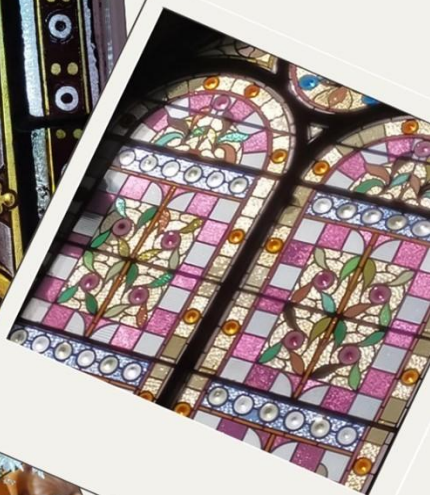
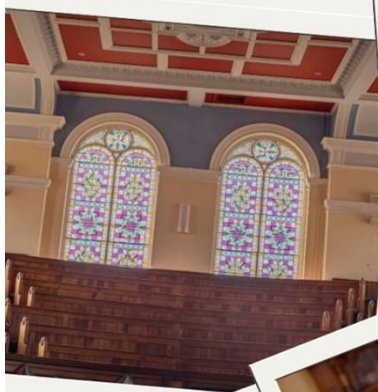


**Toll Gavel
United Church
Annual Reports
from Church
Organisations
2024-25**





*A selection of
photos from the
Whitefriargate
Walkabout visit
in March 2025*



TG Annual Report 2024-25, Introduction

by Revd Fran Rhys

In the summer of 2025 two open meetings for church members were held at Toll Gavel United Church to redraft a mission statement and its outworking, since the most recent one was written in 2017. What follows is the result that was tweaked by the trustees and approved by the congregational meeting. It is intended as a useful tool to help guide steps forward by the church. The complete statement appears later in the annual report.

Praise God for Toll Gavel producing this inspiring new mission statement.

Revd Fran Rhys

Toll Gavel United Church where faith, people and justice matter

- a) within the church community
 - ❖ by ensuring there is inspiring worship of different styles and preaching which help people learn about and listen to God and each other
 - ❖ by being a church where all are welcome and welcomed
 - ❖ by enabling small groups to explore and learn in more depth about each other's experience, Christian faith, and discipleship encompassing

social justice, healing, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit

b) within the wider community

- ❖ by looking outward into the community, working for and serving the people of Beverley and beyond, while offering witness to Christian faith and principles
- ❖ through growing spiritually and in numbers by exploring different ways of being church
- ❖ by working in ecumenical partnerships and with Churches Together in Beverley
- ❖ by providing pleasant, ecologically sustainable, accessible spaces where community or other faith groups or civic organisations can meet.



Church Governance



Stewards

Pastoral

Finance

Property

Faith Space Place

Office Admin

United Reformed Church

Safeguarding

Church Stewards by Graham Johnson

Over the past year, some senior stewards have stood down, and others have joined the team.

At present, the stewards are Jim Sharp, Graham Johnson, Geoffrey Stephenson, Richard Whomsley, Sally Knapp and Luke Goulder.

Stewarding Practice

It has been noted that established stewarding procedures were to have two stewards on duty in order to count the collection, but this is deemed to be no longer necessary. It was decided in April to reduce to one steward on duty.

A stewards WhatsApp group has been established and is recommended to be used for stewarding arrangements.

Margaret Jackson has written stewarding duties on a card as an aide memoir for stewards, and she has produced a rota with 6 columns for worship duties.

Summary

Toll Gavel Church has enough stewards to ensure that services are appropriately stewarded, and the stewarding practices have been codified to enable new stewards to consult the notes. However, an additional steward or two would be desirable.

Pastoral Visitors by Elaine Turner

We have 127 members and 42 friends covering 128 families connected with our church. Sadly 8 of our members have died, Sheila Sharp, Carole Ranson, Jennifer Miles, Maurice Lunn. Trudie Dalgleish, John Byass, Rosalie Bowman, and Trish Waller. 3 of our members have moved away from Beverley but

as yet are still on our membership list. Kindly inform Rev Fran, a member of the Pastoral Visitors team, or myself if you become aware of anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a visit. There are a few people who value home communion because they can't get to church. If you would like this to happen for you, please let Rev Fran or myself know and we will arrange it for you. Thank you for all your support during the past year. God bless you all.

Financial Report for Toll Gavel for year ended 31 August 2025 by Nigel Dykes (Treasurer)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

In the last 12 months the total funds held showed a surplus of £16,729 which has increased our reserves to £193,119. In the immediate future this puts the Church in a strong financial position however, recent “windfalls” which we have benefitted from in the last 2 years have now ended. Without these exceptional incomes it is likely that deficits will be a feature in the next few years which will erode our cash reserves over time. Our overhead costs in wages and utilities have seen large increases this year which will also have an effect. The advantage of our current reserves however is that we now have some time to take action to address the position by reducing costs and or increasing income.

Notes regarding the Income and Expenditure section are as follows –

Income

- Collections – These are being maintained at previous levels (the increase for £4K on last year being due to Gift Aid receipts) and the Trustees are very grateful for the continued generosity of the congregation.

- Donations and Legacies – We received just under £4,000 from individuals and other organisations. This is reduced on previous years but as an income stream we have little control over, it is likely to show changes from time to time. The amount received in 2024 includes the large one-off amount from the Lairgate Trust.
- Lettings – General room lettings are slightly down on last year at £32,497. The amount shown in the Draft Figures includes the rental from Barclays of £31,687. This particular agreement was ended as expected in May.
- Grants received relate to a URC grant for Messy Mondays to assist in funding a Playgroup Leader and ERYC grant for costs incurred by FSP in progressing the Building Development Project. All Grants received were for specific expenditure.

Expenditure

- Overall expenditure has shown a large increase from £113K to £151K on last year. This does however include costs incurred with the Premises Development Project which were covered directly by an ERYC Levelling up Grant. The following Overhead costs had these increases –
 - Utilities £3.5K
 - Circuit Assessment £3.2K
 - Employment Costs £9.5K (Due to increased hours and NI payments)

Budget for the next 12 months

Attached is a budget for the next 12 months showing what I think we can expect from regular income sources and the expenditure we should count as overheads (i.e. that we should look to cover at a minimum). Notes are attached on the assumptions made in assessing these figures. I have not shown any income figure for Donations, Legacies or other exceptional items as I have no way of estimating these. **The deficit figure of £37,100 shows the amount we have to cover from these other income sources to breakeven.** E.g. if we received donations of £10,000 the deficit will be reduced by this amount.

RECOMMENDATION

Barring any major unforeseen expenditure, the church will have sufficient reserves to cover the operating costs over the next 12 months.

The large surpluses generated over the last two years have been very welcome, though obviously achieved with exceptional donations and temporary increase in income for lettings. We cannot rely or budget for similar amounts being available in the future.

Finally, as mentioned in previous years, I would be grateful if everyone can consider the church when making provision for a will in the future as these donations can make a big difference to our future finances.

BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2026

INCOME

COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS - ENVELOPES AND CASH	£9,000
COLLECTIONS - STANDING ORDERS	£28,000
COLLECTIONS - DIRECT TRANSFERS	£3,100
COLLECTIONS - GIFT AID	£8,000
	£48,100

LETTINGS

LETTINGS - CHURCH	£9,500
LETTINGS - HALL	£25,000
	£34,500

FUND RAISING

FUND RAISING - TG CENTRE	£5,000
FUND RAISING - OTHER	£7,000
	£12,000

DONATIONS

DONATIONS FROM ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS	£1,000
OTHER DONATIONS / LEGACIES FOR GENERAL FUNDS	
DONATIONS FOR GENERAL RESTRICTED ACCS	
	£1,000

OTHER SUNDRY INCOME

INTEREST	£2,000
SUNDRY OTHER INCOME	
	£2,000

TOTAL	£97,600
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EXPENDITURE

ASSESSMENT

METHODIST CIRCUIT	£55,136
URC MISSION & MINISTRY	£470
	£55,606

EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	£33,924
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UTILITIES

UTILITIES - ELECTRICITY	£9,000
UTILITIES - GAS	£6,500
UTILITIES - WATER	£1,400
UTILITIES - TELEPHONE/WIFI	£1,400
UTILITIES - WASTE DISPOSAL	£620
	£18,920

REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & RENEWALS

BUILDING & EQUIPMENT REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	£14,500
ORGAN REPAIRS / SERVICING	£1,000
EQUIPMENT RENEWALS	
NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
	£15,500

