



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

All Saints' Church Annual Report 2012

***“Surely the Lord is in this place,
and I was not aware of it... How
awesome is this place!
This is none other than the
house of God; this is the gate of
heaven”.***
Genesis 28.16-17

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INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2012, the standout things for me were Gift Day, four outreach events (Camp of Champions, Love Stockton, Jubilee street party and Olympics holiday club/fun day), our first APCM Service, the launching of 3G and Treasure Seekers and the carol service with Bishop Justin. All of these showed considerable generosity, commitment, vision and spiritual vitality.

It was also a year in which the church really worked well together. Raising support for the young people's mission trip to Mexico brought people together and we are looking forward to hearing how the trip went at the end of April. The decision to go ahead in faith with the technically superior but financially dearer option for the roof got us praying and seeking God together in a very healthy way. The result was a very clear consensus and a renewed faith that the Lord will provide.

The 2012 Verse of the Year "Surely the Lord is in this place..." proved prophetic. The Lord is unquestionably moving among us, sometimes in quite startling ways. And he will be in 2013 as well.

2013 is a year we want to get to know God's word better. Our Verse for the Year places the Word of God at the heart of our life as a church. Going through the whole Bible together with 150 essential readings will strengthen us.

The key things this coming year: The mission trips both at home and abroad in April. Messy Church starting in May. We're finally going to sort out our leaking roof in July. And in October we will host a New Wine weekend with Ian Parkinson as our speaker.

The "Every Home" vision will enter its fourth year this summer and - as is so often the case in God's economy - as we have evangelised, the church has started to grow. I have been glad to note an increase in the number of people attending midweek small groups, our Connect ministry events and 10:30am services. I pray that all the seed sowing over the last few months and years will produce a crop - certainly we are getting to know more of our parishioners and some are finding their way to church. Messy Church represents a huge opportunity to grow the church further.

With a huge Gift Day response and considerable support for the mission trip to Mexico, it was perhaps unsurprising that our General Fund finances would struggle to match 2011's total - and so it proved. If we are to maintain momentum in mission we will need to build our giving and control our sending this year because our reserves are very modest. That is a huge challenge in a stagnant national economy.

One final note; two dear members; Don Cuthbertson and Janet Atkinson have gone to be with the Lord since the last APCM. Both were very faithful Christians who contributed to the life of our church in different ways. We will miss them and are grateful to have had the pleasure of their company on our own journey in faith.

John Lambert

Treasurer's Report

2012 has been an exceptionally busy year for All Saints. The Lord presented us with many opportunities to evangelise with the Queens Jubilee, 2012 Olympics, Camp of Champions and many more unscheduled events. These opportunities simply could not have been missed. After all that is what we've been called to do. And whilst we embraced these opportunities with great enthusiasm, willingness and joy, they took their toll on our budgeted forecast for the year leaving us with a deficit of £6.2K against an approved budget forecast deficit of £3.8K

As Treasurer I can assure you every penny spent was done so with our prime objectives to: Worship God, Make Disciples, Share the Good News and Care for those in need, as the highest priority. When set against a backdrop of a reduced income of £13.5K from 2011 we can see just how much the Lord has blessed us.

We will continue to give away 10% of our unrestricted voluntary income to local and overseas mission, and we honoured our commitment to pay our Parish share by contributing £79.5K to the Diocese.

We have a faithful God who honours our commitment to Him as displayed by our financial stewardship, by providing all we need to do His work. And He has done so through the generosity of His people...YOU! For that, on behalf of the leadership of All Saints Church I offer a heartfelt 'thank you' for your contribution, both financial and prayerful. The fruit is not always ours to see, but we rest in the knowledge of His faithfulness.

In addition to the usual highly demanding levels of activity that All Saints is known for (let's face we're not a shrinking violet of a Church) this year has seen the birth of a major project in our renovations to the Church roof, requiring significant financial resources. The Lord again continues to display His faithfulness as we are now in reaching distance from the target amount, with work due to start this summer. The fruit here also will largely go unnoticed, as we will still have a roof, but future generations will reap what we have sown today. More detailed information can be found in the year end 'Financial statements 2012 from John Benson and Co.

