

*St. John the Divine, Rastrick,
Parish Meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022*

*Annual Reports for
January 1st to December 31 2021*



Vicar's report for APCM

The purpose of the Annual Report is to give an account of all that has happened in our church during the previous twelve months, in this case from January to December 2021. And this vicar's report is then a summary of the highlights of that full report.

Of course, I can't quite report on a full 12 months as I wasn't licenced until Tuesday 23rd February 2021. And it wasn't the easiest of starts, arriving in the middle of Covid, with the church shut, and having to be licenced on Zoom with only a handful of people present. The first two weeks of worship were online, and I wasn't able to visit or get to know anyone much during those early weeks. All my plans and the usual 'getting to know you' stuff were out of the window. But then we were able to open the church building again, and over the following months things gradually opened up more and more.

Firstly, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to those who 'kept the show on the road' during the interregnum and throughout the Covid lockdown. It cannot have been easy in such trying circumstances, but I arrived to find a church in pretty good shape, with people who were positive, and who had found creative ways to stay in touch throughout. Thanks to those who had become proficient at 'Zoom', had produced online worship, held virtual home groups and coffee mornings and much more besides. Your resilience and resourcefulness are to be admired, and bode well for the future as we move into post-Covid times.

I would also especially like to thank Hilary and David as Churchwardens, and Alan as Reader for all their help and support during my early months in the parish, and for their continued support.

Secondly, despite the restrictions, I received such a warm welcome from everyone. Thank you so much. Despite, in a way moving 'home' to a familiar area, your kindness and generosity helped Darrin and I to settle quickly after the disorientating experience of moving house and job under Covid restrictions.

It has sometimes felt over the 12 months that things were only moving forward slowly, but actually as I look back now at what has been achieved, there is plenty to celebrate and give thanks for.

To create some sort of order, I will list some of these under the headings of church life and worship, links with the community, and pastoral and spiritual growth.

Church life and worship A new and more manageable (especially for the Vicar) pattern of services across the Benefice has now been established and agreed by PCC. Although this doesn't suit everyone, I believe it is the best compromise for the circumstances we find ourselves in. 11am each Sunday morning, and alternate Wednesdays with St Matthew's at 10.30am. Quarterly Benefice Services which alternate between the two churches have also been established. This means I am able to be around and take services most weeks in both churches, with the support of Alan and John as Readers, and occasionally Canon Michael Storey and Rev Stephen Hannam. I am grateful to each of them for their support.

After a time of experimentation and some teething troubles, we have had new screens installed, and these are used for most services now. Thank you for your patience with this. The idea is that these enhance worship as videos and pictures can be shown, allow for flexibility with the liturgy, and also make worship more accessible for any new people, as there is no juggling of hymn books, service booklets and notice sheets. Coffee being served at the back of church is also intended to make it easier for any newcomers.

There have also been several 'special services' along the way. It was good to welcome Archdeacon Anne on Sunday 15th August for my Induction service before her retirement in October. The joint outdoor Pentecost Praise service in the churchyard at St Matthew's was well received and enjoyed. It was good for the St John's Music group, along with Gordon Balmforth to lead this, and to lead the Quarterly Joint Benefice services. A variety of online and in person services for Holy Week and Easter took place. A memorial service for HRH Prince Philip was held in April upon news of his death. Christmas services including Nine Lessons and Carols and Christingles were well attended. The Memorial service held in November was much appreciated by many. Corporate services have begun again, with Panto Society taking the lead with a very enjoyable Morning Worship in November. I have tried to encourage worshipping together across the Benefice as a starting point for more closer working across the two churches, something which was highlighted as a priority in the parish profile. With this end in mind, joint staff meetings between myself and the leaders of the two churches have also been established.

We have had one wedding and two baptisms during the year. Unfortunately, we have also lost a number of dedicated members of our church, and so there have been quite a few funerals. While it had been a privilege to conduct these, each person lost has left a large gap in our church family and they are greatly missed.

Links with the Community After an inevitably slow start, links with the community gathered momentum throughout the year. As the Community Hall has reopened, bookings are increasing, and generating a welcome income. We have welcomed old groups back, and attracted some new ones. Hoping to strengthen links with some of these groups and the church, I have done such things as taking a cameo part in the St John's Pantomime, had an initial meeting with a representative from the uniformed organisations, and attended community lunches. Links with the care homes across the Benefice have now been re-established, with services taking place as and when Covid allows, and other support being offered where appropriate. Children's and family's ministry is one of my passions, and I long to see more children and families come to faith. With this in mind, I have actively sought to make links with Woodhouse School. During 2021 I welcomed groups to look around the church, facilitated the school choir recording Christmas songs in church, and went into school to take part in their Christmas service and to take assemblies. I have introduced a monthly all-age communion service. It would now also be good to find a way to re-establish the St John's Toddler Group. Rastrick Group of Churches are now up and running again, and managed to organise and deliver Christmas cards across most of Rastrick. Joint services are also planned. I continue to try to make links with Brighouse Churches too, but this is proving difficult.

Pastoral and Spiritual Growth Following several planning meetings and an audit of pastoral needs, we now have an established pastoral team, co-ordinated by myself and lay pastoral minister, Jane Hearson. Working again with St Matthew's, visits and home communions are taking place for those not able to get to church across the Benefice. We meet regularly to discuss needs and plan for visits. I wish to express my grateful thanks to all members of this team for all they are doing.

I am delighted with the home groups, who attract a good number of people, and contribute significantly to opportunities for spiritual growth across the Benefice and beyond. Thank you to their leaders for their dedication and creativity in using Zoom and in-person meetings as Covid has allowed, and in their variety of offerings of topics for discussion.

The Friday morning prayer group are also a blessing. I am grateful for their prayers, and for their faithfulness in praying regularly for those in need in our parish and beyond.

This is all very positive, but there are some challenges ahead. Building up our congregation and the mission of the church again after Covid:

fundraising for the much-needed organ refurbishment; finalising the proposals for re-ordering at the back of church, including server and toilets, and then raising the required funds; re-establishing broken links with individuals, organisations and so on.

Myself and the PCC need your help with this. We are all part of the body of Christ, and as such we all have a part to play. I invite you therefore to prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to any of the following –

Could you serve as a member of the PCC? – there are several vacancies.