INSURANCE

	£6,600
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DOATIONS/SUBSCRIPTIONS

	£200
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SUNDRY EXPENDITURE

SUNDRY EXPENDITURE - STATIONERY	£1,200
SUNDRY EXPENDITURE - OTHER	£2,750
SUNDRY EXPENDITURE - BUILDING DEV PROJECT	
	£3,950

TOTAL	£134,700
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SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-£37,100
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TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH - DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
INCOME	YEAR TO 31 AUG 2025	YEAR TO 31 AUG 2024	
COLLECTIONS	£46,340.00	£42,328	
LETTINGS	£64,184.00	£55,798	
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	£7,633.00	£7,210	
DONATIONS - CHURCH GROUPS	£1,050.00	£1,500	
DONATIONS - OTHER	£4,074.00	£101,085	
INTEREST EARNED	£4,418.00	£3,227	
SUNDRIES	£763.00	£707	
FUNDRAISING FOR RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS	£6,867.00	£5,734	
GRANTS RECEIVED	£32,867.00	£5,113	
TOTAL INCOME FOR CHURCH FUNDS	£168,196.00	£222,702	
EXPENDITURE			
CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT	£53,163.00	£49,599	
COST OF EMPLOYMENT	£31,513.00	£21,961	
UTILITIES & TELEPHONE	£15,142.00	£11,535	
REPAIRS	£9,457.00	£12,409	
PRINT STATIONERY AND POSTAGE	£1,556.00	£695	
INSURANCE	£6,373.00	£6,210	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£93.00		
SUNDRIES	£6,665.00	£4,746	
DONATIONS	£239.00	£130	
BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS	£684.00	£250	
NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	£1,082.00		
PREMISES REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT	£25,500.00	£5,482	
TOTAL	£151,467.00	£113,017	
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR YEAR	£16,729.00	£109,685	
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / FUND RAISING			
FUNDS RAISED FOR OTHER CAUSES	£2,825	£3,653	
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED FOR OTHER CAUSES	£2,825	£4,088	
CHANGE IN BALANCE HELD	£0	-£435	
TOTAL SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR YEAR	£16,729	£109,250	
BANK BALANCES	#####	#####	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£15,126	£10,163	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£94,802	£67,712	
STO ACCOUNT	£59,825	£24,522	
CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD	£16,900	£67,870	
TRUSTEES FOR METH PURPOSES	£6,246	£5,981	
PETTY CASH	£220	£142	
TOTAL CASH BALANCES	£193,119	£176,390	
CHANGE IN BALANCES for YEAR	£16,729		
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS			
GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS		£143,546	
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
BENEVOLENT FUND	£221		
MESSY MONDAYS	£1,573		
MESSY MONDAYS URC GRANT	£3,729.00		
FLOWER FUND	£287		
ORGAN FUND	£2,471		
TG CENTRE	£20,236		
LAIRGATE URC ENDOWMENT	£16,056		
RESTRICTED FOR GRANT EXPEND	£5,000		
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BALANCE		£0	
TOTAL		£49,573	
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		£193,119	

NOTES ON INCOME FIGURES

The various income sources shown are those that the Church can expect to rely on during normal operating conditions using the facilities and resources available. These exclude the following income sources –

- One off donations and legacies which we have little control over and receipt of which is more random in nature.
- Exceptional income sources (e.g. the recent Barclays Rental) which we would not receive in normal circumstances.
- Grant payments which would be used for specific expenditure (i.e. not for general funding or overheads).

Budgeted figures are based on the actual amounts for the current year to August 2025. Assumptions for 2026 are as follows –

- Collections - forecast to reduce slightly
- Lettings - Hall Lettings increase by 14% with rate rise in Sept. Church Lettings no change.
- Fund Raising - TG Centre regarded as fund raising for general funds. No change.
- Donations - No amount included. From previous years could be anything between £0 and £15,000. Any amount received would help mitigate a deficit.
- Interest - Interest rates have reduced over the last year but we would look to maintain amount at 2025 levels.

NOTES ON EXPENDITURE FIGURES

The expenditure detailed is the overhead cost of running the church. No amounts are included for new capital expenditure or larger equipment renewals which would be paid for from

reserves and/or specific fund raising. Likewise, no expenditure is included that relates to a Building Project which will be expected to be funded from specific grants. Any payment from general funds towards a project will increase the deficit and decrease our reserves. Self-funding activities (e.g. Messy Mondays) are not included.

Budgeted figures are based on the actual amounts for the current year to August 2025. Assumptions for 2026 are as follows –

- Circuit Assessment is the actual amount we have been advised to pay. Note, this is heavily subsidised by reserves at Circuit which will be exhausted by Aug 2026. To cover the Beverley MA costs Toll Gavel would have to pay £76,450 and this could be around the amount required in year to Aug 2027.
- Employment Costs - these include a pay rise of 3% in April. Wages for the Playgroup Leader (currently £290 pm) are not included as they are grant funded.
- Utilities 13% increase budgeted overall. Outlay on Electricity and Gas should not increase too much as we are on fixed contracts though the Gas agreement was entered into in the current year.
- Repairs and Maintenance General repairs £1,000 pm budgeted for. If internal and external decoration is carried out, then this will initially be a one-off cost. Going forward £2,500 pa should be budgeted for to cover Outside redecoration (every 10 years at £10,000) and Inside redecoration (every 15 years at £22,500).
- Organ costs to cover servicing and minor repairs. Any major costs would be paid from specific fund raising or reserves.
- Insurance 3.5% increase budgeted.

The Deficit figure is the amount that needs to be covered by Donations, Exceptional Income sources etc to meet a breakeven figure for the year.

Annual Report 2024-25 – Property by Colin Hogg

In view of continuing financial constraints, work has been restricted to essential repair and maintenance and to enhancements which have been carefully evaluated and costed.

Colin Hogg has stepped down as Property Manager. John Turner has agreed to cover the post for 2025/26, working with Martyn Page and Steve Green. Martyn and Steve will take over from September 2026.

The Church's Health and Safety Policy has been updated (by John Turner) and approved by the Trustees.

The work completed is as follows:

A. Essential Repairs and Maintenance:

- (i) Repairs to Roof: A further significant ingress of water occurred during the winter, causing damage to electrical installations and internal paintwork. The repairs to the roof cost over £3200 (including VAT). More than half of this was the cost of scaffolding. The repairs included a new, larger hopper, replacement slates and a substantial area of wall repointing.
- (ii) A replacement emergency light, needed as a result of the leak detailed above, was fitted in the shower room.

- (iii) A full PAT test was carried out on all portable electrical equipment used by the Church and regular tenants. A small number of items were either discarded or repaired. We now have a full schedule of equipment which will make future testing quicker and easier.
- (iv) Following ongoing problems with the children's toilets, all three toilet pans were replaced at a cost of approximately £850. This appears to have solved the problem. There have been several other minor plumbing repairs throughout the year.

B. Improvement Works:

- (i) A defibrillator was fitted to the front of the building over the Christmas period. We received match funding (£750) from the DHSS towards the cost of this and some £500 in donations from other groups, so the cost to the Church was in the order of £500. Anne-Marie (Rangers) has taken on responsibility for routine maintenance and has organised training sessions. The defibrillator has been accessed at least twice since it was installed.
- (ii) Following yet another break-in in June 2025, a meeting was organised with the crime prevention officer. As a result, additional external lighting has been installed in the 'play area' at the front of the church and CCTV installed in the Centre. A second safe has been bought and will be fitted in the vestry. No loose cash should be left in the Centre or anywhere else on the premises other than in the safe.

C. Outstanding work to be rolled over into 2025/26

- (i) Following a recent routine annual review of the fire safety installations, the emergency lighting and the fire extinguishers, several issues have been identified which need to be resolved before our fire safety certificate can be re-issued. This work will be carried out early in the new financial year.
- (ii) The repairs to the external woodwork of the Church and external painting were identified as matters requiring attention in the 2023 Quinquennial Report. Quotations have been obtained for this work, which will be carried out soon.

Faith, Space and Place Group (FSPG) by Colin Hogg

The FSPG has continued to work on the proposed Redevelopment Scheme throughout the year. The membership of the Group has been enhanced by Nigel Dykes who attends regularly to advise on financial matters among other things. Otherwise, it remains the same (Rev Fran Rhys, Peter Shepherd, Linda Johnson, Kate Cawley, Cathy Beynon, Adam Ellis, Richard Whomsley and Colin Hogg). We meet at least once every six weeks and with additional meetings with our architects and fundraiser as necessary.

