

All Saints
Gosforth



Annual Report to
Parishioners
2020

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

All Saints' Church, Gosforth
Annual Report
And
Summary Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2019

Incumbent:

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

Church Office:

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

Bankers:

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

Independent Examiners:

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

ALL SAINTS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Objectives and Activities

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

The All Saints' mission statement is:

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

The main activities of the All Saints' PCC are:-

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and commercial.
- the provision of regular public worship that is open to all.
- the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- the provision of pastoral work including the visiting of the sick, the elderly and the bereaved.
- the teaching of the Christian faith through sermons, home groups, youth and children's meetings and links with local schools.
- the promotion of the Christian faith through various events for the elderly, parents, children, young people and other special needs groups organised by the clergy and PCC and through the distribution of the parish newsletter and magazine.
- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod or the Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the PCC on any particular matter.
- giving advice to the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the PCC.
- raising such matters as the Council consider appropriate with the Diocesan Synod or Deanery Synod
- repairing and maintaining all Church buildings, and raising the money for this purpose.
- providing proper insurance for all aspects of the parish life.
- responsibilities under the Health and Safety, 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	Mr Paul Wilkinson	From 2018 APCM
	Mrs Rosamund Place	From 2017 APCM
Deanery Synod representatives Until 2020 (ex-officio)	Mr Peter Brown (Lay Vice Chair)	
	Ms Diane Kirkup	
	Major Constance V Maselino-Okai	
	Mrs Pamela Taylor	
Elected members Until 2020	Mr James Cartmell	
	Dr Claudia Newbegin	
	Mrs Felicity Shoesmith	
	Mrs Jo Errington Stevens	
	Ms Karoline Wellborne	
Elected members Until 2021	Mr Nick Glover	
	Ms Alison Proudfoot	
	Mrs Karen Parkhouse	
	Mrs Nicola White	
	Mrs Dorothy Henderson	
	Mrs Katie Hogg	
Elected members Until 2022	Mrs Christine Willoughby	
	Mrs Diana Lavin	
	Mrs Ethel Randall	
	Mr Chris Jenkins	
	Mrs Lesley Ogilvie	
Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio)	
Assistant Curate	Revd Beverley Davies (ex-officio)	From Sept. 2019
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Kath Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
Treasurer	Mr Fred Carr, co-opted for 1 year	
Secretary	Mr Nick Glover	

Ms Kath Davies was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2019 APCM and continued to serve as the Safeguarding Officer. Mr Fred Carr was co-opted at the same PCC meeting, and continued to serve in his capacity as PCC Treasurer.

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

The Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, the Churchwardens, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and two elected members of the PCC, has the power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings. The Standing Committee deals with detailed operational issues concerning the deployment of resources (buildings, money and staff) within the overall strategic framework determined by the PCC, and reports to each Council meeting. A sub-group of the Standing Committee, the Fabric Committee, deals with more detailed fabric issues. Working Groups of the PCC meet regularly and conduct business on behalf of the PCC. One or more of these groups provides feedback at each PCC Meeting. These groups act as official sub-groups of the PCC covering between them all areas of church life and mission: Pastoral, Education and Discipleship, Outreach and Communication, Mission and Justice, Social and Events. All PCC members serve on at least one of these groups, most of which also have co-opted members from the wider congregation. The groups meet approximately four to six times a year and report regularly to the PCC.

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

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

Vicar's report

Last year went fast for me partly because 2019 was the year of my sabbatical. Consequently what I report may well be short of detail over the 3 summer months. This vicar's report is part of this much larger one of the activities of the past year which attempts to illustrate plans and faithful hopes of a church which thrives; which struggles sometimes; but tries to stay faithful to the witness of the living presence of Jesus Christ in the changing world in Gosforth and beyond. Again, I can only capture a flavour of the year and inevitably I will leave out people and events, for which I apologise. We have a great team to run a complex operation and so much goes on unseen. One insight from my sabbatical was that our organisation and so administration is not unlike that of a small Cathedral and that of our life depends on goodwill and cooperation.

Much could be said of Ruth Birnie's steady and faithful Service which has continued for many years. We are indebted to her for her commitment and dedication. We are grateful also to Vic Spong and Rebecca Watts for their contributions to our life. Rosamund Place and Paul Wilkinson have given unstintingly of their time and as Churchwardens. At the annual meeting we will be giving thanks to Ros for her devoted service for the past 3 years. Louise Waugh has overseen much of our operations and must be one of the most conscientious and competent Parish Administrators in the Church of England. Tricia Maylia has again taken great care of the church and Centre and helped to oversee funerals and weddings. The interior of the church and grounds look in a far better condition than they have for years. Fred Carr is more a financial director than a treasurer, and has carefully overseen our finances as well as coming to the rescue at St Hugh's in the summer. We are indebted to him for his hard work. Nick Glover has performed the role of PCC Secretary with patience and great competence. Margaret Patterson who is Planned Giving Secretary also played a vital role. Peter Brown has generously given time to oversee the fabric of the church, the Centre and properties. Chris Bolland agreed to take on the role of Fees Treasurer, for which we are grateful. Our thanks are given to Lionel Sainsbury for his many years of service in this role.

Our thanks too to many others. Chris Matthews has overseen our Charity of the month, Pam Taylor and others have offered pastoral care and practical support. During the year we noted that the numbers of people available for rotas was reducing and a recruitment drive was needed. We are grateful to those who continued and those who are new. Jackie Walby continues to prepare Parish

Breakfast before many arrive for the Parish Communion Service. Paul Cross and the ringers make sure our life as a church is broadcast every Sunday, Brian Smith has scaled the Church Tower to fly our St George's flag and the list could go on. Our thanks are also given to Rev Sarah Moon for spending 3 months with us in the summer. Sarah's secondment at All Saints' and St Hugh's was the first for the diocese so there was no precedent to follow. I know she much enjoyed her time with us.

Devotional life

A deepening of faith was an aim adopted at the beginning of the year. Lent Groups met to study a course based around material produced by 'Churches Together in Britain and Ireland' called 'The Mystery of God'. Members of the congregation gave talks about their road to faith at Evening prayer during Lent. Sadly, the Guided Prayer sessions on a Wednesday evening offered by a team from the diocese during that time had to be cancelled due to a lack of uptake. The Revd Canon Peter Kenney led a three-hour devotion on Good Friday. During November a group discussed the book 'A Future That's Bigger than the Past' by Sam Wells. We reflected on how All Saints' might respond afresh to its vocation of receiving God's abundance and sharing it far and wide. The Christian Meditation Group has met every other week.

Social

We had a full social calendar during 2019 and Diana Lavin produced a social activity sheet which was very helpful as we moved through the year. After we celebrated Easter, Pam Taylor organised a Parish Meal in Luciano's in Kingston Park. In May we hosted 'Moving to the Light': a moving piece presentation about Art and Epilepsy, performed as part of National Epilepsy Week by the group 'Operating Theatre'. The Open Gardens Sunday afternoon sessions were held earlier in June. The Quiz Night on Saturday 9th November was a great success, with more teams participating than in last year's event. On Saturday 16th November we were glad to receive another visit from 'Culture Kitchen' when a team of asylum seekers and refugees cooked and served food from their own national cuisines for about 60. In addition, we hosted our second Gilmore and Roberts concert on 28th September, our thanks to Eric and Fiona Hurrell. There was a 'Bring and Share' lunch on a Sunday 8th September to welcome Beverley and Isaac. We were grateful to those teams who catered at our social events including the Mothers' Union who provided refreshments, for example, on our Heritage Open Day, and after the Christingle.

Staff Changes

We were delighted to welcome Beverley Davies as our new curate in September. Her ordination took place at the Cathedral on 29th June and members of the congregation were present to support her. We also warmly welcomed Isaac Wilkinson in September who joined us for a year as a Pastoral Assistant. As well as offering general support to the parishes of All Saints' and St Hugh's he is helping us to decide how to improve our use of social media in our communications.

Richard Gooding in May announced that he would be stepping down as director of music in September and so the Sunday I returned from my sabbatical was his last with us.

We all knew Richard to be a most talented and accomplished musician, teacher and choral conductor. Many of us saw Phoebe grow up and we were together in very sad times, with the loss of Becky, and also very joyful times, with Richard and Amy marrying in 2018. In September we wished Richard every success and happiness in a new teaching post in Yarm. A small working party was set up during the summer and we were delighted when John Lewis was appointed as Director of Music to begin his work the Sunday after Richard left. We are grateful for the commitment and enthusiasm of the choir ably led by John.

On the 14th December Andrew Mason left his post as Families, Children's and Youth Co-ordinator. We thanked Andrew for his work on 1st December and wished him a fruitful ministry in the future.

Young People

Schools' Week 2019 on the theme of Joseph, 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 are given to Dee Matthews and the team. Felicity Shoemith provided Bibles from a legacy from her Aunt Mary for those attending Young Saints'. The 'Open the Book' sessions at

Archibald School and Archbishop Runcie School involving members of All Saints' and Trinity Church continued. Andrew Mason and I conducted regular School assemblies in Archibald School and Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School. Beverley took on assemblies in the late autumn. We are grateful to Lesley Atkinson and to all who maintained the Young Saints' groups on a Sunday morning.

Mothering Sunday on 31st March was memorable as 'Let it be' by Paul McCartney was sung by our uniformed organisations. Our thanks are given to Ros Place for the idea and Diana Lavin for visiting the groups and practising the song. A Theatre workshop during the October half term had to be cancelled due to a poor response to our publicity and few children attended a Children's Funday in the first week of the summer holidays. However, youth activities did include a bowling trip, a visit to the cinema, a meal out and there were the popular Messy church events during half term holidays. Sadly, the youth weekend did not take place and there was a reduction in younger children attending in the summer.

Fabric

Early in the year there had been anti-social behaviour in the church and vandalism which resulted in the Police taking action against an individual. One thing this incident did was help us to identify problems with the newly installed CCTV camera and a new 19" colour monitor and recorder was installed in April. There was further damage to the Church due to a candle holder being thrown through a stained-glass window on 5th April. This glass was taken away for repair In January 2020. In January the PCC discussed the installation of two lighting bollards on the path to the west of the church. This would involve an underground power supply taken from church and would be operated on a timer. This proposal was accepted by the PCC and work on installation began in December. Earlier in the year, the church doors were decorated and there were extensive repairs to the paving around the church. There was also research done into possible improvements to the Choir Vestry. During the early summer the Augustine Room was prepared for Rev. Sarah Moon and for the Curate Beverley Davies. We were most grateful to Tricia Maylia and Diane Cooper for finishing a first-rate makeover of the Columba and Augustine Rooms, Tricia for painting and decorating, and Diane for making curtains, seat covers and cushions.

