

All Saints
Gosforth



Annual Report to
Parishioners
2021

'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 2020

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 2020

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Objectives and Activities

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

The All Saints' mission statement is:

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

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

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

Membership

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

Incumbent	Revd Canon Andrew Shipton	From Sept. 2014
Churchwardens	Mr Paul Wilkinson	From 2018 APCM
	Mrs Christine Willoughby	From 2020 APCM
Deanery Synod representatives Until 2023 (ex-officio)	Mr Peter Brown (Lay Vice Chair)	
	Ms Diane Kirkup	
	Mrs Rosamund Place	
	Mrs Pamela Taylor	
Elected members Until 2021	Mr Nick Glover	
	Ms Alison Proudfoot	
	Mrs Karen Parkhouse	
	Mrs Nicola White	
	Mrs Dorothy Henderson	
	Mrs Katie Hogg	
Elected members Until 2022	Mr Chris Jenkins	Resigned in Sept. 2020
	Mrs Diana Lavin	
	Mrs Ethel Randall	
	Mrs Margaret Patterson	
	Mrs Lesley Ogilvie	
Elected members Until 2023	Ms Alison Wilson	
	Dr Claudia Newbegin	
	Mrs Marian Coulson-Cave	
	Mrs Felicity Shoesmith	
	Miss Edith Davison	
	Mr Joe Vera-Sanso	
Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio)	
Assistant Curate	Revd Beverley Davies (ex-officio)	
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Kath Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
Treasurer	Mr Fred Carr, co-opted for 1 year	
Secretary	Mr Nick Glover	

Ms Kath Davies was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2020 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

As a prelude to the report proper, I firstly must pay tribute and say thanks to all who have given so much, voluntarily, to the mission and ministry of All Saints throughout 2020.

Peter Brown – PCC Vice Chair; Fred Carr – our dedicated Treasurer; Nick Glover – PCC Secretary; Dorothy Henderson & Dee Matthews – for masterminding the 'Taste of Christmas'; Stuart Henderson, who successfully acquired grants for St Hugh's and has helped continuously in maintaining the fabric of the building ; Diana Lavin who set up a choir at Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School, redesigned the Newsletter, sang the Eucharist hymns and played the organ preludes and postludes during the first lockdown. She set up a Zoom 'Just Sing' in May and is now assisted by Thomas Moorin, an ex-chorister of ours; Peter Mitchell, who during the first lockdown provided Sunday Evening Prayer and has continued to make services accessible through his livestreaming each Sunday since July. Since then, his continued resilience in the face of many issues and provision of his own equipment for our benefit is to be applauded. He also enabled us to provide worship by telephone; Charlie Mussett for his Covid-19 Risk Assessments and Centre Risk Agreements. He has continued to update these Risk Assessments in the face of regularly changing Government guidelines so that not only were we able to continue to meet safely but also stay within the law; Ann Shaw – single handed production of our Christingles; Pam Taylor who maintained regular contact with her MU colleagues; Christine Willoughby who spearheaded the new 'Keeping in Touch' publication; Dawn Yeamans, who last January introduced a new weekly 'Mind and Body' Dance session at the Church Centre. Paul Wilkinson and Ros Place, our churchwardens, have given themselves generously in tackling so many challenges and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for their immense hard work. There are so many more to thank whom I do not have the space to mention by name, such as those who acted as stewards, maintaining the safety of worshippers. I will refer to the Ministry Team at the end of the report.

This past year was extraordinary for its trial and innovation in the face of threat with few of us realising that we would face more difficulties and deeper challenges in the latter months. After March there remained a post traumatic unease across the community which eased during the summer months but was keenly felt again as we approached the end of the year. As I write during this third lockdown, we remain unsure as to how the future will look.

Despite it being an unsettling and confusing period, the Ministry Team attempted to see this as a time of challenge and opportunity. An early mantra in the face of isolation and uncertainty was 'maintain connections, create new connections, and strengthen relationships.' It felt an appropriate time to hold a vision of life that looked beyond self-concern and explore in depth the wisdom of our ancient Christian faith in order to help us make sense of what we were experiencing. Trying to tell the story of the year is in itself a challenge because the context changed frequently. Looking back, utilising social media was vital. The temptation too often was to retreat - to bunker down and pretend that things would soon return to normal.

The year began with many plans and activities. Some of us will remember hearing speakers deliver their presentations. At the January PCC, the Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser (Joanne Christie) explained how contactless donations could be achieved by encouraging us to purchase a "Good Plate" whereby we could give by card. The following month at the Open PCC on 9th February, Simon Mason, from Tyne and Wear Citizens UK, quizzed us about our commitment to working towards challenging the structures of injustice in our society.

We made progress from the beginning of the year. The church sound system had been improved in January; a new Children, Families and Youth Co-ordinator's job description was re-crafted and the post advertised; we took long term loan of a Bechstein concert grand piano and a monthly concert programme was planned from March until December, as was an All Saints' Conference for the 27th June at Shepherds Dene for up to 35 people. (This was to be an opportunity to review our progress over the year). There was a service of prayer for Christian unity on 19th January attended by 75 which included many of our friends from 'Christians Together' in Gosforth and on 25th February we welcomed the congregation of the Holy Name, Jesmond to Evensong. As well as our weekly services, our monthly Café Church was popular and a well-attended Messy Church took place also in February. A weekly 'Mind, Body and Dance' session began in the Church Centre on 27th January. Two services were maintained weekly at St Hugh's. Subcommittees of the PCC met regularly. A Tyne & Wear Citizens listening campaign was under way. An Archbishop Runcie School Key Stage 2 choir (having been set up in September 2019) was now well established and helped support music in collective worship (now often taking place more than twice a week).

At St Hugh's much was being done by Beverley (Davies) and Isaac Wilkinson to rebuild relationships with the wider community. A Café Church - style service was soon to be tried, effectively trying to sow the seeds of a new congregation. Two toddler groups were thriving.

Early in February, Safeguarding Training took place in the Church Centre (relevant to all working with young people and the vulnerable); with thanks to John Lewis's inspiration and effort, plans were afoot for the performance of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' on Good Friday and the choir were practising the songs; there was to be Schools' Week in early June and we were also looking forward to Handlebards' performance of Shakespeare on the Church Green on 12th August; 13 weddings were booked; Beverley had led a retreat day for a Woman's Fellowship and following a successful interview on March 14, Jamie Donaldson was appointed as Youth Worker.

When the pandemic became a factor in March, we agonised over whether we should hold parish breakfast. It was mid-March when the government decreed that we must stay at home for the foreseeable future and it took some time to absorb what this meant. The Tuesday Tea Club had to close as did Sew Knit and Natter; the Painting Group, young people's activities and in fact all activities that took place in the Centre. Throughout March and April and for Easter, even I was not allowed to go into church. From the end of April Louise Waugh and Tricia Maylia joined the Government's Job Retention Scheme. Louise returned at the end of August to be furloughed once more during the second lockdown. Tricia returned to work solely for the month of October. They were a great miss. Their absences directly resulted in Beverley and myself absorbing extra administrative and other tasks.

So we embarked on a journey to a different place and we are still travelling! Although no real substitute for actually being together, the 'Zoom' platform afforded us many opportunities, over the year, to be able to see each other, to share conversations, as at parish breakfast, PCC, morning coffee events; to join the 'Just Sing' sessions on Friday morning, in a study group, and for the young

people in their 'Evolution' sessions. Notwithstanding its frustrations, it certainly has meant that many of us were enabled to see each other over the months.

During the first lockdown, attempts at maintaining services online were rapidly developed. Firstly the 'Cast Box' app was tried followed by a swift move to YouTube. In the beginning, not being permitted to enter the church I filmed from the vicarage. There were many frustrations – not only was grappling with the demands of filming and recording a challenge (with basic equipment) but also immense elation when something finally worked – progress! Beverley assembled the weekly power point presentations, incorporating the essential components for the 40 minute services appearing on our website. Some will remember the Easter Day Service partly filmed in the vicarage garden. All recordings had to be done at home. I was eventually permitted to access the church buildings in May and so filming could then take place on site. By the end of the month, still no news had been received from Church authorities concerning re-opening for communal worship. The Church Centre remained fully closed until June.

During that time, countless new ideas were tried, for example, reaching out to dozens of young families with an electronic Easter activity card. As you'd expect, some of these ideas produced mixed responses. There was a limerick competition, quizzes and an overwhelming response to the request for photos of beautiful spring flowers. A 'Tik Tok' style competition was offered to our teenagers, and who can forget the poem 'Coronavirus Spring' composed by Dermot Killingley that featured on our website? Many letters were sent and phone calls made to the St Hugh's congregation. There was much effort made to keep in touch and to help stay engaged with as many as possible. Beverley, Ruth, Vic and I had a long list of people we regularly attempted to phone. We all agreed how frustrating it was not to visit.

In June, when restrictions were first lifted, great effort went into being ready for the opening of the church (initially just for private prayer) and even more preparation was necessary for our first public service on 12th July, the first since March.

