shopped for the injured, talked to the lonely, transported to medical appointments, and generally tried to be Jesus to those in our Church Family.

Although it has been difficult with Covid, many house visits for conversation, prayer and communion have been undertaken (including three rounds of gifts to older, isolating or vulnerable members) and we continue to do this and hopefully re-embed it in our routines as normality resumes. We visit three care homes to take communion to the house bound.

We have undertaken two “sweeps” of all those whom we know to have a connection with our church, and ensured that in some way, everyone has maintained a connection – or we have checked in with them to see where they were up to.

Three members of our pastoral group have answered God’s call to undertake the Pastoral Elective training element offered by the diocese to widen their understanding and further enhance their gifting in this part of serving God.

Thanks to all those who have been any part of this over the past year. You are doing God’s work: he who, through Paul, said, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God.” (Acts 20v28)

Discipleship

Ruth Haldane

Discipleship during the 2021 has been all about rising above our circumstances, growing in our love for God, in our everyday faith and prayer life, and being missional in every aspect of our lives.

What does this look like in St James? Our discipleship links with our themes of connecting-changing-transforming. In 2021 the discipleship focus was on growth in small groups, which continued to meet live and online with 3 running during the day, and the rest in the evenings. During Covid19 small groups became a lifeline to their members, with zoom meetings, support and care being so important. The small group leaders met together regularly to pray, discuss plans for the year ahead and share together – coordinated by Ali Groves.

In 2021 the focus for the team was to launch whole church discipleship in 2022 – discipleship which is accessible for all learning styles – using the huge store of resources which is now available, online, in books, podcasts, blogs and courses. And so from January 2022 everyone, including all small groups, was encouraged to focus on mission, equipping and enabling us to be missional where we are, in the communities around us. Alongside this we provided a range of resources, both online and ‘live’ which are available for us all to use.

Della Pickett has continued to lead the mentoring team, providing mentoring to anyone who would like to grow and develop in a specific area of their faith.

One ‘live’ and one online DNA course has been offered to those new to St James. Alpha continues to run, with another planned for summer 2022. Mark led 4 Sunday night sessions entitled ‘Thinking Space’, which proved to be an excellent forum for discussing all the issues around gay marriage and giving each person the space to discuss and make their own minds up. It is hoped to have more ‘Thinking Space’ series in the future, discussing challenging subjects we all face in the everyday.

I look forward to the next 12 months!

Outreach

Naomi Lynas

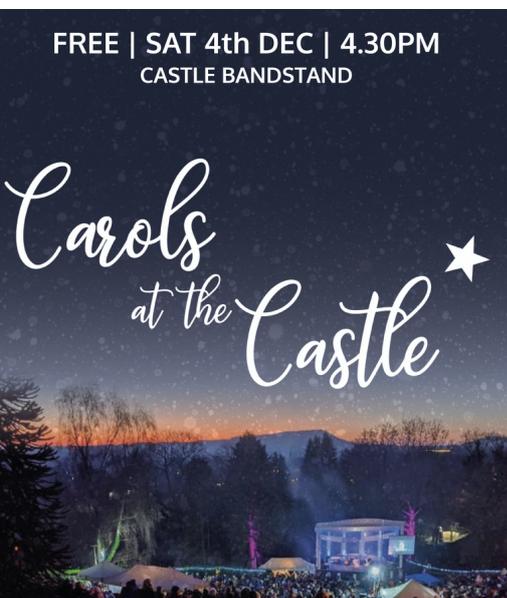
Throughout 2021, we continued with our 'Doorstep evangelism' projects. On Valentine's Day, we distributed 100s of Valentines Chocolates, with a message of Love and Kindness. For Easter, we provided postcards and encouraged people to give their own gift or message – some people did daffodils, some did biscuits or Easter eggs, and some lucky neighbours received bottles of wine.

We followed this up at Christmas with 'At the Heart of Christmas' boxes, again using wooden baubles from last year, chocolate hearts and little gifts, as well as an invitation to our Christmas services. We all know how the Omicron variant affected Christmas, and it affected our services as well.

One of the Outreach highlights of last year was Carols at the Castle, and for many of us, this was the first big event we'd been involved in since March 2020. Despite the rain, it was wonderful to see so many people from our wider community having an opportunity to engage with the gospel.

