

In January 2001, Rev Jonathan Thacker was our Vicar and Graham Lines our Curate. The Church Wardens were Gary Clark and Mary Markham. The PCC Secretary was Jennifer Coman and the PCC Treasurer was Steve Barker. The Editor of the Parish Magazine was Jack Scott.

The Knights of St George presented Little Red Riding Hood at Foxhills School. Another very successful pantomime which engaged with the local community and raised £1,034:64, £700 of which was donated to church funds.

In February the Bishop of Lincoln announced that he would soon be retiring. On 4 February 47 members of the congregation assembled in Great Limber Village Hall for a Parish Study Day. We examined the question "What does it mean to be the body of Christ in Crosby". This was an important and significant day for the parish which gave everyone a lot to think and pray about.

A very entertaining Roaring Twenties Razzamatazz evening was held on 17 February. Everyone enjoyed a splendid four course meal, each course interspersed with entertainment. As a bonus this event raised £371.

Another regular popular event, a Quiz Night, was held on 3 March, making a total £136. Some members of the congregation were attending textile workshops run by CrosArts which were held in the Greeson Hall. They were working on a textile hanging to be part of an exhibition of the history of St John's Church, to be displayed in the new St John's Visual Arts Centre which was soon to be opened by the Duchess of Gloucester.

The Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey, Roderick Wells, retired on 1 April. He had been a marvellous friend to many in the Diocese during his long ministry and would be greatly missed.

A former Curate, Keith James, wrote to us from his current parish, Cherry Willingham, to invite a group from Crosby to join a Scargill House week-end event in June. Several members of the congregation took up this invitation and had a very enjoyable time of fun and fellowship in beautiful countryside.

On 17 June we held an All Age Worship in Sheffield Park. Our annual Summer Fayre was held on 30 June and raised £393:60. Another regular event, the all day Garden Party, held in Rothwell Road and Lynton Close on 21 July, raised £877:58. The following morning we hosted North Lincolnshire Council's Civic Service on behalf of our local councillor, Margaret Simpson, who was this year's Mayor.

St Michael's received devastating news on 3 July when the Quinquennial inspection revealed that the building was condemned and would have to be demolished. Many people had been connected with St Michael's since its construction in 1932 and its loss would be keenly felt by its small but dedicated congregation.

On 4 August we held another Parish Barbecue at the Vicarage and on 7 August there was another Parish Trip, this time to Scarborough on a rather rainy day.

On 2 September there was a special service for the inauguration of Guinness into the Scunthorpe Group Ministry. 1<sup>st</sup> Crosby Guides invited all past and present Guides to attend the "Laying up of the Flag" at St George's on 16 September. Manlake Deanery said farewell to Bishop Bob and Isobel Hardy at a Eucharist and presentation which was held in St Lawrence's Church on 17 September.

October brought the news that the new Bishop of Lincoln would be the Rt Revd John C Saxbee who was presently Suffragan Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow in the Diocese of Hereford. Another Quiz Night was held on 13 October.

Fund raising continued apace. A new venture, a Body Shop Party, was held on 9 November. The Cake Stall held on 3 November raised £377. The Race Night held at Redbourn Club on 23 November raised £433. The Christmas Fayre was held on 1 December and raised £741 for the church.

1992 began with the same Church Administration Team, apart from the fact that Pat Day had replaced Mary Markham as Church Warden at the last Annual Parochial Meeting. Enid Maynard was planning to produce a small book commemorating the life of St Michael's from May 1932 to the present day and invited contributions before the end of February.

The Knights of St George presented Dick Whittington and His Cat, another great team effort and an entertaining pantomime which raised over £1,000.

Addie Collinson's funeral took place on 13 February. She was strong willed, world wise and a confident and devoted Christian. Addie joined our congregation when St John's closed and everyone would miss her wit, wisdom and quiet presence.