Sadly, we conducted a number of funerals (some of which were COVID-related). During the year, 17 services were conducted at the crematorium, we held 5 funerals in church and officiated at 7 burials of ashes, all subject to restrictions. In all this, our contact with families was, sadly, also limited. All weddings were postponed except for one in October and one in December, and we had one baptism. Memorial Services arranged for the autumn could not take place.

There were other initiatives. Always conscious that many in the two parishes would require not only practical help but also enjoy conversation in their isolation, the clergy, and others used an app to offer support and published phone numbers to ring on weekday afternoons. The first edition of a new monthly magazine 'Keeping in Touch' was launched. Aimed as a means of helping the people of both churches keep up with news, focus their prayers and provide light entertainment, so far, this has proved very popular. The weekly Friday online 'Just Sing' sessions have run from the start of the first lockdown and have remained very popular. The music range has been extensive, from musicals and songs of the 30's through to more contemporary music. The lyrics and YouTube links are sent out beforehand to enable participants, if appropriate, to practise. It has been a time to relax, share conversation, tell jokes and have fun on a Friday morning.

The clergy held Morning Prayer via 'Zoom' during the lockdowns. The continued input of Isaac Wilkinson our "Pastoral Assistant" at All Saints and St Hugh's in 2020 (part of the Ministry Experience Scheme offered by the Church of England for those wanting space to explore their vocation to ordained ministry) was much appreciated. We grieved with Isaac when he lost his father (the Vicar of Humshaugh with Wark and Simonburn) during Holy Week. Later in the summer, Isaac was selected for training for the ministry and started at Cranmer Hall, Durham in September. We enjoyed his sermons and vitality and his contribution to our life.

Private prayer in church was permitted by the government from the 13th June and thus it started, the result of meticulous preparation. Posters were designed, spaces in pews marked out, and even a video was produced on how to pray safely. There were 3 sessions per week, to keep to a manageable level. However, after a review of our arrangements, on the 22nd June (following 2

unfortunate incidents), we decided these sessions needed to be supervised. I cannot stress enough the tremendous effort taken to make the church safe. Calculations had to be made to ascertain the new permitted capacity of the church and to prepare what was to be a Risk Assessment for all that we do, now almost 100 pages long.

As stated above, lockdown has meant exploring different forms of worship, in addition to adapting to new guidelines and procedures in church (July). Our first act of public worship after the first lockdown was Morning Prayer on Sunday 12th July (also at St Hugh's). This was possible after careful preparation with the rules and guidelines strictly adhered to, paying particular attention to social distancing, automatic sanitiser machines, health check questions and track & trace. Doors remained open to assist ventilation. This was live streamed for the first time on 19th July. On Saturday 1st August we held our first Eucharist in church, (celebrated at the end of August at St Hugh's), said goodbye to Isaac Wilkinson at a special informal service on 9th August whilst at the same time welcoming our new Youth Worker Jamie Donaldson.

St Hugh's was an area which required careful thought and well-considered action. As stated earlier, Beverley and I kept in phone contact and sent out letters and cards. Members of All Saints bought and delivered shopping to those who were shielding. Sadly neither Weightwatchers nor the Bridge Club were able to return in the summer. The Toddler group met towards the end of the year and a new children's ballet class used the facilities. There was some rental interest from 3 other groups but the necessary Covid secure requirements proved an unacceptable obstacle for them. Services took place every two weeks. With no churchwardens, it was necessary for a team from All Saints to maintain the fabric of the building, cut the grass, clean the toilets and keep the kitchen in good order. After some difficulty, a claim for Gift Aid, was submitted and grants were received from government schemes in the summer with another later in the year. Our thanks to Fred Carr who prepared the accounts for the annual meetings at St Hugh's in October.

Broadcasting from church rather than creating a pre-recorded service was a theme of the weekly Standing Committee meetings in the summer. The Committee met from May through to July to deal with immediate issues including time spent investigating the best equipment for live streaming with several companies being approached and quotes obtained. The biggest challenge was to be clear about the specific equipment needed. Essentially, this would require Wi-Fi in church and well-positioned cameras. Wider community engagement was the overriding objective.

Streaming onto Facebook from 18th July was initially via mobile phone. There were many issues to contend with during this time, sound quality to name just one. Perseverance was appreciated, all of us being conscious that many, having neither the access nor the confidence to engage with technology just felt cut off. The next stage of this technology development is to commission a fully integrated streaming system and thanks to Ros Place we have received a grant of £3,350 to assist with this. We will be going out to tender shortly, with a much clearer idea of the system we are looking for. We were also glad to introduce telephone worship (now superseded by a superior one). In August much preparation work was done creating a series of Covid-19 specific Risk agreements and Risk Assessments for the Centre. These were sent to all Centre user groups explaining necessary action that the church would undertake and our expectation of what each group would do to avoid the spread of the virus.

From September, life did seem different. Jamie Donaldson joined us on 1st September and our first service, especially aimed at young families, 'Jonah and the whale', was prepared. This took place on 20th September and was well-attended. There were forward plans for a Pet Service on 15th November but unfortunately this had to be postponed due to the second lockdown. I continued to conduct worship at Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School every Friday but always outside in the playground, even on very cold mornings. Beverley and Jamie alternated on Wednesdays. A few young people did attend worship during the summer but parents were concerned about children joining groups outside their school bubble. This concern also curtailed other children's and youth activities. Some uniformed groups like the cubs and scouts met remotely. Jamie prepared videos for class worship which were sent to 3 schools. These were much appreciated and he was able to do some of his work, including the Evolution Group, using Zoom. On Saturday 10th October, Beverley Davies's delayed ordination as priest took place at St George's, Jesmond. We were

delighted that she was able to celebrate her first communion service the following day at All Saints and the week after at St Hugh's.

The annual meetings were held on 18th October in church and were also live-streamed. Being a churchwarden brings a big responsibility and in a time of transition and challenge it can be exhausting a fact that was recognised by all. We were immensely grateful for Ros' dedication, creativity and energy during her three and half years in office. She had given so much, been supportive, encouraging and practical. It had been more than a full-time job, and we wished her well-deserved space and a true sense of satisfaction knowing that she had fulfilled the role so well. We were also pleased to welcome Christine Willoughby as her successor.

Autumn saw further developments. Members of the choir began to sing during Eucharist with John Lewis as cantor. The carefully prepared Harvest Service was non Eucharistic. The Amnesty Vigil could be followed at home, with readings provided on the website to guide thoughts and prayers in remembering those unjustly imprisoned. All Saints' Day was celebrated in a quiet way. There were two All Souls services to which many who lost loved ones during the past 12 months were invited. An additional Service was held on Monday 2nd November when loved ones from previous years were remembered.

On Wednesday 25th November, a number of us were able to attend (via zoom) the Tyne & Wear Citizens Assembly when at the culmination of the listening campaign, decisions were made on priorities for Tyne & Wear Citizens for the next 2 years. Beginning on Wednesday 18th November and concluding on 9th December, the Advent themes were studied via four Zoom sessions. We looked at passages in St Luke's Gospel and we explored what they might mean for us today. The second Lockdown (which began on the 3rd November) meant we had to produce a further four YouTube services including one for Remembrance and also the first Sunday in Advent. The Gosforth Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in the Park was a recorded event held an hour before the public would normally gather. During this time Peter Brown was able to win a second grant from the Council to support our work.

Despite the restrictions of Lockdown we made plans for Christmas. The Second Lockdown did not deter our attempt to bring a little Christmas cheer by a project that would seek to echo the experience of a Christmas fair. The Festive Cheer project was launched by a group of volunteers willing to bake and make craft items (all featured on the website) with all proceeds going to All Saints.

The 'Light in the Darkness' project, intended to illuminate the church in the run up to Christmas, was a journey in which much was learned. When we realised that a traditional Christmas could not take place we began working on an alternative plan to make the church into a beacon of light in the dark to the community. Initially our ambitious scheme was to employ lighting technicians to project coloured lights onto the exterior of our church and illuminate the columns and arches on the inside. However, Lockdown regulations prevented this plan. Undeterred, we sought to illuminate external architectural features and project light from the inside, through the stained glass windows. A test had taken place in mid- November. The tower looked impressive but the equipment needed supervision and this would be restricted to 2-3 hours a night. Also, the internal lights were not powerful enough to create the impact we desired. Next, we investigated installing powerful Christmas lights at the top of the tower but these could not be supplied in time (and we were concerned about any impact on neighbours and other regulations). In the end, our usual domestic Christmas lights were displayed around the tower. We gained much insight and knowledge through the project! Donations given have been ring-fenced to illuminate the church next Christmas (making reference to all experience gained). In future, we concluded that planning for an event such as this really needs to start up to a year in advance.