The bell repair project started on the 28th of May. During this time the bells were silent for the first time since the last major works in 1962. The cost of the project was met by many generous individual donations together with grants from charitable trusts such as Garfield Weston and Catherine Cookson.

St Hugh's

I continue as Priest in Charge of St Hugh's and Beverley is licenced to St Hugh's as well as All Saints'.

Up until the summer I maintained rotas and oversaw the governance of the church, taking initiatives in outreach, and the church maintained a regular pattern of life. Sadly, in September, I reported to the PCC that St Hugh's were in increasing difficulty and had been dealt a significant blow with the death of Bob Ridley. This had come as a traumatic shock for the small congregation. In addition, it had lost a substantial revenue from the termination of a weekly rent which helped significantly to pay the £9000 parish share per year. From September Beverley, Isaac and I have worked to establish stability with the hope that a new beginning can be made with a new congregation.

In the autumn Beverley and Isaac set about publicising and devising a new Christmas Eve service and making contact with supermarkets, Abbey Court Care Home, Regent Farm School, and the Grange School and the Police. They continue to talk to the local residents and clearly there is much work to be done with respect to engaging with the community and offering worship and services that are appealing and relevant to them. In addition, we also continue to meet with charities and organisations to see how they might use St. Hugh's, to put the church building at the heart of the community, and raise funds for its upkeep.

Reaching Out

Our outreach and communications were considered by a subcommittee of the PCC throughout the year. All Saints' has now a Wikipedia page (thanks to Peter Mitchell), and we have sought more effective ways of deploying our Facebook pages. The bi-monthly 'In Touch' magazine was published thanks to the editing of Christine Willoughby and Dermot Killingley. The Little Saints Group overseen by Lesley Atkinson continues to welcome parents and small children and the Tuesday Tea Club, organised by Elizabeth Crawford, hosted warm and friendly afternoon socials throughout the year. Constance Okai Maselino has worked tirelessly at both events on a Tuesday. The Loss Adjusters also met for lunch on the first Sunday of each month. A significant moment in reflecting on our engagement of the community came in the autumn when Isaac Wilkinson gave a presentation to the PCC from his community mapping exercise/ project, within which the focus was community outreach. He gave a summary of the nature, status and role of much of our community infrastructure, based on both statistics and meetings with people involved. He argued that we should adopt an 'asset approach' in building more relationships with the community. This discussion helped us think how All Saints' could most effectively be working within our community context and where opportunities lie. This formed a basis for a plan for 2020.

Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School

The year began with a focus on the Archbishop Runcie First School and the question of whether it should join a Multi Academy Trust – Newcastle East Academy Trust (NEAT). While there was much to say in its favour, including the support of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Education, there were issues around the consultation process itself, the contrasting demographics between the Archbishop Runcie First School and other NEAT schools and the potential loss of independence and decision-making for the school. The impact on the relationship of ARFS with the other schools in the Gosforth pyramid was also a concern. It was felt that the potential role of the Gosforth Schools Trust had not been explored and the PCC agreed that the process was taking place too quickly and that other options should be fully explored. It voted to withhold consent to the school joining the NEAT until such processes had taken place. At the March PCC I reported that the governors had decided not to proceed with the proposal to join NEAT. The consultation did raise the question how our links with the school could be strengthened. Our PCC meeting in September took place in the school and opportunities for voluntary help in the school were highlighted, such as listening to children read. One of our foundation governors Bryony Scott Holland resigned and was replaced by Marian Cave Coulson from December. Our thanks are given to Bryony for her work and to Marian for taking this role on. Diana Lavin played the piano at the Friday morning worship and set up and organised a school choir on a Thursday lunchtime. The School had an OFSTED inspection at very short notice in July. In September we heard the OFSTED inspection report deemed the school "to be Good".

Advent and Christmas

Advent and Christmas were again very busy with dozens of people involved in making the church a beautiful and welcoming place and in participating in and preparing for services.

The Christmas card was this year drawn by Daisy Bruce and was delivered to households in the Parish. The Christmas Fair on 7th December was a great success raising £2,160. The first planning meeting had been held on 20th September overseen by Dee Matthews. Again, the Scouts helped a group of stall-holders begin the setting up of the Hall. From 10.30am a steady stream of people began to arrive to make it a very successful event. The following week Moorfields Care Home held a fair in the Centre with donkey rides for children and the service of a mobile Fish and Chip van! Leading up to Christmas the first of four school services was held on 11th December, three schools arriving in total, including Archibald First School at which staff and children said goodbye to their retiring Head Teacher, Mrs Bayes. Excluding Advent Carol Services, our Christmas totals up to the two services on Christmas morning reached 3,106. This was an 11% rise on 2018, although those attending the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services were down from 1467 in 2018 to 1131. These figures do not include other outreach events such as public carol singing and Services in Care Homes.

Other Events to note:

We supported the Christian Aid collection in May joining hundreds of other churches across the country in raising money for the world's poorest by house visits. The collections raised £3000, a magnificent achievement. Our thanks are again given to Lesley Atkinson for coordinating. The Mothers' Union gave out comfort packs to mums to take home on their child's first day at school. The All Saints' clergy were in charge of the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park attended by hundreds. After the mishaps of 2018, it went very smoothly, thanks to careful preparation. I would like to thank Andy McCabe for his organisational skills. We were grateful to Peter Mitchell who produced our first QR code guide within the church, next to the Galloway window. In the summer Andrew Cole stepped down from grounds work and Keith Davies took over with a small team, our thanks to them both. Our Amnesty group continues the work of writing to governments on behalf of those unjustly imprisoned, we remain a Fair Trade Church with our thanks to Nicky Portergill, and I am also proud that we are members of Citizens Tyne and Wear, a community action organisation, supported by different faiths and interest groups designed to bring about civil action and improvement. This year some were involved in the event leading up to the election of the Mayor of North of the Tyne and we are grateful to Andrew Cole for representing us and informing us on developments including a focus on mental health and the plight of child refugees.

On 18th May the Central Deanery Confirmation service was held at The Church of the Ascension, Kenton, with candidates Imogen Davies, Erica Messenger and Oliver and William Longstaff.

Losses

I would like to mention a number of losses from our All Saints' community:

John Davies died on the 1st January 2019. Exceptionally intelligent, creative and inventive, but humble and modest, John was a great conversationalist with a real sense of humour. He also took a keen interest in what others had to say, whoever they were, from whatever walk of life. Most importantly, he was a very proud and loving husband to Alison and father to their two fine sons, Tom and Andrew.

Margaret Stuart's funeral was in January. She was the youngest of thirteen children, only seven of whom survived childhood. She married in 1942, and when the family moved to Woodbine Road, their connection with All Saints' began. She was involved in the All Saints' Players and a devoted member of the church but an important part of Margaret's life was her membership of the Franciscan Third Order. Margaret's faith was profound; she received communion at home monthly.

Joe Hedley, beloved husband to Val, a much-respected member of the congregation, died in February. Joe was as a Naval Architect highly respected, very capable and competent and at the same time he was a loving and dependable husband and father. Our sympathy went to Valerie, Nigel and Bryony and their families in their great loss.

Harry Wellborne who died in September, had been a Scout Leader at All Saints' and St Nicholas', became President of the Anglo-Scandinavian Society and also worked with Alfhild on the People to People project. A proud Grandad to Kallum, he remained stoic and philosophical in the face of ill health. We offered thanks for a life well lived, and our sympathies went to Alfhild, Karoline, and Jackki.

We were also very sad to lose Helen Watkinson in October. Helen was a devoted wife mother and an auntie, and with so many friends she was godmother to a large number of children. Helen's life changed in 2011 with the diagnosis of serious illness. However, she did not allow it, or the eight years of chemotherapy, to define her life, and she bravely continued a full life being an inspiration to many. Our hearts went out to Tim, Frances and Alan and all the family.

My Sabbatical

Between June and the end of August I toured the country and visited Canada on sabbatical and produced a report which was sent to the Bishop called 'Clergy Experience and Managing Change'.

This focused on how clergy manage both themselves and their ministries in a time of significant change. I interviewed 26 clergy and attempted to discern effective ways of encouraging and supporting them at this time. On my return after my sabbatical I wanted to explore how we might renew our attempts to actively promote All Saints' as an energetic and visionary church with strong community links offering a sense of purpose, hope and forgiveness. My reading and the numerous interviews with clergy had brought home the importance of responding to change and how we must live in the present and engage with the community as it is and not live in the past. I had been struck by the need to be outward-looking and the need to continually seek to engage a changing context in order to be a church that offers genuine welcome and acceptance to everyone. I produced a leaflet setting out priorities and programme with suggested milestones to achieve these. The leaflet included reflections on how All Saints' could continue to engage the wider community, the importance of space for silence, and contemplation to hear our calling, the need of a communications audit and to refocus on young families and children at All Saints'. In addition, on how we might develop our music. I hope we will address these issues in the course of 2020/2021.

In Conclusion

Clearly there is much thinking and planning to be done as we move into the new decade and we look forward to our Awayday at the end of June to take stock and refocus our efforts. I conclude remembering the vital and necessary work done regularly to keep All Saints' operating, such as, taking Communion to care homes, making sure our registers are in order, counting our cash collections, flower arranging, tidying the Remembrance Garden and washing up after Parish Breakfast on a Sunday. I want to say thanks to you all. Together, whatever we do, I believe we are the body of Christ in our parish, doing his work.

Congregation and PCC Meeting Details

There were 221 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2019 (260 on 31 December 2018). The average Sunday attendance counted in October 2019 was 196 (172 in October 2018) but services were held in the Centre during October 2018 because of ongoing work in the Church,

There were 4 weddings, 13 baptisms, 20 funerals and 6 burial of ashes.

The PCC met 7 times in 2019. The average attendance was 74% (75% in 2018). The PCC regularly receives reports from the PCC working groups and during 2019 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 two such meetings, open to all members of the congregation, which were very well attended.

Finance

The accounts show a deficit of £8,497 for 2019 before taking account of the gain of £6,824 in the market value of our investments. The accounts at the end of 2018 showed a deficit of £5,646 before an investment loss £608.

Income

Total income, excluding legacies and grants decreased from £249,946 in 2018 to £218,666 in 2019, the decrease being due to the large value of donations for the Church Lighting Redecoration, Lighting Replacement and Bells Refurbishment in 2018.

Planned Giving

There were 154 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2019 compared with 156 at the end of 2018, the reduction caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2019. Planned Giving decreased by £3,234 (£114,326 in 2018, £111,092 in 2019).

Donations

Donations in 2019 totalled £19,376 which included £2,166 donated for the particular purposes such as church door painting and bells refurbishment, the remaining £17,210 being from general ad hoc donations.

It should be noted that cash placed on the collection plate at church services is allocated to the appropriate charity unless the cash is donated in an All Saints' yellow envelope in which case it is allocated as a donation to All Saints'. If the donor is a tax payer and completes the details on the yellow envelope All Saints' can obtain a further 25% of the donation as gift aid.