On 3 March the newly formed Group Ministry held its first event. This took the form of an open discussion in which we looked at our own personal and church histories and from that perspective began to look at the future. George and Betty Baker celebrated their Golden Wedding on 29 March and Ivy Chafer was 80 during March.

Another regular fixture, a Quiz Night was held on 27 April and raised £120.

St George's caravan had been sold as the Community Development Group had reluctantly decided that it was no longer viable. Since 1996 it had fulfilled its purpose of supplying reasonably priced holidays to families with children who otherwise could not have afforded Flamingo Land prices. Under agreement with Children in Need, who originally supplied the caravan, the balance of £2,000 would be used for a child based project in the area.

In April, Gary Clark, Church Warden, reported on the difficulties we had been experiencing. After the Quinquennial Report the electrics were cut off and condemned, the roofs leaked and were badly in need of repair and the heating system was defective. Effective funding raising had enabled the electrics to be replaced and new lights installed. The heating system and the vestry roof had been repaired, followed by repairs to the north and south aisle roofs. He asked everyone to help by giving our prayers, time, talents and money to provide a future for St George's and the work it did within the Crosby parish.

On Whit Sunday, 19 May, we met for prayers at Long Road, outside the plot which had held St Michael's Church, before walking to St George's for a service of thanksgiving for the life and work at St Michael's. On what would have been the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Michael's, Tuesday 21 May, St George's was open for everyone to come and view a display of photographs and share memories, followed by a short service. The 1932-2002 Book of Memories had been completed and was on sale at £1.50 a copy. The sale of St Michael's memorabilia raised £65.30.

The organ from St Michael's Church would be going to a church near Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It was to be shipped to Mombasa and then taken by road. Linda Lawcock, the person responsible for making the arrangements, flew out to Tanzania to officially hand over the organ. Later on in the year Father Ewald Ndekuwesa, the parish priest, emailed Jonathan to thank him and informed us that he was now preparing to build a dispensary and was looking for support with this project.

Our curate, Graham Lines, left us in May, after three years, to take up a post within the Bottesford with Ashby Team. Dennis Drury died suddenly on 29 June. Dennis's commitment to St George's had included many hours of painstaking carpentry as he helped re-order the church and install oak panelling.

The Summer Fayre, which raised £369.93, was held on 29 June. Another Garden Party was held at Rothwell Road on 20 July and contributed £336.86 to church funds. An open air service and barbeque was held at the vicarage on 7 July and a parish outing to Bridlington took place on 13 August which proved to be a glorious day.

As part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations she visited Scunthorpe on 31 July and Frank Barlow was invited to dine with her at Normanby Hall in his capacity as Chief Officer of Age Concern North Lincolnshire. Frank had also been a Lay Reader for 47 years and was hoping to complete three more years in active service.

For the Queen's visit the Crosby Textile Group, which contained several members of the congregation, had been asked to make something as part of the Festival of Nations exhibition in the new St John's Centre. They made and framed a collage of different countries of the world and presented it to her when she came to look round.

It had been the tradition for many churches to hold an Annual Gift Day on which parishioners made a "one off" gift to the church. We took up this tradition on 7 September when the Vicar, Church Wardens and Treasurer took it in turns to man a table outside St George's to receive gifts towards the maintenance of the continuing work of the church. The gifts amounted to £711.

A social night was organised for 28 September, part of which was a "pledge auction" in aid of church funds. Pledges included: cleaning a cooker, cooking a meal for four, making a cake, and cleaning a car. The total pledges raised £620.

19 October saw yet another Quiz Night which raised £115. A Race Night at Redbourn Club was held on 15 November and raised £253. A Cake Stall in the market was organised for 16 November. The Crosby Textile Group held a Craft by

Candlelight cheese and wine evening on 22 November when they displayed various art/craft work made by the group. During November, Jack Scott was taken ill and unable to finish the magazine so Mark Baker lent a helping hand and wished Jack a full and speedy recovery. Martyn Whitehouse also helped and ensured the following magazine was issued.

