

All Saints' Church, Gosforth
Annual Report
And
Summary Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2016

Incumbent:

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

Church Office:

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Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4ES

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC
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Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AS

Independent Examiners:

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ALL SAINTS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

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 Hall, both of which are in West Avenue Gosforth, and also for two properties adjacent to the hall. The Church Office is located within the Church Hall.

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, 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:

Incumbent	Revd Canon Andrew Shipton	From Sept. 2014
Churchwardens	Mrs Fiona Hurrell	From 2015 APCM
	Ms Diane Kirkup	From 2014 APCM
Deanery Synod representatives Until 2017 (ex-officio)	Mr Peter Brown	
	Mrs Tracey Carr	
	Ms Lesley Atkinson	
	Mr David Jowett	
Elected members Until 2017	Mr James Cartmell	
	Mr Keith Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
	Ms Kath Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
Elected members Until 2018	Mr Nick Glover	
	Ms Alison Proudfoot	
	Mrs Valerie Farthing (Lay Vice Chair)	
Elected members Until 2019	Mrs Pam Taylor	
	Mrs Dee Matthews	
	Mrs Maggi Kennils	
	Mr Tim Watkinson	
	Mrs Rosamund Place	
	Mrs Jackie Walby	
Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio)	
Curate	Revd Captain Steve Dixon (ex-officio)	
Treasurer	Mr Fred Carr, co-opted for 1 year	
Secretary	Mr Nick Glover	

Mr Keith Davies was co-opted in May 2016. Ms Kath Davies was co-opted in July 2016 and serves as the Safeguarding Officer. Mr Fred Carr was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2016 APCM, and continued to serve in his capacity as PCC Treasurer.

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 (the Responsible Caring Group changed its name to the Safeguarding Group) 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

The year 2016 felt like a year in transition, with many twists and turns. It was a year of planning and change, of new arrivals but also of sadness and loss. The story of the year which follows does not acknowledge the on-going tasks of maintaining and developing our complex life. At the heart of our life is worship, encountering the living God. One of the purposes of the church is to be a channel of God's salvation: to show and express his healing, merciful and redeeming power. We do this very practically and the story below illustrates the energy and commitment this requires in our own setting.

First, we are so grateful to so many who quietly get on with enabling the church to function and flourish. I would like to thank Diane Kirkup and Fiona Hurrell for their very hard work, energy and commitment in their service as Church Wardens over the last year. Diane retires this year after 3 distinguished years overseeing great transition. Nick Glover generously took over the role of PCC Secretary and with patience and great competence deployed gifts in administration. Fred Carr has overseen our finances again with such great care, skill and perseverance. Lionel Sainsbury has carefully maintained oversight of our fees. We are grateful to Valerie Farthing who has served as Lay Chair of the PCC and those who give their professional skills to raise funds from grant making bodies, oversee building work, and insurance claims. The choir, the bell ringers, all who oversee the rotas, do a magnificent job. The list of those to thank is endless, for example the flower team, Jackie Walby who does much to prepare Parish Breakfast on a Sunday, the Monday Club, the editorial team that produces the 'In Touch' magazine, those who serve on the Hall Committee and who clean the silver are but a few. Ruth Birnie's faithful service is legendary and Steve's freshness and communication skills are particularly appreciated. We continued to benefit from the ministries of Vic Spong, David Hide and Rebecca Watts. Louise Waugh our parish administrator continues to be a most efficient, competent and thoughtful member of our team.

The year began on a bright note, with a thanksgiving service for a marriage in Australia, the first I have conducted. In January also, many of us benefited from Sessions on Christian Meditation run by Charles Foister at his home. Our hunt for a new Youth Worker began in earnest and help was sought from John Stevenson of Scripture Union for possible partnership for the project. We were clear that we were looking for a Family/Children's Youth Worker who is a creative and imaginative enabler, who can co-ordinate the work with young people, children and young families at All Saints'; somebody to run the Youth groups (OTAS, R group, Evolution) and be involved in Sunday morning worship. Emma Herron who works for Youth for Christ continued to run OTAS and R group as before. There was no Evolution group throughout the year. We were grateful to Rosamund Place and Peter Mitchell too for running the SOS group on a Sunday morning once a month. Led by Steve plans got underway for a Messy Church session in the half-term holiday. Forty nine children and their carers attended,

and was a hugely successful event. Bread making was mentioned as a particularly exciting part of the activities. (Messy Church also took place at Easter – attracting 35 children, in the summer and in the October Half Term). In that same week the Hall lighting was renewed.

The loss of Dr John Charlewood on 16th January was a dreadful blow. John had borne his illness with great dignity and was tremendously courageous. With his lightness of touch, joy and humour and clear perception he remains a great miss.

New Orders of Service were welcomed, prepared by Ruth Birnie and the Worship Committee for Easter and Lent, and later for Baptism with and without Communion. From the beginning of the year a Tuesday Communion Service started at 10.30am – not 9.30, and arrangements were made on every 4th week for a 12.30pm Communion Service to be followed by the lunch club.

An Open Meeting was held on Sunday 14th February. The thinking behind the new Youth Worker post was explained. The Art class in partnership with an organisation called 'Chain Reaction' started on 27th January and became securely established after winning a £490 grant for equipment for the class. The Dementia Support Tea afternoon continued every first Tuesday of the month, 3-4pm, using material from The Discovery Museum. This was later to become (from September), a weekly event. The monthly Lunch Club attracted more than 25 members in February. The Chancel roof repair took place early in the year and the order was placed to renew a sump parapet.

We were very grateful to the family of Ken Patterson for the Pew cushions which adorned our pews in time for Easter. Early in the year plans were also discussed for the Garden of Remembrance Signage and applications were made to funders for the Hall Heating System.

The Lent groups followed a course devised by a local church using a Hollywood movie to introduce themes and build ideas. The film was called 'Pay It Forward' and sections of the film were followed by reflection on biblical passages, discussion and prayer. The discussions embarked upon were thought-provoking and proved relevant to everyday experience. During February Steve and I began teaching RE at Archibald First School and conducting School assemblies.

We distributed Easter cards across the whole parish during Lent prepared by Grace Stewart aged 7. I was asked to speak at the Easter Service of the Senior Newcastle School for Boys and was involved in an A level RE class. During Holy Week there was a series of Compline Services with addresses. A special Palm Sunday service for those with walking difficulties was held in the hall. We welcomed Canon Robert Gage to lead our 3 hour devotion on Good Friday which was much appreciated.

After we celebrated Easter a Parish Meal organised by Pam Taylor was held in Chapel House. At the end of April we also welcomed the City of Newcastle District Scouts to All Saints' for their Annual St Georges Day Service at which over 200 attended.

We were all so shocked and saddened by Len Carr's sudden death on 22nd April and writing 10 months on it still feels unreal. In looking after the Church Hall and carrying out multitudinous jobs around the church to keep us running so smoothly, Len seemed always to be present in our Church life. Len was a beloved husband, loving father, a much loved grandpa and great grandpa, a brother and uncle and our hearts went out to Tracey, Niamh, Victoria, Joanne and all the family in their sudden loss.

Following Len Carr's untimely death a rota was in operation to ensure the Hall was opened and locked each day with bins emptied and toilet rolls replenished. Our thanks to those who stepped forward to oversee the work of the Hall. We still very much miss Len.

David Jowett, our Reader in Training, continued his course and preached at the Parish Communion Services both 8am and 9:30am on Sunday 10th April and on Sunday 8th May, with the second Sunday being videoed.

More sadness came on 11th May with the death of Margaret Horton just before her 100th birthday. Margaret had gone into hospital in March after a fall and many of us visited. Margaret was a loved and revered person. Warm, friendly and humorous, she was determined, there was always a twinkle in her eye, a smile and a knowing look. We have missed seeing her in her pew – smart and aware and so delighted to be there. Margaret's 100th birthday celebration at the Baltic on the Tyne still went on. We thought of her, and gave thanks for her example and today remember her as an inspiration.

On the 14th May 5 candidates from the parish were Confirmed. On that same day we heard more devastating news. Julie Roberts, beloved sister of Louise Waugh, had died suddenly. Julie had been known by many of us through her work at Church House. Our hearts went out to Louise, her sister Jackie and all the family.

On 20th May more than thirty attended the Wine and Cheese at the vicarage for the 'middle-aged' group; finding a name for the gatherings proved a problem throughout the year. Christian Aid week was again a magnificent effort. Our thanks to Leslie Atkinson for her inspirational leadership.

Charles and Vivienne moved out of the Vergers house after 21 years in June and the house went through many changes. Our thanks to Diane who oversaw the project. The Mothers' Union held their 100th anniversary Service on 14th June at which almost 90 people from all over the Diocese attended. We enjoyed the Open Gardens in June and July 2.30-5.00pm. Much to our surprise two solid silver stocks holding Holy Oil were stolen from the church in early June.

A new Mission Action Plan was formulated also in June which had three strands. Firstly, promoting community involvement, e.g. by initiating, developing and strengthening links with a range of groups throughout the local community. Secondly, seeking to achieve growth "inwards" in our fellowship and on our prayer lives. Thirdly, reviewing our work with and to young people and families. The scheme for possible redevelopment of the west end of the Church was also raised later in the year to enable new groups to use Church facilities and also encourage new church members. In addition to this, in early June, a new welcome booklet was produced for newcomers that caught the attention of the diocese. Sadly, the last concert of the All Saints' Chamber Choir took place on 22nd May 2016.

Schools' Week on the theme of Moses, which took place in early June, was very successful with 238 children participating. The week was very much enjoyed by children and volunteers alike. Our thanks to Dee Matthews and the team. The Youth weekend away took place from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June involving twelve young people and four adults. The venue was Seahouses Hostel. The weekend included a visit to Holy Island. On the Sunday the group went to the church on the site and acted out the reading (Luke 9:51-62). Thankfully this year there was no football! However we must not forget our church football teams the Pumas and Tigers who on more than one occasion during the year sang "We are the champions my friend!"

There was much rejoicing at Steve's Ordination to the Priesthood which took place at the Cathedral on 3rd July at 10.00am. Later that day there was a celebration Evensong in church followed by wine and cheese. Steve's first celebration of the Eucharist was on 6th July with Rev Alan Patterson, Steve's Spiritual Adviser, preaching.

