

Mirfield Team Parish

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PARISH

The Mirfield Team Parish (MTP) was formed by the amalgamation of the previous parishes of Eastthorpe, Mirfield and Upper Hopton on the 11th April 2007 following the signing of the official Scheme by the Bishop of Pontefract (on behalf of the Bishop of Wakefield who was on Sabbatical) and a representative of the Church Commissioners. The Mirfield Team Parish forms part of the Diocese of Wakefield within the Church of England and covers the eastern and central Mirfield. It has an official population of 11,442 based on the 2001 census and the new Parochial Church Council (PCC), established on that date, is the corporate body established by the Church of England operating under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

The formation of MTP brought to completion four years of ‘coming together’ of the three parishes and churches. It also marked a new beginning for the Team Parish in terms of both staffing and the area of its interest and responsibility. The rationale behind the creation of this larger entity was to enable us more effectively to relate to the town of Mirfield. While we remained three separate parishes there was a tendency for each church to look at only at its own geographical area. (parish). Together, it is hoped, our vision will be greater. Also through the sharing of our limited resources we expect to be more efficient with the limited resources available to us. We are now one parish with three parish churches.

Such a development is not without its cost and some of those have become evident over the first year of MTP’s existence. We are one parish, but we remain three very different congregations each with its own strengths and weaknesses. We realised quickly that not everything can be done across the team. Each congregation has its’ own character and needs to be treated individually. There are clearly some things that can be better done as ‘team’ while others that must be done separately. To this end we are encouraging each church congregation to explore what is its heart, its vocation, its gifting, and to ask the question of what it is that each congregation can offer to the wider team. By strengthening the identity of each congregation we can only strengthen what we can each bring to the greater parish.

The creation of a new parish offered the opportunity to reduce the bureaucracy involved with maintaining three parishes as independent entities. Instead of having three of every committee (PCCs, Standing Committees, finance meetings etc) we now have with a consequent reduction in numbers of meetings. As with most things an effective balance has yet to be achieved but we are moving in the right direction and are more aware of the difficulties inherent in this kind of amalgamation.

From the beginning of our joint discussions we were encouraged to be bureaucracy-light and we used that as a default for the creation of an administrative structure. Very early in its life the PCC made some key decisions, one of which was to avoid the creation of District Church Councils to manage the affairs of each church. Instead it was suggested that the wardens, elected PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives from each church should meet from time to time as necessary. It was also agreed that all finances should be handled centrally. No church is allocated a church ‘share’ but the Parish Share (contribution towards the Diocesan finances) should be handled centrally. This meant that there would be one Treasurer rather than four and should build up a sense that all we have belongs to each other rather than encouraging each church to be defensive about ‘its own’ assets.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC

Elections to the offices within the new parish were conducted at a 'pre-emptive' APCM before the establishment of MTP. This was conducted under the guidance of the Diocesan Secretary and the then Archdeacon of Pontefract so that any officers would be in post as soon as the new parish was established by law. The meeting took place on the 28th March 2007 in St Paul's Church and was chaired by the Archdeacon of Pontefract, the Ven, Jonathan Greener. The following people served on the PCC in 2007:

Clergy

Revd Canon Peter Craig-Wild (Vicar and Chair)

Revd. Helen Butler

Revd Ann Pollard

Revd Gill Johnson (from 01/09/07)

Revd Wendy Dalrymple (from 30/06/07)

Wardens

From St John's

Chris Breare

Sue Young

From St Mary's

Mike Jenkins

Mark Pollard

Sue Pope

From St Paul's

Kath Crossley

Val Warner

PCC Members

From St John's

Michael Hampshire

Owen Ryder

Carole Sykes

From St Mary's

Stephen Butler

Jim Law

Scott Senogles

From St Paul's

David Brooke

Barbara Keivers

Jane Jaggard

Deanery Synod Reps

From St John's

Ann Heeley

Sue Auckland

From St Mary's

Chris Hargrave

Carol Wilkinson

From St Paul's

Rachel Copley

Jacqueline Turner

Ex Officio from Diocesan Synod

Barry Hambling

Ex Officio Child Protection Officer

Garnet Rotchell (from 21/5/07)

Due to the exceptional circumstances under which the elections were held all were elected to serve for one year and, unless stated, served from the 11th April 2007 until the APCM in 2008.

The Officers to the PCC were:

Vice-Chair Jim Law (from 21/5/07)

Secretary Michael Hampshire (from 21/5/07)

Treasurer David Brooke (from 28/03/07)

PCC BUSINESS THROUGH 2007

At its first meeting the PCC agreed to divide itself into three sub-committees to deal with various aspects of its work. These committees, and their briefs, are as follows.