Are you good with IT and social media? We need someone to co-ordinate our online publicity, particularly our website and Facebook.

Do you have ideas for fundraising and could you be part of a fundraising team?

Do you have good ideas for mission and growth?

Might you be able to get involved with the uniformed organisations and help to re-establish their contact with the church?

Could you get involved with re-establishing a Toddler Group at St John's?

These are just some of the ways in which you can get involved. Please have a word with me if you think you could help.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for your prayers and support during 2021. I look forward to working together with you under God in 2022, to continue to build His kingdom here in Rastrick and beyond.

Michelle

Rev'd Michelle Petch

April 2022

Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Interregnum was over. Church members were very pleased that Bishop Jonathan had filled the vacancy, and that The Reverend Michelle Petch had been appointed Vicar of the Rastrick Benefice, to be installed in February 2021. Unfortunately due to the Covid outbreak, the service was on Zoom, with access only by invited guests. A service to complete the

legal requirements of the installation was held on Sunday August 15 by Archdeacon Anne.

The Church Council held six meetings over the year, two being on Zoom, with Standing Committee meetings when needed.

In the Summer, when guidelines allowed meetings to take place in the Church, our pattern of meeting changed with the dates being moved to every second month. The Council has dealt with many aspects of Church life, with minor and major decision making.

* The Council agreed that the Sunday Service would remain at 11.00am, with a Wednesday 10.15am Communion Service being introduced alternate weeks with St. Matthews.

No service on the fifth Wednesday

*A Group (IOCS) is looking into having a Servery and Easy Access toilet facilities fitted in the Church, the project is taking longer than thought, with plans and a faculty needed.

* A Group is covering the refurbishment of the Church Organ , this project is also taking time. Both of the projects need a considerable amount of funding.

As in previous years, Church Council members have never been up to the full quota allowed, so once again the usual appeal is being spread,so please consider being a member. Please ask if you would like more details.

The Covid virus and the Interregnum stopped St. John's from doing lots of important work throughout the Parish during lock down, but our trusty Churchwardens and Lay Reader have done sterling work keeping us all up to date with regulations and guidance. A big thank to Rev'd Michelle, David, Hilary and Alan for all the hard work and hours they have given and the difficult decision making, to keep us afloat. Thank you to everyone who has supported St. John's over this trying time.

It is with much sadness that St. John's has had to record the death through illness of so many of our much loved dear friends. Cherished memories will be remembered.

Christine Whitaker

Secretary to the Church Council.

Fabric Report to the Church of St John the Divine for the year ended 31st December 2021

As last year Covid regulations have slowed our progress down when it comes to undertaking essential repairs and also taking matters forward regarding various projects within our buildings. Nevertheless, despite this, good progress has been made and certainly by the end of the year, everything is pretty much back on track.

Church

One of the most important matters to deal with was the quinquennial report and the repairs detailed within. Although it took some months to arrange for these to be done, I am pleased to report that they have now been completed. The repairs principally involved replacing broken and missing slates, repairs to damaged guttering and downpipes. Fresh anti-vandal paint has also been applied to the downpipes.

Turning to the interior of the church, there are two major projects underway. The first of these relate to a new servery, toilets and entrance area at the rear of the church building. This project is to ensure adequate facilities within the church building, for not only serving refreshments after the service, but also for events and concerts held within the church. It has taken many months of meetings of the IOCS committee, together with diocesan representatives and architects to try and find an acceptable arrangement. All things have been considered including water supply, disabled toilet, servery equipment and its location, and fire exit access. At the time of this report progress is being made and a faculty is to be submitted very shortly, and hopefully the design will be approved. Funding for the project will hopefully come mainly from grants.

The second major project is the refurbishment of the organ and a small team is in place to oversee this. As we know, this 100 year old instrument, is showing its age and although it has been kept going by frequent patching, it is in need of a complete overhaul. The estimated cost is in the region of £75000. Various quotes have been obtained and fund raising efforts are underway as well as trying to obtain grants. Once done, all the pedals and stops should be restored to their former glory. A faculty has been submitted in this respect.

Also, towards the end of the year, new TV screens which fold back out of sight if necessary have been installed, so that the services can be conducted without the need for paper service sheets. In addition it creates more scope for audio visual content, which was not as easy with the old screen and

projector. Although we were hoping to include a camera to enable live streaming of services, this has been shelved for the time being, due to privacy concerns. Again grant funding has been obtained for this project.

With the withdrawal from sale of halogen light bulbs, due consideration has been given to replacing the lighting in church with LED equivalents. Although we have a stock of replacement bulbs they won't last forever. We are also looking at lighting the ceiling of the church at the same time. As at the end of the year we are obtaining designs for suitable fittings and quotations.

Hall

Repairs to the Hall roof have been undertaken, which included repairs to the valley gutters and slate repairs. In addition some mortar repairs were needed to the hall wall. Hopefully, these repairs will prevent further damp patches appearing and leaks within the hall. Anti vandal paint has also been applied to the downpipes. Signage to the effect that this type of paint has been applied have also been put up.

Precincts

During the year, it was decided to put up a new notice-board, to replace the blue one that is currently on the church wall on Gooder Lane. Various designs are being considered and also whether it should be free standing or attached, as now, to the church wall. Hopefully, an early decision will be made and the new notice-board in place early in the New Year.

Some of the drain covers in the car park had been broken by the buses running over them, but the damage is not great.

A new drain has been installed where the puddling occurred in the car park, near the steps, and this should alleviate the problem.

General

Finally, we were all saddened at the death of Robert Beaumont, who was a stalwart of the Hall Improvement Committee. The committee continues, however and we thank them for their continuing efforts on behalf of the church. David James and Julia Tum continue to be instrumental in seeking out and applying for grants for the servery and organ projects, which is no easy task.

All in all then, the fabric of the church and hall is in good condition, and we do try to keep up with any problems, as they occur. We have thankfully been able to progress the quinquennial repairs, and are trying to improve the facilities in keeping with a 21st century church. Hopefully, now, Covid is in retreat and we shall be able to get back on to an even keel.