A group of people from St George's went to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular in Norfolk on 24 November. Carol Barker was thanked for arranging this and everyone had a truly memorable experience.

The Christmas Fayre was held on 7 December when £811 was raised. The annual Christingle service raised £55 for the Children's Society.

January 2003 saw the production of Aladdin at Foxhills Technology College. This was the tenth pantomime produced by the Knights of St George and raised £1,478, £1,000 of which was donated to the church. Car Boot sales continued to be held on a monthly basis and generated much needed funds.

A grant of £5,000 was received which enabled us to make good the roof and internal water damage. This had been made available by Corus through environmental health Enventure and the landfill tax credit scheme which allows companies to divert 20% of their landfill tax liability to local environmental projects, including restoration of places of worship.

Jonathan celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 19 February in great style. On 9 March we held a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in aid of the Mbahe Arisi Church dispensary in Tanzania. Linda Lawcock attended and showed us photographs of where the old St Michael's organ is now being used. Approximately £130 was raised.

Yet another Garden Party took place at Rothwell Road on 14 June. As usual the amount raised, £935.30, was split between St Hugh's and St George's. The annual Summer Fayre took place a fortnight later, on 28 June. Cake Stalls and Quiz nights continued to raise much needed funds. An open air service, followed by a barbeque was held at the vicarage on 27 July. A Parish Outing to Skegness took place on 12 August.

Between 28 July and 28 August Crosby West Neighbourhood "Clean Sweep" cleaned the five streets of the Neighbourhood Watch. In all 40 children took part at various times. The team received a certificate of congratulations saying that they had done a brilliant job and earned the respect of St George's Church and the Crosby neighbourhood.

In the October magazine Tim Savage gave an update on the Greeson Hall which had now been open for more than six years. Funding had come from the government and English Partnerships but there had also been commitment from the church in providing the land and in setting up a fund to pay for major maintenance items on the new building. Tim reported that for much of the week the building was a hive of activity. People come for Adult Education Service classes or to use the Child Centre facilities. The church used the hall and meeting rooms regularly and there were offices for the Youth Service. The Somali community also used rooms in the centre

for meetings and classes of their own. A Community Association ran the centre and sponsored a number of activities which included line dancing and keep fit.

Two Emmaus Groups were planned for the autumn. These were courses for evangelism, nurture and growth in the Christian Faith.

In October 1<sup>st</sup> Crosby Brownies received a NLC Environment Award in recognition of their achievements in improving the environment through their involvement with the "Just Bin It" Campaign 2003. The Brownies also went on a Pack Holiday in October. The venue was the Viking Centre at Claxby near Market Rasen and the theme was The Jungle Book.

On 16 November several members of the congregation boarded a bus to take them to the Thursford Spectacular in Norfolk. St George's filled the back half of the bus and everyone had a splendid time for the second year running.

Sadly, the Crosby branch of the Mothers Union had to close down due to decreasing membership. A closing service was held on 17 November and it was hoped that a history would be written and published in a future edition of the parish magazine.

The Christmas Fayre took place on 6 December and raised just over £600. The Crosby Textile Group continued to meet every Thursday evening in the vestry and occasionally at the 20-21 Arts Centre.

2<sup>nd</sup> Crosby Brownies celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 12 January 2004. They held a celebration in February to coincide with Thinking Day and invited all former Brownies and Guiders to join them.

Bill Abbot died in January after a long illness. St Michael's Church had many reasons to be very grateful for the help he willingly gave. A keen gardener himself, he saw to the grass, hedges and garden at the church for many years. He was also very supportive to his wife Margaret for all her work as Sacristan, flower arranger, caretaker, and leader of the Family Circle.

As a climax to the 2004 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we signed the Churches Together in All Lincolnshire Churches' Covenant which was then presented by Jonathan at a special service held in Lincoln Cathedral.

In 2004, the Pantomime was Mother Goose which was held during the first week of February. As usual, everyone was congratulated for entertaining everyone so well. The amount raised was £1,271, of which £1,000 was donated to the church.