Archbishop Runcie School figured much in our church life in 2016. Steve and I are both involved in weekly assemblies. I led a teacher training day on 21st October on the theme of 'The Bible'. I wrote a 23 page booklet explaining how the books of the Bible fit together. In July I also made known a consultation on the proposal of dropping Church attendance as a qualifying criterion for admission. This was initiated by the Director of Education Mr Paul Rikeard on the premise that this would be looked on favourably by the council for further funding. This proposal would change our relationship with the school and have major implications for the Church and members of the congregation. Concerns were aired about how the facts would be presented to stakeholders and also whether any expansion on that site is viable. The actual consultation started in December.

The Archdeacon of Northumberland the Venerable Geoff Miller visited the PCC in July to ask for our help. He suggested plans for All Saints' to oversee St Hugh's Church and the possibility of working more closely with St Mary's, Fawdon and The Ascension, Kenton which were churches that were once served by All Saints'. At that meeting he outlined the present difficulties of St Hugh's with a small and elderly congregation. He explained that it is a parish of some 7000 people and so the scope for mission is considerable and an opportunity now exists to introduce new thinking and a new approach. Geoff's vision was to form a Mission Cluster or a possible Bishop's Mission Order covering the parishes of All Saints', the Ascension, St Mary's and St Hugh's to be involved in working together on mission in that parish. It was necessary that one person would need to take responsibility for the parish of St Hugh's and the proposal is that I would be made Priest-in-Charge, holding the post 'in plurality' with All Saints'. Geoff said that All Saints' was in a good position to lead bearing in mind our resources in terms of clergy. It was felt at the meeting that we could not as a church stand by and see St Hugh's close and while reservations were expressed about how this would be managed it was agreed that the proposal should go forward to the next stage.

In the summer we advertised for the Children's and Young People's Co-ordinator. The appointment was advertised online and in the 'Youth Work' Magazine. The application deadline was 25th May with the interviews on 18th June. We had advertised earlier in the year but the candidates were not deemed suitable for shortlisting. Following interview in June, the post of Families', Children's and Youth Co-ordinator was offered and accepted by Erin Rodenbiker and he started work at the beginning of September.

Phase II of the Hall heating project was carried out in July and August. There were no hall bookings taken while the work was being carried out as it affected the hall, kitchen and toilets. Work also included a redesign of the kitchen and some new flooring. Our thanks to Peter Brown and the Team who oversaw the work. In July the advert for a new Caretaker was widely circulated, with a tweaked job description. Interviews took place in mid-July. Barry Mayne was appointed and started work on 1st September, on a 15 hours per week contract. He resigned on 7th December.

The loss of Shelagh Bulman in August was also a great blow. Shelagh was devoted to All Saints' Church from an early time. Shelagh could tell stories about all the curates, the preparations for parish breakfast in the Old Vicarage and could recall sermons and conversations accurately. Shelagh's funeral was on 10th August.

Many of us walked on the Town Moor on Sunday 21st August to protest against the proposed changes to the Blue House roundabout.

There was a welcome evening for newcomers on 29th September at the Vicarage which was well attended. By September the Verger's house had new tenants and the dog fouling notices seem to be working!

Kath Davies became our new Safeguarding Officer, replacing Roger Rayner who moved to Torbay after many years of service. Deirdre Wheeler also stepped down from being chair of the safeguarding group after many years of thoughtful and devoted service. It was agreed that Kath should be a co-opted member of the PCC. In September following a safeguarding audit, Kath outlined an action plan to update our safeguarding practice which included the need to review our advocate for young people and vulnerable adults; to display information for safeguarding; and to ensure safe recruitment of people to work with children and young people. A successful Open Heritage Day was held on the 10th September and to round it off a Gifts and Talents Auction with Wine and Canapes. Our thanks to Yvonne Carr and the Social Committee who arranged the event, to Marion Anderson who was the Auctioneer and to those who offered gifts and talents and made generous bids. Over £1400 was raised, a brochure with all gifts and talents was published in August.

The church's annual Harvest Hoedown which has become something of a fixture in our calendar took place on Saturday 1st October. This year there was a group of diverse ages – from four to eighty-four – enjoying an evening together. Again there were friends from school as well as from church.

Westfield School held their first Harvest Service at the Church on 7th October two days after the Newcastle School for Boys Harvest Service.

The Beetle drive on Saturday 12th November also proved another successful session for adults and children alike. The rattling of dice, shrieks, moans, laughter and Pam Taylor's whistle, all added up to a most enjoyable hour and a half. We played five games, had a short break for refreshments and a natter, then another five games. After totalling up all the points, the winning couple and the runners-up were applauded and presented with bags of sweets.

Steve and I started services at Moorfield House on the first Monday of the month in September. Eothen was visited almost weekly by the ministry team. The 'Working Age' Group's initial outing was on October 8th – a combined behind-the-scenes and tasting tour at Wylam Brewery's recently-refurbished former Palace of the Arts, in Exhibition Park.

The All Saints' clergy were in charge of the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park attended by hundreds. Steve led the Service and I preached. We were again pleased to give each of our young people a poppy containing seeds, which they could then go and plant in the garden as a permanent remembrance of the poppy fields of the Somme and other First World War battles. The poppies were made by a team from "Choices", based at the Peter Pan Society in West Avenue during the previous week. It has been good to pop in every 2 weeks and establish a relationship.

The Christmas card was this year drawn by Helen Christian. It was delivered to every household in the Parish. This required the assistance of a large number of volunteers to get the cards ready on time and to distribute them promptly. This year, due to a technical error, each card had to be slightly amended. A number of homes experienced the strong smell of Tippex and all the cards were eventually corrected.

The Christmas Fair on 3rd December was a great success. The first planning meeting had been on 20th September overseen by Dee Matthews. On the evening of Friday 2nd, the Scouts had helped a group of stall-holders begin the setting up of the Hall. From 10.30am a steady stream of people began to arrive: some All Saints' folk, parents and children from the various groups using the Church Hall, and many new faces from the local community, all very welcome. There were ideas for two new stalls this year: a used tool stall and an All Saints' Bake Off stall with prizes for the Men's Star Baker and Boy Star Baker.

The School Carol services attracted over 1,500 worshippers and an estimated attendance of the two carol services on Christmas Eve was over a 1,000. A large amount was raised for charities at these services. We were also grateful for the generous response to the "Red Envelope appeal" our attempt to reduce our deficit this year.

On 30th December we welcomed the Northumberland Theatre Company for a production of "Little Red Riding Hood and Other Stories". The adaptation, delivered by five actors, included fairy tales familiar to us and some unfamiliar. A total of 105 tickets were sold and nearly half of those attending were children.

Overall there were 23 baptisms, 26 funerals of which 14 were held in church, 3 weddings, 2 Services of prayer and dedication after a wedding and a Service of thanksgiving after a wedding anniversary. We had a significant number join us and there were sad departures, for example, Professor Claire Lamont moved to Crieff in Scotland to be looked after by her family. We were also sad to lose Jennifer Roddick, remembering how she and her beloved husband George coped with her MS so bravely for many years.

To come back to the beginning, worship is at the heart of what we do and we are grateful to all who assist to make this happen. The church remains a key building in our community and is accessible for more than 7 hours a day each day. We are witnessing visitors every day. Many of our parishioners have long association with us and I discern an increasing interest into our life and

purpose. We look back with thanks and forward with expectation. Much happened in 2016 but I am sure much more will happen in 2017!

Congregation and PCC Meeting Details

There were 254 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2016 (257 on 31 December 2015). The average Sunday attendance counted in October 2016 was 180 (166 in October 2015).

The PCC met 6 times in 2016. The average attendance was 66% (85% in 2015). The PCC regularly receives reports from the PCC working groups and during 2016 the Fabric committee and the Safeguarding and Access group have both provided a wide range of material of great relevance and value to the PCC. Regular updates have also been received from the Deanery Synod. The format of holding Open PCC Meetings on Sunday mornings has continued during the year; there have been three such meetings, open to all members of the congregation and all have been very well attended.

Finance

There have been changes to the structure and content of the finance report due to the changeover to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011. Apart from the structure the main changes are:

- The Old Clergy and Verger's houses are treated as investments and must be given up to date valuations.
- A charity must disclose its reserves policy.
- Any material uncertainties when considering if the charity is a going concern must be disclosed with the trustees looking forward at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved.
- Donations collected for other charities and passed straight on to them should not be included in the income or expenditure.

The accounts show a deficit of £39,877 for 2016 before taking account of the gain of £2,657 in the market value of our investments. However much of this deficit is due to the expenditure of a significant amount of income from 2015 which was unspent at the end of 2015. The accounts at the end of 2015 showed a surplus of £33,513 before investment gains of £395.

Income

Total income, excluding legacies and grants increased from £226,834 in 2015 to £246,361 in 2016, the increase being due to the large amount of donations towards the Church hall heating replacement project.

Planned Giving

There were 165 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2016 compared with 176 at the end of 2015, the reduction caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2015. Planned Giving reduced by £4,021 (£118,333 in 2015, £114,312 in 2016).

Donations

Donations in 2016 totalled £49,724 which included £39,100 donated for the Church Hall heating replacement project and £2,235 from the Christmas red envelope appeal, the remaining £8,389 being from general ad hoc donations. The red envelope appeal also produced £357 of gift aid.

Tax Recovery

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) increased the allowed claim to £8,000 per annum from April 2016 giving £2,000 of additional income, previously having been a claim of £5,000 giving

additional income of £1,250 per annum. For 2016 we have claimed the full allowance. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on donations received reduced from £35,053 in 2015 to £32,970 in 2016.

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 hall assists the mission of the church in the community at large.

Expenses for the year totalled £299,068 compared with £238,621 in 2015. Apart from the Church Hall heating replacement project and other identified high cost projects, significant expenses changes between the two years were as follows:

- The Parish Share was £2,083 higher due to the annual increase declared by the diocese.
- Church repairs and maintenance costs were £2,116 lower due to a reduction in small works being necessary in the Church.
- Caretaker costs were £2,961 lower due to the caretaker position being unoccupied for part of the year.
- Youth Worker project costs were £4,248 lower because of the difference in salary costs between the full time Youth Worker made redundant in March 2015 and the part time Families', Children's and Youth Co-ordinator who started employment in September 2016.
- Verger's house expenses were £7,375 higher due to high refurbishment and improvement costs incurred during 2016.