Fabric, Assets and Business Committee

The Finance, Assets and Business Team would be responsible for the management and development of the resources of the church so that they enable the vision of the church to be realised and the ministry of the churches to be effected.

On behalf of the PCC it would be responsible for the effective management and use of all assets, including

- *the major issues regarding the maintenance and development of all the buildings and land,*
- *oversight of works costing over £2,000;*
- *relating to the Diocesan Advisory Committee; English Heritage, Kirklees Churches Forum etc*
- *to develop expertise and skills relating to our buildings;*
- *Health and Safety Issues across the parish*
- *reporting regularly to the PCC on the state of the fabric*
- *developing a programme for action and work out priorities for action in each building in the light of Quinquennial Reports and the DDA.*
- *Stewardship,*
- *budgeting, esp providing resources for ministry & mission, including the employment of staff;*
- *managing expenditure and authorise minor expenditure up to £2,000;*
- *management of sub-accounts and church organisation who manage monies on behalf of the PCC*
- *dealing with the Independent Examiner, Diocesan Board of Finance & the Charity Commissioners,*
- *finding grant support for projects,*
- *applying for Covenant Tax refund etc*

and to consult and update the PCC on major financial developments at each meeting.

The FAB team was given authority by the PCC to spend Restricted Funds on appropriate projects and to be able to spend sums not exceeding £2k from general funds without recourse to the PCC.

The FAB team met twice in 2007 and was regularly in consultation by email. It considered the situation of the Parish Centre and Flat and recommended that no assets be sold and that the new Scheme “Charity for Ecclesiastical Purposes in Connection with the Church of England in Mirfield” be implemented as this gave access to £6k of funds which were otherwise unavailable. The FAB team worked with the Charity

Commissioners to implement this new Scheme (No 566863), which was formally sealed on 4 February 2008.

The expenditure from restricted funds of £4.8k was approved for the renewal of the flat roof of the Parish Hall as a matter of urgency to prevent damage from water ingress. A further £7K of restricted funds was approved for the refurbishment of the Flat in order that the property could be let as soon as possible.

The reordering and extended use of St Paul's was considered and plans for a school Wraparound scheme were supported. A bid to the Bishop's Fund for £4k was successfully made in November 2007 adding to the £5K approved from general funds by the PCC for this project.

The Treasurer operating through the FAB team, established procedures for collecting, and banking income from each church and accounting for local petty cash expenditure. This was done with the collaboration of the Wardens and others charged with the responsibility or local cash management including appointed representatives responsible for recording gift-aided contributions.

Parish Development Committee

The main focus of the Parish Development Team is to build a sense of unity across our three churches by deepening relationships across the congregations and encouraging co-operation, co-ordination and communion at every level of our life together.

The team would have particular responsibility for :

- *'Team Building' ie weekend away / social events / Team worship /*
- *fellowship groups and training courses etc*
- *building each other up as disciples of Christ*
- *Communication within the churches and promotion beyond, particularly in relating to the media*
- *Engaging together with issues of justice at local, nation and international level eg Mara Link, FairTrade, green issues etc*
- *Deepening our awareness of the whole body of Christ through our involvement with mission agencies and the church overseas.*
- *Branding*

If possible it should offer a short written report at alternate meetings of the PCC, prepare a more complete report for inclusion in the Annual Report and have an evaluation of its activities in the spring of 2008.

It is envisaged that this team would have a limited life span until the APCM of 2009

For various reasons the Parish Development Team was not convened until late in 2007 and it was into 2008 before it was able to meet. Since then it has met twice in quick succession and has drawn up a list of priority issues that it would like to deal with in the immediate future.

Over the first twelve months of MTP's life communications – or lack of them – has been an ongoing source of frustration. This includes internal communications between different groups and churches within the team as well as the way the Team is presented to the wider community. The first meeting of the PDT considered the possibility of having a display / exhibition at the Mirfield Show in August where we could make a wider launch of MTP to the community. This was further discussed at the second meeting when it was agreed that the focus of the display should be the work that MTP encourages and enables through others. This first focus should be our links across the world through Justus Solomon in India, through our support of World Vision and also through our support of such agencies as CMS, USPG, Leprosy Mission, The Children's Society etc.

We are aware of the need to appoint a 'Communications Supremo' who will act of a focus or hub for the sharing of information and knowledge. We also explored how we might use other avenues of communications to build up the life and image and MTP particularly exploring our Contact with local press. The Parish Magazine. The Parish Website, weekly Notice sheets and our 'Corporate image and how this might be incorporated into baptism / wedding information sheets, leaflets and notice boards.

The PDT also looked at how social events might build up our sense of belonging. There was a view that new events would be more successful as existing events are still related to individual churches where it is difficult for them to be seen from a Team perspective. It hoped that some kind of event will be forthcoming in the early summer.