David Marshall
Hilary Cartwright

Finance Report for 2021

The church was closed at the beginning of the year because of the corona virus lockdown. It was announced at the end of 2020 that the Rev Michelle Petch was to be appointed vicar of Rastrick and she was duly inducted on 23rd February during a service conducted by the Bishop of Huddersfield on zoom. Church services resumed in person on 14th March 2021 Mother's Day. Attendance at services has been steady at 30-40 people, income from giving has held up although is down overall due to reductions in other areas.

In spring 2021 an appeal was launched to raise funds for roof repairs and the gardens, the appeal generated £8,840 inc. gift aid. Later in the July we received £8000 from Calderdale to cover the rent lost on hall bookings because of covid. This income enabled the roof and guttering repairs to be completed, screens to be installed in church and a new notice board to be purchased.

An appeal was launched in November to raise £75,000 for the organ refurbishment, on 31st December the fund stood at £24,092. The PCC has submitted a faculty to install toilets and a kitchen at the north aisle final costings and approval have yet to be received.

The community hall was fully opened from September 21 and bookings have been strong during the pandemic our caretaker/cleaner was furloughed.

Alan Hoggard

(Financial spreadsheets are at the back of the booklet)

Safeguarding Report

Keeping abreast of the changes to the dashboard, the diocesan System we use to monitor and record our progress in dealing with safeguarding policies, is quite a challenge. However, we have been congratulated by the diocesan safeguarding team for reaching level 3 on the dashboard. Thanks to the PCC and wardens for their diligence in completing Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations training and to Alan for completing the Virtual Safeguarding Leadership Training Pathway, a new course replacing the C2 training. Wardens are no longer required to complete this. In January 2022 I brought to the PCC's attention the Domestic Abuse Awareness course which takes a couple of hours to complete. Six eligible people have already completed this and my goal is for us to do this as soon as possible and thus have our training up to date. Of course, the aim is not simply to tick boxes but to find our general awareness heightened and to grow in our understanding of how to deal with these issues.

I have also concentrated on the dashboard's requirements regarding the hiring out of our hall facilities. PCC has been made aware of the groups using these and I am involved with Rod Dimbleby in making sure we have up to date safeguarding agreements.

Over the last year one DBS has been processed for Pam Dimbleby as musical director and one for Shirley Stow as a member of the pastoral visiting team .

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and I endeavour to provide regular updates. So far no safeguarding incidents have been reported.

Jane Hearson

Gift Aid Officer's Report

I have recently taken over the role of Gift Aid Officer from Gerald Savage who had successfully run this for over twenty five years and, to him, I offer thanks on behalf of you all for a job well done. I hope I can do as good a job, but probably not for twenty five years.

Gift Aid is something that can be entered into by anyone paying Income Tax, and the good news is that ***it costs you nothing***, but enhances the church income by a further 25% of the amount you donate. It is quite painless and only involves the person gift aiding to sign a form stating that they pay tax and would like any donations to St John's to be Gift Aided; this form will last until it is rescinded.

If you are a tax payer and don't already gift aid your donations, collections etc, please consider signing up for Gift Aid to assist the church with its finances.

To show what a valued source of income Gift Aid is I provide below very brief details of the extra income the church will receive from Gift Aid in respect of the year 2021:-

A massive £9043

Please do consider Gift Aiding if you don't already do so and, if at all possible, set up a Direct Debit for your collections. If you need any assistance or need to sign a form, please talk to me and I will do the necessary to guide you through it. (Contact me on 01484 713699 or 07949 082402)

To all those who contributed to the £9043, I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU and to those who are still wondering whether to join the Gift Aid scheme, please do so as it doesn't cost you a penny and brings the church an extra 25% on your giving.

You know it makes sense!

Graham Readshaw
Gift Aid Officer

Electoral Officer's report

At the last APCM held on 25th April 2021 there were 71 names on the Church Electoral Roll. I will report any changes to this number at the APCM after the revision of the Church Electoral Roll is complete.

Rosemary Lake
Electoral Roll Officer

Music report

I was looking back at what I'd written for the 2020-21 APCM and reflecting on how far we've come since Lockdown. At that time I was reporting on the music in our on-line services, the film "We are the Church" and our YouTube Nine Lessons & Carols, which used our own 'home grown' music. This liturgical year we've been back in person with real live music!

As lockdown gradually lifted, we first returned to church with on-screen hymns (no singing), followed by a live organist with singer, usually Holly, Annabel or myself, and finally a return to congregational singing, and at the same time, the return of the Music Group.

At Christmas, we were able to return to a real LIVE Nine Lessons and Carols, albeit with a reduced choir, and to a socially distanced, reduced, but definitely LIVE (jazzy) group for the two Christingle services. It was lovely to be able to worship through live music again.

At the time of writing, restrictions have all but disappeared, the congregation is allowed to sing again (even without masks) and we are back to regular organ or music group Sundays, with a mix of both on Benefice (5th Sunday) services.

The big musical news at the moment is that our organ is hopefully going to receive the TLC it badly needs. I'm always encouraged by the diversity of music we have at St John's and how we recognise and embrace the importance of all styles of music in helping us meet with God. People of differing ages respond emotionally to different styles of music. It's not exclusive but young people, on the whole tend to be moved by the newer music, whereas those of 'retirement age' are often moved emotionally by a more traditional style. Everybody's worship is important and everybody is important to God, and we hope to be inclusive at St John's.

With that in mind, I'd like to finish with a quote from Graham Kennedy;

"...if you were able to imagine what this organ could sound like when it has its full breath, and what effect it's going to have on your services, on your worship [...] it will be transformative, not just for the organists who play it, but it will be transformative for you who sing with it."

Pamela Dimbleby

Director of Music

Worship Duties Report

People carrying out duties as part of Church Services..

Sidesmen:

Due to Covid the role of Sidesperson was suspended, since all of the necessary information and hymns was put onto either single sheets or more recently onto the screens which we have had installed in Church.

Revd. Michelle chooses whether the first reading in Church will come from the Old or New Testament, as per the Lectionary. So there are usually only two readings including the Gospel.

Old and New Testament Readers:

Margaret Ellis, Norman Lake, Derek Davis, Holly Mason, Carol Harvey, Soo Sykes, Shirley Stow, Ella Campbell, Ann Johnson, Carol Sanderson, Pat Lee.