As Christmas approached we knew, because of their popularity, that services would have to be booked in advance. In addition there would be no congregational singing and that everyone would have to stay in their seats. The permission granted by the government later in December, for congregations to sing outside changed our plans. A Christmas card was prepared and printed in the office for distribution across the parish. Keith Davies recorded an encouraging message as Santa Claus for children which was featured on the website. An interactive Christingle service was well-

attended. Children signed one song, did actions for another and decorated their Christingles from materials individually wrapped and provided in the pews. For the Crib service, children were invited to come dressed up as Kings, Shepherds, and Sheep. There were activities to do by themselves in the pews. "Follow the Star" was an event involving a star-seeking interactive trail around the parish, ending at church with a nativity Scene (south porch). Participants brought a non-perishable gift of food to leave at the manger, for the West End Food Bank. There was a disappointing personal response but a lot of interest shown on Facebook.

On Christmas Eve the church was open from 9.30am – 10.30am for private Reflection. A great deal of work was put into the two Christmas Eve Carol Services on the green; they generated a lot of interest and appreciative comments. This was truly a military operation overseen by Charlie Mussett who had calculated that the green could accommodate 40 household units, in standing area pens, each pen holding a maximum of 6 people - a capacity of between 40 and 240 people. The Eventbrite booking system was used. There had been confusion over what booking a 'pen' meant. Volunteers were recruited and asked to read instructions and attend the briefing ahead of each service. We were grateful for the practical help in putting pins into the ground to construct the pens. On the morning, the gazebo sheltering the sound system almost blew away but many appreciated the opportunity to sing carols, even in the driving snow! Christmas Day proceeded 'as normal' with a non-bookable service.

I would like to pay tribute to the Ministry Team: to Beverley and her persistence and tenacity particularly in mastering YouTube and Eventbrite; to Ruth in taking a full part in the services and her diligence in phoning many over the months and Vic for also maintaining contact with many of the congregation together with his contributions to our worship. Between us, many sermons and prayers have been recorded.

Enduring 'lockdown' has brought home to me the importance of being adaptable, always improvisatory and agile as we look to the future. Our experience has led us to reflect on our internal and external communications and question how, as we move forward, a wider range of music and a greater variety of services can be incorporated into our worshipping life. During the year there have been changes. We have created a new logo, a fresh-looking newsletter, a re-designed 'Keeping in Touch' magazine, and a new look website is in the offing.

I came to the end of the year thinking that we as a faith community have much to share: we offer a sense of purpose, hope and the opportunity to start again. When things are tough, it is so tempting to look inward and be defensive, dig in and refuse to change, but now, more than ever, is the time to focus on our calling and see we are always on a journey. The preoccupations of the Christian faith are being focused on by many, as they try to make sense of their experience at this time. People in their everyday lives are thinking about issues such as what is just, the reality of undeserved suffering, on what forgiveness means and the importance of companionship and compassion. Also, how are we going to relate to each other post-pandemic?

The essential issues of the human condition don't go away. We have a gospel to share to address these concerns and as we begin 2021 we are well placed to do this. The journey continues!

Andrew Shipton

Congregation and PCC Meeting Details

There were 222 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2020 (221 on 31 December 2019). The average Sunday attendance counted in October 2020 was 81 (196 in October 2019). Services in church were suspended during the Coronavirus lockdown periods in March, April, May and November but continued online. Attendance numbers were much reduced because of Coronavirus but online services continued throughout and were well attended and appreciated.

The PCC met 5 times in 2020; this was fewer meetings than normal for obvious reasons and two of the meetings were successfully held over Zoom. The average attendance was 68% (74% in 2019.) The PCC regularly receives reports from the its working groups and the Fabric committee, in particular, has provided a great deal of valuable and relevant material. Regular reports have also

been received from the Deanery Synod. It was only possible to hold one Open PCC meeting on a Sunday morning, rather than the two that were planned.

Finance

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on All Saints' finances in 2020, income and expenditure both being much lower than in other years.

The accounts show a surplus of £9,506 for 2020 before taking account of the gain of £3,576 in the market value of our investments. The accounts at the end of 2019 showed a deficit of £8,497 before an investment gain of £6,824.

Income

Total income, excluding legacies and grants decreased from £218,666 in 2019 to £191,092 in 2020, the decrease being due to the reduction in hall rent and church service collections because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Planned Giving

There were 141 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2020 compared with 154 at the end of 2019, the reduction caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2020. Planned Giving decreased by £2,129 (£111,092 in 2019, £108,963 in 2020).

Donations

Donations in 2020 totalled £6,984 which included £852 donated for particular purposes, the remaining £6,132 being from general ad hoc donations.

Tax Recovery

For 2020 we have claimed a GASDS allowance of £2,860 giving an income of £715. This is much less than the maximum GASDS allowance of £8,000 that we have claimed in previous years due to the large reduction in charity and general donations. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on Planned Giving and donations decreased from £31,413 in 2019 to £27,037 in 2020.

Grants

During 2020 we were awarded two grants of £5,000 and £2,668 by Newcastle City Council for loss of business. We were also awarded a grant of £3,350 by Allchurches Trust towards the cost of a livestream system.

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 £194,029 compared with £232,236 in 2019. As the expenditure this year is so badly affected by Coronavirus, comparison of individual category expenditure is not appropriate.

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 2020.

Rents

The All Saints' Centre continued to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties until March 2020 when the first Coronavirus lockdown occurred. For the remainder of the year it has been used on and off by a small number of organisations. Rents received totalled £13,163 (£25,922 in 2019). This includes £224 charged against the Dementia Tea Club project and £305 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 £1,773.

The Verger's House was occupied most of the year. £9,540 was received in rent against expenses of £1,417.

Mission Giving

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

Donations to the Mission of the Month charities are underwritten by the PCC to guarantee that each charity receives a sum equal to 5% of All Saints' previous year's planned giving and associated gift aid. During normal years, donations from the congregation have exceeded the underwritten amount so the underwriting guarantee was not relevant. During 2020 donations from the congregation have been significantly lower than usual, in some months zero.

Donations paid to charities totalled £8,058 (£22,820 in 2019) of which £3,527 was contributed from church funds to comply with the underwriting guarantee to Mission of the Month charities. £966 was collected at funerals and other events using the church.

McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Income from this fund was £530 which, together with the £231 held over from 2019, was used to pay £717 for Health & Safety costs leaving £44 to be carried over into 2021.

The Youth Project

The Youth Worker project income was £13,574 and the expenditure was £5,385 giving a surplus for the year of £8,189.

Legacies

Credit has been taken in the accounts for donations in memory of Sheila Hilton, Judith Barber, and Shirley Jacques. The donation in memory of Judith Barber together with the associated gift aid was, at the request of the donor, used for the insurance excess to repair a church window which had been vandalised.

Expenditure from the Legacies Fund in 2020 was £2,962 for the cost of installing lighting bollards on the path at the north end of the church.

Bank Balances and Reserves

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2020 totalled £100,177 compared with £95,433 at the end of 2019. £31,251 is in the Legacies fund, £43,705 is held for the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £9,094 is held in other funds for particular purposes. The remaining £16,127 (reduced from £21,132 in 2019) is held in the General Income fund, together with the £10,334 due from debtors, to meet the amount of £8,073 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has increased from £61,745 in 2019 to £62,556 in 2020.

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 2020 the General Income fund liquid reserves reduced by £1,105 to £18,388 which is a very low level considering that this is the fund that has to provide the resources for the all of the day-to-day transactions such as Parish Share, Clergy housing cost, salaries, energy costs, insurance, office supplies, Church, Church Centre and properties maintenance.

In 2020 there has been a significant surplus generated from the rents of the 2 houses and the surplus generated by the Centre rent was still significant, if reduced. Hopefully these rents' surpluses can be maintained during 2021. In 2021, the Parish Share is staying the same at £111,505. Hopefully the Planned Giving will hold up well enough during 2021 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 late 2021.

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
28 March 2021

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 2020.

