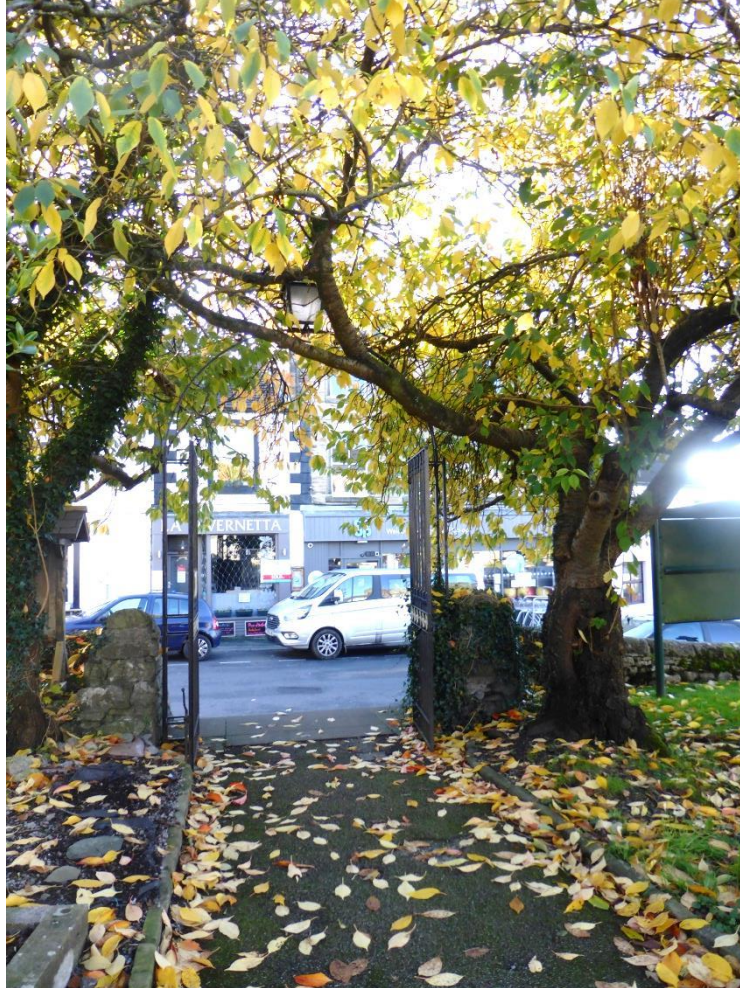


# ST MARY'S CHURCH INGLETON

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**To be presented to**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 28th April 2024**

***Note from the editor:***

*I have taken many, many pictures of Ingleton and there is never the perfect one to grace our cover. However I am aware that wherever I see Ingleton through my viewfinder, the Parish Church has a place in every view! This signifies to me the importance of our church within the village community. So, in the picture I selected, we are walking out into to the High Street from St Mary's!*

*SMS*

## Welcome

Thank you for taking time to read this report on the activities of the parish. The participation of everyone in the life of the church is vital, and that includes looking back as well as what we can give each week. I am ever grateful for the hard work and dedication of all who give towards the ministry in this parish. This goes far beyond Sunday services, and even beyond the work we do through weekly ministries like the Pop-Up Pantry, or seasonal events. Our lives of faith are interwoven with life in the community, and I hope this will remain so for years to come, as it is, I believe, still a strong witness.



In 2023 there was the notable occasion of my Sabbatical in August to October. I was pleased to see the contributions of so many people who kept the ministries going in the parish. This adds to my sense of thankfulness for what everyone has given this past year.

The year has not been without its challenges but it was good in the final months to welcome Revd Peter Greenwood as Team Rector of the Ingleborough Team. I look forward to continuing ministering with him as all of us seek to follow God's leading into the future.

*Revd Nick Trenholme*

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Report on Church Activities 2023  
Financial Accounts 2023  
Minutes of Annual Meetings 2022  
Summary of Rev Nick Trenholme's Sabbatical 2023.