All other expenses differences between the two years were less than £2,000.

Properties

In order to comply with the Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011 it has been necessary to re-value the houses which have been assigned values as follows:

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

Rents

The hall continues to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties. Rents received totalled £20,003 (£23,180 in 2015).

The Old Clergy House was occupied throughout the year. £8,700 was received in rent against expenses of £2,142.

The Verger's House was occupied for only part of the year. £6,463 was received in rent against expenses of £9,180, considerable remedial and improvement works being carried out during the summer which necessitated the house being vacant for over 3 months.

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 paid totalled £13,892 (£15,467 in 2015).

Church Hall Heating Replacement Project

The Church Hall heating replacement project was carried out in two phases. Phase 1, which includes the Columba and Augustine rooms on the ground floor and the Upper Room and the offices on the

first floor, was completed in the summer of 2015. Phase 2, which includes the main hall and kitchen, was completed during the summer of 2016

Phase 1 is paid for, the final 2.5% retention of £504 being paid during 2016. The cost was £20,160.

In April 2016, the contractor advised that they had made a mistake in the pricing for Phase 2 and indicated that it was necessary to double their tendered price. A re-tender exercise was then undertaken and another contractor awarded the contract, the resultant final price being £49,906 + VAT (=£59,887).

Costs for consultancy services were £4,320 + £1,440 = £5,760.

The overall cost of the Church Hall heating replacement project was therefore £20,160 + £59,887 + £5,760 = £85,807.

This has been paid for as follows:

• Grants from funding agencies:	£39,650
• Donations by Church members:	£38,674 (1) (2)
• Gift aid from donations:	£ 5,060
• Fund Raising:	<u>£ 2,423</u>
Total	£85,807 (3)

- (1) An additional £12,021 was donated by Church members which has been used, with their agreement, for the church hall pointing and damp proofing.
- (2) 18 donations from church members are included in the total amount donated of £50,695 (£38,674 + £12,021) for which All Saints' is very grateful.
- (3) £1,497 of restricted income is held for payment of the hall heating replacement contract retention in 2017.

McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Income held from this fund increased by £404 to £464, with no expenditure.

The Youth Project

In September 2016, Erin Rodenbiker started employment as our part time Families', Children's and Youth Co-ordinator. In 2016 the Youth Worker project income was £16,915 and the costs were £7,276 giving a surplus for the year of £9,639.

Legacies

Credit has been taken in the accounts for legacies and donations in memoriam totalling £2,500 in respect of the following:

- John and Margaret Calvert
- Dr John Charlewood.

£7,000, received in 2015, was spent on pew cushions for the Church and £4,092 was contributed towards floor strengthening, damp proofing and lighting replacement in the Church Hall from the Legacies Fund during 2016.

Bank Balances and Reserves

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2016 totalled £84,342 compared with £123,813 at the end of 2015. Prospectively £67,291 is in the Legacies fund, £21,191 is held for the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £4,633 is held in other funds for particular purposes. However this would result in a negative cash balance of £8,773 in the General Income fund which contravenes the newly introduced Reserves Policy. In order to correct this situation that part of the investments

held in the General Income fund have been transferred to the Legacies fund with the cash value of these investments (£15,901) being transferred from the Legacies fund to the General Income fund. Following this change, the cash in the Legacies fund changes to £51,388 and the cash in the General Income fund changes to a positive balance of £7,030. This is held in the PCC account, together with the £11,312 due from debtors, to meet the amount of £8,929 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has reduced from £78,927 in 2015 to £71,235.

The Gloria Smith fund, which finances the Youth Worker project, increased from £11,552 in 2015 to £21,191 in 2016.

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 is of particular concern and it has been necessary to re-allocate investments between the Legacies fund and the General Income fund in order to provide a cash injection into the General Income fund. During the last two years there has been significant expenses, the main item being the Church Hall heating replacement. Despite this the reduction in our overall funds has been fairly limited which is due to the generosity of the church members. Now that that has been completed we look forward to a period of consolidation. The Parish Share for 2017 has been reduced by about £10,000. We must therefore maintain our focus on Planned Giving, consider other fund raising schemes and reduce expenses by controlling costs and ensuring best value when purchasing items or services.

Statement of disclosure to Independent Examiners

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the Church's Independent Examiners are not aware. Additionally the trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of all the relevant information and to establish that the Church's Independent Examiners are aware of that information.

Trustees' responsibilities

The PCC as trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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
2 April 2017

Independent Examiner's statement to the PCC of All Saints' Church, Gosforth

We have examined the summarised financial statements of All Saints' Church, Gosforth.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the Charities SORP.

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

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1996/6 'The auditor' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised 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 2016.

Date 3 April 2017

D Bulmer

For and on behalf of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants

Floor 11
Cale Cross House
156 Pilgrim Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6SU

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2016 £000s	2015 £000s <i>as restated</i>
Income and Endowments		
Donations, grants and legacies		
planned giving	114.3	118.3
donations	49.7	17.4
income tax recoverable	33.0	35.1
legacies	2.5	15.5
grants for hall heating	9.8	29.8
grants for dementia meetings	0.5	-
	<u>209.8</u>	<u>216.1</u>
Trading activities	35.2	40.0
Income from charitable activities	11.2	10.1
Other income	1.2	3.9
Income from investments	1.8	2.0
Total income and endowments	<u>259.2</u>	<u>272.1</u>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on raising funds	1.1	0.2
Expenditure on church activities		
<i>Ministry</i>		
Parish share	121.1	119.0
Clergy expenses and housing costs	7.2	6.5
	<u>128.3</u>	<u>125.5</u>
<i>Church</i>		
altar requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance	9.8	11.7
roofworks	5.6	-
pew cushions	7.0	-
stone repairs	-	2.9
organist, organ and choir	6.9	7.4
light and heat	4.3	4.9
	<u>33.6</u>	<u>26.9</u>
<i>Hall</i>		
cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance	12.5	11.2
heating system replacement	60.3	24.0
floor strengthening	2.0	-
pointing	10.8	-
damp proofing	1.3	-
lighting replacement	2.7	-
external decoration	-	3.4
light and heat	3.7	4.3
caretaker salary	3.9	6.9
	<u>97.2</u>	<u>49.8</u>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		
youth worker project	7.3	11.5
old clergy/verger's houses expenses	11.3	4.3
church office	16.3	15.7
mission, independent examiner, other costs	4.0	4.7
	<u>38.9</u>	<u>36.2</u>
Total expenditure	<u>299.1</u>	<u>238.6</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains	(39.9)	33.5
Gains on investments	2.7	0.4
Net movement in funds	(37.2)	33.9
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	427.5
Funds brought forward	592.4	131.0
Funds carried forward	<u><u>555.2</u></u>	<u><u>592.4</u></u>

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2016

The funds of £555.2k at 31 December 2016 shown overleaf were held on the following trusts:

	£000s	£000s
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		13.6
The Gloria Smith Fund (£21.2k) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors		25.8
Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £71.2k in the Legacies Fund		515.8
Total funds		<u><u>555.2</u></u>

These funds were represented at 31 December 2016 by:

Properties - note 1		435.0
Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2016		33.4
Debtors and other amounts receivable	11.3	
Bank balances and cash	<u>84.4</u>	
	95.7	
less creditors falling due within one year	<u>8.9</u>	
Net current assets		<u><u>86.8</u></u>

Net assets		<u><u>555.2</u></u>
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Notes to the summarised accounts

1. Properties

The properties comprise 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 houses were re-valued on transition to SORP (FRS 102) at £435,000 (Old Clergy House - £210,000, Verger's House - £225,000). The title to the land on which the Church Hall and the two adjacent houses are situated is vested in the Church Commissioners.

2. Staff numbers and costs

The PCC has employed a part-time administrator throughout 2016, a part-time caretaker from January to April and September to November 2016 and a part-time families, children's and youth co-ordinator from September until December 2016. Their salary costs including employer's NI and pension costs totalled £24.4k (£25.5k in 2015).

3. Related party transactions

Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Captain Steve Dixon amounted to £2.0k. The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Captain Steve Dixon have occupied houses attached to their appointments. Costs borne by the PCC in connection their houses totalled £3.4k. No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2016.

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 2 April 2017, 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 2 April 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Shipton

Vicar, Chair of the Council
2 April 2017

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

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Mission giving

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

		From Special Collections	From Church Funds	Total paid 2016			Total paid 2015
Mission of the Month							
January	Cedarwood Trust	888	-	888	Cedarwood Trust		741
February	Samaritans Tyneside	731	-	731	Samaritans Tyneside		562
March	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	1,082	-	1,082	Archbishop of York Youth Trust		733
April	Church Mission Society	663	-	663	Church Mission Society		554
May	Marie Curie, Elswick	427	-	427	Friends of Murambinda	1,137	
	St Oswald's Hospice	384	-	384	Hospital, Zimbabwe		
June	Cornerstone	611	1	612	Cornerstone		795
July	Mission to Seafarers	744	-	744	Mission to Seafarers		668
August	PCDC	859	-	859	PCDC		1,562
September	Northumbria Deaf Church	741	-	741	Northumbria Deaf Church		804
October	Society of St Francis, Byker and Walker House	934	-	934	Society of St Francis, Byker and Walker House		733
November	The Street Pastors	756	-	756	Youth for North East		739
December	West End Refugee Service	941	-	941	West End Refugee Service		577
		9,761	1	9,762			9,605
Other donations							
J Charlewood Funeral and Good Friday	Amnesty International	1,014	-	1,014	Amnesty International		78
Easter Day	Save the Children	401	-	401	Red Cross Syrian Refugee Appeal		565
Christingle	Children's Society	219	-	219	Children's Society		242
Christmas Eve	Changing Lives	1,040	-	1,040	Church Urban Fund		939
	Shelter Box	873	-	873	Shelter Box		905
Christmas Day	Red Cross	584	-	584	Red Cross		466
Other charities		-	-	-	Other charities		2,667
		4,131	-	4,131			
		13,892	1	13,893			15,467

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 small addition from church funds listed is included under miscellaneous expenditure - other costs.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will take place in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL
on SUNDAY 30th April 2017 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 17th April 2016 – for approval

3.3 Matters Arising

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (*pp. 1-13*)

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 (*pp. 15-16*) – *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.