Date 29 March 2021

G Benjamin ACA
For and on behalf of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summary accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2020		2019
	£		£
Income and Endowments			
Donations, grants and legacies			
planned giving	108,963		111,092
donations	6,984		19,376
income tax recovered	27,037		31,413
furlough payments	7,811		-
legacies	1,425		2,000
grants	11,018		3,073
	163,238		166,954
Trading activities	31,703		44,471
Income from charitable activities	4,568		8,996
Other income	1,935		1,410
Income from bank interest/investments	2,091		1,908
Total income and endowments	<u>203,535</u>		<u>223,739</u>
Expenditure			
Planning giving renewal expenses	70	-	-
Fundraising costs	637	707	875
<i>Ministry</i>			
Parish share	111,505		109,319
Clergy expenses and housing costs	<u>4,802</u>		<u>6,187</u>
	116,307		115,506
<i>Church</i>			
alter requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance	9,902		15,837
window repair	2,130		-
bells refurbishment project	-		10,136
light and heat	2,224		4,011
organist, organ and choir	3,920		7,409
	18,176		37,393
<i>All Saints' Centre</i>			
cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance	11,763		16,078
access path lighting	2,962		-
paving repair	-		9,024
light and heat	3,709		4,253
caretaker salary costs	<u>7,086</u>		<u>7,511</u>
	25,520		36,866
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
youth worker project	5,385		14,840
old clergy/verger houses expenses	3,190		3,462
church office	16,327		17,628
mission, independent examiner, other costs	<u>8,417</u>		<u>5,666</u>
	33,319		41,596
Total expenditure	<u>194,029</u>		<u>232,236</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains	9,506		(8,497)
Net gains on investments	3,576		6,824
Net movement in funds	13,082		(1,673)
Funds brought forward	574,570		576,243
Funds carried forward	<u><u>587,652</u></u>		<u><u>574,570</u></u>

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2020

The funds of £587,652 at 31 December 2020 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		18,909
The Gloria Smith Fund (£43,705) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors		52,799
Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £62,556 in the Legacies Fund		<u>515,944</u>
Total funds		<u><u>587,652</u></u>

These funds were represented at 31 December 2020 by:

Properties - note 1		435,000
Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2020		50,214
Debtors and other amounts receivable	10,334	
Bank balances and cash	<u>100,177</u>	
	110,511	
less creditors falling due within one year	<u>8,073</u>	
Net current assets		<u>102,438</u>
Net assets		<u><u>587,652</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 2020 at £435,000 (Old Clergy House - £210,000, Verger's House - £225,000), no change since the 31 December 2019 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 and a part-time caretaker throughout 2020 and a part-time children's and youth worker since September 2020. Their salary costs together with organist's fees including employer's NI and pension costs totalled £26,192 (£38,181 in 2019).

£7,811 was received from the Government as furlough benefits for the administrator and caretaker.

3. Related party transactions

The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton has occupied a house attached to his appointment. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with his house totalled £3,741. Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Beverley Davies amounted to £1,061.

No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2020.

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 28 March 2021, 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 28 March 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Shipton

Vicar, Chair of the Council
28 March 2021

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>From Special Collections</i> £	<i>From Church Funds</i> £	<i>Total paid 2020</i> £		<i>Total paid 2019</i> £
Mission of the Month						
January	Cedarwood Trust	737	-	737	Cedarwood Trust	1,011
February	NIDAS	500	-	500	Traidcraft Exchange	653
March	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	699	-	699	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	1,385
April	Church Mission Society	-	496	496	Church Mission Society	1,471
May	uS	20	476	496	uS	843
June	Cornerstone	20	476	496	Cornerstone	765
July	Mission to Seafarers	93	403	496	Mission to Seafarers	964
August	PCDC	119	377	496	PCDC	1,650
September	Northumbria Deaf Church	232	264	496	Northumbria Deaf Church	833
October	Walking With	188	308	496	Church Urban Fund	665
November	Shelter Box	223	273	496	Friends of Mandritsara Trust	634
December	West End Refugee Service	42	454	496	West End Refugee Service	837
				<u>6,400</u>		<u>11,711</u>
Other donations						
Easter Day	Smile for Life	-	-	-	Smile for Life	272
Christingle	Children's Society	289	-	289	Children's Society	199
Christmas Eve	DEC	164	-	164	DEC	925
	Destiny Streetworx	164	-	164	Destiny Streetworx	785
Christmas Day	Caritas Baby's Hospital	75	-	75	Caritas Baby's Hospital	353
	Other charities	966	-	966	Other charities	8,575
				<u>1658</u>		<u>11,109</u>
				<u>8058</u>		<u>22,820</u>

Note

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

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will take place in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL
on SUNDAY 18th April 2021 at 11.00am

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Appointment of clerk

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

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

3.2 Minutes of Annual Meeting on 18th October 2020 – for approval

3.3 Matters Arising

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 – *for approval Fred Carr*

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts

3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

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

3.7 Comments and questions about reports (coloured pages)

3.8 Elections and appointments

3.8.1 Scrutineers

3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

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

3.8.3 Appointment of sidesmen and sideswomen

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

3.9 Vicar's Report

3.10 Declaration of election results

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

The Blessing

All Saints Church, Gosforth
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Sunday 18th October 2020
In the Church.

Present: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Peter Brown, Fred Carr, Marian Cave, Elizabeth Crawford, Ann Cross, Paul Cross, Muriel Dart, Revd. Bev Davies, Keith Davis, Edith Davison, Ann Downey, Nick Glover, Sue Glover, Dorothy Henderson, Stuart Henderson, Margaret Hudgson, Diane Kirkup, John Lewis, Enid Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Lesley Ogilvie, Margaret Patterson, Rosamund Place, Liz Smith, Sheila Smithson, Pat Spong, Vic Spong, Pam Taylor, Rebecca Watts, Margaret Wilkinson, Paul Wilkinson and Mavis Yorke.

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

Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton.

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

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There was one nomination for the vacant position of churchwarden: Christine Willoughby proposed by Vic Spong and seconded by David Ogilvie. Christine was elected unopposed. Paul Wilkinson agreed to continue as the other churchwarden.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Ros Place, by Andrew and by Paul, for all her hard work in 3 years as Churchwarden. A presentation was made to her.

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence

received from: David and Hilary Hide, Lesley Atkinson.

3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 28th April 2019

Approval was proposed by Sheila Smithson and seconded by Elizabeth Crawford. All 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 the Financial Account for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Fred Carr, the All Saints' Treasurer, advised that in 2019 the overall deficit was £1,673 comprising a deficit of £8,497 from the profit and loss account and a surplus of £6,824 in the investments.

During the year the number of planned giving donors had reduced from 156 to 154 and the planned giving income had reduced from £114,326 to £111,092. Fred noted that the planned giving income was the backbone of the Church's finance and the reduction in planned giving donors and income every year was very concerning. He suggested that parishioners that were not part of the planned giving scheme should consider joining. Donation was by standing order which was easy to set up by submitting the form on the All Saints' website but was very easy to change or cancel if required. Donating by planned giving negated the need to carry cash to Church which could have Coronavirus on it.

All Saints' claim a large amount of Gift Aid from the Government. Tax recovery in 2019 has reduced from £36,845 to £31,713 mainly because of the high level of donations in 2018 for the Church Redecoration and Lighting on which gift aid had been claimed.

The Church Centre properties and parochial fees continued to make substantial surpluses in line with previous years.

Mission Giving continued at a high level with £11,711 being donated for the Charities of the Month and £11,109 being donated to charities nominated at funerals and other special events.

The Bells Refurbishment project has been completed, actually and financially, in 2019, the total cost of £16,856 being 90% funded by grants and donations from parishioners.

Although the overall deficit for the year was £1,673 the General Fund, which is used to pay all of the expenses, made a surplus of £3,243, the main reductions being in the restricted income fund (£4,522) and the Legacies fund (£3,764).

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the Accounts

There were no questions or comments on the Accounts.

3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts

Peter Brown proposed and Mavis Yorke seconded the approval of the accounts, agreed nem con

Fred mentioned that although 2020 had been a difficult year he was very hopeful that All Saints' would not suffer major financial damage in 2020 because of Coronavirus.

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Fred stated that the problems with Haines Watts were now at an end and this year the Haines Watts person had been extremely helpful in getting the signed report to him just before the Coronavirus lockdown had occurred. The reappointment of Haines Watts was proposed by Margaret Patterson, seconded by Enid Mitchell and agreed nem con.

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

3.6 Report on the Changes in the Electoral Roll

There have been 2 losses from the Roll and one addition, making a total of 222.

3.7 Comments and Questions about reports

Thanks were expressed to all those who had produced their individual reports for the Annual Report.

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 James Cartmell, Jo Errington Stevens and Karoline Wellborne, who were standing down from the PCC.

Seven nominations were received:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Felicity Shoemith	Ros Place	Diane Kirkup
Claudia Newbegin	Vic Spong	Peter Brown
Alison Wilson	Diane Kirkup	Dorothy Henderson
Joe Vera Sanso	Peter Brown	Paul Wilkinson
Marian Coulson	Pam Taylor	Pat Spong
Edith Davison	Margaret Patterson	Sheila Smithson
Margaret Patterson	Edith Davison	Margaret Wilkinson

There were 8 vacancies on the PCC so the 7 nominees were elected nem com.

3.8.3 Election of 4 representatives to the Deanery Synod until 2023.

Four nominations were received.

Diane Kirkup	Ann Downey	Christine Willoughby
Ros Place	Jackie Walby	Stuart Henderson

Pam Taylor

Peter Brown

Sheila Smithson

Peter Brown

Fred Carr

Pam Taylor

The 4 nominees were elected nem con.

3.8.4 Appointment of Sidespersons

There were no new names received.

Agreed that Christine Willoughby should come off the list, now that she is Churchwarden.

3.9 Vicar's Report

Andrew began by talking about Ros Place who was stepping down as Churchwarden after a very hectic three and half years. He emphasised how immensely grateful we were for Ros' dedication, thoughtfulness, creativity and energy during her time in office. She has given so much, been supportive, encouraging and practical – truly a job well done!