Consultation: In the early autumn, we focused on consulting with groups who use the premises and more widely. Using a UKSPF grant provided through the Council, we produced a questionnaire survey which was distributed by post to over 30,000 addresses in and around the town and also by hand to people visiting the Church and hall. We anticipated a return of about 150 completed forms but actually received over 570. Over 90% were positive about the value of Toll Gavel United Church and the importance of the premises to the town. This

information will be helpful in supporting applications for grant funding as we progress.

One question in the questionnaire asked respondents if they would be interested in volunteering to help with activities on the premises. Again, we received a positive response and 12 people attended a session to look at opportunities. All of these have since joined teams in the café and with the uniformed groups.

We have satisfactorily completed all the requirements of the UKSPF grant.

Design: The proposed rearrangement of the Church to accommodate a greater number of internal spaces was developed out of the original feasibility study and has remained relatively unchanged throughout the year. However, we began formal consultation with the local planning authority in the early summer, and this has resulted in some concerns being expressed about the external appearance of the new Church frontage, particularly about the proposed lift shaft and extensions to the existing Centre. We have discussed these with the architect and are looking at modifications to address them. Further information will be circulated as soon as it is available.

We have commissioned a digital 3-D model to support the plans. Unfortunately, this has been significantly delayed owing to the illness of the member of the architectural practice who was responsible for it, and his subsequent departure. Progress has been made recently, but the model will need to include any modifications arising from the discussions referred to above. It will be made available to the congregation as soon as it is complete.

Fundraising: Our formal relationship with Brian Gilliland has ended following the completion of the work approved under the UKSPF grant. However, Brian has continued to help us

informally and has agreed to make a preliminary application (Expression of Interest) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on our behalf. This appears to be the only possible source of funding that would potentially cover the full cost of the proposed works at the present time. As part of the work leading to the application, we have consulted key people within the town and local area and have had discussions with the Beverley Civic Society. We have also begun to explore ways in which we can emphasise the work of the Church in the wider community, including our potential contribution to the local heritage.

Office Administrator Report by Sarah Poskitt

It's been a busy 12 months in my almost third year of being the Church Administrator here at Toll Gavel United Church.

Almost all our regular groups continue to meet here, for which we are very grateful to them for their continuing interest in hiring the spaces that we have available. Barclays did leave us in June to go to Treasure House. We wish them all the best in their new setting.

This past year has seen a lot of new bookings. We had a Carers support group which met for a few months at the later part of last year, Northern Gas Network drop-in sessions for the gas works that have been taking place on Toll Gavel and Hull Samaritans held an event to talk about becoming a volunteer. Whitefriargate Walkabout Group came to take photos of our church (see inner page of booklet) and were given a brief talk on the history of the church by Linda Johnson and Peter Shepherd and SSE held consultations here for the Dogger Bank D Wind Farm Project. We were also able to help the Women's Institute hold a meeting in April when their usual venue was

unavailable and were able to offer the hall as rehearsal space for the John Godber company.

Musically, as well as our usual choirs, a new pop choir began to meet here in May. Lucy's Pop Choir, which already had groups meeting in York and Pocklington, amongst others, wanted to start a pop choir in Beverley and use our church every Thursday evening during term time. East Riding Schools Music Service also held concerts here back in June. We also welcomed back Stage4Beverley with a performance from Carol Ann Duffy, a weekend with Early Music Festival which included a performance recorded by BBC Radio 3 and New Paths Music held parts of their Spring and Autumn Festival in the church.

In May, the church was used for a Dementia Awareness Talk from the Alzheimer's Society who have since booked the church in September 2025 for their East Riding Alzheimer's Society roadshow event.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) held a few drop-in sessions for support with hearing aids during our Centre Café in May and June. We hope to work with them again to offer something similar.

Our stalls on the drive have proved very popular this year too, with use from a lady from the Hull & East Yorkshire Centre for the Deaf, Humberside Police Lifestyle Challenge for a couple of the boys from our Scouts group, 5th Beverley St. Nicholas Scouts held a couple of used book sales and Frith Farm began using a stall in August, selling their fresh, seasonal, local veg. We've also had a gentleman using the stall to provide information about Foster Caring. You can often find one of our regular volunteers on the drive too, selling her jigsaws, books and cards.

Coffee Mornings booked by outside groups have been good this past year, with only a few gaps but I am looking to try to get more charities interested in raising funds by holding a Coffee Morning here. A new booking was made to raise money for Dove House Hospice in January of this year which raised a very good amount for the charity.

Our monthly newsletters continue to be popular and with the help of Sally, have been delivered to people outside of the church, so the community can see what we have to offer.

In December of last year, we were very fortunate to receive some help towards the cost of a defibrillator for our church. I have since become a guardian for our defibrillator. We were very lucky to have an offer of help from Anne Marie from the Rangers. As part of her working for the British Red Cross, she was able to offer a number of free First Aid/Defibrillator training sessions for our church members/volunteers and community groups for which we are very grateful. The defibrillator has been accessed several times since it's installation so I'm really pleased that this has been installed to give someone the best chance of survival, should it be needed.

United Reformed Church by Jim Sharp



Our Church has been a Local Ecumenical Project - Methodist and United Reformed - for some 47 years, following the closure of the United Reformed Church on Lairgate in 1978.

Our Minister - and one or two church members attend United Reformed Yorkshire synods – three per year, and other seminars and conferences.

Several of our members have the monthly 'Reform' magazine, copies of which can be obtained from myself.

Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the URC meetings or synods which will be advertised in our church bulletin.

United Reformed ministers lead our worship from time to time.

Safeguarding report by Linda Johnson

Safeguarding Lead, White Ribbon Champion, DAPS 1&2 Accredited

Safeguarding is an intrinsic part of our faith - Jesus through his actions and teachings, actively promoted the importance of valuing children; caring for the sick, poor and oppressed; standing up for and promoting women; advocating for the voiceless and challenging corruption and injustice. As his Father's son, God is described as The Keeper of Israel from the word 'shamar' or 'shomer', which can also be translated as 'safeguarder'. Therefore, it is a requirement for anyone with any role which brings them into contact with people to do basic safeguarding awareness training, which is enhanced for those with more senior roles, which may also require DBS clearance. Additionally, all roles (voluntary or paid) are recruited using 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines.

This church has also been at the forefront of training members and adherents in Domestic Abuse Practitioner Standards as the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Domestic Violence Abuse Partnership which is a frontline service for people suffering domestic abuse is based in the church. We would hope that anyone coming onto our premises needing a friendly ear would find sympathetic support and the knowledge of where to find further help

This year, Toll Gavel United Church will hold a vigil on White Ribbon Day, November 25th, the first of 16 days of activism for

the elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Although it is women and girls that suffer, the campaign seeks to educate man and boys to become leaders, allies, and agents of change to end gender-based violence. It is with pride that we note our Scouts were at the forefront of developing age-appropriate White Ribbon badges, which they now wear proudly on their uniforms, and that the Guides are also now White Ribbon supporters, because we need to root out VAWG together.

1 John 3:18 - Let us love, not in word or speech but in truth and action.



Church and Mission Area Groups



Audio Visual team

Butty Band

Centre Community Café

Children's and Family Work

Creative Ladies

Eco Group

Fairtrade

Festival of Christmas

Flower Group

Heritage Weekend

Lunch Club

Messy Mondays

Mustard Seeds

Older People

Rebel Girls

Saturday Coffee Mornings

Small Discipleship Groups

Social Responsibility Housegroup

Sunday Coffee Morning team

Woolly Wesleys



Audio Visual (AV) Team by Peter Shepherd

The AV service continues to extend the reach of our Sunday morning services with approximately half the number of people attending the service watching it within 24 hours on YouTube.

The provision of the AV service requires at least three people to prepare a slide presentation for projection during the service; managing sound levels and streaming onto YouTube.

Our thanks for this continuous service go to:

Diane A, Elaine T, Andrea & Martyn P and Denise T (slide presentation, streaming),

Graham G. Carolyn N. (sound),

with help from Nigel C., David P, Peter S, Graham J and Wendy P.

If you'd like to learn and volunteer with sound, slide preparation and/or streaming, please make yourself known to one of the operatives sat at the AV desk at a Sunday morning Service.

Toll Gavel (Butty) Band by Peter Shepherd

The Butty Band is an enthusiastic group of musicians who will 'have a go' at worship songs and hymns which are more suited to more modern instruments than the organ or which give more traditional music a more contemporary, relaxed feel.