3.8.4 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

All Saints' Church Gosforth

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 17th April 2016 at 10.45am

In the Church Hall

Present: Revd Canon Andrew Shipton, Lesley Atkinson, Helga Beatty, Revd Ruth Birnie, David Bland, Jean Buckley, Sonia P Downing, Fred Carr, Yvonne Carr, James Cartmell, Marilyn Champion, Tony Champion, Andrew Cole, Anette Cole, Angela Crabtree, Keith Davies, Edith Davison, Rev'd Stephen Dixon, Clare Dixon, Ann Downey, Marie-Claude Fawcett, Valerie Farthing, Charles Foister, Marjorie Forster, Elaine Gabriel, Sue Glover, Nick Glover, Phoebe Gooding, Richard Gooding, Noreen Gray, Dorothy Henderson, Stuart Henderson, David Hide, Hilary Hide, Katie Hodgson, Margaret Hodgson, Fiona Hurrell, Patrick Hurrell, Elizabeth Inglis, Beryl Johnson, David Jowett, Lulu Jowett, Maggi Kennils, Diane Kirkup, Claire Lamont, Debbie Matthews, Dee Matthews, Chris Matthews, Elizabeth Norris, John Norris, Joyce Nutt, John Nutt, David Ogilvie, Lesley Ogilvie, Jennifer Pugh, Roger Rayner, Asima Riaz, Judy Riseborough, Molly Ridley, Lionel Sainsbury, Pat Sainsbury, Marjorie Shipton, Pat Spong, Vic Spong, Pam Taylor, Jackie Walby, Alfild Wellborne, Karoline Wellborne, Deirdre Wheeler, Margaret Wilkinson and Pauline Wood.

Opening prayer led by Revd Canon Shipton.

1. Appointment of Clerk: Anette Cole was appointed clerk for the meeting.

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the two positions of Churchwarden: Diane Kirkup proposed by Judy Riseborough and seconded by Meriol Penn, and Fiona Hurrell proposed by Margaret Patterson and seconded by Edith Davison. Both were elected unopposed.

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Keith Kennils, Christine Willoughby, Linda Bates, Tracey Carr, Enid Green, Enid and Peter Mitchell, Meriol and John Penn, John and Helen Scott, Margaret Patterson and Thomas Rayner.

3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26th April 2015:

Approval was proposed by Marjorie Forster, seconded by Nick Glover and agreed nem con.

3.3 Matters arising:

None.

3.4 Comments and Questions arising from the Annual Report (pages 1-11):

None.

3.5 Financial Report and presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015

Fred Carr began by informing the meeting that the full accounts could be obtained from the office or himself; the generally distributed accounts are a summarised version.

In February 2015 Fred had produced a budget, which forecast a deficit for 2015 of £35,500; the actual result had been a surplus of £33,500, which he explained was misleading because income of £28,500 had been received and could only be used for particular purposes, but had not yet been spent; the actual surplus was therefore only about £5,000. Also The Gloria Smith Account (for the Youth Project) had a surplus for the year of over £10,000 and the Legacy Fund had a surplus of £8,500.

In the General Fund only £5,500 remained plus £3,500 balance between debtors and creditors, which means the £100,000+ in the bank is mostly restricted income, which cannot be used to pay the day-to-day expenses.

A policy with regards to the Legacy Fund has been drawn up to clarify how it may be used to fund major capital projects in the Church and Church Hall.

The Hall heating fund requires about another £18,000 plus the cost of the consultant's supervision and replacement carpets and decoration. We have been advised we can expect £8,900 from SITA, and there are other grants in the pipeline, likely to total in excess of the amount required.

Mission giving was up by about £2,000 to £15,500; the second year in a row we have seen an increase. In previous years the trend had been one of reduced mission giving.

The houses made a profit of £12,500 (income £16,800; expenses £4,300). The profit in 2016 would be less as work is necessary to be undertaken in the Verger's house (estimated cost at £4,000), and there would be a loss of rent while the work was being carried out.

Fred finally advised that there were two errors in the Mission Giving, p. 15 of the report:

- the February charity was Samaritans Tyneside, not Reaching the Unreached and
- the September charity was Northumbria Deaf Church, not The Church Army.

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts

In response to a question from David Jowett, Fred gave the following figures re the total value of cash and investments (excluding the McMahon fund, but including creditors and debtors):

1st January 2014 - £121,009

31st December 2014 - £118,672

1st January 2015 - £118,672

31st December 2015 - £152,410

In response to a question from Margaret Wilkinson, Fred confirmed that the Youth Worker, currently being recruited, could be paid for from the current income.

3.5.2 Approval of the accounts

Fred was thanked for his meticulous work, and approval of the accounts was agreed nem con.

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Reappointment of Haines Watts, the present Independent Examiner, was proposed by John Nutt, seconded by Vic Spong and agreed nem con.

3.6 Report on changes to the electoral roll:

The roll stands at 256; five names have been removed, including three deaths, and five new names have been added, leaving the amended roll still at 256.

3.7 Comments and questions on the Annual Report (coloured pages):

Pam Taylor commented she was amazed at reading The Annual Report how much we do at All Saints. Karoline Wellborne apologised for the lack of a Book Group report this year, but also took the opportunity to praise the work of the Amnesty Group, which had fought a successful campaign last year. Andrew Cole thanked the congregation for their continued support and faith in the Youth Project; currently seven enquiries and one application for the recently advertised 24h/wk Youth Worker post have been received.

3.8 Elections and appointments

Rev'd Andrew Shipton thanked those who had served on PCC, whose term for various reasons came to an end at this point. Anette Cole was thanked for having served as secretary for the past few years and presented with a bouquet as a token of the council's appreciation.

3.8.1 Scrutineers:

The churchwardens were appointed to be called upon, in case scrutineers should be needed.

3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council.

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Pam Taylor	Jackie Walby	Marjorie Forster
Dee Matthews	David Hide	Christine Willoughby
Rosamund Place	Valerie Farthing	Hilary Hide
Jackie Walby	David Jowett	A.F. Anderson
Tim Watkinson	David Jowett	Helen Watkinson
Maggi Kennils	Joyce Nutt	John Nutt

As the number of vacancies exceeded the number of nominees Karoline Wellborne proposed, Ann Downey seconded and all were in favour of electing the six nominated candidates to serve on the Parochial Church Council for three years.

3.8.3 Appointment of sidesmen and sideswomen

The current list was deemed correct, and the people listed were duly appointed to serve for the coming year; proposed by Richard Gooding, seconded by David Hide and agreed nem con.

3.9 Vicar's report

In Vicar's Annual report there is a detailed account of 2015 and the beginning of 2016.

Andrew started by acknowledging much more could have been included and apologised for what he may have missed out. He continued by thanking all who have worked hard to maintain but also develop the life of the church. He thanked a number of key people by name: the church warden's Fiona and Diane, the ministry team Ruth and Steve, also Louise and Len; Fred our treasurer, Richard who plays every Sunday(!), Roger Rayner, who has contributed to the life of the church particularly as our safeguarding officer and also Anette Cole who is now retiring from many years on PCC and a stint serving as secretary.

Andrew's message was about how our most important task as a church is to discern what God is calling us to be and do, and how it is vital that we be embedded in the life of our community, faithfully obeying our calling as agents of transformation in our world. How we must make all our groups open to all, so that new members can benefit from the support we enjoy; we need each other.

He pointed out that we work hard, encouraging our young and senior members, but that we must also look to increase the quality of our fellowship between those of working age, and a meeting in May is to address this.

Andrew has coined the phrase going from 'a club to a hub', being a place where people in the community can come together for encouragement, and where needs are appropriately addressed, which goes hand in hand with looking outward, working for growth of all kinds; both numerically and in depth of faith.

The way we worship communicates what we really value, and the sermons must reflect a vision of a renewed world, and Andrew hoped the new Service booklets have helped. He said: "I am not here to give an interesting talk but describe a world which reflects the value of the kingdom of God which we work towards in our giving in all kinds of ways and to attract others. We are working to hold services which are understandable and vibrant."

He recalled how quiet Sunday used to be, and how different it is now, making his point: "There is so much you can do on Sundays that unless Church has something authentic and spirited to offer, people will just not come. Increasingly that seems true. We compete with so much. Our worship must be thoughtful, accessible and lively."

Andrew finished by asking us to do three things: pray for the recruitment of a new young parents, children and youth worker coordinator; offer our help with one of many tasks we as a complex organisation rely on volunteers to fulfil; and he also encouraged us to discuss with a pew neighbour what we had heard - what our challenges for the next year are and how we should tackle them.

3.10 Declaration of Election Results

N/A

4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

In response to John Norris's question re increase in church attendance, Andrew said it was up only marginally, and Ruth responded it was difficult to report numbers with accuracy, and that we have lost a few elderly parishioners; others are unable to attend and some have moved away.

Somebody commented it was a shame very few young parents were present at this meeting, which was simply explained by the fact that they need to get away after the service, and see to the needs of their young family.

Andrew Cole added not just the quality of Worship is important, but also the quality of the Welcome; we need to make people feel part of it when they're here.

Hilary Hide highlighted the importance of the support offered by all the activity groups run at All Saints', which is essential for developing our fellowship. Deirdre Wheeler agreed, saying she was hugely encouraged by the work carried out by the "grey warriors". Roger Rayner took the opportunity to thank the organisers of the Sunday afternoon service, the quality of which had impressed him greatly.

Steve Dixon summarised the feelings of the floor, reiterating the wealth of ways in which people engage at All saints', and derive a sense of belonging. Steve thanked people who had helped with messy Church, stressing its importance – it may be the only church for the people, who attend.

Diane Kirkup encouraged people to talk to people, who may be visiting our church - since the sandwich board at the church front door has been in place, people have been coming in.

To finish Andrew wished to remember and thank all those who do things 'under cover'.

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND FURNISHINGS OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

The Church and adjoining buildings were inspected in January of this year as required. Following the substantial work mentioned below, the buildings are generally in a good state of repair and should hopefully require only routine maintenance for the next year.