Gospel Readers::

David Marshall, Julia Tum, Doreen Davis, Roger Ellis, Barbara Rukin, Cherry Fancourt, Pam Dimbleby, Hilary Cartwright, Graham Readshaw

Intercessors:

Margaret Ellis, David Marshall, Julia Tum, Cherry Fancourt, Soo Sykes, John Hearson, Jane Hearson, Hilary Cartwright, Shirley Stow

Brasses:

Julia Tum and Hilary McCarthy, Wednesday Nighters, Mothers Union

I would like to thank all those who have carried out any of the worship duties during the year. This is a very important aspect of Church Worship and everyone who read, heard or saw the Services last year greatly appreciated all that you did.

Julia Tum

Health and Safety Report

In 2021, our routine Health & Safety checks and review of health & safety matters suffered some interruption due to the pandemic, but we are catching up where needed. Routine checks on gas appliances, heating systems and fire extinguishers all took place as usual. A 'Fire Assembly Point' sign has been attached to the corner of the Church hall. One addition

to our regular checks this year was the Church lightning conductor which has been tested. I am pleased to report that and we have carried out a comprehensive PAT Testing of electrical items in the Church and Hall, and can now put in place a programme of routine testing.

Once again, can I remind ALL users of the Church, the Church Hall and its outside areas that health and safety is the responsibility of all of us. Our policy will be most effective if we all take reasonable care and exercise responsibility for our own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what we do or not do, take whatever immediate action is possible to reduce the risk of harm and report any concerns to the Health & Safety officer, clergy, a Church Warden or a PCC member as soon as possible.

Norman Lake

Mother's Union Report

Branch Leader's Report for the APCM 2022

I have been honoured to have continued to be the Branch Leader at St John's for the past year, assisted by a very able Branch Committee, Ann Johnson as Secretary, Judith Readshaw as Treasurer, and three keen Committee Members, Margaret France, Shirley Stow and Carol Harvey, together with lots of support from the Branch Members. We had a great loss when Muriel Coop died. Since last year we have enrolled three new Members, Revd. Michelle Petch, Jennifer Guy and Margaret Woodhead.

As lockdown limitations diminished we started to engage with each other face to face and some external activities were restarted.

- Ann Johnson has successfully filled at least a further 200 Emergency Bags for the COVID-19 wards at Calderdale Royal Hospital.....supported by items and donations from many people from the MU and St John's Congregation. Thank you.
- Members have provided, and are continuing to provide many, many, meals and refreshments for the homeless and for people in difficulties, and coats for Afghanistan refugees arriving in this country, and working alongside Focus for Hope.

- All visits to New Hall were suspended but Members have sent in little games and greeting cards, to let the Ladies know they are still in our prayers.
- Knitting has continued at a great pace including hats for the Homeless and little Prayer Squares some of which were sewn up into Prayer Shawls.....one hopefully for use by the Chaplain at New Hall and also for within our Parish.
- We have started to have monthly meetings in person and to celebrate the Eucharist at evening services led by Revd. Michelle.
- On Monday 6 December 2021 we had an enjoyable Annual Dinner at High Park.
- On Monday 18 January 2022 we held our AGM with Rev'd Michelle Petch in the Chair.
- On Wednesday 23 February 2022, 16 Members went by the Focus for Hope minibus, ably driven by Carol Sanderson, to Dewsbury Minster, for a guided tour, lunch and to join in with their mid week Eucharist.
- Lady Day in 25 March 2022 our Branch hosted the Lady Day Service which was attended by 50 Members from across the Diocese. Each Branch brought their MU Banner. We had soup and hot cross buns to follow, served in the Church. Thank you to all those involved in the preparation for this Service and event, including Alan Hoggard, who led the Service at short notice, following Revd Michelle sadly contracting COVOD.
- The Monthly Midday prayers at Halifax Minster were continued but on ZOOM and led by different Branches, including ourselves, once a month throughout the year.

This is a fabulous MU Branch full of Members who enjoy being together and sharing God's love and the gifts He has given us. Everyone is welcome.

Julia Tum

Home Groups 2021

The groups continued to meet on Zoom because of lock down with general zoom meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. We began the year looking at the readings from Mark which was to be the basis for the Sunday readings in 2021.

Our Lent groups studied the TV series Broken which provided challenging material. Set in an estate parish the focus was on the life and ministry of a Roman Catholic, priest who, despite past trauma and anxiety about his own inadequacies, attempts to bring the light of Christ into the lives of the people amongst whom he ministers. The six-part series portrays real life at its most gritty and unvarnished, and in doing so raised many questions along the way about how to live faithfully when life is extremely hard.

After Easter we looked at the final words of Jesus the four sessions included Jesus's interaction with Mary Magdalene, with Thomas & Peter, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the instructions of Jesus and the commissioning of His disciples. We imagine how those who encountered Jesus would feel and how their response impacted the world and our lives today.

In June we ran two topics, a course focusing on God's wonderful creation, planet earth, the place of humankind in it, and why it is under threat. Then alongside this a series of evenings looking at the classic book The Screwtape Letters, written by C.S. Lewis.

During the autumn term the Monday group met in person which was a real joy and along with the two zoom groups we followed a course titled 'Experiencing Gods Love' written by the Bishop of Oxford Stephen Croft. The course aimed to deepen our understanding and first-hand experience of living a life of faith.

Over the 4 weeks of Advent, the sermons and home groups considered why we need to wait, what it feels like to be someone who waits, what happens when we lose patience or hope, and why God might want us to get better at waiting. In the company of the biblical characters with whom the candles on the Advent wreath are traditionally associated, we discovered very different kinds of waiting.

Our Home (or zoom) groups are an important part of our faith journey, they give each of us an opportunity to unpack the Christian message and to

explore with others how that message can and does have an impact on the world around us and our place in it.

A final thought to Peter who died in December – a regular attender on a Monday evenings chief tea and coffee maker his contributions and life stories will be greatly missed

Alan Hoggard

Tanzania Link Report

Following the death of Bishop John Adiema of Rorya, a new Bishop was elected in May 2021. Bishop Moses was previously the Principal of Bunda Bible College in Mara Diocese and became the youngest Bishop in Africa. He is proving to be a good communicator with Leeds Diocese, is working hard in his own Diocese and confirming many people.

