

Holy Trinity Church Council 2010 Annual Report

Aims and Purposes

Holy Trinity's Parochial Church Council and Methodist Council meet as one body, the 'Church Council', and their work cannot be differentiated. The Church Council has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Jan Hardy, who is the Anglican Vicar and Authorised Methodist Minister, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical in the Parish of Thorpe Hesley and Scholes.

The Church Council is also specifically responsible for the maintenance and running of the Holy Trinity Church, the Churchyard and Trinity Community Centre (TCC). Day to day management of Church matters are delegated to the Incumbent with the support of a Standing Committee comprising Church Wardens, Church Stewards, Treasurer and Secretary. The TCC is managed on a day to day basis by an employed Church and Community Centre Administrator and a Church and Community Centre Development Officer.

Objectives and Activities

Our Mission Statement:

Working together we aim to continue to grow in faith and to open the doors to Christ for ourselves and our neighbours.

Text for 2010:

Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

The Church Council is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity Church. The Church Council maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the Church Council have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through: worship and prayer, provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, missionary and outreach work. To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church, the TCC and the site.

During 2010 the Church Council members worked in the following restructured sub-committees to help support these aims, objectives and activities:

Resources: responsibilities include an annual 'watching brief' and putting in place a maintenance plan on Church buildings and the Churchyard, producing an inventory of books & equipment, making recommendations for any purchases required, producing a Health & Safety Policy for the Church, Churchyard and car park.

Finance: responsibilities include financial planning & budget management together with insurance matters and licences, implementing accountant's recommendations, preparing annual budget, organising annual Giving Sunday and Easter Gift Day.

Ministry & Outreach :- responsibilities include preparing of special services as directed by the Church Council, reviewing and making recommendations for Church weekend, initiating a welcome strategy, encouraging mission and evangelism at home and overseas, organising of fundraising events, organising the Fun Run, Thorpe Hesley Show, Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair.

Grapevine Committee: responsibilities include overseeing production of Grapevine, editing, setting up of adverts, sending off to printers, interacting with advertisers and accounting and finances.

TCC Management: responsibilities include working with Centre Users to manage all aspect of Trinity Community Centre and promoting use of the centre in the community.

Risk

The Church Council and its various sub-committees deal with and consider a variety of areas of risk to which the church may be exposed. Such areas include Health and Safety issues, Disability Discrimination Act issues, Child Protection & Vulnerable Adult issues, Employment Law issues, Financial Controls and Insurance. The Church Council has undertaken a review of risks to which it is exposed and systems and procedures have been established to manage

those risks. Where it is felt appropriate, action has been taken to mitigate risk. Records of use of photocopies, large print hymns, projection and recording are submitted annually for copyright purposes.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Church Attendance: In December 2010 the number of people on the Church Electoral Roll was 126 Anglican roll; 25 Methodist roll; LEP roll 1. During 2010 the average attendance at Sunday morning service was 60, 30 at evening service and 23 at Tuesday Church.

We continue to have a variety of worship opportunities. Sunday morning and evening services are well attended, and Tuesday Church continues for those who work on Sundays as well as those who enjoy a more intimate service and who value the chance to socialise with other congregation members after the short service. An induction loop continues to be provided in Church for the benefit of hearing aid users. Large print service sheets with songs and hymns are available for those who prefer them. The services are prepared on a computer and are projected onto a large screen at the front of the Church. Recordings of Sunday morning services are distributed to the house-bound or sick. The music group leads morning service music and singing and the church choir leads the singing in the evening service as well as on other occasions. We continue to feel very blessed having our organist who plays for the Sunday morning and evening services and for choir activities. A number of organ and keyboard players in the congregation are available for funeral services.