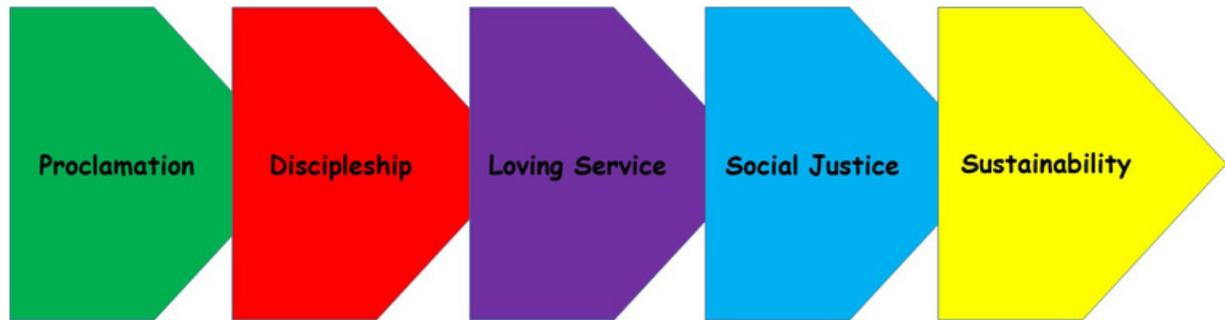
We also had 2 Alpha groups complete the Alpha course last year. This has not only created a new small group with people who have come to faith through Alpha, but has also given an opportunity for new leaders to step up – all of whom have found it to be an enriching spiritual experience.

Planning is already underway for our 2022 events, but an event can only do so much. Real evangelism happens through connections, relationships and a true encounter with Jesus. That's where the real opportunities lie.



Social Justice

Graham Haldane



The restructuring of the St James' leadership team gave an opportunity to review responsibilities and introduce a 'Social Justice' ministry area. The aim is to pick up on social justice and creation care issues, which we felt were areas of the 'Five Marks of Mission' which we were weaker in addressing.

A Social Justice Group (SJSJ) was formed in April 2021, which set some initial priorities. With the COP26 climate summit on the horizon, setting a target to gain 'Eco Church' accreditation was an early priority and we achieved this in October 2021. That month was a busy one, with a Climate Sunday service and helping to host the Camino to COP walkers who were passing through Clitheroe on their long walk to Glasgow.

We've also signed up as a church to 'Creation Care' a companion scheme for families/households. So far 6 households have achieved at least a Bronze Award, and we do encourage many more to get involved (<https://creationcare.org.uk/>). We've added support for A Rocha, the charity who manage both the Eco Church scheme, to our Mission Tithe commitments.

In August, we ran our first 'Eco Church Workshop', with several families enjoying making the churchyard more wildlife friendly, through putting up bird boxes and bat boxes, planting wildflowers, creating a bug hotel, and also creating a number of outdoor prayer stations. Our aims for 2022 include, e.g.: holding further Eco Church Workshops, aiming to raise our award status to Silver, encouraging more families to join the Creation Care scheme, reviewing what more we can do as a church and individuals to support Fairtrade, and ongoing support for Christian Aid, Tearfund and refugees. Anyone else interested in these or related areas is welcome to join the Social Justice Group.

Kings Highway Partnership

Graham Haldane

It is now two years since a team from St James' Church last visited our partner family, King's Highway Church (KHC), in Eldoret, Kenya, but the partnership continues to develop and grow in strength. Julia and Mark Dyer are visiting Eldoret at the end of March, and we are hoping that some of the KHC leaders may be able to visit Clitheroe later in 2022.

We have, however, still been trying to maintain our links with KHC. The most significant way has been through holding joint online prayer meetings via Zoom. We joined KHC for their month of prayer in January, and then every month on a Sunday afternoon. Technology can still sometimes be a problem, but it's so amazing being able to join together to worship and to pray.

In our fundraising, we have shifted from a business start-up fund to creating a Youth Training Fund. This is helping to finance several young people each year to go to college or train for an apprenticeship. Funds have been raised in various ways, including gift sales at Christmas, a sponsored walk/cycle and a sponsored run (in early 2022). St James's School also held a 'Dancethon' in Feb 2022 to raise money for school books and equipment for King's Highway School.

Earlier in 2022, Christian Aid week had a theme of linking poverty with climate change, and local supporters organised a 'virtual walk to Kenya'. A group from St James, several of whom had been to Eldoret previously, contributed 1616 kilometres to the total.

Individuals and small groups in the two congregations continue to be in contact regularly, and we hope that Mark and Julia will be able to bring us back information on how some of the KHC groups are going.





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