As a 'scratch' band, any instruments are welcome and anyone who can read music or guitar tabs is encouraged to join.

We are Rev. Fran (violin), Luke (percussion), Nigel (violin & music transposer), Paul (Guitar), David (mouth organ, recorder), Frieda (keyboard), Peter (guitar), Tom (guitar), David (guitar), Diane (slide presentation), Mustard Seeds (Service organisers).

Centre Community Café by Carolyn Nursey

The Café is open on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10am until 11.30am.

We now have a few community volunteers who have joined our church members to run the café efficiently and successfully.

We serve hot and cold drinks – coffee, tea (including fruit teas and decaffeinated), hot chocolate and juice. Drinks are accompanied with biscuits and a toasted teacake is available to buy.

During the summer, it has been very busy with our regular customers and many visitors from near and far. Our customers have been very generous and often give us extra funds which enable us to provide drinks for those less fortunate. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year.

Children's and Family Work by Cathy Beynon

Messy Mondays continues to serve 15-30 families per week. We are grateful for Anne's leadership and the amazing help of volunteers. During the school holidays provision is extended to all age children and includes faith-based activities and themes. Lydia joined in Messy Mondays leading a Harvest themed circle time at the end of September.

Messy Mondays funded by the United Reform Church Mission Grant, we are in year 2 of 3 years grant. It will be necessary to refund this group by obtaining grants as it is not feasible to be self-sufficient.

"We feel so fortunate to have this connection with Church, my girls love coming to the holiday clubs." Local mum

Coming up in the autumn we aim to start a monthly meal and play in the Church Hall and we will be working with Lydia on this to introduce children and their carers to the NPNP missional aims. Exciting news for advent, this will be our 6th year of afterschool Advent Activities and a reflective nativity focus.

I am available to support the uniformed groups and have been linking Duke of Edinburgh participants as volunteers this term.

Creative Ladies by Sally Knapp

We meet at 2pm on alternate Tuesdays in the hall after the Lunch Club. Our main project at the moment is creating new greeting cards from old. These will be available to buy at the church coffee mornings from September.

You are very welcome to join us.

Toll Gavel Eco Group by John Turner

This group was established in January 2023. Its first task was to produce a survey for church members to find out what people know and what environmental commitments were already established. We were then able to complete an application for the silver church eco award which was successful. One member of the group was invited to join an embryo eco group at Beverley Minster and helped in the planning of Beverley's first Eco fair on the last day of September 2023. Co-operation between the two groups continues and both have organised events during The Great Big Green Week which is held in June.

We organised a Green Fair last September and invited about 14 stall holders to be present. We combined this with the regular

Saturday Coffee Morning. The event was well supported and many people engaged with stall holders. The mayor and consort were invited to attend and stayed for about 3 hours. We organised 2 events in the spring. For the first we invited Rose Gosling from Summerbridge Methodist Church in Pateley Bridge to share her story of becoming a gold award church under the A Rocha eco church scheme. She also explained the revised scheme for the awards which was helpful. We also discovered that she is a qualified assessor for A Rocha award scheme. Our second event took place in October, and we invited the two council officials responsible for the council's response to the climate emergency and the nature emergency to present an update on progress the council is making with these issues. We also invited some representatives from local groups to showcase their work. They included Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Molescroft Wildlife Network and Beverley Urban Gardens (BUGS). Both events were well attended and organised with the help and support of the Minster eco group. John has also composed an environmental policy for the church which has been sent to the trustees for comment.

Fairtrade by John Turner



Sales from the church Fairtrade stall are very patchy. Occasionally we have a bumper sale day (£20+) but there are many times when we record no sales at all on several consecutive days including Sundays. This is despite the introduction of several new products including a new chocolate brand called Tony's Chocolonely. There are many flavours. Each bar contains many pieces of different sizes to highlight the unfairness prevalent in the wider chocolate industry.

Coffee and chocolate prices have increased a lot during the year. There have been some supply issues mainly attributable to the effects of climate change and the effects they have on harvests.

We are having to search far and wide for supplies of products. This is partly because the supply chain has fragmented since Traidcraft closed. Prices and availability can vary enormously, so I am now using 12 different suppliers looking for the best options. I have bought a considerable amount at sale prices from different companies.

We are also having to be inventive publicising the Fairtrade stall. We hope you keep noticing the regular changes of posters and information. We have also tried the occasional flash sale to help boost sales. There was no Fairtrade catalogue available at Christmas which hampered sales.

Fairtrade is about justice, fair pay, better working conditions. It's about people, not profit, so it averts exploitation and gives producers better opportunities to improve their lives for themselves and their families. Hope we ALL support those goals!

Festival of Christmas by Christine Milburn

The Festival in 2024 ended up being a very disappointing event, due to the inclement weather. Weather warnings were put out prior to the event, as gale force winds and rain were forecast so most of our performers unfortunately cancelled. We had offered the Hall out to the Stall holders, but no one took us up on the offer. We did however open our doors and were grateful to the Community Choir and our own musicians who performed so wonderfully for us.

We still had visitors to the church and raised about £500 for the Beverley Community Lift.

Let's hope for a better event in 2025.

Flower Group by Elaine Turner

We still need volunteers to come forward to help arrange and display flowers to put in church and perhaps to provide a bunch to give to any friends of the church who may appreciate them.

There are funds available to buy flowers and there is no need to do a formal arrangement. A bunch of flowers in a vase is all that is necessary to make the church a welcoming space.

Many people give donations to provide flowers in memory of loved ones or to celebrate special occasions. Such donations are much appreciated. Thanks to all those who have supported us during the year.

There is a list in the foyer where you can sign up to arrange flowers and/or to give a donation.

Heritage Weekend by John Turner

This was held on Saturday September 7th with the theme 'Be creative to save creation.' We combined this with the Saturday Coffee Morning and used the church as its location. We provided refreshments throughout including sandwiches for lunch. We invited about a dozen community groups to take part including BUGS Beverley Urban Gardens, Beverley Wombles, Community Allotment, The Flower Box, Frith Farm, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Beverley Men in Sheds and Beverley Fairtrade Group. People were also present demonstrating various crafts. We held a couple of workshops before the event preparing

posters on the theme of the climate emergency and threats to the environment. A stall was available on the day for visitors to make their own. We invited the Mayor, David Boynton and his consort and they stayed for 3 hours interacting with visitors and stallholders. This in essence was an Eco fair Toll Gavel style. Well done to the small team of 4 people who planned the event. We also had considerable help from the Minster Eco group helping with refreshments.

Toll Gavel Lunch Club by Christine Milburn

The Lunch Club continues to thrive, and the members really look forward to their fortnightly meal. We are still on capacity numbers with a waiting list, and we do endeavour to do our best to fill the places when members can't make the lunch.

Traditional meals are served – Cottage Pie, chicken fricassee, pork steak casserole & Fish Pie. The sweets are as delicious as ever – Syrup sponge, apple crumble, orange shortcake etc. and always served with lashings of custard.

Lunch is completed with tea or coffee, and all for the cost of £5.00.

As ever we are grateful to our willing volunteers who do a fantastic job. We were so sad to lose our pudding cook, Jenny Hassel, who passed away at the beginning of April, after a very short illness. We all miss her immensely, but we are pleased that Glenys Waddy has kindly stepped into the breach and is doing a very good job.

Thank you Jenny for your loyal service to our Lunch Club.

Messy Mondays by Anne Cuthbert

We've had another busy year at Messy Mondays. We have 25-30 families each week, with the majority of families attending weekly. We have a mixture of parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers and a range of children from newborn babies to age four. With the increase of funding for nursery places we are noticing we have fewer older children, as children start nursery younger and spend more time there, but we continue to be as popular as ever, with our average age just getting younger.

With the younger age group, we've had to work hard to develop our circle times. We still have to sing 3+ versus of hop little bunnies, with the children suggesting their favourite animals to act out for each verse, but with younger babies and toddlers it's difficult to engage them for even the shortest times.

At Harvest Fran joined us in the hall, with a basket of fruit and vegetables and everyone had a hold and a cheeky nibble while Fran talked to us about these gifts from God, and we sang Dingle Dangle Scarecrow which we'd been practicing for a few weeks while we'd been doing crafts about different fruit and vegetables.

At Christmas Cathy joined us and talked us through the nativity story while our little ones cuddled a baby Jesus, lambs, twinkly stars and gifts from the Wise Men.