## Church Activities

### Church Wardens' Report 2022

We took over as churchwardens when the 2 previous wardens left. Most of the work has been dealing with the architect with plans for the porch. We did sell 7 south aisle pews to give more space for other events, which looks good. The whole area was carpeted in blue to match the rest of the area.

As an inspection was due, the following tasks were completed

- PAT testing
- Updated the maintenance manual with work completed In 2023
- Electrical check

- Gas certificate
- Fire ext. check

The clock was adjusted for the heating to have 30 minutes a day, except when frost stat comes on in cold weather, and longer on Sundays.

All red chairs are now in the main body of the church, and blue chairs in the back room. A new cross is planned for the tower as the present cross is too heavy to manhandle.

New locks to Vicars vestry following the break in and better security may be needed in the future (TBA)\*

Grass seed will be required under the tree by the gate as this has died.

Work on the graveyard continued and we now have places for 4 benches, and the edging stones have all been replaced.

2 new HTC cables bought for the sound system.

Ongoing faculty work (as well as porch) includes: \*

- Loosen pews in main body of church to give better ladder access
- Final roof repairs
- Clock repairs

Long term plans include a new porch (and prices are coming in), levelling the floor area and introducing underfloor heating (discussions ongoing). Following the burglary we will need to look at some kind of security system for the building, but the window is being repaired in the near future.

Andy and Tom

## **Worship:**

### **Services in Church**

We maintained our weekly worship throughout the year, including during the Sabbatical. Our pattern of worship has been two services of Morning Praise on the same day as the 9am communion service, and a service of Holy Communion at 10:30am on other Sundays. Average attendance was 35 adults and 2 children. During the Sabbatical visiting clergy covered the communion services, and Morning Worship was mainly covered through the home groups taking turns at leading worship. For the groups this was an enriching experience, even while a demanding one, and we hope to continue this pattern of worship in to the future.

We held 3 baptisms for 4 children in church. Five funerals were held in church, with another being conducted at crematorium for this parish by members of the clergy team. There were no weddings in 2023.





In May we marked the coronation of the King and Queen with a joint outdoor service with Ingleton Methodist Church. We marked the church's seasons with services for Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. The congregation were invited to participate in the team services taking place in other parishes.

### Online Services

We continued to publish online services on our YouTube channel until July. I am very grateful for the support of volunteers from around the Ingleborough Team who contributed videos of readings, prayers, sermons and interviews. My Sabbatical saw the run of services come to a close. Various options were considered for trying to keep the services going, but none proved feasible in the time available. When they were running the services provided a new avenue for worship for some who may not usually come in person to the church. It was an ideal avenue to spread the message of the gospel, and one which I believe we should revisit in future.



Remembrance Day November 2023

*Rev Nick Trenholme*

### Music in Worship



St.Mary's is blessed to have the traditional organ in regular use by Dorothy. Her commitment to attending our services alongside the other churches needing her is much appreciated. Rachel and Claire provide the alternate weeks' music. We miss Andy playing with us but know he is with us in spirit working the sound system. During Nick's Sabbatical it became apparent to me how much time and effort goes into choosing the hymns for each service, taking into account lectionary readings and so forth and thinking about which tunes will work best for the congregation. Thanks to Dorothy for all her support and guidance with this.

We have a good variety of song choices and use of newer hymns through the sound system and overhead increases our repertoire. Recent services by the house groups also gave opportunity for some new and different songs to be used.

*Rachel Whaley*

## Children's Work:

On Sundays we have continued to manage without separate children's ministry, instead focussing on activities for children who remain in the service, either as part of the worship or as a separate activity for them to engage with on tables at the side. It has been good to feel like we are worshipping together as the body of Christ across all ages. It can be challenging to know how to shape the worship to make it accessible for everyone, but I strongly believe we should invest in and prioritise the faith of children and young people as they grow.

We continued to run craft events in the school holidays. These were open events aimed at families where we welcomed them into church for 2 hours in an afternoon, with craft activities, games, stories, food for the children all offered free of charge. The attendance at these has remained strong, with around 25 to 30 children coming each time. Three events were held during the year on the themes of Springtime, Easter and Summer. Great thanks are due to everyone who has helped make these such a success.

