

All Saints  
Gosforth



Annual Report to  
Parishioners  
2023

*'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 2022**

**Incumbent:**

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

**Church Office:**

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

**Bankers:**

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

**Independent Examiners:**

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

## **ALL SAINTS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

### **Aims and Purposes**

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

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

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

The All Saints' mission statement is:

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

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

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

## Membership

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

Incumbent	Revd Canon Andrew Shipton	From Sept. 2014
Churchwardens	Mr Nick Glover	From 2022 APCM
	Mrs Christine Willoughby	From 2020 APCM
Deanery Synod representatives Until 2023 (ex-officio)	Mr Peter Brown (Lay Vice Chair)	
	Ms Diane Kirkup	
	Mrs Rosamund Place	
	Mrs Pamela Taylor	
Elected members Until 2023	Ms Alison Wilson	
	Dr Claudia Newbegin	
	Mrs Marian Coulson-Cave	
	Mrs Felicity Shoemith	
	Miss Edith Davison	Resigned Sept. 2022
Elected members Until 2024	Mrs Karen Parkhouse	
	Mrs Dorothy Henderson	Died May 2022
	Mrs Katie Hogg	
	Mrs Diana Lavin	
Elected members Until 2025	Mrs Francine Bain	
	Mrs Pauline Gallacher	
	Mrs Valerie Hedley	
	Mrs Joyce Jennings	
	Mrs Margaret Patterson	Resigned Sept. 2022
	Mrs Lesley Ogilvie	
Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie (ex-officio)	
Assistant Curate	Revd Beverley Davies (ex-officio)	Until August 2022
Assistant Curate	Revd Miriam Jones (ex-officio)	From October 2022
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Kath Davies, co-opted for 1 year	
Treasurer	Mr Fred Carr, co-opted for 1 year	
Secretary	Dr Alison Charlewood, co-opted for 1 year	

Ms Kath Davies was co-opted at the first meeting of the PCC following the 2022 APCM and continued to serve as the Safeguarding Officer. Mr Fred Carr was co-opted at the same PCC meeting, and continued to serve as PCC Treasurer. Dr Alison Charlewood was co-opted at the same PCC meeting to serve as PCC Secretary.

## Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

The Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, the Churchwardens, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and two 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. 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**

There were many tests and obstacles to overcome throughout 2020/21, but much was (and continues to be) learned from this challenging time.

In 2022, my role and responsibilities to animate the life of All Saints continued as we moved out of the pandemic and looked ahead, discerning a way forward. In September 2021, I introduced a Renewal and Funding Group to help us think through, together with the PCC, how we might engage and welcome afresh the wider community. I am heartened to say that throughout 2022, numerous group discussions and actions enabled many new initiatives to be promoted and trialled. (I mention more of these in the calendar.)

I hope my Annual Report 2022 illustrates that despite uncertainty and far fewer volunteers, we endeavoured to ensure that our worshipping life and pastoral work continued (especially to the older members of our community) and that, with tenacity, we have continued to develop both our Mission and Ministry in new ways.

St Hugh's, throughout 2022, has faced its own range of challenges and I am only too aware of my responsibilities to those parishioners. Whilst not being referred to here, I shall speak about these at the Annual Meeting.

## **The Year**

A team of churchwardens, volunteers and paid employees worked hard to sustain our life as a Community of Faith which included the routine schedule of services on Sundays and Festivals, work to welcome and accommodate groups in the Centre, also to maintain the buildings and fabric and do the essential administrative tasks.

## **Services**

There was a total of 5 Weddings; 1 Thanksgiving for a child; 17 Baptisms; 1 Blessing of a Marriage; 23 Funerals (11 in church); and 9 Services for the Burial of Ashes.

School Assemblies were led by clergy at the Archbishop Runcie First School (at least once a week), Archibald First School, and in Regent Farm School in the St Hugh's parish. I am a Foundation Governor at Archbishop Runcie Church of England School as are three others from All Saints.

The church was used additionally throughout the year for School Services and/or curriculum visits by Gosforth Junior Academy, Westfield School for Girls; Archibald First School; Archbishop Runcie First School and also Newcastle School for Boys (both Juniors & Seniors).

Care homes were regularly visited in the parishes of St Hugh's and All Saints and services led in Eothen, Moorfield, and Kenton Hall.

## Calendar 2022

### January

- The Volunteer Project leaflet promotion continued (it was launched on Advent Sunday 2021) having been disrupted by bad weather
- Meetings via Zoom began for many committees including the Parochial Church Council
- A Hub Church concept (All Saints with St Hugh's, Ascension, & St Mary's) was revisited and questioned. (It would be revised later in 2022.)
- The Archbishop Runcie First School Admissions Policy proposed change was debated (the Parochial Church Council accepted residence in either parish of All Saints /St Nicholas and active members of another Christian Church within the parish as a qualification for admission)
- Rehearsals for the Good Friday performance of the musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar' began
- The Church Centre activities including 'Coffee & Conversation' also 'Choir at the Centre' re-convened, attracting members beyond our community.
- We were loaned a grand piano (installed in church) heralding the first of monthly concerts until December (organised by Rosamund Place with Master Musicians International). One of the most moving performances of the year was to be that of Khrystyna Mykhailichenko from the Ukraine who played works by Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Liszt.
- Research began as to the possibility of Farmers' Markets on the Green.

### February

- On the first Friday of every month, from 10:00 – 11:30, a dedicated gardening group began work on the Garden of Remembrance and its surroundings
- At the 9:30 service on Sunday 6 February, we welcomed Gosforth Air Cadets to celebrate 81yrs since their foundation.

### March

- The Northumberland Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers worked to improve the health of our West Ave hedge and make it a more welcoming haven for wildlife (part of the Urban Rewilding Project)
- An Appeal was launched resulting in an overwhelming response for items to assist refugees arriving in the North East from Eastern Europe and Ukraine.
- A Café Church took place in the Centre and was led by the Young people's group 'Evolution' recounting what they had learned during lockdown.
- A Lent study began. This was a 5-week programme on 'Superstar', (afternoons in the Centre or evenings via Zoom) - an exploration and reflection of issues raised by the production.
- During Lent, on Sunday evenings in church, members of the congregation were invited to reflect on their understanding of the Gospel.
- On Saturday 19 March, in the afternoon, a 'Cake and Nursery Rhymes' event for parents and under 5s took place in the Centre with 12 children attending. Parents enjoyed refreshments and children took away laminated Nursery Rhyme flip books made in-house (*enabled and organised by Louise Waugh, Dorothy Henderson, Diana Lavin, Felicity Shoemith and Katie Hogg*).
- At 7:30, a Quiz Night organised by 'Tyneside Welcomes' in conjunction with All Saints raised a considerable sum and pleasingly attracted a number of new volunteers for the project.

- Before the month end, The Calvary Cross Faculty arrived and a crowdfunding Appeal was launched via a company, 'Spacehive', (*with advice from Felicity Shoesmith*) to help cover the cost of CCTV & security lighting alongside our insurance claim (*pursued by Peter Brown*).

#### April

- A fallen chunk of stone was discovered from an East window mullion and on the advice of the Church Architect, urgent work was advised. Subsequently, 2 panels of stained glass were removed, a new mullion was inserted and the very dirty East window stained glass was cleaned.
- On Palm Sunday afternoon an informal communion service in the Centre was held to welcome people who had not felt able to attend church since prior to Covid. Nearly 40 people attended followed by refreshments and music was provided by the Semitones Orchestra.
- On Good Friday we welcomed Rev Christopher Wardale to lead our 3 hours of devotion. That morning, there was also a children's event on the Green
- On Good Friday evening, a Concert Performance of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' took place in church, (led by John Lewis).
- Easter Day, following the 9:30 service, families gathered on the Green for an hour of Easter crafts and activities, the children making Easter bonnets/hats and hunting for chocolate eggs whilst parents enjoyed the sunshine.
- On Saturday 23 April we hosted an event to celebrate International Organ Day.
- The 2022 Annual Meeting took place on Sunday 24 April in the Centre. Paul Wilkinson also completed his service as Church Warden.

#### May

- During Christian Aid Week, 15- 21 May (*organised by Lesley Atkinson*) it was not possible to do house-to-house collections so envelopes were left in church and an e-envelope was put in place for online donations.
- Saturday 14 May: a new event 'Games on the Green' followed by pizza & ice cream took place and was attended by 24 children plus 20 adults (*organised by Diana Lavin, Felicity Shoesmith and Katie Hogg*)
- An application for a licence from Newcastle City Council to hold 6 Farmers' Markets (up to 12 stalls) on the Church Green to start in September was approved (*Diana Lavin on behalf of the Parochial Church Council*).

#### June

- A 'Jubilee Picnic', was held on Saturday, 4 June. Brilliant sunshine helped set the mood on the Green whilst attendees enjoyed a quiz, walking-corgi balloon races (fun for both adults & children) and celebratory cake (*Judy Riseborough*) with cups of tea whilst being entertained with music and song by Richard Hazelwood on his guitar.
- Sunday 26 June, the Rev Helen Lunn was licensed to the parish by the Bishop of Berwick, (her intended focus to be the Church of the Ascension).

#### July

- On Saturday 9 July, another new event, 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' was held on the Green. Children delighted in entering their teddy bears to abseil from the church tower, each complete with safety harness and all were awarded with a certificate – all landing safely!
- On Sunday 17 July, we welcomed to the Green a folk band 'Timbre' who sang an eclectic range of European songs, mostly from Scandinavia.
- The Parochial Church Council meeting welcomed a visit by Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Chris Elder to 'explore' a formal framework for All Saints to be a hub church.

#### August

- The popular 'Open Gardens' event returned on Sunday afternoons.
- Monday 15 August heralded the start of the well overdue facelift to the Centre hall, kitchen, toilets, staircase and Columba room. The electricity sockets in the Centre and the west end of church were upgraded.
- On 19 August, we welcomed the Jigsaw Choir to sing from Shrewsbury.