He welcomed John Lewis who joined us last year and Jamie Donaldson in September. He expressed thanks to all who have given so much to the mission and ministry of All Saints' Church. He has become more aware over the last 6 months of how much Fred Carr does and thanks also to Paul, Ruth, Nick, Beverley, Vic, Isaac and Jamie.

Thanks also went to those coming off the PCC, (namely Karoline Wellborne, James Cartmell and Jo Errington Stevens) for their contributions. He was very aware that he cannot thank everyone; many are mentioned in the report but there are many more who quietly play a vital role in our church life.

We are all involved in God's mission in the world, which is the work of new creation: planting mustard seeds that bring new life and hope. And also in joining God in his work of reconciliation and healing and of redemption – it was right to be saying this on the feast of St Luke. If we are doing this, we are fulfilling our calling.

Andrew observed that reading through the annual report for 2019, it seemed like another country. In September 2019 he came back from sabbatical and realised that society had moved on. How much of the life of the church does not touch the wider world. But he felt clear about the opportunities: People are thinking about issues such as salvation, evil, conflict, the sovereignty of good, undeserved suffering, what is admirable, what forgiveness means – essential issues of the human condition that don't go away. He came back thinking that we have much to share, we have so much to offer – a sense of purpose, hope and the opportunity to start again. We must wrestle with these ideas in dialogue with God.

We sought from September to explore, to engage different parts of the parish, do new things, meet new people, to refresh our ways, renew ministry and mission. We set short, medium and long term goals and some came to pass, others did not. In June we were intending to spend a day of reflection at Shepherd's Dene to see how we were doing. Many of these plans had to be suspended in March. Before the beginning of lockdown we were making progress – looking forward to "Superstar", study groups, and developing our Citizen UK partnership. We were also making progress at St Hugh's. But then we closed and instead redirected all our efforts into online service presentations whilst Louise Waugh and Tricia Maylia went on to the government support programme. We had lots to learn and Peter Mitchell was at the forefront of our experimentation.

So lockdown meant exploring different forms of worship on line and in July adapting to new guidelines and procedures in church. Thanks were expressed to Charlie Mussett for helping us to think through how to do things safely – we could not have managed without him. There were dark days in April just after Easter. To some extent it was a novelty; we clapped carers, but there were funerals and illness. How good it would have been if the church could have been open to be a Sanctuary.

Now there is change and among many, disillusionment; we fear those days returning. There is “post traumatic unease” across the community, a stress reaction among many and we could face more difficulties and deeper challenges in the months to come. However, this is also the time of challenge and opportunity. Now we can hold a vision of a way of life beyond self-concern. How will we share the traditions of the ancient Christian faith which have always made sense of life, no matter the situation? There is the temptation not to make connections, to retreat, to bunker down. But we must communicate, make new connections and strengthen relationships. How do we share? Not by being simplistic, not by dumbing down but by being truly engaging. Andrew mentioned finding the Book of Common Prayer more immediate – a real source of strength for there are such powerful prayers. We have had to adjust; the use of YouTube videos made the ministry team think – what is it we value and want to communicate?

People relate to us through our website and our live streaming. Older people can seem happy to be passive, but younger people, especially under the age of 60 definitely expect to interact. So investing in how we communicate is vital -- we will need to continue to broadcast. Also, in the future, there will be less clergy around and less money available in the diocese; Andrew feels haunted by stories of churches who are fossilised; a friendly core but who do not relate to the outer world, to the context in which they are set. He imagines that there are painful and difficult conversations to be had about future viability in many parishes across the diocese, as in many businesses. When things are tough, it is so tempting to look inward.

We need a Communication strategy. We have a new newsletter, a new magazine; we need to renew the website and our notice boards outside the church, to engage people in different events and see what is popular. We tried an evening Eucharist, special services, including the children’s “Jonah and Whale” interactive service. Maybe we consider a change of service time to a weekday afternoon or evening prayer? There is an ambitious Christmas lighting event evolving for both the interior and exterior of the church building – to be ‘light in the darkness’ for all the community. We cannot have a Christmas fair but alternative ways of raising funds are being explored. We have plans for a Pet service and also an Advent evening group. These events can give stability in what could be bumpy times. It will not be easy, we will be not going back to familiar routines. In future, school work will be done differently as will work in care homes. Innovation and experimentation will be required – it will not always work but we will keep trying.

We need to be brave, for there is uncertainty. The temptation is to look back with nostalgia but we can’t afford to do that. We will sometimes feel exposed in trying and failing. Going the extra mile is tiring. We will need to clearly communicate what we see as our hope. Tenacity and stamina will be required and above all the desire to keep connecting.

4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

- There was comment about the need for renewal of many of the kneelers, many of which are in very poor condition. It is a project that will go ahead but will require careful planning.
- Margaret Wilkinson asked about the work being done with young people.
- Andrew commented that different approaches are required in these difficult times and that Jamie Donaldson is now in post to undertake such work. Some initiatives have been video assemblies from Church to use in local schools; the Evolution group have been meeting by means of Zoom link; there is a forthcoming Pets service which it is hoped will attract youngsters in particular.
- Paul Wilkinson expressed our gratitude to Andrew in particular for all the efforts and hard work that he has put in over the last year.

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Safeguarding Committee entered 2020 full of purpose and enthusiasm and a small sub-group met in January to devise a streamlined protocol, building on the sterling work done over many years by Keith Kennils, for DBS checks. A flow chart was devised which covered new checks and renewals, involving Kath Davies, the Safeguarding Officer, and Keith, to ensure that new DBS checks were initiated and renewals identified and processed as quickly as possible.

However, the best laid schemes including this one, had to be put on hold once the country shut down due to Covid19 in March. The March and May meetings were cancelled, as we were all incarcerated in our homes and there was little to report. In September, we managed to hold a meeting, suitably sanitised, masked and distanced, in the church building and it looked as if there was a glimmer of "normal" life ahead. The second wave put paid to that and the November and January meetings were held on Zoom, at which we are all now proficient!

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

We welcomed Jamie Donaldson as our new youth worker, and look forward to sharing with him his work with our young people in due course.

Training of volunteers continues to be a subject for discussion, as well as updates on diocesan and national reports on safeguarding

Like every other group, we look forward to the day when we can meet together in person and have many more points for discussion as we slowly and carefully open up again to a safe normality.

Enid Mitchell (Chair)

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN GOSFORTH

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met before lockdown and subsequently on ZOOM for fellowship, information sharing and planning. There was a service of Prayer for Christian Unity at All Saints on 19th January attended by a congregation of more than 75 which included many of our friends from other churches in Gosforth. Due to COVID restrictions, the United Service of Witness at Trinity Square on Good Friday, had to be cancelled. The 'Space for Share' drop-in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House on a Friday morning were also suspended. In addition, the Gosforth Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in the Park was a recorded event, held an hour before the public would normally gather and led by clergy from All Saints and St Charles. The 'Open the Book' sessions at Archbishop Runcie and Archibald Street School's continued online from September. Ministers shared and advertised events in each other churches for Christmas.

Andrew Shipton

FAIRTRADE

All Saints has made a commitment to use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after services and at other meetings, though these have not been able to continue in their usual format for much of the year. We reminded the congregation of this commitment by marking Fairtrade Fortnight with notices in In Touch magazine and the weekly pewsheet and with cakes and biscuits made using fairtrade ingredients at parish breakfast (donations received were sent to the fairtrade foundation to further their work). Unfortunately our Traidcraft stall has not been able to run for much of the year as parish breakfast has largely been a virtual event due to covid restrictions on people congregating together.

Nicky Portergill

ALL SAINTS BADMINTON CLUB

The season lasts from the first Wednesday in September to the end of April. This season like all activities have been decimated by COVID-19. We have only managed one session to date. With hope and crossed there may be a good chance to start again in September.

We are always looking for new members. We suggest anyone interested in joining comes for an evening to see what the standard and format is. We meet in All Saints Centre on a Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until about 10pm.

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

John Pytlak

KEEPING IN TOUCH

March 2020 and the latest edition of *In Touch* was about to be published when lockdown made its contents largely irrelevant and our focus was more on keeping going, working out how to have church services, etc.

Fast forward to July and as we came out of lockdown into it became clear that many of us would not be returning to our old routines quickly and there was a need to communicate with our friends in All Saints and St Hugh's in different ways. *Keeping in Touch* was devised to do just that – share news, new skills, tips on surviving our changed circumstances and providing a bit of light entertainment.

The old *In Touch* format was radically changed, making it much easier to produce. The emphasis was on simple electronic delivery, while also being easily printed for those without access to IT.

There are no deadlines – we will produce a copy when we have enough material, in practice this works out to be at least monthly, making its news more current.

We are grateful to those who have encouraged us and contributed. It has meant a lot to hear how people we cannot meet in church are getting along, so please do... Keep in Touch!