In my first term as Treasurer I have been struck by the dedication of those whose work is both both tireless and often unseen by many, without whom we would either fall apart or collide. The 'Duck tape' and 'WD40' of All Saints if you will! And all done with a servant heart and no reward, other than the knowledge they are serving our most high Lord Jesus by serving us. A personal note of thanks is also due to those whose patience has been tested by my idiosyncratic approach to our financial operations, for which no doubt a few paracetamol tablets has

been necessary. No doubt 2013 will continue in the same vein. Thank you. Terry Doyle

Terry Doyle

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC has a total of 18 members this year and consists of the clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of representatives of the laity elected at the annual parochial church meeting of the parish or laity who are members of Durham Diocesan Synod or Stockton Deanery Synod from All Saints'. Formally, the PCC are charitable trustees of All Saints (we are a registered Charity) and are responsible for our financial affairs and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. Overseeing the church's finances has been a major part of the PCC's work during 2012. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2012 have included:

- Continuation of progress on quinquennial report actions on the condition of our church building and prioritizing the required repairs, with particular focus on church roof project;
- Oversight of the church's finances - approving budgets, agreeing additional requests for expenditure;
- Approval of various formal process e.g. drivers' bank and children's activities and leaders;
- Updating of various Health and Safety Procedures including the overarching Health And Safety Policy;
- Decisions around staffing requirements to deliver particular ministries - this year in particular the provision of Sunday Children's Ministry;
- Provision of encouragement and oversight of key ministry activities; e.g. youth ministries, introduction of Messy Church;
- Consideration of reports from Deanery Synod on developments within the Deanery.

Please pray for us. We really appreciate your support. The PCC in 2012 did have a few vacancies - please consider if you could offer yourself to serve on the PCC in

2013. There are 12 places to be filled (this includes the role of treasurer and PCC secretary that are nominated from elected members).

Margaret Vaughan

Ministry Development Team (MDT)

The MDT prayerfully considers what God is calling All Saints' to do, encourages every-member ministry and thinks strategically about refocusing or resourcing existing ministries. Last year the MDT:

- critiqued the proposals for 3G and recommended going ahead
- thought through the planning and personnel for four outreach events; the Camp of Champions, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Love Stockton and the Olympics outreach
- evaluated the progress of the 4 Year Vision and considered how to increase its effectiveness
- monitored the progress of Small Groups after their relaunch
- began to plan a Church Weekend Away (probably January or February 2014)
- critiqued the proposals for Messy Church and recommended going ahead to the PCC
- prayed about the Verse for the Year 2013 and chose Psalm 119.105
- recommended the E150 readings scheme
- evaluated the needs of Sunday children's' ministry and recommended to the PCC to extend Jan Peters' hours

I would like to express my thanks to those who serve on the MDT (Linda Emerton, Chris Peters, Rachel Peters, Sylvia Wilson and especially Sola Adeboye and John Littlehailes who are stepping down after three years' service). It's a very wise and prayerful team and is a great asset for All Saints'.

John Lambert

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod represents all of the churches in our deanery, and is made up of lay reps from each church, along with the clergy. Lay members are elected for a period of three years, and by sitting on the Deanery Synod they are automatically entitled to sit on their own church PCC. The representatives from All Saints' are Bruce Merrick, Gillian Clayton and Lucy Falcus, with Margaret Vaughan sitting on the synod as treasurer. Janet Atkinson was a faithful member also this year. The synod considers issues relating to the deanery along with topics that affect the wider church. In the Spring of 2012 we were asked to discuss the issue of women bishops, and feed back to the Diocesan Synod our views. In subsequent meetings we looked at local initiatives such as Street Pastors, Ian Ramsey school spirituality issues and employing a Deanery Children's Worker. Two major things we have discussed are the changes happening in the way the Parishes in Billingham work and also the Deanery plan – how the Deanery will change and develop over the coming years. This is still very much work in progress which will continue over this coming year.

Lucy Falcus

Diocesan Synod

There have been two meetings in 2012 - May and November. Bishop Justin had not been formally installed as Bishop of Durham at the November 2011 meeting so the May 2012 meeting was his first opportunity to address Diocesan Synod and the November 2012 meeting was his last (!). In these two meetings it was refreshing to be challenged anew about the Diocese's priorities of mission and ministry and how parishes should operate in mutual support of each other to deliver these priorities.

Main items at the May 2012 meeting were to approve the Diocesan Accounts and then approve the new approach to parish share (from 2013) – of parishes pledging an amount having considered affordability, mutuality and the need to Grow the Kingdom. This meeting also received presentations from various prison chaplaincies from across the region. The November meeting was held a few days before the announcement that Justin was moving to Canterbury so had a rather

subdued tone as rumours were already abounding. Bishop Justin and Bishop Mark gave a joint presidential address outlining the Diocesan priorities for 2013 in support of Growing the Kingdom, Budgets for 2013 were approved and approval given to proceed with a project to develop a new Diocesan office (Some diocesan staff are currently housed in Auckland Castle - which they have to vacate and the others in Carter House in central Durham (a building in need of much remedial work). Reports of Diocesan synod meetings are available or read on the Diocesan website.

