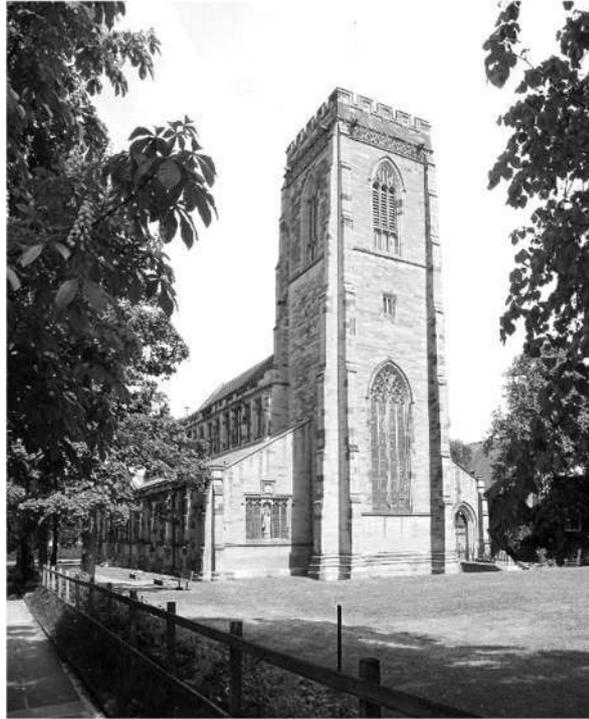
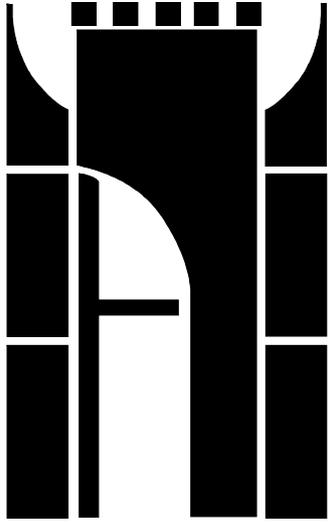


All Saints'
Gosforth



The Parish Church of All Saints' Gosforth

Annual Report to Parishioners 2019

'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 2018

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

ALL SAINTS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Objectives and Activities

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

The All Saints' mission statement is:

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

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

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

Membership

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

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Incumbent | Revd Canon Andrew Shipton | From Sept. 2014 |
| Churchwardens | Mr Paul Wilkinson | From 2018 APCM |
| | Mrs Rosamund Place | From 2017 APCM |
| Deanery Synod representatives Until 2020 (ex-officio) | Mr Peter Brown (Lay Vice Chair) | |
| | Ms Diane Kirkup | |
| | Major Constance V Maselino-Okai | |
| | Vacant | |
| Elected members Until 2019 | Mrs Pam Taylor | |
| | Mrs Dee Matthews | |
| | Mr Tim Watkinson | |
| | Mrs Christine Willoughby | |
| | Mrs Diana Lavin | |
| Elected members Until 2020 | Mr James Cartmell | |
| | Ms Amanda Taylor | Resigned on 3/9/2018 |
| | Dr Claudia Newbegin | |
| | Mrs Felicity Shoosmith | |
| | Mrs Jo Errington Stevens | |
| | Ms Karoline Wellborne | |
| Elected members Until 2021 | Mr Nick Glover | |
| | Ms Alison Proudfoot | |
| | Mrs Karen Parkhouse | |
| | Mrs Nicola White | |
| | Mrs Dorothy Henderson | |
| | Mrs Katie Hogg | |
| Assistant Priest | Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio) | |
| Curate | Revd Captain Steve Dixon (ex-officio) | Resigned on 3/9/2018 |
| 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 2018 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

2018 went quickly with much going on. As I said at last year's Annual Meeting, All Saints' is a complex organisation, involving people with many gifts and there is never a dull moment. For such a church to run smoothly imagination, compassion, stability and flexibility is required from us all, for we have a spectrum of backgrounds, age-groups, perspectives and experience. As in previous years there is a tension between having to respond and moving forward, between maintenance and mission. We believe in the importance of pastoral care for longstanding church members but also see the urgency of making contact with those who have not received the ministry of All Saints'. We continue to seek to enhance a sense of community within the life of All Saints that it might be a compassionate and outgoing body of people to which others would wish to belong.

A review of the year such as this does not reflect so much that takes place. It does not catch, for example, the life of our continual worship nor the preparation of timetables and rotas. There is much to deal with on a daily basis and Louise Waugh, our administrator, is at the heart of much of our organisation. This report tries to illustrate the breath of the work over 2018, of our churchwardens Ros Place, Fiona Hurrell, Paul Wilkinson, our PCC secretary Nick Glover, our treasurer Fred Carr and Peter Brown, who oversees our fabric, and many others. Richard Gooding, Louise Waugh, Tricia Maylia and Andrew Mason are most committed to the mission and ministry of All Saints' and share a 'can do it' attitude. Again, we thank them for their dedication and hard work. Valerie Farthing stepped down in April from serving as vice-chair of the PCC after many years. She had overseen much change and played a vital role in keeping the ship stable in stormy seas.

We were most grateful to Fiona Hurrell who came to the end of her 3 years as church warden. Fiona served as churchwarden with such dedication, thoughtfulness and energy. In May it was announced that our curate Steve Dixon had been appointed as vicar of Tynemouth Priory, Holy Saviour, and he took up his post on 7th October. Steve wrote that he was very grateful for his last three years as curate at All Saints' and of the wonderful welcome and acceptance into the life of the church which he enjoyed. We were sorry to say good-bye to Steve in September but many of us were able to support Steve and Clare at his licencing and induction at the Church of the Holy Saviour. Steve was involved in the Pathways Mission weekend in September and throughout the spring and summer had been away from the parish helping other parishes and deaneries with mission initiatives. The work of

Ruth Birnie has been invaluable in maintaining a weekly pattern of services and maintaining our stability. Ruth continues in her devoted service to our church community and Vic Spong's ministry and the help of Rebecca Watts has been widely appreciated.

Again, in selecting a limited list of themes I am conscious I am leaving others out. Please read in this report about the contributions of many other groups including the Monday club, the sew knit and natter group, the Mothers' Union, the Amnesty group and the outreach and mission sub-committee of the PCC. There are also the bellringers who also teach new recruits, the choir, those who develop the church grounds and now the recyclable plastics subcommittee. In addition we can think of the safeguarding and youth committees. There are also the readers, intercessors, servers, sacristans, and deacons who enable our worship to continue Sunday by Sunday.

Social

The New Year started with a pantomime with over 100 members of our congregation and visitors enthralled by 'The Princess and the Goblin' from the Northumberland Theatre Group. Our thanks went to Fiona Hurrell for organising the event. The Open Gardens took place in June and July and we were grateful to those who invited us once again to their gardens. Approximately 70 gathered in the All Saints' Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 17th November to enjoy Culture Kitchen's second visit. The chefs were volunteers from all over the world, living in Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead, wishing to share and celebrate the diverse cuisines that they bring to our region. Many were current or former refugees and asylum seekers. The Musica Johannis concert on 9th November was most enjoyable and appropriate for Remembrance weekend. There were also 3 easy walks in some of the most beautiful countryside in Northumberland; during July around Corbridge, in August, an Alnmouth and Lesbury Circular tour and in September a Warkworth circular walk. Our thanks to Paul Wilkinson for organising these outings. The senior members' outings had a break toward the end of the year. We were grateful for Keith Kennils' work in organising and driving the minibus. The All Saints' art group had a range of pictures on display at Gosforth Civic Centre during May.

Outreach

In January I received a letter from a charity, Cardioproof, asking us to consider installing a public access defibrillator outside All Saints'. The PCC quickly agreed that this was a very appropriate initiative for us to be involved in and the front wall of the Centre emerged as a good possible location. Donations were received from the Tennis Club and the Bowling Club. In early September the defibrillator was fitted and registered. We were grateful for demonstrations of the use of the Defibrillator by Claudia Newbegin at PCC and in the Bowling club.

Early in the year also All Saints' joined Citizens Tyne and Wear, a community action organisation, supported by different faiths and interest groups designed to bring about civil action and improvement. The organisation focuses on various issues including achieving a living wage, mental health, safe passage for child refugees, and sponsorship of refugees. During the year Andrew Cole became an active member of the Mental Health team of Citizens and contributed to the Commission report 'Living well' holding the "powers that be" to account over their treatment of those suffering from mental health problems. In addition, we also publicly promised to give funds to supporting an Open Door Meal at Newcastle Central Mosque.

Again, we supported the Christian Aid collection in May joining hundreds of other churches across the country in raising money for the world's poorest by house visits. The collections raised £3000 - a magnificent achievement and a breakfast event raised a further £400. Our thanks to Lesley Atkinson for overseeing the week.

On Tuesday 1st May a large group of people from church and the wider Gosforth community met in church to hear Dr Bob Barber, Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist / Hon. Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Health of the Elderly, give a talk on dementia. This was a thought-provoking talk on a condition which is becoming more prevalent as life expectancy increases, and which is now the commonest single cause of death in the UK. It is now regarded as the greatest global challenge to society.

Ann Cross asked for the consent of the PCC for her to set up a working group aiming to reduce plastic at All Saints' and amongst the congregation which met during the year. Early in the year Vic Spong began exploring the possibility of starting a separate Loss Adjusters Men's Group, on a somewhat smaller scale than the one currently meeting monthly. In May I also confirmed that my sabbatical will go ahead in June-August 2019. The Curate at Killingworth is seconded to work with us for that period.

This year Heritage Open Day coincided with the Pathways Mission Weekend in the diocese, and All Saints' had a number of activities to mark the event. On Friday 7th September, Bishop Colin Buchanan visited three local schools: Archbishop Runcie, Newcastle School for Boys and Archibald. He also gave a talk on Heritage and Christian Faith on Saturday 8th September in Church.

Music

A music sub-group met on 8th January and again in June to discuss all aspects of our music. Various key ideas emerged over the year such as the importance of youth recruitment for the choir. This was initiated on 16th February by a 'Come and Sing' session led by Richard Gooding and facilitated by Ros Place and Diana Lavin, which was highly successful. A small 'Come and Sing' session took place on 1st November, led by Ros Place. We also decided we should seek to promote the Church as a venue for concerts with various music groups, and that we examine our range of hymns. We were clear that our music must appeal to all and that we must be flexible, tolerant of change and open to new ideas. Questions of payment to young choristers was raised. We posed the question as to how we get children from First Schools, in particular, to be involved? There were a number of informal Saturday vocal get-togethers in the autumn at 5pm on Saturdays (29th September, 20th October and 10th November) in the All Saints' Centre. Diana Lavin helped us to explore traditional hymns with modern settings together with new hymns, and revise songs we had forgotten, with the aim of increasing our repertoire for a Sunday.