Church: Following the granting of faculty applications at the end of 2105, we took delivery in February of sixty pew cushions generously paid for out of the estate of Ken Patterson. In March the long awaited repair to the chancel roof was carried out, largely paid for by a generous anonymous contribution from a parishioner. The plaster work is now drying out and will be redecorated at a future date. Following continuing problems with the hearing loop, further work was carried out by a sound engineer, which seems to have at last resolved the difficulties. After concerns were expressed by a neighbour, remedial work was carried out on many of the trees in the grounds, removing overhanging branches. Four trees were condemned and removed. Replacements have been planted in consultation with the City Council tree officer.

Church Hall: In February the overhead lights in the hall were replaced with LED panels, which greatly improved the light situation. The hall was closed to the public for six weeks during the summer so that major work could take place. The main item was Phase 2 of the heating replacement project, which was completed satisfactorily two days before the start of the new term. The closure of the hall allowed us to lift up and strengthen a portion of the hall floor which was sagging badly. We also carried out damp proofing work in the staircase area, ladies toilet and gents toilet. Whilst the last two appear to have been successful, further damp has appeared on the staircase. The company who carried out the work have inspected it recently and will be coming back during the summer to carry out further remedial work at no expense to us. The other major piece of work in the hall was the partial repointing of the outside stonework, which should finally put a stop to the water ingress in the kitchen and damp in the Columba room. Again, replastering of the kitchen wall will have to wait until the summer recess.

Church Houses: Following the departure of the long standing tenant of the verger's house, a full refurbishment had to be carried out before the house was relet commercially. Complete redecoration and recarpeting, along with removal of obsolete fixtures, has resulted in us obtaining a new tenant very quickly and at an increased rent. No further major expenditure is likely to be necessary unless required by new legislation.

I have mentioned here only the major pieces of work. A list of all the other repairs and maintenance carried out during 2016 have been put in the Log Book.

So many of the congregation help in different ways but, this year, two groups of people deserve particular thanks in relation to the hall. The group who worked so hard and so successfully to obtain grant aid to pay for the heating system and, also, the anonymous parishioner who gave such a generous donation to meet the shortfall required.

In my last year as churchwarden, I would also like to take a personal opportunity to thank Peter Brown. He has successfully overseen the church roof repair and the completion of the hall heating system and he has been an invaluable source of advice to me over the months.

I had intended to leave no work outstanding but, thanks to an abortive attempt to steal non-existent lead from the church hall porch roof, work will have to be carried out to fix it and some flashing nearby. Being an optimist by nature, I shall end by saying I am hopeful that the next year will not bring any major unexpected expenditure.

Diane Kirkup

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

In accordance with Church of England procedure the Electoral Roll has been revised. Since the revision 5 people have died and 2 people have moved away so their names have been removed. 5 People have been added to the roll. The Electoral roll now stands at 254.

Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer

PLANNED GIVING

This year there are currently 165 members in the Planned Giving Scheme; in 2009 we had 242, since when numbers have been steadily decreasing. As I said last year, it is really essential that we try to recruit new members to increase our annual income.

Members donate monthly, quarterly or annually and as many people are taxpayers and have signed Gift Aid forms we are able to reclaim tax at the rate of 25% which makes a significant addition to our income. We are very grateful to all those who contribute so generously.

Margaret Patterson

8.00AM MORNING SERVICE

Worship with Holy Communion takes place each Sunday at 8.00am at All Saints'Gosforth. This service, with a sermon, involves the richness of the Episcopal liturgical tradition, while doing so in a flexible, inspiring and engaging way. Being early it always attracts the same group of parishioners who care for one another. Worship at All Saints' seeks to connect on a number of levels, which provides opportunity for reflection and takes seriously life and the life of faith. Our life together is growing greater awareness of God's presence and we are called individually and collectively to embody God's presence in the world

We recognise the complexity of the world, demanding critical thought and compassionate action for the strengthening of society. We believe that wonder is the beginning of wisdom and trust. All are welcome before God.

Marie-Claude Fawcett

11.30AM INFORMAL SUNDAY SERVICE

11.30 service continues every first Sunday of the month. Hymns are projected onto the screen and accompanied by a guitar and piano. The service has been led by a variety of volunteers including Karoline Wellborne and Ade Adeyemi. The service is usually planned a few weeks before and the tasks of leading prayers, a children's presentation and bible reflection are allocated between the service leaders. The service continues in different forms to attract a number of young families and others who wish to worship in a particularly relaxed setting. Refreshments are offered after the service which leads to a time of fellowship and mutual support. We look forward to promoting a Café style church in 2017.

Andrew Shipton

MISSION AND JUSTICE GROUP, INCORPORATING CHARITABLE GIVING

During 2016, we have continued to support twelve nominated organisations on a monthly basis, along with other worthwhile nominated organisations by open plate donations from Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas collections. On behalf of the Mission and Justice Group, can I thank you all for your most generous support both in prayer and giving throughout the year to all these organisations.

Missions of the Month supported in 2016:

The Cedarwood Trust (L); Samaritan's Tyneside (L); Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe (I); CMS (I); Marie Curie / St Oswald's Hospice (L); Cornerstone (L); Mission to Seafarers (I); Practical Compassion for Destitute Children (PCDC) (I); Northumbria Deaf Church (L); Society of St. Francis, Byker & Walker (L); The Street Pastors (L); W/End Refugees Service (WERS) (L)
(Organisations: L = Local; N = National; I = International)

Additional missionary giving:

Good Friday – Amnesty International; Easter Day – Save the Children;
Harvest Festival – gifts to The People's Kitchen and open plate to Northumbria Deaf Church;
Christingle Service – The Children's Society; Christmas Eve Carol Services were split between – Changing Lives and Shelter Box ; Christmas Day – Save The Children

As always, we provided the congregation with details of the work carried out by all the above organisations through articles in the weekly pew sheet, In Touch magazine, literature displayed on the notice board at the back of church and on the All Saints' web-site. Where provided, planned giving envelopes were made available in the pews. It was also good to see that we continued to have, during most months, our nominated monthly organisations providing a speaker to talk about their work at one or more of our services in their nominated month.

The Mission and Justice group has, for many years, overseen All Saints' annual house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week. We are asked to collect in 70 streets within our parish and, in 2016, we distributed and collected envelopes in 50 of those streets (with a few more volunteers, we could visit all 70 streets in 2017!). We also hosted A Big Breakfast - a new venture for Christian Aid Week. Andrew Cole and David Jowett prepared a mouthwatering Big Breakfast for everyone following the 9.30am service to give Christian Aid Week an energy-filled start. Together, the breakfast and house-to-house collections enabled us to send over £3,300 to Christian Aid. Sincere thanks go to everyone who cooked, collected and counted donations.

Finally, I would like to gratefully acknowledge, the time put in on our behalf by Louise Waugh, Parish Secretary, and the In Touch Editorial team for editing the articles in the weekly pew sheet and In Touch respectively, also to the Treasurer for ensuring my spreadsheet figures match his each month! My thanks also, for all the continued time and effort that members of the Mission and Justice Group put in to their individual responsibilities within our remit.

Chris Matthews

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Group has continued with its role of oversight of the various means of communication used by the Church and the outreach mission of the Church.

We have had various discussions about the general outreach role, covering areas such as the relationship with local schools, Heritage Open Day, and the various groups that use the Church premises.

Specific issues we have looked at during the course of the year include:

Website – we are undertaking a general view of the website, both in terms of content, some of which is now dated, and style.

Facebook – the desire to make the page more interactive has been thwarted by the way the page is set up which limits the ability of people other than administrators to post. As Facebook appear unable to come up with a solution to this known issue, the current plan is to set up a completely new Facebook page.

Wikipedia – the work to set up a page for All Saints in Wikipedia continues.

In Touch – various suggestions for content and circulation have been made.

Paul Christian

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The members are the vicar, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the two churchwardens, the lay vice chair and two elected members from the PCC.

The work of the committee, is the management of our finances, the fabric of the buildings and of our employees. With contributions from several sub-committees and groups, we prepare the way for PCC decisions on buildings and finance, and if necessary conduct urgent business between the bi-monthly meetings of the PCC.

Valerie Farthing

LOSS ADJUSTERS

The group continues to meet on the first Sunday of every month. We have a leisurely lunch together at a nearby restaurant, knowing that we share a common bond – the loss of a husband. Men are welcome but often have other arrangements at lunchtime. We usually have a minimum of eleven of our eighteen members having lunch and enjoying each other's company. We find this to be comforting, supportive and enjoyable.

Pauline Wood

SENIORS' WEDNESDAY OUTINGS

The service has continued every 1st Wednesday of each month over the last year. Regretfully for many months last year without me as the driver, as I was in hospital, however Gosforth Community Minibus organisers continued to provide a driver every month in my absence. I know only of two destinations they went to, one was Wheelbirks Farm for their prize winning Ice Cream and also on another occasion a visit to Hexham.

We have also been to some favourites, a drive up the coast and stopped at Seaton Sluice and visited the Castaway Cafe, who provide home cooked food, with in season Crab and Fish salads and a selection of mouth-watering cream cakes. We also visited a couple of Garden Centres and in December had a special visit to the Continental Christmas Market in Newcastle City Centre, made so easy by having the convenience of the facility of Blue Badge parking by the Grainger Market, allowing one of our wheelchair users easy access to all the stalls.

It was decided from past year's experiences not to hold a run in January & February due to the weather not being kind for outside activities. The arranged run in March to Howick Hall had to be cancelled due to low numbers and last minute cancellations, however the driver took the opportunity to make a personal visit on a bright and sunny day to see the famed snowdrops and other spring flowers in the well-kept gardens, and a not to be missed visit to their cafe.

For those who missed the treat, I enclose a photo of one of the areas of snowdrops in the spring sunshine.



Keith Kennils

THE 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.

The group is alert to the situation of those who need to be visited at home and is also responsible for overseeing occasional afternoon services for those unable to get to church on a Sunday morning. We also send Christmas and Easter cards to those who are housebound – and are most grateful to the Sew, Knit and Natter Group and Sonya Downing for producing some beautiful cards in the past year, which are always greatly appreciated.

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

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Our Safeguarding Committee continues to ensure that every effort is made to make All Saints' a safe place for people of all ages and abilities to join together for worship and activities. Our policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and this year we participated in a Diocesan wide safeguarding review which helped to highlight some improvements which have now been addressed. You may have noticed the new posters around our buildings which help to signpost people to agencies where they can access confidential support and the poster with photos of those who can be contacted in the event of a safeguarding issue or concern. We are now beginning to operate the Diocesan online DBS application which we hope will streamline the process.