Unfortunately, the Water for Life project has ended in the last year. The committee here felt that the project had run its course. It began in 2008 with the training of 2 water engineers, has raised many thousands of pounds and provided water and health education to countless people in numerous villages. A job well done! The Tanzanian government and other agencies are continuing the work.

The Safe House continues its good work. Melina has now started a nursery school on site and is also running a small business renting out chairs to the local community. The girls who live at the Safe House attend local schools and continue to get good results in National exams. Some go on to further education. Melina and her team work hard to raise awareness of FGM in local villages and have had some success in returning girls to their families.

We continue to send £40 monthly to Nyakiswa. This money is very much appreciated and some of it is currently being used to support 2 girls from the village to do a year long sewing course run by the MU in Musoma. Several of the old Wakefield Diocese parishes still send generous donations to their link parishes in Mara, Rorya and Tarime.

Thank you for your continued support

Oriel Kelly

Missions and Charities Report

The group finally met again in person in June last year and spent some time “catching up”. Our 2 monthly standing orders - £30 to Turning Point and £40 to Nyakiswa - have continued during the pandemic.

We agreed to support CART’s appeal for educational resources for pupils in Africa for our Harvest Appeal and sent £250 to that cause. £200 was sent to the Food Bank to buy milk for the children it supports during school holidays and £200 to Mary’s Meals, a charity that provides one good meal to some of the world’s poorest children every school day.

At our meeting in September, we agreed to send £200 to Mission Aviation Fellowship – a Christian Organisation operating in developing countries. MAF’s pilots fly into remote destinations to transport essential medical care, food, water, relief teams and church workers to those in desperate need. We sent £200 to Operation Mobilisation, whose aim is to equip others to take the love of Jesus into all parts of the world. They have one ship that sails the world calling at ports on the way. Our third donation of £200 went to Shelter Box which provides emergency shelter and tools for families who lose their homes in disaster areas.

Later in the year, we sent £250 to the Nick Smith Foundation, a local MND charity which supports the bereaved children of MND victims and £300 to the Disasters Emergency Committee for refugees from Afghanistan.

Currently, we are focussing on Ukraine and the Tents for Lent Appeal. We sent £500 from our allocation to the DEC for use in Ukraine and thanks to everyone’s generosity have been able to send a second £500 from the basket collection in church.

Please do let any member of the group know if you would like us to support one of your favoured charities, particularly any small, local ones.

Oriel Kelly

Hall Improvement Committee report

It has been a difficult year for HIC with Robert Beaumont’s death in October.

Despite still being on ‘furlough’ for much of the year, we managed to keep meeting in the beer garden of the ‘Four Sons’ most weeks so that we could keep seeing Robert.

We started our working parties again in late August, this time on a Monday afternoon, again so Robert could join us. Thursday evenings in the hall then

resumed in September, when we made a start on making props for the pantomime.

After that jobs in and around the hall soon started to appear, and amongst other things we have made a start on re-painting in the hall where damp had been a problem; completed the audio/video connections for the Brighthouse cinema; repaired light switches and light fittings; finished the chair trolleys for the Conference Suite; put up warning signs in the car park; repaired fittings, taps and seats in the toilets; fixed a fan heater in the kitchen and replaced the extractor fan; fixed some loose carpet in church; re-fitted the prayer board in church; made repairs to the stage and repaired a drain trip hazard by the Conference Suite entrance. Most recently we have organised and overseen the replacement of the fluorescent lighting in the main hall with dimmable LED fittings.

In November we were privileged to provide the bar at Robert's funeral.

We have recently been joined by Eric Ogden, so along with Graham Kelly, Dave Smaldon and I, HIC remains as busy as ever.

Ken Swallow

Wednesday Nighters report

We now have fourteen members. We were saddened to learn of the death of Christine Wilson who had been a founder member of the group.

Our first meeting of 2021 was held at Oriel's in August. At this meeting we proposed that we should meet only once a month on the first Wednesday and not twice as in previous years. All meetings to be in the Conference Suite. We arranged a short programme to take us up to our AGM in February 2022. We met in September to have a "Catch Up" evening with those members who couldn't join us earlier. Alan Hoggard spoke to the group in October about his travels "Walking the Camino", and Oriel and Pat brought us up to date with news from Mara in November. A visit to Ali Baba and the 40 thieves rounded off 2021. The January bring and share meal was cancelled due to the Omicron virus

At our AGM in February, chaired by Rev Michelle, we made proposals for the coming year and these have now been formally adopted for our 2022 Programme.

Barbara Rukin
Secretary

Pantomime Report

Well, we finally got around to having a pantomime again in 2021 and I believe, listening to audience feedback and responses from those involved, that it was one of the best we have done (but maybe people always say that!) We were also able to carry out just one fund-raising event before show week and that was a bacon butty morning at our corporate service; again this proved to be a huge success as we distributed 94 butties during the morning... well done to everyone involved and thanks to our supporters.

A couple of years previously we had picked Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, written locally, but with a modern twist; we didn't know how this would be received as we are a "traditional" society, but, with the addition of some of our trade-mark comedy, it turned out to be a side-splitter. After a number of years together we lost our choreographers, Jane and Cath, but they were successfully replaced by Christie Hepke who became a part of our panto family, newly arrived from South Africa. She was joined by Eleanor Readshaw-Senior as her assistant, and it proved to be a successful partnership. Diane Davison did a sterling job as our Musical Director with her son, James, adding to the band on his bass guitar. Sadly, our long standing percussionist, David Woodhead, had to stand down for family reasons, but he was successfully replaced by Simon Day whom some of you may remember from our church music group. (Hope we didn't put you off Simon). The whole production was headed up by Graham Readshaw (Producer and Director) ably assisted by Steven Broadbent. All our other Heads of Departments did a wonderful job and, without just one of them, our show would not have been the success that it was.

Casting, as usual, took quite some time, but I believe that we got it right, and that was with some people playing parts which they weren't used to....I gave you all my congratulations after the show, but I do not hesitate in saying, once again, "YOU ARE THE BEST". I could go on and mention each one of you for your own individual talents and performances, but that would take up half of this book, so, to you all, from me as your Producer, I AM PROUD OF EVERYONE OF YOU!

What can I say about our small, but perfectly formed chorus; you took on everything asked of you be it singing, dancing or speaking/acting small parts and you proved once again that, even though small in numbers this year you were HUGE in enthusiasm and talent...WELL DONE TO YOU ALL.