We've been having some small world play set ups alongside print outs of different bible stories, with the children being able to wave palm leaves at a peg doll Jesus on a plastic donkey for Palm Sunday, play with our toy nativity, full of sheep, cattle, donkeys and (not quite biblically accurate) tractors, and help the shepherd find his lost sheep (again, obviously with a tractor!).

We spent a half term learning about ways in which we can care for creation. We made bird feeders, reused cardboard tubes to plant beans, made handprint pandas to get us thinking about endangered species and had lots of fun finding insect toys in our messy sensory play.

At Messy Mondays we love celebration days! This year we've managed to celebrate Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year, St Patrick's day, St George's day, St David's day, Pancake Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Endangered Species Day! We love it when our crafts have a theme, even better if we can match up some themed play and snacks too!

I have a fantastic team of volunteers who come along week in week out, and many who pop up on occasion to help out. This year we sadly lost our wonderful Jennifer, and she is very much missed by all. If anyone is interested in helping out or can offer a one-off session that we'd enjoy then please get in touch.

Holiday clubs

In December we ran 3 afterschool Christmas sessions in church which, although not very busy, we had families return to all 3 weeks. Our sessions were themed on Angels, Shepherds and the Wise Men and we had a range of crafts and activities which were well loved, and Cathy finished with beautiful circle times to round off the evenings. We had Christian music playing in the background and kept the lights low which led to a cosy Christmassy feeling.

Over October half term we held a light party in church, the day before Halloween. This was a huge success, with over 30 children and their grown ups! We spent an hour enjoying various crafts, from making shadow puppets to decorating tea lights then we turned the lights down, gave everyone party lights and had a huge dance to lively Christian music, it was

fantastic to see the church so full of children dancing and laughing!

Over the summer holidays we ran a few sessions of Messy Mondays and some family holiday clubs, our last session was a family fun day held in the church and driveway which was very well attended, both by some of our regular families and ones new to us who'd joined in as they'd seen us. After this session, I had a message from a mum thanking us for a lovely couple of hours and saying how lucky she felt to have a connection with the church!

Mustard Seeds by Sally Knapp

We continue to work with the TG band to plan Ignite informal worship. Mustard Seeds raise money for outreach by doing coffee mornings and regular stalls on the drive. This gives us opportunities to engage with the community and distribute the TG newsletter.

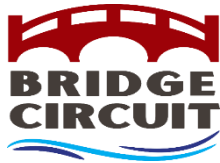
We also support at events held in the church, recently helping to host a charity quilt exhibition which was enjoyed by many.

Mustard Seeds purchased new stackable cups for the church and centre, contributed towards Mothering Sunday flowers and juice and biscuits for families using the play area in church.

With the help of Rebel Girls, we have been able to support our usual charities Acts435, The Samaritans and Castle Hill Queen Centre.

On the 28th September at 6 30 pm it is the IGNITE Harvest Auction all proceeds from this will go towards Christmas selection boxes for local children in need.

Bridge Circuit – Beverley Mission Area Co-ordinator
working alongside older people by Christine Milburn



I continue to keep busy with my work alongside older people, with Norwood Leisure Day and Toll Gavel Lunch Club taking up the majority of my time. Leisure Day is weekly during Term Time and the Lunch Club is fortnightly throughout the year. We have a waiting list at Lunch Club but vacancies at Leisure Day. At Leisure Day we have a variety of Speakers and activities, during the Summer break we had a trip to Epworth when we visited the Old Rectory and the Wesley Memorial Church where everyone had a very enjoyable day. This photo is the group waiting the board to bus in the grounds of the Old Rectory.



I also visit Beverley Grange residential home, when I lead of Services of Worship on the first Wednesday of the month. We always get a full house for the Service and the residents look forward to the fellowship and enjoy Jim's piano playing. I am grateful for the support I receive from Jim, Jonathan and Frieda. I also support Kate Powell at the monthly services at the Old School house Residential Home.

I am usually in church on Thursday mornings, when I am always willing to listen to anyone who needs to talk.

If anyone would like to join Leisure Day or go on the waiting list for Lunch Club, please contact me on 07775238057.

Rebel Girls by Sally Knapp

Rebel Girls social group meet for lunch at the Dog and Duck on alternate Mondays.

We also go on outings, the most recent being a visit to an art exhibition in Bransholme and to the Transport Museum in Hull to see a 70's exhibition.

We are about to go on a weekend away in Scarborough.

As well as the social side we help the Mustard Seeds to host charity events and support TWAM tools with a mission by collecting sewing items for Africa.

Speak to Sally if you would like to know more about what we get up to. You are very welcome to join us.

Saturday Coffee Mornings by Elaine Turner

Our Saturday coffee mornings continue to be successful. Generally, we have been responsible for 2 every month and we are very grateful for the small band of regular helpers. The added bonus this year is the help from 2 teenagers who have been helping as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. They have worked hard and say they are enjoying coming. Following the survey that was done last year and the follow up with those who showed interest in volunteering with us, we have had the pleasure of welcoming 3 ladies to help us. They come very regularly and are a great help. Sue Shepherd has kindly agreed to organise the morning if I have not been available. Thank you, Sue. Once again, we have had cakes provided by Margaret Chastney as well as the tasty preserves. Thank you, Margaret. Margaret is having a rest from baking so, at the moment we are buying some cakes in to cut up for

people to enjoy with their morning drink. If you would like to give a donation for this, please give it to either John or myself, in an envelope, as we do the shopping for it. During the year we have raised £5586.52. Well done everyone!

Small Discipleship Groups

Still Waters by Dave Jackson

This is (10.00am), a quiet corner of the church, to the right of the pulpit, where a small group meet on Wednesday mornings for prayer. It is a very flexible time which usually includes some sort of reflection, maybe around a scripture reading or poem, and time of silent prayer, about 15-20 minutes. We also think and pray about current world issues (world peace, global warming, wars, etc), and it is a time for sharing thoughts and concerns. All are welcome.

Online Bible Study by Fran Rhys

Having looked at New Testament passages recommended by the Methodist Church's 'Justice, Dignity, and Solidarity' promotion, those attending the online bible study suggested a new direction. We have been considering the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday, having a chance in this way to revisit some of the thoughts shared by the preacher, if they have chosen to preach on the lectionary Gospel reading.

This small, but precious, grouping usually meets on the third Thursday evening of every month from 7.30 – 8.30pm, and the online conference link can be requested from the Church Administrator at tollgaveloffice@gmail.com, or from fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk

A workshop to refresh our listening skills was held in November 2024, led by two Quakers from York, James and Ruth McCarthy. Their approach was learning by doing, encouraging us to practice listening skills in small groups and then reflecting on this experience.

Friendship House Group by Sally Knapp

A small group of us get together every few weeks on a Friday evening to share Food, Faith and Fellowship.

If you would like to come and join us, you will be made very welcome.

Prayer and Share – Thursday Mornings during Term Time by Christine Milburn

Our small group continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 10.00am in the Still Waters Area of church. We support each other by sharing news of our families and friends, praying for each other and the Church here at home and in the wider world.

If anyone wishes to join in this group, we welcome any new members.

Social Responsibility Housegroup by John Turner

We have continued to meet once a month with a steady membership of 14. We receive copies of the monthly Joint Public Issues Team newsletter which always provides ideas, comment and resources on current issues.

Our numbers have depleted a bit this year due to changes in some member's personal circumstances. During the winter months we met during daylight hours except for our Christmas event where Clare Barnes was invited to share information about her work as a Member of the Citizen's Advice Team.

In February members were asked to come up with ideas why church attendance has declined over recent decades. One report suggested that some denominations will become extinct by 2050 if rates of current decline continue or will we continue in a different form? In March we held a discussion around AI artificial intelligence which is now such a feature in our daily lives whether we notice it or not. In June we had a discussion about assisted dying as it was a hot topic in the news at that time.

We usually meet on a Monday, but which Monday depends on people's availability. We would welcome new members.

Sunday Coffee Morning Team by Margaret Jackson

The Sunday coffee team is a small group of nine volunteers who serve tea and coffee (and biscuits!) after the Sunday morning service. We work in pairs and use Fairtrade products from John's stall in chapel. Donations are made for the drinks and these are given to chapel funds.

We find that people enjoy being able to have a drink after their singing and having a few moments to share news with other members of the congregation.

If anyone feels able to help with the coffee, please let me know as help is always appreciated. (Clearing cups or drying up would always be helpful!)