Children and Young People

Andrew Mason's work was reviewed on 22 January at the end of his probationary period and his contract was confirmed. He has worked well on a range of activities and projects including designing a new website and maintaining a Twitter account. During the year 'Open the Book', a presentation of acted-out bible stories, performed by members of Trinity and All Saints', began at Archbishop Runcie School in addition to Archibald School. Andrew Mason also led assemblies in Newcastle School for Boys Infants and Juniors. RE lessons were taught and assemblies led in Archibald First School. Gosforth Central Middle also visited the Church. We led a Christingle service at Westfield school as well as welcoming all the independent schools to the church for their Carol Services. In the half-term holiday we played host to Messy Church, themes included harvest, and growing with God. There were also some training sessions for Young Saints' leaders. Schools' Week took place from 4th to 8th June when we welcomed over 300 children from local schools to 2-hour sessions featuring storytelling, singing, drama and workshops on the theme of David and Goliath. It was another very successful event with about 325 children involved, including the return of Newcastle School for Boys. There had been many volunteers and Andrew Mason's role was noted. A special thanks to Dee Matthews and the various musicians involved.

Accessibility to worship in relation to busy young families remained a discussion point. Whilst Café Church and the All Together Service were successful initiatives in this respect, we became conscious of the growing number of sports activities that take place on a Sunday morning.

A discussion in May at the PCC revealed that parents at the back of church often consider that they are on the outskirts of the Service. There was the request for children to be more involved with Services. There was an appeal that prayers could be read from the back of the church and effort made to encourage the congregation especially children to go closer to the font during baptisms. Importance was placed on teaching children simple hymns and songs. It was also suggested that Macaton Sign language could be introduced to our services.

St Hugh's Developments

During the year it became clear that St Hugh's was increasingly being viewed across the diocese as our responsibility and by December it seemed appropriate that the next Curate at All Saints' would be serving both All Saints and St Hugh's.

It seemed at the beginning of the year that it was very unlikely that any change could be achieved. The existing congregation was tired and fragile and we were unsure that any fresh innovative planning for the future was possible. In the spring I held 2 conversations with the Bishop of Berwick and it was clear that there were no additional resources available for this work from the diocese. In March I spoke to senior members of the Methodist Newcastle Central Circuit about possible developments at Coxlodge Methodist Church. There was real interest in a partnership and partaking in joint possible outreach projects based at St Hugh's. In September, October and December St Hugh's Church and Coxlodge Methodist Church joined together to share worship and consider what mission and ministry they might do together. There was a shared afternoon tea in September and shared meals in November and December. There was a very successful 'Prayer Space' week at Regent Farm School, helping children to experience prayer, involving 2 members of All Saints' in June with all the children of the school involved. Vic Spong led Matins on a Thursday morning over the summer. A joint event of 'Messy Church', to which a children's group who use the church and a school were invited, was held in December. I oversaw the main rota and two Services were maintained in the parish every week.

Study Groups

During Lent we studied 'Lentwise', a five-session course by Paula Gooder which aimed to help us to deal as Christians with the rigours of real life. Using fresh insights from John's Gospel, it explored the spiritual essentials for a journey of faith. There were five groups, meeting in afternoons and evenings. A study group also met in the autumn in the vicarage which discussed Brian Draper's book 'What Matters Most'. This book explored the pressures of working and family life and pointed to practical ways to nourish souls. Regular House Groups also met to discuss the Pilgrim material and the Revision study group met monthly.

People

The 2018 Confirmation service took place on Saturday 12th May at the Parish Church of St Nicholas, Gosforth. Five candidates were present from All Saints': Charlotte and Matthew Cooper, Patrick Hurrell, Lily McCabe and Rosannah Metcalfe.

We were glad to welcome Valerie Farthing as a deacon. Deirdre Wheeler and Yvonne Carr were added to the list of those who administer the sacrament to the housebound.

Our musical director Richard Gooding's wedding to Amy in Durham Cathedral on Saturday 7th April was a splendid occasion. A congregation of over 300, including our choir members and many All Saints' parishioners, joined in the celebrations. During the year Andrew Cole stood down as Chair of the Youth Committee after many years' service and Chris Matthews stepped down as Chair of the All Saints' Centre committee but continues to skilfully oversee our Mission of the month programme. Enid Mitchell became the chairperson of the Safeguarding committee.

We marked Marjorie Forster's 90th birthday at the end of January with flowers and bell ringing. A week of celebrations marked Ethel Randall's 90th birthday, starting with tea at Jesmond Dene House and ending with Sunday lunch at Matfen Hall. On Sunday 15th April, the day after her birthday, Ethel's celebrations started with the 9.30 service at All Saints' followed by a reception. We also celebrated Meriol Penn's 90th birthday on Christmas Day remembering that John and Meriol Penn have been members of All Saints' for 56 years, although Meriol's involvement in the church goes back to 1946.

Sadly we lost a number of devoted Church members. It was remarked that with the death of Isabelle Evans on 11th May an era in the life of All Saints' had come to an end. Isabelle had had a deep attachment to the church and memories of clergy going back more than 80 years. The loss of Pauline

Wood was keenly felt. Pauline was admired for her courage, her clear mind, and her powers of observation and openness to the world. Her capacity never to give up and be positive will be remembered by many of us. There was sadness too with the loss of Beryl Johnson who was a faithful member for many years.

Data Requirements

Conforming to the New Data Legislation took much time during the year. Early in 2018 we acknowledged that all data procedures carried out by the church must adhere to new forthcoming legislation and steps must be taken to inform all individuals of the changes. While it was understood that the Church can hold data for legitimate purposes, it was clear that policies must be in place. We were most grateful to Peter Mitchell who reviewed the implications of the Data Protection Act to the parish. In the June/ July edition of 'In Touch' a form was included asking for agreement for All Saints' to hold personal information and subsequently all on the data list were contacted and permissions recorded.

Redecoration and the Renewing of Lighting of the Church

The buildings remain a testimony to the commitment, dedication and hard work of many at All Saints' and as in previous years the buildings have offered many opportunities and challenges.

In May, Peter Brown submitted a report to the Fabric Committee prepared by Ian Ness, our Church Architect, with details of the projects. Lightfoots had been chosen to undertake electrical work to replace the flood lights with new LED lights. A Faculty was obtained for a CCTV to improve view of church entrance for organist and the security of the building. An appeal letter was sent to all on the electoral roll which resulted in a most generous response. The redecoration and electrical works started on 10th September. The extensive scaffolding gave us access to Clerestory (Upper or Clear Storey) windows which were cleaned and one broken window was replaced. Painting and renewing lighting caused much dust and debris. Cleaning the church as the scaffolding was removed was one of the biggest challenges we faced.

On Sunday 27th October we rededicated our building. Our thanks went to the painters, electricians, and scaffolders, Ian Ness the architect, but above all to Ros Place, Paul Wilkinson, Tricia Maylia, and Peter Brown who bore the brunt of the project. Thanks also went to those who made our worship possible in the Centre over six Sundays, moving chairs, setting up the sound systems, coping with cramped conditions and those who cleaned the church after the work was complete. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to all who gave most generously to the projects, and thus enabled the work to be done.

Maintenance and Access

We were glad of enthusiastic gardeners who came along on Saturday mornings during the year and tidied the grounds and Garden of Remembrance. The Churchwardens sought to upgrade the Columba and Augustine Rooms, so as to improve their attractiveness to a wider range of users. Rooms in the All Saints' Centre, the Upper Room and Office were also decorated. We also received a report from Taylors of Loughborough about our fine 10 bells, identifying some £10,729 of urgent repairs needed to keep the bells in good ringing order. Access to the building remains a continual theme and Diane Kirkup completed an access audit. There was another investigation into making the Upper Room more accessible for less mobile members, for example, to the Sew, Knit and Natter group. The structural, cost and locational problems of a lift still made this prohibitive. The lighting around the outside of the Church building remained another issue for discussion.

Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School

An OFSTED inspection had taken place in July 2017 which reported that the School required improvement and following the retirement of Mrs Robson as Head Teacher, a new Head, Mrs Henry, appointed in the June, started her work in the September 2017.

Over the first term and a half concerns over improvement remained and Mrs Henry left her post in the late spring. Outside help was brought in from an Academy (NEAT) and the Diocesan Board of Education. Following the departure of Mrs Henry, Mrs Massey was appointed as Head for the year. Her position was confirmed in the autumn. In September 2018 the school year started with 11 new staff and a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the school in its present location. I visited the School regularly conducting an assembly every Friday morning and served as the Safeguarding Governor and chair of the Ethos committee. Mrs Diana Lavin provided accompaniment on the piano and the whole school was welcomed to their annual church Carol Service at All Saints' in December.

Safeguarding

During the year Kath Davies (our Parish Safeguarding officer) prepared a Safeguarding audit and Action Plan which included the hope that all volunteers and paid staff be expected to complete basic safeguarding training. The role of a Domestic Abuse Champion was also explored. A well-qualified individual, Dr Alison Charlewood, indicated that she was prepared to take it on.

Easter and Christmas

It was a cold Lent and Holy Week. The winning design of Easter card was distributed advertising a full programme of services. We were very pleased to welcome Canon David Goodacre who led our 3-hour Service on Good Friday. Christmas was very busy. The Christmas Eve Crib Service and two Carol Services hosted 1167 worshippers (953 adults, 214 children). Excluding the Advent Carol Service, our Christmas totals reached 2,810 worshippers. This involved many complex rotas and much carol singing. The Christmas Fayre saw nearly £2300 raised for Church funds. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the event such a success, especially Dee Matthews who oversaw the day.

Congregation and PCC Meeting Details

There were 260 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2018 (261 on 31 December 2017). The average Sunday attendance counted in October was 172 (215 in October 2017) but, because of the ongoing work in the Church, services had to be held in the Centre during that month.

There were 6 weddings, 11 baptisms, 28 funerals, of which 19 were held in church, and 2 burial of ashes.

The PCC met 7 times in 2018. The average attendance was 75% (74% in 2017). The PCC regularly receives reports from the PCC working groups and during 2018 the Fabric committee and the Safeguarding and Access group have both provided a wide range of material of great relevance and value to the PCC. Regular updates have also been received from the Deanery Synod. The format of holding Open PCC Meetings on Sunday mornings has continued during the year; there has been one such meeting, open to all members of the congregation, which was very well attended. A second such meeting had to be cancelled.

In Conclusion

There are many questions we continue to face in our quest to fulfil our calling as the body of Christ in our parish. We need to continually take brave steps in mission and ministry in seeing ourselves no longer as a "club" but a "hub". In our changing world we have the continual challenge to "preach the gospel afresh in each generation" in ways that are both culturally sensitive and bold. We can never be complacent. In conclusion we come back to the beginning remembering that worship is at the heart of what we do. The church remains a significant building in our community, is accessible for more than 7 hours a day each day and many turn to us in need and times of crisis. I am sure many will remember 2018 in the life of All Saints' as the year the building was decorated. We look back with thanks and forward with expectation. Much happened in 2018 but I am sure much more will happen in 2019.