Parish Mission Team

The primary task of the Mission and Ministry Team is to encourage and enable the Churches to make Christ real to the communities of Mirfield and Hopton by deepening and sharing our vision, understanding and experience of the love of God. It should seek ways of doing this afresh for all generations whilst keeping faithful to what is good from our own personal and church stories.

It is specifically to be responsible for:

- *Evangelism, especially the development of Fresh Expressions of Church;*
- *Listen and responding to the Community by building relations and forging partnerships with other Churches, community groups, local councils and other organisations;*
- *Training our congregations to minister to each other;*
- *Developing and implementing a Worship Strategy across the parish;*
- *Enabling and encouraging the mission of the church through pastoral care ie funeral & bereavement care / wedding & preparation / baptism & preparation;*
- *Deepening the churches commitment too and experience of prayer in all its aspects including healing & intercession*
- *Working in the schools and with other community groups where possible.*

If possible it should offer a short written report at each meeting of the PCC, prepare a more complete report for inclusion in the Annual Report and have an annual evaluation of its activities.

The PMT has met five times since its formation in the summer of 2007. It has to be said that this group has struggled to find its purpose but reasons for this are being explored. As the brief shows, it is meant to be a group that explores what it means to be mission-minded. In practice it has been a group where ideas are shared explored some of which are:

- The Labyrinth;
- The Matrix Youth Project
- The St Paul's Extended Schools Programme
- The Healing Ministry.
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It is hoped that this might become a dynamic group where dreams can be dreamed and no idea is considered to radical.

The Full PCC

Since the creation of the MTP the four full meetings of the PCC have dealt with the following issues:

The Committee and Team structure of the new parish was formulated and ratified.

The corporate identity and signage of the new parish were addressed.

A Fair Trade Certificate was obtained for each church.

The schools "Wraparound" scheme and further development of the building and grounds at St Paul's were debated and supported with financial assistance to the value of £5k.

The restructuring of both Croft House and the Parish Centre were comprehensively dealt with. In the case of the Parish Centre a new Scheme, "Charity for Ecclesiastical Purposes in Connection with the Church of England in Mirfield" (case No 566863) was formally sealed on 4 February 2008. This new Scheme replaces a conveyance dated 24th July 1880 as affected by a deed of appointment dated 1st March 1945

and a scheme of 18th July 1973. This new Scheme gives the PCC of the new parish power to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the charity's property.

Changes in bank mandates for the "Mirfield Charity for Assistant Curate" and the account known as "The Widows Fund for Upper Hopton" were approved.

The PCC determined as the policy for charitable giving to donate 5% of the regular giving. In 2007, £1.5K was donated to HIV Life Ministries in India and £1.5k to USPG and World Vision".

In addition the PCC conducted the normal business of a church parish, noting an approving as appropriate the business of its subcommittees and in particular overseeing the prudent management of the parish finances. In the interests of administrative efficiency, the PCC have given limited authority to the FAB Team and the Standing Committee to spend Restricted Funds on appropriate projects and to be able to spend sums not exceeding £2k from general funds without recourse to the PCC.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007

Staffing & Leadership

Throughout the whole year the staffing across the parish(es) was rather fluid. In January 2007 the Vicar, Peter Craig-Wild suffered a stroke. He was off for four months though did not fully recover until October. The Revd Helen Butler also suffered from ill-health which led to her going on leave from the 1st August and did not share in the ministry of the Church for the rest of the year. This eventually led to surgery in early 2008 from which we wish her a speedy recovery.

In March Gill Johnson, then assistant curate at Thornhill with Whitley was seconded to the new Mirfield Team Parish and was eventually licensed permanently to the parish on the 1st September 2007 on a half-time basis, the other half of her job being the Curriculum Development Officer on the Diocesan Education Team. We were also joined by Revd Wendy Dalrymple who was ordained deacon on the 30th June 2007 in Wakefield Cathedral.

Although five clergy is on the surface a generous allocation of clergy it should be noted that through the whole of 2007 we did not enjoy the benefits of this due primarily to ill health and we should be thankful that we had access to such a pool of staff at a time when others were absent. This allocation will not be permanent and while we have this number we need to make the most of the situation, not least of all preparing for the time when we are more likely to have three ordained members of staff.

From September Gill Johnson and Ann Pollard were to be given the title of Team Vicar within the Parish and a pattern was adopted where each church would have a co-ordinating clergy person. Ann was to be the co-ordinating clergy person for St Paul's; Gill was to be the co-ordinating clergy person for St Mary's, and Peter was to be the co-ordinating clergy person for St John's as well as being the focus for whole parish issues. Helen's role would be more clearly determined when she returned to ministry and Wendy, as training curate, would work in each church. She was also asked to have a brief for exploring 'new ways of bring Church.'

