

St John the Evangelist Manthorpe



Annual Reports 2025

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Churchwarden's Report

Mthr Kate led a Lent Course about British Saints on Wednesdays after the morning service. It was informative and interesting but not very well supported. Both curates led Holy Week Services at St John's which were not attended in great numbers but were very reflective in the preparation to Easter Day, led by Mthr Hannah.

Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate left Grantham in the Spring, following their appointment to their new churches in Lincoln and Scunthorpe. We will miss them and wish them the best in their new churches.

Fr Clay, although only rarely presiding at St Johns, also moved on to pastures new in September in Lincoln. Fr Stuart is not able to spend as much time at St John's but is being supported by retired clergy Rev Jill Potts, Fr Stuart Hadley and Fr Francis Mason.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I was asked to continue as Churchwarden, with the assistance of my two deputies Ray Storey and Rob Vincent. Thank you to them for their continued support. It would be preferable to have two churchwardens, so hopefully someone will come forward to share the role in the future.

From September, following a consultation with the congregation, the start time of the Sunday service was changed to 10:00am. We have also changed the rotation of the services to have Morning Prayer on the first and third Sunday, Eucharist on the second and fourth Sunday, and on the fifth Sunday a more relaxed service which is run similar to the Worship For All service.

Our Harvest Festival in church was well stocked to send much appreciated donations to the Grantham Food Bank and The Passage. Thanks to all members of the church who donate and continue to bring in donations year round. The All Souls service was again supported by the congregation and a comfort to the bereaved. During Advent, the congregation again participated in a reverse Advent calendar for the Food Bank and the congregation did themselves proud with their generous donations to help others during the festive season.

We have welcomed a few new members to the congregation over the year and the weekly services continue to be well supported. Sadly some of our congregation are no longer able to attend the

The Parochial Church Council

The P.C.C. normally meets 5 times a year and receives reports from the various sub-committee representatives which then allows for discussion and ratification of any decisions of actions suggested. We have had five meetings this year. The P.C.C. supports the Food Bank and its members and other outward giving charities suggested by the Mission and Social Responsibility Group. The Lent Appeal Charity for 2025 was "Parkinsons", our local group, which meets regularly in the Church Hall.

The various 9-30 am services have been changed to a 10am start in line with the Wednesday morning services. The Sunday services are well attended but there is always room for improvement, in particular new faces to our congregation are still needed. The 10am services on a Wednesday are still the most consistently attended and the Church congregation remains strong, giving a sound worship base to continue to serve the wider community.

As mentioned last year links with the wider community continue to evolve due to the Church Hall, which since its opening in September 2021 is well used and lettings are still high. The hall has also been used for a number of community events.

A working group, led by Mthr Kate, was set up to look at what form of worship should take place at St John's in the future and to look at times of worship to see if this would enhance congregation numbers. This has been done and the service time for Sunday changed as above. Also agreed was the service format with Communion alternating with Morning Prayer except where there is a fifth Sunday in the month and that service would be a less formal one as a replacement for Worship for All.

Fr. Stuart, now in his twelfth year with us, continues to lead St. John's forward but with Fr. Clay leaving St John's Spitalgate to take a post in Lincoln, Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate finishing their work as curates and moving to Lincoln and Scunthorpe respectively, to run their own Churches, Fr. Stuart's workload has increase significantly and needs the support of the Church community.

As with last year Linda Vincent was re-elected as Church Warden but we are still one Church Warden short and it would be good to

Social Events

The Social Committee has put on quite a few events all of which proved very enjoyable and were much appreciated.

The year started with a Casserole Lunch in January. There were a variety of delicious casseroles and puddings available. In February we held a Soup and Rolls Lunch which was followed by the Lent Lunch organised by the MSR group led by Christina Banks. We held our annual Egg and Spoon Races on Easter Monday in the garden of Manthorpe Manor House. It was not as well attended as in previous years.

We held a Fun Quiz with Fish and Chips in May with the questions set by Joy Hobbs and Steve Potts. Hymns and Pimms was held in June in the Hall due to the weather. Thanks to Andrew for his playing and Jill and Steve for their input. It was sadly Andrew's last stint as organist due to his health. He will be sadly missed.

We organised an Afternoon Tea in July which was reasonably attended. We held our Whist Evening in September with Cottage Pies and Puddings. Whist afternoons are still very popular and there are regularly at least 4 or 5 tables. There is always room for more, whether you are a complete novice or seasoned player.

We held the Harvest Lunch in October, after singing for our lunch! We supplied coffee and biscuits following the All Souls Service at the beginning of November, which quite a few people attended after the evening service. November also saw the return of the Autumn Fish and Chips Quiz. Joy Hobbs and Steve Potts supplied us with a challenging quiz to keep us all on our toes!

We once again held a Christmas Fayre in both the Hall and the Church. It was extremely successful and brought in a lot of visitors. It has proved to be an event that all look forward to and brings a lot of people in to enjoy our church and hall. The final event of the year was the Carol Service with mince pies, shortbread and mulled wine, with or without alcohol. We were fortunate that Judy Hadley played for us. It made a very welcome change.

Thank you to all the members of the Committee for organising of all the events and especially others who lend their support. If anyone is interested in helping the committee, please let us know.

Linda Vincent