Finance

The accounts show a deficit of £5,646 for 2018 before taking account of the loss of £608 in the market value of our investments. The accounts at the end of 2017 showed a surplus of £23,516 before investment gains of £3,827.

Income

Total income, excluding legacies and grants increased from £223,126 in 2017 to £249,946 in 2018, the increase being due to the large value of donations for the Church Lighting Redecoration, Lighting Replacement and Bells Refurbishment.

Planned Giving

There were 156 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2018 compared with 161 at the end of 2017, the reduction caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2018. Planned Giving increased by £4,056 (£110,270 in 2017, £114,326 in 2018).

Donations

Donations in 2018 totalled £38,055 which included £10,000 donated for the Church Redecoration, £12,453 donated for the Church Lighting Replacement and £4,550 donated for the Bells Refurbishment, the remaining £11,052 being from general ad hoc donations.

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

Tax Recovery

For 2018 we have claimed the full GASDS allowance of £8000 giving an income of £2000. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on Planned Giving and donations increased from £30,475 in 2017 to £36,845 in 2018.

Expenditure

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

Expenses for the year totalled £260,733 compared with £202,310 in 2017. Apart from the Church window repair, the Church redecoration project, the Church lighting replacement project and the Bells refurbishment project significant expense changes between the two years were as follows:

- The Parish Share was £3,000 higher due to a percentage increase applied by the diocese.
- Clergy housing costs were lower by £1,055 due to the departure of the Revd Captain Steve Dixon in September 2018.
- Centre cleaning, repairs and maintenance costs were £1,314 higher.
- Caretaker costs were £1,424 higher due to the caretaker position being occupied for a greater proportion of the year compared with 2017.
- Youth Worker project costs were £4,870 higher due to the Families', Children's and Youth Co-ordinator position being occupied for a greater proportion of the year compared with 2017.
- Verger's house expenses were £1,384 higher due to the refurbishment and improvement costs incurred during 2018.
- Office costs were £1,157 higher due to higher equipment and printing costs.

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

Church Redecoration, Church Lighting Replacement and Bells Refurbishment Projects

During 2018 the interior of the Church was redecorated and the internal lighting was replaced with modern LED lights. During 2019 it is planned to refurbish the bells. Appeals were made for donations for these 3 costly projects, the response to which was truly outstanding. The position regarding the funding of these 3 projects is as follows:

Church Redecoration (1)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Donations: | £ 10,000 |
| Gift Aid: | £ 2,500 |
| 2017 Carry Forward: | <u>£ 1,275</u> |
| Total | £ 13,775 |
| Cost | £ 19,978 |
| Total/Cost | 69.0% |

Church Lighting (2)

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Grants: | £ 1,500 |
| Fund Raising: | £ 420 |
| Donations: | £ 12,453 |
| Gift Aid: | <u>£ 2,692</u> |
| Total | £ 17,065 |
| Cost | £ 19,686 |
| Total/Cost | 86.7% |

Bells Refurbishment (3)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant: | £ 3,000 |
| Fund Raising: | £ 290 |
| Donations: | £ 4,550 |
| Gift Aid: | £ 1,137 |
| Parochial Fees Bell Maintenance: | <u>£ 320</u> |
| Total | £ 9,297 |
| Cost | £ 10,729 |
| Total/Cost | 86.6% |

- (1) The Church Redecoration project is complete and fully paid including payment of £1,600 to the Consultant.
- (2) The Church Lighting project is complete and fully paid including payment of £1,600 to the Consultant.
- (3) The Bells Refurbishment project will be carried out in 2019. £6,324.40 being outstanding to the contractor but £4,892.90 is carried forward as Restricted Donations.

VAT was recovered from Listed Places of Worship as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Redecoration Project: | £3,596 |
| Lighting Replacement Project: | £3,617 |
| Window Repair: | £ 628 |
| Roof Repair: | £ 175 |
| Crucifix Repair: | £ 50 |

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 2018.

Rents

The All Saints' Centre continues to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties. Rents received totalled £27,491 (£27,050 in 2017). This included £504 charged against the Dementia Tea Club project and £735 charged against Young Saints and Little Saints for use of the Centre.

The Old Clergy House was occupied throughout the year. £8,786 was received in rent against expenses of £1,647.

The Verger's House was occupied most of the year. £7,463 was received in rent against expenses of £2,871.

Mission Giving

The PCC continued to support the work of the worldwide church by dedicating open plate cash collections at services to our Mission of the Month. Donations paid totalled £18,136 (£20,828 in 2017). £7,502 was collected at funerals and other events using the church.

McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Income from this fund was £502 of which £285 was used to pay for repairs to the Church roof and the Crucifix.

The Youth Project

The Youth Worker project income was £16,878 and the costs were £14,982 giving a surplus for the year of £1,896.

Legacies

Credit has been taken in the accounts for a legacy in respect of Isabelle and Audrey Evans. There was expenditure from the Legacies Fund in 2018 of £10,910 for Church window repair, Church redecoration project, Church lighting replacement project, Church roof repair and Crucifix repair.

Bank Balances and Reserves

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2018 totalled £98,140 compared with £111,774 at the end of 2017. £42,272 is in the Legacies fund, £34,813 is held for the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £9,767 is held in other funds for particular purposes. The remaining £11,288 (reduced from £21,020 in 2017) is held in the General Income fund, together with the £17,835 due from debtors, to meet the amount of £12,873 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has reduced from £75,511 in 2017 to £66,095 in 2018.

The Gloria Smith fund, which finances the Youth Worker project, has increased from £32,917 in 2017 to £34,813 in 2018.

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 2018 the General Income fund liquid reserves reduced by £1,782 to £16,250 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, Centre and properties maintenance.

In 2018 there has been a significant surplus generated by the Centre and Houses' rents. Hopefully these rents' surpluses can be maintained during 2019. Also the Parish Share is reducing by £4,812 in 2019 which should help with the General Fund reserves in 2019. The Planned Giving held up quite well during 2018 mainly because of the effect of the Stewardship campaign in late 2017, the deaths of several longstanding members occurring too late in 2018 to have much of a negative effect. However, in 2019, Planned Giving could be reduced.

Irrespective of whether there is an increase or decrease in the General Income fund in 2019 the change is likely to be relatively small so that, at the end of 2019, it would still be at a very low level. A Stewardship campaign is therefore envisaged to take place during 2019 when members of the congregation will be asked to either start Planned Giving or increase the level of their current donations.

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

During 2018 the Church has been redecorated and new modern LED lighting has been installed. During 2019 the bells will be refurbished but as shown earlier much of the cost of this work has already been funded.

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
7 April 2019

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

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

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

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

Opinion

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

Date 8 April 2019

G Benjamin ACA

For and on behalf of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants

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

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income and Endowments | | |
| Donations, grants and legacies | | |
| planned giving | 114,326 | 110,270 |
| donations | 38,055 | 17,248 |
| income tax recoverable | 36,845 | 30,475 |
| legacies | 200 | 1,000 |
| grants for replacment lighting | 1,500 | - |
| grant for bells refurbishment | 3,000 | - |
| grant for dementia meetings and café church/ evolution youth group | 441 | 1,700 |
| | 194,367 | 160,693 |
| Trading activities | 43,740 | 45,290 |
| Income from charitable activities | 10,485 | 13,208 |
| Other income | 4,798 | 5,056 |
| Income from investments | 1,697 | 1,579 |
| Total income and endowments | <u>255,087</u> | <u>225,826</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Planning giving renewal expenses | - | 75 |
| Fundraising costs | 609 | 1,058 |
| <i>Ministry</i> | | |
| Parish share | 114,131 | 111,131 |
| Clergy expenses and housing costs | <u>6,324</u> | <u>7,876</u> |
| | 120,455 | 119,007 |
| <i>Church</i> | | |
| alter requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance | 10,464 | 10,526 |
| window repair | 3,340 | - |
| redecoraton project | 17,978 | - |
| lighting replacement project | 19,686 | - |
| bells refurbishment project | 4,405 | - |
| light and heat | 4,071 | 4,483 |
| organist, organ and choir | 6,421 | 7,102 |
| | 66,365 | 22,111 |
| <i>All Saints' Centre</i> | | |
| cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance | 14,913 | 13,558 |
| decoration of upper room, office, stairs, toilet & kitchen | 3,720 | - |
| defibrillator | 413 | - |
| light and heat | 3,699 | 3,514 |
| caretaker salary | <u>6,945</u> | <u>5,521</u> |
| | 29,690 | 22,593 |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i> | | |
| youth worker project | 14,982 | 10,112 |
| old clergy/verger's houses expenses | 4,518 | 3,486 |
| church office | 17,666 | 16,509 |
| mission, independent examiner, other costs | <u>6,448</u> | <u>7,359</u> |
| | 43,614 | 37,466 |
| Total expenditure | <u>260,733</u> | <u>202,310</u> |
| Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains | (5,646) | 23,516 |
| Net gains on investments | (608) | 3,827 |
| Net movement in funds | (6,254) | 27,343 |
| Funds brought forward | 582,497 | 555,154 |
| Funds carried forward | <u><u>576,243</u></u> | <u><u>582,497</u></u> |

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2018

The funds of £576,243 at 31 December 2018 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 | | 14,904 |
| The Gloria Smith Fund (£34,813) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors | | 44,580 |
| Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £66,095 in the Legacies Fund | | <u>516,759</u> |
| Total funds | | <u><u>576,243</u></u> |

These funds were represented at 31 December 2018 by:

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| Properties - note 1 | | 435,000 |
| Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2017 | | 38,141 |
| Debtors and other amounts receivable | 17,835 | |
| Bank balances and cash | <u>98,140</u> | |
| | 115,975 | |
| less creditors falling due within one year | <u>12,873</u> | |
| Net current assets | | <u>103,102</u> |
| Net assets | | <u><u>576,243</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 2018 at £435,000 (Old Clergy House - £210,000, Verger's House - £225,000), no change since the 31 December 2017 valuation. The title to the land on which the Centre and the two adjacent houses are situated is vested in the Church Commissioners.

2. Staff numbers and costs

The PCC has employed a part-time administrator, a part-time caretaker and a part-time families, children's and youth co-ordinator throughout 2018. Their salary costs together with organist's fees including employer's NI and pension costs totalled £36,997 (£28,626 in 2017).

3. Related party transactions

The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Captain Steve Dixon (until his departure in September 2018) have occupied houses attached to their appointments. Costs borne by the PCC in connection their houses totalled £4,551.

Expenses payable to Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and Revd Captain Steve Dixon amounted to £1,773.

No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2018.