Margaret Vaughan

Administration

How to sum up the last year of Administration in All Saints? It's all about people. An amazing team of Gods people working together for His glory. Administration by its definition should be invisible, and only really becomes apparent when it doesn't go according to plan.(So please forgive us when that happens) I want to thank so many people who, mostly invisibly, help our church run smoothly so that we can all worship and minister and forward God's Kingdom more easily. So many projects, missions and outreach, which in turn mean more organisation and resources; it has been a busy year. From Cleaners and tea-towel washers to rota-compilers and our amazing new treasurer: people who remind me of things (don't be afraid, I would rather be reminded a lot of times than forget something important) and advise me wisely. I am a truly blessed Receptionist/Administrator, working in a supportive and spirit filled church with great colleagues and team players, who pray and encourage, build up and unify. My hope is that the next year we will be even more like the first Christians in the Acts of the Apostles, who I'm sure had spirit filled , godly, organisers , helpers and administrators behind their many and varied ventures, and we can say "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Sandra Griffiths

Churchwardens' Report

For the Churchwardens, our aim over the past year has been to continue ensuring All Saints' is a resource fit for both our congregations of worshippers, and the many members of our community who come through the doors each week.

We started the year being installed as wardens by Bishop Justin at Durham Cathedral, and were very pleased to be able to welcome him to All Saints' before he moved on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There have been many mundane items of maintenance which have been carried out over the year, and we are very thankful to the servant-hearted people who have helped with these jobs.

More notable events for us have been the Taskforce group from HMP Kirklevington Grange who came to tend our grounds towards the end of the year. We hope you will agree that the job was thorough and made a big improvement which will be easier to manage going forward. It is our intention to trial having workers from Kirklevington on a regular basis who will be tasked with maintaining the grounds and helping with maintenance. We feel that this will be both a useful resource and an significant way to bless prisoners as they work towards their resettlement.

Other areas of maintenance on our mind include work to the exterior of the Narthex and main entrance, which will be completed once the weather gets warmer.

The project to replace our roof has been a hugely significant part of the Churchwardens' life over the past year (one which we hope only comes along once every 100 years!) and we are delighted at the progress that has been made so far by our Roof Committee, architect, and by the support of the congregation as we seek the funding to complete the job. The plan is firmly in place to begin this work in July, once the necessary faculties are in place.

At the annual meeting Karen Killick will have come to the end of her three years as Churchwarden, and we will be welcoming a new warden. Karen would like to thank church members for their help during her stint, and says she has "very much enjoyed the whole experience, which has been unexpectedly varied, but never dull!" She adds "Special thanks to the Standing Committee, the most supportive group I have ever worked with."

Karen Killick & Matt Falcus - Churchwardens

Roof Repair Project

During 2012, it was decided to replace the main church roof rather than continue to patch and repair it as regular leaks in bad weather have affected the furnishings and decor. This patch and mend approach is neither efficient nor financially sustainable. Four members of the PCC formed a Roof Committee to work with the Diocesan architect to assess and cost a replacement roof. The major options were drawn up and the PCC and congregation fully consulted. The project scope includes adding a layer of insulation between the tiles and the roof boards to improve the long term sustainability of the roof. Project tenders were received in February 2013 from five companies with costs ranging from £74,000 to £102,000 ex-VAT and fees. The Roof Committee recommended adopting the lowest tender. The PCC approved the project go-ahead at its February meeting with work scheduled to commence in July 2013 with a four to six week completion time. Planning permission is not required. The Gift Day in 2012 raised £59,000 towards project funding; an additional £3,300 is pledged in grant aid to date and the outcome of several applications for further grant funding is awaited. It is expected any shortfall in funding will be made up by loans. ¹

Jenny

Lewis

Publicity and Communication

Members of this team include Matt Falcus, Bill Cockcroft, Fiona Spratt and Simon Clayton. The main function of the group over the past year has been to produce ten issues of the In Touch magazine, covering stories and news of what is going on at All Saints' and St. Mary's. Another important function is to produce the colour "Community" In Touch which goes out to every household in our Parish. In 2012 we timed this to coincide with the important outreach events taking place over the summer and Christmas periods. Response to this magazine has been positive, and has gone at least some way to promoting All Saints' in its community. In addition to In Touch, over the past year the group has been involved in the design of the new noticeboards along the Yarm Road boundary, and various leaflets and posters to publicise events and groups.