## Team Vicar's Report and Outreach

This report is a brief summary of my ministry as the clergy in post relating to anything not already covered. I have continued to take communion to those who cannot join us in church. This has included those who are housebound, or unwell, and a monthly service at the Ingleborough Nursing Home. I have also sought to continue a pattern of visiting members of the community when I can. The focus of this has mainly been follow up to those we have assisted for funerals, and baptisms, but including those who are ill. If you receive news of someone who is unwell and please do pass on news to me if the person is happy for it to be shared.

I published a newsletter each week, which has included material from an All-Age Bible study resource published by an ecumenical organisation, Roots on the Web, which also is used for our children's work. I am grateful to Rachel Whaley who took up the reins of producing a newsletter during the Sabbatical.



We held Lent lunches in church and I am grateful to Sue Simpson, and all who contributed to these for this ministry. Before one of these I led a session for a few of us baking bread. The process of baking was enjoyed by all, and I believe the results were enjoyed by those who came to the lunch, once I had got my head around the oven.

We had a presence on the Gala field, with the coconut shy. Again this was well received and was successful in engaging those who came to the gala. We also hosted the stalls for the

village Christmas event once again. The stalls themselves were run by local businesses and groups. As well as providing them a venue we also offered refreshments on the day and raised some funds through serving these.

*Nick Trenholme*

## **Fellowship:**

### **House Groups:**

**Cornerstone:** We meet weekly on a Monday evening. There are between 10 -12 folk who gather together to discuss, read God's word, sing and pray. We enjoy discussions on a whole range of topics. There are good contributions from everyone. There is a great sense of fellowship and support.

We have been challenged by preparing and leading three church services - it has brought out a great deal of creativity and humour. It is encouraging to see people now appearing regularly on the church rota for readings, prayers and welcome. Please feel free to come and join us.

*Judith Shackleton*

### **Monday Ladies Group:**

Monday Fellowship has experienced many things in 2023. Viv led us in amazing studies in Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Acts and Colossians. She also led us to participate in two church services in August and September. We had Helen Souter from Australia fellowship with us in June and July. Tragedy struck in September when we lost our dear sister in Christ; Mayo. Another of our group, Anne began cancer treatment. At these painful and difficult times it is so special to be able to support one another and pray. We enjoyed Nick's visit in November. It's been a turbulent year but we continue to learn and love in Jesus name. Since this report, our dear Viv Weber has been admitted to the Ingleborough Nursing home. We send her our love and prayers.

*Sheila Bibby*

### **Saturday Mornings at St. Mary's:**



On Saturday mornings the church room is open between 10am and 12am for Pop-up Pantry, coffee and fellowship led by Sheila Bibby. A short reflection from a Bible passage is followed by prayer. This is also an opportunity for volunteers to help with church cleaning, flower arranging and other jobs. All are welcome and special thanks must go to Jean Brown, Carolyn Watt and Tony for cleaning and to Zane for keeping our church bright with flowers, as well as to the ladies of P-U-P who provide refreshments each week.

*Sue Simpson*

### **Pop-Up Pantry:**

Pop up Pantry held here at St. Mary's Church continues to serve the community in Ingleton. It has a well-established Management Group who oversee the running of the Pantry. We

have 8 Faithful hardworking volunteers who help to keep the Pantry operating on Saturdays and Mondays.

This last year 2023 has seen an increase of donations. We collect food from Morrisons Supermarket Skipton on the 1st. Saturday every month, and every Monday we receive a delivery from the Fare-share organisation, a scheme which is run by AGE UK. We are pleased to say that the Pantry is well used and appreciated by the local residents. It is estimated that we serve at least 21 people on a weekly basis. Special Parcels of food together with children's Christmas gifts were received by families  
May we continue to operate for as long as possible.

Praise the Lord.

*Chris Purcell*

### **Moslem-Christian Women's Group**

This group, initially started by Anne Russell as an initiative within the Ingleborough team continues to flourish and a group of us meet regularly, at Broadrake Barn for a weekend in September, but also in Bradford and elsewhere.