- On Tuesday 23 August, the 'Handlebards' very popular return to the Green with their production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night was well-attended by residents from all over the local community (*organised by Ros Place*).
- At the end of the month we said goodbye to Rev Beverley Davies. At her leaving event in October we reflected on how Beverley always related her faith in a down-to-earth way, using life experiences to reinforce her message. We also remembered how she patiently assembled the weekly YouTube services during lockdown. We wished her well in her new position at Benfield School.

#### September

- We cautiously reintroduced wine at Holy Communion. Members of the congregation were given the option of accepting one or both elements.
- On Saturday 15 September, our first ever Farmers' Market was held on the Green, in glorious sunshine with just 9 stalls present including pies, honey, bread, specialist cakes and our own charity stall of recycled kitchen/table equipment. Our appeal for donations for the East Window (rather than an entry fee) achieved a considerable sum (*organised by Diana Lavin and Marian Cave*).
- On Sunday 18 September, we welcomed Rev. Dr Miriam Jones, a Deacon who had been serving in the Diocese. She moved into St Hugh's Vicarage.
- On the same day, we held a special Commemoration Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We opened church and invited visitors to sign a book of condolence
- Our bells were rung in honour of the Queen's funeral on Monday 19 September.
- The following week, on Sunday the 25 September, at the 9:30 service, Felicity Shoesmith spoke about our work with Young People, highlighting the pressing need of how to welcome and engage potential younger members from our area.

#### October

- On Sunday 2 October at 9:30 we held our Harvest Festival with all our Uniformed Groups invited. Donations went to the 'Walking with Project' at Wallsend. At 3pm, in the Centre there was a Thanksgiving Service for those whom attending church is a challenge. This was followed with tea and music from the Semitones Orchestra
- The Calvary Cross was finally reinstated in the Garden of Remembrance on a stone plinth with uplighters and CCTV in place
- On Saturday 29 October, there was an afternoon celebration tea (pizza and cake) cup presentation and party games in the Centre for the Uniformed Groups and their families who had taken part in the Enterprise Challenge. (They had each been given £50 to see how they could make it grow.) In the evening, there was a sell-out Parish Quiz and delicious supper
- The average Sunday attendance count for the year 2022 was noted to be 134 (112 in October 2021).

#### November

- The Clergy from All Saints led the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park. It was attended by many hundreds of local people.
- On Saturday 19 November, we held the annual (indoor) Church Christmas Fair (*organised by Valerie Farthing & Francine Bain*) and the second (outdoor) Farmers' Market. The events were financially successful and despite the cold wet day, the locals flocked to enjoy both.
- On Sunday 20 November, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark Bryant to church to confirm 5 candidates from All Saints and also St George's, Jesmond and The Ascension, Kenton. Those Confirmed from All Saints were Helen Christian; Roo Davies; David Kelechi Chibyeze-anoma; Garwain Hedley and Pamela Hedley, who was also baptised that evening.
- Paul Cross retired as a dedicated Bell Tower Captain after 12 years! We welcomed Yvonne Cairns to take on the responsibility for the day-to-day running of the tower.



## December

- On Saturday 10 December the first Christmas Tree Festival event took place from 10–12:30. Schools and all Groups with regular links with All Saints were invited to donate an upcycled/recyclable tree to help decorate our windows.
- We welcomed our new Youth Worker Jaddai Kambeya following 2 previous attempts to appoint a Youth Worker. After discussions with the Youth Committee and careful negotiating, we entered into a partnership with North East Youth For Christ. Jaddai will work with us one day weekly during term time and on occasional Sundays.
- The very cold weather leading up to Christmas had a detrimental effect on our Parish Carol Singing
- On Sunday 18 December, the Christingle Service clashed with the Football World Cup Final
- On Christmas Eve, a new, afternoon intergenerational event was trialled; it was planned particularly aimed at those families having young children (*organisation by Ros Place*). This was followed by the 2 traditional Carol services at 4:30 and 6pm and a midnight Eucharist.
- A total of 934 people attended worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## Acknowledgements

Much could be said of *Ruth Birnie's* steady and faithful service. Ruth continues to be committed to her ministry among us. We are grateful also to *Vic Spong* for his contributions to our life. *Christine Willoughby* and *Nick Glover* have given most generously of their time as Churchwardens. (Nick had previously served on the PCC for over 6 years being Secretary for much of that time.) At the Annual Meeting in 2022, we gave thanks to *Paul Wilkinson* for his four years of devoted service (including his extra year to see us through the Covid changes) so freely given. We are very glad to have *Miriam* working among us. Her ministry is already bearing fruit especially in thinking how we reach young families.

*Louise Waugh* has overseen much of our operations with patience and flair. We are grateful that she has so many skills, is conscientious and always carefully manages conflicting demands. *Tricia Maylia* has again taken great care of both the church and Centre and helped to oversee many funerals and weddings in church.

*Fred Carr* has continued to dutifully and carefully oversee our finances. There is much work he does that often goes unnoticed and we remain indebted to him for his hard work. We appreciate too our dedicated Gift Aid Recorder, *Margaret Patterson* and our Fees Treasurer, *Chris Bolland*, whose roles are quietly but most ably undertaken.

*Peter Brown*, acting in his role as vice-chair of the PCC has generously given time to attend to all church fabric matters and was very busy whilst overseeing the vital restoration of the Calvary Cross and repair of the east window. We are grateful to *Alison Charlewood* for taking on the (often onerous) role of PCC Secretary and her requisite set of administrative skills.

The Church Choir continues to progress in leaps and bounds under the directorship of *John Lewis* - his Superstar production, only possible after a tremendous amount of work, had the audience truly mesmerised. Continuing the musical theme, there are our bell ringers, in whose vital role we delight. Paul Cross was Tower Captain until November, retiring after 12 years inspiring and sharing his skills with his ringers. We are indebted to Paul and welcome *Yvonne* into the role

Thanks to *Lesley Atkinson* for running Young Saints and Little Saints and to *Diana Lavin* for leading the Tuesday 'Choir at the Centre' and her pioneering Farmers' Markets. Also to Katie Hogg who became a Foundation School Governor at Archbishop Runcie School and to both Marian Coulson Cave and Craig Dallison who stepped down from being Governors during the year.

*Rosamund Place* who has overseen our You Tube broadcasts and recordings, those that work on the Sunday coffee rota and the amnesty group.

Much appreciation is directed to the work Mother's Union, the Monday Club , Gosforth 'Tyneside Welcomes' (*Andrew Cole*), the 'Keeping in Touch' magazine editing team, the Christian Meditation Group, Sew Knit and Natter, and the Amnesty Group; those who cut the grass (*Keith Davies*) and tidy the church grounds; the readers, the intercessors, the Stewards and indeed, all those who enable our worship to continue each Sunday and many more whose work is done quietly and in the background.

## **Obituaries**

### *Dorothy Henderson*

*Dorothy's* sudden death was an awful shock. She possessed a "can do" attitude accompanied by much energy and commitment; the more challenging something seemed, the more she seemed to want to do it. Dorothy was a valued and loved member of our choir, was involved with our Sew, Knit and Natter group where she was treasurer, and she arranged and promoted our hugely successful Christmas Fair last year. Dorothy was our branch leader of the Mothers' Union and diocesan treasurer. She was an integral part of all the new children's events. She served on the Tyneside Welcomes committee and had offered a home for refugees from Ukraine. Sadly she died suddenly before the work was complete.

### *Alfhild Wellborne*

*Alfhild*, who died in July is also a terrible loss. Alfhild, as well as being a caring mother and grandmother, had worked at The Seaman's Mission Church, at Archibald First School and she also took on a role at the City Centre Chaplaincy. She had been a Branch Leader for All Saints Mothers' Union and also co-ordinated the 'World Day of Prayer' for several years. Her life had been full and her faith was at the very centre of everything she did. We miss her strong presence among us.

### *Hilary Hide*

*Hilary* was a very good friend to many of us and her loss is keenly felt. Hilary demonstrated her flair for many things in a range of ways, to many people. She was a core member of the Sew Knit and Natter Group, an expert gardener and excellent cook. Sympathetic and observant, she was a superb counsellor. She remained positive and brave in the face of loss and illness and had enabled David, throughout changing times, to have a most effective ministry as diocesan secretary for 22 years. Her thoughtfulness and wisdom will long be remembered.

## **And Finally**

We have a vision that by 2026, we shall be a diverse community of all ages, of more than 300 active members, who, inspired by their encounter with God, are making a real difference in our context. We wish for our worship to be thoughtful, rich, the distinctive musical, liturgical and theological inheritance of All Saints reinterpreted to engage the present. We seek to be open and receptive to those who feel particularly on the edge.

We did so well in 2022 to maintain momentum and try out new ventures. This was a great achievement. I believe that ultimately our vision will be brought into reality by us living out the Christian hope entrusted to us in simple and sincere ways, and above all, by us embodying God's reconciling presence to each other and to others. I am always comforted by the fact that we are not called by God to be successful but fruitful. I believe being fruitful involves us going deeper in our prayers and being sensitive to others. I believe that the growth and development we seek will come from our journey inward both individually and as a community. I hope that in 2023 we will take more time to ponder the deeper things and so shine brightly to draw many afresh to the fire of God's love.

## **Andrew Shipton**

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

There were 219 members on the Electoral Roll on 31 December 2022 (220 on 31 December 2021)

The PCC met 6 times in 2022. The average attendance was 82% (78% in 2020) The PCC regularly receives reports from the its working groups and the Fabric committee, in particular, has provided a great deal of valuable and relevant material. Regular reports have also been received from the Deanery Synod. There were also 2 Open PCC meetings on Sunday mornings after the 9.30 service.

## Finance

All Saints' finances have slowly recovered from the Coronavirus pandemic which had a significant negative in 2020, and to a lesser effect, in 2021.

The accounts show a surplus of £101,602 for 2022 before taking account of the deficit of £6,911 in the market value of our investments. The accounts at the end of 2021 showed a deficit of £1,700 before an investment gain of £7,244.

## Income

Total income, excluding legacies and grants decreased from £219,915 in 2021 to £215,472 in 2022.