We had a number of special services in 2010; the mourner's service and the pet service were well attended. One communicant was confirmed in a service held at St Andrew's LEP Church, Salter Lane, Sheffield. A witness walk was held on Palm Sunday and Stevie, the donkey from Thornberry animal sanctuary led the Pentecost witness walk. We celebrated Trinity Sunday 2010, the 170th Birthday of Holy Trinity Church with a special All Age Worship service lead by our Vision group. A 'Back to Church' service was very successful, a number of families continuing to come to church regularly and participating in services. Thorpe Hesley Infant school and their families had their own harvest festival in Church. The Church was decorated beautifully with Themes of Harvest arrangements. Harvest gifts were again given to Shiloh for the Homeless on Westgate in Rotherham. The St George's Day service was attended by the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts and the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows have participated in a number of special services throughout the year. An open air services at Scholes cricket ground was held in September. Remembrance Day was commemorated at the Church cenotaph by a Sea Cadet on November 11th at 11am, and at the two cenotaphs in the Church and the village after the Sunday service. Advent and Christmas services were very well attended even though we had deep snow; we enjoyed an advent praise with the choir singing 'Rumours of Angels' by Graham Kendrick, and we had a fun children's 'noisy nativity' arranged by the Boomerang leaders, with the usual overflowing Church at the Christingle Service. The painting for pleasure group was treated to carol singing by children preparing the Christingles. In 2010 there were 29 baptisms, 1 confirmation, 7 weddings, 3 blessings and 6 funerals.

Prayer is an indicator of spiritual health and continues to be bedrock of all we do. Our Prayer Calendar is used on a daily basis by the Church family to enable us to pray for each other in the community and is also used by those leading our intercessions at services. Prayer requests during the intercessions in services have increased greatly during 2010. Baptism families are prayed for in the month of the anniversary for the first five years. Prayers for bereaved people are included on the list for three weeks after the person's death. Monthly Prayer meetings have been held in Church on the second Monday evening in the month. A service for healing, a short half hour service of prayers and quiet music during which prayers for healing are said, occurred four times in the year. Bishop Cyril inspired us to join in the 'Sheffield Diocese 10 days of Prayer' between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Our three fellowship home groups continued to meet weekly or bimonthly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship and Men's Saturday Breakfast Monthly Fellowship invited speakers from the community. Lent and Advent Oasis continued as reflective half hour services on Saturday evenings during Lent and Advent.

Mission and Evangelism

We support Shiloh, a local charity for the homeless, with collections of food, clothes and household items and regular donations. Derek Powell from Shiloh project attended the February prayer meeting to speak about the work of Shiloh and the Lighthouse sleep shelter. A member of our congregation ran the Sheffield half marathon in aid of Shiloh. The people of Thorpe and Scholes again supported Christian Aid week in May when members of the congregation distributed and collected Christian Aid envelopes from door to door; two members of the congregation provided a lunch as well as taking part in the Brighton Marathon, another did a sponsored walk, whilst those at home took part in a chocolate tombola to raise money for Christian Aid. Vision organised an enjoyable social evening in aid of Christian Aid with bingo and raffle. The Church continued to support Anne and Alan Lacey in their mission work in Arua, Uganda. We were pleased to welcome them to our Church in October when they were on home leave to tell us about their work. As our previous charity 'Aid to Northern Romania' became self funding, this year we have been supporting two new charities, ChildAid, working with children in Belarus, Russia, Moldova and Ukraine and the Methodist School in Colon, Panama. We were pleased to welcome Gwenda Watson, the widow of Revd. Vic Watson who started the Methodist school, who told us about the time they lived in Panama in the 1950's and of the amazing growth of the school where there was, and still is, considerable poverty.

Ecumenical Relationships

We have enjoyed a variety of activities which have been of interest to a wide range of the community in 2010. The photo board at the back of the church contains individual photographs of the Church family and is regularly updated. It continues to help us to support each other by recognising and learning everyone's names, and is also helpful for use in conjunction with the intercessions and prayer list. The family address book continues to be a very useful means of keeping in contact with others. The craft group meets once a week in the TCC for fellowship, to share ideas, to learn new crafts and a second craft group has developed to make crafts for selling to support church funds. 'Walking for Pleasure' group meets at Church every second Wednesday morning for walks around outstanding countryside; 'Painting for Pleasure' group meet in the Church on Thursday mornings; many of the walkers and painters are not connected to the Church and travel from Rotherham and beyond. Our local RSPB officer led Spring Watch with a series of illustrated talks in the TCC and local walks to hear the dawn chorus discover wild flower, bugs, butterflies, moths, bees and bats which brought the children and adults together. A new 'Time for Me' group meet monthly at different homes in the community, a time to exchange beauty and health ideas.

