

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

April 11 2011

### Vicar's Report

I'd like to take you back to the week of May 10 – 14 2010. I hope you'll remember it fondly. We'd already got to know people from the BBC quite well by then. On Monday 10 May we filmed the first of the two *Songs of Praise* programmes. By Wednesday we had removed the chairs, and on Friday 14 May *Antiques Roadshow* took us over. Doing both programmes together was a first for the BBC. It was quite a week. I wonder what you will remember?

I will look back on a magnificent effort from a huge range of people: our paid staff, our volunteers, welcomers, caterers, temporary stewards, singers. Hundreds of people were involved in making sure that the BBC made some great TV, and that well over six million people saw us each week a programme was broadcast. And we can testify that it has made a difference. Not only are more people coming to the Minster, putting more in our boxes and spending more in the Shop, but *Songs of Praise* resulted in lots of enquiries about the ministries featured, especially our Youth Café. I think our few days with the BBC revealed our church life in all its aspects: from mission and prayer to worship and music, from welcome and hospitality to heritage and outreach. It's not often right for a Vicar to tell a congregation to take its laurels off and admire them for once, but I think you should. And: thank you.

What else will you remember from 2010? The weather has played its part: snow at the beginning and the end of the year, which had an effect but did not slow us down too much. – twice in a year.

Perhaps you won't remember 2010 for the major change we made to our **Committee Structure** – but it was important. The **Standing Committee** now meets to transact any urgent business in between meetings of the PCC, and the **Finance Committee** has therefore lost its 'General Purposes' tag. The Vicar and **Wardens** meeting now happens once a term (as does the **Clergy and Readers** meeting), and there is a new Enterprise Group, originally intended as an umbrella body, but now more of an executive group, to coordinate all our income generating and 'outward facing' activity (like marketing and advertising). The Property Committee has become **Plant and Facilities**, to ensure that we look after all our buildings and develop all our facilities. The refurbishment of the Peter Harrison Room is an excellent example of that work, and the new Hall toilets will add to the things we can be proud of. The **Worship Committee** and **Mission Action Group** remain as they were, and I'll talk about **Minster Youth** in a moment.

We have re-jigged the **Annual Meeting** pattern so that the Minster one is the last in line. The major change has been to bring the **Minster Youth** Annual Meeting into line (instead of being in September), so that all report together. Minster Youth feels more like a committee of the PCC, and although its funding remains strictly separate from the General Fund we will ensure that by 2012 Minster Youth will submit a budget to the PCC for its financial needs, rather than simply receiving whatever proceeds there happen to be from the Coster Bequest. Minster Youth have ample reserves to cope with this.

**Finance.** Tony has already reported on this. We have done slightly better than we predicted, but we still do not cover the Parish Share we are invited to give, and this is the last year where we will be able to sustain a large loss. We will invite the Finance Committee to create a five year financial plan, and think creatively about further income generation and the encouragement of even more regular giving. I am delighted that the first quarter of 2011 has seen an increase in our regular giving: thank you again.

**Worship.** I talked last year about 'transition', and it has certainly felt like that in our worship. We have introduced new music for Communion, and took a decision (enacted in 2011) to have a Psalm as a regular part of our 10.30 Communion. We also decided in 2010 to move the evening service to 5.30, giving the younger members of the choir an easier time, and freeing up later on Sunday evening for other forms of worship.

After Jeanne Mundy stepped down from leading the **Music Group** (and for some other reasons) we gave *Living Water* a rest. We will aim for a varied pattern of worship in the slot created by moving the evening service to 5.30 pm, but have not yet replaced it on a regular basis. Robert Poyser now leads the All Age Music Group, working closely with Rachel Young, and the intention is to build up the instrumental forces in the Group, as well as to develop a related group to lead other forms of worship.

We held the first Healing Service for a while in October, and a regular pattern of these will be set up for the future. We changed the format of the Advent Procession slightly, using more theatrical technology, and it was brilliant, though the snow outside wasn't!

There was a rich diet of worship in 2010. We welcomed **Transcendence**, a multi media Ancient Future Mass, to Beverley, and will do so again on a regular basis. We welcomed the Worshipful Company of Engineers to our morning service. **Civic events** included our own John of Beverley service, and Remembrance Day. **Churches Together in Beverley** worshipped with us for an All Saints Celebration, and for the annual Carol Service. We held **major services** for the Diocesan Mothers' Union, for Carers in the East Riding, the visit of Riding Lights Theatre Company on their Passion Play Tour. The **choir** sang the Fauré *Requiem* for Remembrance.

There were some special Minster occasions – including the wedding of Robert and Rachel with Evensong, a first for many of us!