## Planned Giving

There were 134 members in our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2022 compared with 137 at the end of 2021, the reduction caused by deaths and parishioners who have relocated for family or employment reasons having exceeded new members joining during 2022. Planned Giving decreased by £6,163 (£106,524 in 2021, £100,361 in 2022).

## Donations

Donations in 2022 totalled £31,493 which included £13,900 donated for particular purposes, the remaining £17,593 being from general ad hoc donations.

## Tax Recovery

For 2022 we have claimed the maximum GASDS allowance of £8,000 giving an income of £2,000. GASDS and the gift aid recovered on Planned Giving and donations increased from £28,462 in 2021 to £30,830 in 2022.

## Crowdfunding Appeal (using Spacehive)

In order to provide funds for projects involving the Calvary Cross Security and draining of the grass area adjacent to the Church, it was decided to seek matching funding from Crowdfunding North of Tyne set up by the North of Tyne Mayor. The result of the Crowdfunding appeal was as follows:

<b>Offline contributions received by All Saints and transferred to Spacehive:</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Donations	8,225
Fundraising	84
Grant from Community Foundation	1,000
Gift Aid from Donations	<u>1,306</u>
<b>Total of offline contributions</b>	<b>11,215</b>
Individual donations to Spacehive	1,845
Grant from the North of Tyne Combined Authority	<u>8,886</u>
<b>Overall Total of Contributions</b>	<b>21,946</b>
<b>Spacehive Charges:</b>	
Spacehive Fee	1,025
Transaction Fee	58
VAT	207
<b>Total of Spacehive Charges</b>	<b>1,290</b>
<b>Amount Received from Spacehive</b>	<b>20,646</b>

## Grants

In addition to the two grants identified in the preceding section, Crowdfunding Appeal, a Parish Support Grant was received from the Newcastle Diocese Board of Finance for £1,000.

## Expenditure

98% of expenditure is on activities related to the work of the church. The Parish Share and clergy costs support the 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 £257,256 compared with £240,135 in 2021.

## Properties

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

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

The properties have now been re-valued at 31 December 2022 as follows:

- Old Clergy House - £250,000
- Verger's House - £250,000

The two properties now have identical valuations as it has been established that they are similar with respect to floor area and number of rooms.

## Rents

The All Saints' Centre continued to be used by a variety of different organisations and private parties. Rents received totalled £14,647 (£18,223 in 2021).

The Old Clergy House was occupied throughout the year. £7,925 was received in rent against expenses of £3,085.

The Verger's House was occupied throughout the year. £9,405 was received in rent against expenses of £1,415.

## Mission Giving

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

Donations to the Mission of the Month charities are underwritten by the PCC to guarantee that each charity receives a sum equal to 3% of All Saints' previous year's planned giving and associated gift aid.

Donations paid to charities totalled £9,241 (£12,639 in 2021) of which £45 was contributed from church funds to comply with the underwriting guarantee. £4,514 of this amount was collected at funerals and other events using the church and sent to their nominated charities.

## McMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Income from this fund was £567 which, together with the £593 held over from 2021, was used to pay £900 for the repair of the Reredos in the Church leaving £260 to be carried over into 2023.

## **The Youth Project**

The Youth Worker project income was £12,609 and the expenditure was £1,564 giving a surplus for the year of £11,045.

## **Legacies**

Credit has been taken in the accounts for the amount of £132,500 from the legacy of Florence Muriel Atkinson.

Expenditure from the Legacies Fund in 2022 was £34,362 for the cost of the repair of the east wall of the Church, the provision of an electricity ring main in the west end of the Church, the decoration of the church centre, some of the costs of the Calvary Cross restoration, the church centre roof repairs and the provision of equipment storage sheds and fencing in the church centre.

## **Bank Balances and Reserves**

Bank balances and cash at 31 December 2022 totalled £190,418 compared with £104,700 at the end of 2021. £119,818 is in the Legacies fund, £62,201 is held in the Gloria Smith fund that finances the Youth Worker project and £12,679 is held in other funds for particular purposes. The resulting cash deficit of £4,280 (reduced from a surplus of £27,007 in 2021) of the General Income fund, together with the £18,210 due from debtors, is used to meet the amount of £8,180 due to the creditors and to provide working capital.

The Legacy fund has increased from £57,327 in 2021 to £153,187 in 2022

## **Going Forward**

The receipt of the £132,500 from the legacy of Mrs Atkinson has improved our overall financial position significantly. From this legacy there is a residue of funds so we may receive another £1,000 or so during 2023. We have also been notified of another legacy from the will of Mr Michael Ramsey Scott which should provide a sum of over £15,000 during 2023.

However, there are significant future costs already known about which have to be taken into account. The Church organ requires remedial works, the cost of which is estimated at £107,000. Also, the Parish Share has increased by about 5% to £117,000 per annum and will increase by another 5% during 2024.

The General Income fund is of considerable concern as it's liquid reserves is a negative of £4,282 before taking into account the £18,210 due from debtors and the £8,180 due to the creditors. From January 2023, all of the Planned Giving and associated gift aid is to be allocated against the General Income fund instead of a portion being allocated to the Gloria Smith fund. This should cause a very gradual transfer from the totally overfunded Gloria Smith fund to the General Income fund by about £12,000 per year. However, the effect on the General Income fund will be reduced by about £5,500 due to the increase in the Parish Share.

The reduction in Planned Giving continues which is a major factor in the low level of the General Income fund. Planned Giving has been the backbone of All Saints' income for many years and its reduction has to be at least halted and if possible reversed.

The future will be challenging, in particular to ensure that the General Income fund has sufficient liquid reserves for day-to-day expenditure.

## **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  
9 April 2023

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

### **Responsibilities and basis of the report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Account and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date 10 April 2023

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

17 Queens Lane  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 1RN

All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**Summary accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Summary Statement of Financial Activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Income and Endowments</b>		
Donations, grants and legacies		
planned giving	100,361	106,524
donations	31,493	15,021
income tax recovered	30,830	28,462
furlough payments	-	8,311
legacies	132,500	8,800
grants	10,886	9,720
	306,070	176,838
Trading activities	31,977	36,763
Income from charitable activities	16,494	14,647
Other income	1,536	8,063
Income from bank interest/investments	2,781	2,124
<b>Total income and endowments</b>	<b>358,858</b>	<b>238,435</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Planning giving renewal expenses	-	-
Fundraising costs	6,307	1,318
<i>Ministry</i>		
Parish share	111,505	111,505
Clergy expenses and housing costs	6,949	5,322
	124,761	116,827
<i>Church</i>		
alter requisites, maintenance, repair, insurance	10,325	11,656
East Wall repair	24,105	-
West end electricity ring main	5,455	-
livestream	-	8,496
light and heat	4,009	3,049
organist, organ and choir	8,544	4,524
	52,438	27,725
<i>All Saints' Centre</i>		
cleaning, repairs, maintenance, insurance	15,369	24,790
stonework pointing	-	16,320
access path lighting	-	2,742
dishwasher	-	3,128
Calvary Cross restoration	1,652	-
Calvary Cross security / Field drainage	11,166	-
decoration of hall etc	6,552	-
centre roof repairs	960	-
equipment storage sheds & fencing	2,200	-
light and heat	3,498	4,439
caretaker salary costs	7,364	7,217
	48,761	58,636
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		
youth worker project	1,564	8,140
old clergy/verger houses expenses	4,500	4,455
church office	18,780	17,145
mission, independent examiner, other costs	6,452	5,889
	31,296	35,629
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>257,256</b>	<b>240,135</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains</b>	101,602	(1,700)
Net gains on investments	(6,911)	7,244
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	94,691	5,544
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	35,000	30,000
Funds brought forward	623,196	587,652
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>752,887</b>	<b>623,196</b>



All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**Summary balance sheet at 31 December 2022**

The funds of £752,887 at 31 December 2022 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	19,070	
The Gloria Smith Fund (£62,201) and other funds, where both the capital and income can be used but only for the purposes specified by the donors	74,880	
Accumulated reserves where both the capital and income can be used without restriction for the general purposes of the PCC, including £153,187 in the Legacies Fund	658,937	
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>752,887</u></u>

These funds were represented at 31 December 2022 by:

Properties - note 1	500,000	
Shares in the CBF Investment Fund at market value at 31 December 2022	52,439	
Debtors and other amounts receivable	18,210	
Bank balances and cash	<u>190,418</u>	
	761,067	
less creditors falling due within one year	<u>8,180</u>	
Net current assets		<u>752,887</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>752,887</u></u>

**Notes to the summarised accounts**

**1. Properties**

The properties comprise the All Saints' Centre (previously called the Church Hall), which has been written off in previous years, and the two adjacent houses, the Verger's House and the Old Clergy House. The Verger's House and the Old Clergy House are both valued at £250,000, an increase of approximately 11.5% compared with the valuation at 1 January 2015.

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

**2. Staff numbers and costs**

The PCC has employed a part-time administrator and a part-time caretaker throughout 2022.

Their salary costs, including employer's NI and pension costs, together with organist's fees totalled £30,290 (£26,192 in 2020).

**3. Related party transactions**

The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Miriam Jones have occupied houses attached to their appointments. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with their houses totalled £5,617. Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton, the Revd Miriam Jones and the Revd Beverley Davies amounted to £1,332. No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC in 2022.