Our Thorpe and Scholes community magazine, Grapevine, had eleven issues in 2010 with local news, adverts for local amenities and details of the Church services and fellowship groups. 2350 copies are distributed to the parish by 50 volunteers from the congregation. A Grapevine advertising person has been appointed to generate new advertisers and interact with the community businesses. Appleseed is a Thursday morning group for preschool children and their parents meeting in the Church narthex. Boomerang continues in the Sunday morning service in which older children leave the church for bible activities for their age group in the TCC whilst the pre-school ages have activities in the narthex. Vision is our church group organised for our young people aged 11-18 years for having fun, taking part in the life of the Church, supporting activities that others organise, and helping to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves. They were able to harness community support encouraging the making up of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas child. Gold & Silver, a group of 30-40 aged 50+ met once a month for fellowship, special meals and outings.

During the Easter weekend we launched our Stonework appeal with a flower festival with sponsored flower arrangements and sale of CDs of Jan singing favourite hymns. Scaffolding was put up and work commenced on the west end of the church and the tower in November by securing a grant and a loan from the Diocese so that work could commence before VAT increased. A number of fundraising events have taken place and many more are planned which has encouraged community participation. Grenoside Sword dancers presented an evening of entertainment in early January when the snow was still with us. A Snowdrop weekend in February and a flower festival weekend and Gift Day Appeal in April. The Church Council had a training morning in May when we reviewed faculty procedures and fund raising

procedures. We had our Annual Fun Run and Summer Fair in June with three races, the 'full 3-mile race', the 'half race' and the 'sponsored toddle'. The Church was opened during the Heritage weekend in June as well as a number of mornings a week, serving Fair trade tea and coffee, with Fair trade goods on view on our Traidcraft stall in the Narthex. Our Garden Open Day in July was well attended and enjoyed by our local community and by garden enthusiasts from far field. We had a successful series of Children's summer activity mornings in August. Our Church Weekend at Willersley Castle in September gave us all food for thought and renewal, the theme being 'Faith in a Fresh Way' led by Jo Cox.

A brainstorm was conducted at the Church council in September to generate ideas from where the church might make savings in readiness for VAT increases and impact on people's savings and job security and the congregation was asked to offer savings suggestions. A number of coffee mornings were held throughout the year to raise money for the Church Stone Work Appeal and to welcome people from the community and a Vicarage coffee-lunch-dinner day was held in September. From September to December we had our LEP review from 'Churches Together in South Yorkshire' which felt supportive and encouraging. In October a group attended an Open Meeting of the Rotherham Deanery Review, an approach worship conference in Emmanuel Church Centre, Loughborough and Acts 2 was started for anyone in our community who needs help and support to be put in touch with those wanting to give support. The Church Christmas Dinner was held for the first time in the TCC in December and was well attended by members of the congregation, their families and friends. Posada figures were again taken from house to house during Advent to remind us of the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. Our Annual Christmas Tree Festival, miraculously successful despite the deep snows of December when roads were impassable, had the theme 'Traditional Thorpe Carols' and was opened by Steve Smith, a local solicitor and author. Nineteen Christmas trees sponsored and decorated by the local community, businesses and groups were arranged in the Church which was kept open for a second weekend. A programme gave information about each carol and advertised the Christmas services. Our Christmas Fair had many community stalls, including Santa's grotto, with entertainment by the Thorpe Carollers and the Thorpe Hesley Brass Band who gave a number of concerts throughout the year. The outside Nativity scene made in wood was on view again for all to see. Members of Thorpe Hesley Infant School visited the church for a Christmas service and Revd Jan Hardy was invited to take the Christmas gift services at Thorpe Hesley Infant and Junior Schools. A specially arranged Christmas spectacular 'Steps into Christmas' an evening with Steps Productions in association with Apex Sound encouraged a wide audience.