My thanks to those who continue to faithfully serve the group, to Roger Rayner who left us this year and Deirdre Wheeler who stepped down from Chairing the committee after steering the group for many years. Also thanks to Kath Davies who has taken on the role of Safeguarding Officer and Alison Charlewood, who has joined the committee.

Steve Dixon

SOCIAL AND EVENTS GROUP

We have had a busy and positive year as a committee.

We began 2016 with a Pie and Pea supper on the 16th January. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent way to welcome in the year.

In April we enjoyed a meal together at Chapel House.

We were thrilled to celebrate Steve's ordination on the 3rd July with a reception, and on the day of his first communion we held a picnic after the service.

On the 10th September we held an auction evening of time and talents.

At the end of September we held a Harvest hoedown which has become a firm fixture on the calendar of All Saints'. Once again, the church was filled with people of all ages who enjoyed an evening of dancing and fellowship.

In November we held the Beetle Drive, which appealed to both the young and young at heart. Pam did another excellent job at keeping everyone in order with her whistle.

Our time was then taken up with helping out and serving refreshments at various Christmas events and services, including the Crib service and the Advent Carol service.

Plenty more action planned for the coming year to appeal to all ages.

Many thanks for the support and energy of everyone on the committee.

Hilary Douglas

SUNDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES WITH TEA

Harvest Sunday and Palm Sunday again saw small congregations come together to celebrate Holy Communion and enjoy fellowship in the church hall. Each simple communion service was followed by afternoon tea, greatly enhanced by a performance from the Semitones Orchestra whose time and talents were much appreciated.

The purpose of these afternoon celebrations was to enable those who cannot join our morning services, to share worship with others in a supportive environment.

As always, the afternoons could not have happened without the generosity of everyone who gave their time to provide transport, bake, serve tea, welcome guests, provide music and, of course, clergy who conducted the services. Sincere thanks go to everyone involved.

The importance of these afternoons, spent with members of the All Saints' family who we perhaps see only once or twice a year, cannot be over-emphasised. If you know of anyone who might like to come along to future afternoon services, please do let me or the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Group know.

Lesley Atkinson

LITTLE SAINTS

Little Saints Toddler and Parent Group has continued to welcome young children, along with their parents or carers, in the church hall every Tuesday afternoon from 1.00 - 2.30pm during school term time. Although most live locally, we have also welcomed families from other areas of the city. Numbers have fluctuated greatly but, some weeks have seen over thirty children have fun, explore, try early crafts, enjoy music and share snack-time in a relaxed social context. Santa made his (anticipated) annual visit in December; all children were rated as being 'very, very good'. As well as providing for toddlers, the group, as its name suggests, has provided a support network for their responsible adults, giving the opportunity for adult chat and time to enjoy a coffee and cake - thank you Lorna, for preparing the snacks and washing up afterwards!

The group is organised and run by volunteers from All Saints' with considerable support from our vicar, Andrew, and curate, Steve whose continued involvement is greatly valued. Thanks must also go to Erin, Children and Young Families Co-ordinator, for his help and support with the group.

New families and helpers are always welcome - weekly commitment is not necessary. If you know any families with young toddlers, do spread the word. If you have any spare time and energy yourself on Tuesday afternoons, come along to give a hand - and share the coffee, cake and fun.

Lesley Atkinson

YOUNG SAINTS

Looking over reports from the past few years, this report promises to be much of the same 'business as usual' with the number of Young Saints remaining around eighty and the children continuing to be very busy in their three groups of 3-5s, 6-8s and 9-11s where they explore the theme for the day, or do something totally different but equally relevant, in ways appropriate for their age. Attendance fluctuates but we regularly have up to thirty children with us on an average Sunday morning,

The first and third Sunday morning of each month has begun with singing; we are very grateful to Rosamund Place who plays the piano for us. We have our favourite songs and Ros has extended our range wonderfully.

The three age groups have usually worked independently but Schools' Week gave the opportunity for all ages, parents included, to combine their skills and work together during May to create a stunning piece for Moses, which was displayed in the main entrance to the church.

Young Saints have enjoyed being part of the All Together Services on the last Sunday of each month. In addition, although not under the umbrella of Young Saints, many of our younger children have enjoyed the Messy Church sessions, held during the school holidays, when they have been able to explore the church and participate in Bible-based activities along with other families.

The leaders and helpers who volunteer on a rota basis do an amazing job in providing fun, and often challenging activities for our children. **Thanks go to everyone who has been involved during the past year.** Our main challenge for the forthcoming year is to maintain leadership for the three groups as the bank of leaders is slowly diminishing. If you would like to explore how you could support Young Saints, do join us one Sunday or have a word Andrew Cole or Lesley Atkinson.

Lesley Atkinson

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK REPORT

Had I been writing this report a month ago, it would have been unequivocally positive. It is a great shame that Erin Rodenbiker who took up post as our Part-Time Family, Children's and Youth Co-ordinator last September, resigned at the end of February. However, the work that has been done by Erin and many, many others over the past year has not been wasted. The experiences and relationships fostered by the Project over the past 12 months will continue to influence scores of us, young or not so young, and for good.

After a flurry of activity organising the interview for our new worker last June, the committee (complete with Young Person's rep') has been meeting at least twice a term to provide support and guidance for Erin. One of our early decisions was to merge the two fortnightly youth groups into one larger weekly group. As a result, OTAS Wednesday night group for young people has been meeting weekly in term time since September. It has been great to see the kind of supportive friendships we saw among the original OTAS members 15 years ago, still growing in the current group of 8-10 regular attenders. Erin's gentle leadership and quirky humour was important in this process and will be missed. Erin, supported by Andrew Shipton and Steve Dixon, had also contributed to increasing our presence in local schools with weekly visits to Archibald Street and Newcastle School for Boys.

A small army of amazing volunteers continues to welcome families, children and young people into the life of All Saints' through a variety of activities. I'm thinking of Children's week ("Joseph" last June and "Noah" this year), Little Saints toddler group, Christingle and Crib services, The Pantomime, Youth Weekends, Messy Church, Young Saints, SOS and 5 a side soccer. We should all be extremely grateful to them.

So despite the disappointment of losing Erin, we have had a good year and can be optimistic about our goal of helping young families and young people to engage in the life of the Church. The generosity of donors to the Youth Project remains a necessary as ever. We may well need to employ

sessional Youth Workers as we did last year to keep the midweek groups running, and will of course need to recruit a new substantive worker as soon as practicable. One particular project which we had expected Erin to be working on this summer urgently requires a paid worker. The Evolution midweek group for 7-10 year old's, was suspended last year and we need to seek out, enthuse and recruit children and willing parents to reboot this important way in to our fellowship.

Andrew Cole

OTAS

OTAS meets every Wednesday night in the Upper Room of the Church Hall for fun, games, and community. The average attendance is 8 students with a range of ages 12-18. The group has created a close-knit community, with a particular highlight being the All Together Meal where the youths prepare, cook, and clean up a simple meal. The meal comes complete with candlelight, music, and table cloth. The group answers "Pressing Questions" like UK-US relations and the likely existence of unicorns. It is a wonderful time of learning, responsibility, and building community. There is also a dedicated group of adult helpers that join in on the activities. Without their support the group would not be able to happen.

Erin Rodenbiker

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union meetings continue to be held at 2.00pm on the second Monday of every month and have all been well-attended. We still have a committee of seven and at the time of writing this report, we have twenty members 'on the books' – seventeen full members and three official 'friends of the Mothers' Union.'

Our monthly meetings involving speakers included a visit from Lynne Craggs (Marketing Co-ordinator) who not only gave twenty people an interesting and illustrated talk in the afternoon in March, but returned in the evening to speak to another group of twenty – tea and cakes in the afternoon, wine and nibbles in the evening. Vic Spong gave an enlightening talk about the bell-ringing at All Saints' and Jennifer Brown brought us up to date with MU Faith and Policy matters. Ruth Birnie told us about her holiday in India and, of course, we had our 100th anniversary celebration in June – a sung Evensong enjoyed by members, invited guests and members of the congregation, followed by splendid refreshments and a celebratory cake!

After the summer break, Chris Dixon astounded us with her amazing quilts, Marion Anderson told us all about the wonderful suffragettes in Newcastle and in November our President, Barbara Packer, talked about our five overseas links – four in Africa and one in India. That brought us up to the time for the Christmas Shoe Boxes for the homeless when we managed to fill twenty-three boxes – same as last year and most commendable. We had a good total for our Preserves and Presents Stall at the Christmas Fair, and two enjoyable parties – one in the hall and one between Christmas and New Year at my house when people like to get together after the Christmas rush.

Now to recap on other activities not held in the Columba Room. We were at the cathedral one Saturday in February for the commissioning of new diocesan officials and trustees, and a few of us were there again, recently, for paying-in day and midday prayers.

We've been represented at two Diocesan Council Meetings (March and October) at St. John's, Kingston Park. I hope that more members will try to attend in 2017 because council meetings give us a much clearer picture of what the Mothers' Union is doing throughout the diocese.

We had a Lady Day Eucharist in April (postponed from March) and visited St. Columba's Branch, also in April, for their 20th anniversary. The Strawberry Teas afternoon in July went well and we were able to send £145.00 to AFIA (Away From It All). In August, we enjoyed our Mary Sumner Day

outing – mid-day Eucharist in the Church House Chapel, fish and chips at North Shields and a run up the coast and back by Seaton Delaval for ice creams. Who says the Mothers' Union's boring?

In January 2017, we discussed our programme for the year and in February we held our AGM. At the last meeting (March), Steve Dixon gave us an illustrated talk, titled 'Helicopters'. He spoke about their origins and development and about the hobby he loves – restoring an old helicopter and its engine to good condition for the Sunderland Air Museum.

Omitted to say that we had again filled twenty emergency hospital bags towards the beginning of last year and will provide more this year when they are needed by the RVI. Anyone is welcome to come along to our meetings – no need to be a member.