A big thank you to all who help and all those who support by sharing this time with others. Your conversation may make a big difference to their day.

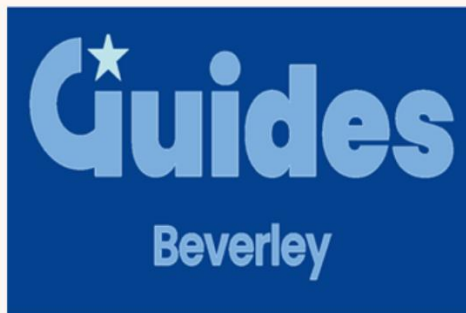
Woolly Wesleys by Sally Knapp

Woolly Wesleys meet every Monday in term time at 2pm in the Centre Cafe.

We knit, sew, play scrabble or just enjoy each other's company. We welcome anyone who calls in for a cuppa and there's usually cake or posh biscuits.

Pop in to see us, you will be made welcome.

Uniformed Groups



BEAVERS **cubs**
SCOUTS

5th Beverley (Wesley) Rainbows by Angela Lawson



5th Beverley Rainbows have had an amazing year in which we have done lots of fun activities and celebrated lots of achievements. In the Autumn term we had great fun making scarecrows for the Harvest Festival Church service. In November we had a brilliant outing to the Beverley Musical Theatre pantomime, Aladdin. It was great fun and the girls all went on stage for the audience participation.

In the Spring term, we worked on our theme of skills for my future. The girls learnt all about artificial intelligence and gained a Google challenge badge through completing specially created AI activities. As part of their agility badge, we had an energetic fitness session from Pete at Pure Fitness. The girls had great fun doing this and were all worn out afterwards. In February, several of our girls joined the pancake party at the Church and all agreed they were very yummy! This year we held a district Thinking Day celebration at Toll Gavel. All of the Guiding units in the area took part in crafts, baking, and the town trail. The day was then rounded off with a celebratory service in the Chapel. As the term came to a close, the girls learnt about how to care for cats with a fantastic visit from the Cats Protection. In return, the girls very kindly donated food and bedding to the organisation.

In the Summer term we worked on our camp skills builder badge and learnt lots about how to have a great time camping. We also planted flowers in the tubs on the Church driveway for all to enjoy. A visit from the RNLI ensured the girls were fully clued up on their water safety knowledge just in time for the summer holidays. The term was rounded off with a fantastic visit to Jump Inc. at Flemingate.

I am delighted to say that our leadership team has grown in size this year. My fellow adult leader Panther, from Tickton Rainbows

has very kindly come along to join me at 5th Beverley along with our young leader Bumblebee. 5th Beverley Rainbows is a team effort and I couldn't run the unit without each and every one of them. As always, I am very grateful for their support and commitment. Equally we have fantastic support from the parents/carers of the Rainbows and this is hugely appreciated. I am also very grateful to the Church and the facilities with which we are provided.

We look forward to new Rainbows joining us in September and lots more Guiding adventures to come. We have 12 brand newly designed badges for the girls to tackle and we are looking forward to the girls achieving these. 2026 will see the introduction of the new uniform across all of the Guiding family. I hope to be able to reveal all this time next year. Please watch this space 😊

Angela Lawson - Unit Leader



8th Beverley (Wesley) Rainbows by Katie Blanchard/Clare Davison



8th Wesley Rainbows have had lots of fun and adventures this year. We completed 3 skills builder badges together - Live Smart, First Aid, and Camping - and lots of girls completed interest badges at home, with the Animal Lover badge being a particular favourite.

Some highlights of our year include investigating first aid kits and practicing putting plasters on pretend cuts made from lipstick, going to the Christmas panto in Beverley, and toasting marshmallows on a campfire at the Minster's Secret Garden.

We've had several girls turning 7 recently, and they are excited to move up to Brownies and continue their adventures. We will miss them but know they will love Brownies. We'll be welcoming some new Rainbows in September as well, which we look forward to.

We're very grateful for the support of the church and the use of the hall - thank you all!

5th Beverley (Wesley) Brownies by Janet Birt



I am pleased to report that we have had another successful/busy year at Tuesday night Brownies. Although a number have left throughout the year to carry on their Guiding journey which is wonderful, we continue to have a full pack and are about to welcome 5 new girls.

During the year, the Brownies have undertaken several activities to complete their Theme Awards with Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities. A number have also completed a variety of Interest Badges at home, including Baking, Dancing, Local History, Aviation to name a few.

We again decorated a window in Church ready for the Christmas period and had the opportunity again to entertain the residents at Figham House Residential and Care Home with carol singing. The Brownies handmade cards to distribute to the residents which were very well received. We had a wonderful audience, and it was a joy for us all to see the residents joining in with the singing – they didn't want us to leave! After the Christmas break several brownies enjoyed the District Moana 2 event at the Parkway Cinema and in February a District Thinking Day event was held at Toll Gavel which included a number of crafts, decorating cupcakes, part of the Town Trail and finishing with a short service to celebrate guiding around the world.



A sleepover at Paxwold in March at the Guide centre in Goodmanham followed. Brownies enjoyed crafts, a scavenger hunt, lots of games played outside and a walk through the village as the weather was kind to us. They also made puppets and made up their own play for the evenings entertainment.



June saw the Brownies attending a further District event to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park near Doncaster. Although it was a very hot day the Brownies enjoyed seeing the animals and playing in the various adventure areas. Needless to say, we had some very tired Brownies on the journey home after a very eventful day!



We were extremely fortunate in the summer term to enjoy a period of lovely warm weather which has given us the opportunity to have a few meetings outside, playing either games on the drive or shop quiz/scavenger hunt. Unfortunately, the weather let us down for our final evening for the summer at the Secret Garden as it decided to rain! This was also our final meeting to say goodbye to our 2 Young Leaders, Eadie and Sophieanne, as they were going onto pastures new after undertaking their A Levels. We will sadly miss them and wish them well for the future - hopefully, they will stay in touch and visit when they are able to.

Throughout the year we have again had the pleasure of Cathy Beynon visiting and undertaking various activities with the girls. A big thank you to Cathy and to Toll Gavel for your support over the past year.

Finally, my thanks to Snowy Owl who continues to prepare our weekly activities and to Doreen Offen and Katie Milburn for their continued support to the unit and myself.

Janet Birt (Brown Owl)

8th Beverley (Wesley) Brownies by Casey Hirst



Our Brownie Pack continues to meet every Thursday evening, with 24 Brownies each week. Once again, we have enjoyed a packed programme with a variety of activities.

In February we joined in with the Division Thinking Day Event, which was held here at Toll Gavel, when we decorated buns with the World Badge, made Friendship bracelets, went on a town heritage trail, did a hama bead craft and took part in the Thinking Day Ceremony.

We had a sleepover at Paxwold, the County's Training Centre, which all Brownies thoroughly enjoyed, and the girls have worked hard on gaining badges. They had fun working on the Traditions of Guiding badge and learnt some basic first aid with the St John Ambulance.

The Brownies did random acts of kindness in the local community and we also had a Cookout at the Minster's secret garden.

We would like to record our Thanks to the Church for their continued support.

Beverley Ranger Unit by Anne-Marie Smith

Overview



This year has been a vibrant and rewarding one for the Beverley Ranger Unit. With 18 enthusiastic girls currently in the unit, who have completed different elements of the guiding programme along with wellbeing at the heart of our unit

Key Achievements



Eco Awards

Several Rangers took part in eco-focused initiatives, earning Eco Awards through projects that promoted sustainability and environmental stewardship. Activities included litter picking, upcycling workshops, and awareness campaigns on reducing single-use plastics and how to reduce their carbon footprint at home.



Board Games Evening at The Game Shack

A fun and social evening was held at The Game Shack, where the Rangers enjoyed a variety of board games. This event encouraged teamwork, strategic thinking, and lots of laughter. It was a great way to unwind and build friendships.



Pumpkin Picking

In the autumn, the unit visited a local farm for pumpkin picking. This seasonal outing was a hit, combining outdoor fun with creativity as the girls later carved their pumpkins during a unit night.

Bronze and Silver Awards

We are proud to report that several Rangers completed their Bronze and Silver Awards this year. These achievements reflect their dedication to personal growth, skill development, volunteering, and physical challenges.

Remembrance Day Service

The unit participated in the Remembrance Day Service, representing the Ranger community with pride and respect. The girls laid a wreath and stood in solidarity with veterans and local residents, honoring those who served.

