

All Saints  
Gosforth



# Annual Report to Parishioners 2022

*'The Community of All Saints: living, thoughtful, caring faith'*

**All Saints' Church, Gosforth**  
**Annual Report**  
**And**  
**Summary Financial Statements**  
**of the**  
**Parochial Church Council**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Incumbent:**

Reverend Canon Andrew Shipton  
All Saints' Vicarage  
33 Brackenfield Road  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4DX

**Church Office:**

All Saints' Centre  
West Avenue  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4ES

**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank PLC  
59 High Street  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AS

**Independent Examiners:**

Haines Watts  
Chartered Accountants  
17 Queens Lane  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RN

## **ALL SAINTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

### **Aims and Purposes**

The Parochial Church Council (referred to as 'the PCC' or as 'the Council' of All Saints Church, Gosforth, in the diocese of Newcastle) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent ('the Vicar') in promoting the whole mission of the church in the ecclesiastical parish.

The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Centre, both of which are in West Avenue Gosforth, and also for two properties adjacent to the Centre. The Church Office is located within the Church Centre.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as 'to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

The All Saints mission statement is:

Working together as a church we are pursuing a vision to put All Saints at the heart of the wider community. Our vision is to be a vibrant, inclusive, compassionate, outward looking church with a sensitive and thoughtful approach to faith, where there is excellent pastoral care with encouragement for all, where diversity is welcomed and our worship inspires us to transform the world.

The main activities of the All Saints PCC are:-

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and commercial.
- the provision of regular public worship that is open to all.
- the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- the provision of pastoral work including the visiting of the sick, the elderly and the bereaved.
- the teaching of the Christian faith through sermons, home groups, youth and children's meetings and links with local schools.
- the promotion of the Christian faith through various events for the elderly, parents, children, young people and other special needs groups organised by the clergy and PCC and through the distribution of the parish newsletter and magazine.
- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod or the Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the PCC on any particular matter.
- giving advice to the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the PCC.
- raising such matters as the Council consider appropriate with the Diocesan Synod or Deanery Synod
- repairing and maintaining all church buildings, and raising the money for this purpose.
- providing proper insurance for all aspects of the parish life.
- responsibilities under the Health and Safety Act, Data Protection Act, the Food Act, Copyright Act and Child Protection Act.

## Membership

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted, or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the Council:

Ms Kath Davies was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2021 APCM and

Incumbent	Revd Canon Andrew Shipton	From Sept. 2014
Churchwardens	Mr Paul Wilkinson	From 2021 APCM
	Mrs Christine Willoughby	From 2020 APCM
Deanery Synod representatives Until 2023 (ex-officio)	Mr Peter Brown (Lay Vice Chair)	
	Ms Diane Kirkup	
	Mrs Rosamund Place	
	Mrs Pamela Taylor	
Elected members Until 2022	Mrs Diana Lavin	
	Mrs Ethel Randall	
	Mrs Margaret Patterson	
	Mrs Lesley Ogilvie	
Elected members Until 2023	Ms Alison Wilson	
	Dr Claudia Newbegin	
	Mrs Marian Coulson-Cave	
	Mrs Felicity Shoesmith	
	Miss Edith Davison	
	Mr Joe Vera-Sanso	Resigned Jan. 2022
Elected members Until 2024	Mrs Karen Parkhouse	
	Mrs Dorothy Henderson	
	Mrs Katie Hogg	
Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio)	
Assistant Curate	Revd Beverley Davies (ex-officio)	
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Kath Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
Treasurer	Mr Fred Carr, co-opted for 1 year	
Secretary	Mr Nick Glover, co-opted for 1 year	

Ms Kath Davies was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2021 APCM and continued to serve as the Safeguarding Officer. Mr Fred Carr was co-opted at the same PCC meeting, and continued to serve in his capacity as PCC Treasurer. Mr Nick Glover was also co-opted at the same meeting and continued to serve in his capacity as PCC Secretary.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. Following changes in the relevant legislation it has registered as a charitable body with the Charity Commission. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC has nominated officers responsible for Health and Safety (including disability discrimination issues) and Safeguarding (of children and vulnerable adults) who receive training and information from the diocese and cascade this to the wider PCC as appropriate. These issues are standing items on the agenda for meetings of the PCC.

The Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, the Churchwardens, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and two elected members of the PCC, has the power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings. The Standing Committee deals with detailed operational issues concerning the deployment of resources (buildings, money and staff) within the overall strategic



framework determined by the PCC, and reports to each Council meeting. A sub-group of the Standing Committee, the Fabric Committee, deals with more detailed fabric issues. Working Groups of the PCC meet regularly and conduct business on behalf of the PCC. One or more of these groups provides feedback at each PCC Meeting. These groups act as official sub-groups of the PCC covering between them all areas of church life and mission: Pastoral, Education and Discipleship, Outreach and Communication, Mission and Justice, Social and Events. All PCC members serve on at least one of these groups, most of which also have co-opted members from the wider congregation. The groups meet approximately four to six times a year and report regularly to the PCC.

Other subcommittees include the Youth Committee, which is responsible for the work with children and young people and the Safeguarding Group, which is responsible for child protection, the care of vulnerable adults and related issues. Other time-limited sub-groups may be formed and then disbanded once their remit has been fulfilled, according to the direction of the PCC. Numerous other groups and committees operate within the auspices of the church. Whilst not formal sub-committees of the PCC, they play a valuable part in church life and their activities are explained in more detail later in the document which accompanies this report.

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed are identified and managed through the appropriate officer or sub-group (e.g. through insurances or Health and Safety assessments). One-off issues are risk-assessed as required by the PCC.

## **Vicar's report**

Summing up, 2021 was neither straightforward nor an easy twelve months, but placing events chronologically will hopefully aid my recall and help give a perspective to the year. However, I am only too aware that this may not capture the fact that, despite a seemingly continuous daily wave of disruption, the ongoing routines of the church (worship, rotas and timetables) were upheld. (At this time, Louise Waugh, our administrator, was on furlough until April, Tricia Maylia, our Caretaker until September returning briefly in the summer, with Jamie Donaldson, the Youth Worker, from Christmas until after Easter.) Administration and practical care of the buildings for the first part of the year fell to the churchwardens, Beverley and myself which made it another extraordinary year.

A programme of Services and activities was gradually reinstated during 2021. A flexible and creative approach was paramount as we responded to the anxieties and concerns of Centre users and others. It was abundantly clear from the outset that the re-engagement of families, young people and children would be a particular challenge. Also pastoral care, particularly in those first months required the ministry team to be creative as we sought to maintain contact with many members restricted to their homes. Unable to visit our care homes and hospitals until the autumn, Beverley, Ruth, Vic and I were glad to help by listening via a phone call or out for a stroll in the Park. It was good to visit people on their doorsteps and the church was used as a safe place for necessary meetings.

When the third National Lockdown began in January, the Government did not suspend public worship. However, after much consideration and consultation, it was decided that our Sunday services in January and February would be live-streamed onto our Facebook page. We celebrated Epiphany but did not return to worship in church until Passion Sunday, with numbers restricted to adhere to social distancing regulations. In the intervening time, Services were filmed by Peter Mitchell using a laptop two microphones and cameras. The Facebook Live set-up permitted not just livestreaming but also enabled convenience for people to view later. Peter's dedication throughout this time was much appreciated. There were also audio recordings of Evening Prayer available from 6pm on Sunday evenings on the website. We so hoped that our use of media served as a "shop window" on All Saints to generate interest in the Church by those who preferred to look online.

From January, our use of Zoom was invaluable for PCC meetings, Tuesday 'Morning Coffee' sessions, later 'Sew Knit and Natter' catch ups and 'Just Sing' on Friday mornings (with Diana Lavin and Thomas Moorin) continuing for a total of 65 weeks singing over 400 songs! Morning Prayer was zoomed, as was Café Church on February 28th, exploring Lent through an interactive 'Mission Impossible' theme. On Ash Wednesday we joined Bishop Christine as President and Preacher at a

Deanery Eucharist from St Nicholas' Gosforth. A series of reflections "It made me think: breakthroughs in my understanding" were available on our website from 6pm on Sundays throughout Lent. We also studied (on Zoom), Rowan Williams' book, "Candles in the Dark: Faith, Love and Hope in a Time of Pandemic". In addition, the Church was open on four Sunday afternoons for an hour of private prayer and reflection during which time we collected donations for the West End Food Bank.

Our 'Keeping in Touch' magazine was maintained and a well-attended online 'Shrove Tuesday Quiz' was held (thanks to Ann Cross, Marian Cave, Valerie Farthing and Diana Lavin). In March, Ros Place, with approval from the PCC, proposed and obtained a quotation for a permanent live-streaming system – flexible, with 2 portable cameras, allowing us to film from any point in the Church and enabling us to stream onto YouTube at a cost of approximately £7.5k. (We had received a grant for £3.5k.) By May, the money was raised and an order placed, by July the live-streaming was operating with the new equipment and despite teething problems we are making progress. We were most grateful to Ros for all her hard work on the project. The Parish website was updated in the early months by Beverley.

## **Easter**

A plan for a programme of services for the Easter weekend was drawn up with outdoor singing only. All services remained subject to changes in regulations and booking was required via the Eventbrite for the 9.30 services on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

On Palm Sunday we heard a most moving recorded drama of the passion with music organised by John Lewis. During the weekdays of Holy Week, a recorded Compline and address, (a reflection by a member of the congregation), was offered. On Maundy Thursday Holy Communion in Church was celebrated followed by a Vigil on Zoom. On Good Friday there was an outdoor service on the Green using stations to explore key parts in Holy Week. Hot cross buns were served and there were Creme Eggs for everyone. The Last Hour 'The cost of Love': reflections around the Cross followed. The Easter Vigil started outdoors on the Green called this year 'God acts in the Darkness'. Surprise 'afternoon teas in a box' for the Tuesday Tea Club members were distributed on Easter Saturday. These included Easter cards and chicks, individually wrapped scones, and cakes. Our thanks to Beverley for the idea and Elizabeth Crawford together with those who prepared them. Beverley and I prepared a special Easter service YouTube video for Archbishop Runcie School with music recorded by Diana Lavin. The Easter Morning scene, prepared by the 'Sew Knit and Natter' group was displayed in church, an electronic Easter card was sent out to young families and a Safe Service of Easter Hymns took place at Eothen House.