Tax Recovery

For 2019 we have claimed the full GASDS allowance of £8000 giving an income of £2000. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on Planned Giving and donations decreased from £36,845 in 2018 to £31,413 in 2019 mainly due to the large amount of tax claimed on donations for Church Decoration, Lighting and Bells Refurbishment in 2018

Expenditure

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

Expenses for the year totalled £232,236 compared with £260,733 in 2018. Apart from the Church window repair, the Church redecoration project, the Church lighting replacement project, the bells refurbishment project, the paving repair and the redecoration of the upper room etc, significant expense changes between the two years were as follows:

- The Parish Share was £4,812 lower due to an adjustment of All Saints' contribution applied by the diocese.
- Church cleaning, repairs and maintenance costs were £4,700 higher.
- Centre cleaning, repairs and maintenance costs were £1,117 higher.

All other expenses differences between the two years were less than £1,000.

Bells Refurbishment Project

During 2019 a major refurbishment project was carried out to the bells and the bell tower. Appeals were made in 2018 for contributions to this project; the outstanding response started in 2018 and continued into 2019. The overall final position regarding the bells project was as follows:

Grant:	£ 6,073
Fund Raising:	£ 330
Donations:	£ 4,810
Gift Aid from donations:	£ 1,138
Parochial Fees Bell Maintenance:	£ 520
VAT Recovery from Listed Places of Worship	<u>£ 2,315</u>
Total Income	£ 15,186
Bells Refurbishment Contract	£ 13,890
Bell Tower Floor Structure, Carpet and Redecoration	<u>£ 2,966</u>
Total Cost	£ 16,856
Total Income/Total Cost	90.1%

Properties

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

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

and have been left unchanged for 2019.

Rents

The All Saints' Centre continues to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties. Rents received totalled £25,922 (£27,491 in 2018). This includes £252 charged against the Dementia Tea Club project and £725 charged against Young Saints and Little Saints for use of the Centre.

The Old Clergy House was occupied throughout the year. £9,000 was received in rent against expenses of £1,372.

The Verger's House was occupied most of the year. £9,549 was received in rent against expenses of £2,090.

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 £22,820 (£18,136 in 2018). £8,575 was collected at funerals and other events using the church.

McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Income from this fund was £514. £500 from this fund was used to pay for the Quinquennial Report.

The Youth Project

The Youth Worker project income was £15,054 and the costs were £14,350 giving a surplus for the year of £704.

Legacies

Credit has been taken in the accounts for a legacy from Alison Bolton and a gift from Felicity Shoemith in memory of her aunt, Mary Leake, for the purchase of bibles for children.

Expenditure from the Legacies Fund in 2019 totalled £11,184 made up of £9,024 for repairs to the paving around the Church, £1,670 for the unfunded part of the cost of the Church bells refurbishment project and £490 for the purchase of bibles for children from the gift from Felicity Shoemith in memory of her aunt.

Bank Balances and Reserves

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2019 totalled £95,433 compared with £98,140 at the end of 2018. £33,525 is in the Legacies fund, £35,517 is held for the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £5,259 is held in other funds for particular purposes. The remaining £21,132 (increased from £16,250 in 2018) is held in the General Income fund, together with the £8,564 due from debtors, to meet the amount of £10,203 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has reduced from £65,509 in 2018 to £61,745 in 2019.

The Future

All Saints' has substantial cash reserves but many of these are held in the Legacies fund and in the Gloria Smith fund. The low level of the General Income fund has been of particular concern for some

time. In 2019 the General Income fund liquid reserves increased by £3,243 to £19,493 which is still a very low level considering that this is the fund that has to provide the resources for the all of the day-to-day transactions such as Parish Share, Clergy housing cost, salaries, energy costs, insurance, office supplies, Church, Centre and properties maintenance.

In 2019 there has been a significant surplus generated by the Centre and Houses' rents. Hopefully these rents' surpluses can be maintained during 2020. In 2020 the Parish Share is increasing by £2,136. Hopefully the Planned Giving will hold up well enough during 2020 to at least maintain the General Income fund liquid reserves at its current level. New members are desperately required by the Planned Giving fund to offset the loss of donors through death, moving away or other reasons. A Stewardship campaign is foreseen in 2020.

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

Acknowledgements

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

On behalf of the Council

Andrew Shipton

Vicar, Chair of the Council
29 March 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of All Saints' Church, Gosforth Charity

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

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statement in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

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

Opinion

In my opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the PCC's Annual Report of All Saints' Church, Gosforth for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Date 30 March 2020

G Benjamin ACA

For and on behalf of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2019 £	2018 £
Income and Endowments		
Donations, grants and legacies		
planned giving	111,092	114,326
donations	19,376	38,055
income tax recoverable	31,413	36,845
legacies	2,000	200
grants for replacment lighting	-	1,500
grant for bells refurbishment	3,073	3,000
grant for dementia meetings and café church/ evolution youth group	-	441
	166,954	194,367
Trading activities	44,471	43,740
Income from charitable activities	8,996	10,485
Other income	1,410	4,798
Income from investments	1,908	1,697
Total income and endowments	<u>223,739</u>	<u>255,087</u>
Expenditure		
Planning giving renewal expenses	-	-
Fundraising costs	875	609
<i>Ministry</i>		
Parish share	109,319	114,131
Clergy expenses and housing costs	<u>6,187</u>	<u>6,324</u>
	115,506	120,455
<i>Church</i>		
alter requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance	15,837	10,464
window repair	-	3,340
redecorating project	-	17,978
lighting replacement project	-	19,686
bells refurbishment project	10,136	4,405
light and heat	4,011	4,071
organist, organ and choir	7,409	6,421
	37,393	66,365
<i>All Saints' Centre</i>		
cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance	16,078	14,913
paving repair	9,024	
decoration of upper room, office, stairs, toilet & kitchen	-	3,720
defibrillator	-	413
light and heat	4,253	3,699
caretaker salary	<u>7,511</u>	<u>6,945</u>
	36,866	29,690
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		
youth worker project	14,840	14,982
old clergy/verger's houses expenses	3,462	4,518
church office	17,628	17,666
mission, independent examiner, other costs	<u>5,666</u>	<u>6,448</u>
	41,596	43,614
Total expenditure	<u>232,236</u>	<u>260,733</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains	(8,497)	(5,646)
Net gains on investments	6,824	(608)
Net movement in funds	(1,673)	(6,254)
Funds brought forward	576,243	582,497
Funds carried forward	<u><u>574,570</u></u>	<u><u>576,243</u></u>

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2019

The funds of £574,570 at 31 December 2019 shown overleaf were held on the following trusts:

	£	£
The MacMahon Permanent Endowment Fund where the capital must be held intact and the income is to be used for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the fabric of the church and churchyard		17,556
The Gloria Smith Fund (£35,517) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors		40,776
Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £61,745 in the Legacies Fund		<u>516,238</u>
Total funds		<u><u>574,570</u></u>

These funds were represented at 31 December 2019 by:

Properties - note 1		435,000
Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2019		45,776
Debtors and other amounts receivable	8,564	
Bank balances and cash	<u>95,433</u>	
	<u>103,997</u>	
less creditors falling due within one year	<u>10,203</u>	
Net current assets		<u>93,794</u>
Net assets		<u><u>574,570</u></u>

Notes to the summarised accounts

1. Properties

The properties comprise the All Saints' Centre (previously called the Church Hall, which has been written off in previous years, and the two adjacent houses, the Verger's House and the Old Clergy House. The houses are valued on 31 December 2019 at £435,000 (Old Clergy House - £210,000, Verger's House - £225,000), no change since the 31 December 2018 valuation. The title to the land on which the Centre 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, a part-time caretaker and a part-time families, children's and youth co-ordinator throughout 2019 until the families', children's and youth co-ordinator resigned in December 2019. Their salary costs together with organist's fees including employer's NI and pension costs totalled £38,181 (£36,997 in 2018).

3. Related party transactions

The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton has occupied a house attached to his appointment. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with his house and to the Revd Sarah Moon (during the Revd Shipton's sabbatical) totalled £4,563. Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton, the Revd Sarah Moon (during Revd Shipton's sabbatical) and the Revd Beverley Davies amounted to £1,624.

No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2019.

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 29 March 2020, 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 29 March 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Shipton

Vicar, Chair of the Council
29 March 2020

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.

		<i>Total paid 2019</i>			<i>Total paid 2018</i>
Mission of the Month					
January	Cedarwood Trust	1,011	Cedarwood Trust		1,008
February	Traidcraft Exchange	653	Samaritans Tyneside		617
March	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	1,385	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe		1,299
April	Church Mission Society	1,471	Church Mission Society		1,303
May	uS	843	The Shirley Community Chaplaincy		639
June	Cornerstone	765	Cornerstone		797
July	Mission to Seafarers	964	Mission to Seafarers		799
August	PCDC	1,650	PCDC		909
September	Northumbria Deaf Church	833	Northumbria Deaf Church		895
October	Church Urban Fund	665	Church Urban Fund		734
November	Friends of Mandritsara Trust	634	Unlock		625
December	West End Refugee Service	837	West End Refugee Service		1,009
		<u>11,711</u>			<u>10,634</u>
Other donations					
Easter Day	Smile for Life	272	Smile for Life		337
Christingle	Children's Society	199	Children's Society		149
Christmas Eve	DEC	925	DEC		786
	Destiny Streetworx	785	CRISIS		519
Christmas Day	Caritas Baby's Hospital	353	Caritas Baby's Hospital		422
	Other charities	8,575	Other charities		5,289
		<u>11,109</u>			<u>7,502</u>
		<u>22,820</u>			<u>18,136</u>

Note

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

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will take place in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL
on SUNDAY 18th October 2020

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 28th April 2019 – for approval

3.3 Matters Arising

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (*p.1-12*)

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 (*p.14-16*) – *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.

3.8.3 Election of four representatives to the Deanery Synod until 2023

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 28th April 2019
In the All Saints' Centre.

Present: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton, Helga Beatty, Revd. Ruth Birnie, David Bland, Chris Bolland, Peter Brown, Jean Buckley, Yvonne Cairns, Sheila Carr, Marilyn Champion, Tony Champion, Elizabeth Crawford, Lionel Crawford, Ann Cross, Paul Cross, Keith Davies, Edith Davison, Ann Downey, Sonya Downing, Valerie Farthing, Marie Claude Fawcett, Sue Finkill, Charles Foister, Elaine Gabriel, Nick Glover, Sue Glover, Dorothy Henderson, Lilian Henderson, Stuart Henderson, Katie Hodgson, Katie Hogg, Diane Kirkup, Helen Langley, Rob Langley, Diana Lavin, Constance Maselino Okai, Chris Matthews, Dee Matthews, Andrew Mason, Enid Mitchell, Heather Newton, Elizabeth Norris, John Norris, David Ogilvie, Lesley Ogilvie, Margaret Patterson, Ann Pentland, Sheila Piper, Rosamund Place, Ethel Randall, Molly Ridley, Judy Riseborough, Lionel Sainsbury, Pat Sainsbury, Evelyn Schneider, Ann Shaw, Bill Shaw, Sheila Smithson, Pat Spong, Vic Spong, Pam Taylor, Jackie Walby, Deirdre Wheeler, Paul Wilkinson and Christine Willoughby.
Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton.