There was a touch of emotion at the last show as our Dame, nay, the best dame in the North of England, finally hung up his boobs and took off his Dame's shoes for the very last time....we will miss you so much, Neil, but the good news is he will still be involved with our society.

My final thanks go to you, our loyal and supportive audiences, without whom it would be a very boring show; please keep supporting the "**Best Amateur**

Pantomime in Calderdale” and make a note of this year’s starting date, **Monday 5th December** when we will be staging Babes in the Wood.

Graham Readshaw

Secretary

Rucksack Club report

There were no walks between March and August 2020, with local walks reintroduced operating within social distancing rules. Taking into account Covid restrictions from March 2020 the group managed to organise 14 walks over the two year period to February 2022. Albeit we could not hold the 2020 Christmas walk we were able to reinstate it in 2021 with 44 walkers and 51 people attending the meal.

As Covid restrictions eased we were delighted to have walks further a field, reminding us all how much we missed our beautiful countryside.

We were able to hold our annual BBQ at the home of Jennifer Guy, a most enjoyable occasion.

The Rucksack Club is a very friendly group of people who enjoy walking and enjoy each others company. The Club extends a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join our walks.

Roger Ellis

Secretary

2nd Rastrick (St. Johns) Brownies

Throughout the pandemic and lockdowns we managed to meet online just about every week using zoom, doing lots of activities and challenges each week and also inviting people like Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Cats Protection, Jumping Clay, Bricks for Kids and even a goat to join us online. We managed to keep membership to around 12 girls throughout.

We started back with face to face meetings in September 2021. These were interesting with the restrictions for distancing, one way systems, hand sanitiser and cleaning, but we embraced them all and were glad to be back together. We also welcomed some new members and numbers grew to 17.

Since coming back we have completed the Skills for my Future and Express Myself sections of the Brownie programme learning new skills about becoming a leader, how to make ourselves heard, building a camera obscura and a vortex, as well as completing a dance and acting challenge and playing lots of games. We joined with the Rainbows for activities all about Parliament, building Elizabeth tower out of biscuits & chocolate, and voting about things that were important to us, during Parliament Week in November and made light up angels for Christmas. We went Bowling in Huddersfield for our Christmas treat and also saw a Girlguiding only showing of Disney's Encanto at the Odeon Cinema in Huddersfield.

We have lots more fun planned for 2022 including a night away in a circus big top.

Tracey Bottomley



2nd Rastrick (St. Johns) Rainbows

We have struggled all through the pandemic to be able to meet but finally managed to open again with a new leader team in October 2021.

We had a new intake of 12 girls plus 2 existing rainbows who had been patient throughout the pandemic and managed to join in with weekly activities online with their older brownie sisters.

Once the new leaders are established we are hoping to invite a few more girls to the unit to reduce our waiting list.

Since October we have completed the Skills for my Future section of the Rainbow programme learning about ourselves, our talents and also building a marble run. We have played games and joined the brownies for activities all about Parliament, building Elizabeth tower out of biscuits & chocolate, during Parliament Week in November.

We went Bowling in Huddersfield for our Christmas treat and also saw a Girlguiding only showing of Disney's Encanto at the Odeon Cinema in Huddersfield.

We have lots more fun planned for 2022.

Tracey Bottomley



Rastrick St John's Scout Group report

At the beginning of the year, our numbers were considerably reduced during by the Covid outbreak, due to the following of guidelines from both the Scout Association and St. John's Council.

Our numbers have not reached their full compliment as yet, as after two years mainly because of age, most of our Scouts have left and moved on to Explorer Scouts in other District Groups.

The Beaver section is thriving, which means hopefully the Cub section will start to build up again in the next few months.

There have been some dedicated Leaders within the Group, but due to work commitments and health reasons, some have moved away so we are hopefully looking forward to new recruits offering their talents.

We thank everyone who has helped the Group over the past year and we look forward to a brighter future with a swell in our numbers.

Please contact Kevin Wood 01484 711734 if you would like to become a member of St. John's Scouting family.

Kevin Wood

Group Scout Leader

Rastrick St John's Guide Group report

No annual report

Deanery Synod report from the Deanery Synod Representatives at St John's Church, Rastrick.

In February 2021 the Inaugural meeting of the New Synod was held for both the Halifax and Calder Valley, and Brighouse and Elland Joint Deaneries.

This meeting primarily outlined the activities and remit of the New Synod for both Deaneries, and for the election of new Officers for each of the Deaneries, including Lay Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Standing Committee Members. Julia Tum was co-opted onto the Standing Committee.

In summary there are 17 Parishes within the Brighouse and Elland Deanery and 23 Parishes within the Halifax and Calder Valley Deanery.

The purpose of the Deanery is to enable every Parish to be represented and to work together to discuss and debate main issues. This allows views and experiences to be aired and shared.

The Deanery Synod Reps for St John's therefore see it as their function to report back to the PCC about activities undertaken at Synod and to share the views expressed there and to take the views of the PCC to the Synod where appropriate. It is a two way process.

Three meetings have been held in June '21; October '21 and February '22.

The June meeting was held on ZOOM and Robin Gamble was present and he talked about emerging from Lockdown in a positive way. The October meeting centred on the 'Living in Love and Faith' course. This course encourages people to think more deeply about being human and about living in love and faith. It has now been run with two groups in our Parish and other Parish members have attended the course held outside of the Benefice. The February meeting was entitled Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero and we were encouraged to follow the six step guidelines for this and to appoint a Parish Environment Officer.

A report from each Deanery Synod Meeting is given to the PCC.

Christine Whitaker
Julia Tum

Growing Together in Rastrick report

The Group held its first meeting after Lockdown Restrictions were eased on Thursday 26th August. Representatives of each of the churches was asked to say what was happening within their church after such long closures. The Rastrick Benefice of St Johns and St Matthews had been without vicar for much of the lockdown and it was good news to learn that Rev Michelle Petch would be leading us from early 2021. Upper Edge Baptist had appointed a Trainee Minister, but later in the year he resigned so they were again "running themselves" with the help of the Baptist Church. It was with great sadness that we learned that New Road was not to reopen, its ageing congregation having come to this decision, and a final service was held in October. We still encourage Allan Bottomley to attend our meetings as he is Treasurer. At the October meeting the group, having surveyed each church, decided that Christmas cards could be delivered to all Rastrick once again. The Nativity Figures were to be put in local shops again. A service of Favourite Hymns was

organized for the Week of Christian Unity in January 2022. Rev Michelle invited all churches in the area to join us at St Matthew's. This was enjoyed by mainly the Rastrick Churches.