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These summarised accounts comprise information extracted from the annual accounts which have been examined by an independent firm of accountants qualified for this purpose. They are a summary of those accounts and may not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the PCC. For further information the full accounts, the Independent Examiner's report on those accounts and the PCC's annual report should be consulted. Copies of these, which were approved on 9 April 2023, 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 9 April 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

**Andrew Shipton**

Vicar, Chair of the Council  
9 April 2023

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

All Saints' Church  
Gosforth

**4. Mission giving**

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

		<i>From Special Collections</i> £	<i>From Church Funds</i> £	<i>Total paid 2022</i> £		<i>Total paid 2021</i> £
<b>Mission of the Month</b>						
January	Cedarwood Trust	403	-	403	Cedarwood Trust	350
February	Tyneside Welcomes	446	-	446	NIDAS	325
March	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	414	-	414	Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	1,380
April	Church Mission Society	249	44	293	Church Mission Society	501
May	uS	385	-	385	uS	501
June	Cornerstone	441	-	441	Cornerstone	501
July	Mission to Seafarers	417	-	417	Mission to Seafarers	501
August	PCDC	476	-	476	PCDC	501
September	Northumbria Deaf Church	335	-	335	Northumbria Deaf Church	501
October	Walking With	464	-	464	Walking With	581
November	Shelter Box	324	-	324	Shelter Box	501
December	West End Refugee Service	329	-	<u>329</u>	West End Refugee Service	<u>501</u>
				<u>4,727</u>		<u>6,644</u>
<b>Other donations</b>						
Christingle	Children's Society	128	-	128	Children's Society	133
Christmas Eve	Shelter Box	572	-	572	Christians Against Poverty	246
	Feeding Families	572	-	572	Destiny Streetworx	246
Christmas Day	Sabeel Jerusalem	344	-	344	Caritas Baby's Hospital	142
	Other charities	2,897	-	<u>2,897</u>	Other charities	<u>5,228</u>
				<u>4,514</u>		<u>5,995</u>
				<u>9,241</u>		<u>12,639</u>

**Note**

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

All Saints Church, Gosforth  
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Held on Sunday 24th April 2022  
In the Church Centre.

Penn, Rosamund Place, Judy Riseborough, Lorna Robinson, Ann Shaw, Felicity Shoesmith  
Present: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton, Alex Armitage, Tony Armitage, Lesley Atkinson, Francine Bain, Helga Beatty, Revd. Ruth Birnie, David Bland, Peter Brown, Sheila Carr, Fred Carr, Yvonne Carr, Lucky Carnham, Marilyn Champion, Tony Champion, Norman Chappell, Andrew Cole, Elizabeth Crawford, Lionel Crawford, Ann Cross, Muriel Dart, Revd. Bev Davies, Edith Davison, Charles Foister, Elaine Gabriel, Nick Glover, Valerie Hedley, Stuart Henderson, Katie Hodgson, Diane Kirkup, Helen Langley, Diana Lavin, John Lewis, Enid Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Joyce Nutt, Lesley Ogilvie, Margaret Patterson, Meriol Penn, Sheila Smithson, Pat Spong, Vic Spong, Pam Taylor, Margaret Wilkinson and Paul Wilkinson.

Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton.

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

## 2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

### 2.1 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the positions of churchwardens: Christine Willoughby, proposed by Peter Brown and seconded by Charles Foister. Nick Glover, proposed by Christine Willoughby, seconded by Peter Brown. Both were elected unanimously.

Andrew expressed our sincere thanks to Paul Wilkinson for all his work as Church Warden over 4 years and a presentation was made to him.

## 3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Paul Cross, Keith Davies, Ann Downie, Valerie Farthing, Pauline Gallagher, Sue Glover, Katie Hogg, John Nutt, Molly Ridley, Karoline Wellborne.

3.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021; their acceptance was proposed by Peter Brown, seconded by Edith Davison and agreed nem con.

3.3 Matters Arising  
None

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (pp1-12)  
No comments raised.

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of the Financial Account for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Fred Carr, the All Saints' treasurer advised that, during 2021, church finances had recovered to a large extent from the affects of the Coronavirus lockdowns. Overall, there had been a surplus of just over £5.5k comprising a deficit of £1.7k in the P&L account and a surplus of about £7.2k surplus in the Investments. The surplus was mainly in the Gloria Smith fund (just over £7.5k), which finances the youth and children's activities, and in the general fund which had a surplus of £3.8k. The restricted funds for specific purposes had a deficit of just over £3.2k.

There was a reduction in planned giving members from 141 to 137 but planned giving income held up well being reduced by little more than about £2.4k to about £106.5k.

Gift Aid increased by about £1.4k partly due to the increase in GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) caused by the recovery in charity and general donations. GASDS increased from £715 to £976.

Grants were obtained by Peter Brown of £7,526 and £2,194 from Newcastle Council to compensate for the lack of business in the Church Centre.

Mission Giving recovered in 2021 with increased donations of just over £12.5k going to Charities of the Month and just over £5.2k going to charities nominated at funerals and other events in Church. Because of the reduced donations for charities about £1.0k was contributed by the General fund to maintain the underwriting of the Mission of the Month as 5% of our planned giving and associated gift aid.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Lesley Ogilvie, seconded by Margaret Wilkinson and agreed nem con.

### 3.5.1 Questions and comments on the Accounts

Vic Spong asked about the figure of approximately £104k in bank accounts and cash. Fred related this to future fears over what inflation may do. He also referred to uncertainty over the valuations of the two Church houses, which may well vary. He also commented that the investments are doing well though not necessarily keeping up with inflation.

Margaret Wilkinson asked about the figure for Parish share. It was confirmed that this figure does not cover any payments for St Hughs.

### 3.5.2 Appointment of the Independent Examiner

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

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

## 3.6 Report on the Changes in the Electoral Roll

The total on the Roll remains at 221.

## 3.7 Comments and Questions about reports

None raised.

## 3.8 Elections and Appointments

### 3.8.1 No scrutineers were required.

### 3.8.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Seven nominations were received:

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Francine Bain	Yvonne Carr	Alison Wilson
Pauline Gallagher	Christine Willoughby	Judy Riseborough
Valerie Hedley	Sheila Smithson	Pam Taylor
Joyce Jennings	Peter Mitchell	Sheila Smithson
Diana Lavin	Nick Glover	Christine Willoughby
Lesley Ogilvie	Yvonne Carr	Joyce Nutt
Margaret Patterson	Edith Davison	Sheila Smithson

There were 10 vacancies on the PCC so the 7 nominees were elected nem com.

Thanks were expressed to Ethel Randell for her period on the PCC.

### 3.8.3 Appointment of Sidespersons

Katie Hogg's name to be added to the list in the Report.

### 3.8.4 Reaffirmation of the Safeguarding Policy

This was proposed by Lesley Atkinson, seconded by Judy Riseborough and agreed nem con.

## 3.9 Vicar's Report

I am a great believer in All Saints. I believe in our theology and approach which is thoughtful, caring, and prepared to struggle with issues and avoids the danger of looking inwards. I hope it is experienced as decent, kind, honourable, ready to listen and not dogmatic.

I hope our approach illustrates that we value different voices and contributions.

I refer to page two of our 2022 Annual Report which sets out our mission statement and our vision for the future. It is always important to be clear about our values, ethos, and principles I have written in detail about 2021- it was quite a journey. The losses of David Hide, Bill Shaw, Dee and Chris Matthews, Constance and others are keenly felt. We miss many from our community who have not returned. It was good to see many with us at the Palm Sunday afternoon service.

It has been an extraordinary time. Christine Willoughby has only known being a church warden during covid whilst Beverley has experienced a different kind of curacy to the one envisaged in 2019! There is much to look back on and be thankful for.

As we look forward I have found Felicity Shoesmith's concept of identifying 3 groups for whom All Saints is significant as very helpful. There are who Worship regularly or watch on live stream, the Community and the Neighbourhood. A priority is to encourage these people to move into the worshipping life of the church – to the Lord in fellowship, to encounter him in word and sacrament.

Pastoral care is quite an issue. There were 23 funerals in 2021. The number receiving communion at home is now 8. 35 attended our service on Palm Sunday. Lots of new people are making contact. Covid has stirred up many to be in touch.

It is challenging and complex situation – we have less people to do things whilst more people do come and have a look at us to see if they might join us!

At St Hugh's many want to use the building, for example there is a new beaver pack from this Thursday but few attend on a Sunday.

We are coming out of the pandemic slimmed down, and simplified. We recognise the world is different with less routine, less of a sense of duty, many feel there are more options. We need to emerge stronger and in a good position to grow.

Diversity is welcomed and complementary gifts - we need to make more sense of people's current experience

The Renewal and Funding group are looking ahead with a series of events and projects including a farmers market and a new website. We need to appoint a youth worker, and there are the improvements to the Green.

Thank you to Ruth for her endless commitment, our thanks too to Vic, Beverley, Louise and Trisha. Thank you to Paul who has served as churchwarden for 4 years and brought much

attention to detail, plus energy and practical skills. Also enthusiasm to see projects through, with the fabric a speciality. He has overseen 4 Christmases and 4 Easters. He is well organised and well prepared; he has put up lights on the tower, and help repair the roof of St Hugh's. He has organised electricians and written countless letters to Centre users and neighbours as well as putting forward imaginative ideas. We are very grateful to him.

#### 4. Comments and Questions from Parishioners

Margaret Wilkinson asked about progress on the appointment of a Youth Worker. Andrew replied that it was proving difficult to attract suitable candidates but it is ongoing.

Thanks were expressed to all who participate on the weekly Parish Breakfast rota. It was reported that the Crowd Funding campaign, to enable the restoration of the Calvary Cross and other works, has made a slow start and that there is a need for many small donations to help trigger the matched funding proposals.

However it is hoped that the restoration will be completed by September.

Thanks were expressed to Andrew for all the hard work that he has put in over the year, carrying the Church through the unprecedented events of recent months. Warmly agreed by the meeting.

Andrew closed the meeting with the Blessing.

## **Safeguarding Committee**

The committee, which is a sub-committee of the PCC, has met 6 times during the past year. We have all been pleased to be able to meet now in person rather than on Zoom.

As well as the ongoing business of ensuring that everyone who has a position of responsibility or who works with children and vulnerable adults has an up to date DBS certificate, the committee has received reports from the Safeguarding Officer, Kath Davies, on the progress being made on the Diocesan Dashboard. Thanks to Kath's untiring efforts, All Saints has reached the highest level of compliance and is currently at Level 3.

In September we welcomed Rev Dr Miriam Jones to the committee. Miriam brings a fresh eye to our discussions, and, as a mother of young children, keeps us up to date with youth culture!