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

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the two positions of churchwardens: Rosamund Place, proposed by Nick Glover, and seconded by Sue Glover, and Paul Wilkinson, proposed by Charles Foister and seconded by Lionel Sainsbury. Both were elected unopposed.

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Fred Carr, Yvonne Carr, Kath Davies, Tricia Maylia, Peter Mitchell, John Nutt, Joyce Nutt, Stuart Rayner, Margaret Wilkinson.

3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29th April 2018

Approval was proposed by Constance Maselino Okai, seconded by Edith Davison and agreed nem con.

3.3 Matters Arising

None

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

None

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 (pp15-16)

In Fred's absence Andrew Shipton made a number of comments about the Report. He noted the very generous donations received from the congregation that have helped so much towards the costs of the redecoration, new lighting and bell repairs .

He noted that the Parish Share, at £114k equates very closely to the Planned Giving receipts. He commented on the other sources of income, such as the houses, and the usage of the Centre.

He noted that the Gloria Smith fund is healthy, but that the General fund is not in that state.

Andrew requested further comments from Peter Brown, who noted that Parish Share had been held at its existing level but that a Diocesan working party was examining how it may develop in the future. However it is likely to increase in the current year.

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the Accounts.

David Bland raised a questions about the availability of yellow donation envelopes in pews; could greater availability raise both awareness and income.

Chris Matthews observed that frequent reminders are included in pew sheets.

3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts

Chris Matthews proposed, Tony Champion seconded the approval of the accounts, agreed nem con.

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

The reappointment of Haines Watts was agreed nem con.

3.6 Report on the Changes in the Electoral Roll

Noted that a new Electoral Roll has had to be produced over the last few weeks, and it currently stands at 221. It was hoped that a number of people will still submit their forms.

Thanks were recorded to Louise Waugh for her hard work in the production of the new Roll.

3.7 Comments and Questions about reports

Chris Matthews commented that the first sentence of the Planned Giving report should end by stating a figure of 161 in 2017 (not 2018).

3.8 Elections and Appointments

3.8.1 No scrutineers were required.

3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Thanks were recorded to Dee Matthews, Pam Taylor and Tim Watkinson, who were standing down after two 3 year spells on the PCC.

Three nominations were received:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Diana Lavin	Nick Glover	Dee Matthews
Christine Willoughby	Enid Mitchell	Pam Taylor
Ethel Randall	Margaret Patterson	Edith Davison

The number of vacancies exceeded the number of nominations, so the 3 nominees were elected, nem com, to the PCC.

3.8.3 Election of 1 representative to the Deanery Synod until 2020.

One nomination was received, that of Pam Taylor, nominated by Christine Willoughby, seconded by Enid Mitchell. This nomination was accepted nem con.

3.8.4 Appointment of Sidespersons

There were no new names received.

Agreed that Ethel Randall's name should come off the list.

3.9 Vicar's Report

Andrew began by thanking all who have given so much to the mission and ministry of All Saints' and emphasised that in addition to those mentioned in his report, there are many more who work quietly yet play a vital role in our life. For we are all involved in God's mission in the world, all of which must bring new life and hope. We are all also joining God in his work of reconciliation, healing and redemption.

He emphasised that if we are doing this, we are fulfilling our calling. But where does our energy and inspiration come from? Andrew believed that we meet our Lord in word and sacrament and that all stems from this encounter with him.

He gave thanks to the dedicated paid team, paying tribute to our 4 employees: Louise, Trish, Andrew and Richard for whom the day to day routine involves much hard work. He also gave thanks to those who serve on the PCC, especially Pam, Dee and Tim who have served the PCC so well over 6 years. For All Saints' has to be on a stable footing to be looking outward and this requires good administration, organised, reliable and resilient in the face of varied challenges and a large workload. We are a community of faith, yet we have to spend a lot of time on buildings – buildings lie at the heart of our mission and we welcome hundreds into this Centre every week and the Church building itself has a special place in the hearts of many in the area. He emphasised how aware he has become, over the last 4 years, of the importance of careful and detailed financial monitoring.

Andrew commented that he had not mentioned in his report the many events and ministries that go on, such as our work in care homes, the magazine committee, the Loss Adjusters group, and the networks around Gosforth of which we are a part, such as Gosforth Dementia Friendly, the Peter Pan club, and the mental health charity Chain Reaction. And he had realised, when posting easter cards, that our parish is very varied and that there are areas that we do not reach.

He repeated how much we shall miss Deirdre Wheeler and also commented on other people we shall miss from the last year, like Elizabeth Inglis who left quietly and others moving away to be nearer family.

From a diocesan perspective, we appear to be a rich and self-sufficient parish. There is an assumption that St Hugh's should be a priority for us. Linked to this, we have new additions to our team who will be starting in September – Beverley Davies will be curate here and at St Hugh's as will our new pastoral assistant.

Andrew remarked that he is always touched and surprised by the large number of people who identify with the church but do not attend; many seem like seekers who are looking for something. They see themselves on a journey – they are questioning, they keep options open and are reasonable and honourable. They do want to do good in the community and beyond though are suspicious of those who make great truth claims. He felt that relating to this group should be a priority, for we must be open and accessible so that such people feel quickly that they can belong.

He believes that music must be another priority and there are some actions that we can take. 1. Richard Gooding will investigate the Pilling Trust to sponsor choral scholarships. 2. We should review our Sunday hymns. 3. We will be proactive in making music a significant issue for all childrens' and young peoples' groups. This should include "Young Saints" and schools. 4. We will attempt to raise the profile of All Saints' as a venue for choirs and orchestras. 5. Richard has talked about a "scratch choir" to sing, for example "Stainers Crucifixion". 6. We will be open to use the talents and the abilities of the whole congregation in our worship.

We need to be understanding of how life is different for young families and middle aged people – and make provision for this. For example, there has been talk of a service on a Saturday night.

His final emphasis was on the 28 funerals that had taken place during 2018, thus there are many bereaved families living through loss. This is another pastoral challenge.

Finally Andrew wanted to return to our worship. It needs to be as good as possible for it is in the word and sacrament that we encounter the Lord. WE can never be complacent.

4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

- Vic Spong raised the problem of recent damage to the Church building due to vandalism. It was reported that CCTV camera footage was available, that the police were involved and that the locking of the building is their advice.

Damage to the window will cost approximately £2000 to repair.

Constance Maselino Okai raised the question of whether we should involve a private security company.

- Income from the Christmas Fayre. Comment made that if we can raise about £2000 at the Fayre, does this strengthen the perception that we are a wealthy parish. Pointed out that other parishes raise a lot more. Could we lengthen the Fayre to increase the income?

- Andrew recorded his thanks to Ruth Birnie, Andrew Mason, Fred Carr, Nick Glover and the 2 Churchwardens for their hard work during the year.
- Pam Taylor expressed her thanks to Andrew for all of his hard work during the year.
Peter Brown reinforced this with a full vote of thanks to Andrew which prompted a standing ovation.

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

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

Church

In an act of vandalism, one of the windows on the north aisle was broken. A Faculty was required for the repair, which was obtained and the window is currently in the workshops of Iona Art Glass of Amble being repaired. The cost of the work has been met by insurance and the insurance excess was covered by a generous gift from a member of the congregation. The same Faculty gave permission for two new lighting bollards on the path on the west of the church and these were completed in January 2020.

The bell repair project started on the 28th of May. During this time the bells were silent for the first time since the last major works in 1962. The cost of the project was met by many generous individual donations together with grants from charitable trusts such as Garfield Weston and Catherine Cookson.

The church architect has been asked to organise repairs to the rood screen and replacement of the top stone step at the main entrance, so a new bolt keep can be installed to properly secure the doors.

Church Centre

During the early summer the Augustine Room was prepared for Rev. Sarah Moon and for the Curate Beverley Davies. We were most grateful to Tricia Maylia and Diane Cooper for finishing a first-rate makeover of the Columba and Augustine Rooms, Tricia for painting and decorating, and Diane for making curtains, seat covers and cushions.

Church Houses

No work has been necessary this year on the church houses.

Church Grounds

As mentioned in the last Report, work has been undertaken to replace broken and uneven paving around the church and centre.

We are grateful for the small teams who keep on top of grounds maintenance and grass cutting.

Peter M Brown
Chair of Fabric Committee

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

All Church of England Parishes across the country were required to prepare a new Electoral Roll from scratch. We had a brilliant response and our new electoral roll now stands at 223.

Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer

PLANNED GIVING

There were 154 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2019 compared with 156 at the end of 2018. It goes without saying how grateful we are to all our donors and especially those who have signed Gift Aid forms, which enables us to reclaim tax at 25% and makes a big difference to our income

Margaret Patterson

8.00AM MORNING SERVICE

The first service of All Saints' at 8:oclock is a quick service of Holy Communion and peaceful prayers to start the week. There is a short sermon and the liturgy of the book of Common prayers. It is less meditative than the following services of Sunday morning but the congregation is friendly and know each other and care for one another. It might be my last report (I hope not...) for the "8 o'clock service" because in light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice due to the Coronavirus. That includes our service at 8 o'clock. Our worship is very small and because it is early it attracts only 10 to 13 people but it is not unimportant and we have to obey. We should pause normal meetings for worship to help protect the most vulnerable. The Church is still open as a place for prayer but there is no worship service taking place and that include the 8o'clock service. Clergy and ministers on behalf of everyone can say prayers but none has been organised for this service yet. This service may have paused momentary but it will come again when we have a vaccine for the Coronavirus...

It provided an opportunity for us to come and rest in God presence

Marie-Claude Fawcett

AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

The Tuesday Tea Club goes from strength to strength, we still offer an hour and a half of social chat and activities. Cakes are provided by our loyal bunch of volunteers and Constance is our devoted tea lady. I am so grateful to them.

This year is the second year we have had a student helping who is doing a Duke of Edinburgh award. It is lovely to see young people joining in. We do have fun with activities like quizzes, beetle drives, armchair aerobics, discussions, talks and more recently, readings and poetry. We were very sorry to lose Bill Shaw, who was our popular cashier, who retired due to ill health.

We haven't put our price up since we began and £2 gives you tea, cake and a free raffle prize and good company.