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 7 April 2019, 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 7 April 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Shipton

Vicar, Chair of the Council
7 April 2019

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

All Saints' Church
Gosforth

Mission giving

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

| | | <i>Total paid 2018</i> | | | <i>Total paid 2017</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Mission of the Month | | | | | |
| January | Cedarwood Trust | 1,008 | Cedarwood Trust | | 831 |
| February | Samaritans Tyneside | 617 | Samaritans Tyneside | | 689 |
| March | Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe | 1,299 | Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe | | 1,706 |
| April | Church Mission Society | 1,303 | Church Mission Society | | 1,200 |
| May | The Shirley Community Chaplaincy | 639 | Betel House | | 535 |
| June | Cornerstone | 797 | Cornerstone | | 730 |
| July | Mission to Seafarers | 799 | Mission to Seafarers | | 755 |
| August | PCDC | 909 | PCDC | | 1,036 |
| September | Northumbria Deaf Church | 895 | Northumbria Deaf Church | | 741 |
| October | Church Urban Fund | 734 | Church Urban Fund | | 1,083 |
| November | Unlock | 625 | The Street Pastors | | 904 |
| December | West End Refugee Service | 1,009 | West End Refugee Service | | 1,265 |
| | | <u>10,634</u> | | | <u>11,475</u> |
| Other donations | | | | | |
| Easter Day | Smile for Life | 337 | Smile for Life | | 413 |
| Christingle | Children's Society | 149 | Children's Society | | 175 |
| Christmas Eve | DEC | 786 | Children's Society | | 1,073 |
| | CRISIS | 519 | Shelter Box | | 1,058 |
| Christmas Day | Caritas Baby's Hospital | 422 | Save the Children | | 362 |
| Other charities | | 5,289 | Other charities | | 6,272 |
| | | <u>7,502</u> | | | <u>9,353</u> |
| | | <u>18,136</u> | | | <u>20,828</u> |

Note

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

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will take place in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL
on SUNDAY 28th April 2019 at 11.00am

AGENDA

The Blessing

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 29th April 2018 – for approval
 - 3.3 Matters Arising
 - 3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (*p.1-12*)
 - 3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 (*p.15-16*) – *for approval Fred Carr*
 - 3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts
 - 3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts
 - 3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor
 - 3.6 Report on the changes in the Electoral Roll since the last APCM.
 - 3.7 Comments and questions about reports (coloured pages)
 - 3.8 Elections and appointments
 - 3.8.1 Scrutineers
 - 3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
Candidates must be over 16 and be on the church electoral roll.
 - 3.8.3 Election of one representative to the Deanery Synod until 2020
 - 3.8.4 Appointment of sidesmen and sideswomen
Those currently serving as a sidesperson are listed at the back of this Report.
 - 3.9 Vicar's Report
 - 3.10 Declaration of election results
4. Time for comments, questions and discussion of matters raised by parishioners.
(Individual comments and questions should be expressed briefly to allow plenty of time for discussion.)

The Blessing

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 29th April 2018 at 11am

In The All Saints' Centre

Present: Revd Canon Andrew Shipton, Adebusola Adeyemi, Helga Beatty, Revd Ruth Birnie, David Bland, Peter Brown, Yvonne Cairns, Fred Carr, Yvonne Carr, Sheila Carr, Marion Cave, Sara Chester, Andrew Cole, Elizabeth Crawford, Lionel Crawford, John Davies, Edith Davison, Revd Captain Steve Dixon, Ann Downey, Sonya Downing, Valerie Farthing, Charles Foister, Elaine Gabriel, Nick Glover, Sue Glover, Dorothy Henderson, Lilian Henderson, Stuart Henderson, Katie Hodgson, Katie Hogg, Margaret Hudgson, Fiona Hurrell, Eric Hurrell, Beryl Johnson, Diane Kirkup, Diana Lavin, Constance Maselino-Okai, Andrew Mason, Chris Matthews, Dee Matthews, Enid Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, David Ogilvie, Lesley Ogilvie, John Nutt, Joyce Nutt, Karen Parkhouse, Margaret Patterson, Sheila Piper, Rosamund Place, Ethel Randell, Molly Ridley, Lionel Sainsbury, Pat Sainsbury, Evelyn Schneider, Ann Shaw, Bill Shaw, Marjorie Shipton, Pam Taylor, Jackie Walby, Kallum Wellborne, Karoline Wellborne, Nicky White, Paul Wilkinson, Hazel Williams, Margaret Wilkinson, Christine Willoughby, Pauline Wood and Mavis Yorke

Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton

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

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the two positions of Churchwarden: Rosamund Place, proposed by Jackie Walby and seconded by Edith Davison, and Paul Wilkinson, proposed by Fiona Hurrell and seconded by Deirdre Wheeler. Both were elected unopposed.

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Lesley Atkinson, Tony Champion, Marilyn Champion, Kath Davies, Sue Finkill, Marjorie Forster, David Hide, Hilary Hide, John Norris, Elizabeth Norris, Judy Riseborough, Pat Spong, Vic Spong and Deirdre Wheeler.

3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 30th April 2017:
Approval was proposed by Chris Matthews, seconded by Constance Maselino-Okai and agreed nem con.

3.3 Matters Arising
None

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (p1-12).
It was noted that Rosamund Place was elected from the 2017 APCM and not 2016, as stated in the Report (p3).

3.5 Financial Report and presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017. (p13-16).

Fred Carr presented his report

Fred advised that it had been a reasonable year overall with a surplus £27.3 divided between funds as follows:

- Gloria Smith Fund - 11.7k
- General Income fund - £8.5k
- Legacies fund - £4.3k
- Other funds - £2.8k

The Gloria Smith fund is very healthy at £32.9k that is considered as being more than adequate for the foreseeable future. The Legacies fund is also healthy at £75.5k, however the General Income fund (excluding properties) is still low at £18k.

Planned giving was down by £4k losing 4 members during the year.

Donations were healthy, general ad hoc donations being £7.7k to add to the £5.8k donated for specific purposes and £3.7k to the Gloria Smith fund from the closing down of the Little Saints Toddler Group bank account.

Gift aid recovery reduced by £5.8k but this was mainly due to the large gift aid recovery in 2016 because of Church Centre heating donations.

Charity giving was up by £7.8k due to more donations to Charities being collected at funerals.

Overall the result for the year was reasonably satisfactory. The big worry is the low holding of the General Income fund that is the fund through which all day to day transactions are made. To try to improve the situation with the regard to the General Income fund there was a Stewardship appeal made in November to try to increase Planned Giving. However, the results of this were somewhat disappointing with planned giving being increased by only about £5k per annum. Due to the relative failure of the Stewardship appeal Fred advised that he anticipates that within 2-3 years the General Income fund will be bankrupt and we will be unable to pay our bills.

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts

No questions or comments raised.

3.5.2 Approval of the accounts

Fred was thanked for all his hard work. Edith Davison proposed and Dee Matthews seconded the approval of the accounts, this was agreed nem con.

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

Fred reported his dissatisfaction with the current Independent Examiner in the last 2 years, with poor procedures and very late changes being imposed. He had therefore got approval to seek a new Independent Examiner. However the current Examiner has now explained the problems and so Fred proposed that we retain Haines Watts but he will impose a strict timetable upon them and monitor it carefully. This procedure was therefore proposed by Andrew Cole, seconded by Margaret Patterson and agreed nem con.

3.6 Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll

The roll now stands at 260; 9 names have been removed during the year but 8 new names have been added.

3.7 Comments and questions about reports (coloured pages).

The absence of a choir report was queried. Andrew replied that Richard Gooding had not written one, unsurprisingly in view of his personal circumstances at the time! Yvonne Cairns reported that a report on the state of the church bells has now been received. Work will be needed to maintain the high quality of the bells but costs will be very carefully monitored.

Elizabeth Crawford questioned the absence of a report from the Tuesday Afternoon Tea Club. Andrew regretted it and said that it would be rectified next year.

Peter Brown, as Chair of the Fabric Committee, gave a further verbal report. Tenders have now been received for the redecoration and new lighting in the church and the

costs are very encouraging, being less than first expected. It is thus hoped to cover the redecoration costs from current funds; the lighting programme will require fundraising, all being subject to acceptance of the tender. The work will not require full scaffolding which may give more flexibility when agreeing a programme and timetable of work.

3.8 Elections and Appointments

3.8.1 No scrutineers were required.

3.8.2 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives until 2020.

There was one nomination for 2 vacancies:

Constance Maselino-Okai, proposed by Roy Vipond, seconded by Nick Glover.
This was accepted nem com.

3.8.3 Election of Lay Representatives to the Parochial Church Council

| Nominee | Proposer | Seconded |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nick Glover | Stuart Henderson | Paul Cross |
| Dorothy Henderson | Diane Kirkup | Valerie Farthing |
| Katie Hogg | Ros Place | Peter Farquharson |
| Diana Lavin | Valerie Farthing | Judy Riseborough |
| Karen Parkhouse | Stuart Henderson | Ann Cross |
| Alison Proudfoot | Nick Glover | Sue Glover |
| Karoline Wellborne | Enid Mitchell | Kathleen Hodges |
| Nicky White | Lesley Atkinson | Ann Cross |
| Christine Willoughby | Pam Taylor | Marjorie Forster |

As the number of vacancies exceeded the number of nominees, the 9 nominated candidates were elected, nem con, to serve on the Parochial Church Council.

3.8.4 Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen

It was noted that Diane Kirkup's name should be on the list and Marilyn Champion has asked to be added to the list. This was agreed.

3.9 Vicar's Report

The report presents a detailed account of the events of 2017.

Andrew began by thanking many different people for their hard work put in over the year, including those who have served on the PCC and are now stepping down or have come to the end of their term of office. He referred to the ministry team and their many contributions.

The report illustrates that there is so much that Ros, Fiona, Nick, Fred and Peter did over 2017 and, of course, continue to do.

He commented that those we employ, Richard, Louise, Trish and Andrew are most committed to the mission and ministry of All Saints and share a 'can do it' attitude. But above all he wanted to thank Fiona Hurrell as she comes to the end of her 3 years as Churchwarden. Fiona has served us with such dedication, thoughtfulness and energy; she was very brave to take on being Churchwarden 3 years ago but we are so pleased she did. She has been perceptive and thoughtful and has brought a fresh approach to All Saints'.

Valerie Farthing has served as Vice Chair of Standing Committee for a number of years with great sensitivity and purpose. She has served from vacancy to today – overseeing much change and has played a vital role in keeping the ship stable in stormy seas. Valerie can look back on her time as Vice Chair with a healthy sense of pride. As mentioned at last year's Annual Meeting –All Saints' is a Complex organisation, involving many with people with many gifts and there is never a dull moment. Andrew has tried in his report to capture 'our life together', and as we read through this report

we give thanks for so many events and activities. For example, we can think of ‘messy church’ and café church, the Senior members outings, the immense work that goes into arranging rotas –for which we are truly ‘world class’, Peter Brown’s work in maintaining the fabric, we think of the All Saints’ Centre and the role of Chis Matthews, the work of the Monday Club, Sew Knit and Natter, the Mothers’ Union, those who take communion to the housebound, the Amnesty Group who write letters on behalf of those unjustly imprisoned and the Meditation Group. There are the Bell Ringers who also teach new ringers, the choir, those who develop the church grounds and now the Recyclable Plastics Subcommittee. We can think of the Safeguarding and Youth Committees– remembering Andrew Cole’s chairmanship of the Youth Committee over many years.