Matt Falcus

¹ Since writing this report a grant of £9,500 has been awarded from Durham Diocese funds

This Church exists to**WORSHIP GOD**

Music and worship 09:00

The 9am service continues to have a slightly more traditional feel to the worship than the other services, led mainly on the keyboard with vocal, guitar or violin accompaniment. The songs are a mixture of traditional hymns and more modern worship songs. The main worship leaders are Pamela Rushton, Janet Smith and Lucy Falcus, with Kathy Beaumont and the Choral group leading intermittently. Sue Jennings, Matt Falcus and Andrew Killick also accompany on voice or instruments from time to time. We continue to use the Mission Praise complete collection, from which our repertoire of regular songs is expanding!

Lucy Falcus

Music and worship 10:30

Isaiah 43:16-21 talks of what God has done and what He is doing now.."See I am doing a new thing!" verse 18 says "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." Over the past year within the worship at the 10:30 service we have been repeatedly experiencing God "doing a new thing!" As a worship band we are not dwelling on the past... we are pressing on... moving forward. Every week we anticipate God "to do new things" in the service! We come as a band with our God given gifts and skills... but above all we come with expectant hearts! We are thankful to God for new members to the band and for encouraging us to mentor young people in worship ministry too. God's faithfulness to His people and His desire for us to be in his presence has captured the hearts of the "band of worshippers" every Sunday morning! We meet to worship God, to prepare ourselves and to encourage each other on a Thursday evening ... all with an air of expectation of what the "New things of God is" this week! "ASLAN IS ON THE MOVE"!

Deb hird

Choral Group

We usually meet at 7.30pm on Friday evenings at the Wilson Centre in Long Newton and number approximately 25 male and female voices. It is a great to be part of this group and enjoy the fun and friendship learning together brings.

Kate Pickover is a very patient and gifted leader who has a remarkable ability to bring out the very best in us as a Choir. We thank God for her. The group now has its own electronic piano thanks to generous gifts which is fantastic and much appreciated by us all. Ann Wade is our regular key board player at practices. Various organists volunteer to accompany us at services. We are so grateful to them all for their time so freely given. For the record we sang at 18 services during 2012 - 8 at All Saints' and 10 at St Mary's including: Songs of Praise for the Golden Jubilee and for Harvest, a marriage blessing, two renewals of marriage vows, 2 funerals, 3 Christmas services and various morning services. Our records show that since we formed in 1997 we have sung at 275 services.

If you love to sing come along and join us. You will be very welcome.

Gill & Jim Askew

Prayer

Reflecting on the past months brings a song to mind, "What the Lord has done, we can not tell it all". The Lord has been faithful to us. He has kept us through the easy and not so easy times and continues to do so.

Our Verse for 2013, 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' and the Essential Bible in one year readings have helped in building up our faith in God. The monthly prayer leaflets have kept us united in prayers and thanksgiving. We thank God for answering our prayers. The Prayer Breakfast continues every quarter and attendance has been steady. In February we were joined by a large

number of our youths and prayed for the Mexico and Chester missions and what a great blessing. The start of a monthly midweek evening prayer meeting gives room for more opportunities to seek God's face.

We have seen answers to prayers in many areas of our Church life. As the year continues, we ask God to lead us into deeper fellowship with Him and one another, Amen.

Sola Adeboye

Puppet Team

Over the past year we have had varied opportunities as a team to use the puppets to glorify God including appearances in the Engage services, at the Olympic Holiday Club with the help of our Norwegian friends and a performance at the Christmas Eve service.

In October we took our "Voyage of Discovery" puppet show to an outreach event organised by Yarm Road Methodist Church. We have also had the privilege of helping St Peters Church on Yarm Road to set up their own puppet team and also help them with puppets at their Messy Church, Gus even interviewed the Bishop of Jarrow. We have also participated in a number of X:site Teesside events.

Since January this year we have been working on the Easter production Gus' World of Adventures which we will have presented by the time of the APCM. The puppet team currently consists of Kathie Lambert, Euan Gordon, Louis Govier, Roland Major, Gary Simmons, Jennifer Burgess, Jan and Rachel Peters and myself.

Please pray for us as we seek to develop the puppet ministry and glorify God through all that we do.