Elizabeth Crawford

CAFÉ CHURCH

I took on the coordination of Café Church in December 2019 when Andrew Mason announced he was leaving All Saints'. Since then we have had Café Church gatherings looking at the meanings of Advent, Epiphany, Candlemas and Lent. This service of worship is popular with our families who are unable to attend the main 9:30 services as well as some of our regular congregation. We have around 20 people attend each service.

Café church offers opportunity for informal yet thoughtful exploration of scripture using activities or crafts which facilitates reflection on what the bible is saying alongside a nice cup of tea or coffee and treats! We try to offer something for everyone, so we look at the theme, ask all who attend for their contributions and ideas on the themes, we listen to the word of God as well as having a craft or activity which everyone is invited to contribute to.

So far we have discovered:

Advent is a time of patience and taking things slow as we anticipate the coming of God into our world – by seeing how rushing around doesn't help us appreciate the waiting. There was a competition to see who could make the best jam sandwiches by using only our hand. They were made in quite a rush and needless to say – nobody wanted to eat them they were so messy!

At Epiphany we retold the story of the magi as they travelled and brought their gifts. We thought about how the magi thought they were looking for a palace but found Jesus in an ordinary home and we were encouraged to look for Jesus in unexpected places.

At our Candlemas worship we reflected on the people that most inspire us or we admire that we would want to meet. We drew a collective person and around them added all the things that we admired about the person we had thought of (we had HM The Queen, Harry Potter, Suzanne Vega, Andrew Flintoff Mark Knoffler to name a few) and we talked about this mega celebrity we had created is how Simeon and Anna felt when Mary and Joseph went to the temple with Jesus. Their messiah they had longed to meet was finally here.

Lent was a more reflective gathering as we dared to look inside ourselves and to see ourselves as God sees us with the aid of four stations to help us spend some time with God.

Our worship is enhanced with music kindly played on the piano by either Rosamund, Enid or Diana and the R Group youth with their instruments. We are very blessed to have so many volunteers to help with this important ministry.

In the year ahead, we are looking for ways to promote this service to the community beyond All Saints'.

Beverley Davies

MISSION AND JUSTICE GROUP, INCORPORATING CHARITABLE GIVING

Missions of the Month:

Thank you all once again for your most generous support both in prayer and giving throughout the year to the following organisations.

The Cedarwood Trust (L); Traidcraft Exchange (I); Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe (I); CMS (I); uS (L); Cornerstone (L); Mission to Seafarers (I); Practical Compassion for Destitute Children (PCDC) (I); Northumbria Deaf Church (L); Together Newcastle (Church Urban Fund) (L); Madagascar Cataract Project (I) and West End Refugees Service (WERS) (L)

(Organisations: L = Local; N = National; I = International)

Additional missionary giving:

Good Friday – Amnesty International; Easter Day – Smile for Life Harvest Festival – gifts to Walking With project in Wallsend and open plate to Northumbria Deaf Church; Christingle Service – The Children's Society; Christmas Eve Carol Services were split between

– Disasters Emergency Committee (D E C), Destiny Streetworx and All Saints'. Christmas Day – Caritas Baby's Hospital, Bethlehem.

So that you are aware of the work carried out by the organizations we support, we continue to receive details of this and display it each month, on the notice board at the back of church. We also put articles in the weekly pew sheet and the In Touch magazine. Where provided, planned giving envelopes are made available in the pews during the month we support each organisation. It was also good to see again that we continued to have, during most months, a speaker to talk about their work at one or more of our services in their nominated month.

Chris Matthews

Christian Aid:

The sun shone during Christian Aid Week - it does not always! A team of eighteen adult volunteers, supported by an enthusiastic youth group, delivered, then collected envelopes in thirty streets within the parish. When gift aid was included, we sent just over £3,000 to Christian Aid. Although a smaller number of envelopes were returned than in previous years, those who donated were very generous. Each of the envelopes delivered had a return address label (the church) in case no-one was in when the collector visited; this was not effective, so will not be repeated. However, for the first time,

envelopes were distributed to members of the congregation who live outside our target streets; this seemed a popular move and will be repeated. Sincere thanks go to all who helped deliver, collect, count,, take money to the bank and help in any other way. To raise £3,000 in the space of a week is amazing. Please look out for ways in which you could help in 2020.

Lesley Atkinson

Fairtrade

All Saints' continues in its commitment to use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after services and at other meetings. We again reminded the congregation of this commitment by marking Fairtrade Fortnight with notices in In Touch magazine and the weekly pew sheet and with cakes and biscuits made using fairtrade ingredients at parish breakfast. We have a stall selling Traidcraft goods during parish breakfast at least once and usually twice a month. The stall makes a small amount of profit on each item sold and some customers make additional donations, we were able to make a donation of £150 to the DEC Cyclone Idai appeal last year (supporting those devastated communities in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe).

Nicky Portergill

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

This year we have tried to have meetings which focused on one particular area. This has led to much thought about what we should be trying to achieve with each medium, whether that is Facebook, the website, Wikipedia, Twitter, In Touch or the noticeboards, how we should use that medium to achieve that ends and the more prosaic questions of how to collect and upload content. For example, a simple question of whether a notice board should be repaired gave rise to a long discussion on what the role of a notice board is when so many people source information from the internet.

We have been greatly assisted by the knowledge and enthusiasm of Isaac, for example, in investigating advertising on Facebook, both in terms of how to do it and its reach. In addition we have continued our usual review of the various outreach activities.

For next year, we are looking forward to welcoming some additional members and getting their different perspectives. Initially, there is going to be some focus on the website as the original plan for updating it has been unavoidably delayed.

Paul Christian

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

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

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

**Peter M Brown
Lay Chair**

LOSS ADJUSTERS

Again, our group meetings are very popular from the number who attend. We now vary the venue at different restaurants in Gosforth. We hope this gives everyone a chance to go to their favoured place.

Lovely to see new members. They bring new ideas and thoughts with them and add to the general enjoyment.

We remain aware of our role as part of All Saints' in offering support when needed. To all members; remember we are here to help and listen as well as enjoying lunch together.

We meet at 12 noon on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Ann Downey

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 list of those we are concerned about seems to increase yearly.

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 for producing some beautiful cards in the past year, which are always greatly appreciated. We also send cards and present flowers to those with “significant” birthdays.

It is our aim that all members of All Saints' should feel that they are valued and that their pastoral and spiritual needs are met but this depends on the involvement of the whole congregation in caring for one another.

Ruth Birnie

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

This group, which is a sub-committee of the PCC, meets regularly to discuss matters relating to ensuring that All Saints is a safe and caring community for all, especially children and young people, as well as adults who may be vulnerable in a number of ways.

During the past year, we have appointed a Domestic Abuse Champion, Dr Alison Charlewood. This important role covers all forms of abuse, many of which are unseen and unreported and can include mental, physical and emotional abuse of one adult by another.

At every meeting we review the current state of DBS matters to ensure that everyone who needs clearance is quickly and efficiently processed. The group is indebted to Keith Kennils for his untiring work in identifying those whose DBS needs renewing and in ensuring that new volunteers are contacted and applications are dealt with promptly.

Kath Davies is the Parish Safeguarding Officer and she keeps us up to date with the latest information from the Diocese as well as the availability of training for volunteers.

At each meeting we also receive a report from the person responsible for children's and young people's activities and we try to ensure that all necessary permissions are in place and that safeguarding guidelines are being adhered to in all activities where children and young people are

involved.

Meetings are always lively and constructive, and we are all conscious of the responsibility we have for making sure that people, young and old, will feel safe in our church and centre and that there are mechanisms in place to deal with any problems which may occur.

**Enid Mitchel
(Chair)**

SUNDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES WITH TEA

When illness, age or other events make it difficult to attend the usual church services, people can feel isolated and easily lose touch with the All Saints' family. Whilst home communion and In Touch magazines are invaluable in enabling continued contact, true fellowship with friends can be difficult to maintain.

Occasional Sunday afternoon services are intended to help meet that need. Two such services, one at Easter with the other at Harvest, were held again in the All Saints' Centre during the past year, each service taking the form of a simple communion service followed by afternoon tea accompanied by the amazing Semitones Orchestra who made the Easter service memorable by inclusion of a 'name that tune' competition, with Easter egg prizes.

These afternoons could not take place without a team of volunteer helpers who provided transport, prepared and served the tea and, most importantly, shared cakes and time to chat with guests. As always, sincere thanks go to everyone who so generously gave their time to drive, bake, serve tea, welcome guests, provide music and, of course, conduct the services.

The importance of these afternoons cannot be over-emphasised, spent with members of the All Saints' family whom we see perhaps only once or twice a year. 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 enjoyed another successful year. Each Tuesday afternoon during school term time, the Centre has been alive with twelve to twenty young children from the local community, along with their caring adult. We have said 'goodbye' to families as children have moved on to nursery placements, only to welcome them back some time later with younger siblings, so that contact with many families has been maintained. Each session has aimed to provide fun through shared experiences over play, crafts, songs and snack times in a safe environment. A special visitor put in their annual appearance before Christmas to deliver gifts for each child - thank you, Santa!

Carers include Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Foster Carers and childminders/nannies. The group gives welcome opportunity for adult chat and friendship, with time for coffee and cake! We are a member of NAPPI, who regularly inspect us and provide invaluable advice and support.

Little Saints is organised and run by volunteers from All Saints' with considerable support from vicar Andrew and, until his departure, youth worker Andrew Mason whose involvement was much appreciated. Lorna has been invaluable in preparing snacks, as have Dee and Constance; thank you all for your help in the kitchen.

New families and helpers are always welcome. If you care for a toddler, do join us on Tuesday afternoons between 1.00 - 2.30pm, for some fun and cake. If you have spare time to help put out or

clear away resources, 12.30pm would be an excellent time to come along; weekly commitment is not necessary, just a willingness to help.

Lesley Atkinson

YOUNG SAINTS

We are blessed to have a very lively and engaging group of young children within All Saints'. Modern family life faces an increasing number of weekend demands; we don't see all of our young saints every week but are delighted when we do. This does demand some flexibility on everyone's part - some weeks, numbers have enabled the children to work in two age-related groups; at other times, it has been more pragmatic for everyone to work in one mixed-age group. Sundays during the month of May were again used to create art work ready for Schools' Week; this is always a great cooperative effort and great fun. Worship has been much enhanced by Diana Levin teaching new worship songs at the start of each session. When some of the songs have then been used in the main service, the children have felt that they **really belong**. During the year, each child received a new Bible, thanks to the generosity of a relative of Felicity Shoemith, one of the Young Saints leaders. Felicity's Aunt Mary was a lady of faith who also cherished children and books, and founded a children's library in Zimbabwe. Aunt Mary left a legacy to be used for the benefit of children - Felicity kindly donated the legacy to All Saints'. The children helped to choose the styles of Bibles and have greeted them with enthusiasm. This brief report is headed 'Young Saints'. Next year's report might bear a different heading, as we are debating a new name for the group. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Otherwise, please continue to welcome the children and ensure that All Saints' continues to be a child-friendly church.