On 15 February we launched a Funding Campaign, the first one for almost eight years. At its conclusion we were hopeful of having an annual income of something like £21,000 which was a considerable improvement on recent years. This meant that we could now expect to pay our bills, not least of which was our Parish Share.

In March another successful Quiz Night raised £130. Car Boot sales and Cake Stalls in the market continued to provide much needed funds for the church thanks to the dedicated team of helpers.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Crosby and 4<sup>th</sup> Crosby Brownies amalgamated in March so we now had only two Brownie Units in the Crosby area. Their first joint venture was a tidy-up campaign around St George's Church. This started in April and finished in July, after which they received a certificate from the Mayor of North Lincolnshire.

In April, Ernest Hepworth, a previous Vicar of Crosby, took early retirement from his post at St Mary's Barton.

Also in April we lost two valuable members of the congregation. Jack Scott, the Parish Magazine Editor, who had been in poor health for some time died suddenly. Jack had also been heavily involved in establishing Cursillo in the Lincoln Diocese. Madge Smales died on the same day. She was 93 and had been in poor health for a very long time. Over the years Madge undertook many duties as a member of the church family, including that of Parish Clerk and Magazine Editor. She was also a founder member of the Family Circle, eventually becoming its leader.

The current Electoral Roll showed that we had 81 members.

Another Garden Party was held at Rothwell Road on 4 June and the Summer Fayre was held on 19 June. A social evening was held on 26 June to which everyone was invited to contribute be it in songs, poetry, skits, etc. Chris and Janet Baker were congratulated on celebrating their Silver Wedding on 16 June.

In July 1<sup>st</sup> Crosby Brownies enjoyed a Pack Holiday at Harmston Hall near Lincoln and in August 2<sup>nd</sup> Crosby Brownies travelled to the Ranger Cottage at Clitheroe for a fun filled four days. Activities included archery, grass sledging, trampolining, various large outdoor games, and a trip to the local swimming pool.

This year the Parish Outing was to Scarborough on 10 August on a very wet day, including inside the bus! Enid Maynard organised a trip to the Sheffield Millennium Gallery and Winter Gardens on 21 August. This proved to be a glorious sunny day and we had a very interesting visit looking round the various galleries.

The North Scunthorpe Group of Parishes arranged a residential week-end at the end of August. It was held at the Morley Retreat House and Conference Centre, which was comfortable venue, set in the Derbyshire countryside. Bishop John got the week-end off to a brilliant start with his address on the Bible and we enjoyed lots of laughter, fellowship and excellent meals.

A Recipe Book was produced and sold for church funds. The idea had come from the late Jack Scott and we used recipes he had collected, together with some from an earlier booklet compiled by St George's Mother Union many years ago. Some of the current members of the congregation also contributed their favourites.

The Christmas Fayre was held on 27 November and raised £745.

The Brownies had produced a beautiful Advent Candle stand display which was very much appreciated by everyone who attended church services during the season of Advent.

Just before Christmas Pat Lewis joined Guiding in Crosby as a District Helper. In preparation for Church Parades, Pat taught the girls a new song or they prepared a short play, thus encouraging the girls to attend church and take an active part in services.

In 2005 the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity had led to a new stage in collaboration between the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church. For the first time, the text had been jointly prepared and published by the WWC Faith and Order Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The week is traditionally celebrated between 18-25 January and St George's hosted one of the services on 22 January.

This year The Knights of St George presented Jack and the Beanstalk at Foxhills Technology College. Another successful venture which raised £1,924.46, £1,000 of which was given to the church. Another £200 was also given for the purchase of a new amplifier.

Monthly Car Boot Sales, twice yearly Quiz Nights, and regular Cake Stalls in the Market continued to raise much needed funds for the life of the church. In March the Treasurer was delighted to announce that we had been able to pay our Quota in full for the current year. This amounted to £13,888. This would not have been possible without the successful funding campaign of 2004 which had received the full support of the congregation.