Chris

Peters

Flowers

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the flowers over the past few years and feel I have finally found a place here. Linda Errington has joined me and her help is invaluable. Unfortunately the flowers are becoming more and more expensive, a few blooms can cost over £20 so we don't get many flowers for that price. We try to combine artificial flowers with real ones as there are 4 arrangements a week as well as the Connect Lunch once a month. Foliage also has to be bought and at present it isn't possible to use the Greenery from the church grounds since the tidy up of the Church grounds and the trimming back of many of the trees and shrubs. I'd like to suggest that we replace some of the trees and plants with ones that would be suitable for foliage for flower arranging, and could be used in years to come.

From time to time members of the congregation donate monies to have flowers in Church to mark the anniversary of a loved one's death – please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to do this. If you'd like to join our very small band of flower arrangers please don't feel that you need to be an expert flower arranger.

Karen Lamb

This Church Exists toMAKE DISCIPLES

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Over the past year a fantastic team of volunteers have continued to lead our Sunday children's groups in the absence of a paid Sunday Co-ordinator. We have all sought to creatively explore many biblical themes & characters and the teaching material used has included some great 10 week programmes belonging to Stuart & Donna Levin, and more recently we are using the latest Scripture Union material which appears to be working well. It has been a joy for us to spend time teaching the children & watching them grow in faith. It is also encouraging to see that numbers of children attending in the 3-11yrs age groups have grown quite a lot, especially in recent months, and it has been great to welcome a number of lovely new families into our church. It was hoped to employ a 2nd 20hr children's worker to cover this area of ministry amongst other things from January this year, but due to the present financial situation the PCC decided instead to add an extra 8 hours to my job description for the time being to take on the role of Sunday co-ordinator & to head up Messy church. We have just launched new names for the Sunday ministry. `Xplore` is now our overall name, and group names include `Gems`, `Discoverers` and `Trailblazers`. A Huge Thank you to the wonderful team – Fiona, Linda, Sola, Dami, Donna, Stuart, Nichola, Stuart, Chris, Julie, Jayne, Amanda, Joanne, and Caroline.

Jan Peters

Youth Church

It has been so encouraging to see our young people go deeper in their relationship with God over the past year! Sunday morning Youth Church and REFRESH are two keys areas of the Ministry where they can do this.

Over the past year we have focussed on a 'Walk through the Bible' in Youth Church, looking at important Bible characters, and how their stories fit into the Bible as a whole. Each Sunday morning throughout the month has a different style:

- 1st Sunday: 'Full Youth Service' with worship, a talk and opportunity for a response.
- 2nd Sunday: 'Café Style' with an open-mic (opportunities to sing their own songs and give testimonies) and a challenge to think about their personal relationship with God.
- 4th Sunday: 'Discussion Style' where everyone gets involved in thinking about the theme for the week!

On the third Sunday of the month we run REFRESH alongside Stefanie Hoyle, from Yarm Methodist Church. So far we have seen young people from our Church, Yarm Methodist, The Vine and TVCC join together to meet with God, and we pray that this will continue to grow and develop. We would encourage you to invite any young people that you know!

Kathryn Belmont and Tim Wye-Williams

Young Adults

The Young Adults group has continued to enjoy meeting as a supportive, encouraging community of people in their 20s and 30s who seek to learn more about God and get to know Him better. We have continued to alternate between meeting socially (which we feel is important for building relationships within the group) and meeting for Going Deeper evenings, where we come specifically to study the Bible, pray for each other and be challenged to live out what we have learned. Over the past year we have continued to meet in people's homes, and most members of the group have contributed to leading sessions.

It does however feel that Young Adults is entering a new season, having recently taken over leading the group, we have seen a couple of the older members of the

group move on, but in turn we have welcomed a few new members to the group. There may be some changes but it feels like a very exciting time.

Euan Gordon.

Small Groups

Over the past year we have seen the Small groups ministry begin to move forward, which is encouraging. We thank all those who have been praying for this & also those who have supported us, particularly the Communication team & John Lambert.

There are now six groups meeting fortnightly on a regular basis. The groups are all different in style & emphasis, for example; Young Adults & a group for families. They are aiming to meet the needs & callings of their membership through fellowship, study, prayer & worship & opportunities to share their gifts & God's love with one another & also with others beyond the groups.

We now have a growing Resource Library of DVD's & books on various topics which groups can use. We keep up-dated information about this & the groups on the Small group notice board in the Church Centre. Over the year we have tried to raise awareness about the Small Groups in order to encourage people to consider joining, through interviews in the services & articles in "In Touch." We have also prayerfully approached people to ask them to think & pray about starting & leading or co-ordinating a Small group. We aim to give as much support as we can to new leaders & existing groups as required.