Trinity Community Centre (TCC):

A number of regular activities are available to all members of the community. The library is open daily and well attended by all in the community offering access to over 550 e-audio book titles and to a wide range of free on-line resources. Trinity under 5's pre-school group had been open daily in term time this year until its closure in December. Weekly activities consist of aerobics, Slimming World, Rainbows, 63rd and 69th Rotherham Brownies meetings, Guide meetings, Senior Guides meetings, Brass Band practice, Badminton, Tai Chi, and Craft groups including a children's craft group. The Women's Institute meet once a month. Vision and Gold and Silver use the TCC regularly for their activities and the children's holiday activities used the TCC during the summer, The TCC has been hired for meetings, birthday parties, Christmas fairs and funeral teas as well as Church fundraising functions, a successful 'Old style music songs and cake' afternoon, a 'Come Dine With Me' evening with Gary Holden, cabaret evening, a Steps production to name just a few to cater to a wide appeal.

Plans for the Future

Fundraising for the Stone Work Appeal will continue. Thorpe Hesley Junior School sword dancers and '6 Jolly Miners' evening in January; a pantomime is being planned for February; a new Thorpe Hesley Show is being planned near harvest time to encourage community participation. ChildAid will give a talk about their charity. A problem drinker's support group for men is being planned. Acts 2 will extend further to support those who need supporting in the whole community. Vision will host a meal in aid of Christian Aid in February; a member of our congregation will be Christian Aid Week organiser and coordinator in 2011. We look forward to Jan's sponsored parachute jump in April. In July we welcome a new curate (Self

Supporting Minister) who will be training with Jan. Planning is in progress to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our LEP in 2012 and 175th anniversary of the Church building in 2015.

Financial Review

The balance in the General Fund has declined again over the past year although the monies available for general use (unrestricted) remains similar to last year. Grapevine income exceeded expenditure & Trinity Community Centre had a balanced budget. The notification of the closure of Trinity Under Fives pre-school in December due to lack of numbers has required a new budget to be prepared for the Community Centre for the forthcoming year but we are optimistic the centre will break even at the end of 2011.

Fundraising for the stonework to the west end & tower of the church has raised the majority of funds required. The uncertainty in late 2010 of the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship VAT refund scheme would increase costs by over £8000 in respect of VAT payable if it ceased, the Church Council mindful of this additional cost agreed to seek a loan of £15,000 repayable over 5 years from the Diocese to allow the work to proceed.

Reserves Policy

With the ongoing expenditure on the fabric of the church it has proved difficult again this year to build any reserves. Our policy is to hold 6 months expenditure as reserves and this is still not being achieved.

Volunteers

The Church Council is very grateful for the support it receives from volunteers. So many people give up their time to work hard to make the Church accessible to the community and run smoothly following a wide range of rotas: for the morning and evening services on Sunday and Tuesday Church and special occasion services: the rota for communion assistants; the intercessions rota; the readings rota; flower rota; those who take turns to prepare the laptop and those on the computer projector rota; the rota of volunteer leaders for Boomerang; members of the choir and music group; the rota of volunteers who open the church and provide coffee for Quiet Space on Thursday and Saturday mornings; those who lead and help at Appleseed, Vision and Gold and Silver; those who open up their homes for fellowship groups and men's breakfast; those who care for the Church by housekeeping; those who provide drinks after Sunday morning service; those who organise the walking, painting and craft groups; those who edit, prepare and organise Grapevine and the web site; the group of volunteers who distribute Grapevine to the community; those who lead and help at Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and summer children's activities; those who fundraise in its many forms; those who come forward to put tables up and down, make cakes and preserves, stand on corners, clear the snow; photograph it all; the Church could not do what we do without such magnificent support.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of Church council members is set out in the LEP Constitution. At Holy Trinity Church the membership of the church council consists of the incumbent (our Vicar /Minister), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church, the Methodist roll or LEP roll. All those who attend our services and members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll Methodist Rroll or LEP Roll, and stand for election to the Church Council. The Church Council members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the Church Council are to be spent. Members of the Church Council are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Church Meeting and become trustees. The Church Council met six times during 2010. Given its wide responsibilities the Church Council has a number of sub-committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These sub-committees include resources, finance, ministry & outreach and TCC management. A committee organises Grapevine. The standing committee

