

A report prepared on behalf of the Airmyn Parochial Church Council reviewing the principal events and activities in the life of our village church during the past year for presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held in the Airmyn Memorial Hall on Wednesday, the 11th May. 2016.

The church building:

The church building remains in reasonably sound condition but the PCC was unsuccessful with its application last year to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the repairs required to both the east and the west gable walls of the church and their junctions with the roof. There is an ingress of water at the east end which is damaging the stonework around the east window and it is also disfiguring the paintwork on that wall. Similar problems can be seen with the paintwork at the west end of the nave and the delay in having these roof repairs carried out means that we cannot start yet on the long overdue redecoration of the interior walls and ceiling, as it would be pointless. We are therefore looking towards applying once again for a grant for the work from the Heritage Lottery Fund when the next round of applications becomes due, in the hope that the increased urgency of our needs will count sufficiently to enable our bid to be successful.

I mentioned in my report last year that the PCC was unhappy that there were no new children or teenagers coming forward to attend our 'All-age' services on the 4th Sunday of each month. That is still the case. In an effort to combat this problem, the PCC has supported a proposal that a Families, Youth and Development Officer should be appointed to serve our Benefice of Airmyn, Hook and Rawcliffe and also the Benefice of Great Snaith. This appointment has just been made and I am pleased to be able to report that it was our Vicar's wife, the Rev. Marion Ball, who was the successful applicant. She will start work imminently. The 8 parishes involved will share the costs of her expenses and her salary, which will be subsidised also by the Diocese of Sheffield, to a diminishing degree, during the first three years. From the fourth year onwards, just the 8 parishes will share all her costs and it is to be hoped that, by then, she will have begun to make an impact on some of the young people in our parish. In this area of concern, you should also note that the Airmyn PCC has now produced a Safeguarding Document, governing the supervision of young and vulnerable persons whilst they are engaged in church-based activities.

The Church services:

The service pattern that was established at the end of 2013 continues to function quite well. We have morning services starting at 10-00 on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, both of which are taken by our Vicar, the Rev. Philip Ball. We have evening services starting at 6-00 on the first and third Sundays of each month. The first of these is taken by either Canon Cyril Roberts from Snaith or Francis Sykes from Rawcliffe. The other evening service is taken by one of our churchwardens, either David Galloway, that's me, or Mrs Janet Rushby, and Mrs. Zee Greenacre, a qualified worship leader, also takes a turn. We are well and loyally supported at both evening services by the Christchurch choir from Goole who make our services all the more enjoyable. There have been a few more new faces showing up at services throughout the past year and this is encouraging but, as mentioned earlier, we need a new generation of younger people who have come to realise that there is more to life than staring at a computer screen or being hypnotised by a tablet or a mobile phone. Attendance at our services averages about 20 and this can vary, up or down, with the weather.

The Church finances:

The financial situation of our church is stable and satisfactory at the present time, thanks to the continued generosity of the villagers, most especially those who subscribe, by one means or another, on a weekly basis. An Inland Revenue tax refund of £2,149.74, the reward for those taxpayers who gift-aid the donations that they make to the church, enabled us to finish the past year with a healthy working surplus. We need to be cautious,

however. There have been other years, in recent times, when we have been in deficit and we must continue to work hard to balance our books. We have a vigorous programme of fund-raising events throughout the year. Carol-singing around the entire village at Christmas, an operation which takes four evenings to complete, is one of those events and I am very pleased to say that there were another half-dozen new volunteers last year and this made the job so much easier for the regulars.

The Churchyard:

Mr. Barry Horn retired at the end of last year after 20 years' very valuable and loyal service as one of our team of grass-cutters in the churchyard. It was pleasing to have a volunteer to replace him almost immediately and our thanks are therefore due to Mr. Paul Gardner for filling this gap. During the past year, two trees were felled in the churchyard, one because it was undermining the foundations of the coach-house, the other because its roots were disturbing adjacent gravestones. Both trees have been replaced with smaller, more appropriate native species. The maintenance team continues to work well to ensure that this area remains an attractive asset to the village.

Our German visitors:

The Rev. Claus Humbert once again brought a party of German teenagers and their adult supervisors to visit our Benefice and, as usual, they used the Airmyn Memorial Hall as their residential base, staying there for four nights and using their coach to make visits to Scarborough, York, Rotherham and Sherwood Forest. There were some aspects of the facilities at the Hall which, this year, were very unsatisfactory, but I don't wish to detail these on this occasion as the Hall Management Committee was made aware of them at the time and hopefully they will have been resolved by next year. The German group would like to come again and they have been coming here since the year 2000.