In January we were all encouraged as Small group leaders when we met, along with John Lambert, to share news & ideas with one another & prayed together. We aim to do this again in the autumn.

Small group Co-ordinators, David & Linda Emerton

Library

All Saints' Church Library is situated in the Narthex; turn right as you come in the front door and go into the room at the end on your left. There you will find half a room full of shelves containing books on many varied aspects of the Christian faith - Bibles, books of Prayers, commentaries on the different books of the Bible, books on the way to live as a Christian, books about Jesus, books about the Holy Spirit, books on pastoral topics, biographies and autobiographies of many Christian people some well known, others not so well known but inspirational in the way they lived their lives. There is also a section of fiction books for lighter reading and some encyclopaedic volumes providing detailed information about a myriad of biblical subjects. All in all a great resource is available in the Library which is being added to through gifts and purchases. Many thanks to those who donated books in the past year. Do find your way to the Library and have a browse along the shelves - you never know what you may find! Gill Wake

Bookshop

The Church book shop offers a selection of books borrowed from the Baptist Tabernacle bookshop on a sale or return basis with a 10% commission earned on sales. This allows the book shop to donate books to the Church library and contribute to Church income. Stock is rotated approximately two to three monthly and orders for specific books can be taken. The book shop aims to open most Sundays, though this has not been possible over the last year. Gill Wake and Pauline Taylor support with the book shop and more volunteers would be very helpful. Sandra Griffiths also sells items during the week if people drop in for a book. A number of adult and children's cards and books have been sold over the year, mostly after the 10.30 service. The benefits of the book shop are hopefully that it's a great way to promote Christian literature, keep it accessible and share knowledge about good books read. As an extra bonus, it provides a space for people to browse and get into conversations they may otherwise not have. Helping with it is a great way of getting to know people.

Caroline Ryder - Jones

This Church exists to.....SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS**Faith Discovery Course**

All Saints' usually runs an annual course for people seeking God or who are new Christians and hoping to put some shape into their infant faith.

With Terry Doyle stepping down from running *Alpha* in order to concentrate on being Treasurer, and with so much energy expended earlier in the year on the Camp of Champions, Love Stockton, the Diamond Jubilee party and the Olympics outreach, and there being few obvious candidates in the autumn to make up a cohort for *Alpha*, we decided to give it a rest in 2012.

We chose instead to run a shorter video-based course called *Life Stories* in January and February 2013. It attracted a dozen different people and was co-led by Cramer placement student Carl Harding, Sandra Griffiths and me. Three from this group were baptized or renewed baptism vows shortly afterwards.

With there being a clear case for offering *Alpha* at Saint Mary's this year, we are running a joint course after Easter at the Wilson Centre Long Newton. Over half the speakers will be from All Saints' and some people from here have been invited too. There are still places! Please pray that it will bear much fruit.

John Lambert

Parent and Toddler Groups

Both of our busy weekly Toddler group sessions have continued to be as popular as ever over this past year & provide lots of fun activities for the toddlers, as well as time for carers to chat with friends. The sessions appear to be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by those who attend. One of the great encouragements for us has been the increased amount of opportunities to share faith and particularly the openness from some people to allow us to pray with them and to

support them pastorally. Over the year we have seen a number of wonderful answers to those prayers and have seen people move forward positively in their lives and be more positive about God and the church as a result. I have greatly appreciated the wonderful assistance of Nichola Main who has been a regular helper this past year, and a Huge Thank you also to my kitchen team, Chris Heslop & Anne Doogan who continue to do a fantastic job keeping up with the demand for refreshments, and to Sandra who gives everyone a lovely welcome in the foyer & offers prayer at times.

Jan Peters

Treasure Seekers

This is our now much loved ministry to our friends with learning difficulties in Oak Road. Karen and Sylvia go twice a month to sing songs, tell bible stories and do crafts together. We are getting to know the residents and staff and we all enjoy the time we share. We are delighted that Colin has become a regular attendee at lunch club and seated exercise and that he loves reading his beginners bible. Colin organised a drama at Christmas with other residents about the three wise men, we provided bibles for them to give as gifts to their families. Two other residents really enjoyed our 10.30 service. They bought the Mexico CD because they loved our worship songs, we have taken them a Tim Hughes CD which they enjoy too. Due to the lack of resources for adults with learning difficulties we are currently compiling a book of bible stories especially for them which we aim to have appropriately illustrated. Do please keep praying for this ministry and if you would like to be involved please speak to Karen or Sylvia.