## **Spring**

In April, following the death of Prince Philip, provision was made for floral tributes to be left at the Cross in the memorial garden. The church was open for personal prayer on Friday 16th April from 4.30pm, until a special service of remembrance was held at 6pm. On Saturday 17th April, the bells were tolled immediately prior to the funeral service at 3pm. Also in April a letter was received by the PCC from Elizabeth Crawford raising the issue of the need for a dishwasher in the Centre kitchen. This was installed in the autumn after many generous donations were forthcoming.

At the Annual meeting we gave thanks for the great contribution that Ros Place had made to the Church Community over the past 3 years as churchwarden. Ros served with such dedication, thoughtfulness and energy and she accomplished so much. We welcomed Christine Willoughby as churchwarden and were delighted when Paul Wilkinson agreed to continue in the role. I will give thanks for the contribution of many at the end of this report.

An event took place on May 13th which brought us not only national but also international fame. In the early hours of Thursday, thieves stole the bronze Calvary Cross from the Garden of Remembrance. The theft was discovered on Thursday morning just before Morning Prayer. Northumbria Police were informed and after raising with them the significance of the sculpture, a publicity campaign began involving articles in the press, on TV and messages on social media. Even a reward was offered. Investigations by Northumbria Police successfully tracked down our Calvary sculpture to a scrapyard in Walker and it was recovered. I was interviewed by ITV News and by BBC

Radio Newcastle. On one afternoon for 37 minutes the theft and its return were the top UK News on the BBC News Website. The story was picked up by news networks all over the world and I received messages from Australia, Canada and Nigeria as well as from all over the UK and of course Gosforth!

Until it was stolen, we did not realise its significance. In 1965, the sculptor, Frank Roper, cast the torso, arms and head separately, then welded them together. On its return we saw the welding of the head has become detached. To re-secure it, specialist welding would be needed. An able conservation specialist Graciela Ainsworth was appointed to carry out the repair. It was pointed out that a Calvary cross reinstatement event could be a valuable opportunity to involve the wider community. Future work will include uplighters, new security cameras and new plinth stonework.

In May, a Code of Conduct for PCC members and those who hold responsibility was brought to the PCC. This was as a result of people, on occasion, becoming less tolerant and thoughtful in their communications, particularly in e-mails (especially over the last difficult 16 months). The PCC affirmed that no-one must ever feel intimidated or anxious in their church role.

Once again, in May, we supported the Christian Aid collection, raising money for the world's poorest by making donations. The total raised by gifts rather than house collection, was a staggering £2565 - a magnificent achievement. Our thanks to Lesley Atkinson for overseeing the week. From 17th May it was possible to meet again indoors and with reduced restrictions, from 23rd May, it was possible once again, to hold parish breakfast in the Centre, remaining seated in groups of 6. After Zooming during April, Evolution Youth Group was able to meet in person at the end of May.

The bell-ringers were able to resume normal activities again at the end of June. Numbers in church were restricted until 21st June. The Tuesday Service of Holy Communion started on 15th June. Little Saints toddler group reopened on Tuesday 22nd June. In July, Ann Cross promoted a sponsored walk around the parish boundary (maps and description provided) in order to raise funds for major cancer charities in the North East.

## **Summer**

In the summer, the significant importance of the Green was highlighted as an outdoor social, performance and practice area. A picnic was organised on the church green on July 4th. The weather was glorious and there was the opportunity to relax in the open air, enjoy the moment, exchange news and views and feel normal. We appreciated a variety of music played by the Semitones, who were openly grateful to have an audience, having been confined to practising since March 2020. We wrote messages of gratitude for positive experiences during the pandemic and lockdowns, a set of messages pegged up in church afterwards and left on display. Safety was maintained. Chairs were placed in socially-distanced groups so individuals could monitor their own movement and distance. The All Saints Centre defibrillator was deployed for effective use one summer night by a member of the Tennis Club. The following Sunday, the long-awaited and eagerly anticipated Pet Service was held on the church green (having been marked into suitably distanced family spaces), the sound system had been set up and a banner provided by the Evolution Youth Group had been strung at the entrance. Diana Lavin and Thomas Moorin provided music for the service. Beverley Davies and Jamie Donaldson were ready to welcome families with their pets. Despite the torrential rain, the owners were interviewed and each pet blessed.

Around thirty attended Dorothy Henderson's beautiful garden on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the end of July to enjoy the delicious cakes and strawberry cream scones. The Handlebards' performance of Macbeth on the Church Green in August was a great success. The event had been postponed for a year due to Covid restrictions. There were contingencies for bad weather but happily the sun shone. Our thanks to Ros Place for arranging this event (significantly well supported by the wider community).

## Autumn

On 5th September we were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark to confirm four candidates from All Saints. Congratulations to Sadie McCabe, Joyce Jennings, Mina Corso and Imogen Longstaff. We marked a day of real celebration with our first hymn singing in church for over a year (behind masks of course!), and a slightly more formal service – as well as meeting Bishop Mark and the candidates over coffee and cake in the Centre after the service.

A Hub Church Model was explored during this time, heralding a possible change in our relationships with surrounding parishes beyond St Hugh's, with All Saints providing help and support. This could have led to the creation of a Hub Team. However, it later seemed that with the failure of the diocese to gain the support of the National Churches Strategic Investment Board in its bid for funding, the concept of hub churches was less certain.

Planning a music concert programme was possible in the autumn and gradually groups returned to the Centre after the summer break. On Sunday 19th September the street carnival band Meze Mundo launched our 'Music on the Green' project. On Sunday October 17th Heaton Voices sang to an audience. We were also able to host four world-class musicians for recitals at All Saints in the autumn, three piano soloists, and the fourth a guitarist. A new choir was started, led by Diana Lavin on a Tuesday afternoon, meeting in the Centre from October 12th from 4-5pm. A variety of genres to suit all tastes would be planned.

It was good to sing together again in church in September despite continued use of facemasks. School Harvest Services went ahead in October and the number of Home Communion services increased once these were possible. At our Harvest Service this year we were joined by our uniformed organisations. A humorous but powerful sketch about climate change was delivered as we remembered the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November. Prayers were also offered from Greta Thunberg's speech and the Beatles song 'Imagine' was 're-imagined' by Diana Lavin. We returned to taking Services in Eothen in November but could not do so in Moorfield House. School visits became possible once more and we welcomed over 200 children into church during November. I conducted assemblies every Friday and Beverley every two weeks in Archbishop Runcie School. We were also invited to conduct the Harvest Service in Archibald school. At the beginning of term comfort packs for Mums, prepared by the Mothers' Union to take home on their child's first day, were distributed at Archbishop Runcie School.

As regulations were eased, the Covid Risk Assessments for Church and the Centre had to be re-done by the clergy and churchwardens. Whereas before we were working to government regulations, it became the responsibility of the Churchwardens and PCC to set the regulations. Track and Trace was suspended but mask wearing in church continued to be the norm. In the Centre, all returning groups had to undertake a risk-assessment. All social events were expected to take great care. We were grateful for Charlie Mussett for his advice throughout the year.

As in previous years, the All Saints clergy were in charge of the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park which again was attended by hundreds. Beverley largely organised the event, liaising with councillors, the military and uniformed groups. Beverley led the Service. It went very smoothly, thanks to careful preparation. Beverley and I also devised and led a Remembrance Service with the Lord Mayor of Newcastle at Kenton Hall, which was live streamed to Care Homes across the north east and Yorkshire.

During October there were four face-to-face discussion sessions to consider the book 'Walk Humbly' by Samuel Wells. On 12th December, the church Amnesty International Group met again in the Centre to recommence their writing of greetings cards.

The Renewal and Funding Group was formed in the summer to look at how we could best begin to deliver the All Saints Vision for the next five years. The group wrestled with a number of issues such as how are we to attract and retain newcomers? How do we involve more members of the congregation in the active life of the church in various roles? Also, how do we work to raise our profile in the wider community? The group looked at our current strengths and weaknesses and identified

three priority areas on which to focus our efforts. First, to consider how best All Saints can encourage families and children back into church. We sought feedback on how people might suggest ways this could be done. Second, rebuilding our volunteer base. The group were clear that many areas of our life that we took for granted are no longer happening or are being retained by a very small group of dedicated volunteers. We need more people to sign up to the many opportunities there are/will be for both regular and occasional support to help build our church community. Last of all, widening our funding base, particularly in the context of a drop in giving and a shortfall in funding. At our services on Advent Sunday we publicised our work so far and gave the congregation the opportunity to give their voice by responding to questionnaires. The group will continue to meet in 2022 to consider our new plans and action them.

At the November PCC Andrew Cole presented a proposal that we should support a Gosforth Branch of Tyneside Welcomes with the aim of enabling the resettlement of a refugee family. This would involve providing support, finding a residential property, getting local authority agreement and fund raising for a period of two years. Andrew reported that a local committee has been formed and good progress is being made, with local contacts made and good progress with fund raising. In November Hannah Marshall prepared afternoon teas in aid of the project. This will be an important project for 2022.

### **Advent and Christmas**

A popular Advent Carol Service was held with fine singing by the choir followed by mulled wine. Three thousand Christmas cards were printed and distributed along with a note advertising our Christmas Fair and the community support project. The Fair proved to be a successful event with many visitors attracted both to the stalls in the Centre and the organ music, refreshments and model railway display in the church. We raised over £1700 - no mean feat in 2 hours - and it was a wonderful community event. Our grateful thanks go to the Fair mastermind - Dorothy Henderson!

Local schools had to cancel their in-church services at the last minute (Covid reasons), however, Newcastle School for Boys recorded their Carol Service privately in Church. There was singing around the Parish on Tuesday 14th December at Moorfield's House, Eothen House, and Kenton Lodge. After Christmas carol singing on the green, a Christingle Service was held on the 19th December - with those baptised over the past 3 years invited. On Christmas Eve, the Crib Service (led by Ruth Birnie) and Stuart Henderson proved popular. The 4pm outdoor service, with about 200 attendees, was successful in that it attracted many who may not have felt comfortable at a formal service. Although 250 tickets had been allocated for the 6.30pm service, the actual attendance was nearer to 170. The Midnight Service was attended by around 40. In all, approximately 495 attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Christmas lights at the top of the Tower that have served us well for the past 7 years were used once again!