Over the years we have had many opportunities to share one another's faith, food and culture. We have care for one another, as sisters, respecting our differences yet able to pray for one another too. Anyone wishing to join this group would be most welcome.

*Sue Simpson*

### **Crossword and Quiz Group:**

We are now made up of seven regular members who meet every Wednesday at 10am in St Mary's Church. Sadly one of our members is now unable to attend, she is greatly missed, we often recall the day she provided us all with a colourful rubber for the end of our pencils: we call them 'Vivs'.

We really do need them when the answers don't fit! We all think of her with love and remember the fun we all had together.

We usually begin with coffee and a chat before our quizzing begins, all crosswords and quizzes are provided. We try to cut down on printing and recycle where we can. £1.50 is collected from members weekly which goes toward printing and for treats. Any remaining cash is donated to the Church.

We like to support village businesses and last year we had coffee and cake in G & T's Cafe, we were made very welcome and the cake was delicious. At Christmas we had a festive meal at the Masons Arms which was great.

We would welcome new members, please contact Glenis on 07501161217

Thanks to everyone at St Mary's and especially to Pat for opening up for us, we really appreciate it.

*Glenis Gaunt*



## Sharing our Bounty



As a church, we recognise and are grateful to God for his provision for us and our church from so many sources. In response we feel it is always necessary and part of our Christian duty to support those in need and we do this through Christian charities selected each year by the PCC. Details of our giving are detailed within the Treasurers' report. We receive updates from

our charities which include Tearfund, Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire, and NISCU. We serve a loving God who provides for his children in so many ways.

### Social and Fund Raising Activities:

During the year there were many opportunities to enjoy meeting one another, hosting visitors and at the same time boosting our funds and we are grateful to all who organised and helped with these events in any way. For village and national events, we open the church providing light refreshments and home-made cakes!

As Nick already reported, we had a presence on the Gala Field and also in opening Church for the Christmas village event.

Lunches provided during Lent allowed people to socialise and to

learn something of the wonderful work of Tearfund whilst enjoying a bowl of home-made soup and bread, and raising funds for the organisation. We held the Annual Jumble Sale in August and In September, The Harvest Festival weekend included a Pie and Pea Supper,

held in church and which was well supported. This was brilliantly organised by Rachel Whaley.



The major fund-raising idea, which boosted our church funds was the extremely successful Auction of Promises and Supper which provided a real community event. The committee worked hard to ensure the success and we were grateful to Tom Lister and Daniel Brown for providing Celebrity entertainment. A new venture was the holding of a 50/50 Toy Sale. This fulfilled three purposes; quality toys at an affordable price, recompense for those who participated and funds for our Church. We hope to repeat this and that word will get around. Thank you for all ideas and to all who helped.

*Sue Simpson*

### Church Fabric:

**Environmental Report:**

**(See The Wardens' Report)**

*Andy Ive*

**Church Buildings Report:**

**(see the Wardens' Report)**

*Tom Brown*



**Anyone  
for  
crumbet?**



## Health and Safety Report:

A full health and safety audit was carried out in December 2023, with no findings to report

*Andy Ive*

## Safeguarding Statement

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Ingleton complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's policy and practice guidance in regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. More information can be obtained from the PCC minutes. Key changes have included steps to implement safer recruitment of volunteers, though there is more work to be done. Nick, as clergy in post, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and the PCC have kept safeguarding under constant review. Following the resignation of Simon Robinson, Sharon Rucastle was elected as Parish Safeguarding Officer and immediately undertook the necessary training. We are grateful for all her hard work.

Nick Trenholme

## St Mary's APCM Safeguarding Report:

The PCC has complied with our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC. We have had several safeguarding team meetings across our team of churches to ensure that we have the correct job descriptions and confidentiality agreements to put in place so we can comply and bring our working and practices in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Sharon Rucastle has been appointed as the Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's and Chapel le Dale, after following safe recruiting procedure. Reverend Nick and Sharon have had several meetings to put in place the Safeguarding Hub and Dashboard system which enables reminders to be sent from the diocese as new courses and paperwork are required.