Each church has its own 'ministry team' under the leadership of the co-ordinating clergy person that meets regularly to review the ministry of its church, and to explore what developments might be pursued. There is also a whole parish Mission Team that meets from time to time to try to develop the way the Team parish ministers to the whole people of Mirfield.

MINISTRY & MISSION

Ross Wood & Wider Town Involvement / Matrix Youth Project

In November 2007 Mirfield saw the sad death of Ross Wood, attacked in the town centre and later died in Dewsbury Hospital. Ross's death made a great impact on the town as a whole which began to ask questions about its life and culture. The staff from MTP were quickly on the streets, visiting the shops, pubs and nightclub, and organising the opening of St Paul's together with a Book of Condolence, prayer candle lighting and a graffiti board. An afternoon of community prayer was also organised on the weekend after Ross's death which was attended by over 200 people. Later Ross's funeral service was held in St Mary's church and explorations are in progress about how a suitable memorial might be incorporated in the or around grounds of St Paul's.

As a result of this response driven ministry the staff from MTP have been invited to join community forums and meetings that would otherwise not have been forthcoming. It has also led to the renewal of the vision for a church based youth project which we hope will be further developed ecumenically in 2008. A working title of *Matrix* has been adopted for this project.

Labyrinth

In December St Paul's hosted a parish team event called Labyrinth, inviting people to come and take part in an 'interactive installation for spiritual journeys.' For those who ventured through the doors what lay before them was something that looked like a maze marked out on the floor. Participants were given a set of headphones and asked to begin slowly walking along the path marked out before them listening to the words and music as an aid to prayer and reflection. The Labyrinth was walked by people with a Christian faith and by those with none. It was walked by young people who had never been in to St Paul's and by elderly folk for whom Church is a regular pattern of life. For some the experience was one of peacefulness and tranquillity, for others it was a moment of challenge and for some a healing experience. Although this particular installation utilises modern technology, Labyrinths themselves are not a new invention. They feature in many medieval cathedrals, one of the best remaining examples is to be found in Chartres Cathedral in northern France. Walked slowly and quietly, the Labyrinth journey is a tool to reflect on ones own journey or pilgrimage through life. In medieval times they were used as a way of making a symbolic pilgrimage to Jerusalem. They have been used for personal reflection on the eve of baptism or confirmation, as an aid to contemplative prayer in Holy Week, and as an illustration both of the life of the Christian and of the life of Christ. Many people contributed to the creation of our Labyrinth loaning video players, TV's and a mirror among other strange items and others gave up their time to staff it.

St Paul's Extended Schools

The Local Education Authority schools survey at Hopton Primary school in 2007 highlighted the need for parents to access before and after school provision, also called wrap around; our interest and involvement with this project arises out of Ann being a Community Governor at the school and the church seeking to extend it's mission and contact within the community that it serves. The Government measure is that all schools should provide before and after school provision (referred to as Wraparound) by 2010. At the June 2007 governors meeting, Hopton Primary School indicated a lack of space and finance as reasons for not implementing the measure and it was at this point that across the team parish we began to explore what we might be able offer in collaboration with church, school and surrounding community.

As the church of St Paul is close to both Lower Hopton and Crowlees Primary schools it is ideally placed to offer wraparound provision by walking bus (children walking to school rather than going by car) Whilst the closer school is Hopton Primary School the sister church of St Mary's has representatives on the Governing Body at Crowlees School, which also indicate that they will not be in a position to provide wraparound care and are keen to be a part of any proposed initiative. This Wraparound initiative is an ideal vehicle to fulfil important aspects of the Parish Mission as it proposes to offer facilities to local parents and children within a Christian environment; this ethos would in no way be exclusive to any denomination, race or culture but offer an inclusive service to families at both schools and any requested wider community participation. The objective is to utilize the church and grounds of St Paul to the

benefit of the local need by maximizing the potential of the building and surrounding area for the benefit of the local community.

Three distinct phases are planned

The first phase is to offer a Wraparound service on a smaller scale for up to 16 children from Hopton Primary. This pilot initiative will begin at the start of the academic year of September 2008 using the lower rooms of the church. The pilot scheme will test the viability of the strategic project and will require minimal building modification.