Christine Willoughby, Lesley Atkinson, Dermot Killingley, Ann Cross, Editors.
Standing Committee

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

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

Peter M Brown
Lay Chair

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The group was meeting fortnightly (5.15pm on alternate Sundays) until the onset of Covid 19. Since March 2020 we have been sending out a weekly reading with the intention that we could all use it as a prelude to meditating at home at about the same time - not the same as meeting in person, of course, but a way of trying to be together in spirit. Like everyone else we look forward to being able to meet again properly.

Charles Foister

LOSS ADJUSTERS

As you can guess, we haven't been able to meet together since the first Covid lockdown. We have kept in touch with each other by phone or email.

We are looking forward to some form of get-together before too long. At the moment we have to wait for further lifting of government Covid rules .

A message to all our members .

Please stay safe and contact me or others for a chat about anything.
Very best wishes to you all and "au revoir "

Ann Downey

BELL TOWER REPORT TO PCC 2021

Before the pandemic started to bite, we were strong in terms of numbers and newer members were making good progress. We had short weekly sessions in addition to our regular Monday practice to consolidate their skills. Several of the younger ringers still use bellringing as a skill for their Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze, silver and gold levels.

When the first lockdown came in March, all ringing ceased and did not resume until late summer, when careful risk assessments had to be made. Since we had to stand 2 metres apart, following official guidance, this limited the number of bells we were able to ring to five. We had a different band for morning and evening ringing and arranged for them to ring different bells so that the ropes wouldn't be handled by more than one person. In addition, we wore masks, opened the windows and sanitised surfaces regularly.

When Tier 4 came in we were only allowed to have family members ringing together so we were down to ringing two bells since we don't have any families with more than two ringers. We even rang two bells for a wedding as the couple desperately wanted at least some bells. They were delighted with the two we were able to ring.

Since the start of the lockdown, we have kept ourselves amused with a quiz via Zoom on Monday evenings when we would normally have been having our practice. We also had a Zoom Christmas party which most of our ringers were able to attend.

Recently in order to maintain or even enhance some of our ringing skills, we have been using an app called Ringing Room. The bells are represented diagrammatically on the screen and each ringer can ring their own bell by tapping on the keyboard. We use alongside Zoom so that we can talk to one another. It isn't perfect but it is companionable and fun. I would like to thank Stuart Henderson for getting this up and running.

Once we get back to normal, which I hope will happen eventually, we are all looking forward to ringing again and summoning people to church with a melodic sound.

Finally, I would like to thank all our ringers for their continued support and enthusiasm in the current difficult times.

**Paul Cross
Tower Captain**

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

CHURCH

Non urgent works have been postponed during the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. This approach limits the contact between people and hopefully reduces the spread of the virus.

Following vandalism, the window on the northern elevation depicting St Francis of Assisi was removed to the glazier's workshop, repaired and reinstalled. This work was undertaken in July. A Faculty was granted previously.

To livestream services from church an internet cable was installed by Virgin Media in September. The cable in a trench crosses the lawn to the east of the church, then enters the crypt, passes through the churchwarden's vestry to terminate at the router. The router occupies a discrete location in church. An electrical cable and a socket were installed to provide power to the router in December.

Tree roots dislodged paving stones creating a potential tripping hazard to the forecourt. An area of paving was repaired in September.

In January a roof leak between the Nave roof and the east elevation of the tower was repaired. At the same time hopper heads were cleaned and down pipes unblocked.

A PCC decision in October to replace the lighting bollards to the west of the church with ground level LED lights is awaiting advice from the DAC.

Paul Wilkinson, Churchwarden.

CHURCH CENTRE

While the Central heating boilers were serviced the engineers repaired a control valve.

In August a blocked drain in the yard was cleared. This blocked drain has caused rising dampness in the kitchen wall. It is expected that it will take some months for the dampness to dry out.

The fire detection and alarm system in the Centre is inspected annually by our electrician and repairs identified. Remedial works were carried out in September and the necessary certification issued.

In December a return valve in the toilets was replaced and in January a downpipe unblocked.

Paul Wilkinson, Churchwarden.

THE FORMER VERGERS HOUSE AND THE CLERGY HOUSE

Both houses are let and produce a rental income for our church. These properties are managed on the PCC's behalf by Martin & Co on a day to day basis to ensure our compliance with all legislation regarding landlord's responsibilities. Both our tenants continue in occupation. New posts were added to the garden fence at the Former Vergers House in September.

CHURCH GRASS CUTTING TEAM.

Our Church occupies an attractive setting surrounded by trees and lawns. The lawns are maintained to a high standard by a small team of dedicated volunteers. The majority of the grass cutting is undertaken by Keith Davies and a small team of helpers. In October it was realised that two older lawnmowers were beyond economical repair and were traded in. A new Mountfield was purchased. The other machines have been serviced ready for next season. We now have three reliable mowers.

Paul Wilkinson, Churchwarden.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Since last March gardening at the Garden of Remembrance has been rather spasmodic! For some weeks we weren't able to do anything at all, but as restrictions eased it was possible to tidy up here and there and basically keep everything in order. This was important as the Garden is used regularly by people who come to lay flowers at the foot of the Calvary, to sit on one of the benches for a quiet time of prayer, or to meet with a friend and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this little oasis of calm in the heart of Gosforth.

Towards the end of the summer Pat Spong and I dug out another flower bed between the tower and the steps next to the south door, and planted some shrubs which we hope will establish themselves over time to provide a bit of colour and interest in this formerly rather dark corner. We have also tried to keep the border which runs along the side of the Centre well-stocked and weed-free. It is a shady spot and will never be a riot of colour but like the rest of the area is now at a point where it needs little maintenance.

There have been some very kind donations from people to whom the Garden of Remembrance has a special place in their heart, and this has enabled some seasonal planting, such as cyclamen which brightened the autumn borders and the replanting of the tubs in summer and in winter, to take place. I would like to thank them and to others who come along and help with jobs that need doing, as this Garden is appreciated by so many.

Ann Cross and Pat Spong.

THE GOOD PLATE PROJECT

To assist those who choose not to carry cash our church has invested in a bank card reader known as the Good Plate. This device sits in a large plate with a traditional brass finish and enables members of the congregation and visitors to make contactless payments to our church. As services have been restricted this year the bank card reader has not had an opportunity to be used to its full potential.

Paul Wilkinson, Churchwarden

YOUNG SAINTS

When the first lockdown in mid-March brought a halt to face-to-face meetings, we had to try inventive ways to keep in touch with our children and young people. Once it was realised that Sunday mornings would not be the same for quite some time, we tried the following:

- digital cards were sent to all families at Easter and Christmas

- children were invited to send photos to display on the All Saints website and to contribute to the new-style Keeping-in-Touch newsletter
- We sent suggestions, devised by the Diocese, for worship and craft activities at home
- links to online worship for children were included among other worship options on the All Saints' website.

Discussions with families indicated that children were heavily engaged in online learning for school and that more screen time was not what was needed; face-to-face meetings were what they wanted.

When Sunday morning worship in church was once again allowed, outdoor activities for children were arranged on the church green and then in the Centre when outdoors was wet or too cold. Children were welcome to accompany adults into church but were not permitted to move around, so no visits to the 'children's corner' and no exiting or re-entering to attend Young Saints. Children were, though, very welcome to attend two Covid-safe Sunday afternoon family services in church. A third family Pets' service is eagerly awaited! During December, children were able to attend a safe Christingle service and a Crib service, both in church; although not Young Saints activities, these services were a welcome way to let children know that All Saints' is still *their* church.

Thanks are due to everyone involved with Young Saints in 2020 especially Diana Lavin, Ann Cross, Felicity Shoesmith, Stuart Henderson and Alison Quant.

Not unexpectedly, the number of children with whom we have been able to engage has been relatively low but we hope to be able to welcome all our children and young people back to All Saints as soon as it is safe to do so.

Lesley Atkinson

PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE GROUP

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Group continues to be concerned with how we care for one another as members of All Saints' congregations, and as neighbours. Like all other pastoral contacts in the last year, this has had to be done remotely with more or less distancing depending on the changes in local restrictions. The clergy have been keeping in contact with those in need by phone and are aware that there are many supportive networks among members of the congregation, which is very helpful. We hope that we are being kept informed of any needs that exist, particularly of those who feel isolated. We continued our practice of sending Christmas cards, beautifully produced by the Sew, Knit and Natter Group, to those who are housebound and also last year including those isolating because of the virus. We hope also to send Easter cards this year. As always we are dependent on all members of the congregation keeping in touch with others and supporting them in any way they can.

Ruth Birnie

FILM GROUP

The Film Group was able to start the year in the normal way, with two enjoyable films shown in the upstairs room of the Duke of Wellington. The first was *Cabaret*, looking back to 1930s Berlin, and the second was *The Post*, which focussed on the development of the Watergate scandal. The evenings were a great social occasion as many of us met for a pub meal first before watching and then discussing the selected film.