Reverend Nick & Sharon have control and access to the Safeguarding Hub and Dashboard as well as securely held confidential paperwork. The Hub and Dashboard are confidential and secure on-line platforms maintained by the national Church Safeguarding Team for the use by individual parishes. We are working hard on bringing details up to date since our last Safeguarding Officer left. As you would expect we are working within all Safeguarding guidance and information such as the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook, Safer Environment Activities and Code of Safer Working Practice.

Many roles are now on the Safeguarding Hub with the appropriate people attached to them. All learning is either completed or identified as required and courses are online, as recently completed by some role holders and further face to face learning is scheduled for a few months' time. Sharon has one more diocesan course to complete. This is scheduled for September, which is the earliest available.

Anyone needing new DBS forms, has been identified and applications sent. One has arrived with 3 still outstanding. These will be renewed automatically moving forward every 3 years, whilst people are still in role.

We have had one safeguarding concern reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in 2023 and all paperwork is filed appropriately. No further action is now required on this concern.

Moving forward we will be focusing on ensuring safer recruitment is followed. We will guide any volunteers through this. We are grateful for all our volunteers and need to ensure that all paperwork and practices are in place to protect both the general public and volunteers. Our next step is taking our Parish Dashboard Action Plan to the PCC for approval and completing the full details and roles on the Hub.

*Sharon Rucastle (Safeguarding Officer)*

### **Deanery Synod Meetings:**

Deanery meetings take place about four times a year. Canon Ian Greenhalgh is the Rural Dean and Rev Sue McWhinney is the secretary. Meetings take place in different churches and usually begin with refreshments and an opportunity to meet and worship with those from other churches. Because we are all from small rural parishes, it is an opportunity to plan events and address issues such as finance and buildings, as part of this larger group. However, the most pressing problem has been clergy vacancies right across the Deanery. A Lent course was held in Holy Ascension Church on the theme: **'Rural Life and Village Church'**, available to all in the Deanery. It's also interesting to learn of successful projects in other churches.

*Sue Simpson*

### **Team Vicar's Report:**

This report is a brief summary of my ministry as the clergy in post relating to anything not already covered. With the end of lockdown restrictions, it has been possible to recommence taking communion to those who cannot join us in church. This has included those who are housebound, or unwell, and a monthly service at the Ingleborough Nursing Home. I have also sought to continue a pattern of visiting members of the community when I can. The focus of this has mainly been follow up to those we have assisted for funerals, and baptisms, but including those who are ill. If you receive news of someone who is unwell please do pass on news to me if the person is happy for it to be shared.

I have published a newsletter each week, which has included material from an All-Age Bible study resource published by an ecumenical organisation, Roots on the Web, which also is used for our children's work.

*Rev Nick Trenholme*

## Team Rector, Ingleborough Team, Report:



It has been a joy to work with you since my collation as Team Rector of the Ingleborough Team on October the 26th 2023 in Bentham Parish Church. I worked with you for just over 9 weeks in 2023, including All Saints, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas - it was great - thank you for it all.

At my interview I was asked how I would approach working with you all based on the information presented in the benefice profile. I answered by quoting St Augustine, who at the conclusion of his book, the City of God, wrote, that "In eternity, we shall rest and we shall see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise." My suggestion then was that if this pattern of resting, seeing, loving and praising is good for eternity, then it is a good pattern for the eternity that begins now.

It is not only a good pattern for me, but a good pattern for you, for our churches, and for our communities - for all. A good pattern as we continue to reset after COVID 19 and the various degrees of lockdown. There can be a temptation to forget about that strange time, and not benefit from the reset button that it made us all press. Let us not fall into that trap. So first of all rest as a habit of life, an ease of being. Am I setting a good example to you as priest and pastor if I rush about? I don't think so. So I will try not to do that (too much). Rest then gives us the position to look around, to see. If we are rushing about, we simply can not see well. I see many wonderful things here; the people and the landscape, the communities and the churches. It's great. It's beautiful. Let's rejoice in it all and delight in it all. Yes, there are difficulties, and sometimes dark days. I know them too, as you do. And there is constantly a glorious resurrection light at the end of the tunnel. That light is always on, within us all and often visible around us all.