Pam Taylor

MUSIC

The choir has had another productive year. Membership has been largely stable. We have been pleased by developments in our Youth Choir. They recently sang a service of Choral Evensong by themselves, giving a good account of Toney's Durham Service and White's Prayer of St Richard of Chichester. We have reinstituted the RSCM's Voice for Life training scheme and were pleased in March to present our first awards to Patrick Hurrell, Lydia Hills and Phoebe Gooding.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge. We are always keen to hear from young people to sing treble/soprano and from adults to sing alto, tenor and bass.

Richard Gooding

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN GOSFORTH

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met monthly for fellowship, information sharing and planning first at St Charles Presbytery and later in the year in our Upper Room. Those participating have included St Nicholas, The Society of Friends, Trinity Church, and All Saints'. Among the subjects we have discussed have been how to respond to the 'Pokémon Go' interest in our buildings in the summer, the changing nature of Gosforth and our own particular understandings of 'mission'.

The Space for Share session on a Friday morning has continued with 15 and more participants regularly enjoying friendship and support. The refreshments are free and those who call in receive a warm welcome in the name of 'Christians Together in Gosforth'.

A Service for the week of prayer for Christian unity was held at All Saints' in January. We held a united act of Witness at Trinity Square on Good Friday and a Service of Carols in December with children from Gosforth East Middle School and at which Erin Rodenbiker spoke. The Remembrance Day Service arrangements this year fell to Steve Dixon but involved clergy also from St Nicholas and Trinity Churches. It was even better attended than 2015 with hundreds gathering to remember in silence.

Andrew Shipton

ALL SAINTS' AMNESTY GROUP

Our Amnesty Group's most important function continues to be the writing of letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience. We do not always know the effect of writing letters, but we do know that in some cases letters result in prisoners being released, in their conditions being improved or in their families and friends being granted access to them. In April last year, we learned that Mahdi Abu Dheeb, on whose behalf we had appealed, was released from prison in Bahrain.

Letters are available on the fourth Sunday of each month (except August and December) and you are warmly invited to join us in the church hall after the 9.30 service for letter writing or take a letter at the Church door to write later. In December, instead of writing letters, we send Christmas greetings to prisoners and their families. We are very grateful to the faithful group of supporters from All Saints' congregation who take letters from us every month and who took part in our greetings' card appeal.

Our annual vigil to remember prisoners of conscience is always a very moving occasion and it was held, as usual, on Prisoners' Sunday in November.

We are a small but committed group, and new members are always welcome.

Marilyn Champion

FILM CLUB

We have enjoyed another successful and sociable year in the Film Club. We have watched a total of seven films since last April, ranging from the off-beat humour in the true story of "The Lady in the Van" to the very different issues posed in "The Theory of Everything", following the life of Stephen Hawking and "The Imitation Game" in which the wartime work at Bletchley Park is featured. The variety of films that we include have been a real feature of the programme.

We usually have a group of sixteen to eighteen people gathering at the Gosforth Hotel. Many of the group enjoy a sociable meal together before the film, after which others join us to watch the film and conclude the evening with a short discussion of the issues and ideas that have been raised. Everyone is welcome to join us, on a regular or just a one-off basis and if you have a film that you would like to suggest, please do bring your idea forward!

Nick Glover

SEW, KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Our group continues to grow.

We are still involved with knitting warm woolly hats for Seafarers, tiny garments for premature babies, prayer shawls and a one-off project for Age Concern where we made tiny pom-pom hats for Innocent Smoothies!

We contributed to the Time & Talent Auction by making another Nativity Set which raised £25.00. This resulted in a further two orders. Our fame is spreading!

We had a very successful stall and raffle at the Christmas Fayre, a beautiful wreath was coveted by many! The 'Red Riding Hood' pantomime shortly after Christmas was even more enjoyable when a knitted Red Riding Hood and scary wolf created by our group were won in a Children's Raffle. This year the group created at least 25 knitted sheep to travel round the parish with the Posada. Each family kept a sheep and they were all returned at the Carol Services on Christmas Eve.

We are now looking ahead to Easter and are creating an Easter Garden for use in Young Saints. One of our members has been commissioned to embroider a plaque to commemorate the opening of the All Saints' Centre.

A very busy year! The group is warm and welcoming. Why not come along one Wednesday morning between 10.00 am and 12 noon and see what fun we have.

Ann Shaw and Sue Finkill

ALL SAINTS' TOWER REPORT

Our band has continued to thrive this year. Those who began a couple of years ago are now becoming seasoned ringers and are a great credit to us. Two more learners started in September and are now ringing for services. Another two have just had their first lesson at the time of writing. We have more young ringers than many other bands in the District, perhaps even the country! This all illustrates our commitment to ensure that this age old pastime continues into the future.

Some of our younger ringers have used bell ringing as a Skill for various levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

It is not all about the young ringers, however and we have a very full spread of ages. We also have a strong team helping the Tower Captain; particular thanks go as always to Vic, Stuart, Yvonne and Ann. We always have willing volunteers when asked, especially the teenagers, who give up much of their spare time assisting new learners.

Recently we have bought some new ropes to replace those that were becoming worn. The new ones have Terylene tops which reduces wear and avoids the situation when, in wet weather, the rope absorbs water and "jumps the wheel" making ringing more difficult.

What are the advantages of bellringing? It is an exercise in concentration, increasing learning ability and attention span, which can be very relaxing...in its own way! There is a good social side and it encourages people of all ages to mix together. It is gratifying to see our younger ringers in particular growing in confidence...but enough of the commercial!

We are lucky that we have a beautiful ring of bells at All Saints' and that our Vicar is very accommodating when we ask if we can ring on occasions other than service times.

Paul Cross

BADMINTON CLUB

Yet again we have enjoyed a season of exercise and fellowship which has been attended by adults from the All Saints' parish and surrounding area. We have been pleased to welcome two new members this season. We play hard but always with a light heart and friendly banter. The season lasts from the first Wednesday in September to the end of April. We meet in the Church Hall on a Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until about 10pm. The numbers do vary from week to week but there is never a long wait to go on court. There is an annual subscription together with a fee for the evening's play and most of the income is donated to church funds.

John Nutt

GARDENING GROUP

At the time of writing membership of the Gardening Group has dwindled and now Valerie Hedley and myself are the only regular 'gardeners' in the Garden of Remembrance.

We must however give credit to those who look after the main grounds around All Saints' who cut the grass and sweep away the leaves in 'our' area, as this is much appreciated.

The main focus of the work Valerie and I do is to ensure that as far as possible there is something of interest in each season of the year, whether it be bulbs in the spring, roses and other flowering plants in the summer, colourful foliage in the autumn and tidy borders in the winter.

With the 'restructuring' of the Garden of Remembrance a couple of years ago, it is easy to look after, and mainly requires light weeding, dead-heading of plants and general tidying.

If anyone is interested in joining us and giving a hand, either regularly or on an occasional basis, please do get in touch with the Church Office, who will pass on details to either Valerie or to me. Gardening is so much more fun in company!

Ann Cross

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

18th Newcastle Brownies

We have enjoyed another interesting and fun year at Brownies, carrying out a wide and varied programme including crafts, drama, sports, baking and our end of term parties. We have also enjoyed working towards many badges and Girl Guiding challenges.

We look forward to Andrews's visits, especially when we are invited to the Joseph Celebrations, which we always find really fun and interesting. We also continue to proudly carry our flag during the Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival services.

In spring we had a lovely trip to Beamish with other Brownie packs from our Division. It was a fabulous day and was enjoyed by all who attended. We hope to plan another trip, as a pack this summer, as we all love Beamish museum.

In June we took part in 'National Den Building Day' to raise money for 'Save the Children'. Our families and friends came along to help us with the challenge of building our 'dens' on the church green. We had a lovely evening, finishing off with a picnic. We thoroughly enjoyed this challenge, and were able to raise much needed funds for this wonderful charity.

We continued our support with the Cats Protection Society, and had two very interesting workshops, where we learnt valuable information regarding cats and were able to fundraise at the same time.

This year we decorated glass candle jars of all shapes and sizes for All Saints' Christmas Fete. We had great fun decorating them and they also proved very popular at the fete. We felt very honoured to have our remaining jars displayed in church over the Christmas period.

We feel very fortunate and proud to be part of the All Saints' family, and would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew, Steve and Louise for their continuous support. Tricia and the 18th Newcastle Team.

Tricia Maylia

21st Newcastle Brownies

This year has been fantastic for Monday night brownies. We currently have 28 girls, 5 leaders and 2 Young Leaders and a Guide Helper! Our leaders have been steady this year and we are looking forward to welcoming back a leader who has been away for a year again in September.

We have been able to carry out a varied programme of activities over the past year; with numerous challenge badges including the Scottish Highland Badge and the Team Working Challenge Badge. The brownies have enjoyed the variety of outdoor activities including star gazing and climbing. This year we have also supported the Royal British Legion by completing a sponsored walk, collecting items for military care packages and attending the Remembrance Day service.

Pack Holiday this year was at Powburn Activity Centre in Northumberland where we celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with a themed street party! We were able to spend time outdoors with the brownies taking part in create stacking and archery as well as getting mudding while playing on the adventure play area.

This year we have also completed a number of badges including the Out and About badge and the Entertainment badge. The brownies have also taken part in the Division trip to Beamish and are looking forward to joining North East England's trip to Flamingo Land this year.

At Christmas we went out for pizza and had a fabulous time (even if we did make a bit of a mess) Overall the 21st Newcastle Brownies have had a fantastic year and are very proud to be part of the All Saint's family.

Lauren Burnett

21st Newcastle Guides

We continue to have an exciting and thriving Guide Unit.

We have 22 Guides, 2 Guiders, 1 Unit helper and 3 Young Leaders.

Throughout the year, we enjoy a great range of activities, such as origami, games nights, preparing for Harvest, arts and crafts to remember Armistice day, chocolate badge work and of course the Christmas coffee evening and party.

Some of the other activities, (apart from badge work and challenges) we have enjoyed have included outdoor cooking, bowling, a visit to the Pantomime and we are hoping to make a visit to the beach when the weather is a bit warmer!

Our Guides have also been to Kingswood in Hexham on an Adventure Weekend where we enjoyed activities such as abseiling, climbing, archery, zip wiring, team building and mini Olympics.

As part of the Community Action and Chocolate Badge individual patrols learnt all about Fairtrade fortnight, finding out about different Fairtrade foods and what we can do to help. We have fundraised for Church through the Christmas fair and hope to raise even more money for a variety of charities throughout the year.