Highlight of the Year: Ranger Trip to the Chalet

The most memorable event of the year was undoubtedly the Ranger Trip to our Chalet in Switzerland. The Chalet is one of the five world centres for guiding and during our stay the girls met other guides and rangers from all over the world.



This adventure offered a perfect blend of outdoor activities, team bonding, and personal reflection. The activities we all took part in were hiking, campfire, ziplines, high ropes, cable car rides, swimming along with leadership workshops.

5th Beverley (Wesley) Guides by Gabriella Calvert



This year in Guides we have done a lot of work on the Girlguiding programme, and the girls made some great strides in working towards their bronze/silver/gold awards.

In the autumn term we spent time working on Unit meeting Activities and the Skills builders. The girls really enjoyed making scarecrows for the Harvest Festival Service at Church and dressed the scarecrows in some of the old Guide Uniforms. The girls were really pleased that they don't have to wear uniforms like those anymore. The Guides also enjoyed decorating a window in Church at Christmas.

During the Spring Term the girls worked on the STEM badge. We took part in the Division Thinking Day event, where a good time was had by all.

Summer saw us doing more outside activities, we had an evening at Guideacres when we had a campfire, sang songs and toasted marshmallows, it was great fun. We went on a nature trail on the Westwood and had a games night on the Archery field.

The summer term finished at the end of August with an overnight camp at Guideacres, when the Guides practised basic camping skills, cooked on open fires and had a go at grass sledging, go karting and they went on the traverse wall. The highlight for two Guides and four ex Guides who are now Rangers, was a trip to Our Chalet, the Switzerland World Centre where the girls had the opportunity to meet other Guides from many other Countries and take part in many memorable

activities. It was a trip that will remain with the girls for a long time.

Thank you for the continued support the Church gives to the Guide Unit

Gabby, Ruth, Kate and Christine



5th Beverley (Wesley) Scout group by Darren Burgess

On 13th June, 1950; 5th Beverley Scout (Wesley) Scout Group was formed and therefore; this year we have celebrated our 75th Birthday.



To mark the occasion; we decided to add a brand new badge; inspired by designs submitted by our Young People; to our neckerchief. The new scarves have been delivered and they look fantastic.

We also held a celebration event in late September, which brought together Young People from all of our sections and their families together to enjoy an afternoon of fun activities and we were delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Beverley for the festivities.

Our 75th year has perhaps been our busiest yet, full of amazing adventures and it has been fantastic to see our young people and adult volunteers embrace the spirit of Scouting with such enthusiasm.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you in advance to every leader, volunteer, parent, and supporter who has contributed to another successful year of Scouting here at 5th Beverley.



Nights Away

Nights away are fundamental to our programme, enabling young people to build confidence and teamwork. These experiences are consistently a huge hit!

Imagine attending an international jamboree with 3,500 fellow Scouts in the grounds of Duncombe Park or joining 1,250 Scouts from all over Humberside for Scouts in Space. Such events are jam packed with adventurous activities and amazing entertainment as well as offering a chance to nurture old friendships and develop new ones that may last a lifetime.

We've also enjoyed unforgettable sleepovers in unique locations such as HMS Belfast, Legoland, the National Space Centre, and The Deep. Our Group Winter Camp at Raywell is always a much-anticipated event, and the Cubs Christmas Sleepover at Toll Gavel brings everyone together for some festive fun.



Adventurous Activities

Pushing boundaries and embracing adventure is what our Scouts excel at. The past year has been packed with unforgettable experiences.

We've made waves with sailing, kayaking, and rafting, sharpened our focus with shooting, axe throwing, paintball, laser tag, and archery, and felt the thrill of motion on Quad Bikes and Segways. We've even reached new heights on the Climbing Wall.

We also passionately support our Scouts in tackling personal challenges in the natural world, fostering their participation in tough outdoor events such as the Wolds Challenge and the Fells Marathon.



Skills for Life

Our programme is designed to ensure every young person can build confidence, learn practical skills, and, most importantly, have fun. Each week, our meeting place is buzzing with energy as our members learn the value of teamwork through games and express their creativity through crafts and performance arts.

Learning extends beyond our hall, as we connect our young people with the community. This year's memorable trips to Beverley Fire Station and the Hornsea Inshore Lifeboat station gave our members a first-hand look at the work of our emergency services and taught them crucial safety skills.

We are dedicated to equipping our young people with tangible skills for life, from cooking a meal to administering first aid and basic DIY. It is wonderful to see their hard work pay off as they earn numerous badges, and we are immensely proud to celebrate the many who have achieved the prestigious Chief Scout's Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.



Our Amazing Volunteers

None of this would be possible without our incredible team of adult volunteers. Their dedication, time, and energy are the bedrock of this Scout Group, and they selflessly contribute countless hours each month to ensure our meetings, camps, and activities can go ahead.

While every single one of them deserves our profound thanks, I would like to highlight three individuals for their exceptional contributions.

First, Kate, who will be stepping down as our Beaver Team Leader at the end of this term. For over 18 years, Kate has set hundreds of young people off on their Scouting adventure. Her record in helping Beaver Scouts achieve their Chief Scout's Bronze Award is unparalleled, and it is abundantly clear how much she is valued and respected by the children. On behalf of everyone at 5th Beverley, I want to thank her for her extraordinary efforts and wish her the very best. She will always be welcome here and we hope she will not be a stranger.

I hope you will forgive me a moment of parental pride as I also recognise the immense contribution that Jack and Katie continue to make.

Despite no longer living locally, Jack's commitment is unwavering. He will travel back to Beverley whenever asked to support our camps and events. He also manages many of the vital, often unseen, administrative tasks that are essential to our group's smooth operation. His dedication extends to tolerating a bedroom at home that frequently doubles as a temporary equipment store!

Katie's reliability and leadership are exceptional. As our Cub Team Leader, she has truly made the role her own, while also continuing to help run Scouts and the District Explorer unit weekly. Beyond our group, she champions Youth-Led Scouting

as the joint District Youth Lead and is an integral part of the County team developing our next generation of Young Leaders. Her passion for ensuring future generations have the same opportunities she did is unmatched.

The opportunities and adventures our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts enjoy are a direct result of the passion and hard work of these three amazing people; as well as every other adult volunteer leader and trustee; without whom our Scout Group would not function.



Coming next!!!

As we look to the future, we have no intention of resting on our laurels. The year ahead is already shaping up to be one of our most adventurous yet.

Our programme will have a truly international flavour. We are thrilled to be taking Cubs to Disneyland Paris in February and offering our Scouts a fantastic ski trip to Andorra. Our long-term vision includes a major expedition to Germany in 2027 and supporting our Scouts in their ambition to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland.

Back in the UK, the adventure continues and next summer, we look forward to joining thousands of others at the Poacher International Jamboree.

We are also actively responding to the ideas of our members. Inspired by their experiences at the County PL/APL camp, our Scouts have requested hammock camping, and we are excited to add this to our programme, further enhancing their skills in the outdoors.

Our most significant goal is to welcome more members into our family by opening a new Squirrel Drey. This ambition can only be realised with the help of new adult volunteers who are willing to step forward and lead this exciting new section.

We're actively seeking enthusiastic adult volunteers across every section of our group. If you've been inspired by what you've seen on social media or heard tonight and feel a pull to get involved, we promise it's an incredibly rewarding experience! We're looking for individuals to work directly with our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, as well as those who can offer essential support behind the scenes – from managing our social media to helping with the organization and maintenance of our equipment.

In closing, I want to reiterate my sincere thanks.

To the adult volunteers in our Section Teams: Thank you for your tireless work in planning and running meetings, camps, and events week in, and week out.

To our Group Trustee Board: Thank you for your crucial work behind the scenes, managing our finances, facilities, and governance so effectively.

To the Parents and Carers: Thank you for your support, from ensuring your children get to meetings on time and volunteering your help when needed.

And finally, to our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders:
Thank you for your energy, your laughter, and your willingness
to embrace every challenge. You are the reason we are all here.

It is a privilege to lead this Scout Group. I look forward to
working with all of you for another successful year of skills for
life.



Wider Beverley and Hull Networks

Churches Together in Beverley

Beverley Against Poverty

Open Doors

Churches Together in Beverley by Jim Sharp

The Churches Together in Beverley Forum is made up of lay members and clergy from most of the Beverley Churches and meets four times a year. The clergy and church leaders also meet separately on a more informal basis.

Toll Gavel Church is represented by Rev Fran, Diane Allen and Jim Sharp (Secretary).