Lesley Atkinson

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK REPORT

The Youth Committee subcommittee of the PCC met every two months to find ways of encouraging children, young people and young families and support Andrew Mason, the then Children, Youth and Young families co-ordinator. The Committee noted how numbers continued to fluctuate for the Young Saints Sunday groups. There was discussion about what measures might help families feel able to bring their children to church. The message it was felt that we wanted to give was that it's OK to come when you can, acknowledging that lots of activities are on offer for children. At a meeting in the autumn for all involved in Young Saints it was agreed that the children's introduction on a Sunday morning could be potentially intimidating rather than welcoming. After Christmas a new system was planned of simply welcoming the children and presenting them with the cross and bible, It was also suggested that the children will be invited to choose new names for the groups.

The two youth groups, Evolution and R Group met weekly. Felicity Shoemith bought Bible story books as gifts to children from thanks to a bequest from an Aunt. Diana Lavin visited uniformed groups to help them to sing 'Let it be' on 'Mothering Sunday and she taught a song which she had written that was sung at Christingle. It is hoped that members of the new Archbishop Runcie School Choir will feel especially welcome to sing at All Saints' in the future.

It was noted that Schools' Week in June 2019 on the theme of Joseph, was very successful. The 'Open the Book' sessions at Archibald School and Archbishop Runcie School involving members of All Saints' and Trinity Church continued and Andrew Mason and I conducted regular School assemblies in Archibald School and Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School. We were pleased when Beverley took on assemblies in the late autumn.

There were disappointments; the Youth weekend had to be cancelled, a Theatre workshop arranged for the October half term also had to be cancelled due to a poor response to our publicity and few children attended a Children's Funday in the first week of the summer holidays. However, youth activities did include a bowling trip, a visit to the cinema, a meal out and there were the popular

Messy Church events during half term holidays. After the resignation of Andrew Mason in December the committee look forward to a new appointment in the Spring for 2020.

Andrew Shipton

MOTHERS' UNION

I am happy with the way things have gone in the last year. The Mothers' Union now has nineteen fully enrolled members – the highest number since 2010.

We filled twenty-three shoeboxes for the homeless at Christmas. Thank you to all who donated items, stored items and boxes, filled, wrapped and delivered them to Church House.

The Strawberry Teas afternoon in July went well, but the presence of a few more people would have made such a difference. Over £150 was raised for the Summer of Hope Appeal. This money will help those overseas who have next to nothing. Our stall at the Christmas Fayre raised over £100 for church funds.

Once again, we observed the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign. The usual church windowsill display showed the basic message of awareness of this vast problem.

We will soon be filling more emergency toiletry bags for St. Nicholas' Hospital. They are given to patients who are admitted at short notice, or no notice, so that they can wash, clean teeth etc. We alternate with St. Columba's Church, Wideopen when the bags need to be replenished. All Saints' and St. Columba's branches also combine for the Deanery Carol Service, fund raising teas/coffee mornings, quiet afternoons and deanery committee meetings.

As Branch Leader, Deanery Leader and Diocesan Trustee, I do my best to keep the members up-to-date with all that is happening in the MU. Last September, I enjoyed attending the National Gathering in Portsmouth. Later this year, we're off to Belfast – never been to Ireland so it's time to get myself over there!

Our meetings, often with interesting speakers, are nearly always on the second Monday of the month – 2.00pm in the Columba Room. Everyone is welcome to join us. You do not need to be a member. We are fairly civilised and always have refreshments. Do come along!

Pam Taylor
Branch and Deanery Leader

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN GOSFORTH

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met every 6 weeks at Trinity Church for fellowship and sharing news. Those participating have included The Society of Friends, Trinity Church, and All Saints' and St Charles. We have been grateful to Jill Foister (representing the Quakers) for helping the leaders to help keep up to date with what's happening in each other's churches. Much of our meeting are taken up with information sharing and planning joint events.

A service of Vespers was held at St Charles RC Church to mark the 'week of prayer for Christian unity' in January at which I preached. A United Service of Witness was held at Trinity Square on Good Friday and each Church brought a Cross to the public event. The United Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park was planned and led by All Saints' with Revd Andrew Carter from Trinity Church preaching and John Lewis playing a key board. The Service was meticulously planned and we were grateful to the Ward Counsellors for funding the closing of a road to enable the procession of uniformed and military personnel to and from the event.

The 'Space for Share' drop in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House on a Friday morning continued with new and regular participants regularly enjoying friendship and support. Refreshments remain free and those who drop in receive a warm welcome in the name of Christian Together in Gosforth who finance the weekly events.

The 'Open the Book' sessions continued at Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School in September, in addition to the weekly assemblies at Archibald Road School and also financed by CTIG. . These involved members of All Saints' and Trinity Church and were much appreciated at both schools.

Andrew Shipton

REVISION GROUP

Many years ago, All Saints' ran the Alpha Course at which small groups discussed the Bible. One group decided that they would like to continue after the course was finished, and that group meets still, albeit with some changes in personnel. Over the years the group has changed focus several times, sometimes focussing on prayer, other times studying a particular book of the Bible.

The group meets on the last Tuesday of every month except August and December at each other's homes and at the moment consists of 10 members, a few of whom are original members from Alpha days.

We have just finished reading the Gospel of Matthew and are now looking at a book written for small group discussions which focusses each session on one of the 12 Disciples. Discussions are always stimulating and thoughtful and the evening ends with a short prayer session and a cup of tea or coffee. We are always glad to welcome new members and invite anyone interested to join our friendly, sociable group. We have even been known to meet for lunch in one of the Gosforth hostelrys, always the occasion of some hilarious conversation!

Enid Mitchell

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Since taking over from Richard Gooding in September, I have been made to feel very welcome by clergy, choir and congregation alike and my first six months as Organist/Choirmaster have been most enjoyable. There is a wonderful community spirit at All Saints' and I look forward to building upon the progress we have made thus far. The choir, though small in number are BIG in enthusiasm and they are moving forward in terms of musical expression and cohesion. We are benefiting from a few new choir members (especially altos) and the voice independence we have gained has permitted us to attempt some more rhythmically and harmonically complex music. We still have a way to go before we can take on the works of the masters of polyphony, Palestrina, Josquin de Prez, Victoria, etc. but we are making good progress. I am gratified that many positive comments have been made recently about the growing confidence of the choir's performance. What is more, we have a good laugh together and Thursday evening choir practices simply fly by. The recent rehearsals for Superstar, with added extra voices from the congregation, have been fantastic. Keep up the good work!

**John Lewis
(Not the shop!)**

BOOK CLUB

The All Saints' Book Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each moth. We have read a range of fiction this year, exploring a range of historical and geographical settings. Over summer, we read CJ Sansom's Tombland which continues the author's interest in Tudor England. At Christmas we had our usual bring and share a text, which covered poetry, non fiction and a classic scene from Dickens, amongst others. We are a friendly, welcoming group who enjoy discussion and appreciate alternative opinions. New members are always welcome. Please contact Karoline Wellborne for further details. k.wellborne@live.co.uk . Thank you.

Karoline Wellborne

ALL SAINTS' AMNESTY GROUP

The most important function of the Amnesty Group continues to be the writing of letters to governments on behalf of prisoners of conscience. We do not always know the effect that writing letters has, but in some cases it can result in prisoners being released, in their conditions being improved, or in their families, friends or lawyers and doctors being granted access to them. Amnesty International estimates that one prisoner in six is either released or has his or her sentence commuted in some way as a result of letter writing.

Each November, instead of writing letters to governments, we support Amnesty's "Write for rights" campaign by sending greetings cards to individuals and groups and, sadly, to the relatives of those who have been killed in their fight for justice and equality, to show that we support and value their courage.

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

Letters are available after the 9.30 service on the fourth Sunday of every month except for August and December. You are invited to join us at our table in the All Saints' Centre after the 9.30 service for letter writing, or take a letter at the Church door to write later. Air mail envelopes and a suggested letter 'template' are provided, and postage stamps are on sale.

We would like to thank our faithful group of supporters from the All Saints' congregation who write letters every month and who participated in our greetings card event. Your help and support is a great encouragement to us.

Marilyn Champion

FILM CLUB

The Film Club continued to meet throughout 2019 in the upstairs room at the Duke of Wellington pub on Kenton Lane. We always get a warm welcome there and most of us enjoy a meal together before the film showing.

Once again we have watched a very varied range of films which included two French classics, in *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*. There were some light-hearted films, such as *Goodbye Lenin* and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* and also the more serious such as *Manchester by the Sea*. All have been enjoyed by groups ranging in size from 7 to 14 people.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month, for nine months of the year from about 6.15 with the film showing at 7.15. Please feel free to come along and enjoy the film on a regular or just occasional basis.

Nick Glover

PAINTING FOR FUN

Painting for Fun is a group ran by Chain Reaction every Wednesday at All Saints' Church in Gosforth. An aim of Chain Reaction is to reduce social isolation in people aged 55 and above in the North and Centre of Newcastle. Painting for Fun has been running since 2016 and is currently ran by myself, a link worker for Chain Reaction and 3 volunteers.

The attendance averages around 15 members each week. The weekly charge per person pays for the art supplies, venue, day trips and the coffee, tea and biscuits served half way through each session.

Painting for Fun is not only about learning new skills but a place to develop new friendships. Some members have expressed that this group is the highlight of their week.

Alex Hepple

SEW, KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

The knitting group that meet every Wednesday morning has something for all. It started with three ladies and rapidly attracted many more. It provides the opportunity to make new friends who share the same interest. The members are always willing to help each other with advice on knitting or others topics, sometime more personal, when we run into difficulties. We knit for various charities as well as for All Saints Church. There are multiple chances to work on projects which we know are needed and will be appreciated, like clothes for premature babies, hats for sailors, baby's blankets, Twiddle Muffs and for Murambinda Hospital in Zimbabwe, as well as knitting for ourselves. Some of us tried painting on silk. Others learnt to crochet when we went to Shepherd's Dene. For Christmas our members knitted a beautiful and complete Santa Claus workshop which was raffled at the Christmas Fayre raising funds for the church. We also decorated a Christmas tree with angels.

But we did not just knit for ever. In the spring we went to Howick Hall and it was a wonderful day out. The rain lasted just while we had our coffee and we had a walk in the beautiful gardens. After a light lunch we made our way past the Clock Border for our return to Gosforth. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

We are not the only Church who have a successful Knit and Natter group but it is popular because knitting is silent so it leaves a lot of time to make friends and share a common interest.