All Saints’ continues to be an organisation which runs on good will and peoples generous financial giving

In 2017 we adopted our strapline statement: The community of All Saints’: living thoughtful caring faith – which Andrew hopes gets to the heart of our vision, mission, ethos and aims.

He posed certain questions: What is at the heart of our mission – why do we exist? The ethos of our community is born out of our values

What are our values?

All Saints’ is at its best is a large diverse and vibrant community: thoughtful, not gimmicky. We wish to be known for our thoughtfulness.

We also wish to be known for our caring, for being big hearted, for the quality of our fellowship. It is the care and concern that we share that welcomes ‘outsiders’ and spills over into our community in practical acts. We read that we have given over £20, 000 to Charities during 2017 for which we should be proud. It is great also that we are now members of Citizens UK. This shows we are looking outwards, looking to the needs and issues of those around us.

Andrew likes the fact that the strapline refers to ‘the Community of All Saints’.

Community is all about Relationships. We need to be world class in creating and sustaining relationships. The creation of authentic relationships is key to our flourishing both within and beyond the church.

We need to have ‘fuzzy edges’ to enable ‘outsiders’ to feel that they can join us with varying degrees of commitment.

Our aim to build relations with the young, to nurture young people, young families and children took a great step forward in Andrew Mason’s appointment in September and we are now actively involved in 4 schools. The very successful ‘Come and Sing’ workshop for young people which was held during February half term illustrates the potential there is to develop relationships with a whole variety of young people and parents.

He referred to St Hugh’s – where much has happened in the last few months. Certainly we are seen as being connected across the Diocese as parishes, for St Hugh’s is seen to be our responsibility. There is a plan to move forward but it’s not straightforward it will involve some imaginative thinking.

Finally, all in the end comes down to our worship. We need to have our worship in our services to be as good as it can be. We are called to encounter the living God, to become caught up in his life and mission that begins with our attention to Him.

3.10 Declaration of Election Results N/A

4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

Margaret Wilkinson commented on the impressive diversity of activities and extent of outreach that is taking place.

Pauline Wood expressed thanks to those involved in the amount of work that has taken place on the Garden of Remembrance.

Fred Carr emphasised again how impressive all the activities are but stressed that we need more leaders.

Sonia Downing wanted to congratulate those involved in the work with children, and especially Lesley Atkinson.

Ros Place commented on the impressive flexibility people show in fulfilling different roles.

Andrew Mason repeated the question how do we improve the financial situation?

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

Church

In the last Report, mention was made about tenders being sought for redecoration and replacement lighting with a view to work being undertaken in Lent 2019. In the event the cost of the lighting and redecoration was much less than expected. Following a successful appeal for funding, work commenced on 10 September. The church had to be fully scaffolded internally and services were held in the Church Centre. Reusing the existing high quality cabling, the lighting in the church was replaced with low energy LED fittings reducing the lighting load from over 28kW to less than 2kW. All the walls were painted and all high level glazing was cleaned. The opportunity was taken to fit the crucifix with a new halo, the original having fallen off many years ago. There was a delay in removing the scaffolding when one of the clerestory windows was found to be in a dangerous condition and we were grateful that Iona Art Glass were able to remove the window to their studio in Amble at very short notice and re-lead all the glass.

The rood screen was found to be in a very fragile condition and some repair and conservation work will be necessary in the near future.

In February all the external doors were cleaned and treated with Danish oil, the ironwork painted and the white lines renewed. Previously some expert welding was undertaken on the door hinges to repair the ravages of time.

Also in February, there were several incidents of anti-social behaviour. One of these was classed by the police as a hate crime. Unfortunately, the newly installed CCTV camera was found not to have worked due to technical difficulties. This problem has been addressed by the Contractor and a monitor and recorder have been installed, at their expense. In line with police recommendations the church has been locked during the day in the immediate aftermath. At its meeting in March, the PCC agreed that the church should be re-opened during the day and locked around 3.00pm

Church Centre

This year there has been redecoration work to the Upper Room, office, kitchen staircase and toilets. Improvements have been made to the Columba Room with new furniture and carpets. Work is planned in the Augustine Room to make this a suitable office for Sarah Moon and for our new curate in September. Minor floor repairs were carried out in the main hall and kitchen.

Church Houses

One of the tenancies changed during the year. This resulted in a three month gap when rent was not received and some redecoration and minor repairs were needed to prepare for the new tenant.

Church Grounds

We are grateful for the small teams who keep on top of grounds maintenance and grass cutting. Plans were under consideration to renew the paths around the church with the possibility of creating a level access at the main entrance. This would have involved major expenditure and fund raising. In the meantime, we have very uneven and unsafe areas of paving and putting this right has been found to be in the order of £11,000. The PCC has agreed to get competitive tenders for this urgent and essential works and to delay the major scheme to sometime in the future.

At its meeting in March, the PCC agreed to install two light bollards along the path at the west end of church, following complaints received about the path being very dark at night.

Peter M Brown
Chari of Fabric Committee

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

All Church of England Parishes across the country were required to prepare a new Electoral Roll this year. This meant that everyone on the existing roll had to re-apply in order to be included: names are not automatically carried over onto the new roll. The Electoral Roll now stands at 214.

Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer

PLANNED GIVING

There were 156 members in the Planned Giving scheme at the end of 2018 compared with 161 in 2017. Five new members joined, sadly offset by the deaths of several long-standing members and those who have moved away from the area.

Members donate monthly, quarterly or annually and many are taxpayers and have signed Gift Aid forms which enable us to reclaim tax at the rate of 25%. This makes a significant addition to our income and we are very grateful to those who have signed these forms

The benefit of Planned Giving is that it gives All Saints' a much more predictable income.

Margaret Patterson

8.00AM MORNING SERVICE

I like the Early Morning Communion Service on Sunday at 8 o'clock, which aims to provide an opportunity to come and rest in God's presence at time that would not usually clash with other commitments with the family. Generally the service consists of a short address and the sharing of Communion.

For many of us the pace of life does not always slow down at the weekend let alone on Sunday. With busy lives, even when retired, and with much to do on a Sunday this short service is a chance to take a breath and reflect on our role and concern for each other in our church and in the wider society.

Because there are so few we have become a "small" and regular society who immediately see if someone is missing. As the motto of All Saints' says we try to show our caring faith

Marie-Claude Fawcett

AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

It is now three years since we began our Tuesday group with a set up grant and guidance from Chain Reaction. It began slowly but is now flourishing with a regular core group of 12-14. Numbers vary according to health and weather conditions. We sometimes get the odd drop in guests and last summer we had a tourist from London who had seen All Saints' website.

Everyone loves the homemade cakes made by our volunteers and there is hardly ever any left for them to take home.

We have various activities, Beetle and Bingo, Quiz, music entertainment, armchair aerobics, colouring and card making, talks and flower arranging. On Shrove Tuesday we cook pancakes, or at least our dedicated chef Valerie does.

We have a really loyal team of volunteers and I thank them with all my heart, without them it just would not happen.

Elizabeth Crawford

CAFÉ CHURCH

We continue to meet on the first Sunday of the month, with numerous regularly attending families. The attendance has been healthy and stable. In February, the teens from the youth club led the whole act of worship, compiling the order of service and one of the teens even preached a short sermon.

We continue to need more musicians to play some music for us, even if you can only manage it once a year.

Andrew Mason

MISSION AND JUSTICE GROUP, INCORPORATING CHARITABLE GIVING

Missions of the Month:

We have continued the monthly and special services format this year in our Mission giving and would once again thank you all for your most generous support both in prayer and giving throughout the year to all these organisations.

The Cedarwood Trust (L); Samaritan's Tyneside (L); Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe (I); CMS (I); The Shirley Community Chaplaincy (L); Cornerstone (L); Mission to Seafarers (I); Practical Compassion for Destitute Children (PCDC) (I); Northumbria Deaf Church (L); Together Newcastle (Church Urban Fund) (L); Unlock (L) and West End Refugees Service (WERS) (L)

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

Additional missionary giving:

Good Friday – Amnesty International

Easter Day – Smile for Life

Harvest Festival – **gifts** to Walking With project in Wallsend and **open plate** to Northumbria Deaf Church

Christingle Service – The Children's Society

Christmas Eve Carol Services were split between – D E C, Crisis and All Saints'

Christmas Day – Caritas Baby's Hospital, Bethlehem.

We continue to receive and display each month, on the notice board at the back of church, details of the work carried out by all the above organisations as well as putting articles in the weekly pew sheet and the In Touch magazine. Where provided, planned giving envelopes were made available in the pews. It was also good to see that we continued to have, during most months, our nominated monthly organisations providing a speaker to talk about their work at one or more of our services in their nominated month.

Chris Matthews

Christian Aid:

Christian Aid Week 2018 kicked off to an excellent start with another Big Breakfast, organised by Andrew Cole, ably helped by his star team of sausage-sandwich makers. This was followed by a week of street walking when 3,000 envelopes were delivered to houses within the parish, then collected by a team of 30 willing volunteers. The grand total collected and donated for Christian Aid was just over £3,000, an amount comparable to that collected in 2017. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this amazing outcome.

House-to-house collections are becoming increasingly challenging as a way of fundraising to support any charity, not just Christian Aid. Christian Aid is committed to a dedicated week and is discussing ways to re-imagine this major fund-raising opportunity. If you have any comments or ideas, please contact me or Christian Aid direct. And do, please continue your support in 2019.

Lesley Atkinson

All Saints' is a Fairtrade church, we use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after services and at other meetings and hold a Traidcraft stall during parish breakfast at least once and usually twice a month. A donation of £100 was made to the DEC Indonesia appeal from stall profits. Thanks go to the Glover family who publicised the financial difficulties Traidcraft plc announced at the end of 2018 and all of you who made an extra effort to make purchases to support the company. Fortunately the company has announced it is able to continue trading though stock ranges will be reduced. We again marked Fairtrade fortnight by placing notices in the pew sheet and providing cakes and biscuits made with Fairtrade ingredients at parish breakfast.

Nicky Portergill

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

A lot of our time over the past year has again been spent focussing on digital media. A completely new Church website is in the course of being prepared. A Wikipedia page is now live. We have regularly considered the Church's Facebook page, not only in terms of content but also in the context of what we are trying to achieve and how that can be best done.

Peter Mitchell has kept us updated on how the new data protection regulations impact not only on social media but also such issues as the maintenance of and use of the Church database.

The observant will have noticed the appearance of a QR code beneath the Galloway window in Church, a recent innovation, thanks to Peter, which is being trialled, so further ones may appear soon. I would encourage those of you with the appropriate app on your phone to give it a go.

In addition we have continued our usual review of In Touch and various outreach activities.