Sylvia Wilson

Play and Praise

Our weekly Friday Play & Praise session for under 5's & their carers has continued to be a joy to lead this past year. The presence & blessing of God is so evident amongst us throughout the morning and there is a great buzz amongst the team

and those who come along. We have a great time together praising God through action songs, Bible stories acted out by the puppets, instrument time, creative prayer & more! followed by time to play, chat & enjoy refreshments. Quite a number of the families who come along do not profess to be Christians & do not attend church so it has been a joy to have opportunities to share faith, as well as offering pastoral & prayer support to some people over time. Play & Praise has continued to grow (we now have approx 130-150 people attending most weeks) and we need to use both the hall and the side rooms. In order to keep things running well in this busy setting we have a fantastic team to whom I am very grateful. A Huge Thank you to Fiona Spratt, Jennifer Belmont, Evelyn Leadbetter, Euan Gordon, Jennifer Burgess, Jean Shelton, Jane Waters, Jayne Davies & Rachel Peters.

Jan Peters

Big Ted event in Nurseries

The Big Ted team have had the privilege of visiting four local school nurseries monthly (Preston, The links, St Marys, Junction farm) in rotation over the past year with a Bible themed programme including songs, puppets, bible stories, & craft hosted by Big Ted (our Church Teddy bear). Each of the schools are enthusiastic about our visits and we love going in. We love the fact that a fair number of the children have already had links with All saints through toddlers/Play & Praise/ Family fun events, and this is a great opportunity to reconnect with them once they have started school. A huge thank you to the wonderful team – Deb & Duncan, Linda, Evelyn, and to Sylvia & Phil Donegan who we miss as they have left the team within the past year.

Jan Peters

Schools Ministry

Schools ministry has continued to provide a very important opportunity to share our faith with hundreds of children in our community. This past year the St

Mary's school church assemblies team has included John Lambert, John Taylor and myself. We have enjoyed leading assemblies and getting to know the children better. John Taylor & I also lead assemblies at Preston primary and the Links school. I have also loved giving groups of very excited children from a few local schools tours around church & answering their many great questions. At times I have also had opportunity to take part in lessons at schools, including one recently where we had fun exploring Baptism together.

Jan Peters

Events for Children and Family

Last summer a team of us at church took on the challenge of organising a packed week long mission based around the Olympics. A team of Norwegian young people came over to help us and we had a fantastic time. Activities included a very popular children's Olympic themed holiday club with a Viking twist!, a fantastic, busy & very sunny family fun day, great youth events, helping out at a family fun event organised by a church in Ingleby Barwick, and much more! Each event provided great opportunities to build relationships with whole families and share faith along the way. Another highlight was the Glow party which we held on Oct 31st as an alternative to Halloween activities. Approx 250 people came along to join in the many fun activities and a great time was had by all! The popular `Club` family event that I have organised in Feb & Oct half terms for a number of years came to an end this past year. These events had provided brilliant opportunities to build relationships/keep existing links going with families in our community, share faith & invite people to other church activities, as well as to communicate the important message that All saints is a fun place to be, full of friendly people who love Jesus, and has a heart to give & serve generously rather than to be `after your money`. I believe that the time is now right under God to build on these well established foundations and replace `The Club` with `Messy Church` (starting in May). A Huge Thank you to everyone who have been involved in family outreach this past year.

Jan Peters

Choose Life

We continue to run 4 life groups including 2 outreach focused groups; a boys drop in and football session on Mondays, and a girls group meeting Wednesdays, and 2 discipleship focused mixed sex groups; Tuesdays: years 7-9 and Wednesdays: years 10-13.

360 officially stopped last summer in order for us to re-focus and restructure the night. In Autumn we focused on more traditional church group activities including tramps supper, chip run and ice-skating. From January, we have been based in the church centre again with the intention of developing better relationships and also now include a 'God slot' element each week where we share our faith in different ways.

We have developed brilliant relationships with other youth workers in the local area and we have worked together on various projects including our monthly cafe church at Costa in Yarm, 2 mission weeks last summer and our annual trip to Soul Survivor. All this alongside our regular assemblies at Egglecliffe School give us a healthy, balanced midweek work for our church and unchurched young people. We look forward to what 2013-14 has to bring and value your prayers as we continue to seek God's heart for youth work at All Saints.

Tim Wye-Williams & Kathryn Belmont

Walkers

We had a year of interesting walking with a muddy time for much of second half of the year. Only one walk was curtailed because we had no water wings, and only one found us desperately searching for a mapped but unmarked (and invisible) bridleway. Overall we have had a succession of thoroughly memorable and enjoyable days out.