Coach House Committee Report to Annual Parish Meeting 11/05/2016

Fund Raising – During the past year we held two open days which was our major fund raising effort along with the Bonus Ball which is usually started on these days. Since my last report however we have held 4 of these through the year. With the change in the Lottery raising the numbers available to 59, the prize money and funds for us has increased. We are very lucky and grateful that the villagers have responded and all the numbers have been sold on all four occasions. We are thankful that we are getting supported on our open days with people continuing to come along and spend time whiling away an hour or so chatting and purchasing whatever we have on offer. It does give encouragement to us that the Coach House will be the place to drop in when passing. It is still our intention to open a couple of days a week as a coffee shop and the rest of the time it will be available for hire.

Where We Currently Are With Planning - We remain positive in our plans to make the Coach House a Village Community Building despite all the obstacles to the contrary. Our plans were submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in Sheffield for approval in March. These were not accepted as further details were asked for. They wanted more information than the ERYC. Rev Ball has transferred the plans into an electronic copy (PDF file) and after further consultation with Len Turner our Architect, added absolutely everything on there, even down to the colour of the tiles in the toilet extension, type of paint to be used etc. The plans have recently been before the DAC for a third time and we are waiting the outcome. The Coach House will be underpinned to prevent further subsidence. The Scots pine which was causing problems has been felled and a native crab apple tree has replaced this and is planted in the churchyard at a distance so no further damage can be caused by the roots.

We are now registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. (CIO no. 1162320)

Next Steps- The committee is almost at a stage where consideration can be given as to who will do the building work. Once the plans are passed by Sheffield and the DAC grants a Faculty, we will be seeking quotes for the work from three builders then we will be seeking funding for our project.

We are ever optimistic that the work will be completed this year.

Open Day – We are holding our next open day on the 21st May to enable us to keep in touch with our supporters and let them know just where we are with our conversion.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
11TH MAY 2016**

AIRMYN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

I would like to present the W.I 's Report for 2015.

The year began with a successful Christmas party and Annual Dinner held at The White Swan, Bubwith.

It had been an interesting year with a variety of Speakers and Days out.

2015 was the Centenary Year of the W.I. Organisation. This was celebrated with a special Lunch at Cave Castle, attended by 180 ladies.

Airmyn marked the occasion by the ringing of St.Davids Church Bell. Coffee and biscuits followed and members enjoyed a musical evening.

One of our members was a guest at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

There has been an increase in subscriptions for 2016 and Speakers are becoming expensive therefore Fund Raising is important for us to keep functioning.

Meetings have been fairly well attended throughout the year and two new members bring the Membership to twenty seven.

We still maintain to be a happy friendly group and thank the Parish Council for their continued interest.

Airmyn Community Association

Airmyn Community Association has gone through a number of changes over the year 2105/16. A new Administrator, Nichola Ingleton, was appointed and with the advent of the Parish Council Elections, two new members were welcomed on to the committee. A new Caretaker and Cleaner have also been appointed.

The financial status of the Association is and has been in negative equity and plans have been and are continuing to be put in place to rectify the situation. New hirers for both hall and football pitch have been sought and hire agreements signed. The ACA is also in the process of updating and improving the kitchen facilities in order to attract businesses and organisations interested in holding functions within the premises.

The ACA has engaged Paul Varney of Groundworks, a company existing to assist community groups and organisations to access funding for projects. It is envisaged that this will enable the ACA to improve the building, storage facilities and the surrounding area and thus create a viable and thriving community business for the parishioners of Airmyn.

Helen Cowling
Chair 2015/16

Airmyn Village Association Annual Report 2016

Airmyn Village Association is responsible for writing, printing and distributing Airmyn News. Rachel Shelton is now the editor, having taken over from Colin Pickering, who was the editor for many years. The news sheet is published for ten months throughout the year and printed and distributed by volunteers. The cost of the Airmyn News is covered by the advertising within the News, although Airmyn Parish Council supports it financially as and when required. We have not had to ask for a grant over the last two years.

Airmyn News has informed the parishioners of Airmyn of issues and events within the Parish; it also acts as a forum for parishioners by publishing their letters on topics of concern and interest to them. From April, Sue Krysko has taken over as Treasurer and Valda and Roy Marshall distribute the newsletter to the team of helpers, who post it through letter boxes. The Parish Council pays for the postage to the outlying farms and houses within the Parish. Thanks are to go to all the people, who give of their time to ensure the continuation of the Airmyn News.

Distributors:- Adrian Needham, Joan Dales, Mary Mason-Pitt, Karen Appleby, Stan Marshall, Joan Flanagan, Leanne Adams, Ricki Morton, Angela Meneight, Jude Dungay, Malcolm Turner, Matthew Snead.