The second phase will encompass an extensive visionary further reorder of the body of the upper church building to accommodate new community projects, which will begin initially with introducing a combined and expanded Hopton/Crowlees/wider community wrap around and child care service. It is envisaged that at this point the exterior areas of the church should be fully landscaped and enhanced and a secure play area be in situ. The final phase will be to extend at the lower levels to provide alternative enhanced facilities to the wider community and fulfil the overall objective to become a primary venue for Christian outreach of Mirfield team parish

Ecumenical

For over ten years now the Mirfield Ministers Forum has met, usually monthly, to encourage and enhance fellowship and sharing between the Churches in Mirfield. Each year it has organised various events ranging from the Good Friday Act of Witness to the Pentecost Praise Party of the past few years but primarily it has served as a place where local clergy and ministers can discuss issues we face in common.

Over the past year it has been suggested that if ecumenical co-operation is to be deepened that we need to extend this beyond just the ministers and clergy and look towards the creation of a Churches Together in Mirfield. This was highlighted at the end of 2007 following the death of Ross Wood and the emergence of the possibility of a church based youth project (*Matrix – see previous Report*). As a result the Churches Together in Mirfield will be launched on Ascension Day, the 8th May at 7.30pm in the Salvation Army Hall.

FORMATION & EDUCATION

Transforming Lives – Transforming Communities

Transforming Lives – Transforming Communities is a Diocesan initiative aimed at enabling the renewal of the lives of congregations across the Diocese so that they might better enable the renewal of the communities they serve. It was launched in Lent 2008 using a multi-faceted format similar to that of Everyday God in 2006 and will conclude at Pentecost 2009.

During Lent 2008 every member of our congregations was provided with a free Transforming Lives pack with daily bible study material for the whole of Lent. We also ran six group and held special services on Sunday evenings. The liturgical material provided for each week during Lent was also used across the parish. This is only a start and we hope to participate fully in the later stages of this Diocesan Renewal Programme.

BUILDINGS

St John's

St John's is a Grade II listed building. Since our last Quinquennial inspection in September 2003 by architect Stephen Parry, our main cause for concern has been the tower which is cracked and suffers severe bulging in the south wall. After further inspection by Tony Wood, a Structural Engineer, it was

decided to monitor to see if any further movement takes place over the next five years. He hoped the remedial work of supporting the structure with resin rods, undertaken in 1988, might succeed in stabilising the Tower.

We have suffered ingress of water at the junction of the tower and North Aisle which have been remedied by clearing the drains at the roof junction. Stone copings have also been replaced where indicated in the report.

The condition of the stone work around the West Window also gives cause for concern.

There is a timber vestry to the north which is in poor condition.

Our windows are protected by polycarbonate sheets which have been sympathetically installed so as to be virtually undetectable.

The surface of the bottom step to the rear door to the vicar's vestry is breaking up and requires repair.

Some pews have been re-arranged in the North Aisle to create a useful worship area. It is hoped that further pews might be moved from here to create a meeting area.

Clock.-The wind-motor has been refurbished and the clock is now going again. The clutch on the strike-train is currently being relined and the chime motor and clutch have been taken away for repair and as yet have not been returned.

Heaters - Del Sol has now repaired the Choir Vestry heater (work actually carried out on 12 Nov 07). Both of the Temcana 3B heaters, located one in the Choir Vestry one in the Vicar's Vestry, are now working fine and neither requires servicing.

The Organ is serviced regularly twice a year by Malcolm Spink and appears in excellent working order.

We have recently installed loop system together with a sound system and electronic piano purchased with donations at Jack Ramsden's funeral.

Fire Risk Assessment has been carried out together with PAT tests on all electrical equipment. Fire Extinguishers were serviced in September 2007 by Flamstop

The interior of the church is in need of decorating and we have a grant of £2500 to carry out this work from the Historic Churches Trust. Quotes are being sought.

No action yet on Safety barrier at the top of the tower,

Lych gate ramp: A verbal quote to produce a ramp in concrete 4 inches thick to the full width of the path with a slope of 3.4% was obtained from Michael Mulligan for £800.

Chris Breare and Sue Young 2008.

St Mary's

The interior of St Mary's is cleaned, polished and cared for by a dedicated band of volunteers and had an extra boost annually with a Spring Clean. Flowers have always played a big part in our church and continue to do so. Visitors to the church will be unaware of the time, effort and love put in by so many and a thank you goes out to all those people, you know who you are!

Music is another important part of our church life, and the organ underwent major repairs over the Christmas period thus enabling Scott and the choir to carry on their splendid work. We thank Scott also for arranging the popular Organ recitals throughout the year.

The church continues to be a popular venue for concerts, Brass Bands and the Kirklees Youth Orchestra to name but a few.

We are fortunate that no major work has had to be undertaken on the building this year, although with a Quinquennial inspection due in the coming year this situation may quickly change.

The graveyard is tended by a small band of volunteers and continues to be a haven of peace in a busy world. Grace Landscapes are contracted to cut the front of the church and the new grave section.