To love and to praise: Somebody said to me the other day, "that's the first sermon I've heard when I haven't heard you talk about love." I apologise for that - but in my defence it was a lot about kindness: Love is the sun of the Gospel around which every other planet orbits. Jesus, when asked what was most important, said love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself. St Paul said, faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love. St John said, in three little words, God is love. Loved by God, we work everything else out, which naturally, inevitably and primarily includes the praise of God formally and informally.

So it has been very good to rest, see, love and praise God with you here, to begin to get to know you. There is so much we could do in the parishes of our team. I can not do it all, and will not, see above. We cannot do it all, see above. Instead, let us rest, see, love and praise, and seek to perceive what is that we are called to be or do.

Thank you all very much for sharing the journey. Thank you to Nick and all our retired clergy colleagues. Thank you to all our named church officers who work so hard for our churches and communities. Thank you to all those who work hard, whose name and role may or may not have a name. Thank you to all of you who have the ministry of turning up, it's important. Thank you for 2023 May God bless us for 2024.

*Revd Canon Peter Greenwood*

## Parochial Church Council 2023

I am very grateful to the support of the PCC in overseeing the life of the church. The council comprised the following members:

Chairman –	Rev Nick Trenholme	
Vice-Chairman -	Rachel Whaley	PCC Member-Graham Lynch
Churchwarden –	Andy Ive	PCC Member- Chris Purcell
Churchwarden -	Tom Brown	PCC Member- Pat Kingsparke
Treasurers -	Sue and John Scott	
PCC Secretary -	Sue Simpson	Verger:
Deanery Synod -	Sue Simpson Simon Robinson (until March 23)	
Disabilities –	Andy Ive	
Health & Safety –	Andy Ive	
Gift Aid Sec –	Jane Lupton	

The PCC meets about 6 times each year. Election to the committee provides an opportunity to be involved in the decisions and activities of St Mary's. The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for the PCC to be renewed and refreshed. If you would like to serve on the PCC, then do speak to Rev Nick or the Church Wardens.





## A Few Thoughts from the Treasurers (See Financial Statement and Trustees report)

Wouldn't it be nice not to have to pay bills! If only we could meet together on the slopes of Ingleborough, to receive the word of the Lord and not have to maintain an historic building that is not in the best of repair. Unfortunately, this is not the case, we HAVE NO CHOICE but to look after the building that we all have inherited.

I realise that raising money, to provide for the upkeep of the church, is not the fundamental mission of the church. Spreading the Christian message in the local community that is suffering a spiritual crisis should be the main thrust of the church.

I am very much aware that our calls, to raise money, falls increasingly, upon unenthusiastic ears. And I do sympathise with this view. I hear mutterings, such as - they're always asking for money, or, don't they realise that we are in the middle of a cost of living crisis. All this money wasted on paying the share, and so on.

But, **PAY OUR WAY WE MUST**. As treasurers it is our duty to pay the church bills, in increasingly difficult times. Our income relies solely upon the generosity of local parishioners and long may this continue. Unfortunately, due to circumstances our income is ***falling!***

**Our expenditure** is very great and is **rising all the time.**

<u>A few costs – for the year 2023.</u>	Cost per annum.
The big one – the share	£39069
Clergy	£ 1087
Church running expenses	£ 6716
Mission giving & donations	£ 2456
Other sundry items:	£ 62



Total expenditure, for the year 2023, is £49390. If we divide this figure by 12, it means that we have to raise a monthly sum of £4115 to keep our heads above water.

The bad news is that our gas/electricity bill has almost doubled from last year to this year's figure of approximately £6000!

The good news is the share has gone down to £35 140 a drop of £3 929.

### **Our Income:**

The collection, each Sunday, brings anything between £100 and £200/£250.