For next year, we are planning to have each meeting more focussed on one particular topic and invite along additional people where appropriate. If you have a particular experience of or desire to contribute to our discussions of any of Facebook, the website, Twitter or Wikipedia, please let me or Andrew know.

Paul Christian

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

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

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

**Peter M Brown
Lay Chair**

LOSS ADJUSTERS

We are very pleased that the Loss Adjusters group is getting bigger. We welcome all our new members.

Our monthly meetings at San Lorenzo's are well attended, even in bad weather. We all enjoy the friendship they offer. Every member brings their own ideas and stories with them and these enrich the meetings.

We had a buffet lunch at my house on January 6th (Epiphany). We were able to put £50 of donations into church funds - thank you all.

We all miss Pauline, who sadly died in October. She was an integral part of our group from the start and did so much for it. We are pleased to see her family at church.

And thank you Vic, our mentor.

Ann Downey

THE PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE GROUP

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

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

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

Ruth Birnie

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The Safeguarding Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC, charged with addressing all matters which might impact on the most vulnerable people in our church and community. We meet six times a year and report back to the PCC after each meeting. Some of the items under discussion in the past year have been:

- The departure of our Chair, Rev Steve Dixon, resulting in the appointment of Enid Mitchell to the position.
- The Safeguarding Audit (rather an off-putting title but fascinating and essential!!) is regularly reviewed and amended to meet stringent guidelines from the Diocese. This ensures that every possible step is being taken to ensure that All Saints' is a place of safety, physically, emotionally and spiritually for everyone with whom we come into contact.
- Keith Kennils continues to fulfil an essential role as Parish Recorder. Keith's meticulous attention to detail ensures that all DBS certificates are up to date and that new volunteers in very many roles are quickly and efficiently included on the register. We are most grateful to Keith for the tireless energy with which he addresses this task and his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things DBS-related.
- One of the initiatives the group has started this year is the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Champion. Domestic abuse is often hidden and it can be helpful to know that there is someone who can point anyone who is worried about domestic abuse in any of its forms to the correct channels for help. Dr Alison Charlewood has agreed to explore this post.

- At each meeting Andrew Mason gives a comprehensive report on his work with the children, families and young people. We have discussed such matters as how to deal with a situation where there is unexpectedly only one adult present with a child or children, risk assessments for trips, staffing of youth groups etc.
- Training of volunteers in safeguarding issues has figured large in our discussions and we are working towards potentially making some form of training compulsory for all volunteers. The diocese provides such training, and Kath Davies, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, keeps us up to date with all matters diocesan.
- There are now posters on display in the Church and the Centre detailing who to contact in the case of safeguarding concerns.
- Data protection is also discussed regularly, as the church works towards a comprehensive database, with appropriate levels of access and permissions given.

This energetic and passionate group aims to be vigilant in ensuring that All Saints' is a place of safety and security for all and that, as far as we are able, safety measures are put into place for every activity, for the protection of both helpers and users of the facilities.

**Enid Mitchel
(Chair)**

SUNDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES WITH TEA

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

Occasional Sunday afternoon services are intended to help meet that need. Two such services, one at Easter with the other at Harvest, were held in the All Saints' Centre during the past year, each service taking the form of a simple communion service followed by afternoon tea accompanied by the Semitones Orchestra. The other essential ingredient was people - volunteer helpers who prepared and served the tea and, most importantly, shared cakes and time to chat with guests.

Whilst most of the guests came along on the basis of an invitation, it was lovely to welcome a family who heard about the service and dropped in for the afternoon. Knowing names in advance allows us to arrange transport, if necessary, but the afternoons are open to all.

As always, sincere thanks go to everyone who so generously gave their time to drive, bake, serve tea, welcome guests, provide music and, of course, conduct the services. Special thanks go to the Semitones who gave up their precious rehearsal time to play for us.

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

Lesley Atkinson

LITTLE SAINTS

Little Saints Toddler and Parent group has enjoyed another successful year. Each Tuesday afternoon during school term time, the Centre has been alive with up to twenty four young children from the local community, along with their caring adult. We have said 'goodbye' to families as children have moved on to nursery placements, only to welcome them back some time later with younger siblings, so that contact with many families has been maintained. Each session has aimed to provide fun through shared experiences over play, crafts, songs and snack times in a safe environment. A

special visitor put in their annual appearance before Christmas to deliver gifts for each child - thank you, Santa!

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

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

New families and helpers are always welcome. If you care for a toddler, do join us on Tuesday afternoons between 1.00 - 2.30pm, for some fun and cake. If you have spare time to help put out or clear away resources, 12.30pm would be an excellent time to come along; weekly commitment is not necessary, just a willingness to help.

Lesley Atkinson

YOUNG SAINTS

Our Young Saints currently comprise approximately sixty children under the age of 12 years. Not all attend every week - what a wonderful challenge if they did! - but whether they come along every week, once a month or twice a year, all are very welcome and all have something to contribute to their group.

The groups have continued to follow the liturgy for the main, adult service when appropriate. At times when the liturgy has proved too challenging for young children (or their leaders) or when other themes have been more enticing, the children have worshipped in different ways. Last year's preparation for Schools' Week prompted a month of creativity to produce amazing art and craft work on the theme of David - you might recall the giant footsteps or flocks of sheep around the church.

Music has been a constant challenge for us but we were recently delighted when Diana Lavin offered to play the piano and teach new songs at the start of sessions during March. Thank you Diana.

The changing pattern of attendance, as mentioned at the top of this report, has meant that the 9+ group has frequently had insufficient children to create a viable group; the children have often joined the younger 6-8s group, the older SOS group or have chosen to remain in church with their parents. As a result, a decision has been made to maintain two children's groups - under 7s and 7 - 10s. Older children can choose to join the SOS group or remain in church. Age bands, though, are guidelines and children will be welcome to join the group in which they feel most comfortable.

This report could not end without thanking everyone who has worked so hard during the year to plan and provide stimulating and fun sessions, or helped our Young Saints in so many other ways on their journey of developing their Christian faith.

Sunday mornings with the children are FUN and often provide a new slant on what we think we are doing. The response to Andrew's query at the end of the 9.30 service 'what have you been doing?' is often a tongue-tied silence; if you have ever wondered what the children have really spent their time doing in the Centre, do join us. You might be inspired to lead or help!

Lesley Atkinson

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK REPORT

The work with children in this church continues forward at a healthy level.

Our midweek groups contain Evolution Kids Club and the Youth Club. The attendance for both groups remain in single figures, so continue to pray for us and pass on the news of these groups to any families on your street. But the children who attend are enjoying their activities and the relationships they have built.

There are some exciting changes happening in Young Saints and you can read about these in Lesley's Young Saints report.

Felicity Shoemith has recently donated a generous amount of money to our children and youth to purchase bibles. The money comes from a recently deceased relative and will be dedicated on the 1st Sunday in April. This generous gift has enabled us to purchase the Lion Storyteller Bible for each of the children in our under 6s Young Saints group and the Lion Graphic Bible for each of the children in our 6-8s Young Saints group.

The Sew, Knit and Natter group has recently knitted baptismal teddies to present to the children who are baptised in our Church.

Our schools work continues to be strong. Our Children and Youth Coordinator, Andrew Mason, continues to go into the various schools to lead assemblies and RE lessons. These schools have included Gosforth Central Middle School, Archbishop Runcie School, Archibald Road School and Newcastle School for Boys. Andrew Shipton has also been going into Archbishop Runcie and Archibald Road to lead assemblies.

Open the Book has now progressed into Archbishop Runcie School, as well as continuing it's great work in Archibald Road School. This is where a team of us from Trinity and All Saints' Church go into an assembly and act out Bible stories. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to either help read the stories or to help with props. Speak to Andrew Mason if you are interested.

Newcastle School for Boys, Westfield School and Archbishop Runcie School all came into the Church for their Christmas Carol Services, as well as other special services, all of which were really well attended.

Schools week was a great success, as usual. Dee Matthews continues to lead the team fantastically and we would love to see more volunteers step up to help support Dee's wonderful coordination of this week. This last year we covered King David. Five different schools were in attendance and all had fantastic things to say about it.

There are five young people currently attending the confirmation classes. One of these hopes to be confirmed in 2020 with the other four aiming for confirmation 2019.

May we ask that you continue to pray for all the children and the work that we do with them. We would love to have your support in this way, and any other way.

Andrew Mason

MOTHERS' UNION

Another interesting year with a variety of meetings, activities and visits to other churches and to the cathedral. Up to October 2018, we had eighteen full members, but unfortunately two died on consecutive days, 6th and 7th October, Beryl Johnson and Pauline Wood respectively. Both are a great miss to our branch and to the congregation. We do have one new member and one more lady is to be enrolled on 8th April.

In July, we held an 'Afternoon Tea in Style' and raised £250.00 towards Action and Outreach projects, of which there are many. Also in the summer, Dorothy Henderson kindly held a coffee morning to boost the branch funds.

Mothers' Union extends beyond the Columba Room! Apart from all the deanery and diocesan events, there was a Trustees Training Day at Carlisle, the AGM in Swansea and this September I'll be off to this year's AGM in Portsmouth.

Last year's Diocesan Council Meeting in October was held at Christ Church, North Shields followed by a live performance of 'Chosen' a play about the life of Mary Sumner, our founder. This was performed by the Saltmine Theatre Company. At this year's Council Meeting on 29th March at St. John's Church, Kingston Park, Revd Sarah Moon will be enrolled as an MU member and commissioned as our new Diocesan Chaplain. We look forward to Sarah coming to All Saints' in June to cover Andrew's three month sabbatical. She will be the speaker at our 10th June meeting. December was a busy month with a stall at the Church Fair, filling twenty-two Christmas shoe boxes for the homeless, providing refreshments at the Christingle and setting up the annual display to raise awareness of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign.

In February, Dorothy Henderson and I were recommissioned for a further three years as Diocesan Treasurer and Newcastle Central Deanery Leader, respectively.

Meetings throughout the year included hearing from our Youth Worker Andrew Mason who told us about his work in the parish, Christians Against Poverty, Dementia Friends and the MULOA 'conversation'. (MULOA means Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting) This year's theme is 'Listen, Observe, Act in step with God' and our members will endeavour, whenever possible, to act on what we hear and see.

Our meetings, which are on the second Monday of each month, are always open to everyone – no need to be a member. Please feel free to join us.

Pam Taylor
Branch and Deanery Leader

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN GOSFORTH

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met every 6 weeks normally at Trinity Café for fellowship and information sharing and planning. Those participating have included St Nicholas, The Society of Friends, Trinity Church, and All Saints'. It has been a particular pleasure to welcome the contributions from recent new members Jill Foister (representing the Quakers) and Father Bill Agley (from St Charles). Among the subjects we have discussed have been our funeral ministry, Remembrance Day, dementia awareness, sabbaticals, and our denominational structures.