**Occasional Offices:** there were 25 Weddings, 68 Funerals and 65 Baptisms in the Parish as a whole.

**Youth:** Lee had been appointed as our Youth Minister in late 2009, and was Commissioned in January 2010. It seems like he's been doing it for ages. One of his first projects was to establish a Gap Year scheme, and in September we welcomed Adam and Tom as Gap Year workers. I hear only good things about this, and MY is actively exploring a similar project for 2011 – 2012. The glossy MY Report gives other highlights of the year – most importantly the Uganda Mission trip – a remarkable achievement and success.

In September 2010 MY said farewell to a large number of students going to university, and has gained a new life with new members and a new pattern of Wednesday evening Youth services and Friday evening Night Café.

**Staff Changes:** Jo Hepworth, covering maternity leave in the Parish Centre, herself became pregnant and was replaced by Roz Lewis – now working in one of the places she continues to clean! Richard Carew left us, and we welcomed Fiona Mayer-Jones. Some of you worked wonders in preparing 23 Outer Trinities for her arrival. Today we also say a formal thank you to Jeanne Castle who has retired from the role of Parish Accountant. Not many people will know the number of hours Jeanne worked. But I do...

### **Miscellaneous**

I became the Moderator of Churches Together in Beverley.

As Diocesan Chaplain of the Mothers' Union I have officiated at various services, and taken three quiet days around the Diocese.

I am a member of **General Synod**, having been re-elected in the summer of 2010. I never fail to mention the Minster Parish in any speech I make. I was 'Acting Chaplain' to the Synod for a whole day, organising its Communion Service. I'm sure the Archbishop of Canterbury will be relieved that I won't do it again!

We hosted a well-attended **election hustings**, and further invitations have come my way to chair similar events – a good indication of the esteem the Minster has in our community.

The **Foundation Degree in Theology and Ministry** (the Reader Training Course) has taken up residence in the Peter Harrison Room. Gill Pickford administers the East Riding Centre, and I am the Centre Tutor. It is quite a commitment for us both, and a testament to Beverley Minster that we can offer the room and the personnel to staff the course. We have been used for other Diocesan training initiatives.

The **Friends of the Minster** continue to thrive and to give valuable support to the Minster's fabric – the hatchments and panels were restored in 2010, and a successful Friends Weekend happened in October.

**The Shop:** people expect M and S, and they get better than that. Among many other things the Shop generated £17k. Jane Myers is well respected among those who run such shops, and its ministry is superb – as is the depth and quality of its volunteering.

**House Groups.** Fiona, with Sandra King, audited our House Groups in 2010, after a fallow period, and we will continue to develop this work. There is much to celebrate, and there will be further resourcing and growth in our small groups.

**Associated Churches.** All of our churches opened their doors to the wider community in 2010. St Leonard's with open days on Bank Holidays, Tickton with a programme of events (including a Garden Party and the Mile of Money), and Woodmansey with a Talent Weekend. There is great commitment, and growth, in each of our churches.

**Church Schools.** We have foundation Governors on three Church Schools: the Minster, Tickton and Woodmansey, and value our links with these, and with the senior schools (I am a Governor at the Grammar School) through Lee's work, and that of the Beverley Schools' Christian Trust. Fiona, Rachel, Gill Pickford and I all take assemblies and are involved in other school activities. As the world of education is convulsed (and all schools are being required to consider whether or when they become an Academy) we must be very careful to give time and effort to our church schools. The world may change without us knowing it.

2010 was a great year. But there are lots of things we have to do better – and I'll simply flag up some areas for consideration by our leadership team.

### **Things for the future:**

**Children.** We give tens of thousands of poundsworth of resourcing to the over 11s, and very little (apart from dedicated volunteering by a few) to children. We must do more.

**Minster Way.** This has been a year of consolidation. After some ups and downs a clear group has emerged to take on aspects of Minster Way's mission. Martyn Westby is heading this up: we need a real push to establish the shape for the next three years.

**Giving and Income Generation.** We cannot take our eye off the ball here. I want us to pay our Parish Share in full: it is awful to have to budget not to.

**Pastoral Care.** The system was last overhauled in 2007, and it never functioned fully even then. We need to look carefully at how we care for each other.

**Branding and Signage.** We have a logo, and it is in use in a variety of media. We need to work out the best way to have that in the building and on all our media.

**Visitor Welcome and Interpretation.** Visitors to historic buildings have high standards and expectations. I would like us to explore how best we can welcome, inspire and educate our visitors.

**Churches Together in Beverley.** There is a regular pattern of activities, but the ecumenical movement as a whole is in the doldrums. I hope we will find some vibrant things we can do together.