This all changed in March however! With the country in lockdown, we were no longer able to meet in person, and meetings were put on hold.

Spring 2020 came and went, and it looked as if even if we weren't going to be totally locked down, we would have to adhere to strict restrictions on our movements for some time. The local pubs were closed, and we knew that if the Film Group was to survive it had better take on a new format. Nick Glover had decided at this point that it would be a good time to stand down and concentrate on other activities, so Ann Cross took over and with the wonders of modern technology, we devised a system whereby we were able to view a selected film from BBC iplayer, and then on the last Thursday of the month discuss it using Zoom. Voila! Virtual Film Night was born!

The first meeting took place on 25th June, and the Group has met monthly except for December, when we had a 'Zoom party', talking about the sorts of films we personally liked, enjoying simply chatting, and all over a glass of (real, not virtual) wine. What did emerge is that our tastes are quite diverse! Historical drama, golden oldies, films based on factual events and even comedies – we've watched them all. The original intention of the Film Group was to select a film based on a topic that would prompt discussion, but we have found that almost any film offers this.

We have planned a good programme of films to watch over the coming months, and may even increase the meetings to fortnightly rather than monthly. A 'dvd swap' is also in the pipeline, when we can share each other's films to watch at our leisure. So far we have about thirteen regular attendees, although the numbers can fluctuate, but we are by no means 'full' and would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

**Nick Glover
Ann Cross**

PLANNED GIVING REPORT

The number of members in our Planned Giving scheme has decreased this year for various reasons, from 154 at 31 December 2019 to 141 at 31 December 2020, which means that contributions have gone down by £1,925.

Most members donate monthly while others give quarterly or annually, and we are extremely grateful for all their donations. Many members are taxpayers and have signed gift aid forms enabling us to reclaim tax at the rate of 25%, and this makes a significant addition to our income.

We are very grateful to those who contribute so generously.

Margaret Patterson

YOUTH COMMITTEE

We began 2020 with plans for the spring months as we looked towards half term and Easter events. Our Pastoral Ministerial Assistant, Isaac Wilkinson, stepped in and covered Evolution and R Group. We held interviews for the post of a new Children and Youth Worker in February and Jamie Donaldson was successful.

In February half term we held a hugely successful Messy Church held in the church with over 30 families attending. A wonderful afternoon with crafts, stories, treasure hunts and singing. My thanks to Dee and Chris Matthews, Isaac Wilkinson, Ann Shaw, Lesley Atkinson and Isaac Wilkinson for all they contributed.

However, lockdown brought all our plans to an abrupt halt. We kept in touch with families with emails and activities thankfully distributed by Lesley Atkinson. R Group and Evolution continued via Zoom with the help of Isaac.

The autumn term saw the return to school and we returned to Arch Bishop Runcie School twice weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays to give a school assembly to each class bubble outside in the playground. Jamie created videos which were sent to Arch Bishop Runcie School and Archibald Street School which were heartily and thankfully received by both staff and pupils. Evolution and R group began again via Zoom which was well attended and a good way to stay in touch with our young people.

As confidence in managing our church services with social distancing grew, we re-started our all age services aimed particularly at our young people and families. Our first service was in September with a re-telling of the story of Jonah and the Whale. Our thanks to Diana Lavin who played and sang songs while everyone joined in with the actions. The service included crafts and prayers. The next all age service we planned was going to be a very special service – A Pet Service where people are invited to bring along their pets for thanksgiving and a blessing. It is not cancelled just postponed. Keep a look out in the newsletters!

Our Christingle service was also very well attended. In keeping with covid safety regulations our Christingle packs were prepared three days before the service and people picked them up on arrival. The Christingle's were assembled during the talk about the meaning of the Christingle. Jamie organised a Star Trail around the parish in the week leading to Christmas with the trail leading to a beautiful crib scene in the south porch. Visitors were encouraged to bring a food

donation to lay at the manager which was given to the West End Food Bank. Again, thank you Diana Lavin for helping with this project.

The Christmas Eve Crib service was well attended and led by Ruth Birnie and Jamie as a grumpy Inn Keeper, and, as we weren't allowed to use our own nativity costumes, children were invited to wear their own. An activity pack with word searches, angel tinsel, wisemen crowns and stars were available for children to pick up as they arrived so they could still join in the service. Thank you to Ruth, Jamie, Lesley Atkinson for the activity packs and Moira Flannigan who played our music. We hope to build on our relationships with our young people, families and schools in the year ahead. Thank you to all on the Youth Committee and the people of All Saints who generously give their time and talents to help.

Revd Beverley Davies

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT – MARCH 2021

The Mothers' Union's last meeting was in March 2020 when we welcomed Sylvia Hickey, our Vice President, and all meetings since then have had to be cancelled.

I have phoned every one of the 18 members on a regular basis to check if they were coping with all the restrictions, getting in plenty of supplies, keeping themselves busy and hopefully healthy. The calls gave everyone a chance to chat about anything they liked and members still feel that they are valued members of a worldwide organisation. All newsletters and journals from the diocese have been hand-delivered or posted. Filling and wrapping the Christmas shoeboxes for the homeless was not easy this time but we managed to complete 10 - most commendable in the circumstances. I suspect that it won't be long until we'll be making up more emergency toiletry bags for St. Nicholas' hospital and we'll be sending a donation towards the national 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal.

Let's hope that it won't be too long until we can resume our meetings and, if anyone would like to become a member, please contact me on 2847344 or 07977460841.

**Pam Taylor
Branch Leader**

NEWCASTLE CENTRAL DEANERY REPORT 2020. (ADAPTED FROM NOTES BY REVD JANE NATTRESS).

In the year to 31 December 2020 Newcastle Central Deanery Synod met on 18 Feb in person then on Zoom on 26 Nov due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The May meeting was cancelled. The Deanery Development Group and Standing Committee met on 6 May, 22 July and 4 Nov. The new triennial Synod was elected during the year.

The Deanery gathered via Zoom for the Ascension Day service in 2020. The Synod welcomed Rev'd Canon Rob Sainer-Haigh, Newcastle Diocese Director of Mission and Ministry to the November meeting. Rob highlighted the work to date on the transformation agenda and the work to submit a bid for funding in 2021. He highlighted the theological underpinning of the bid which would see a central role of partnership working, in pairs, in mission. The consultation has resulted in understanding a thirst for discerning the gifts of the laity to further the Kingdom of God which should help to bring plans to see the Diocese of Newcastle growing church and bringing hope.

**Diane Kirkup
Deanery Synod Representative**

21ST NEWCASTLE BROWNIES 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been a very difficult one for us all, with our regular weekly meeting at All Saints being paused until further notice in March 2020. We have had to postpone two pack holidays in which we planned a themed weekend away in Northumberland.

Before lockdown #1 we went ahead with our planned Snow Tubing adventure, we all met on a cold evening to enjoy an exciting evening on the dry ski slope, flying down in our donuts! The evening was a lovely end to our meetings in person and the start of our new adventure online.

After a few weeks off we decided to kick off our online meetings after Easter providing well needed social activities for all the Brownies and leaders alike. We have continued to work on the Girlguiding programme online and have awarded lots of badges in the process. The Brownies have also been keeping busy at home working towards interest badges and challenge badges in their spare time.

Our online meetings have been lots of fun with scavenger hunts, quizzes and even some dancing. Our Brownies have also joined in several Girlguiding online events including Toon Gig where they took part in a virtual camp fire, learnt how to make stotties and investigated the stars!

In September we managed to hold two outdoor meetings for the Brownies at All Saints where we handed out badges, played games and learnt how to pitch a tent. Overall, 21st Newcastle Brownies have had another brilliant year considering the circumstances.

We currently have 23 girls, 3 leaders, 1 volunteer, a young leader and a Guide helper. Looking forward to the year ahead, we will continue to meet online until we are able to meet in person again. We have many exciting and interesting activities planned for our online meetings including a PJ party and online enrolments.

We hope to have our well-deserved pack holiday this year and plan to take part in Girlguiding North East England's 50th Birthday Celebration.

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

Lauren Burnett
Unit Leader, 21st Newcastle Brownies

21ST NEWCASTLE GUIDES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

This year has been slightly different for us at 21st Newcastle guides, after the announcement of the lockdown came last March we were unable to meet in person. However, in September last year we started to use Zoom to meet virtually. We have welcomed lots of new guides to our unit this year and it has been lovely to get to know them.

We have 15 Guides and 2 Guiders.

Since starting to meet via zoom we have completed lots of interesting activities. Although it is not the same as meeting in person the guides have adapted well. We have enjoyed baking, making cookies and crispy cakes and in December we all took part in making Christmas crafts – a paper wreath and hanging decoration.

During our meetings we have been able to complete a variety of skills builder cards – including making interesting creations out of recycling, creating tessellating patterns and thinking about different types of personalities.

This half term we are looking forward to welcoming a laughing yoga instructor to our virtual meeting and trying our hand at some Easter crafts at the end of the term.