Lent Groups for 2022 were to be based on the film The Greatest Showman.

Barbara Rukin

Developments in the Church Hall

Since the restrictions and COVID regulations have been lifted the hall has gradually opened up with familiar and new activities. The uniform organisations have returned to their usual evenings and new activities are filling around their times.

We were happy to accommodate the Brighthouse Theatre Productions who would normally stage their play 'Dad's Army' in St Matthew's Parish Centre but lighting problems prevented this and we benefited from the hire charge. It was a great success with full capacity audiences and another play 'Agatha Crusty and the Pantomime Murders' was also performed in our hall at the end of April.

There are so many events that could be listed as well as the church groups which use the building. Having the ability to accommodate all the different groups and their requirements is an indication of what a wonderful asset we have in the church hall.

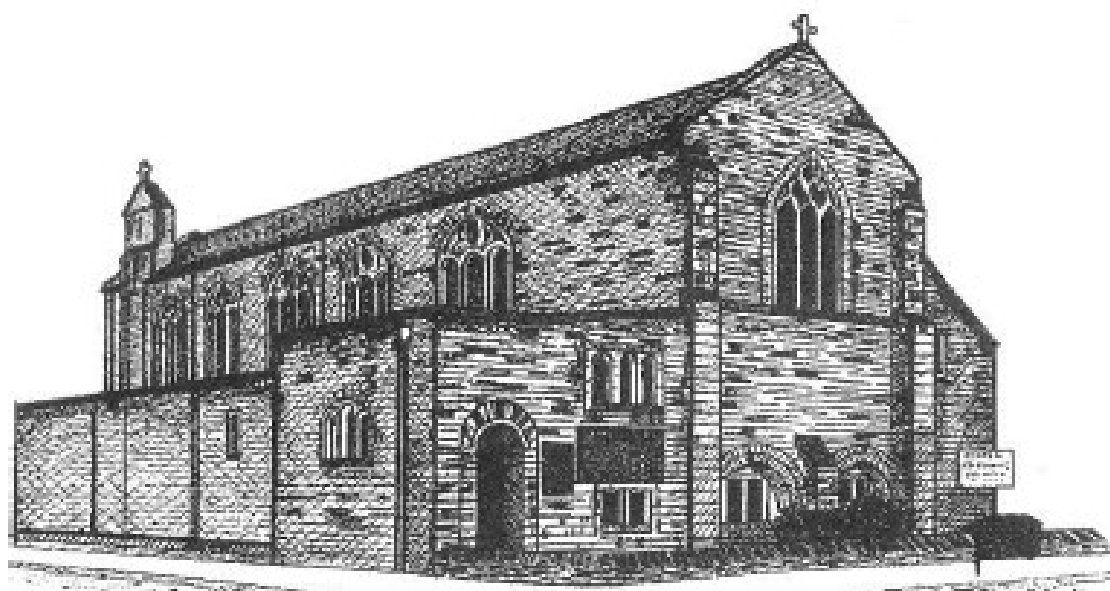
Grants have been received for two projects.. The first was to purchase our own stage lighting and become more energy efficient. £1,000 was raised from the Hillards Trust, £500 from the Rastrick Ward Forum, £1,500 from the Rastrick Big Local, £1,000 from Tesco Bag Tokens and a large sum from the Pantomime Group. Supply problems are delaying their installation.

The second project was to replace all the lighting with efficient LED lights. The lights in the hall were in desperate need for change. The lights were too difficult to maintain as HIC's work practices no longer includes extended ladder work. Grants were obtained from Rastrick Ward Forum (£500) and Rastrick Big Local (£1,500). The hall lights are now dimmable which will improve audiences experience at film shows or drama performances. There is still enough money to complete a change over in all the other rooms.

As always I am indebted to HIC for all their work and support. I thought it was fitting that Robert Beaumont's funeral tea was held in the hall where he had spent many hours and knew every inch of it. Robert is greatly missed.

David James

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021



St John the Divine Rastrick
Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Church General Account

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		Note	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
			£	£	£	£
Collections			2,804		2,551	
Gift Aided Giving			30,165		30,429	
Other Planned Giving			578		390	
Gift Aid Claimed from HMRC			8,728		8,998	
				42,275		42,368
<u>Non-Recurring Receipts</u>						
Legacies			-		2,000	
Donations			264		3,465	
				264		5,465
<u>Events and Activities</u>						
Church Events	4		310		59	
Other fundraising			-		-	
Use of Church			672		260	
				982		319
<u>Other Income</u>						
Wedding and Funeral Fees			729		139	
Flowers			437		205	
Traidcraft			134		136	
Magazine			-		1,155	
Tea & Coffee			92		112	
HMRC - Coronavirus Job Retention Grant	7		647		792	
				2,039		2,538
TOTAL RECEIPTS				45,559		50,690
<u>PAYMENTS</u>						
Ministry	Parish Share		32,217		33,214	
	Vicar Expenses		411		70	
Church	Gas		903		1,374	
	Electricity		626		479	
	Insurance		4,217		4,255	
	Maintenance		206		2,341	
	Cleaning		1,317		1,236	
	Organ Repairs		210		-	
Organist			1,065		210	
Music			408		637	
Junior Church			-		52	
Service Expenses			469		177	
Flowers in Church			218		24	
Traidcraft			-		191	
Printing Stationery and Postage			214		207	
Magazine			-		356	
Sundries			1,242		505	
TOTAL PAYMENTS				43,721		45,327
Net Movement for Year				1,838		5,364
Transfer to Mission and Charity Fund				-2,602		-2,146
Transfer to Organ Fund (Hewitt)				-3,000		-
Add Balance on 1st January				3,428		211
Balance on Church Account at 31st December				-335		3,428

St John the Divine Rastrick
Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Church Hall Account