In January Jaddai joined us to report on his work with families and young people. As well as trying to get the new Royalz group (formerly Evolution) off the ground, he is spending time in several local schools, sharing the Gospel with the young people and helping them to think about their spiritual journey through life

Dr Alison Charlewood is now the Domestic Abuse Champion for All Saints'. She is available for anyone who is concerned about this to chat confidentially for advice on where to get help. Recently a training session on Domestic Abuse Awareness took place for members of the PCC and Safeguarding Committee.

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

**Enid Mitchell (Chair)**

## **Coffee and Conversation**

Coffee and Conversation evolved from the Tuesday Tea Club, which stopped with the Covid pandemic. When we could open, we found the Centre was vacant on a Monday morning and we soon found a group of volunteers to help launch our new group. Yvonne drew up a monthly rota and we were off.

The morning runs from 10.30am -11 .30am and we are there to welcome anyone who drops in, mainly older folk who live alone and like to have a chat. We would love to see more but those who come always manage to have plenty to say and discuss. We are often treated to homemade shortbread kindly made by Muriel Dart and all this with free refills for £1.

At Christmas we had a party with a lovely cake donated by Valarie Farthing, Father Christmas came and Katy ,a community officer from the Care company 'Home Instead' visited us with presents donated by local Primary and Middle schools especially for the elderly in the Parish, which were greatly appreciated, a real treat!

A big thank you to all our volunteers, it wouldn't work without you.

**Elizabeth Crawford & Yvonne Carr**

## **Electoral Roll**

In accordance with Church of England procedure the Electoral Roll has been revised. Since the revision 5 people have died so their names have been removed. 3 people have been added to the roll. The Electoral Roll now stands at 219.

**Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Christian Meditation Group**

The group has been meeting regularly over the past year. Although we are small in number, those attending have been committed and numbers have increased slightly, including some from outside the congregation. We are always pleased to welcome newcomers - no previous experience is necessary. We meet on alternate Sundays at 5.15pm in the Upper Room of the All Saints' Centre.

**Charles Foister**

## **Christians Together in Gosforth**

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met 5 times during 2022 at Trinity Church for fellowship, information sharing and planning. The service of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at Trinity Church in January. A United Service of Witness was held outside on Trinity Square on Good Friday. Quakers, with volunteers from the other churches, met to prepare for the 'Space for Share' drop-in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House. In the summer we bid farewell to Father Bill Agle and welcomed Fr. Michael Weymes at St Charles. We also welcome Revd Paul Baker into the group, after his institution and installation at St Nicholas church in October. As in previous years, the All Saints clergy were in charge of the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park but other churches were involved in the Service itself. Much work went into reopening bank accounts which had not been used since 2019 due to the pandemic. Ministers shared and advertised events in each other churches for Christmas.

**Andrew Shipton**

## **Standing Committee**

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

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

**Peter M Brown, Lay Chair**

## **Tower Report**

It's been good to get 'back to normal' now with lockdowns and restrictions behind us, and a chance for us all to move on with our ringing – or at least catch up to where we were at! At the beginning of the summer we took on two new learners, one a teenager and the other an adult, both members of All Saints' congregation, and they are proving to be valuable members of our band, ringing for Sunday services and joining in all the fun we have on practice nights (yes we do!)

In June we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and rang for that, a very jolly occasion. Things took a sudden downward turn however when she passed away at the beginning of September, and our ringing then was much more sombre – half-muffled and fully-muffled bells to mark her death and for her funeral, but then more joyous again to celebrate the accession of King Charles III. We will of course ring again for his coronation in May.

Our band has remained pretty steady and we are lucky to have 8 to 10 ringers most Sunday mornings (perhaps fewer in the evenings but normally at least 6). We are really lucky to have a 10-bell tower, but there is always the pressure of finding a band to ring not just on Sundays but on other occasions as well.

Towards the end of the year I decided that having put in 12 years as Tower Captain it was now time to stand down and pass the role over to someone else. The result is that we now have two 'leaders' – Yvonne Cairns is the Tower Captain and Sarah Jackson our Ringing Master. Yvonne and Sarah took over shortly before Christmas and I wish them both a happy and fruitful time in their respective roles.

In March we entered a band for the District 6-bell striking contest at Alnwick, and whilst we didn't win we didn't let the side down either! It's always good to attend District events and meet ringers from other towers. Some of us go to the monthly District meetings, and the AGM this year on 22<sup>nd</sup> April is to be hosted by All Saints'.

For the final time, I would like to thank all those who have supported me over the years I have been Tower Captain. Yvonne has acted as Tower Contact and Secretary, Stuart Henderson takes care of the finances, Vic Spong continues to do an excellent job teaching learners, and Stuart along with Bill Shepherd are our bell maintenance team. I shall ring regularly, but without the attendant pressures that go with the job!

**Paul Cross, Former Tower Captain**



## **Fabric Committee**

This has been a busy year for the Fabric Committee with several major projects coming to fruition, as well as a backlog of maintenance work to address post-covid.

### **The Church**

#### **East Window Repair**

After a fallen piece of masonry was discovered from a mullion in the East window a major project was undertaken to repair the window including: removal of adjacent glass, stone repairs to the surrounding mullion and other areas identified as at risk, replacement of glass and cleaning of the entire window internally. We are delighted to see it shining out to the people of Gosforth once again as it would have done 100 years ago!

#### **Installation of power supplies**

It was identified that the lack of power to the West end of the church was becoming a problem which would curtail plans for social events, online giving and hosting of events on the Green. Two new ring mains were installed so that we now have power in the North and South aisles and in the South porch adjacent to external doors.

#### **Repair of Chancel Screen**

We were delighted to meet specialist joiner Ray Harrison who was able to reinstate the damaged areas of the screen, including carving missing pieces to match.

#### **Ringling chamber heaters**

Obsolete heaters were replaced just in time for the first cold snap of the winter.

### **The Centre**

#### **Completed Works**

##### **Redecoration**

The ground floor of the Centre was redecorated internally giving a fresher, more modern appearance and hopefully enhancing its attraction to potential customers.

Parts of the exterior are scheduled for decoration and repair in 2023.

##### **Masonry, roof and guttering**

Repointing was carried out to much of the south elevation of the Centre several years ago.

Gutters and downcomers were cleared and several blockages removed across the Centre and the Church and roof repairs were carried out on both buildings.

##### **Drains**

Problems with the drains were identified as tree roots getting into the pipes and these were cleared by a specialist firm.

##### **Grounds**

#### **Completed Works**

##### **Calvary Cross reinstatement**

Another major project in the year was to undertake a number of works to reinstate the Cross, following its theft and damage.

The Cross itself had a visit to specialist repairers in Edinburgh. Meanwhile a new stone plinth was created, new uprighters installed to make a feature of the Cross at night and CCTV installed to increase security.

The work was crowdfunded through Spacehive and we are grateful to North of Tyne Authority, the Community Foundation and very generous individual donors who enabled this work to take place. We look forward to welcoming them and the people of Gosforth to a rededication service on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

##### **Draining the Green**

Fundraising for the Calvary Cross also included an element to enhance the surrounding green areas of the Church.

The main green has had a problem with drainage for a number of years, which reduces our capacity to host external events; services, Farmers' Market etc. It is anticipated that this will be drained at the end of March 2023. The work will include creation of an accessible ramp onto the green area.

### **Works in preparation**

We anticipate another busy year ahead with a number of potential works in the pipeline.

### **Church**

#### **Organ repair**

Our organ is a very fine instrument, however a recent inspection by Harrison and Harrison, the manufacturer, has identified some £107,000 of remedial works. Whilst these can be carried out piecemeal it is felt to be more effective to carry out the repairs in one go, utilising a generous legacy received in 2022.

#### **Woodwork and carvings**

Further specialist repair by Ray Harrison is planned to replace missing carving pieces, using existing 'bits' and creating new pieces where required.

#### **Grounds**

A review of external noticeboards will be undertaken to update and ensure they are fit for purpose. Further work in 'Greening the green' is being investigated, including suitable tree planting and environmental improvements following drainage.

#### **Centre**

There are issues with the Centre, particularly in relation to accessibility of smaller rooms for meetings and social events. Toilet and kitchen facilities are also in need of updating. A project team is being established to consult on potential changes and then to organise fund raising to see the work through to completion.

**Peter Brown, Christine Willoughby**

### **Church Gardening Group**

To the north and east of our church there are wide grass verges and mature trees. To the south is the Garden of Remembrance and to the west is the church green. The green is used for church activities and the Garden of Remembrance is consecrated for the burial of ashes. Mature trees surround the church and the green and add to the attractiveness of the grounds.

Many people visit the Garden of Remembrance to remember the departed, to pray or to find a quiet place in a busy City. The newly restored Calvary and plinth has great impact. The Calvary is an important reminder that Christ suffers with us.

The beech hedge along West Avenue was layered at the beginning of last year by Northumberland Wildlife Trust. The church greatly appreciates the Trusts expertise and energy. This spring should see the hedge thicken and in time will provide a healthy habitat for wildlife.

The church is grateful to a small team of dedicated gardeners, grass cutters and those who maintain the edges of our paths. Members of the Gardening Group forgo their free time to plant, weed, walk miles behind lawnmowers or remove weeds from the joints in our pavements to ensure our church and its grounds look attractive. Their skill and energy are much appreciated by members of the church and the wider Gosforth community.

**Paul Wilkinson**

### **Choir**

It has been quite a year for music here at All Saints. It's fair to say that the choir have been pushed - in some cases into hitherto unfamiliar territory (like Cole Porter), but it is clear from the positive comments from the congregation and others that our efforts are paying off. The gradual building up of the choir in terms of both the numbers of singers and our repertoire continues and I'm happy to say that the frequency of situations where I have had to compromise or rethink seems to be decreasing steadily as the choir's confidence builds.

One notable improvement for me is our psalmody. I can honestly say that the All Saints choir now sing psalms better than certain cathedral choirs I have worked with (that shall remain...Edinburgh) having now mastered the correct singing of trochaic endings. Our regular Evensong services at the end of each month operate on an "open door" policy and we regularly welcome guest singers from the Cathedral, St George's Jesmond, St Peter's Monkseaton and St Nicholas' Gosforth to boost our numbers for a BIG sing. We are now very familiar with the William Smith responses and are currently in process of learning the wonderfully rhythmic setting by John Reading - these are classics from the Tudor period and neither are your usual parish church fayre.