### **Many losses**

Very sadly we lost dear members of our community and reflections on their lives appeared in 'Keeping in Touch'. Among them were in February Bill Shaw, a true gentleman, modest and self-effacing, and friendly and welcoming, with that twinkle in his eye. The loss of David Hide was such a great blow. David had been Reader at All Saints since the 1970's being first licenced in 1954 and had played a prominent role as Diocesan Secretary for 22 years David was renowned for his generosity and kindness, for his clarity of thought and speech, and his beautifully crafted sermons. We were all deeply shocked by the death of Dee Matthews and with the loss of Chris Matthews. We would all acknowledge that they have left a huge hole in the life of our church. Both Dee and Chris were great givers and doers. Both were so respected and admired, hard-working, unfaltering and approachable, indeed, friends to many of us. The loss of Constance was also sorely felt. Faithful and ever hard working, Constance Maselino-Okai took part in bible study and discussion groups, was an intercessor, reader, tea maker and provider. She served on the Church Council and on the Deanery Synod. Lilian Henderson who died in April was a faithful member of the congregation for many years, and was famous for her scones which she regularly distributed at parish breakfast. Always unassuming, she made no claims for herself. Our hearts went out to the many loved ones in their grief.

## **Youth Work**

Jamie Donaldson was appointed during March 2020 (but was unable to start work till September) at which time his 6 months' probation period had been interrupted by the two lockdowns when he was furloughed. Jamie's probationary period came to an end in the summer and his work with All Saints ended on 16th July. Our thanks to him for his contribution to our life. Since September, our Evolution Youth Group has been overseen by sessional youth workers from 'Youth for Christ'. The Youth Committee met to discuss a new appointment and design a new job description in November and December.

## **Other notable events**

There were 11 weddings, 3 baptisms, 23 funerals and 3 burial of ashes during the year. A number of Weddings and Funerals were broadcast through YouTube. We were reminded in October of the important work that the Eco Group has done to make us aware of not using plastic. The Safeguarding Committee produced a flow chart that helped us understand how to obtain DBS and how best to raise an issue of concern. This was published on our website and is also available as a hard copy. During the year there was a discussion about Archbishop Runcie School Admissions Policy and 3 proposals were debated by the Governors: to retain the church qualification as at present, to extend the church qualification to all Christian churches in Gosforth or to drop any church qualification and make the school simply a neighbourhood school. The consultation began in December. The replacement of the lighting bollards outside the west end with LED ground lights was successfully completed at the end of the year and a web designer identified to help develop a new website. Keith Kennils stepped down from his role as our insurance representative. He had fulfilled the role since 2004 and we are grateful for all his attention and advice. John Lewis signed his contract to become Director of Music. A major Parish Self-Review document for the Diocese was completed (also one for St Hugh's) in the autumn and Katie Hogg became our Vulnerable and Young Persons Advocate.

## **St Hugh's**

Beverley and I took on the responsibility for looking after the maintenance the building, with the help of Stuart Henderson.

Services resumed in March. On Easter Sunday the congregation was joined by members of Coxlodge Methodist Church. There was interest in new lettings during the year of the building space; not necessarily coming to fruition, but a number did, which meant that by the end of the year the building was used 6 days a week. After June the toddler group and ballet class restarted. During July and August and part of September we were delighted to offer St Hugh's as an NHS covid vaccination Centre for the area. Beverley oversaw a community event at St Hugh's on Saturday 17th July after local businesses, as well as local residents were contacted.

The church building went under a quinquennial inspection in July. The first baptism for two years took place on Sunday 11th July. The Liberdade Community Development Trust, the Disability Arts Organisation who run Gosforth Civic Theatre started using the church two days a week from September. First we kept in touch with the elderly congregation by phone and by letter and news sheets earlier in the year but were able to visit later in the year. Sadly two long standing members of the church died. Beverley visited Abbey Court Care Home, and children and staff from Regent Farm School were welcomed into the church. We were grateful to Canon Syd Connolly and Canon Richard Hill who covered a number of Services on Sundays. Our thanks also to Stuart as a financial assistant and to Fred Carr for the annual financial report.

## **Our Thanks**

In conclusion I must first pay tribute to and thank all those who have given so much, voluntarily, to the mission and ministry of All Saints throughout 2021 including those I have already named. Peter Brown – our wise PCC Vice-Chair; Fred Carr – our dedicated Treasurer; Nick Glover – our committed PCC Secretary; to the Standing Committee of the PCC and the PCC itself. Lesley Atkinson for her overseeing many activities for the young, Charlie Mussett for his Covid-19 Risk Assessments and Centre Risk Agreements; Ann Shaw who single handed produced our Christingles; Pam Taylor and

Ann Cross who maintained regular contact with many who may have felt isolated; Paul Wilkinson, Christine Willoughby and Ros Place, our churchwardens who have worked immensely hard as the goalposts moved during the year. Chris Bolland has again been generous with his time and attention to our fees; Tom Barber, our new missions' secretary and Kath Davies our parish Safeguarding Officer who has kept us up to date with policy and training. There is also the choir and bell ringers. Additionally I think of those who kept the grounds tidy such as Keith Davies who cut the grass, all who acted as stewards, counted our collections, and served coffee at Parish Breakfast and many more.

I would like to thank Louise Waugh for her dedication and persistence along with John Lewis for his energy and imagination. I am very grateful to Tricia for her work as vergers and caretaker and I pay tribute to the Ministry Team: to Beverley for her dedication and resilience in pursuing initiatives; to Ruth for taking a full part in the services and for following up individuals and also to Vic for maintaining contact with so many together with his contributions to our worship. Two of my quotes from last year's report seem a fitting conclusion here: 'We finished the year tired but more hopeful' and 'The essential issues of the human condition don't go away ... we have a Gospel to share ... we are well-placed to do this'. I am looking forward to 2022.

## **Andrew Shipton**

### **Congregation and PCC Meeting Details**

There were 220 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2021 (222 on 31 December 2020). The average Sunday attendance counted in October 2021 was 112 (81 in October 2020). Services in church were suspended during the Coronavirus lockdown period from January until the end of March. Attendance numbers were much reduced because of restrictions due to space and caution among many. Online services continued throughout the year and were appreciated.

The PCC met 6 times in 2021; the first two meetings of the year being successfully held over Zoom. The average attendance was 78% (68% in 2020.) The PCC regularly receives reports from the its working groups and the Fabric committee, in particular, has provided a great deal of valuable and relevant material. Regular reports have also been received from the Deanery Synod. It was only possible to hold one Open PCC meeting on a Sunday morning, rather than the two that were planned.

## **Finance**

The Coronavirus pandemic has continued to have a significant effect on All Saints finances in 2021, income and expenditure both being much lower than in other years.

The accounts show a deficit of £1,700 for 2021 before taking account of the gain of £7,244 in the market value of our investments. The accounts at the end of 2020 showed a surplus of £9,506 before taking into account an investment gain of £3,576.

## **Income**

Total income, excluding legacies and grants increased from £191,092 in 2020 to £219,915 in 2021, the increase being due to the recovery of hall rent and church service collections after the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Planned Giving**

There were 137 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2021 compared with 141 at the end of 2020, the reduction being caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2021. Planned Giving decreased by £2,439 (£108,963 in 2020, £106,524 in 2021).

## **Donations**

Donations in 2021 totalled £15,021 which included £5,979 donated for particular purposes, the remaining £9,042 being from general ad hoc donations.

## **Tax Recovery**

For 2021 we have claimed a GASDS allowance of £3,904 giving an income of £976. This is much less than the maximum GASDS allowance of £8,000 that we have claimed in previous years due to the large reduction in charity and general donations. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on Planned Giving and donations increased from £27,037 in 2020 to £28,462 in 2021.

## **Grants**

During 2021 we were awarded two grants of £7,526 and £2,194 by Newcastle City Council for loss of business.

## **Expenditure**

98% of expenditure is on activities related to the work of the church. The Parish Share and clergy costs support ministry at All Saints and elsewhere in the diocese. Church costs provide for worship at ordinary and special services. Expenditure on the All Saints Centre assists the mission of the church in the community at large.

Expenses for the year totalled £240,135 compared with £194,029 in 2020. As the expenditure this year is still affected by Coronavirus, comparison of individual category expenditure is not appropriate.

Livestream in the Church and a dishwasher in the Centre kitchen were paid for entirely by donations from parishioners.

## **Properties**

In order to comply with the Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011, the houses were re-valued at the date of transition to FRS 102 of 1 January 2015 with assigned values as follows:

- Old Clergy House - £210,000
- Verger's House - £225,000

The properties have now been re-valued at 31 December 2021 as follows:

- Old Clergy House - £225,000
- Verger's House - £240,000

Accurate valuation of the two properties is difficult as they are in the grounds of the Church with no vehicular access and are in an area of large expensive properties.

A review of average prices in the Gosforth area and in Tyne & Wear generally shows that there has been a small increase in property prices between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2021. Each property has therefore been increased in value by £15,000 (approximately 7% increase).



## **Rents**

The All Saints Centre continued to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties except for a Coronavirus lockdown during January until March 2021. For the remainder of the year it has been used on and off by a small number of organisations. Rents received totalled £18,223 (£13,163 in 2020).

The Old Clergy House was occupied throughout the year. £9,000 was received in rent against expenses of £3,188.

The Verger's House was occupied most of the year. £9,540 was received in rent against expenses of £1,267.

## **Mission Giving**

The PCC continued to support the work of the worldwide church by dedicating open plate cash collections at services to our Mission of the Month.

Donations to the Mission of the Month charities are underwritten by the PCC to guarantee that each charity receives a sum equal to 5% of All Saints previous year's planned giving and associated gift aid. During normal years, donations from the congregation have exceeded the underwritten amount so the underwriting guarantee was not relevant. During 2021 donations from the congregation have been significantly lower than usual, in some months zero. For this reason, the underwriting guarantee was reduced to 3% during January to March 2021.

Donations paid to charities totalled £12,639 (£8,958 in 2020) of which £996 was contributed from church funds to comply with the underwriting guarantee to Mission of the Month charities. £5,228 was collected at funerals and other events using the church.

## **McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund**

Income from this fund was £549 which has been kept together with the £44 held over from 2020 to be carried over into 2022.