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

The 'Space for Share' drop in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House on a Friday morning continued with 16 and more participants regularly enjoying friendship and support. Refreshments remain free and those who drop in receive a warm welcome in the name of Christian's Together in Gosforth.

A Service was held at Trinity Church to mark the 'week of prayer for Christian unity' in January. A united act of Witness at Trinity Square was held on Good Friday. We said goodbye to Revd Canon Philip Cunningham in September who retired to live in Hexham. St Charles' Church changed its Mass time on Remembrance Day and we were glad that Father Bill Agley accepted an invitation to preach at the united Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park. The failure of the sound system was a major setback. The bells at All Saints' were rung that day (with bells of other churches) to mark the signing of the armistice to end the first world war 100 years ago.

Andrew Shipton

ALL SAINTS' AMNESTY GROUP

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

Letters are available after the 9.30 service on the fourth Sunday of every month except for August and also for December, when, instead of writing letters, we send seasonal greetings direct to prisoners and their families or to groups who have supported them. You are warmly invited to join us in the church hall after the 9.30 service for letter writing or to take a letter at the Church door to write later. We are very grateful to the faithful group of supporters from the All Saints' congregation who take letters from us every month and to those who took part in our greetings card event.

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

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

Marilyn Champion

FILM CLUB

The Film Club met eight times during 2018 and we enjoyed a wide variety of films across those months. There were older "classics" such as **On the Waterfront** and **Brooklyn**, others that looked at relevant issues such as **Hidden Figures**, **Lion** and **The Mission**. **Dunkirk** was gruelling but well worth watching, whilst **The Death of Stalin** and **The Light between Oceans** were lighter in tone. That summary should give a feeling for the varied programme of films that we enjoy and plan to maintain.

We continue to meet in the Duke of Wellington, on Kenton Lane on the last Thursday of the month. This has proved to be a welcoming, helpful and convenient venue, having a large car park, and with plenty of space in the upstairs room. There is a good range of food available so we mostly arrive an hour before the film starts so that we can enjoy a meal together. We always like to see new faces at our gatherings, so do come along and if you have a film suggestion that would be even better!

Nick Glover

SEW, KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Our Group goes from strength to strength, membership now stands at 26.

Our Summer outing this year was a wonderful trip to Wynyard Hall Rose Gardens. We enjoyed a guided tour of the garden with the entertaining and enthusiastic head gardener.

Our new knitting project is to provide small teddies for children being baptised at All Saints', so far these have been very well received by the families concerned.

Work continued on our knitted bible stories for use by Young Saints. Currently we are creating 'Moses in the Bulrushes', and 'Daniel in the Lion's Den' is in the pipeline.

At Christmas we held our usual stall at the Fayre. The raffle prize was a knitted explorer complete with map and change of clothing, and various animals he would spot on his travels. There was also Christmas decorations and other novelty items on sale.

We're branching out into other crafts with felting (at Shepherd's Dene), silk painting and card making for Easter. 'Calendar Girls' was our first visit to the theatre as a group and much fun was held by all.

New members, and ideas, are always welcome.

Ann Shaw and Sue Finkill

ALL SAINTS' TOWER REPORT

Ringling

The main purpose of church bell ringing is to ring for services and all members of the Tower are expected to contribute to this.

There are ten bells at All Saints' and we ring for two services every Sunday (9.30 and 6.30). We also ring for special midweek services such as Christmas, Ascension Day and Ash Wednesday, as well as for weddings.

Special Ringing at the 9.30 service is offered to people wishing to celebrate family events in return for a donation to PCC funds.

Regular practices are on Monday evenings at 7.30 until 9.00.

Refurbishment of bells

Repairs estimated at £10,729 were identified in 2018 and then approved by the PCC. £5,000 was allocated from church funds with the hope that the ringers would try to raise the remainder on behalf of the PCC. In the event we raised over £10,000 from individual donations, fundraising events, and grants from charitable trusts. We are very grateful to all those who have supported this project. The order for the work was placed in December and we now have a proposed date of 27th May 2019 for the work to begin. The bells will probably be out of action for at least six weeks during that time. A recent inspection by Taylors, who made the bells, has identified an unexpected problem with the 9th bell which renders it unringable until it is repaired. The repair will be part of the repairs starting on 27th May. We will therefore be ringing just 6 bells until then.

General maintenance

There is a regular schedule of routine maintenance which includes checking the fittings, replacing broken stays and replacing worn ropes. The ropes are replaced by the PCC while the Tower has a small income from visitor fees which is used to meet the cost of stays, minor fittings, training for teachers, and other minor expenditure.

Recruitment and Training

Of the three ringers recruited between October 2017 and February 2018, two have continued and made good progress. Both now ring for Sunday services. Four more ringers joined in November 2018 as part of the 'Ringing Remembers' programme. Three are continuing. We have recently started teaching a thirteen-year-old boy who will be offering Bell Ringing as a Skill for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and hope that he too will become part of our Sunday service band before long.

Teaching sessions are held on Mondays before the main practice and for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings. Our newer ringers also attend the regular weekly practice at Fenham. Training is carried out in line with a national programme for certification.

Our thanks go to trainers and helpers who support the development of learners.

A programme of improvement in ringing is starting on alternate Sunday evenings, half an hour before service ringing, for some slightly more advanced practice for our band.

Present band

There are 19 regular ringers in the band and we usually have a good turnout for Sunday services. Attendance at practices has been less good lately, which makes it difficult to improve standards.

Remembrance 2018

17 of our ringers rang on Remembrance Day as part of a national programme. All those who rang are eligible for a commemorative badge

The future

Many of our recent learners have been adults, and whilst with any skill it is easier to learn when young, even someone of more mature years can become a very competent ringer given the right training and the opportunity to progress – providing they have the determination to succeed!

Paul Cross
Tower Captain

BADMINTON CLUB

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

John Nutt

MEDITATION GROUP

In the Christian tradition is about entering into the silence that is both the silence and depth of God and the silence and depth of our own true selves. It is an ancient tradition going back to the very earliest days of Christianity. The Christian Meditation Group meets on alternate Sundays at 5.15 pm in the Upper Room of the All Saints' Centre. We usually start with a reading to lead into 25 minutes of silence. We have a small but regular number of people attending and anyone interested is very welcome to join us. The practice is simple and can be explained in a few words. No previous experience is necessary.

Charles Foister

GARDENING GROUP

On Saturday mornings once a month a number of enthusiasts work to keep the gardens and grounds of our church in good condition. Lawns are raked, paths swept, beds are weeded, bulbs planted, hedges trimmed and gutters cleared of leaves. Working as part of a team increases the range of tasks we are able to complete and greatly improves the enjoyment of those taking part. The church is grateful to those who volunteer their time and skills.

Paul Wilkinson

SATURDAY CLEANING AND POLISHING SESSIONS

About every two months, at the invitation of Tricia Maylia and / or the churchwardens, a small number of volunteers arrive at church on a Saturday between 9.30 and 12.30 to tackle church cleaning and polishing jobs on top of our usual routine. In the autumn of 2018 such people excelled in tidying up what was in effect a building site after our re-decoration project came to an end.

It is a chance to focus on areas of particular delight – one person will make a work of art of some furniture or window cleaning, another might tackle some candlesticks or bring order into some area of chaos. Fortunately we also have people who agree to vacuum clean or tackle drips of candlewax on the carpet. This occasions approving comments as we improve our environment and keep our church a place of care, love and beauty.

Rosamund Place CW, Tricia Maylia and Paul Wilkinson CW

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

18th Newcastle Brownies

We have had another exciting year at Brownies, with a full and varied programme, including badges, challenges, crafts, drama, dance, sports, baking and of course games!!

We enjoyed making a whole flock of sheep to decorate church for 'David and Goliath'. As always, Andrew kindly invited us into church to tell us the story, which we found very interesting and helpful, as we were working towards our Discovering Faith Badge.

As part of our community challenges, we have visited church on a regular basis, polishing and dusting and also enjoyed a couple of leaf sweeping and gardening sessions, making the most of the beautiful weather!

We have continued supporting our favourite charities. We held our annual 'National Den Building Day' in aid of 'Save the Children', inviting our families and friends, to help us make our 'dens' on the church green, followed by a picnic and games afterwards. We also support 'The Cats Protection Society' and 'The Blue Cross' animal charities.

We ran the 'Jam Jar Jest' stall at the Christmas Fete, we loved decorating the jars and filling them with sweets and prizes, and once again we were thrilled to sell out!!

We attended the Division Christmas Disco at Kenton Sports Centre, where we had a fun filled evening, with our Brownie friends from other packs.

We were thrilled to have a visit from Andrew Mason, impressing us all with his fantastic magic tricks and telling us the story of Christmas.

We would like to thank Andrew and Louise for their continued support, we feel very proud to be part of the All Saints' family.

Tricia Maylia

21st Newcastle Brownies

This year we have welcomed and embraced our fantastic new programme which was launched nationally in September. We have been trying out the activities and the girls are on their way to getting their first set of badges. They are very excited about the new programme which is centred around 6 themes, Express Myself, Skills for my Future, Take Action, Have Adventure, Be Well and Know Myself. The girls will work towards these themes from Rainbows right through to Rangers enjoying a varied programme at each stage.

We currently have 23 girls, 4 leaders and a Young Leader. We will have 10 new brownies joining us after Easter, so we are currently just enjoying the calm before the storm.

Our programme over the year has taken us on some exciting adventures including learning about Thailand with a Ranger from Gosforth telling us all about her trip with Guiding to Thailand. We have covered Skills for My Future with the Brownies learning how to use a screw driver and hammer, chop veggies and understood risks around their homes and the church hall. This term we are working towards Express Myself with the Brownies inventing anything from a hair styling machine to a flying camper van and building food towers.

We joined other Brownies from across Newcastle for a fun packed adventure weekend at Duke's House Wood in the summer. We all loved the weekend (especially the leaders) with climbing, foraging and having a go on a 4G swing! The brownies got to know other brownies and have fun running circles around the leader.

As a Christmas treat we attended the Geordie Panto at Gateshead Stadium where with our front row seats we got very involved and the Brownies managed to catch lots of sweets.

The upcoming year is also going to be packed! We have the new programme to continue with and a mama-mia pack holiday planned in the summer. The brownies will also be working towards the new interest badges at home with their families and friends.

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

Lauren Burnett

21st Newcastle Guides

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

We have 13 Guides, 2 Guiders and 2 Young Leaders.

We spent much of last year getting to grips with the new programme that Girl Guiding UK introduced to all units, it involves six different themes – Know myself, express myself, be well, have adventures, take action and skills for my future. Each theme covers a variety of creative, logic and skills builder tasks which the Guides work through both during meetings and in their own time. At the beginning of each term we worked with the Guides to decide on what they would enjoy most from the programme ready to make the most out of the new scheme.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed working on a variety of badges and skill builders such as Science, environment and baking. Along with the badges we took part in a great range of activities, such as yoga, arts and crafts, preparing for Harvest and remembering Armistice day by making clay poppies. For our Christmas party we went for a lovely meal at Oli and Joe's in Gosforth.