The last twelve months have not been without their share of trauma; we were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Dorothy Henderson last year, and more recently by the loss of Ann Shaw; they are both very much missed. We have however been lucky enough to enlist some new choir members recently and I am always on the lookout for potential recruits. No one is safe!

The BIG musical event last year was of course Jesus Christ Superstar. We finally got to perform the show, having postponed it for 2 years due to the pandemic. It took a lot of work from a lot of people and it was very gratifying to see musicians and technical experts from the bands I have worked with and singers from my time at the cathedral working alongside All Saints choir and congregation members to realise a very ambitious project. It truly was a community effort and the hard work that we all put in was very much worth it. I still get comments about it and I look back fondly on the whole endeavour. Perhaps we'll do it all again next year?

I have always agreed wholeheartedly with the axiom "variety is the spice of life" and I am gratified by the church's and the choir's willingness to embrace some of my more left-field musical ideas, such as using pre-recorded trumpet and military drum track to accompany the choir in the Remembrance Day anthem "For The Fallen", creating a horn duet in a traditional Czech carol or giving the rather conservative Lent Prose a new lease of life by applying some new and quite adventurous harmonies. Thanks for the opportunity to be adventurous.

For the future, I hope to continue to build on our relationships with other local churches and with the Cathedral. I intend to make use of available local organists to accompany the choir while I focus on conducting and thus allow us to tackle some of the larger works in our *very* extensive library. I will continue to seek out new choir members, especially youngsters. I look forward to the refit of our wonderful organ - I have my fingers crossed that Harrisons (the organ builders) are able to add a particular facility - more on that later.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the choir for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. They are a wonderful and friendly bunch of people, we have a great time rehearsing and performing and the sound is more cohesive now than ever. I am proud of what we have achieved so far and look forward to continuing to build upon it.

**John Lewis**

### **Little Saints Parent/Carer and Toddler Group**

The group has enjoyed an uninterrupted year of play and fun, meeting from 1.00 to 2.30pm every Tuesday afternoon during school term times. Approximately twenty families have enjoyed Little Saints activities during the year, though not altogether every week. The group is '*drop-in when you can*', so no-one feels obliged to come along every week (it is, anyway, very difficult to make commitments on behalf of a very small child!).

What do we do in an hour and a half? Children make their own choices of play from the resources set out in the hall. These range from physical play on small slides to domestic play in the 'shop' and 'kitchen' and small world play with cars and space toys. Construction with lego and magnetic tubes is always fun whilst the book box offers a (potentially) calmer moment. Play dough is always on offer as is a weekly craft which can usually be taken home. Babies have a range of safe toys to explore but are often seen alongside the older children, watching and learning what they can do next! After a healthy snack, each session ends with song-time before families say "good-bye" in time to collect any older siblings from school.

Although parents/carers remain responsible for their children throughout the session, there is time for adult interaction whilst supervising and joining in with the children. Play dough offers creative opportunities for children but often acts as a therapy resource for the adults!

The group could not run without the support of our clergy - thank you to Andrew, Ruth and Miriam. Sincere thanks are also due to Helen Poole, who organises the snacks most weeks and to Tricia Maylia who puts out the resources each week, enabling the group to almost run itself.

If you know of families with pre-school children who would enjoy an afternoon of free-play with snack and song for the cost of £3.00 per session, do signpost them to Little Saints from 1.30 - 2.30pm each Tuesday afternoon. They will be most welcome. And if you would like to help with the group in any way, Lesley Atkinson would love to hear from you.

**Lesley Atkinson**

## **Young Saints**

Each Sunday morning, with the exception of the holiday month of August, the Young Saints leaders prepare teaching and resources for our children and young people. The teaching generally relates to the main theme for that week, as experienced by the adults in church but presented in an interactive way to engage the children. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the young children, and their families, who have come along to share Sunday morning worship with us.

However, numbers have continued to decline. Last year, I reported that, in common with many other parishes throughout the Diocese, fewer children were attending Sunday worship groups; weekly numbers have reduced further so that on many Sundays, we have had no Young Saints at all.

'Young Saints' is just one way of including children and young people in the life of All Saints'. Faith@4 sessions led by Miriam Jones, Assistant Curate, have become a regular feature on the last Sunday of each month, offering a short, relaxed style of family worship at a later time on Sunday afternoons and there are plans for young people to be more actively included in mainstream services throughout the year. We hope that families will enjoy and respond to different styles of worship and increased opportunities for involvement provided by our future worship activities.

Thanks to Ann Cross, Felicity Shoosmith and Helen Langley for organising and leading the weekly sessions and to all the parents who have brought along their children and helped with the Young Saints' groups.

**Lesley Atkinson**

## **Youth Committee**

The Reverend Beverley Davies chaired the Committee until the end of September. After much work on the job description, an advert for a Children's, Young People and Family Worker went to press in February but no one applied for the post. The Committee kept up to date with Young Saints and Little Saints: Numbers for both groups continued to be low but those attending appear to value what was offered.

The group often discussed weekend demands on young families. It was felt that families involved with weekend sports would not be able to join morning services. It was thought that new services such as Faith @4pm should be held in the afternoon but also we should encourage young families to attend on mornings when they can. It was noted that Felicity Shoosmith's talk to the 9.30am congregation had been well received. It was agreed that everyone needs to be involved in making families feel welcomed in church.

North East Youth for Christ (YFC) continued to be involved with the Tuesday Evolution youth club and it was decided to pay Youth for Christ for the help of a Youth Worker Jaddai Kambeya for one Tuesday a week and one Sunday a month in term time from December until July 2023.

In December a regular meeting was planned between the Youth Committee, the Sunday school teachers and the Funding and Renewal Group in January to be called the Youth Forum.

**Andrew Shipton**

## **The Youth Forum – supporting young people at All Saints**

Over recent years the number of young people involved in activities at All Saints has reduced. This situation is not unique to All Saints and in part is a reflection of a wider range of activities that take place on a Sunday. At the end of September I gave the address in Church, encouraging members of the congregation to reflect on their own childhood experience of being part of a Church community. As part of

this address I raised the need for more help with Sunday School and help with rethinking ways of involving our young members.

Since then we have seen a number of new initiatives, including a contemporary take on the nativity ('Nativity NOW!') led by Ros Place and replacing the Christmas Eve Crib Service, the arrival of Jaddai as our new Youth and Family worker, the introduction of a challenge cup for members of the uniformed groups linked to All Saints and the development in 2022 "Youth Forum" which met in January 2023. Membership of the Youth Forum is open to anyone that wants to help develop and shape the involvement of young people, it is currently led by Miriam and our work is directed by a draft young people's strategy. This strategy looks at making contact, building relationships, sharing the good news and nurturing faith. To support our thinking we have looked to develop plans for 4 different age groups: pre-school, first school, middle school and high school.

The Youth Forum will oversee the development of a monthly "All Together" Sunday worship at our 9:30 service. We have agreed that this will take place on the second Sunday of each month. We would welcome more young people to help during this service, as well as anyone that would like to be involved in the preparation and running of these services.

Another initiative for which planning began in 2022 is the Faith@4 service, which takes place in the All Saints Centre on the last Sunday of each month at 4pm. Intended to be accessible to all ages, it is a relaxed time including singing, crafts and snacks as well as a Bible story or theme for reflection. Faith@4 picks up on pre-pandemic plans for a different style of service, and is currently planned and led by Miriam or Andrew with the help of a team of volunteers.

**Felicity Shoesmith**

### **Sew, Knit & Natter**

Eleven years ago Ann Shaw and I started this group which grew from 3 people at our first meeting to a membership today of 20. We have created all sorts of items over the years for various charities, including: teddies for tragedies, twiddle muffs for people with dementia, tiny hats for premature babies and much more. Each Christmas a raffle prize would be created in the form of a nativity set, Victorian skating scene or Santa's Workshops.

We've enjoyed many outings together – Howick Hall, Wynyard Hall Rose Garden, Woolfest in Cumbria to name but a few.

Most members attend All Saints' but the group have also attracted people from outside the church and many strong friendships have been formed.

A decision had already been made for Ann and I to hand over the reins to new people, when to our very great surprise and sorrow Ann passed away after suffering a heart attack. We shall all miss her terribly.

But the group goes on, now to be run by Ann Tate and Diane Kirkup. New ideas and experiences will surely follow.

Rest in Peace Ann and thank you for all you gave the group.

**Sue Finkill**

### **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.

With the end of lockdown the group now meets again in person and is endeavouring to ensure that everyone who needs care receives it. One group that is of particular concern is families with young

children, not all of whom have resumed attendance at church but there are plans for less formal services at 9.30 and on some Sunday afternoons and it is to be hoped that these will prove to be well attended.

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

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

**Ruth Birnie**

## **Film Group**

This group continues to meet on the last Friday of every month in the Upper Room of All Saints’ Centre. This has proved to be a successful venue, the only downside being that access is via a steep staircase which does prohibit some people. Some other possible venues we have looked at in the past have this problem too however, so for the time being the Group will continue to stay where it is.

We start at 6.30pm, bringing our own supper (often fish and chips) and after a spot of social chat settle down at around 7.15pm to watch whatever film has been decided on. This is normally followed by a discussion on any issues that have been touched on in the film and might prompt some debate.

We’ve seen a wide range of films over the past year, from the serious to the ridiculously light-hearted. Some of the films have been old favourites that many of us have watched before whilst others have only recently been released on DVD. The group is self-programming and newcomers are always welcome.

I would like to thank all those who come along and contribute to the fellowship of this group, and also to Pat and Vic Spong, who run the projection equipment, a skill that not many of us have!

Towards the end of the summer I stood down as convenor of this group and it is currently being led by Ruth Birnie. It’s been good fun seeing everyone getting together and enjoying themselves, and I am sure that will continue well into the future.