Marie-Claude Fawcett

MARK PROJECT

Over the winter months a small group from All Saints' have been meeting every three or four weeks to study the Gospel of Mark, led by Peter Mitchell. The eight sessions have been structured around topics rather than moving sequentially through the chapters, though as it turned out we did not have to depart from the sequential as much as we thought we would have to for this (see below).

The first session was essentially contextual, discussing who 'Mark' was (no-one knows for sure) and when 'his' Gospel was written (probably about AD 70). Then we looked at 'the Synoptic Problem' (which of the three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, which seem to have much common material, was written first?) and the language and style of writing in terms of history/literalism (which initially seemed quite narrative and 'immediate' and indeed with many phrases like 'and immediately this happened' appearing in the text).

One fascinating exercise was when Peter divided a continuous part of the Gospel into some 10 'stories' which he put on separate sheets of paper without the verse numbers and then challenged us to arrange them in the correct order. The low level of success that we achieved revealed very clearly that the style was not as narrative as we thought, but rather that 'Mark' had already done some grouping of the 'stories' which we then examined in more detail in subsequent meetings: the healing miracles, the nature miracles, the predictions of the Passion, and the raisings from the dead.

The exploration of each of these topics led a wealth of discussion, not all of which followed the direction that Peter had anticipated, but which he managed to accommodate very skilfully before eventually steering us back to the main theme. Debate was greatly helped by meeting in the relaxed atmosphere of the Mitchell home and by following his reassuring ground rules: namely, no question

would be deemed too stupid; feel free to say that you don't know the answer if put on the spot by Peter; there would be no orthodoxy test; and strict confidentiality would be maintained.

Peter has designed the project to span two winter seasons, so we are very much looking forward to resuming our quest in the autumn.

Tony Champion

BADMINTON CLUB

We have again enjoyed a season of exercise and fellowship which has been attended by adults from the All Saints' parish and surrounding area.

It is with a heavy heart that John & Joyce Nutt have decided to call it a day due to health reasons, all members wish them the very best - they are a great miss.

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 All Saints' Centre on a Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until about 10pm. The numbers vary from week to week but there is never too long a wait to get on court as we mix the teams so everyone gets a good chance to play.

New members are always welcome, we suggest anyone interested in joining comes for an evening to see what the standard and format is.

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 Pytlak

ALL SAINTS' TOWER REPORT

Refurbishment of bells

This work has now been completed and the bells have been back in use for some time (see note on Covid-19 below). They don't feel very different to ring, but we know that nothing is likely to drop off. I would like to record our thanks to our vicar, churchwardens and PCC for their support during this work.

General maintenance

As appeared in last year's report we continue to have a regular schedule of maintenance which includes checking the fittings, replacing broken stays and worn ropes. We are gradually replacing all hemp ropes with terylene topped ropes which greatly reduces wear and makes the rope less likely to jump the wheel in damp weather, although the latter is not a common problem.

Recruitment and Training

We continue to attract learners of all ages. Not all find ringing to their liking. but we have added another new ringer this year. There is also ongoing training for those who have learned the basics but wish to progress. All our ringers are capable of ringing, and do ring, for Sunday services. This means that we often have more ringers than the ten bells in the tower. That said, holidays always seem to coincide, so we are occasionally short of numbers.

Special Ringing

For a suggested donation of £10 (which we give to church funds) the ringing on a specific Sunday can be dedicated to a person of your choice (or even yourself!). There is a certificate to commemorate the event.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Following government advice, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has recommended that ringing is suspended during the current pandemic. We are following that advice. In any event as mentioned elsewhere the bells are there to summon people to services and there are none (at the time of writing).

Thanks

Without a loyal band of helpers continued ringing would be impossible. My thanks go to Stuart Henderson for looking after our finances, Yvonne Cairns for acting as tower contact, Steve Rigby for his help with bell maintenance and my wife Ann and Victor Spong for looking after the learners and improvers. Finally, I would like to thank our ringers who enable us to ring for two services on a Sunday as well as for weddings and extra services such as Ash Wednesday.

The future

We are always ready to welcome new recruits. Ringing to a basic standard is not particularly difficult although learning takes time and patience. Ringing at top level is very difficult but not a requirement of a Sunday service ringer and service ringing is what we are there for. Strength is not a requirement. If you would like to learn, please let one of the ringers know.

**Paul Cross
Tower Captain**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The group has continued to meet throughout the year. We have a small membership but attendance is fairly consistent; people try to attend if they can. If anyone would like to give Christian Meditation a try, we meet on alternate Sundays at 5.15 pm in the Upper Room of the Centre. All are welcome and no previous experience is necessary.

Charles Foister

GARDENING GROUP

A small team of enthusiastic gardeners demonstrate considerable energy, commitment and creativity while maintaining our Garden of Remembrance. Many visitors sit on the benches or walk through the garden to The Centre and admire the colourful flowers and shrubs. We are all grateful for the work that goes on in all weathers to keep the garden looking at its best.

The external appearance of our church is greatly enhanced by neat lawns on every side and an extensive area of lawn to the west. The maintenance of the lawns in the growing seasons of spring, summer and autumn is a herculean task which is undertaken by a small team of dedicated volunteers. The team walk many miles behind the mowers and then carry the clippings up to the compost bin. We are indebted to the Lawnmowing Team for their commitment to keep our grass looking neat and tidy.

Paul Wilkinson

SATURDAY CLEANING AND POLISHING SESSIONS

Approximately once a month throughout the year a small group of volunteers have arrived in church to spruce up areas of our building that can get neglected. It has been a cheery time, with small tasks completed without the pressure of other work impending – typically, the edges of carpets being given a hard brush, extra-strenuous vacuuming completed, the baptistery wood tracery being waxed for the first time in a century, wax being removed from surfaces (one particular member of the congregation already wearing a serious halo for her skill in this) and porches and cupboards having particular attention focussed on them. One mammoth session last summer emptied an overfull cupboard in the

Centre Upper Room simply chockful of papers to be sifted, sent to better homes where they could be used, recycled or shredded.

We have had sessions before Lent, Christmas, another one before Easter, and others, usually coinciding with sessions spent on the grounds and joining that team at refreshments time. Another thrill was two days before Christmas, when teams seemed to be busy everywhere, arranging flowers, candles, bringing altar linen in, polishing as if Christmas and the New Year were just round the corner! No wonder the church looked wonderful, ready for our special celebrations, and it is a wonderful activity, to be adding to the beauty and joy of our fine building.

No need just to read about it, though! You could come and join in!

**Rosamund Place
Churchwarden**

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

18th Newcastle Brownies

We have had another exciting year at Brownies, and are fully embracing the new Girl Guiding programme. We have enjoyed new Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities, learning and developing many exciting skills, whilst working towards the themed awards.

Part of our promise asks us to serve our community. We have continued to carry out 'tidy up' sessions at church. We also enjoyed sweeping leaves and litter picking on the church green and ground of All Saints'. The Brownies always have great fun during these sessions.

We were extremely grateful to Diana for helping us through the songs for the Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival services. We appreciated her visits and thoroughly enjoyed the singing sessions, as well as attending the Sunday morning services.

With the help of Ann Shaw, we were able to refurbish the 'bug hotel' on the church green. We collected pine cones, broken pots, slates, sheep's wool etc... It was very kind of Ann to visit us beforehand, to explain what we needed to collect, as well as supervising our task, on a lovely sunny evening in September.

In May we visited Beamish Open Air Museum and had a fantastic day exploring and learning about life in 'times gone by'. Even though it rained most of the day our spirits weren't dampened. We took part in the Empire and Flag parade, proudly carrying our pack flag, smiling, singing and waving our way around the route.

We have enjoyed visits from a number of external organisations including, yoga, The Blue Cross, Medical Students for First Aid and 'Eat a Rainbow' sessions. We find these evenings very interesting, they also help us on our way to achieve our awards, as well as ensuring we offer a wide and varied Guiding programme.

As always, our annual 'Den Day' was a huge success, raising much needed funds for 'Save the Children'. We enjoyed making our dens on the church green, followed by a picnic and games, with our family and friends. The sun was shining and we had a lovely evening.

For the Christmas Fete, we ran the 'jam jar jest' stall for the third consecutive year, selling out in record time!! The Brownies had great fun decorating and filling the jars. They also enjoyed selling them on our stall. As always, it was a lovely event.

We currently have 24 brownies, 5 adult leaders and 2 young leaders. We are excited about this coming year. We have a two night residential weekend planned for May and many more adventures

to come. We plan our meetings well, and still manage to find time for our favourite activities, which include drama, dance, cookery, crafts and of course many, many games!!

As always, a huge thank you to Andrew, Louise and All Saints' Church, we consider ourselves very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful community. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks for the continuous support we receive.

Tricia Maylia

21st Newcastle Brownies

This year we have had some amazing adventures, as well as spending our second year carrying out the exciting new programme. We have carrying out activities on the Take Action, Be Well and Express Myself themes. These included learning first aid, CPR and the recovery position, and speaking out about plastic pollution and taking action by sending a letter to the local MP, which was discussed in parliament. We have learnt about looking after ourselves and each other, helping the girls to express their feelings and break through the stigma of mental health. We have also presented our first Brownie Gold Award, the highest award a brownie can achieve, which was a fantastic celebration.

We currently have 25 girls, 2 leaders, 1 volunteer, a young leader and a Guide helper.

Last year's pack holiday took us to Cheviot View, near Wooler, where the Brownies enjoyed a Mama Mia themed weekend including trying Greek food, making crafts and a 'wedding' themed party with lots of dancing. We also enjoyed a walk and having a traditional campfire with singing and toasted marshmallows. We have booked our pack holiday for this year, again at Cheviot View, and the Brownies have selected Harry Potter as this year's theme.

Over the last year we have also enjoyed lots of adventures including a trip to Oli & Joes for our Christmas Meal, an evening bouncing around at Jump360 and most recently we attended World Thinking Day with other Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from across Newcastle. We tried out lots of different activities including a silent disco, inflatable slide and met some police dogs and horses. The girls were able to talk to some Girl Scouts in Canada through Thinking Day on Air which was brilliant for them to speak to other members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts).

This year we have also had the privilege of having Diane come and sing with us before we attend services at Church. We have all loved this and it has made us all feel more confident in attending the services and helped the Brownies sound much better than when I teach them to sing! Going forward we are looking forward to a fun filled year starting with snow tubing in a few weeks.

Overall the 21st Newcastle Brownies have had a fantastic year and are very proud to be part of the All Saints' family.

Lauren Burnett

21st Newcastle Guides

At 21st Newcastle guides this year we have continued to enjoy working our way through the Guide programme and getting to know lots of new girls that have joined our unit.

We have 11 Guides, 2 Guiders and 2 Young Leaders.