The role of caretaker became redundant and a lengthy process ensued to take possession of the Church House Flat. This finally came to a close in August. Since then we have been refurbishing the flat and a

new kitchen and bathroom have been installed. It will be rewired and re-decorated throughout with an expectation of the commercially letting the property from April 2008.

St Paul's

Extra grills were inserted into the ducting around the church to enhance the heating.

One of the windows on the North side of Church was repaired and the window protection put back in place.

The tile that came loose in the gales in October has been replaced and the roof was inspected at the same time.

Rob Craggs came along and discussed the feasibility of reordering the church bearing in mind the Wraparound project.

Some movement in the south wall is to be checked when Rob Craggs comes to inspect for the Quinquennial this year. Apart from that the building seems to be sound.

The grounds around the church are causing some concern due to the breakages on the paved area.

The Parish Centre

Our Parish Centre continues to be a popular venue for the whole community. It is an important part of the churches outreach. Regular users consist of uniformed organisations, pantomime and playgroup and Monday open house and parish lunches, as well as the Mothers Union, whist drive, and children's work. It is a popular venue for private celebrations of all kinds as well as dance shows, flower shows, charity events etc., this year we have added Yoga classes, Karate and Baby Rhythm to our weekly programme. Last October in a combined effort with the Scouts and their parents we decorated the meeting room which has resulted in an increase in bookings it is now used every day of the week and we have started refurbishments to the kitchen area.

All flat roofs have been renewed and new emergency lighting and a fire alert system have been installed in the 2 halls and the small hall was repainted and carpeted last summer.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed towards the successful running of the centre this past year, and we look forward to achieving even more in the year ahead.

Croft House

For several years before his death Charles Ernest Sutcliffe administered the properties comprising Croft House and the adjoining cottage, tennis court and some land in association with the Vicar to the benefit of the Parishioners. On his death in 1949 Charles Ernest Sutcliffe bequeathed Croft House, the adjoining cottage and adjoining land to the PCC of St John's. The Will states that the rooms are "to be held to the benefit of the inhabitants on lines and conditions similar to those on which the premises had been established by me for several years past". It was determined that the object of the Will was not ecclesiastical (that is to promote the work of the Church), but rather to benefit the inhabitants of the Parish. The PCC handed the deeds to the property to The Wakefield Diocesan Church Organisation Society, who then became the legal owners and the "Custodian Trustee". The PCC were then appointed as "Managing Trustee".

The Upper Hopton Community Association (UHCA), Registered Charity No 512417, was formed in 1980 and raised money to extend and modernise the Rooms. UHCA has since managed the structure of Croft House Rooms being responsible for all the maintenance, repairs and refurbishment and UHCA have had the use of the facilities free of any rent.

The Croft House Rooms Charity, No 257761, was established on 22 Jan 1969 and was administered by the Croft House Rooms Management Committee on behalf of the Upper Hopton PCC. The Management Committee is responsible for the letting of the Rooms and the fees meet the recurrent costs of utilities, insurance, etc.

The following arrangements were approved in 2007 by the new PCC and the UHCA and noted by the Diocese. The Diocese of Wakefield retains the role of "Custodian Trustee" and holds the deeds to the land and property. In the event that the two charities disband, the Diocese will take charge of the land and property. The Diocese appoints the "Croft House Rooms Management Committee" as the "Managing Trustees". The "Croft House Rooms Management Committee" is composed in equal measure of representatives from the Church and from the UHCA as follows:

1. The two Wardens of St John's be members
2. The Treasurer of the UHCA be a member
3. The UHCA elect three representatives
4. The PCC of the Mirfield Team Parish elect two representatives.

The "Trustees" for Croft House Rooms Charity will be drawn from the members of the Croft House Rooms Management Committee (Two from each of PCC and UHCA)

The new Trustees and Officers of Croft House Managing Trustees are now in place and the posts are as follows:-

1. Malcolm Naylor, Patricia Spencer and Catherine Smith were elected as Committee members by the UHCA.
2. Susan Auckland and Michael Hampshire were elected as Committee members by the PCC
3. Trustees are Christine Breare, Michael Hampshire representing the PCC, and Catherine Smith and Malcolm Naylor representing the UHCA.
4. The Chair and Secretary are Christine Breare and Michael Hampshire respectively.
5. The Treasurer is Karen Cook, who is seconded to the Management Committee.

FINANCES

The Parochial Church Council of Mirfield Team Parish and the former Parochial Church Councils of St Mary's Mirfield, St John's Upper Hopton and St Paul's Eastthorpe made the decision that all finances of the former PCCs were to be amalgamated into the new PCC of Mirfield Team Parish. All assets, liabilities and funds (including Restricted and Endowment funds) have therefore been consolidated into the finances of the PCC of Mirfield Team Parish.

