



The Parish of Girdlington, Heaton and Manningham

2019

As we reflect on 2019 and all the change we've seen here are 3 Stories which tell something of what life is like in our very large and changing Parish.

Maundy Thursday

We prepared a Last Supper style meal for Maundy Thursday 2019 when we cleared the entire church at St Philip's and made a long table right down the middle. It was a lot of work to carry and set tables. Then we decorated. As we settled down to eat more and more people came in. We had to keep getting more tables out – it didn't look symmetrical or as beautiful as we planned it. I was reminded of the quote "When You Have More Than You Need, Build A Longer Table Not A Higher Fence" I had a profound picture not just of the Communion Table lengthened for all but of the Heavenly Banquet.

Bridlington Trip

In Summer 2019 a group from different activities at St Paul's filled a bus and went to Bridlington on a scorching hot day. Songs were sung, ice cream's eaten, sandcastles built etc. It was happy chaos! As we packed up our beach to leave a neighbouring couple called me over. "Are you from a Church?" they asked. "Yes" I replied, "how did you know?" The man said "We've been watching you all day and we decided that so many different types of people from so many nations happily spending the day together could only be a church!"

My Licensing Service

In March when Bishop Toby came to license me into this new role, I was at the front facing forwards while the Procession came down the aisle behind me. A bit like a groom wondering what's going on at the back and wondering when to look! When I did I discovered Uzma, one of our library volunteers holding a plate of food she had brought for the Bring and Share. "What are you doing?" I whispered.... "I don't know" she replied, "The Bishop told me to come in with him!" This memory continues to encourage me. Our churches are not just 'open for business' on Sunday mornings. Our 'business' is also the well being and needs of our whole community – and to speak truths of Jesus' love and power throughout the week too.

Into 2020

We will continue to review, plan and shape everything we do as a Parish through our three 'lenses'. ***Including, Proclaiming and Investing.*** This simple tool will allow us to set a clear benchmark to ensure our community work, social activities and church services have a healthy balance and are working to fulfil God's mission in us and the world.

Thanks

So many people make this Parish work. Many thanks all those who support me personally and to the Vision Team who pray with me monthly.

Thanks to those who are visible. In front of church services, in our sung worship, in our community projects and our English Classes. Thanks to those who volunteer their time, both from our churches and the community – your commitment is a blessing to our Parish.

Thanks also to those who are invisible. Flowers that appear overnight. Roof Tiles that get fixed. Lights that are repaired. Carpets cleaned. Bills paid. Repairs followed up. You know who you are.... Thank you so much!

Yours in Christ

Chris Chorlton

Rector of Girdlington, Heaton and Manningham

Our Full APCM Report can be downloaded from our Website: bradfordwest.church

2019 At-a-glance

Discipleship & Worship

- 25 people from across the parish went to New Wine
- We have celebrated as people have come to faith over the last 12 months.
- We welcomed Bishop Toby for 9 baptisms & 11 confirmations.
- Parish wide Alpha followed by The Bible Course.
- 2 Parish wide Home Groups launched.
- Wednesday Discipleship is English/Farsi mix.
- Regularly 23-30 people meet for worship/study/food. The highlights have been "Come Follow Me" & Alpha.

Youth & Children

- Launch of new parish wide youth group.
- Involvement with U:nite - Bradford wide youth event.
- Sunday school and Teen groups now using Energize material
- Regularly lead assemblies in 5 local schools - including the Open the Book team.
- Youth Project Forum meeting resulted in a successful funding bid submitted for a part time youth worker and youth community audit to be carried out.
- We have combined material for assemblies and all age worship service's to be used across the parish.

Pastoral Care

- There have been some tough pastoral issues this year and we have tried to love these people well.
- Some of the team are attending a 10 week pastoral assistant training course - giving lots to bring back to the new team
- Plans are afoot to develop the best model of pastoral care and outreach across the parish.
- Our challenge over the next year is to look at how we reach all people who live in the communities in which we are set.



Community & Outreach

- The Sharakat Project completed art projects, knitting group, keep fit, cooking groups and places of welcome cafe.
- Friday Drop In meal coped well with no kitchen for the autumn term, numbers dropped but increasing again with a regular group of volunteers each week.
- Heaton Hub is now open 15+ hours each week. Place of Welcome is growing, The library sees new people each week and the toddler group is relaunching.
- The Mustard Seed has a shared lunch. Keep fit, board games and conversation
- English and craft classes at St Philip have grown.
- Place of Welcome has been well received but space to grow.
- Some of the challenges discussed are;
 - What do we do and why?
 - Setting up independent charity
 - Additional funding streams
- Highlights of the year include:
 - Inviting 60 people to a community Christmas meal: this was well received and attended
 - Manningham-on-Sea
 - Nowruz (Persian New year)
 - Inn Churches night shelter
 - Bonfire Night celebration
 - Community Carol singing
 - Good Friday Walk of Witness
 - Easter Sunrise service
 - Christmas Crib Service
 - Film night
 - Christmas Fair
 - Beetle Drive
 - Lots of Coffee opportunities

Resources & Finance

- In 2019 we have been successful in merging 4 church account systems together - no small feat!
- We are now working towards using our resources more efficiently as one parish rather than 4 churches.
- Our 2020 plans include generating income through renting our spaces out.