**Ann Cross, Former Film Group convenor**

## **Planned Giving**

There were 134 members on our Planned Giving scheme at 31 December 2022 compared with 137 at the end of 2021, the reduction mostly caused by deaths or people moving away but offset by some new members. Planned Giving decreased by £6,163 compared with the previous year. As ever, we are extremely grateful to everyone who continues to support us so regularly.

**Margaret Patterson**

## **Deanery Synod**

The Central Deanery meeting on **12<sup>th</sup> May** at the **Church of the Ascension Kenton** discussed a proposal made by General Synod in February 2020 for churches to **achieve net zero carbon emissions** by 2030, on the expenditure this would involve and also on whether it was realistic to promise to achieve rather than aim to do so. All churches were identified as being *red*, *amber*, *green* and *gold*. We agreed on an amendment to the wording.

We discussed **addressing local needs** – food poverty, homelessness, Health & Safety and work in schools; also ways of sharing resources across the deanery with some kind of directory of useful materials, music, details of individuals with particular experience in some areas.

**At Holy Trinity Jesmond on 7th July** we wandered around their centenary exhibition before broaching discussions in groups on the challenges each parish faced, the gifts we were proud of or might be able to share, the opportunities for mission and what we needed to make use of those opportunities. Common points were dwindling numbers of volunteers, the fact that some gifts were not possible to scale up, and reluctance for volunteers to sign up for more than they had envisaged doing locally.

At **St Thomas the Martyr Church, Haymarket** on **20th October 2022** we toured the refurbished church building before - divided between small tables - poring over sheets of the Diocesan Self Review. We were asked to check estimates of our current attendance figures given the 3+ years since the previous Review. Anomalies were spotted and corrected. Statistics were given on the spreadsheet of churches' average income, their parish share plus a 2.7% increase in 2018. These revelatory factsheets were collected in most carefully, unfortunately. I have no recollection of discussing Eco Planning as on the agenda.

At an **Open Deanery Synod meeting at St Thomas the Martyr Church, Haymarket** on **8th March 2023** we discussed the **Deanery 3-year Development Plan** (due in June), encouraged to develop a 'wider perspective than just parish' in the light of clergy numbers being cut. We were asked to pass on names of laypeople able and willing to share skills and experience helping across the deanery in work with youth, music, finance, fabric, safeguarding, social mission, Readers, churchwardens (4 of the churches there had currently only one acting churchwarden) and so on. My table suggested inviting all churches to send in details to the Deanery e-bulletin of their events (for instance for the King's Coronation on Sat May 6<sup>th</sup>) for general circulation.

The year 2022 invitations:

- We were all invited to a **Celtic Forest Church service at St Nicholas Parish Church on Sat 10th September 2022** 2-3pm, organised by Ella Vickers, the Central Deanery Eco Co-ordinator.
- Revd Trevor Marshall (National Giving Ministry Advisor) invited us to a **Newcastle Diocese workshop at St Mary the Virgin Church Hall, Monkseaton on Mon 12th Sept** 6pm – 8pm in advance of Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week 25th Sept – 2nd Oct 2022.
- Suggestions at the Central Deanery meeting in January 2022 of opportunities for praying together led to an invitation to a **Prayer Walk** from the **Cathedral** to the **Laing Art Gallery** and then on to **St Mary's Chapel on Sat 17th September 2022**.
- **Open Deanery Synod meeting on Thursday 9th March 2023, 19:30 at St Thomas Church in Haymarket**

**During 2022 Peter Brown** resigned as **Deanery Finance Officer** after 25 years of holding this post!

Next Central Deanery meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Rosamund Place**

### **Painting for Fun**

We are a friendly group who paint, draw, colour in or anything else we can think of having a go at! There are usually around 10-12 people every week but the whole group is about 20 people. Everyone does their 'own thing' but we're all grateful for suggestions and help from each other. We had a great Christmas do at the Job Bulman where we dressed the two fantastic volunteers, John and Ray, as cowboys - they weren't over impressed but we all loved it!

We all stop for a cuppa at around 2.30 which means we can have a bit of a chat with whoever is at the trolley.

We don't have a specific theme but we all have a great afternoon.

**Gail Adcock**

### **All Saints Badminton Club**

Hurrah I think we are finally there.

I for one am very glad that everything seems to be back to normal.

It's been an interesting season with no major issues. We start the season the first Wednesday in September until the last week of April.

We would love new members to come and join us. As above Sept to April 1930-2130 hrs on Wednesdays. The standard can vary from week to week but always with a smile on our faces. All standards welcome.

There is a small subscription, with a £2 fee for that evening. Nearly all monies go to the Church funds except for teas, coffee & of course choc biscuits. All welcome.

**John Pytlak**

## Keeping In Touch

*Keeping in Touch* continues to provide a snapshot of what is happening at All Saints', and keep us in touch with friends whom we may not have seen for some time. Occasionally we include book reviews from members of the All Saints' community. Frequency continues to be every 1-2 months, depending on availability of items and editors.

A dedicated small team of reporters have worked hard to produce regular items of news, and we are grateful to the increasing number of people who send in items – and pictures. However, we would welcome any new volunteers who might like to redesign the format, act as reporters, or help edit the final production.

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

## Mothers' Union Gosforth

It's been a difficult year for All Saints' Mothers' Union with the sad loss of four of our members within ten months!

A year ago, when Dorothy Henderson was still settling in as our new Branch Leader, our Vicar, Andrew, was our guest speaker in Holy Week. In May, the Revd David Peel spoke about 'Prisons and their Inhabitants' and it was later that month when Dorothy died suddenly. Our Vice President, Anne Blight, insisted on opening our June meeting as we were all subdued, to say the least. On that same day, Linda Benneworth gave us an interesting, illustrated talk entitled, aptly, 'A Vision for the Future.'

July brought a visit from the new Diocesan President, Margy Tasker-Brown, but also the death of dear Alfild Wellborne, who had been Branch Leader for many years before me.

We don't have a meeting in August, but many of us went to the cathedral on Mary Sumner Day (9th August) to see, and hear, all about the amazing work that's been done there. September to December included an update re. Tyneside Welcomes by Andrew Cole, Ethel Randall's Fun Quiz at our Harvest Meeting, an enjoyable silk painting session led by Karoline Wellborne, our participation in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence and our usual Christmas Party. Sadly, in December, we lost our third member, Hilary Hide, after a long illness.

At the AGM in January, I was officially re-commissioned as Branch Leader (and Secretary) and Ann Shaw was appointed as Treasurer. The February meeting was the day before Valentine's Day so the theme was 'Love', both in the service and afterwards, with the usual heart-shaped cake (thank you Valerie F), chocolates and red roses!

The last meeting (March) was entitled 'Encouragement' and Miriam Jones gave us a deeply sincere talk about her 'Journey in Faith' which was much appreciated. Also, in March, we were devastated by the sudden death of Ann Shaw – an active and committed member of our branch.

We have made up the usual Christmas Bags for the homeless, donated money towards bedding for mothers leaving the refuges and £100 for tracksuit bottoms and trainers for the People's Kitchen. We've also sent £48.00 to Mary Sumner House which covers a 'Gift for Perseverance' which allows Ugandan mothers and their children to live in a safe place away from abuse and violence.

Finally, we would love to welcome a few more members in the near future and anyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings on the second Monday of each month, 2.00pm in the Church Centre. No need to be a member.

**Pam Taylor, Branch Leader**



## Recitals

**Master Musicians International** All Saints holds about 9 monthly classical music recitals a year on Wednesday evenings, hosting exceptionally able musicians who play a range of works from Bach to Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Mendelssohn, Grieg, Schubert, Scriabin and Gerschwin. contemporary pieces (sometimes composed by them) and their nationalities in the last year have included South Korea, Sicilian, Ukrainian and Czech.

**Ros Place**

## Tyneside Welcomes

The charity Tyneside Welcomes was brought its first family from Syria in July 2021. That same month two founder members spoke about their work in church one Sunday morning. There was a strong sense that we should follow their example, and by October we had a Gosforth branch of Tyneside Welcomes founded and supported by All Saints Church. The aim of our branch is to settle another refugee family in the North East through the Government Community Sponsorship Scheme. In last year's report I said that we hoped to be supporting a family by the time this one was due. Well, we're not quite there yet, so I had better explain what we *have* been doing.

The issue which determines how fast almost all Community Sponsorship groups welcome a family is finding accommodation. We had expected that a local Housing Association would be able to help, but when this proved unfounded, we had to concentrate on finding something suitable in the private sector. We distributed thousands of leaflets (including with the All Saints' Christmas Card drop) looking for a generous landlord willing and able to rent their property at Housing benefit rates. (This is increasingly difficult as the Housing element of Income Support has been frozen for several years whilst private rents continue to rise.) We were therefore delighted when just before Christmas we were contacted by a generous couple willing to rent us their property within our budget.

After a variety of checks (Police, Council) our team and the flat were matched up with potentially suitable families and we have been allocated one! They fled to Turkey from the Civil War in Syria and have it seems also been affected by the recent earthquake. We hope that they will be arriving within the next few months.

Recent news has been full of the plight of refugees arriving legally from Afghanistan but living in hotels where they have no resources to get on with their lives. Our team has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure this will not be the case when we are able to welcome a family. We have been preparing plans for finding the family GP's and dentists (we can even offer an Arabic speaking one!); finding suitable local schools and helping the children adjust to them; guiding them through the benefits system, maximising opportunities to learn English, as well as showing them around our unique city and beautiful surrounding countryside.

The Gosforth Branch has also been supporting the wider work of Tyneside Welcomes. In the past year a further two families, totalling 12 individuals have arrived in our area with support from branches in Gateshead and North Shields. The ongoing fund raising efforts of the Gosforth Branch have been important in making this possible; we all know that £9000 does not go as far as it did in 2021 when that was our target for supporting a family. Tyneside Welcomes remains very grateful to All Saints Church for assistance with fundraising through sharing the proceeds from the hugely enjoyable Jigsaw choir concert in August, hosting our preserves and decorations stall at the Christmas Fair, and by making us Mission of the Month in February.