The financial priorities of the new PCC in 2007 were:-

- to pay in full the Parish Share of £83,441;
- to give towards the work of Charities (£1,500 donated to HIV Life Ministries, £1,500 to World Vision and £1,500 to USPG)
- and to repair the roof of the Parish Hall (cost £4,800).

These were the major expenses for the year. The payment of the Parish Share in full was only made possible by reducing the amount of cash in the bank. The repair of the roof of the Parish Hall was financed by the sale of shares.

The finances of the PCC are becoming increasingly tight and with an increase in the Parish Share for 2008 to £87,423 (£1,681 per week / £7,285 per month) there needs to be a significant increase in our main source of income – which is OUR giving!

STATISTICS

During 2007 the staff of the Team Parish conducted the following numbers of Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals:

	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
At St John's	9	4	7
At St Mary's	27	13	28

At St Paul's	15	0	2
Crem	N/A	N/A	29
TOTAL	51	17	66

Electoral Roll

At December 31st 2007 there were 317 people on the new MTP Electoral Roll.

A FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE VICAR

No-one would pretend that 2007 has been an easy year.. The first four months of the year left us, in effect, without a Vicar with all the stresses and uncertainties that brings. An army of people, particularly the wardens of the then three parishes, pulled together to ensure the smooth running of the churches at a time when tensions inevitably came to the surface.

For that period the main burden of organising the ministry of the church fell on Revd. Ann Pollard who led the team with uncomplaining efficiency. No thanks can be enough for the work she did during that difficult time when she needed and showed all the skills that make her such a splendid priest.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues who not only helped and guided the wardens but also carried me for much of the year even when I was supposedly back at work. There were many times when I was not physically able to cope yet they put up with me and covered for my mistakes.

The process of changing from being three parishes to one was particularly complex and thanks must go to the wardens, particularly Mark Pollard, who made sure that all the necessary paperwork was in place for everything to happen. Not many people are aware that all this was also happening alongside a legal process to regain possession of the Church House Flat, again handled primarily by Mark. So 'Thank You' to all the wardens who worked together wonderfully and far harder than they should have had to!

I am indebted to you all for far more than I can possibly mention.

As we move into and through 2008 I am reminded of these words from Deuteronomy 31:8:

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will never fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

With thanks to all - and to God be the glory!

Peter

REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

ST MARYS BROWNIES REPORT

Here at St Mary's we have two brownie packs the 2nd & 14th Mirfield Brownies, both meeting on the same day at the same time and enjoying the same activities. The new unit known as 14th Mirfield Brownies was created in 2006 due to the large amount of girls wanting to join and along with over 300 other girls in Mirfield continue to enjoy what guiding has to offer.

We have an amazing team of leaders that give endless amounts of time, dedication and enthusiasm week in and week out allowing the girls to enjoy a wide range of activities, and I can not thank them enough. This year we have recently managed to recruit a few more helpers which has enabled us to continue taking the amount of girls we do. We are always keen to encourage more leaders in all section to ensure even more girls can enjoy the experience guiding can give.

Brownies is constantly changing to keep up to date with the needs of today's girls although the core values remain the same. Our girls have enjoyed a bit of a badge fest recently and in the last year many have completed their cook, swimmer, swimmer advance, rider, friend to animals, friendship, entertainer, craft, right to be me, right to be happy, sport, agility, seasons, hostess, pack holiday, pack holiday advance, world cultures, fire safety and first aid so have learnt a wide range of skills.

We have enjoyed two pack holidays last year one Pack Holiday in February where 18 girls went to Fan Wood and an Easter Theme was enjoyed and another to Bradley Woods in November for 24 girls the theme being a fantastically frosty time with all crafts based on snow and winter. We have two more planned for this year one in May and one in November and for leaders and girls alike is the highlight of the year.

This year we have enjoyed a new experience a 'Eureka Sleepover' this was a fantastic experience and one we would love to repeat, 154 children in total attended with 24 girls attending here from St Mary's . We were constantly amused learning about space, visiting the planets and taking a ride in a space craft. The really cool bit was actually getting to sleep in the museum at night. We slept in the sound garden with some girls in a lily pond, some in a giant plant pot and others in an oak tree. It was a super experience and one that girls and leaders a like will remember for many years I'm sure.

With a few extra helpers this has meant we don't just have to stay in the unit to have fun. We have visited the Fire Station for our Fire Safety Badge, learnt about animals when we visited Pets at Home for our Friend to Animals Badge, we have also been to the Pantomime here at St Mary's. Several girls attended a presentation at the Media Museum after winning a photo competition and we also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Chester Zoo and the Brewers Fayre, on one of the few scorching days of last year . We also celebrated Chinese New Year with a trip to the Yangtze and enjoyed a Chinese Banquet.