## **The Youth Project**

The Youth Worker project income was £15,591 and the expenditure was £8,140 giving a surplus for the year of £7,541.

## **Legacies**

Credit has been taken in the accounts for legacies from Elayne Nanette Thorburn and Mary Elizabeth Willetts and donations in memory of Marjorie McCain, Lilian Henderson, Margaret and John Calvert, Christopher Denys and Ann Deidre Matthews.

Expenditure from the Legacies Fund in 2020 was £19,062 for the cost of stonework pointing of the Church Centre and access lighting on the path at the north end of the church.

## **Bank Balances and Reserves**

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2021 totalled £104,700 compared with £100,177 at the end of 2020. £20,566 is in the Legacies fund, £51,156 is held for the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £5,971 is held in other funds for particular purposes. The remaining £27,007 (increased from £16,127 in 2020) is held in the General Income fund, together with the £10,440 due from debtors, to meet the amount of £15,319 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has reduced from £62,556 in 2020 to £57,327 in 2021.

## **The Future**

All Saints has substantial cash reserves but many of these are held in the Legacies fund and in the Gloria Smith fund. The low level of the General Income fund has been of particular concern for some time. In 2021 the General Income fund liquid reserves increased by £5,641 to £24,029 which is still a very low level considering that this is the fund that has to provide the resources for the all of the day-to-day transactions such as Parish Share, Clergy housing cost, salaries, energy costs, insurance, office supplies, Church, Church Centre and properties maintenance.

In 2021 there has been a significant surplus generated from the rents of the 2 houses and the surplus generated by the Centre rent was still significant, if reduced. Hopefully these rents' surpluses can be maintained during 2022. In 2022, the Parish Share is staying the same at £111,505. Hopefully the Planned Giving will hold up well enough during 2022 to at least maintain the General Income fund liquid reserves at its current level. New members are desperately required by the Planned Giving fund to offset the loss of donors through death, moving away or other reasons. A Renewal and Funding group has been formed to review the future finances of All Saints.

This together with other fund-raising activities and control of costs by ensuring best value for purchases and other expenses will hopefully allow the General Income fund to grow to a more comfortable level.

## **Acknowledgements**

The PCC wish to express their gratitude for the generous legacies that have been received, to thank the many donors to the various appeals that have been made, and to pay tribute to all those members of the congregation who contribute regularly to the finances of All Saints or give of their time and talents to support its many activities.

On behalf of the Council

**Andrew Shipton**

Vicar, Chair of the Council  
3 April 2022

**Independent Examiner's Report  
For The Year Ending 31 December 2021**

I have examined the summary financial statements of All Saints' Church, Gosforth.

**Responsibilities and basis of the report**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the Charities SORP.

I report on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full financial statements and the PCC's Annual Report. We also read other information contained in the summary annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statements.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In my opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the PCC's Annual Report of All Saints' Church, Gosforth for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Date 4 April 2022

**D Bulmer BA(Hons) ACA  
For and on behalf of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants**

17 Queens Lane  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 1RN

All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**Summary accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Summary Statement of Financial Activities**

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Income and Endowments</b>		
Donations, grants and legacies		
planned giving	106,524	108,963
donations	15,021	6,984
income tax recovered	28,462	27,037
furlough payments	8,311	7,811
legacies	8,800	1,425
grants	9,720	11,018
	176,838	163,238
Trading activities	36,763	31,703
Income from charitable activities	14,647	4,568
Other income	8,063	1,935
Income from bank interest/investments	2,124	2,091
<b>Total income and endowments</b>	<u>238,435</u>	<u>203,535</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Planning giving renewal expenses	70	70
Fundraising costs	637	637
<i>Ministry</i>		
Parish share	111,505	111,505
Clergy expenses and housing costs	5,322	4,802
	116,827	116,307
<i>Church</i>		
alter requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance	11,656	9,902
window repair	-	2,130
livestream	8,496	-
light and heat	3,049	2,224
organist, organ and choir	4,524	3,920
	27,725	18,176
<i>All Saints' Centre</i>		
cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance	24,790	11,763
stonework pointing	16,320	-
access path lighting	2,742	2,962
dishwasher	3,128	-
light and heat	4,439	3,709
caretaker salary costs	7,217	7,086
	58,636	25,520
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		
youth worker project	8,140	5,385
old clergy/verger houses expenses	4,455	3,190
church office	17,145	16,327
mission, independent examiner, other costs	5,889	8,417
	35,629	33,319
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>240,135</u>	<u>194,029</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains</b>	(1,700)	9,506
Net gains on investments	7,244	3,576
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	5,544	13,082
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	30,000	-
Funds brought forward	587,652	574,570
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>623,196</u></u>	<u><u>587,652</u></u>

All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2021**

The funds of £623,196 at 31 December 2021 shown overleaf were held on the following trusts:

	£	£
The MacMahon Permanent Endowment Fund where the capital must be held intact and the income is to be used for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the fabric of the church and churchyard		21,614
The Gloria Smith Fund (£51,156) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors		57,127
Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £57,027 in the Legacies Fund		544,455
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>623,196</u></u>

These funds were represented at 31 December 2020 by:

Properties - note 1		465,000
Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2020		58,375
Debtors and other amounts receivable	10,440	
Bank balances and cash	<u>104,700</u>	
	115,140	
less creditors falling due within one year	<u>15,319</u>	
Net current assets		<u>99,821</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>623,196</u></u>

**Notes to the summarised accounts**

**1. Properties**

The properties comprise the All Saints' Centre (previously called the Church Hall), which has been written off in previous years, and the two adjacent houses, the Verger's House and the Old Clergy House. The Verger's House is valued at £240,000 and the Old Clergy House at £225,000, an increase of approximately 7% compared with the last valuation at 1 January 2015.

The title to the land on which the All Saints' Centre and the two houses are situated is vested in the Church Commissioners.

**2. Staff numbers and costs**

The PCC has employed a part-time administrator and a part-time caretaker throughout 2021 and a part-time children's and youth worker until 16 July 2021. Their salary costs together with organist's fees including employer's NI and pension costs totalled £30,290 (£26,192 in 2020).

£8,311 was received from the Government as furlough benefits for the 3 employees.

**3. Related party transactions**

The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton has occupied a house attached to his appointment. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with his house totalled £4,109. Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Beverley Davies amounted to £1,213.

No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2021.

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These summarised accounts comprise information extracted from the annual accounts which have been examined by an independent firm of accountants qualified for this purpose. They are a summary of those accounts and may not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the PCC. For further information the full accounts, the Independent Examiner's report on those accounts and the PCC's annual report should be consulted. Copies of these, which were approved on 3 April 2022, are available on request from the Parish Office. The Independent Examiner's report on the full accounts was unqualified. These summarised accounts were approved by the PCC on 3 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

**Andrew Shipton**

Vicar, Chair of the Council  
3 April 2022

The Independent Examiner's statement on the summarised accounts is attached.

All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**4. Mission giving**

The PCC continues to dedicate open plate collections to the Mission of the Month.

		<i>From Special Collections £</i>	<i>From Church Funds £</i>	<i>Total paid 2021 £</i>		<i>Total paid 2020 £</i>
<b>Mission of the Month</b>						
January	Cedarwood Trust	350	-	350	Cedarwood Trust	737
February	NIDAS	325	-	325	NIDAS	500
March	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	1,380	-	1,380	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	699
April	Church Mission Society	460	41	501	Church Mission Society	496
May	uS	384	117	501	uS	496
June	Cornerstone	476	25	501	Cornerstone	496
July	Mission to Seafarers	193	308	501	Mission to Seafarers	496
August	PCDC	259	242	501	PCDC	496
September	Northumbria Deaf Church	391	110	501	Northumbria Deaf Church	496
October	Walking With	581	-	581	Walking With	496
November	Shelter Box	435	66	501	Shelter Box	496
December	West End Refugee Service	414	87	501	West End Refugee Service	496
				<u>6644</u>		<u>6,400</u>
<b>Other donations</b>						
Easter Day	Smile for Life	-	-	-	Smile for Life	-
Christingle	Children's Society	133	-	133	Children's Society	289
Christmas Eve	Christians Against Poverty	246	-	246	DEC	164
	Destiny Streetworx	246	-	246	Destiny Streetworx	164
Christmas Day	Caritas Baby's Hospital	142	-	142	Caritas Baby's Hospital	75
	Other charities	5228	-	5,228	Other charities	966
				<u>5,995</u>		<u>1,658</u>
				<u>12,639</u>		<u>8,058</u>

**Note**

The amounts listed above are considered to be direct income for the charities concerned and only pass through All Saints' bank account for recording purposes. Therefore these amounts are not included in either the income or the expenditure in these accounts. Any addition from church funds listed is included under miscellaneous expenditure.

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**will take place in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL**  
**on SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 11.00am**

**AGENDA**

Opening Prayer

1. Appointment of clerk

**2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

**3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

3.1 Apologies for absence (to be recorded on attendance sheet)

3.2 Minutes of Annual Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – for approval

3.3 Matters Arising

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 – *for approval Fred Carr*

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts

3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

3.6 Report on the changes in the Electoral Roll since the last APCM.

3.7 Comments and questions about reports (coloured pages)

3.8 Elections and appointments

3.8.1 Scrutineers

3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

*Candidates must be over 16 and be on the church electoral roll.*

3.8.3 Appointment of sidesmen and sideswomen

*Those currently serving as a sidesperson are listed at the back of this Report.*

3.9 Vicar's Report

3.10 Declaration of election results

4. Time for comments, questions and discussion of matters raised by parishioners.  
*(Individual comments and questions should be expressed briefly to allow plenty of time for discussion.)*

The Blessing

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### In the Church.

Present: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Fred Carr, Andrew Cole, Muriel Dart, Revd. Bev Davies, Kath Davies, Edith Davison, Ann Downey, Val Farthing, Sue Finkill, Pauline Gallagher, Nick Glover, Sue Glover, Dorothy Henderson, Stuart Henderson, Katie Hodgson, Katie Hogg, Margaret Hudgson, Diane Kirkup, Diana Lavin, John Lewis, Enid Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, David Ogilvie, Lesley Ogilvie, Norman Pall, Margaret Patterson, Rosamund Place, Judy Riseborough, Ann Shaw, Sheila Smithson, Pat Spong, Vic Spong, Martin Stearman, Pam Taylor, Roy Vipond, Rebecca Watts and Paul Wilkinson.