Helen Cowling

Co-ordinator 2015/16

Airmyn Parish Council Annual Report: May 2016

Finding New Councillors and the jeopardy of failing

The year has been a testing one for the Airmyn Parish Council. Following the retirement of a number of long standing Councillors, the May 2015 Council Elections produced only one candidate willing to stand. Cllr Peake was therefore joined by Ward Councillors Fox and Barrett, who both took up their statutory role as co-opted Parish Councillors in order for the Parish Council to continue. During the course of the year a number of new people stepped forward as Councillors, and we are grateful for their public spirit and commitment. Unfortunately the end of the year has seen a number of resignations and by the May 2016 Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council comprises Cllrs Fox, Peake and Hayward. We thank Rachel Shelton and Allen Thompson for their service as Councillors for part of the year and for all their tireless work for the community. We also look forward to welcoming Paul Gardner who plans to re-join the council in May 2016. We thank Airmyn Community Association Committee Members, Helen Cowling and Ruth Lowe, for their devoted service to the community in pushing forward with developments for the village hall. We particularly thank Helen Cowling for leading the ACA as its Chair for a number of years, and we wish her all the very best in her retirement.

However, without more Councillors the Airmyn Parish Council is in jeopardy. Things that we all take for granted may not happen without a Parish Council. Things like cutting the grass on the river bank, maintaining the clock tower garden, looking after the playing field and playground, running the charity 'Airmyn Community Association' which includes the village hall, representing the community on planning matters, ensuring there are grit bins for the winter and many, many other things besides these may disappear. Parish Councils are the first line of elected Government and being a Parish Council is a privilege and a responsibility. It is often hard to navigate the procedural nature of the decision making and processes, and it takes time to fully absorb the 'rules and regulations' within which a public body like a Parish Council must operate. However, much is accomplished and much would be lost if the Parish were to be amalgamated within Goole Town Council.

2015-16 achievements

The following are just some of the new things which the Councillors have initiated this year

- **A new Parish Notice board**
- **Two new websites for the Council and for the hall**
- **Grant Funding for an exciting community project at Bracken Hill which starts summer 2016**
- **Grant Funding for initiatives planned by the Airmyn Emergency Committee**
- **A public consultation on CCTV for the village**

All these are in addition to the usual work as listed above. A huge amount has been achieved, but who knows how long this work can continue without new Councillors stepping forward - people who are prepared to work in service to the public.

*Come on good people of Airmyn, **Your Council needs you and you can do it...**or else, what price democracy!*

Cllr Jane Peake
Chair of the Parish Council 2015-16

AIRMYN PARISH EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM

The Team continues to grow in strength and commitment and now has members, the number having increased recently due to a request for more Street Co-ordinators. There are now members on the Team. The Planning Team now has its own bank account and Maria Jessney kindly agreed to act as Treasurer. An application was made for funding from for the purchase of hard hats, torches and high visibility jackets to be worn by the Team to highlight their purpose and to fulfil health and safety requirements.

Due to the flooding risk on Boxing Day and thereafter, the Team were very active in the Village and the Street Co-ordinators were much appreciated when alerting their neighbours to the situation. Co-ordination with ERYC regarding the delivery of sandbags on Boxing Day to the Village went very well initially and information was given out on social media, the council website and any other means. The local MP, Andrew Percy was present and assisted with the collection. Unfortunately, some villagers appeared to take far more sandbags than others, which caused tension and left some householders without any. This led to a re-think by the Team for the future and Councillor Caroline Fox applied to ERYC for the purchase of sand, sand containers, bags and shovels. The idea being to have a permanent supply for emergency use. The funding of has been approved and we are awaiting transfer to the Planning Team account, prior to which, the Parish Council are required to finalise certain paperwork/receipts.

An Information Newsletter (covering flood issues) was sent to every property within Airmyn and its catchment area in the New Year, giving an update of the Team's work, details on how to find out information on flood alerts, protecting your own property and signing up to receive the ERYC flood alerts. The importance of signing up to these alerts will again be reiterated in the next issue of the Airmyn News. If each property receives such a warning, it will save the Street Co-ordinators from contacting each property in their area and free them up to help those who have requested help or those deemed vulnerable, sick etc.

Further to the above, the Chair suggested to the Team that perhaps a Roadshow, or exhibition of flood products be staged in the Memorial Hall to which all villagers and people in the local area, would be advised of. This was deemed to be a good idea and many companies were contacted. Despite the enthusiasm from these companies, the majority of them were already busy with the recent flooding and there was also a major trade exhibition for flood prevention products being held in the South of England. However, the Chair will approach them again towards the Autumn.

A donation of £50.00 was made by Olive Hunt's Community Store in Goole towards the purchase of inflatable beds as part of the emergency store.

Mary Mason-Pitt

Chair