We are looking forward to another Adventure Holiday in May as well as having a full and exciting programme planned for the girls.

We continue to be very grateful to the Church for their support.

Hannah Johnson

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SEA SCOUTS

Beavers

What a year – possibly the most memorable event was our re-enactment of the St George & the dragon story. It did not quite go to plan, but the beavers did themselves proud. Inspired by the story, we later spent an evening doing archery (luckily not real arrows!). We have also been to Pets at Home and heard lots about some weird and wonderful pets – some that many of us did not fancy having in our homes!!

Inspired by the wonderful Olympics and Paralympics, we had an evening experiencing sport from an alternative point of view. To recharge ourselves, we held The Great Beaver Bake Off, and we all enjoyed eating the results!

To fit in with firework time, we borrowed an air-powered rocket launcher to fire our paper rockets – many managing to travel the whole length of the hall.

At the turn of the year, we proudly celebrated Burn's night (thanks, Trev) followed by Chinese New Year rooster making and most recently, a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital (students from the university explaining all about different medical things).

Goodbye to Geraldine, who has been a great help in recent years, and welcome to Jon (and family) who has seamlessly stepped in to fill her place.

We're currently looked forward to another busy year.

Oliver Williams

Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack

2016-17 has been another productive and energetic year for Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack. We continue to have a full complement of 24 children in the pack ranging from 8 to 10½ years old. The Cubs meet on a Friday night during term time and take part in a varied programme of activities, including outdoor, creative, community and world challenges.

We have undertaken two successful camps in the last year. In June we enjoyed a group camp at Dilston, just outside Corbridge. This was a joint camp with the Beavers and Sea Scouts with the theme of survival, and we had fun building fires, shelters, problem solving and having campfires. We had lots of fun together. In September we had a Cub camp at Selby Wood, just outside Morpeth. We enjoyed a weekend of bush-crafting skills with fire-lighting, backwoods cooking, catapult construction and lots of games. The combine harvesting in the adjacent fields at 3am only added to the fun!

The Cubs took part in the Remembrance Parade in November, and we had an informative visit from the Royal British Legion to tell us about the Poppy Campaign, and where the money raised is used each year. We have visited Gosforth Fire Station, and completed our fire safety badge. We visited the local synagogue in Graham Park Road, and learnt lots about the Jewish faith. We celebrated Chinese New Year in January. We were lucky to be the first group granted a tour of the Greggs factory at Longbenton, and saw pasties and sausage rolls being made for distribution around the UK. There was some tasting involved too, which the cubs were only too happy to be involved with.

We have cycled in Derwentside, been ice skating at the Centre for Life, trampolining in Newcastle and we have been swimming at Jesmond Pool. We had an autumn evening in Exhibition Park, enjoying the play equipment there, and completed our road safety badge on the long walk home. We cheered on the local Eagles basketball team in a very close match recently. We also took part in the annual Jamboree on the Trail, when scouts from all over the UK take part in a walk on the same day. We walked with the Beavers along the beach at Warkworth that day.

One of the highlights of the year was taking part in celebrations to commemorate the 100th year of Cubs. Around 200 cubs visited Beamish museum for the day and we had a group picnic and photographs taken. The day culminated in a huge sing-song together at the end.

We have a fantastic team of leaders who make all this possible for the Cubs. We also have 3 young leaders who are an invaluable part of the team, all completing their service section of Duke of Edinburgh awards. We look forward to planning lots more adventures and camps for the Cubs!

Sarah Parkinnen

Sea Scouts

We have had another varied programme of activities for the Scouts this year. We had camps at Moor House in County Durham and at Dilston in Northumberland, and spent a weekend participating in water activities on the Tyne based at Derwenthaugh Sea Cadet Centre. We also joined the 100th Heaton Scouts for dragon boating in Durham. Our Expedition Challenge weekend saw the Scouts hike around Kielder Reservoir over two days, carrying most of their kit, and spending the night at the Hawkthirst Scout Camp. We also hiked along the coast from Sunderland to North Shields (via the

ferry) on a spectacular day in May last year, and over Simonside near Rothbury a few weeks ago. A small number of Scouts had the chance to spend a day on the St Aidan patrol vessel of the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Authority (NIFCA), and we had an interesting visit to the Bridon rope factory in Wallsend. We are also happy to report that a group of our Scouts won the district-wide "Super Patrol Challenge" this year, which involved map-reading, first aid, pioneering and other activities. You can see the trophy in the Church Hall cabinet. Other than having lots of fun and games, some of the activities during our troop nights included: map reading, knots & rope work, performing skits at our Christmas party, learning about fire safety and world poverty, bonfire night, and stop-motion animation.

We have maintained our links with the church, helping to create a mini Mt Sinai for All Saints' Children's Week, attending the Remembrance Sunday parade, and helping out at the Christmas Fayre. We also enjoyed visiting the bell tower and finding out about the basics of bell ringing with Ann and Paul Cross, and learning about helicopters from Steve Dixon. Many thanks to them!

However, the highlight of our Scouting year must again have been our weekend on a Tall Ship - last September, we chartered the 'James Cook' from the Ocean Youth Trust and had a fantastic time sailing from Royal Quays up to Blyth and then down to Hartlepool. We try to make sure this is an annual or semi-annual event. We are also planning more camps and hope to be seen at the forthcoming Mothers' Day and St George's Day services and are also keen to help with some more gardening and general maintenance within the church grounds.

On a final note, we do have a few places left within our Scout Group. So, if you have a son, daughter or friend who may wish to join us, please feel free to contact Dona Skaife (gosforthscouts.montagu@gmail) to discuss current availability.

Bob Shuttle

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE FIRST SCHOOL

As usual as I write this report we are approaching the end of the spring term and looking forward to the wonderful celebrations of Easter. Reflecting on the events of the last year it is clear that it has been no less busy than previous years. At the end of last academic year Mrs Armstrong, a long-standing member of staff, was successfully promoted to a Deputy Headship. We were, of course, delighted for her but sad to see her go. Miss Burns joined us to teach Year 4 and we also welcomed two new teaching assistants, Mrs Durr and Mrs MacIver, to be joined later by Miss English. We welcomed back Miss Stokes to cover Mrs Mann's maternity leave and were thrilled to celebrate the safe arrival of Joshua Mann; we look forward to welcoming Mrs Mann back towards the end of the Summer term. At the end of the Autumn term our School Business Manager, Mrs Bunn, and one of Teaching Assistants, Miss Bunn left us to take on their own business and Mrs McCloud joined our office team.

Our curriculum continues to inspire and enthuse both children and staff. As always, we try to provide learning experiences for the children that further encourage their love of learning and high standards of achievement. An addition to our work this year has been a series of Forest School days when, regardless of the weather, the children spend a significant part of the day outdoors exploring and appreciating the wonders of creation. They focus on developing personal, social and emotional life skills through learner led nature-based learning and are immensely popular with the children, especially roasting 'treats' on the fire pit!

Gosforth Schools Trust has continued to develop with ever closer working. It really is a very positive relationship which has multiple benefits for the schools involved. Joint training and the shared employment of curriculum consultants makes for economies of scale as well as shared approaches to various aspects of our work and joint moderation sessions ensure that there is a shared understanding of standards across the Trust as well as an opportunity to share good practice. The Trust schools have all supported Daft As A Brush as our adopted charity and members of the Trust Schools' Council visited DAAB House to learn more about the work of the charity which was then shared with children back in school. Year 3 and Year 4 recently took part in the Virgin Money Make £5 Grow Challenge. This

enterprise project provided a valuable vehicle for extending the children's maths skills and their Coffee Afternoon, at which they sold various crafts they had made, ensured the children made £244 profit which they presented to Daft As A Brush.

We continue to promote healthy and active lifestyles involving the children in several sporting events and festivals this year as well as running a series of active before and after school clubs. Our Quicksticks (Hockey) team is due to take part in the finals of the inter-schools tournament and Year 3 are taking part in a Tennis festival. Our footballers are 'raring to go' and looking forward to inter-schools competitions next term.

We have just experienced a Section 48 Inspection – SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) looks at four key areas of the school, Christian distinctiveness, Worship, Religious Education and Leadership and Management. It is five years since we were last inspected and we eagerly await the outcome.

Each term this year brings with it new opportunities for reflection for me as I prepare to retire at the end of the Summer term. I have had the privilege of leading this school for nineteen years and have seen it grow and develop in so many different ways. When I was part of the campaign to save All Saints' School in the early eighties (in my first teaching post) little did I think I would one day return as Headteacher! The process is underway to appoint a successor and a new chapter in the life of Archbishop Runcie CE First School awaits.

Julie Robson

LADYBIRD @ ALL SAINTS' PLAYGROUP

We have enjoyed another successful year at Playgroup. In the summer we held a Graduation Ceremony as we said goodbye to a lot of our children as they started school. We have welcomed lots of new families. At Christmas we enjoyed a lovely trip over to All Saints' Church, where Andrew kindly showed us the statues which were ready for the Crib. We sang Away in a Manger and had a lovely time. We also enjoyed a trip to see Fenwick's window and the Hancock Museum. We welcomed in our families and had a lovely Christmas party. We made lots of crafts with our grownups, had a party snack and did lots of singing and dancing. We had lots of fun with an 'Ice Experiment'. Someone froze some of our toys in ice and we had to work out how to melt it. The children have also enjoyed lots of sensory activities, including shaving foam, beans and custard and creating lots of lovely crafts.

Julie Adamson

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

Sidespeople

Brian Adcock
Anthony Anderson
Marion Anderson
Roy Ashton
Linda Bates
Yvonne Carr
Marion Cave
Tony Champion
Paul Christian
Keith Davies
Edith Davison
Ann Downey
Howard Elcock
Peter Farquharson
Lynne Farquharson
Marie-Claude Fawcett
Charles Foister
Hilary Hide
Margaret Hudgson
Keith Kennils
Maggi Kennils
Dermot Killingley
Paula Laws
Margaret Patterson
Ethel Randall
Judy Riseborough
Helen Scott
John Scott
Liz Smith
Sheila Smithson
Pam Taylor
Jackie Walby
Margaret Wilkinson
Christine Willoughby

Present Churchwardens:

Diane Kirkup
Fiona Hurrell