

Church Warden's Report for Saint Leonard's, Molescroft.

10 – 03 – 2020.

Original Report.

St Leonard's continues to thrive having a very busy and exciting year. Diana Watkins Open-Day and the MU Songs of Praise led by Jonathan were very memorable occasions. In June, we had a visit from Molescroft School, with 60 children (years 1 and 2) accompanied by 17 adults. This proved to be a very worthwhile afternoon. Irene Shaw, along with Wendy gave an excellent presentation with Cynthia playing two hymns and prayers led by Irene. The afternoon finished off with orange squash and biscuits. A week later the children presented a book they had compiled regarding their visit. This is to be kept in Church on display.

The 'Open Evening and Weekend' in July saw 135 different people with 2 young people attending. This proved to be a good fundraising effort as well as opening the Church to the wider community. The two Sunday Services added together saw 35 people attending. The overall outcome from the weekend was very positive.

In August, we said goodbye to Shirley Westra with a lovely Service in Church led by Jonathan. Shirley was a very devoted and loyal member of St Leonard's. A true Christian lady who is very sadly missed.

Our BCP Harvest Evensong saw an attendance of 48 adults and 22 young people. This again was enhanced by Robert and the Minster Choir with Jonathan leading an excellent Service, and the Reverend John Fisher preaching. This was followed by an excellent supper provided by the ladies and Kevin. We enjoyed an 'All-Age' Harvest Service on the Sunday afternoon with a congregation of 29 amid terrible weather conditions. The Royale Accordions concert was well attended and enjoyed by 34 people

and 1 young person. A collection during the evening amounted to £100, which was sent to the Salvation Army. A massive amount of produce was taken by Kathy, Martin, Kevin and Andrew to the Salvation Army in Hull. This was a brilliant weekend!

In October, we had a Holy Communion Service in honour of Freda Watson who is retiring from being the leader of the MU after many years of dedicated service. She was presented with gifts, followed by afternoon tea.

The following Sunday saw our Pet Service with our special guests 6 dogs and 2 cats with 29 adults. £73.10 was raised for the 'Anglican Society For The Welfare Of Animals'.

Kevin's flower demonstration for the MU funds was a very enjoyable occasion.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was well attended. It was good to have two Councillors and Florence from the Forth Beverley St Mary's Guides, all of whom brought wreaths to the memorial during the Service. The Church was beautifully decorated by Louise Trew and Kevin. Chris Prior-Jones led a very moving Service with an excellent sermon. A very good atmosphere prevailed over lunch, provided by June, Louise Muirhead and Kevin, with help from all the ladies.

Christmas has had a very positive feel at St Leonard's. We had a very successful Carols and drinks with refreshments at 1 Alpha Avenue. 40 people and 1 young person enjoyed a very sociable and pleasant evening. Kevin and I were very grateful to everyone who came along. It was good to see Jonathan, Wendy, Tim, Irene, Chris and Gordon along with helpers and friends from St Leonard's and support from the Minster and elsewhere. Many brave people also went down the Avenue on a very wet evening to sing Carols augmented by Stephen Penna with his accordion. This was a very fun evening bringing many people together. The evening

raised £305 for the Salvation Army.

In December, a BCP Holy Communion led by Jonathan saw a congregation of 27. A 'Nine Lessons and Carols' Service had an attendance of 53 with 2 children. The Service was led by Tim followed by our famous afternoon tea. Christmas Day saw a congregation of 35, led by Wendy.

The Sunday morning Communion Services since the beginning of the year have been on the increase averaging 30-32. The BCP Evensong Services have a congregation of around 50. This is always followed by afternoon tea which is always a good time for fellowship. In January it was good to welcome Robert and the Minster Choir to the BCP Evensong Service with 23 adults and 4 young people attending. The special Candlemas Service led by Peter had 38 people in the congregation. During the year we have welcomed some new people to St Leonard's. The general feeling is of a very warm welcome. Our weekly coffee money organised by Barbara Thirsk has resulted in around £600 for the Salvation Army, along with weekly gifts of food and clothing which are all taken to the Salvation Army in Hull.

Our Pastoral work continues, which is a very important aspect of the Church here at St Leonard's.

Every month we welcome the Motor Neurone Disease Association to Church for their support group meeting.

We look forward for our visit by the Bishop of Newcastle when hopefully we will have a full Church, inviting people who do not normally come to Church to have lunch and share in fellowship.

I am very thankful to everyone for their help and support in the smooth running of the Church. Also a special mention to Jonathan and all the Clergy for their continuing help.

An update, added 23 – 09 – 2020.

As part of the 'Come and See' Northern Bishop's Mission to the Diocese of York, St Leonard's Church welcomed the Right Reverend Christine Hardman the Bishop of Newcastle. The Bishop spent the first hour enjoying a lunch arranged by Kevin, June and other Church members. This was followed by a presentation by the Bishop, prayers led by Jonathan, the singing of a hymn, 'Love Divine' with music by Cynthia, a final blessing and farewell. This was a very happy and meaningful occasion for the thirty people who came along.

Covid-19: During these last difficult months, St Leonard's has reached out to all members by a monthly letter which has been sent to seventy households. It was good that Chris and Cathy put an Easter pamphlet together with a picture from the flower festival. Kevin erected the Cross in the Church garden for Holy week and Good Friday. He then decorated it for Easter Sunday. A cheque was sent to the Salvation Army as an Easter gift for £110. This was organised by Barbara. Since Easter we have sent more money to them.

I would particularly like to thank everyone who has given so much food, clothing and bedding to the Salvation Army. Every time Kevin and I have gone, we have been able to meet residents, this makes us realise that the need is so great in Hull. This was very evident on the evening of the Bishop's visit when Kevin and I took the excess refreshments to Hull. They are still talking about it now.

Kevin erected the flag for VE Day. This was noticed by many people at a time when the spring flowers were all out. It was good that people were able to go into the Church garden for whatever reason. Even though the Church was closed, the presence of our Lord was very much in evidence in Molescroft.

Since the lockdown was slightly lifted, we have been able to welcome around twelve people each Saturday morning for prayers, with Kevin and Kathy welcoming everyone and keeping everyone safe. This has been good as the Church has been open for everyone to see (with the Church doors open). The Church has had a very warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere with flowers and candles in Church. We

are very grateful to Jonathan, Wendy and Chris for officiating at the two monthly Services. Last month was especially poignant as during the Service Chris Prior-Jones and Louise Trew led the prayers. This was an opportunity to remember VJ Day and to pray for Her Majesty the Queen and the Princess Royal at this special time.

At the two combined Services, we have an average of thirty eight in the congregation. Our Pastoral work has continued throughout the Covid period. We also record the deaths of Dorothy Marris and Penny Lynch. Kevin and I were pleased to attend a very moving Service for Penny led by Jonathan. They were both very active members of St Leonard's and will be sadly missed. This month we are saying a huge thank you to Louise Muirhead for her many years of devoted service as Treasurer. I would personally like to thank everyone for their help during these very difficult months, especially Jonathan, Wendy, Tim, Chris and Irene, and hope that we can soon resume more regular Services.

Andrew Hancock
Churchwarden.