Although we describe our local groups as branches, it has become apparent that Tyneside Welcomes needs to be a network for mutual support. We would not be close to welcoming a family in Newcastle without the advice and support of those who have done it before. Now we have been able to return some of that goodwill through our members giving hands on help in North Shields and Gateshead when those branches were finding things tough. All of this has helped build up a network of relationships, particularly with members of St Charles Roman Catholic Church and the Quaker Meeting, but also with people of goodwill across Tyneside.

**Andrew Cole**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Brownies**

We have enjoyed a fun filled with lots of activities including a trip to the cinema for a Girlguiding special screening of Matilda, snow tubing and getting involved in the All Saint's Innovation challenge.

We have also been working hard on a number of badges including Feel Good Skills Builder, Make Change Skills Builder, Network Skills Builder and Live Smart Skills Builder. These badges have included learning how to use a screw driver, how to look after ourselves and how the Brownies can make the world a better place.

Our highlight from the year was our Pack Holiday in May where we celebrated HRH Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. We had such an amazing time at our own Royal Variety Performance, doing royal crafts and outdoor games. We also had a campfire with marshmallows and singing. The weekend was enjoyed by all the Brownies and Leaders, and we can't wait for our next one.

*We currently have 30 girls, 2 leaders, 3 volunteers, and a young leader.*

We have our Pack Holiday planned for this year which we are really looking forward too, another Girlguiding cinema screening to attend and the County Fun Day.

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

## **21<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Guides Annual Report**

This year we 21<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Guides have enjoyed a variety of different activities, taking part in skill builder challenges and plenty of baking.

We have 12 Guides, 2 Guiders and 2 Unit helpers.

In the Autumn term we completed different activities relating to Black History month and Remembrance day. We also focused on 'First aid' skills builder, acting out different scenarios, thinking about what we need in a first aid kit and how to create our own first aid kits using readily available materials. In October we had a fabulous time at Inflatespace, racing and bouncing on giant inflatables.

The Guides enjoyed creating Christmas trees made out of a variety of recycled objects to display in the hall. They also had great fun making the reindeer hot chocolate and helping on the stall at the Christmas fair.

In the Spring term we celebrated 'World Thinking day' by completing a range of activities linked to the environment, discussing the small changes that we can make to help have been learning under the heading of our 'Take action' skill builder badge.

We made the most of the wonderful weather during the summer term, we enjoyed our pack holiday to Dukeshouse Wood in Hexham. The Guides took part in lots of activities such as Jacob's ladder, fire lighting and the 3g swing. We also celebrated a number of new Guides making their promises while swinging from the 3g swing! We are looking forward to completing many more badges and hopefully another adventurous weekend away as a unit.

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

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

## **Beavers, Cubs and Sea Scouts**

### **Beavers**

It has been great to have a year of scouting almost “back to normal”. The only thing we have not done is go camping – although it should not be long before we head out to Dilston, and hopefully get to introduce the new beavers at St Hughes to the world of camp!

To compensate for a lack of camping, we tried to build our own shelters on the green, having done some knot work – they just about held up whilst twenty beavers tried to get inside, but certainly would not have coped with much of a breeze! Luckily it was a still and warm evening.

We cycled again in the summer – one of our young leaders is a British Cycling coach which is a great help.

There has been quite an international feel to many meetings – the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in in South Korea this year. We played Yut-Nori, and had a visit from one of the explorer scouts who is lucky enough to be going.

Patrick, one our young leaders, delivered the Disability Awareness badge to the colony with great success – fingerspelling the Beaver promise and playing “blind” football!

We also put on a magic show for parents and friends to complete the Creative badge – watch out Britain’s Got Talent!

Hopefully we can get outside more soon – JOTT (scouts all over the world go for a hike “together” in May) is on the horizon, as is camp.

Thanks as ever to my team – James, Jon, Patrick and Paul.

**Oliver Williams**

### **Cubs**

Cubs meet on a Friday evening, and we are glad to report we have been meeting normally for the last twelve months, with no more zooming! We were pleased to have our first cub camp since 2019 last September, which was enjoyed by cubs, young leaders and leaders alike. It was wonderful to be together as a group in tents, and the weather was kind to us which made for a wonderful weekend. We have further camps planned in July at Dilston, with the beavers and scouts, and again at Selby Wood, near Morpeth, for cubs in September.

We continue to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. We organised evenings litter-picking around Gosforth, kite-flying on the Town Moor, backwoods cooking on the church green, orienteering in Exhibition Park, surfing at Tynemouth, our annual bike around Swalwell, a trip to Northumberland Wildlife Trust, a night hike and an activity evening at Whickham Thorns. We have also been to Hawkhurst, near Kielder, for an activity day and an adventure weekend. We also went ice-skating at the Centre for Life at Christmas.

When in the hall, we have enjoyed evenings pioneering, learning circus skills, making leather craft and learning about first aid. We were fortunate to have a visit from the West End Food Bank, and donated much-needed food to their team.

Our fantastic team of young leaders from Gosforth Explorer Scouts continue to support the group, and have been working towards their young leader belt by organising meetings for the cubs. These have included learning about personal safety, kite-making and knot-tying. Our young leaders currently are Lily, Sadie, Patrick, Fergus, Pietro and Imogen. We welcomed Gemma and Tom as new adult leaders in the last year, and now have six adult leaders in total. The cub group continues to thrive!

**Sarah Parkinnen**

## Central Gosforth Sea Scouts

After a couple of rather unusual years, Sea Scouts at All Saints' has returned largely to normal this year. We held a camp in March 2022, at Kirknewton near Wooler, which also included a two-day "expedition challenge" for the older Scouts. On other weekends, we hiked the Red Kite Trail, helped with tree planting at Northumberlandia and as part of the "Queen's Green Canopy" initiative, and watched Newcastle Women win a football match at St James' Park. We also had an excellent evening learning about the fascinating work of Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Marine Management Organisation, and Natural England (organised with the help of Trinity House).

As well as lots of fun and games, activities on our troop nights included: orienteering at Plessey Woods, climbing at Newburn, trampolining, water activities at Druridge Bay, and ice skating in Whitley Bay. We also learned about the locally-based "Grif Aid" charity which provides water purifiers to developing nations, celebrated Bonfire Night, did crate stacking, snow tubing and climbing at Wickham Thorns, and many Scouts completed the Emergency Aid badge (Level 3).

We have maintained our excellent links with the church, attending the Remembrance Sunday parade and running a successful stall at the Christmas Fayre. Our Scouts were also proud to win the first All Saints' Enterprise Challenge. To do this, they held a film night and sold Halloween crafts to raise funds for the church.

We look forward to a busy year ahead, starting with a camp at Dilston in April.

Despite healthy numbers, we do have a few places left within the Scout Group. So, if you know a young person (aged 10.5 to 14) who may wish to join us, please see our website (<http://cgsg.scoutsites.org.uk/scouts/158-2/>) or feel free to contact Dona Skaife ([gosforthscouts.montagu@gmail.com](mailto:gosforthscouts.montagu@gmail.com)) to discuss current availability.

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

## Archbishop Runcie

Since I last wrote to you last spring, I celebrated my 20<sup>th</sup> year of working at Archbishop Runcie First School. What a journey it has been! Hopefully you will have seen some of what we have been up to on Twitter and in the regular updates in All Saints' In Touch. We have resumed our usual, pre-covid busy schedule of events and we appreciate these in a way we did not before. We really are so lucky to have such a dynamic and diverse community.

This year we have had much to celebrate here at ARFS. We have had a wedding amongst the staff, Mr Booth saw the arrival of his first daughter last summer, two of our non-teaching staff have achieved qualified teacher status (and are now permanent teachers in school) and several teaching staff are currently undertaking advanced professional development to further develop their leadership roles within school. It feels as though we have moved so far as a community.

Last summer, we took part on the Children's Cancer Run and had a wonderful turn out of staff and families. We took part in Christian Aid Week, Walk to School Week, Mental Health Week and much more. Children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed residential stays where they demonstrated their determination and resilience in order to overcome some tricky challenges and face their fears or to try something new.

Last autumn, we looked deeply at the Equalities Act and explored diversity within our community. We celebrated neurodiversity, the vast range of races, disabilities, ages and religions within our school with a real focus on inclusion and anti-bullying. The children shone, as always, and have really lived out this inclusivity as part of our "No Outsiders" work within school and beyond.

This spring, we have re-established teams, such as football, in school and look forward to upcoming events. We have been involved in a project linking leaders from across the North of Tyne joint authority in

order to evaluate our own provision and further strengthen our offer to our families. We have, as usual, celebrated World Book Day, this year with an author visit into school and lots of shared reading opportunities across the school. We have welcomed lots of parents/carers and other community members into school as part of British Science Week, charitable events and a lot of school visits to support our classroom learning.

We continue to be especially grateful to Andrew Shipton and Miriam Jones from Gosforth, All Saints' who visit us each week to lead collective worship. Huge thanks also to Diana Lavin who supports us so well with her musical talents. We are very much looking forward to our Easter service at All Saints' later in the term.

I would also like to express my thanks to several All Saints' Foundation Governors who have contributed so much during their terms. We are looking forward to working with a new governor as you fill the vacancy for All Saints'.

As we near the end of this Spring term and are looking forward to the celebrations of Easter, it is always a good opportunity to think about the upcoming opportunities that the summer will bring, including the coronation celebrations, sporting events and the recruitment of a new Deputy Headteacher (following the promotion of Mr Booth to Headteacher at Warkworth Primary School).

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

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

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH**

### **Sidespeople**

Roy Ashton  
Linda Bates  
Keith Davies  
Ann Downey  
Peter Farquharson  
Lynne Farquharson  
Valerie Farthing  
Nick Glover  
Robert Golden  
Valerie Hedley  
Margaret Hudgson  
Dermot Killingley  
Helen Langley  
David Ogilvie  
Edward Quant  
Margaret Patterson  
Judy Riseborough  
Felicity Shoemith  
Liz Smith  
Sheila Smithson  
Pat Spong  
Pam Taylor  
Margaret Wilkinson  
Alison Wilson

### **Present Churchwardens**

Nick Glover  
Christine Willoughby