The meeting was live streamed on Facebook therefore an unknown number of parishioners were also watching proceedings.

Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton.

1. Appointment of Clerk: Nick Glover was appointed clerk to the meeting.

### 2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

#### 2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the positions of churchwardens: Christine Willoughby proposed by Jackie Walby and seconded by Judy Riseborough. Christine was elected unanimously Paul Wilkinson agreed to continue as the other churchwarden for another year, proposed by Val Farthing and seconded by David Ogilvie and was elected unanimously.

### 3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Peter Brown, Jackie Walby, Christine Willoughby.

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3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved nem con.

#### 3.3 Matters Arising

None

#### 3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (pp1-12)

Andrew made some brief comments, highlighting how important Zoom had proved to be during the year, the value of the new style "Keeping in Touch" magazine and the role of phone contacts in pastoral work. He noted appreciatively the hard work of Bev Davies, Peter Mitchell and Charlie Musset and also how the furlough scheme had been important. He commented that the major festivals had gone off well, in the circumstances.



### 3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of the Financial Account for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Fred Carr, the All Saints' treasurer advised that, during 2020, church finances had been severely affected by Coronavirus with both income and expenditure being significantly reduced.

Overall, there had been a surplus of just over £13k comprising about £9.5k surplus from the profit and loss account and just over £3.5k surplus in the Investments. The surplus was mainly in the Gloria Smith fund (just over £8k) which finances the youth and children's activities and about £4k in restricted funds for specific purposes. The general fund had a deficit of just over £1k.

There was a reduction in planned giving members from 154 to 141 but planned giving income held up well being reduced by little more than about £2k to about £109k.

Gift Aid reduced from by about £4.4k partly due to the reduction in GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) caused by the large reduction in charity and general donations. GASDS reduced from its normal £2k to £715.

Grants were obtained by Peter Brown of £5,000 and £2,668 from Newcastle council to compensate for the lack of business in the Church Centre, A grant of £3,350 was obtained by Ros Place from Allchurches Trust towards the installation of a Livestream system in the church which will be implemented this year.

Mission Giving was much reduced with donations of just over £8k going to Charities of the Month and about £1.6k going to charities nominated at funerals and other events in Church. Because of the reduced donations for charities about £3.5k was contributed by the General fund to maintain the underwriting of the Mission of the Month as 5% of our planned giving and associated gift aid.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Rebecca Watts, seconded by Vic Spong and agreed nem con.

#### 3.5.1 Questions and comments on the Accounts

Rebecca Watts asked for a description about the various funds. Fred stated that, apart from one or two small funds, the main three funds were the Gloria Smith fund, the Legacies fund and the General fund. The Gloria Smith fund finances all the work with youth and children. Some of the planned giving income was paid into the Gloria Smith fund and the youth worker, Jamie Donaldson, was paid out of it. The Legacies fund received income from legacies, donations in memoriam and investment income. It is used to pay for large cost capital projects in the church and church centre. The General fund is used to pay for all other day to day expenses including the parish share and is the recipient of most of the planned giving.

#### 3.5.2 Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Fred stated that the problems that he had with Haines Watts 2-3 year ago were now over and that All Saints now had a very cordial relationship with them. The reappointment of Haines Watts was proposed by Vic Spong, seconded by Kath Davies and agreed nem con.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Fred Carr for all the hard work he has put into the accounts throughout the year.

### 3.6 Report on the Changes in the Electoral Roll

There have been 2 losses from the Roll and one addition, making a total of 221.

### 3.7 Comments and Questions about reports

Vic Spong expressed his congratulations to the “Keeping in Touch” team for all their hard work in producing the new style magazine.

### 3.8 Elections and Appointments

3.8.1 No scrutineers were required.

3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Three nominations were received:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Dorothy Henderson	Ann Shaw	Jackie Walby
Katie Hogg	Roy Ashton	Peter Farquharson
Karen Parkhouse	Alison Proudfoot	Sue Glover

There were 6 vacancies on the PCC so the 3 nominees were elected nem com.

3.8.3 Appointment of Sidespersons

Katie Hogg asked that her name be added to the list.

### 3.9 Vicar’s Report

#### **VICAR’S REPORT**

Andrew began by recording some heartfelt personal messages:

Our thanks, to Nicky White and Alison Proudfoot for their valued contribution to the life of the PCC but who are now stepping down.

Our losses, over the past few months include Genie Scholes in October and more recently, Bill Shaw and Lillian Henderson.

Our thoughts are with Chris Matthews and Dee. Chris is not well and we wish to express our best wishes to him with the assurances of our prayers.

He expressed his gratitude to the Ministry Team, the churchwardens, and the significant contributions of so many in enabling our Worship, pastoral care and day to day ministry to continue in very different ways. We have tried to keep in touch with as many as possible but when not meeting weekly, this remains a great challenge. In a time of fragmentation we continue to hold together and provide a model of living together yet being creative. A fundamental challenge has been seeking unity whilst at the same time looking outwards. Our emphasis throughout has been on managing conflict and still holding together – of inclusion and valuing diverse contributions. Our ethos upholds bravery, being decent, undogmatic, kind, and conscientious.

2020 necessitated constantly thinking through the specific details of just about everything. Much of what we do in worship has been stripped back and simplified. Certainly less fanfare and grandeur. Some events and activities did not and do not work out as anticipated however, but we are keen that no one no one should feel humiliated or exposed when trying something new, whatever the outcome.

It has been trying to say the least, indeed, at times, a struggle, and we now face questions such as:

*How will we be able to welcome 100 and more people to our main Sunday service from 21st June? (As we used to do before March 2020.)*

*How do we give younger families the confidence to come back?*

*When can we safely open the doors of our Centre to vulnerable groups who are desperate to meet together for mutual support?*

Yet we certainly developed an online and social media presence in 2020. We have taken great steps forward and major developments of our streaming facilities are afoot and we hope soon to re-introduce midweek services.

All our planning now must continue to be provisional. It was so good to be able to include music in worship once more at the end of the year. Bearing this in mind, I would like to see music flourish again in the life of the church – not only in the context of worship but also as a stand-alone. Hopefully additionally, there will be events on the green in the summer from the end of June onwards.

However, we do have concerns needing urgent considerations - the pool of All Saint's volunteers is gradually decreasing and we will be urging all to consider their time and talents. An uptake of *Planned Giving* towards the end of the year will probably be necessary.

It's right at this time to be clear about our brand, to expect high standards at All Saints. I like our openness to the world, and our commitment to change it – non-sentimental, compassionate yet with outcomes of practical action and a refusal too to make simplistic statements which only serve to divide first and then to alienate. We promote a thoughtful faith with both sharp observations and a sense of fun.

We have had to plan, act, review, adapt and repeat over and again throughout 2020. We need to understand that 2021 could continue to be a repeated performance.

#### 4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

- There was a question about the problem of family attendance at Church in the current circumstances and the nature of their concerns. Andrew believed that it reflected both concerns over infections and some of the new pressures within family life, for example working from home for many people.
- Paul Wilkinson expressed our gratitude to Andrew and Bev for all the efforts and hard work that they have put in over the last year.
- Andrew introduced and sought approval for the new Parish Safeguarding policy. Kath Davies, as Safeguarding Officer spoke briefly about how the policy has to reflect the needs and commitments of the Church. Kath proposed the acceptance of the policy, Enid Mitchell seconded and it was accepted nem con.

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

## **SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The committee, which is a sub-committee of the PCC, has met 6 times during the past year, initially on Zoom and latterly in person in the Church.

As well as the ongoing business of ensuring that everyone who has a position of responsibility or who works with children and vulnerable adults has an up to date DBS certificate, the committee has received reports from the Vicar about the measures being taken to continue to make All Saints as Covid secure as possible, including the arrangements for the Christmas services.

After the departure of Jamie Donaldson, whose time with us had, sadly, come to an end, we are awaiting the appointment of a new Youth and Families worker.

We have produced a Parish Safeguarding Guidelines booklet. This includes the Safeguarding policy, the code to safer working practice and the quick guide to responding promptly to concerns. This will be given to every regular user of our premises.

Our Safeguarding Officer, Kath Davies, has worked tirelessly to ensure that All Saints has covered all the points needed to ensure that we meet the rigorous standards of both diocesan and national safeguarding criteria. In November we were delighted to learn that the Safeguarding Dashboard for All Saints' Gosforth had been promoted to Level 3, the top level. Our thanks go to Kath for her diligence.

Katie Hogg has taken over the role of Vulnerable Adults' and Young People's Advocate after the sad loss of Dee Matthews. Katie's role is to be a local independent person who can help anyone with a concern to bring it to the attention of All Saints (if they need help to express their concern/ experience or are unsure whom they should approach).

Dr Alison Charlewood is now the Domestic Abuse Champion for All Saints'.. She is available for anyone who is concerned about this to chat confidentially for advice on where to get help.

This group has been very conscientious over the year and thanks go to all the members for their commitment to ensuring that ours is a safe, caring church.

**Enid Mitchell (Chair)**

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

In accordance with Church of England procedure the Electoral Roll has been revised. Since the revision 7 people have died so their names have been removed. 7 people have been added to the roll. The Electoral Roll now stands at 221.

**Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer**

## **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN GOSFORTH**

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met during 2021 first on Zoom and later in person at Trinity Church for fellowship, information sharing and planning. Due to the pandemic the service of Prayer for Christian Unity in January had to be cancelled. Despite COVID restrictions, the United Service of Witness went ahead outside on Trinity Square on Good Friday. The 'Space for Share' drop-in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House on a Friday morning continued to be suspended despite meeting in the summer and autumn to review how we better manage the event. In the summer we bid farewell to Revd Peter Holwell at Trinity church and to Revd Jane Nattress at St Nicholas and welcomed Rev Alex Mabbs as the new Minister at Trinity. As in previous years, the All Saints clergy were in charge of the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park but other churches were involved in the Service itself. The 'Open the Book' sessions at Archbishop Runcie and Archibald Street School's did not continue due to a lack of volunteers. Ministers shared and advertised events in each other churches for Christmas.

**Andrew Shipton**

## **ALL SAINTS BADMINTON CLUB**

I think I say this from everyone. It's just great to be back doing what we love to do. So far it's been an uninterrupted season. Only a few weeks left. The season starts the first Wednesday in Sept to the end of April.