We had a weekend away in Draughton last March, finding a new and splendid walk on Barden Moor above Bolton Abbey. We are we are now almost regarded

as regular worshippers in the local church! Another favourite weekend venue found us in Frosterly, with excellent walking. February saw our Annual Meal in the Centre, which was very successful, and in March we go away for another weekend, this time to Sleights near Whitby.

Our thanks go to Sarah Pocock and Bruce Merrick, who have capably picked up the reins from Pemma, and to Janet Merrick who continues, with the help of numerous sous-chefs to feed the walkers with delicious food while we are away. We are praying for Jeremy Atkinson, and for his family, after Janet's death. We always welcome new members of whatever ability.

John Littlehailes

Connect – Ministry to retired people

This includes the Tuesday Lunch Club, seated exercise class, soup lunch, summer and Christmas specials. This ministry has without doubt enjoyed God's favour this year. We had a lovely summer special with the home day including crafts, flower arranging, manicures, coffee lounge a lovely lunch and afternoon tea. We finished by watching High Society, our away day took us to Bede's world where amongst other things we watched a thatcher at work and met a very impressive curly haired pig. The Christmas lunch and Carol service were very well received. A short survey of guests told us that the major benefit was to meet other people, to get out of the house and enjoy time with others. The informal service has grown from about ten people when we started it to 38 in January of this year. Most people now attend the service and we can see people engaging with God through the word, worship and prayer. A huge thank you to everyone who makes this happen. Sylvia Wilson

This Church Exists to**CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED**

Pastoral Work

Pastoral care is an important part of the life and ministry of All Saint's Church. The pastoral team care for the congregation and the wider community in All Saint's parish. We meet every other month to share and pray together. We encourage one another in what can often be a challenging, but very rewarding ministry.

If a need for support through listening, prayer, a home visit and/or practical help is identified by a member of the team or a member of the congregation, it is communicated to Sylvia, John or myself. We meet to pray and discuss the best way to meet these needs weekly. Jayne Davies and Chris Vass are now in their second year, of a three year course, training to be Authorised Pastoral Assistants (APA), They learn about the many varied aspects of pastoral work.

The' Pastoral Drop In' continues to run every Monday morning with the help of volunteers. Everyone is welcome for coffee and a chat, with an opportunity for prayer and a confidential conversation if needed. Our church is blessed with a pastoral team, who work behind the scenes, with great compassion. I would like to thank each one of them on behalf of everyone at All Saint's.

Karen Snowden

Careforce

Careforce was created just over a year ago to provide practical support for our immediate parish as well as charitable organisations within the local area. We generally meet every two weeks to complete practical tasks during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, and have undertaken a range of jobs within the Parish from gardening to tiling a kitchen. We have also spent a number of evenings at

Teesside Blind Society, Daisychain and Bridge House doing painting, gardening and organising a quiz night. We have a small group of regular workers but are always looking for more people who are able to spend a few hours every other week. We are keen to expand the role of the group so please let us know if you have skills you would like to share. In addition to myself, the group is being co-ordinated by Jenny Lewis and Bruce Merrick, so if you feel you would like to be involved then please speak to one of us.

If you know of anyone who you feel would benefit from some practical help from Careforce, then please let us know either at Church one Sunday or via the Church Office.

Martin Howard

Mission Giving and Support

We still support five main foreign Mission Partners, as well as a number in our local area including North East Helplink, Bridge House and others. This year we have supported the young people from All Saints' and Yarm Methodist Churches who are going to Mexico to help the homeless after Easter. In 2012 we added Mark & Anna Burgess who work in Peru, to our Mission Partners. They replaced the Richardsons who left Crosslinks the previous year, however we do still support some of Fiona Richardson's work for Tanzania Youth for Christ from time to time. Our Mission Partners now cover India, East Africa, various parts of the Far East and Peru. O.M.F also work with people from the far east in U.K., Germany, U.S. A. Australia and Africa.

Our five main overseas Mission Partners i.e.

- O.M.F Diaspora Ministries (Carolyn Kemp);
- C.M.S (Hugh & Debbie Skeil);
- A.P.F (Ian Enticott);
- U.F.M. (Mark & Gill Newham);
- Mark and Anna Burgess

Our main criteria are still to support Christian organisations or those with a Christian Ethic, who will keep in regular contact with us and where possible will visit us from time to time, and with whom we can build a relationship.

Please look at our Mission Board in the corridor to the Church Centre and pray for these people. We would still like people to write or E Mail them from time to time. If this could be you do let me know.

Bruce Merrick