Parish giving raises approximately £1000 per month together with Gift Aid a further £250.

**This figure is falling!**

The Gift Aid claim with HMRC raises approximately £1850 per quarter, so if you are a tax-payer, do please ask for the appropriate form so that we can claim tax paid.

If you do the maths you will see that the income streams fall well below the expenditure streams. If it were not for the generosity of parishioners at fund raising events, we would lose our vicar and the church would, ultimately, have to close.

We are well aware that we keep asking the same people to help in raising sufficient finance to pay our bill, but without your continued support we would lose the struggle to pay our way.

So: many, many thanks for your continued support. We can only do it with your help.

*John and Sue Scot*

In 2023, Reverend Nick celebrated 7 years ministry among us and took a Sabbatical. (This is a time to allow for spiritual and physical renewal. He has prepared the following notes so that we can all learn a little more of this experience.

## Sabbatical 2023 – Summary

This Sabbatical project gave me the opportunity to explore integrating baking bread with Christian mission and ministry. Bread has been a personal passion for years and I had heard about some Christian churches and projects which included bread in what they did. So I set out to see how they did it and also to open my own horizons in this area, because I wanted to grow as a baker and to consider how I could develop using bread in ministry. I sensed before the Sabbatical that building relationships with people was foundational to Christian mission and this project gave the opportunity to explore that around the practice of baking.

Firstly I explored baking in general. This involved attending a course on baking Sourdough bread, assisting at our local bakery in the village and visiting community supported bakeries. The commercial constraints of baking need to be borne in mind when launching a Christian project involving bread. While many church-based projects do not seek to make profit from bread, the economic realities of cost in today's world will shape how any project operates in a long-term timescale. I also learned many practical lessons about running sessions involving bread from these visits and interactions.

I visited Somewhere Else in Liverpool (known to most as 'The Bread Church'). They are a self-styled emerging church which has now been running for over 20 years. Twice a week the sessions invite participants to bake bread and eat together. The time in which the bread rises enables relationships to be built and baking bread with people previously strangers quite naturally allows any individual to fit in with the group in a way that suits them. Trust can be built over a shared activity. Over time the community of individuals grows to become something "wholesome," just like bread is mixed and grows. These insights were common to other projects I engaged with.

Thirdly, I explored Fresh Expressions of church. Somewhere Else is an example of this style of church, which departs from the inherited models of local congregational church life,

instead seeking to create a new form of church for contemporary culture. Baking bread typically involves more time than is possible in traditionally structured church services and requires different facilities than most churches have. Although I did find that some church leaders had found ways to introduce bread into ministry without launching Fresh Expressions.

I spoke with practitioners leading Fresh Expressions and undertook reading and reflection at Leeds University library which built on my own prior knowledge of Fresh Expressions projects. I found a tension between classical Anglican theology and that underlying Fresh Expressions, around the nature of the church and focussed particularly around the preaching of the Word and administration of the Sacraments. In classical Anglican theology and in traditionally structured churches these were considered absolutely essential for the life of the church. However in Fresh Expressions, their importance is manifested differently, generally drawing on less time and energy of those running the project/church. I believe that it is important to safeguard the centrality of the proclamation of the gospel in Word and Sacrament, but that both inherited models and Fresh Expressions will continue to be necessary in the wider church's mission. To hold these together I sense that work needs to be done to help fellowships build relationships with each other, both between Fresh Expressions themselves and also between Fresh Expressions with inherited parish churches.

More personally I found that baking is very important to me at a deep level. It enables quality connections with other people even if only transiently, which is an abiding value for me. I have always enjoyed baking for others, not just as an independent hobby. Finally I spent some time reflecting on the role of shared meals in the mission of the church. I undertook some reading on the Biblical and historical relationship of the sacrament of Holy Communion to the church's common meals. A greater emphasis on eating together could be very fruitful for the mission and ministry of the contemporary church.

Overall I learned that baking bread as a personal passion can be a core part of ministry in a local church setting. Many ideas came to mind and I look forward to taking some forward in future.

*Nick Trenholme*