We are looking forward to a return to meeting in person in the not-so-distant future and getting back to some sort of normality.

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

Hannah Johnson
21st Newcastle Guide Leader

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SEA SCOUTS

Firstly, welcome to our latest recruit on the leadership team – Patrick has joined us as a young leader. Patrick was already volunteering for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh at church, but sadly lockdown put a stop to it. He has now completed his time, and has decided to stay on.

I am so proud of our young people – how they have adapted to our move online, despite some of them not enjoying meeting on Zoom. We have even recruited new beavers during lockdown that we have never met in person. Amazing that they are confident enough to turn up and meet the rest of us! I have tried to get round (when lockdown permitted) to meet them all.

Good turns seemed an important part of the spirit of lockdown – and we did not shy away! We spent time writing cards and letters to members of the Church – perhaps you were a lucky recipient, and we all hope they helped.

Seeing as we could not meet at church, we decided to go into space instead, learning about planets and light from the stars.

It seemed cool to do cooking in lockdown, so we joined in – making pizza in a mug really does work!

We've played lots of games and quizzes – like many of us – during our zoom meetings. We've had to adapt some of our old favourites, but we're still having fun.

Some of us have been on two virtual camps, and one was in the middle of winter! Well done to Mabel (and any others who have not told me yet).

We've told lots of stories, built some crazy things from bits and bobs in the garden, had a joke competition (in the run up to Christmas) and made Christingles for the first time.

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 until we can safely go back to attending the centre for our meetings.

Until next time!

Oliver & the team

LADYBIRD NURSERY

January 2020, We welcomed our families back from the Christmas 2019 break and were delighted that all children settled in well, it was wonderful to hear all about their family time and special new Christmas toys.

February 2020, we organised a valentines breakfast for all families to attend. The children were really excited and enjoyed the responsibility of setting up and serving their parent/guardian a lovely breakfast consisting of bagels, pancakes and toast with a variety of toppings. They also joined in with valentines crafts with their loved one who got to take it home, it was a lovely success.

During February we also enrolled on the Healthy Mouth Commitment, a credited initiative to help promote good dental hygiene with our children and awareness with families, also drawing attention to ditching the dummy to promote healthy teeth and language development in infants.

We were also pleased to visit our friends at Philip Cussins house for the children to interact with the residents.

We set up messy play sessions run by Jayne each Tuesday. This was an outreach to new families to attend with younger children to take part in sensory activities, whilst also marketing and promoting our setting.

Rachel attended The Ofsted Big Conversation conference with our Director Rebecca and newly appointed Area Manager, Jane. Jane has worked with the company for 11 years so was delighted to take on her promotion, she will be supporting us on a regular basis with professional development as well as the other settings within the company.

During March we celebrated world book day, the children all dressed up in their favourite character costumes and brought in their favourite stories from home. We also arranged a Mother's day afternoon tea although unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to the looming news of a lockdown. All of our All Saints' staff were furloughed from 24th March 2020.

During lockdown we kept in touch with families on Facebook by means of slide shows for the children with staff sending messages of hope. We also encouraged families to share their rainbows of Hope with us that they had put on their windows. It was lovely to see lots of families being involved. We also carried out story session videos that were posted for the children to watch with their families, we got some lovely feedback from this. Our directors and Area Manager kept parents regularly updated about any updates from the government that affected our closure and re-

opening. They completed rigorous covid risk assessments and policies and were really pleased to re-open the day nurseries in July 2020.

September 2020, we were excited to welcome our families back after Lockdown, Risk assessments and covid policies were put in place. We also increased our session times to include longer days. Our new procedures meant that parents/carers weren't able to come into the setting, all handovers are being carried out at the main entrance and face masks to be worn, It has been wonderful to see how well everyone has responded to this new normal. We also had a staffing change when Claire our Nursery Nurse left to go onto study Nursing at university and we welcomed Charlotte who works full time between us (term time only) and our holiday club.

October 2020 Our Manager Rachel left to pursue her career working in a school setting. Jayne was then newly promoted to Nursery Manager

November 2020 we did an outdoor audit and were pleased that we were providing good learning in all areas both indoors and out. We also further developed all areas of learning which we are very pleased with.

December 2020 we welcomed a new member of staff who works with us Monday to Friday mornings only.

We kept in touch with Philip Cussins House care home by making a hamper for them with cards and gift tags created by the children.

January 2021 we welcomed our families back after the Christmas break, we were also pleased to sign up new families and welcome them to our setting.

February 2021 we are excited to resume our connections with Philip Cussins House. The children are creating a banner to hold up and sing happy birthday to a resident who will be celebrating her 100th birthday, this will be carried out covid safe with the children in the garden and the birthday lady in the porch behind a screen.

February 12th last day (Half Term break).

Many thanks for the ongoing support at All Saints

Jayne Phillips (Manager)
Jane Tickner, Area Manager

GOSFORTH, ALL SAINTS' & GOSFORTH, ST NICHOLAS' ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTION FROM ARFS- FEBRUARY 2021

I am, once again, delighted to provide you with an update from school. What a year it has been since I last wrote...!

Last Spring term, we were busy with lots of exciting visitors for STEM week, a visiting artist Chinese New Year and World Book Day as well as improving our school facilities with installations such as a new trim trail and all weather running track when the first lockdown hit us. Our school has remained open for our children throughout the pandemic. We catered for 12 families of key workers and vulnerable children from March- June 2020, delivered free school meals to families and uploaded learning activities to our school website but I think Lockdown 1 will be remembered for the rainbow and teddy hunts around Gosforth!

We were then were thrilled to welcome back over 70% of our children back from June, last summer. We prioritised the year groups that were determined by the DfE but also managed to welcome the whole of Year 4 too by putting up tents on the school field as "pop-up classrooms". This meant they could undertake transition activities and enjoy their final weeks together as part of our ARFS family. Leavers' activities were slightly different last summer but no less fun- we had variations on the usual activities such as outdoor Leavers Service and Unny Hall painting competition (sent in from home) as well as managing some additional covid compliant activities such as making a DVD of school memories for each child to take away, having leavers hoodies made and inviting an ice cream to school. However, the activity that the children loved (and will hopefully never forget) was the staff and pupil water-fight!! It was certainly a memorable term!

In September, we were overjoyed to have all our children back and had a successful term, re-establishing routines and working hard to recover missed learning. DfE guidance has meant that, this year, classes and staff have operated in isolated "bubbles". This has meant that we have

required additional support staff which was kindly funded through the All Saints' Trust Fund for our school. This has made an enormous difference to the workings of our school and the ability to help pupils catch up on missed learning through our "recovery curriculum" as well as allowing us to effectively manage a significant number of safeguarding concerns. We have continued to seek parental feedback and refined our approach to remote learning.

We have, of course, maintained a strong focus on Worship during this time and have been delighted to welcome both Andrew Shipton, Beverley Davis and Jamie Donaldson from Gosforth, All Saints' to lead class worship regularly and we are currently planning our online Easter service in lieu of the usual face-to-face service.

Christmas was, again, very different to our usual programme of events but we made the best of the situation! As the children were not able to perform their own Nativity, the staff performed to the children (!) and we accessed online pantomimes and attended a virtual carol service at Gosforth, St Nicholas'. The staff went above and beyond to organise a wide range of memorable events to make Christmas 2020 a memorable one; an Elf craft stall and a snow machine to name just two!

January saw our third national lockdown but, thankfully, we were able to keep 59% of children in school, due to the wider definition of a critical worker, and as I write we are busy making plans to welcome back the remainder of our wonderful children in March.

Whilst we have been busy dealing with the pandemic, our school has by no means stood still. We have continued to develop and progress all aspects of school life including the introduction of an in-school after school club, remodelling the entrance to our school building, developing our school curriculum offer, thinking outside the box to mark events such as Easter that keep our community safe whilst maintaining longstanding traditions. Please look at our Twitter feed to see all the exciting things that we've been up to. The fact that we have received 106 applications for Reception places this year is testament to the fact the school continues to go from strength to strength.

As we finalise new Risk Assessments in order to bring the vast majority of your children back into school, I have been heartened by the excitement of the children, staff and parents who are more than ready to see our school full of children again. Going forward, we must look to the future. In the words of our Director of Education, Paul Rickeard, "No discussion of 'lost years' and 'learning deficit' but more about doing what we do best – educating our children in an atmosphere of warmth and love which will prepare them for life." We are hanging out the bunting to welcome them back and will give them the warmest of welcomes on 8th March; we can't wait!

I look forward to writing to you again next year with hopefully news of a more typical year!!

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH

Sidespeople

Brian Adcock
Antony 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
Rosamund Place
Ethel Randall
Judy Riseborough
Helen Scott
John Scott
Liz Smith
Sheila Smithson
Pam Taylor
Jackie Walby
Margaret Wilkinson
Christine Willoughby

Present Churchwardens

Christine Willoughby
Paul Wilkinson