We are always looking for new members. Anyone interested please rock up on a Wed starting in Sept 2022. Start 1930 - 2130 in All Saints Centre.

There is a small subscription, with a £2 fee for the evening's play. Most of the income is donated to church funds.

**John Pytlak**

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Over the last year Keeping in Touch has grown from strength to strength as it tries to provide a snapshot of what is happening at All Saints and keep us in touch with friends whom we may not have seen for some time. It was intended to appear as and when we had enough to publish, rather than having set deadlines, and is currently produced every 1-2 months, depending on availability of items and editors!

Keeping in Touch (KIT) was started in the summer of 2020 as a Covid emergency measure to replace the bi-monthly paper magazine In Touch. Like other such measures, people have not only grown used to it but found it has advantages, notably that it can go anywhere in the world, in no time and at little or no cost. For the editors, there is the further advantage of not having to plan the layout in four-page sheets. For those who do not have the electronic equipment to receive KIT, paper copies are still available. As part of living with Covid (which is not the same as pretending it isn't there), we are considering keeping the present format rather than going back to the paper In Touch.

We are delighted at the positive comments we have received, and are aware that it is circulated widely among friends and neighbours, including those who are not currently able to join us.

A dedicated small team of reporters have worked hard to produce news each month, and we are grateful to the increasing number of people who send in items – and pictures.

As we move forward we would welcome any new volunteers, either to pursue and write about items of interest or to act as editors pulling the newsletter together.

**Christine Willoughby, Lesley Atkinson, Dermot Killingley, Ann Cross, Editors.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE**

All Parochial Church Councils are required to have a Standing Committee and all officers of the PCC are automatically members. These are the Vicar, the churchwardens, Christine Willoughby and Paul Wilkinson, lay chair, Peter Brown, treasurer, Fred Carr and PCC secretary, Nick Glover. In addition, each year, All Saints' PCC elects two further PCC members to the committee, and at the moment, these are Katie Hogg and Diana Lavin.

The committee is there to conduct any urgent business arising between PCC meetings, to consider matters in more detail as directed by the PCC and to determine the agendas for PCC meetings. Notes of all Standing Committee meetings are circulated to the PCC.

**Peter M Brown**  
**Lay Chair**

## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

During the Covid pandemic the group kept in touch by sharing a weekly reading and then meditating on our own at home. Recently we have started meeting again on alternate Sunday afternoons at 5.15 pm in the upper room. We are small but fairly consistent in number and try to attend when we can. New members are always welcome and no experience is necessary.

**Charles Foister**

## LOSS ADJUSTERS

As a group, we have been here in spirit if not in body.

I hope you have kept safe and well. But now that responsible socialising is allowed, I hope that we can arrange a meeting of some kind together - maybe at my house over a cup of tea? . It would be good to see you all.

Would members of the Loss Adjusters group and any recently bereaved, please contact me by email ,text or phone if you would be interested in this.

My very best wishes to you all

**Ann Downey**

## BELL TOWER REPORT TO PCC 2021

Following the gradual easing of restrictions over the past 12 months, ringing has now resumed for Sunday services and for Monday practice nights. At first numbers were limited so that no more than 6 were allowed in the tower at a time, and we rang every other bell to keep the spacing to the required distance.

We are now able to ring as before, but have only very recently abandoned the wearing of masks. We keep the doors and windows open to allow a good flow of air and stress that no-one should enter the tower if they have any covid symptoms.

One of our younger ringers has been able to continue with her DofE award, using bell ringing as a Skill at Silver level, and we are pleased to say that she has progressed to offering it again as a Skill for her Gold level.

We have been lucky in that not only have we have retained the band that was ringing before the various lockdown periods but have even gained a couple of ringers who now come regularly to ring for services and to our practices. We also have a new learner – from our own congregation - following the appeal early in the New Year for more ringers, and were recently visited by members of our Scout troop who were interested to learn what bell ringing entails. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear if any of them would like to give it a go and learn themselves.

I would like to thank Stuart Henderson, Yvonne Cairns and Vic Spong for the various and necessary work that they do as part of our ‘senior team’ and my wife Ann who is always on hand to help with the admin.

Keeping a high profile in this way is essential if we are to have a steady flow of younger learners who will in time replace those of us who are beginning to find the climb up the tower stairs a bit of a challenge, to say nothing of hauling our 22cwt tenor bell in and out of methods! That said, there are plenty of ringers around in their eighties and nineties who are still active. We do greatly appreciate the support that we have from our clergy and members of the congregation, and we hope that we will continue to repay you with making a pleasant sound in the weeks, months and years ahead.

**Paul Cross**  
**Tower Captain**

## REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND FURNISHINGS OF THE CHURCH

### **The Church**

The stone step in the north porch was replaced. It had become worn and was a tripping hazard. The DAC was consulted and received an Archdeacon’s Certificate.

A replacement bell box was fitted to the intruder alarm. The sound system amplifier was replaced in February 2022.

### **The Centre**

Part of a down pipe by the porch was replaced. Two plastic sheds were found to be beyond repair and were replaced with new timber-built sheds. To ensure safeguarding of children playing in the yard a fence and gate has been erected to create a separate access area to the lawn mower stores.

A joiner constructed and fitted a replacement bespoke fire door, frame with fan light over, next to the kitchen.

Electric, water and drainage supplies were installed to service the new dish washing machine fitted to the kitchen. The mixer tap to the sink has been replaced.

### **Grounds**

Lighting bollards which illuminate the footpath to the West End of the church were subject of repeated vandalism. They have been replaced with less vulnerable ground lights.

Pin curbs have been installed around the garden at the foot of the steps that lead to the South Porch.

The beech hedge on the northern boundary of the green has been layered to encourage thicker growth.

The Calvary Cross was stolen on Ascension Day but was fortunately recovered by the police although in a damaged condition. A Faculty was granted for its repair on 24th March 2022. The work will be undertaken by Graciela Ainsworth from Edinburgh, who is an accredited conservator, and the costs are being met by the church's insurers. A crowdfunding appeal is about to be launched to pay for improved security lighting and CCTV coverage of Calvary Cross to try to deter further theft or damage.

**Paul Wilkinson and Peter Brown**

### **GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAMS.**

All Saints Garden of Remembrance is important for two reasons. It is a place for the ashes of loved ones to be interred and a haven for those who seek a quiet corner in Gosforth to mourn, reflect, pray and hopefully regain strength. During the turmoil of recent months more people have been drawn to the peace and beauty of our Garden of Remembrance.

Our gardeners who weed beds, mow lawns, maintain paths and grow, prune and care for the plants have created a lovely place which is a great asset to the people of Gosforth. The hard work of our gardeners and grass cutting team who generously give up their time is appreciated by our church and the wider community of Gosforth.

Our team of gardeners are drawn from our congregation. To encourage local residents to volunteer to help the group is also known as Friends of the Garden of Remembrance.

**Paul Wilkinson Churchwarden**

### **LITTLE SAINTS PARENTS/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP**

At the time of last years' AGM, Little Saints was still on hold, not having met since March 2020. So it was with great delight that we were able to welcome families once again in June 2021 for Tuesday afternoons of play and fun. Activities were, at first, limited as 'soft' toys were not allowed and toys could not be shared unless well sanitised between users. Gradually, we have returned previous behaviours though have kept a few extra-hygienic practices such as the easy-clean floor mats instead of soft rugs.

Numbers are small but new families have joined us and tell us that their children look forward to the weekly session. I am very grateful to Alison Davies and Helen Pooley for their help at snack time (and beyond) and to Tricia Maylia for setting out the toys each week with such good humour.

In addition, the group benefits immensely from the regular presence of all our clergy, who have so many other calls on their time but always help to tidy the toys away at 2pm - coincidentally the time for tea and cake. Many thanks to all

If you know of families with pre-school children who would enjoy an afternoon of free-play with snack and songs, do signpost them to Little Saints from 1.00pm until 2.30pm each Tuesday afternoon. They will be most welcome.

**Lesley Atkinson**

## **YOUNG SAINTS**

As we all emerged from the restrictions of lockdown during 2021, so Young Saints gradually returned to previous Sunday morning routines. Outdoor sessions were maintained until the colder autumn weather persuaded us into the Centre again. Children were eventually allowed to move around within the church and are now again welcomed back at the end of the 9.30 service and invited to show what they have been doing.

We have welcomed new families whose delightful young children are a privilege to work and play with. The children usually follow the same themes as the main service, responding to the challenges of the Gospel in ways appropriate to their own experiences. Interpreting stories from a different time and different culture can be tricky but the children usually manage to make the leap and readily see the parallels with their own lives in today's world.

Weekly numbers, though, remain low. For children and young people, church attendance on Sunday mornings was in decline for some years before the pandemic; lockdown appears to have accelerated that decline. Family routines have changed, with many activities competing for precious weekend time. The Renewal and Funding Group has taken on the task of exploring new ways to make All Saints' relevant to families, their children and young people. Your own observations and views would be most welcome and of help with this.

Meanwhile, sincere thanks go to Ann Cross, Felicity Shoesmith, Helen Langley and Allison Quant for their energetic commitment to Young Saints throughout the year.

**Lesley Atkinson**

## **PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE GROUP**

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Group continues to be concerned with how we care for one another as members of All Saints' congregations, as neighbours and with those we come into contact with through baptisms, weddings and funerals. We seek to encourage fellowship among members of the congregation and to welcome newcomers. In order to do this effectively good communication is essential and we are dependent on receiving up to date information about anyone needing pastoral and spiritual care.

In common with many other groups over the last two years, the group's activities have been curtailed by being unable to meet in person or to visit parishioners in their homes. It has sometimes been possible to meet outside but the bulk of the care has been done on by phone and contact with others was most valuably established by weekly Zoom sessions during the most strict periods of lockdown. The group has just begun to meet in person and is endeavouring to ensure that everyone who needs care receives it. One group that is of particular concern is families with young children, not all of whom have resumed attendance at church.

The group continues to send Christmas and Easter cards to those who are housebound – and are most grateful to the Sew, Knit and Natter Group for producing some beautiful cards in the past year, which are always greatly appreciated. The group is also most grateful to Sonya Downing for her lovely cards for those celebrating "significant" birthdays.