Since the introduction of the new Guiding programme last year we have got to grips with many of the varied activities within the scheme and the Guides have enjoyed focusing on a specific theme award

per half term. We have completed the Be well award and we are now starting to work on Take action theme.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed working on a variety of interest badges and skill builders such as Science, environment and baking. Along with the badges we took part in a great range of activities, such as visiting Inflatospace inflatable park, arts and crafts, preparing for Harvest by learning the song Harvest samba with help from Mrs Lavin.

Some of the other activities, apart from badge work we have enjoyed this year have included outdoor cooking, learning how businesses work, parachute games and making Christmas crafts. We have also fundraised for Church through the Christmas fair and hope to raise even more money for charities throughout the year.

As part of the Take action theme award we have completed activities based on charity, world issues and climate change. The Guides have enjoyed having interesting discussions about how our small actions can have a ripple effect on the wider issues facing the planet in 2020. As part of Take action we had a go at recycling by making our own self watering planter to reuse plastic bottles.

During one evening we made our own pizzas (savoury and sweet!) which the guides were then able to take home to enjoy. The guides also made and decorated cupcakes after planning how to run their own bakery.

We are looking forward to Easter and another warm summer where we can get out and about to enjoy lots of different activities.

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

Hannah Johnson

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SEA SCOUTS

Beavers

Firstly, welcome to our latest recruit on the leadership team – Zac has joined us as a young leader. Zac has already completed his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh time with us – and has decided to stay on. He has a tough time ahead, to match Grace and Ben who are still providing us with great service.

The police came to call . . . but only to introduce themselves and answer some (well, okay, loads) of questions!

The beavers had fun completing their first aid badge – ending up with making stretchers out of poles and coats.

Great fun was had with our cycling event (thanks, Mel from British Cycling, and St Charles RC Primary School).

We've been on camp again, and we're planning the next one. We went on JOTT, and we're planning the next one.

It was also great to see some of the beavers brave the cold to carry flags at the remembrance parade on the High Street.

Bowling at Christmas, and a well-stocked and staffed ginger stall at the Christmas Fayre.

At the turn of the year, we proudly celebrated Burn's night (thank you Trev), as well as Chinese New Year.

A big thank you from me to my two trusty side-kicks, Nick and Jon. Without them, most of this would not happen.

We're currently looking forward to another busy year, and thinking about how we can continue our work if we have to stop attending the centre for our meetings.

Until next time!

Oliver Williams & The Team

Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack

Life continues to be busy in the group, and we have had a fantastic year 2019-20. We continue to have a full pack, with a maximum of 32 children registered with us. We have 4 enthusiastic leaders (Sarah, Andy, Sarah and Ross) and 4 keen young leaders from Gosforth Explorer Scouts to help us run the programme each week (Eloise, Libby, Lily and Hazel).

We have had many interesting nights in the centre, with skills night, badge night, gardening in the church garden and learning about the history of cubs being examples of what we have done. We welcomed the West End Food Bank to talk to us about the work of the food bank, and our speaker left with a car full of food donated by the cubs to take back.

We do try to get out and about as much as possible, particularly over the summer months. We have been surfing at Tynemouth, enjoyed archery and trampolining at Newburn, visited the Sikh Temple, helped clear the ground around young trees at Havannah Nature Reserve, and visited the fire station at Cramlington. We have also been on our annual Derwent Valley bicycle ride, and walked with the beavers and scouts at Warkworth for our JOTT. We took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade in Gosforth Park in November.

Camps are one of the most-enjoyed events that we run. We joined other cub packs from across Newcastle for the Army Camp at the Scout activity centre in Durham. We were lucky enough to sleep over with Dippy the Diplodocus at the Great North Museum, sleeping on mats on the floor under the huge skeleton in the display hall. In September, we joined with West Gosforth Scout Group to enjoy a joint camp at Dilston, with fire-lighting, backwoods cooking and lots more outdoor adventures.

12 of our cubs have been awarded their silver chief scout award this year, the highest award a cub can achieve. They have earned 7 challenge badges, ranging from adventure to skills to outdoor challenges. These cubs have subsequently enjoyed taking over as Akela for a night, running their own plan for the evening. We continue to promote 'You Shape', regularly asking for feedback and ideas from all the cubs, to plan a programme for them from their suggested activities.

We all look forward to another fun-packed year!

Sarah Parkinnen

Sea Scouts

Sea Scouts at All Saints' has remained strong this year, with further increases in numbers. As usual, we had a camp together with the Beavers and Cubs, this time at the beautiful riverside campsite at Dilston, and we also had a Scout-only camp at Selby Wood just north of Morpeth. We participated in the international Scout hiking day known as "Jamboree on the Trail", taking a circular route by the sea at Warkworth, and had two excellent excursions organised with the help of Trinity House, one to RNLI Cullercoats, and the second to RAF Boulmer. A highlight of the year was our weekend on a Tall Ship; in October we had great sailing out from Royal Quays on the 'James Cook' with the Ocean Youth Trust. We make sure this a semi-annual event. Newcastle District also organised some excellent experiences including paintballing, a sports activities day, and "Jamboree on the Air" where Scouts contact other young people around the world by radio and internet.

As well as lots of fun and games, activities on our troop nights included: urban orienteering around Gosforth, pioneering (building structures from poles and rope), leatherwork, learning how to splice

rope with the very kind help of Victor Spong, climbing and trampolining at Newburn, water activities at Druridge Bay, a visit from local MP Catherine McKinnell, and participating in the Newcastle Peace Walk between the Hindu temple and Sikh Gurdwara in the West End via the Venerable Bede Church and the Newcastle Mosque.

We have maintained our excellent links with the church, attending the Remembrance Sunday parade and the Harvest Festival and running a very successful stall this year at the Christmas Fayre.

As I write this, Scouts has been suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions. I have no doubt, however, that we will return with a great programme once the crisis has passed. Indeed, current events remind us of the enduring importance of Scouting values.

Despite the increased numbers, we do have a few places left within the Scout Group. So, if you have a son, daughter or friend who may wish to join us, please see our website (<http://cgsg.scoutsites.org.uk/scouts/158-2/>) or feel free to contact Dona Skaife (gosforthscouts.montagu@gmail.com) to discuss current availability.

**Jonathan Higgins, Section Leader
Central Gosforth Sea Scouts - All Saints'**

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE FIRST SCHOOL

I am delighted to be writing to you again this year with news from our lovely school! In June 2019, Ofsted visited and judged our school to be "Good". This has been great news for our school and has seen interest in Reception places, for September 2020, increase significantly. Several families visited us after hearing such positive comments within the community. As you can imagine, we are delighted to hear that our schools reputation is, once again, so strong.

"The school is a vibrant, happy place. Pupils' above-average attendance reflects their enjoyment and positive attitudes to school life. " Ofsted June 2019

A lot has happened over the last year... Over the summer we had a "makeover" of our EYFS classrooms. They look amazing and now feature new interactive boards, new furniture and have had a lick of paint. The result is amazing!

In September, we appointed some new staff including our new Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Booth. Jonathan joined us from Thomas Walling Primary Academy in the west of the city and has settled into Gosforth life very well.

In Autumn Term, we took our Year 4 children on their first ever residential which we intend to make an annual event. It was a huge success and it was wonderful for us as staff to see children in a completely different context. We linked this visit to developing a "growth mind-set" and "can do" attitude which has had a really positive effect on classroom attitudes.

I am now in my second year of headship and still thoroughly enjoying the challenges and rewards. We continue to strive for improvement and to provide the very best for our fabulous children. At the moment we are focussing on reinvigorating our wider curriculum; raising aspiration and opportunities for children e.g. Computing, skills in History and Geography, increasing sporting opportunities and investing in RE. In addition, the Diocesan Education Board have kindly bought the school 60 new iPads which we are making very good use of! It is an exciting time to be in education.

"Leaders have developed a rich curriculum. It provides interesting and relevant opportunities. As a result, pupils develop good knowledge and understanding in a wide range of subjects."
Ofsted June 2019

As well as offering our usual range of sporting clubs after school we are delighted to be working with members of the Church communities to be able to offer Choir Club and All Stars Bible Club to provide a wide range of opportunities to our children. Our driven and successful PTFA continue to support the school enormously. In February, we had an all purpose running track and trim trail installed, courtesy of the PTFA and Diocese, as well as new resources and furniture.

We are benefiting enormously from strengthened church links with both parishes via the support of the PCCs, clergy and wider church communities. We are always looking for support our school and would welcome any offers of time that any of you may have. We have a range of roles for volunteers; from photocopying and laminating, to listening to children read, organising new reading books, gardening or putting up displays. If you would like to be part of our team of volunteers, please contact Mrs Pygall in the school office!

As I write, the children making good use of our fabulous school grounds for learning and playing. Spring is a such a magical time of year, when we can enjoy the improvement on the weather and take the opportunity to appreciate God's wonderful world.

I look forward to writing to you again with details of the next chapter in our schools life and future.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

LADYBIRD @ ALL SAINTS' PLAYGROUP

Another busy year for Ladybird! We have welcomed lots of new children, families and staff. Jayne joined the team as Deputy Manager alongside myself and Claire. Due to increase in numbers we are employing a new Nursery Nurse. We have extended our Friday opening hours until 3.00pm, which has been very popular with families entitled to the new 30 hours childcare funding scheme.

Over the last 12 months we have created new exciting role-play areas and explored our wonderful outdoor area. We plan all of our activities based on the children's interests and explored many different topics. We have developed a fantastic partnership with Philip Cussins House. The children visit regularly and we've enjoyed themed days such as bouncy castle play, Geordie Day and Jungle Book themed day!

The children have also celebrated many other events and festivals, Chinese New year, Diwali, Christmas, St David's Day, Remembrance Day. Our Parent Partnership has developed through open days, Christmas parties, nativity sing-along, Valentine's breakfast, messy play and stay sessions, summer party and graduation. We have taken part in many outings to Fenwick's window, Giant Bugs on Tour, local walks and Gosforth Park. Earlier this year we held a 'Bake Off' week where the children made pizzas, scones and smoothies! World Book Day is always a popular event and our families really get involved creating costumes! We have introduced 'Healthy Math Commitment'. The children brush their teeth daily at Playgroup. We hope to receive this award later in the year.

Thank you to everyone who continue to support safeguarding our children whilst on the premises.

Rachel Todd

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH
Sidespeople

Brian Adcock
Anthony Anderson
Marion Anderson
Roy Ashton
Linda Bates
Yvonne Carr
Marion Cave
Tony Champion
Marilyn Champion
Paul Christian
Keith Davies
Edith Davison
Ann Downey
Peter Farquharson
Lynne Farquharson
Marie-Claude Fawcett
Charles Foister
Margaret Hudgson
Keith 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:
Rosamund Place
Paul Wilkinson