**Annual Reports 2018-2019:** *please note that these are* ***very*** *shortened versions of the reports -**full reports are available in a folder in the narthex or from Janet Loughridge*

**General report on the Life of the Church**

Our life as a local church takes place in the context of wider changes in the Church of England and the Methodist Church. Both the Methodist Circuit and the Anglican Diocese are facing challenges and developing strategies accordingly. Here at St Andrew’s Psalter Lane Church, we are in a relatively healthy position. We have tended to focus less on numbers and statistics than on new ways of deepening our spirituality and serving our community, and this year has seen further examples of these. The house groups’ study of Holy Habits has been a recent example of the former, and the growth of the much-valued Tuesday Café an example of the latter. The heart of the life of any church includes: its worship, both regular and on special occasions; fellowship and mutual support among its members and welcome to those who are new to the local church; and a commitment to social responsibility through social action and financial giving. These continue to be priorities for us, alongside and including themes to which we have a special commitment, such as inter-faith relations and eco matters. Our partnerships with other bodies, both religious and “secular”, continue to be of importance. As we move into this next year in the life of our church, we look forward to opportunities that lie ahead.

**Church Membership and Church Links**

Total church membership is 132, made up of 74 Joint members, 24 Anglican - only members and 34 Methodist-only members. 28 people are registered as Friends.

**Pastoral Work**

We have a team involved in and committed to developing pastoral care, with staff and many others reaching out and offering care to both church members and the local community.

A weekly dementia café, the Tuesday Café, has been offered in church since March 2018; this has been a great success and clearly meets a need in the community

**Worship**

Our activities and community involvement as a church have at their heart, as always, our Sunday worship and other opportunities for reflecting together on our faith. We enjoyed a Good Friday meditation with sensitively played music by Black Velvet Clarinet Quartet, continuing links with the Quakers, hearing about Holy Habits, Harvest with Communion and sharing services with our Mission Partners including the Covenant service at SAPL.

**Music**

There continued to be a large number of musical events and bookings at the church, including The Good Friday service, the Community Carol Singing which brought together singers of traditional local carols, singers of more widely-known carols, local craft artists, members of the congregation and all these people’s families. There have also been several Sheffield Music Academy and Music Club concerts; one-off concerts by other organisations and Taizé Prayer services.

**Property**

Our energy is now provided from renewable resources.

Shirley House: New leases for office tenants are nearing completion. We have been obliged to increase rents from April 2019 in line with advice received. Church: The Dais is now supported on a new floor so it can be removed when required. The floor has been designed to carry the weight of the grand piano. We have TMCP approval to install 2x large TV screens in Church and

installation is imminent. The toilets off the Narthex are now non-gender specific.

Grounds: We received an ecological survey of our grounds and the Eco Group has drawn up plans for the design and maintenance of the grounds.

**Young SAPLC**

Mission Partnership - The Mission Partnership Children’s Work group continues to meet and plan events. In this year we have had a Pancake Party, Messy Church at Pentecost, a Halloween/Light Party, and a Covenant Service.

Clifford All Saints - the school has now become a through primary on two sites, at Psalter Lane and Ringinglow. It has input from both ourselves and All Saints Ecclesall. The assembly rota involves both churches. Junior Church - this continues to happen whenever there are children in church, though numbers are low. Sandcastles has a good regular group at the services and we have new leaders on the rota.

**Peace and Justice**

Refugees and asylum seekers – the Lent small change collection raised over £150 for LASS, the Sheffield group supporting lesbian asylum seekers. A number of church members are involved in activities to support and campaign for the rights of refugees including ASSIST and City of Sanctuary.

Poverty - we collect food and other materials to assist the work of the food bank at St Cuthbert’s. Some individuals are involved with work at the Parsons Cross initiative and the Sheffield Foodbank Network. We collect items for Baby Basics.

Palestine - a successful event was held at which Rev John Howard and Caitlin Procter spoke about the current situation; we raised a total of £500 for the support of breast cancer care in Gaza through the Amos Trust. A party of church members are planning a visit to Palestine in early 2020.

World Church/Development - harvest festival focussed on the work of All We Can in Malawi, and we hope to develop closer links with Malawi. The Christian Aid Week collection took place as well as other collections for disaster emergencies.

LGBTQ – the church has supported the development of Open Sheffield at St Mark’s Church. Toilets have been labelled as for general, rather than gendered, use.

**Shirley House Interfaith** **Centre**

Decoration of the Interfaith Centre has been completed this year with a new carpet, plus a few more faith symbols produced in an art and craft afternoon. A full programme of events was held.

**Eco-Congregation**

We:

* held a Carbon Footprint Drop-in event in Sheffield Environment Weeks, as a visible sign that churches DO care about the environment.
* started a project to make the church garden more wildlife friendly. We commissioned a wildlife survey before starting this work and are building on previous plans for the grounds.
* are building good relations with our local fellow Eco Church at Banner Cross Methodist, attending each other’s meetings and generally aiming to support each other.

**Clifford School**

Our SATs results last year were good and overall all the children are making good and outstanding progress across the school.

In September 2018 Clifford C of E Infants became Clifford All Saints C of E Primary. The two churches, Ecclesall All Saints and St Andrews Psalter Lane Church, are working together to provide assemblies.

### We moved into the new site in February. Years 2 and 3 are now at Ringinglow.

A new era has begun and this next year we will continue to develop our through school with the help of many people especially the congregations of St Andrew’s Psalter lane and All Saints Ecclesall.

**Finance, Safeguarding, Parent and Baby Group, Fellowship Lunch, Methodist Circuit and Ecclesall Deanery Synod, Brownies, Scout Group and St Andrew’s Hall**

Reports are in the folder in the narthex.