

# ANNUAL REPORT FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2014

During the year there were 4 weddings, 2 marriage blessings, 3 baptisms, 4 funerals in church and 3 crematorium services.

The main highlights in which the Church has been involved are detailed below.

1. Time to Pray continued on a monthly basis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 2.30pm to pray for the life of our parishes.
2. CROSTHWAITE GARDEN RAMBLE Sunday & Monday the 25/26<sup>th</sup> of May 2014.

The Garden Ramble was held over Sunday & Monday of the Spring Bank Holiday. The proceeds were towards the cost of proposed extensions to St Marys Church – Crosthwaite to provide Toilets (including disabled) & Kitchen facilities as well as some reordering of the Church to create space and reposition the Font. Fourteen Gardens were opened in Crosthwaite and the Church was decorated out as a Flower Festival. Some 70 residents contributed their help in providing Stewards, Car Parking, Minibus Drivers, sale of Plants and Catering services.

The weather was good and the event attracted in excess of 500 visitors. The final result was a net surplus of some £3800.00.

To thank the tremendous contribution of the helpers a “Thank You” evening was organised in June at which wine and nibbles were served and a DVD of the event was shown. Copies of the DVD were available for sale.
3. Charitable Giving - The PCC agreed to distribute this year's small amount of charitable giving to the following causes:
  - £100 to Crosthwaite School to buy Christian hymn and song accompaniments on 10 CDs;
  - £150 to Open Doors which works to support Christians being persecuted in troubled parts of the world;
  - £150 to Manna House in Kendal.

Several people from the congregation also support the local “Boxes of Hope Cumbria” charity and we also support the Children's Society from both our Collection at the Christmas Carol Service and through the local boxes. Christian Aid was also supported from our collection on Christmas Eve.
4. Special services

A range of special services took place through the year:

  - A special service of Evensong for the Feast of Epiphany on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January; and an Epiphany Compline at Cartmel Fell on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.
  - On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February we held a special service in St. Mary's to Re-affirm our Marriage Vows. 21 couples from across the Two Valleys gathered together with a combined total of 721 years of married life! Sparkling wine and home-made cakes were enjoyed at the end.
  - a Mothering Sunday Service on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
  - a Damson Day Songs of Praise service was held at Low Farm on Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April.
  - an Ascension Day communion followed by English breakfast at the Vicarage on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May.
  - a Songs of Praise style service “Songs (& Scones) of Praise” was held at 3.00pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June followed by special refreshments.
  - the Harvest Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> October.
  - A Confirmation Service was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October with Bishop Robert Freeman of Penrith. At the end of the service the new extension was blessed and dedicated by the Bishop.
  - an All Soul's service was held at 6.30m on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to which recently bereaved families are personally invited.
  - a special Remembrance service reflecting the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War One was held at 10.50am on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

- Visiting speakers from the charity “Freedom from Torture” spoke at the Sunday service on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.
- Crib and Carols at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve.

5. Lent

The Lent Course in 2014 was held in Brigsteer Village Hall and again took the form of “hot topics” suggested previously by the congregations and each topic presented by a different speaker each week. We again enjoyed excellent Soup lunches provided by teams from different parishes. The topics covered were:

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Assisted Dying

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Religious or Radical - the true voice of the Church.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Should the Church sever its ties to a multicultural State?

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – The Holy Spirit

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Forgiveness

We also managed to raise £384.81 in profits which was split three ways between Step by Step, Springfield House and the Farming Community Network.

6. Food Bank

Food donations continue to come in to the collection points in church and in the village hall which are part of an expanding network across the Two Valleys where the community can donate to the Food Bank. The demand is still growing as food poverty affects a growing number of individuals and families in the Kendal area.

7. Refurbishment

By the end of 2014 all the refurbishment works in church were finished to an excellent standard and we are delighted with the results. Already the differences have been noticed by all those who use the vestry and the kitchen; the toilets have been well used by people and much appreciated; the extra space at both the back and the front of church is making a real difference to the ways we use the building and our larger School appreciates the flexibility of space at the front of church. Our thanks go to our Churchwardens who oversaw this project and especially to John Holmes who did much of the interior work himself.