RECEIPTS

		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	Note	£	£	£	£
2nd (St John's) Brownies		297		196	
2nd (St John's) Rainbows		-		56	
Arts Brighthouse		360		590	
Ash Carpark		1,800		1,000	
BrighthouseTheatre Productions		995		-	
Calligraphers		310		465	
Guides		-		132	
Happy Dogs/Guide Dogs		300		315	
N Stewardson		1,136		-	
Parent and Toddlers		109		396	
Scout Group		792		396	
Sundry Bookings		808		749	
Swing Dance		176		-	
HMRC - Coronavirus Job Retention Grant	7	1,808		2,359	
			8,892		6,653
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>8,892</u>		<u>6,653</u>
<u>Running Costs</u>					
Gas		540		732	
Electricity		915		940	
Water		259		253	
Insurance		2,230		2,201	
Cleaning		3,507		4,155	
Sundry		165		-	
			7,615		8,281
<u>Maintenance and Equipment</u>					
Repairs		523		1,050	
Equipment		-		-	
			523		1,050
TOTAL PAYMENTS			<u>8,139</u>		<u>9,331</u>
Net Movement for Year			753		-2,678
Add Balance on 1st January			26,557		29,235
Balance on Hall Account at 31st December			<u>27,310</u>		<u>26,557</u>

St John the Divine Rastrick
Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Mission and Charities Account
Designated Funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Special Appeals	753	1,191
	<u>753</u>	<u>1,191</u>
PAYMENTS		
Alzheimers Reseach	650	-
Brighthouse Central Food Bank	200	931
CART	250	420
Childrens Society	-	440
Forget me Not	-	420
MAF	200	-
Mara	480	480
Marys Meals	200	-
Medicins sans Frontieres	-	420
Operation Mobilisation	200	-
Overgate	-	420
Shelter Box	200	500
The space	-	75
Turning Point Counselling Service	360	360
Welcome Centre	-	500
Total Funds Distributed	<u>2,740</u>	<u>4,966</u>
Net Movement for Year	-1,987	-3,775
Transfer From General Church Fund	2,602	2,146
Add Balance on 1st January	<u>2,463</u>	<u>4,092</u>
Balance on 31st December	<u>3,078</u>	<u>2,463</u>

St John the Divine Rastrick
Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Consolidated Funds Statement

	Note	Opening Balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Account Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted Funds						
Church General Account		3,428	45,559	-43,721	-5,602	-335
Church Hall Account		26,557	8,892	-8,139	-	27,310
		<u>29,985</u>	<u>54,452</u>	<u>-51,860</u>	<u>-5,602</u>	<u>26,975</u>
Designated Funds						
Missions and Charities		2,463	753	-2,740	2,602	3,078
Church Fabric	1	10,000	16,840	-16,476	-	10,364
		<u>42,448</u>	<u>72,045</u>	<u>-71,076</u>	<u>-3,000</u>	<u>40,417</u>
Restricted Funds						
Church Fabric	1	3,929	-	-	-	3,929
Hall Fabric		2,706	-	-	-	2,706
IOCS		-	-	-1,800	-	-1,800
Organ Refurbishment	2	5,399	15,693		3,000	24,092
Precincts and Gardens		-815	1,702	-887	-	-
Pantomime Society	3	7,131	6,900	-4,598	-	9,433
		<u>18,350</u>	<u>24,295</u>	<u>-7,285</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>38,360</u>
Total Funds						
		<u>60,798</u>	<u>96,339</u>	<u>-78,361</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,777</u>
Balances at the Bank						
Yorkshire Bank		53,667	89,439	-73,763	-	69,344
Lloyds Bank		7,131	6,900	-4,598	-	9,433
		<u>60,798</u>	<u>96,339</u>	<u>-78,361</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,777</u>

St John the Divine Rastrick
Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Notes to the Financial Statements

Note No.

1	Church Fabric	2021	2020
	B/fwd	-	13,736
	Rastrick Beer Festival	-	1,597
	Church Appeal	7,175	-
	Gift Aid	1,665	-
	Calderdale Covid Grant	8,000	-
	less		
	To Gardens	-1,703	-
	Roof repairs and Pointing	-7,014	-
	Guttering	-1,150	-
	Screens	-4,858	-
	Precinct repairs	-600	-1,380
	Notice Board	-768	
	Misc Equipment	-384	-24
	Balance b/fwd	13,929	-
	Balance c/fwd	<u>14,293</u>	<u>13,929</u>
2	Organ Refurbishment	2021	2020
	Redfern	-	5,000
	Donations	-	399
	Thornhill Estates	500	-
	All Churches Trust	2,700	-
	Bramhall Foundation	10,000	-
	Services	1,096	-
	Donations	1,396	-
	Legacy Hewitt (2018)	3,000	-
	Balance b/fwd	5,399	-
	Balance c/fwd	<u>24,092</u>	<u>5,399</u>
3	Pantomime Society	2021	2020
	Pantomime Income	4,626	4,796
	Pantomime Expenditure	-2,629	-2,562
	Sundry Income	2,275	1,657
	Sundry Expenditure	-569	-20
	Church Donation	-	-2,000
	Lighting Advance	-1,400	-
	Balance b/fwd	7,131	5,260
	Balance c/fwd	<u>9,433</u>	<u>7,131</u>

St. John the Divine, Rastrick

John Street, Rastrick, HD6 1HN

Vicar: Reverend Michelle Petch

1, Vicarage Gardens, Rastrick HD6 3HD

Tel: 01484 710538

Email: michelle.petch@leeds.anglican.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnthedinivenerastrick

Website: www.stjohns-rastrick.org.uk

There is a warm welcome to any of our Church services or acts of worship. We welcome Christians of all denominations and if you usually take Communion at your Church then you are welcome to join us in our Communion here at St. John the Divine.

St. John's Regular Service Times:

Sunday: 11.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday: 10.30am Holy Communion first and third at St. Matthew's second and fourth at St. John's fifth no service

Tuesday-Saturday : 8.30am Morning Prayer with Michelle on Facebook

Friday: 7.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom (see website)

Benefice Prayer for Growth

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church

Send your Holy Spirit to give

vision to our planning

wisdom to our actions

and power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow

in numbers

in spiritual commitment to you

and in service to our local community

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Website
www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook:
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Parish Calendar :
<http://tinyurl.com/jcjrehp>