It is our aim that all members of All Saints should feel that they are valued and that their pastoral and spiritual needs are met.

**Ruth Birnie**

## **FILM GROUP**

The Film Group was able to start the year in the normal way, with two enjoyable films shown in the Afternoon. After several months of holding our Film Group meetings on Zoom we were delighted to be able to meet again in person from last October. Unfortunately however we could not return to the Duke of Wellington as their room was no longer available, and despite extensive searching could not find any other suitable venue. We now gather in the Upper Room at the Centre and bring our own food (fish and chips for some!) which means we still have time for socialising before watching the film. We use the church projector coupled with a laptop belonging to one of the group, a system which works quite well, although we are thinking of updating this. A downside to this venue is that the



Upper Room is reached by a flight of stairs which could be a problem for some (although both of our former venues could only provide upstairs rooms). Numbers have remained fairly constant at around a dozen or more, and we were pleased to welcome a couple of newcomers to our group recently. Films have been varied and we don't stick to any particular genre, but we do try to choose ones that highlight issues for discussion. If anyone would like to come along please do – we meet on the last Friday of the month, at 6.30pm if bringing a meal or at 7.15pm when the showing starts.

**Ann Cross**

## **PLANNED GIVING REPORT**

There were 137 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2021 compared with 141 at the end of 2020, unfortunately yet another decrease - in the last seven years for example we have lost nearly fifty members (forty-eight to be precise). Most of these have been either through death or because they have moved away and it is therefore essential that we recruit new members to the scheme

As ever we are very grateful for those who contribute so generously.

If you are a tax payer and have not considered signing for Gift Aid please do so as this adds 25% to your donation and makes a considerable addition to our income.

**Margaret Patterson**

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE AND YOUTH WORKER**

2021/22 has been another challenging year for the children and young people of our parish.

### **Schools involvement**

We have continued our links with Archbishop Runcie School for morning worship. I was invited over the school year into Nursery and Reception to talk about special parts of the church calendar – Easter, Advent and Christmas as well as holding a baptism in nursery and explaining what Baptism means to the three and four year olds. Initially we were still leading worship outside with individual classes but with the new school year in September 2021, we began our worship back in the hall with the year groups divided between Andrew Shipton on Fridays (Yrs 3&4) and myself on Wednesdays (Yrs 1&2). Andrew has been in to the school early February 2022 to give a history of the Church to the Staff.

In October 2021 We were invited into Archibald Street School to lead their Harvest assembly. As the year progressed, we also welcomed Gosforth Junior Academy Yr 7 into the church as part of their Religious Education curriculum. The year group split their visit over two weeks and it was a pleasure to see the children engaged in our church history and what happens at worship in church. Westfield School for Girls held their harvest service as did Newcastle School for Boy's Juniors. I managed to go to Westfield School for Girls to lead their Christingle Service just before the Omicron variant caused all of our schools which had planned to come into church for their Christmas services to cancel.

### **Evolution and the Youth Worker**

Our Youth Worker Jamie Donaldson was furloughed at the beginning of 2021 and therefore Evolution did not take place. When he returned to work in April 2021 it recommenced online via Zoom until the group met in person in the early summer. However, to maintain links with our families and young people, several emails, e-cards and Easter activities were sent out by Diana Lavin and Lesley Atkinson – thank you to both.

Jamie Donaldson left employment with All Saints at the end of July 2021. Evolution recommenced with the assistance of Youth4Christ. Two youth workers have since been leading the sessions during the vacancy, which the children value and enjoy.

We are currently in the process of re-advertising the vacancy of Youth Worker. The role has been redeveloped to reflect the changes and challenges we face with sharing ministry and our mission to the younger people of our parish.

### **Café Church and One-off Worship Services**

On 28th February 2021 we held an online Café Church which was greatly received. Online worship is a challenge for all matters of reasons but we managed to deliver an interactive service with hymns (thank you to Diana Lavin for playing the piano), a puzzle to solve to work out what our theme of the day was and interactive prayers. The theme was Lent and 'Mission Impossible'. With the aid of the voice recording of our previous Pastoral Assistant, Isaac Wilkinson, we set some great missions for our participants to think about with the message self-destructing afterwards in true mission impossible style. A new service 'Faith@4' is planned for Sunday 6th March 2022 with the children of Evolution helping to plan and lead part of the service.

On Sunday 11th July 2021 we held our previously postponed Pet Service. The service began at 2pm with bright sunshine. The theme was Noah's Ark. Jamie had just delivered his talk when the sky turned dark and we had rain just like the story. This didn't deter our congregation of humans, dogs, hamsters and stick insects. We all enjoyed giving thanks for our pets and the happiness they bring us. There was an opportunity for people to bring their pets up for a blessing which was gladly taken up. My thanks go to Diana Lavin and Thomas Moorin for supplying the music and to Lesley Atkinson and Valerie Farthing for stewarding and to Andrew Shipton for allowing us to use the church green. Another Pet Service is eagerly anticipated.

### **Easter 2021**

On Good Friday we held a service of 'Stations of Holy Week' on the church green. A big thank you to Karoline Wellborne, Lesley Atkinson and Andrew Shipton for helping to plan and co-ordinate this service. Working on the story of Holy Week beginning at Palm Sunday to Good Friday we walked around the church green to different stations explaining the part of the story. There was time of reflection and prayers and the service ended with hot cross buns and juice which had been carefully prepared and individually wrapped 72 hours before.

### **Christmas services**

Christingle 2021 was delivered in line with our risk assessment. The oranges were prepared by Ann Shaw who also kindly sourced the fruits, candles, sweets, ribbon, aluminium foil and cocktail sticks and to reduce the number of people involved in assembling the oranges, Ann put together 45 individual packs containing the above. The Christingles were assembled during the talk in the service. Our thanks to Ros Place for playing the Piano for us. A very big thank you to Ann Shaw for all her hard work.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service at 2:15 was also undertaken with great care. Ruth Birnie delivered a delightful service with the assistance of Stuart Henderson who played a grumpy inn keeper and Lesley Atkinson who made stars for the children to hold during the service. A thank you also to all who turned up to help the children get dressed on the day.

The Youth Committee have worked extremely hard to help us engage with our young people and families. As we move into 2022, Andrew Shipton and I are thankful for the dedication and input of the Youth Committee.

**Revd Beverley Davies**

<b>MOTHERS' UNION GOSFORTH</b>
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The Mothers' Union monthly meetings resumed, masked and socially distanced, in July 2021 with a strawberry tea. It was lovely to meet in person and catch up with both MU and members news. Cream scones in boxes were taken to members who were unable to attend. A popular start!

By the end of November we were kept busy with the 16 Days of Activism, against Gender-based Violence, display and a candle-lit service on the actual day of Global Action. Once again we filled shoeboxes for the homeless and made a donation to the People's Kitchen which they used to purchase Christmas lunch hampers for their clients. Mothers' Union had a stall at the Christmas Fair. Some members attended the Deanery Advent Carol Service at St. Columba's Church, Wideopen. The last meeting of the year involved carol singing and our usual Christmas party.

The New Year brought a new theme -Transformation – Now!.... from Head Office and with that a change to the roles in our Branch. In line with Mothers' Union regulations Pam Taylor stepped down as Branch Leader and took over as Branch Secretary, while Dorothy Henderson replaced Pam as Branch Leader and Helga Beatty as treasurer. Many thanks to Pam and Helga for all their work over many years.

We have 17 full members and usually have one or two visitors with us at our meetings. In the last three months we have had Dorothy's Commissioning Service, our AGM and celebrated St. Valentine and St. Brigid. Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings on the second Monday of each month at 2pm. You do not need to be a member but, on the other hand, we would love to have more members. Ask us for further details if you are interested.

**Pam Taylor**  
**Dorothy Henderson**

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

Like many other groups, meetings of Deanery Synod were impacted by the covid pandemic and had to be conducted via zoom.

An informative meeting was held in April at which there was a lengthy discussion about the transformation programme and various models of mission. The development of mission parishes, mission hubs and resourcing churches was addressed and it was made clear to us that none of these models would be imposed from above but that it would be for Deanery to say what structure it would like to introduce. It was agreed that more discussion was needed in the parishes about the proposals and how parishes could work together. Parish representatives then gave details of the many different mission initiatives already taking place throughout the deanery.

We were informed about the changes in the system for funding parishes, which will take place over the next few years, and will result in the Deanery paying for the actual costs of clergy in the deanery in future.

Ella Vickers ( Gosforth Parish Church) has been appointed as the Deanery Environmental Ambassador.

The completion of the renovation of the Cathedral building was said to be seen as an opportunity to start building meaningful connections with the whole Diocese.

In September the area Dean, Jane Natrass, announced her retirement from the post along with her retirement as vicar of Gosforth Parish Church. With the post being linked to the church, it has been filled on a temporary basis by Rev Pauline Pearson.

**Diane Kirkup**  
**Deanery Synod Representative**

## **TYNESIDE WELCOMES**

The charity Tyneside Welcomes was brought its first family from Syria in July 2021. That same month two founder members spoke about their work in church one Sunday morning. There was a strong sense that we should follow their example, and by October we had a Gosforth branch of Tyneside Welcomes founded and supported by All Saints Church. The aim of our branch is to settle another refugee family in the North East through the Government Community Sponsorship Scheme.

"Tyneside Welcomes Gosforth Branch" has made amazing progress since we began last Autumn: a big thank you to everyone who has supported us so generously. Our colleagues in other branches of Tyneside Welcomes told us that fundraising would be the "easiest bit" and that has certainly proved the case. Hannah Marshall's delicious Tea Boxes raised over £2000 by Christmas. Monthly cake sales run by Lesley Atkinson and Ann Cross at Parish Breakfast, kept the money (and the baked goods theme) going. We were "Mission of the Month" in February, and there have been numerous spontaneous donations from the congregation and beyond so we have met our £9000 target (this is a sum set by the Home Office which must be available to support a family before one is allocated.)

There is still a lot of more work to be completed such as induction and training of volunteers, safeguarding and other policies, and completion of the detailed Home Office application forms. Thankfully, we are “treading where the saints have trod” and can copy much of this from the group in Forest Hall who have already welcomed a family. We even have a head start with housing (often the most difficult step in resettlement) because a local Housing Association is very well disposed to Tyneside Welcomes. Our next priority is to build a team of volunteers capable of managing the application process and of supporting a family once they have arrived. The Home Office scheme requires that we have named volunteers willing and able to lead on several vital themes, such as: Housing, Health, Education, Benefits, Employment, Safeguarding and Welcome.