and subcommittees meet prior to alternate Church Council meetings and in some cases between meetings. The sub-committees are all responsible to the Church Council and report back to it regularly with minutes of their deliberations which are discussed as necessary.

Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Church is situated in Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley, South Yorkshire in the Parish of Thorpe Hesley and Scholes. It is part of the Rotherham Deanery in the Diocese of Sheffield. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 30, Barnsley Road, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham S61 2RR. The Parochial Church Council and Methodist Council meet as one body and their work cannot be differentiated. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Church Meeting held in April. The Church Council is a corporate body established by the Constitution of the Local Ecumenical Partnership whose sponsoring body is 'Churches Together in South Yorkshire'.

At the Annual Church Meeting in April 2010 a revised constitution was approved and adopted as recommended by Churches Together in England. Subsequent to this, Holy Trinity Thorpe Hesley has now registered directly with the Charity Commission after previously being an excepted charity. Our registered number is 1136178

The Church Council operates under guidance from both the Anglican and Methodist Church. The members of the Church Council who have served from 1 January 2010 until the date this report was approved are recorded below (including the sub committee on which they served)

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: (Chairperson)

The Reverend Jan Hardy

Church Wardens:

Kenneth Peet (Vice Chairperson),
Olive Peet

Elected members:

Stewards & Circuit representatives:

Marjorie Law
Fiona Wilson

Circuit representatives not Trustees

Gladys Shaw*
Janet Varnam*

Deanery Synod representatives:

Brenda Allott
Olive Peet

Treasurer:

Stephen Baker (co-opted)

Secretary:

Jane Allonby (CC Minutes/Annual Report)

Church Council Members

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jane Allonby | |
| Brenda Allott | |
| Jack Hague | |
| David Hester | to ACM (18/4/10) |
| Kay Hester | |
| Marjorie Law | |
| Deborah Lawrence | to ACM (18/4/10) |
| Martin Lawrence | to ACM (18/4/10) |
| Mick Lister | |
| Pat Lister | |
| Christine Macleod | |
| John Portman | |
| Kenneth Peet | |
| Olive Peet | |

Hilary Perry to ACM (18/4/10)
Kath Scott
Joanne Varnam to ACM (18/4/10)
Fiona Wilson
Steve Wilson

Other officials

Church & Community Centre Administrator Stephen Baker
Church & Community Centre Development Officer Eileen Leeson

Sub-Committees

Resources: **Olive Peet**, Brenda Allott, Jack Hague, John Portman
Finance: **Steve Baker** (co-opted), Steve Wilson, Marjorie Law
TCC Management: **Kenneth Peet**, Fiona Wilson, Steve Baker (co-opted)
Ministry & Outreach: **Jan Hardy**, Kay Hester, Mick Lister, Pat Lister,
Eileen Leeson (Co-opted), Christine Macleod, Sylvia Holland,
Invited; not Trustees: Cheryl Stead*, Michelle West*

Grapevine Committee: **Revd Jan Hardy (Editor)**
Steve Baker (Accounts & finance)
Not Trustees Hilary Perry* (Adverts/setting/printers),
Catherine Moore* (interacts with advertisers)
Debbie Lawrance* (website)

STATEMENT OF THE LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP'S (TRUSTEES') RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council members are responsible for preparing the Report of the Council and the Annual Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Council members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Council and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Council for the period. In preparing these financial statements the members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Council will continue in business.

The members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Council and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008, and the provisions of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Approved by the Church Council on.....2011
and signed on their behalf by The Reverend Jan Hardy (Church Council Chairman)**