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

As part of the Senses badge, we enjoyed learning about and using our 5 senses. This involved what's in the bag game where the guides had to guess what objects were in the bag without looking, name that smell and food – such as vinegar, lemon, sugar and mustard, some of which the guides liked more than others.

During one evening we made mini apple crumbles which the guides were then able to take home to enjoy. The guides also baked their own bread, adding in different flavours as well as creating packaging and advertisement to “sell” their new brand.

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

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

Hannah Johnson

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SEA SCOUTS

Beavers

Is it that time of year again? Fun-packed, action packed – more of the usual.

We’ve been on camp again, and we’re planning the next one. We went on JOTT, and we’re planning the next one. Bowling at Christmas, and a well-stocked and staffed ginger stall at the Christmas Fayre.

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

To mark 100 years of remembrance, we created our own field of poppies.

At the turn of the year, we proudly celebrated Burn’s night with a ceilidh (thank you Matthew Coe & friends), followed by Chinese New Year and visits from the Teddy Bear Hospital and the university dental students (very welcome by one of our new beavers who was off for some dental work soon after!)

World book day saw some amazing characters being created by teams of beavers.

Most recently, thanks to Diana for helping us start to learn “Let it be!” for Mother’s Day. Great that she could get (nearly) all of us singing in only 15 minutes.

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

Finally, a super “well done” to our young leaders, Ben and Grace. They were awarded the “Explorer Scout Young Leader Buckle” for a huge amount of work over recent years.

We’re currently looking forward to another busy year.

Oliver Williams & The Team

Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack

2018-19 has been a very busy year for Central Gosforth Cub Scout Pack. We have increased the numbers in the pack to 32 children, ranging from 8 to 10½ years old. We aim to offer a scouting experience to as many children as possible, as there continues to be long waiting lists for all sections in Newcastle. The Cubs meet on a Friday night during term time and take part in a varied programme of activities, including outdoor, creative, community and world challenges. We are lucky to have 4 dedicated leaders, now including Ross Whitelaw, who joined us in September. We also have 5 enthusiastic young leaders from Gosforth Explorers helping the group: Alex, Darcy, Oliver, Eloise and Libby.

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

forums, where the cubs tell us what they would like to do, and we try to accommodate as much of their ideas as we can. This has led to evenings bowling at Eldon Leisure, roller skating at Kenton, climbing at Byker and a trip to Inflatospace, a giant warehouse filled with trampolines! Andy McCabe has led the #YouShape campaign so successfully that we were awarded 'gold' status recently, a fantastic achievement.

Sarah McKenzie organised two interesting evenings in the Autumn when the cubs gained their science badge, completing 6 experiments in total. This was greatly enjoyed by the cubs! Sarah also led an evening tie-dyeing t-shirts. We completed the disability awareness badge, led by young leaders Darcy and Oliver. We had a visit from Connie, a hearing dog for her deaf owner David, and David explained how helpful Connie is and how much she has enriched his life. The athletics badge was achieved in the summer under the supervision of Alex. The skills badge led us to be ironing, laying tables, cleaning windows and changing light bulbs in the hall one Friday night! We recently held a badge night, where cubs chose the badges they worked towards. A total of 70 badges were attained that night, showing how hard the cubs had worked in their own time.

Ross led the cubs in the Scout County climbing competition last term. They did fantastically well to come first in the whole county, and won well-deserved bobble hats as their prizes. We have also been climbing at Newburn, along with trampolining sessions and bell-boating there too. The Cubs took part in the Remembrance Parade in November in Gosforth Park. One of our young leaders arranged our JOTT to be the 'Look Wide Walk' a walk first undertaken 110 years ago when the first ever scout camp took place in Northumberland in 1908. We had a visit from the community police team, and participated in Parliament Week, learning about democracy in the UK.

We have again participated in two successful camps in the last 12 months. In June we joined the beavers and scouts at a group camp at Kirknewton, and in September we held our cub camp at Selby Wood, near Morpeth, and we had fun cooking on open fires, problem solving, playing games and singing round the campfire.

We look forward to planning lots more adventures and camps for the Cubs in the coming year!

Sarah Parkinnen

Sea Scouts

As usual, we had a varied programme of activities for the Sea Scouts this year. We had a camp together with the Beavers and Cubs at Cheviot View near Wooler in Northumberland, and spent another fantastic weekend participating in water activities on the Tyne based at Derwenthaugh Sea Cadet Centre. The older Scouts completed their "Expedition Challenge", hiking from the Kielder Dam to the Scottish border over two days. We also hiked along the Tyne, and had a bike ride along the Waggonways in North Tyneside. We spent a day volunteering at the Havannah Nature Reserve near Hazelrigg (planting trees), and time learning about amateur radio and the internet while contacting other Scouts around the world. We watched the Newcastle Gang Show at the People's Theatre (involving some of our own Scouts), and (twice!) attended Newcastle Eagles basketball games. In addition to lots of fun and games, activities on our troop nights included: a wide game on the Town Moor, orienteering at Rising Sun Country Park, kayaking and paddle boarding at Derwent Reservoir, visits to the Sikh temple in Arthur's Hill and Battle Zone Laser, map reading, making leather woggles, a scrap heap challenge, learning about sea navigation from Captain Took of Trinity House, Scouts teaching each other various skills, and devising and shooting promotional videos that were premiered at the Scout Group AGM.

We have maintained our excellent links with the church, putting together an imposing Goliath for All Saints' Children's Week, devoting a troop night to neatening up the paths and verges around the building, attending the Remembrance Sunday parade and the Harvest Festival and running a stall at the Christmas Fayre.

Our numbers have increased substantially this year, but we do have a few places left within the Scout Group. So, if you have a son, daughter or friend who may wish to join us, please see our

website (<http://cgsq.scoutsites.org.uk/scouts/158-2/>) or feel free to contact Dona Skaife (gosforthscouts.montagu@gmail) to discuss current availability.

**Jon Higgins, Andrea Dolfini and Jamie Mitchell
Scout Leaders**

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE FIRST SCHOOL

I have worked at Archbishop Runcie Church of England VA First School for 16 years and it is a huge part of my life so, as you can imagine, I am delighted to be writing as the new Headteacher! I joined the school as a student teacher, working alongside Christine Bull and under Canon Julie Robson, and never wanted to leave! Our school is truly an amazing place to work and learn; I feel blessed to have been part of its journey.

Last year was a turbulent one for the school. We experienced a huge change in staff with many friends and colleagues moving on to pastures new. We have now appointed a new staff team who are all very enthusiastic and delighted to be part of our special school!

During the last two terms, we have tried to give the school a “makeover” and have been kindly supported by the families and friends of our school in painting classrooms, landscaping the central courtyard and fundraising for new resources. This has been a brilliant opportunity for us all to roll up our sleeves and come together as a school community. Our PTFA launched the year with a “Welcome back BBQ” which was a brilliant opportunity to welcome new members of our school community to our special school.

In September 2018, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the school opening. On the first day back the children discovered a time capsule with objects, photographs and documents related to the school’s history inside. We learned about the All Saints’ “Save Our School” campaign and looked at newspaper cuttings documenting actions that were being taken. We talked to Mr Shipton who remembered the opening of our school; meeting Robert Runcie and taking part in the opening service. Our cook, Mrs Battista baked a cake to serve all 180 of us!

Colin Tait, a former grandparent, took us on a guided tour of Gosforth looking at the site where the previous school was located and talking to us about significant historical events and buildings. We compared maps of Gosforth from 1988 and 2018- they were very different! We learned about the huge cross at our school entrance and its history and how it came to be displayed at our school. Children even enjoyed a visit to Beamish warehouse to look at objects from 1980s as well as celebrating the 30th birthday of Matilda, by Roald Dahl, too.

This topic gave us an exciting opportunity to talk about, and celebrate, all that we are proud of about our school and define how our school is distinctive as a Church of England school. Children and staff are able to articulate the benefits of our strong Christian ethos. Finally, we worked with a local artist to design a sculpture, for our courtyard, that represents our school and all that it represents. We are eagerly awaiting its installation!

As part of our 30th birthday celebrations, each class took part in an enterprise project where they created school merchandise with the challenge of making a profit! We ended our fabulous first half term of the school year with an exhibition for community members to attend and received lots of extremely positive feedback!

September 2018 also marked the retirement of Canon Philip Cunningham who gave so much to our school during the 16 years that he served at St Nicholas’. We continue to work closely with both of the churches that we serve and welcome both Andrew Mason and Canon Andrew Shipton in school to lead Worship on a regular basis.

You will no doubt be aware that our Governors are currently consulting on joining NEAT which is a mixed Multi Academy Trust in the East of the city which features a fellow Church of England school.

As part of this consultation, the Governors have engaged with PCCs, Diocesan Board of Education officers, Gosforth Schools Trust, staff and parents to consider carefully the best way forward for our school. I am hopeful that, whatever the outcome, these conversations will only be the beginning of stronger working relationships in order to ensure the brightest possible future for our wonderful school.

We are always looking for support our school and would welcome any offers of time that any of you may have. We have a range of roles for volunteers; from photocopying and laminating, to listening to children read, gardening or putting up displays. If you would like to be part of our team of volunteers, please contact Mrs McCloud in the school office!

As I write, the sun is shining and children are laughing and enjoying our fabulous school grounds. Spring is a wonderful time of year, a time where we can appreciate God's beautiful creation and enjoy signs of new life in anticipation of Easter.

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

Kate Massey

LADYBIRD @ ALL SAINTS' PLAYGROUP

We have had another busy year in Playgroup. We celebrated our preschool children leaving with a graduation ceremony and summer party. We have developed an ongoing partnership with Philip Cussins House across the road. The children visit regularly to meet with the residents for crafts and singing. We have enjoyed local walks and trips to the library.

We were inspected by Food Standards and awarded a food hygiene certificate rating 5. In October, we held a Halloween party and raffle with all monies raised to our chosen charity The Percy Hedley Foundation. Rachel and Rebecca (Director of Ladybird) ran in a mud run event at Newcastle Race course in support of The Percy Hedley Foundation.

The children made a wreath for Remembrance Day. We visited the Church to display the wreath and the children enjoyed seeing the 'knitted Saints' and singing in the pews. Our Christmas party was another huge success with our families. Santa and Sparkle were the star guest again! We visited Fenwick's window on the bus and bought 'Dotty Bear' some new pyjamas. Dotty travels home with the children on lots of adventures!

We invited parents to our Valentines breakfast with crumpets and fruit and lots of cuddles. The children took part in a February half-term 'Bake off' competition. We have celebrated lots of birthdays and various themed topics based on their interests.

Our Facebook page is another success with our present families and is updated daily with photos and information. We have welcomed 20 new families since September and our 'Open Days' are popular events.

Rachel Todd

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH
Sidespeople

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