We have had lots of people in to visit us, Walter a speaker from guide dogs for the blind came to give a talk along with his dog, we also had Ruth the hedgehog lady, with her hedgehog. Julie from Hotch Potch came and held a ceramic café so we all painted our own mug. And Jo from Animals in Tuition came and brought snakes, tree frogs, sugar gliders and other creatures in for us to hold, did you know that inside St Mary's one night we had lizards, snakes and other animals on the loose ?? Diane our unit helper also arranged for Sarah a dance teacher to come in and show us how to dance and 3 nurses visited to teach us first aid.

We have raised lots of money for ourselves to continue having fun when we held our annual Craft Fayre, the money raised helps purchase badges and new craft materials, raising almost £500 in 45minutes. We provided entertainment at the district recruitment night to gain new leaders, and have also helped others, we adopted Dougal a guide dog for the blind and will be sponsoring his training as a guide dog for the next 18months. Several girls have had green fingers when all were challenged to grow a daffodil for the Marie Curie Pots of Care and also made cards to sell in their shops. We were also very quiet , during a one hour sponsored silence for Children with leukaemia raising over £800 so Brownies continue to think of others .

Brownies continues to be fun, challenging and a chance to make new friends and we hope the remainder of 2008 is just as much fun.

AFTERNOON TEA GROUPS

The Monday Afternoon Tea group which meets in the Mirfield Team Parish Center continues to grow and be an important and valuable part of our outreach ministry to our middle aged and older people. The group has a regular weekly gathering of more than 30 plus who come together to share pastoral care, meet socially over tea and cake, receive prayer and pray for one another; it is for some, also a way of rekindling relationships or getting to know people after returning to church following long periods away. The group continues to be Ecumenical and to serve the wider community through contact with the Nettleton Centre. It is an effective source of pastoral ministry and enables us be more personally involved at a deeper level, not only with our own congregation but also with those of other churches and non.

The Thursday afternoon group started at St Paul's last September also continues to be a worthwhile ministry project with 15 plus coming on a regular basis. One or two people overlap with the Monday afternoon group but on the whole it caters for different clientele. A new introduction in the Thursday group has been a monthly flower arranging class enjoyed equally by our men and women and our thanks go to Wendy for enabling this initiative to take place.

ADULT HOLIDAY CLUB

We continue to maintain our three adult holiday clubs throughout the year at Easter, summer and Christmas and each one continues to have at it's heart a religious theme and purpose according to the season. All of them include a variety of craft making and flower arranging items that are designed to enable and encourage well being and capability, alongside having fun, feeling valued and receiving care. In the summer we also include a day outing and invite any congregation and community to join us. These days are always a huge success, are generously received and hopefully we fulfil our aim to reflect a measure of our commitment, service and appreciation of those who have given and continue to give so much to our churches and community.

ADULTS, BABIES AND CHILDREN'S GROUP.

The Adults, Babies and Children's group which meets in St Paul's Lower Vestry on Wednesday afternoons has been running for the past 8 years and we are pleased that in the face of changing trends it continues to be a meaningful service to young mums and their children. Despite the competition of various other church and community groups in and around the town center we are at present welcoming 16 mums and young babies on a regular weekly basis. This fulfills the quota of places that we are allowed to accommodate at one session. The increased number of baptisms at St Paul's has also been a direct result of the committed work and ministry of a small but dedicated group of people who undertake to keep the ABC group running and further encouragement is that the group supports our events and special services, which also reflects a growing relationship between these families and church.

PANTOMIME

We again had a very successful year and our 2007 production was 'Dick Whittington'. We maximised the young talent and moved a number of the older chorus children into the cast. We produced the pantomime with 22 chorus and 15 cast. Again, all the cast and chorus completely committed themselves to the production and worked so hard over the 4 months. The pantomime was extremely enjoyed and over 800 people came to see it.

Anyone there on the last night of any production knows exactly how proud we are of what we achieve. The pantomime succeeds only with team commitment where everyone plays their part. Direction, production, lighting, sound, costumes and scenery all have to come together to complete the task. We

thank everyone by holding a party and presenting the cast and chorus with gifts or vouchers to buy something to remember us with.

In 2007 we continued to invest funds into renewing our infrastructure. We re-covered more of our scenery and replaced more damaged side flats. We refreshed our wardrobe and bought some useful tools.

We lost 3 of our long term cast as Jethro continued to further his TV projects and Sam and Nicola planned their travels for 2008.

By the end of the year we were well on our way to staging our next production 'Cinderella'.