On Mothering Sunday, 6 March, we held a Fairtrade Coffee Morning and the service and managed to raise £206.10 towards Father Ewald's dispensary in Tanzania.

Just 10 with J John lectures were held in Lincoln Cathedral from 6 April to 8 June and several members of the congregation travelled on the free buses provided. J John was considered to be one of the most creative Christian speakers in the UK today and he gave everyone much to think about.

In April we decided to commence updating Ted Burk's "History of St George's" which covered our first 50 years, 1925-1975. An appeal was made for copies of past Parish Magazines from 1976 to date and other relevant historical information.

Pope John Paul II died on 2 April. The funeral of Margaret Jarvis took place on 25 April. She and her late husband Terry had been devoted members of St George's for many years.

On 7 May, 21 people from the North Scunthorpe Group of Parishes visited Holyrood House, Thirsk when Rev Elizabeth Baxter led a day of Bible reflection and discussion of issues with reference to gender. The day ended with communion celebrating Julian of Norwich. This was the Group's third successful venture.

On 26 June Jonathan was congratulated on celebrating 25 years as a priest.

In July it was noted that North Lincolnshire Council had sold the former site of St Michael's Church in Long Road for £65,000, more than double the reserve price.

John Clarke attended the Special Olympics in Glasgow. He set off on 1 July as a member of the 250 strong Yorkshire & Humberside team. John thanked every at the church who had supported his fund raising activities last year.

The Summer Fayre, held on 2 July, took as its theme the Second World War Years as 2005 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war. The weather was very good which enabled it to be held outside. There was a wonderful atmosphere and everyone entered into the spirit of things with great enthusiasm. The money raised, £470, was very welcome to help church funds but it was also good to see families from around the community joining in the fun.

The Churches in North Scunthorpe Summer Walk took place on 3 July. Everyone met on a beautiful sunny afternoon at the Humber Bridge viewing area car park ready to walk to the Far Ings Nature Reserve. The circular walk took about 90 minutes after which everyone enjoyed a picnic. The group then made their way to St Mary's Church at Barton for choral evensong.

On 18 July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Crosby Rainbows enjoyed a visit to the Fire Station. They were shown round by two members of Blue Watch and were given a chance to have a go with the hoses, which they thoroughly enjoyed. It was also educational regarding what to do in the event of a fire and how to prevent fires, such as installing smoke alarms in the home.

A Parish Outing to Whitby took place on 9 August. On 19 August 1<sup>st</sup> Crosby Brownies went on Pack Holiday to the Cliff Centre at Harmston, near Lincoln. They had a trip into Lincoln and a Karaoke session thanks to Jim and Pat Lewis.

Steve Barker attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual UK Transplant Games in August. He represented a team of three adults from Humberside Kidneys Patient Association which is based at Hull Royal Infirmary. This was the fourth year he had attended the games, having won a gold medal for angling in 2002 and bronze for table tennis in 2003.

St George's has three foundation governors at Scunthorpe C of E School and in September Don Hanson decided to retire after 25 years service.

On 9 October the church held a Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication to mark our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A very enjoyable and entertaining Battle of Trafalgar Anniversary Banquet was held on 22 October. 98 tickets were sold and this raised £774.26 for church funds.

Frank Barlow celebrated 50 years as a Lay Reader in October and at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent service he was presented with a monetary gift in recognition of his long service. After the service he cut his celebratory cake and we toasted his health.

The Christmas Fayre was held on 3 December and raised £663. Over 1,000 leaflets giving information about our Christmas Fayre and Services had been distributed and had resulted in an encouraging response to the Christmas Fayre in particular.



At the end of 2005 Crosby Guiders attended a week-end training at Waddow Hall, near Clitheroe in Lancashire, for a Christmas Craft and Baking Session. Waddow Hall is one of the UK Guiding National Training Centres. All the Brownies and Rainbows in the Scunthorpe North Division had a Christmas Disco which was enjoyed by one and all.