We have been delighted and encouraged that we are getting through to the local community and people are joining us from beyond the congregation. This was demonstrated very clearly at the Quiz Night on 19th March 2022 when the Centre was full with many people we hadn't met before. We raised over £1000, but more importantly received a number of expressions of interest from people wishing to join our team. Thanks as always to Hannah Marshall and Dorothy Henderson for putting the event together.

Our aim is to be supporting a family by the time our next annual report is due. If you can join our team of volunteers, or you have connections in the world of public or private housing, do get in touch!

**Andrew Cole**

### **21<sup>ST</sup> NEWCASTLE BROWNIES**

This year we have started to get back to normal again, with our regular weekly meeting at All Saints starting back up again outdoors in spring 2021 and indoors from September 2021. We have also booked our postponed pack holiday for May 2022 with a Queen's Jubilee themed weekend away in Northumberland.

We are so glad to be back to normal and the Brownies have loved seeing their friends again! We have been working towards our Take Action, Express Myself and Be Well Skills builder badges with the Brownies getting involved in lots of activities from balloon races to being environmental detectives.

In December we enjoyed our first unit outing since the pandemic began with a trip to see The Sorcerer's Apprentice at The Northern Stage. All who attended had a fantastic time enjoying the magic of the performance and trying to pinch the leaders ice creams!

21st Newcastle Brownies have also taken part in a number of world events this year including Mental Health Awareness Week, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Thinking Day, Parliament Week, Winter Olympics and Fair-Trade Week. The brownies enjoyed learning about mental health coping strategies, fair trade foods and the UK voting system.

We currently have 27 girls, 2 leaders, 3 volunteers, a young leader and a Guide helper.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are very excited for our Pack Holiday and are hoping to attend the Girlguiding Newcastle County Fun Day in June.

We are also excited to be back at All Saints and taking part in church activities again.

**Lauren Burnett**  
**Unit Leader, 21<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Brownies**

### **21<sup>ST</sup> NEWCASTLE GUIDES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

This year has seen us return to face-to-face Guiding after holding our meetings online since last year. We returned to outdoor meetings in the summer and it was lovely to see the girls in person. We have 18 Guides, 2 Guiders and 2 Unit helpers.

Once we returned to face-to-face Guide meetings, we completed lots of interesting activities, making the most of the brilliant field behind the church. We did a blindfolded night line around the perimeter of the field, created some nature inspired art and had a summer party.

In October we were able to start meeting in the hall again, it was great to be able to play games, make lots of different crafts and enjoy meeting together again. Over the two terms we have returned to indoor meetings we have created paper beads jewellery, made and decorated mug cakes, as well as celebrating international kindness day by playing team games and planning acts of kindness.

The Guides enjoyed creating Christmas trees made out of a variety of recycled objects to display in the hall. They also had great fun making the reindeer hot chocolate and food for the Christmas fair. In the Spring term we have been learning about First aid, friendships, and feelings under the heading of our 'Be well' badge. We also enjoyed theme nights – including Fairtrade fortnight, Thinking Day, and international women's day.

This term we also celebrated a number of new Guides making their promises. We are looking forward to completing many more badges and hopefully an adventurous weekend away as a unit.

We are once again very grateful to the Church for their support.

**Hannah Johnson**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Guide Leader**

## **BEAVERS, CUBS AND SEA SCOUTS**

### **Beavers**

What a year! Can we meet in person? Can we not?

When we did, we decided that we would meet outside, rather than inside – it seemed like the right time of year, the weather was improving – except on a Thursday evening between about 6 and 7 pm! We soon learned that we needed our waterproofs with us!

We created our own OS map on the grass – I'm not sure the Beavers fully understood the grid referencing system, but we had fun.

And then of course Euro 2020 (but in 2021!) and more Cycling with our trusty friend Mel from British Cycling. The link is so strong that Patrick, one of our young leaders, has been working with Mel and British Cycling and is well on his way (he may even be there by the time you are reading this) to his first coaching qualification!

We've been around the world, up into space, engrossed with books, found out all about our teeth (thanks to the student dentists) and had a visit from the Police (luckily no arrests were made this time).

We have also celebrated Burns Night, Diwali, the Year of the Tiger, and will finish the year celebrating the building of the Eiffel Tower.

Sadly for us, Nick has decided to take a well-earned break to follow other commitments – we wish him all the very best (and hope he might come back one day...)

Happily for us, Nick was almost instantly replaced with Paul – a very warm welcome to him (and his son) who has already fitted right in.

Thanks also to the rest of my team, without whom it would not be possible – Ben, Patrick and James. Cheers!

**Oliver & the team**

### **Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack**

The last 18 months has brought lots of change for Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack. We have continued to meet on a Friday night during term time, either in person or virtually via zoom, and taken part in a varied programme of activities, including outdoor, creative, community and world challenges. During the pandemic we have had to adapt how we present this programme, but both leaders and cubs have risen to the challenge admirably! We are lucky to have four dedicated leaders, and have a further three leaders joining us imminently. We also have 3 enthusiastic young leaders from Gosforth Explorers helping the group: Lily, Hazel and Will.

We continue to embrace the scouting concept of #YouShape, whereby the young people taking part have as much say as possible in activities and events that we organise. We have regular pack

forums, where the cubs tell us what they would like to do, and we try to accommodate as many of their ideas as we can.

During times when we were unable to meet in person, we used zoom to maintain regular meetings. We managed to complete the disability badge, and one evening had a virtual meeting with someone who has a guide dog for the blind. We also completed the scientist badge, with cubs performing their own experiments at home over two weeks. We also did origami, the chef badge and held a talent show over zoom!

When we were initially able to meet face to face again, we tried to be outdoors as much as possible to reduce risk of covid infection. We played games on the Town Moor, went litter picking around Gosforth, had a navigation night learning about maps, completed the road safety badge, did problem solving on the church green and helped tidy the church garden. We held a silent disco on the church green, and hope Andrew enjoyed it as much as the cubs and leaders did! We went off site to go on a bike ride near Blaydon, and went skiing at Silksworth.

During this term, we have been back in the hall as usual. Four cubs have earned their silver chief scout award by completing all six challenge badges and as a reward got to be akela for an evening, running the night for the other cubs. We have also run an activity badge night, where cubs could choose which badges they worked towards. These ranged from astronomer to cyclist, air activities to gardening, martial arts to skating, and many others besides. We have planted trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, been climbing and taken part in a sleepover at Beamish Museum. We at last have a cub camp planned for September, our first since 2019. We look forward to planning lots more adventures and camps for the Cubs in the coming year!

**Sarah Parkinnen**

## **ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE**

As we near the end of this Spring term and are looking forward to the celebrations of Easter I am, once again, reflecting on progress in school to date.

I am delighted to say we have resumed "business as usual" at Archbishop Runcie First School and we are really enjoying and appreciating "normal" activities such as welcoming visitors into school, taking children on visits and taking part in whole school events such as World Book Day. We will never again take these opportunities for granted!

Before the summer, staff, Governors and children spent much time discussing our school vision and agreeing two core values for our school. Each week, we talk to children about our school values of love and determination and celebrate their displays of these values in school. This is rooted in the following Bible quote: "Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Last summer, we made the very best of the unusual situation and made adjustments to the plans we had in school. This meant, for example: instead of taking Year 4 children to Dukes House Wood in Hexham, we had our first school sleepover in tents on the field; each class held their own, socially distanced, sports day with traditional races and events; rather than indoor parties we had outdoor picnics and water fights! As it happens, these events were a huge success and we have decided that they will stay in future years!

For those of you who know school or follow us on Twitter, you will have seen that last summer was very busy! We developed a school Wildflower Garden in memory of John & Unny Hall, we hosted a summer sports camp for children across Gosforth and we undertook significant building work to improve the entrance to the school building. This included building a new foyer, landscaping the grounds at the front of school and re-purposing parts of the site. This has made such a positive difference to the day to day running of the school and has received lots of positive feedback from visitors!

In Autumn Term, we were able to re-introduce some "normality" back into school through activities such as Key Stage Harvest Festivals and Nativities that we recorded for parents and carers to watch online. Bishop Christine visited to "open" and bless our new foyer, before she retired, and we even managed a socially distanced Carol Service at Gosforth, St Nicholas'.

Having enjoyed these events so much, we were keen to resume usual Spring Term activities in school such as STEM week, World Book Day and Comic Relief! We are really excited that we can, once again, host our gorgeous Mothering Sunday Service in school too. We are very much enjoying singing in school again and re-learning all our favourite hymns.

The children, staff and wider GST community have been so moved by the reports from Ukraine that children have created a prayer flag and made generous donations to the Ukraine appeal. They really have lived out our school values!

We have been so grateful to both Andrew Shipton and Beverley Davis from Gosforth, All Saints' who have visited ARFS to lead worship come rain or shine throughout the pandemic! We are very much looking forward to a face to face Easter service at All Saints' later in the term.

There have been several changes to governors at ARFS. We are thankful to all those who have contributed so much during their term and look forward to working with some new governors this year.

As we look ahead, we have much to look forward to - Easter and all the plans that our wonderful PTFA have made, the Jubilee celebrations and, in May, I will have worked at ARFS for 20 years! How time flies!

I look forward to writing to you with news of further celebrations next year!

With my very best wishes,  
**Kate Massey**

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH**

### **Sidespeople**

Marion Anderson  
Roy Ashton  
Linda Bates  
Tony Champion  
Marilyn Champion  
Keith Davies  
Ann Downey  
Peter Farquharson  
Lynne Farquharson  
Valerie Farthing  
Nick Glover  
Sue Glover  
Robert Golden  
Margaret Hudgson  
Keith Kennils  
Dermot Killingley  
Helen Langley  
David Ogilvie  
Margaret Patterson  
Rosamund Place  
Nicky Portergill  
Judy Riseborough  
Felicity Shoesmith  
Liz Smith  
Sheila Smithson  
Pat Spong  
Pam Taylor  
Jackie Walby  
Margaret Wilkinson  
Alison Wilson

### **Present Churchwardens**

Christine Willoughby  
Paul Wilkinson