We share news from the different churches and have speakers. Events are organised at Lent and Pentecost. We are also co-ordinating services in residential homes. Every care home in Beverley has a regular Christian service.

We support the 'Beverley Schools Christian Trust'.

We also sponsor a housing project 'Hope into Action' – part of a national project to house and support homeless or needy people. We have a property in Beverley.

We also support 'ACTS435' which helps people with individual domestic emergencies.

Churches are encouraged to use our Facebook page: churches-together-beverley, on which they can publicise their special activities.

We have united services every year in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and at Christmas. The Christmas service is always at the Minster.

Beverley Against Poverty by Jim Sharp

The numbers at the Community Kitchen are around 20. They are a "mixed bag" of people who come in for a variety of reasons! Our visitors are a true mixed bag of people, not many

now who are actually rough sleepers, but seem to fit the bill for other reasons! We have had quite a few people from the Beverley Travellers community - then we get people who live on the boat yard, or people who come for company and people who may have learning difficulties and/or physical difficulties. We also have a few people who come in who do not fall into any of the above categories, - which we welcome as they create the space to talk and get to know people and form part of the “community” of the kitchen.

We organised Christian themed discussion after the lunch every week for a month and will repeat this. A few of the regulars attended, in addition to church people.

We hold quarterly meetings and invite representatives of voluntary and statutory agencies - e.g. Police, Emmaus, Foodbank, C.A.B, Probation Service, ACTS435 and the Cherry Tree Centre.

We offer a shower every week but the take up has been low.

We continue to thank all the people involved in the work of the kitchen.

Open Doors by Sally Knapp

Contact continues with Open Doors at Princes Ave Church which helps asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

This year Luke and I have visited about every 2 months, taking money, cooking oil and other items. We always receive a very warm welcome and look forward to joining in Sunday Worship.

Fran and Diane attended the celebration on the 19th June for Open Doors' 25 years of practice. The theme was 'Community as Superpower'. There were inspirational stories of people's lives and fantastic food.

We hope to continue with our monthly donations of cooking oil.
It is always much appreciated.



Wider World



All We Can

Christian Aid

Easter Offering

Jacob's Well Appeal

All We Can by John Turner

This is our Methodist development charity. Before covid we were able to support a partner project on a regular basis, but we have not been able to maintain this since. No events were planned at Toll Gavel during this last year, but several people supported the charity with individual donations which amounted to over £1k.

Christian Aid by John Turner



Thank you for your support for Christian Aid this year. At Christmas we were able to sing carols at our local Tesco store twice. We also joined in the Christian Aid Carol service from Edinburgh using an online facility. It included a children's choir and

John Bell as the preacher. We organised a series of Lent Lunches on Sundays and this year included the Baptist Church as hosts for the first time. The only event we arranged during Christian Aid Week in May was the 70k Challenge with Team TG. We had 8 participants which included two cyclists, several walkers and one member who included some swimming as part of her challenge. We raised £1343, so many thanks to all the participants and all those who supported us with their donations.

Easter Offering by Elaine Turner

Our Easter Offering Service was held in May this year following the envelope collection over a late Easter. The theme of the service was "Education for All, Hope for All" where we considered how education transforms lives and communities, opening God's promise of hope and fullness of life for all

people. I sent a cheque for £490.18 incl. £87 Gift Aid plus an individual cheque for £20 from Toll Gavel United Church and another £176.25 from Norwood and Walkington churches. All the money goes to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund.

Thank you very much for your support.

Jacob's Well Appeal by Anne Mitchell



Jacob's Well Appeal

Jacob's Well appeal continues sending donated medical, household, agricultural equipment, educational items and donations of money for projects in various countries. This year twenty containers were sent around the world including some medical items to the Ukraine.

Northern Ghana

The seed bank project continues to involve 150 women. Ruby, the local partner runs similar activities in small communities, with ground nut, Bambara beans and Guinea corn planting, the support helps poor, isolated and very vulnerable people.





Liz Lyle, one of the trustees visited some of the projects while she was in Northern Ghana earlier this year. Liz and Helen, a retired physio returned to Wa to train local staff in constructing bespoke chairs and standing frames out of waste cardboard and paper, for disabled children.

Jacob's Well Appeal also donated money. The prison in Wa has many prisoners often in for stealing food or in debt. The money sent was to replace a grinding machine used for shelling maize, millet and making cassava flour. The prison service is trying to help inmates learn new skills enabling them to lead a normal life.

The regional education department has asked Jacob's Well Appeal to run an educational project that helps 300 girls attend in 14 more schools, giving them basic sex education and materials for sanitary items.

Madagascar

Last year a disability centre on the island of Nosy Be was financed by JWA and since its opening has already seen 60 children, 5 years and over enrolled. This year JWA has invested additional money to build a road to improve the access to the facility.

Uganda

JWA supported a Ugandan charity project which cares for street children by building a dormitory housing for 120 children. In the future it is planned to install bunk beds to replace mattresses on the floor.

Through local contacts/charities JWA supports projects in Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Zambia. Drilling of boreholes has made a difference in the countryside, to aid people to grow crops, becoming more independent. Shoe box gifts for poor children overseas still come in from local groups, churches and schools, including others further afield. JWA projects/requests are well publicized and people send medical aids and money from all over the UK. However, not medicines.

The JWA shop in Hengate continues to raise money from donated goods as well as the warehouse sales (off Swinemoor Lane) and book sales in Toll Gavel church drive. A regular warehouse sale is starting in September, selling furniture and other large items. Open every Friday 3 pm - 6 pm. Details in the JWA office.

We have had some sad news that Trish Waller has passed away. Trish volunteered for many years in the warehouse and gave talks about the charity's work to various groups. She will be very much missed.

Anyone who would like to volunteer in the shop or warehouse, sorting donated aid, equipment, clothes, household items and sundries are more than welcome. We recognize and thank the many church members who help and contribute in diverse ways.



Mission Statement for Toll Gavel United Church



**Where faith, people and
justice matter**

Toll Gavel United Church Mission Statement 2025

Toll Gavel United Church where faith, people and justice matter

- a) within the church community
- ❖ by ensuring there is inspiring worship of different styles and preaching which help people learn about and listen to God and each other
 - Classic worship in Methodist / Reformed traditions with provision for children which is live-streamed
 - Informal worship, such as Ignite and café-style worship with live music
 - All-age worship and parade services
- ❖ by being a church where all are welcome and welcomed
 - Lunch Club, Leisure Day, and other activities for older people (Leisure Day held at Norwood Methodist Church)
 - Messy Mondays toddler and carer group
 - Marriage for both heterosexual and same-sex couples is offered
 - Opportunities to reflect on discrimination and inclusivity, as a result of poverty, racism, ableism, and sexism etc
 - Safeguarding training and compliance underpin all of church life
- ❖ by enabling small groups to explore and learn in more depth about each other's experience, Christian faith, and discipleship encompassing social justice, healing, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Bible study or meditation
- Sessions or short courses for those new to or seeking renewal in Christian faith
- Prayer experiences, exploring different styles of prayer
- Retreat days
- Lent studies

b) within the wider community

- ❖ by looking outward into the community, working for and serving the people of Beverley and beyond, while offering witness to Christian faith and principles
 - Centre Café and Coffee Morning Hospitality
 - Working in partnership with Beverley Against Poverty or other charities on initiatives like the Community Kitchen
 - Warm or cool spaces for craft work, friendship, and relaxation
 - Hosting concerts, drama, local schools, and other civic and community groups
 - Fair Trade stall and witness
- ❖ through growing spiritually and in numbers by exploring different ways of being church
 - Holiday clubs for families with young children
 - New Places for New People outreach and development (as part of the Beverley Mission Area)

- ❖ by working in ecumenical partnerships and with Churches Together in Beverley
 - Celebrating being a local ecumenical partnership for nearly 50 years
 - Shared ecumenical worship opportunities
 - Working towards A Rocha gold eco award and raising awareness of climate change issues
 - Initiatives of Churches Together, such as Christian Aid Week, Thy Kingdom Come, Hope in Action housing, and worship in care homes

- ❖ by providing pleasant, ecologically sustainable, accessible spaces where community or other faith groups or civic organisations can meet
 - Trustees and delegated groups working towards the redevelopment of the church building
 - The acoustic needs of musical and dramatic performances are met
 - Safe or discreet meeting spaces for uniformed and other children's groups and for adults who are vulnerable



A look back at Heritage Weekend 2024

**Thank you to all those who
have contributed
to the booklet this year**

