



ZEAL FOR
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consumes
ME JOHN 2:
seventeen

All Saints' Preston-on-Tees

Annual Reports 2015

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Introduction

Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2015, the standout things for me were:

- Two focused weeks of prayer and fasting
- A Vision Day to agree our direction going forward
- The *Try Praying* campaign where 200 prayer booklets were given away
- Danny, Honor, Gary and Esme's baptism
- Hosting 'Energise', a regional networking day for Children's ministry
- A superb Alpha Course
- 'Learning to Heal' with John and Anne Coles
- Employing a Caretaker
- The community lunch on Christmas Day

Besides these highlights, life here has constant, pressing pastoral matters. There were big and stressful concerns that drove us to our knees and united us in prayer; for example, when young Oscar was hospitalised for weeks with an abscess on the brain. And when Doreen was stuck in Uganda with her residential visa application getting nowhere. The Lord was merciful in both cases.

After sending Sylvia Wilson out in 2014, other key leaders Stuart and Nichola Main were sent out to the Sunderland Eden Project. They are still connected here but Eden will rightly take up the lion's share of their focus going forward. Sylvia is doing well at Saint John's and we praise God for new growth there. We trust the Mains will bear fruit in Wearside as well.

When we give away gladly and liberally what God has given us, he pours blessing back in – with more to spare. At the time of writing, our 10.30am congregation is almost brimming over. We have had to turn families away from Messy Church because we would have exceeded the safe number prescribed by the Fire Service. New wine needs new wineskins. We need a bigger building...

The PCC spent time considering the building in 2015 and this gathered momentum throughout the year. It became increasingly obvious that we cannot stay as we are (windows, electrics, heating etc are barely fit for purpose), though the extent of any future modifications has not yet been decided. The thinking culminated in a day in February 2016 to share ideas and gauge support for possible big changes ahead. This will be a big feature of the next few years I suspect. I know it will be uncomfortable for some and I weigh their concern very carefully in my soul, but change rarely comes without some sadness.

Finally, three of our members, Roger Kalen, Sybil Barnard and Dennis Renshaw have gone to be with the Lord since the last APCM. Roger had moved into a Care Home after worshipping with us for a few years. He loved All Saints' and had asked for his funeral to be here. Sybil was also with us just a few years; a kind and gentle woman who was known and appreciated at several other local churches in the area. Dennis was a proper gentleman and a stalwart member of our 9am congregation for decades. He was serving the Lord wholeheartedly, laying tables and driving people to and from Lunch Club on the very day he died, aged 84. What a legend! May this be true of every one of us; serving the King of kings with all our strength 'till he returns or calls me home' - whichever comes first.

John Lambert

Treasurer's Report

In the 2014 annual report, the year was reported as being "healthy" and I am happy to report that 2015 continued in a similar manner. All Saints' continues to be a thriving community with constant incomings and outgoings to minister to people, our community and the fabric of the building.

Going into 2015 the PCC approved a budget that would have us break even overall. As it transpired our overall financial performance for the year was a deficit of just over £2,000.

Our voluntary income through standing orders, envelopes and service collections was £5,000 above the level we had budgeted, for which we give great thanks to God and to all who have contributed in any way. It is through the congregation giving that All Saints' is able to carry out the work it does. We are very grateful to all who give but would continue to ask all of you to consider your giving and whether you can either start giving for the first time or increase your giving. God has blessed us greatly in the past 12 months with an increasing congregation but it is worth saying that until our income increases, we will be unable to increase our level of ministry beyond its current position.

The added benefit of increased giving is that we can be a greater blessing to others. One principle of All Saints' is that 10% of our voluntary income is given away to organisations chosen by the Mission Support Group. In 2015 over £16,000 was passed onto organisations at home and abroad.

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6.38) All Saints' is a giving church, people give their time and finances to us and we give out into our community and beyond. God is honouring that with greater numbers of people coming through the doors throughout the week. I pray that you'll give in order that we might continue giving out.

In addition to the deficit on the monthly budgets, we spent £3,600 out of our restricted funds. These are funds that have been given to the church and are designated for particular areas. The vast majority of this went into the refurbishment and upgrade of the kitchen area. A new cooker was the focal point, along with associated electrical works, helping us in serving the, again, growing numbers at Connect lunch clubs.

As well as income running ahead of budget, so did the outgoings. A growing congregation meant a higher spend than anticipated on coffee, biscuits, paper and various other consumable items but the biggest overspend was perhaps one of the best.

Our "Other Mission Events" budget was overspent by close to £2,000, making up most of the deficit but this covered the highly successful Alpha course that was run through the autumn and also the Try Praying campaign earlier in the year.

A quick note of thanks to Gill Wake for all her unfailing work managing the weekly incomings with the bank. Also to Margaret Vaughan for her sterling work reclaiming the gift aid on your giving. This makes a significant difference to what we can do as we recouped £32,000 gift aid in 2015. To Terry Doyle for his continuing work overseeing the payroll and our HMRC contributions. And to Craig Aston for keeping on top of the various meter readings for our myriad of accounts.

Across All Saints' we are blessed with an incredibly wonderful group of people who give so much of their time, energies and finance to serve us all in a variety of ways, to which we all owe a debt of gratitude.

Stuart Main

PCC Report

The PCC was made up of 18 members during this past year, comprising the clergy and churchwardens, a number of laity elected at the annual parochial church meeting, and lay members of Durham Diocesan Synod or Stockton Deanery Synod from All Saints'. The PCC members are trustees of All Saints' (which is a registered Charity) and are responsible for financial affairs and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. In 2015 the church finances finished in deficit, but close to the budget agreed for the year. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2015 have included:

- Routine but important formalities such as the drivers' bank and the children's activities and leaders;
- Consideration of reports from the Diocesan and Deanery Synods, including the new Deanery structure proposals;
- Monthly consideration of Safeguarding issues and of the MDT minutes;
- Updating policies for Health and Safety within the church;
- Encouragement of the key ministry activities; Youth and Children's ministries and Messy Church;
- Looking at the use of church space in the light of the current growth and at possible structural changes.

We have some vacancies; please consider offering yourself for election to the PCC for the coming year. Please pray for wisdom and God's guidance for the PCC to be newly elected at the APCM.

John Littlehailes

MDT (Ministry Development Team)

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:

- steered the process of agreeing our focus and vision to be a church that is praying always, serving together, to share Jesus' love in our communities
- set in motion a rolling programme of 5-minute updates on key ministries in Sunday services
- commended the Try Praying campaign
- thoroughly reviewed 8 ministries with their leaders (The Source, Puppets, Prayer, Sozo, 3G, Small Groups, Youth work, Connect)
- put forward ideas for team members for the Alpha course
- reviewed and reflected on a visiting 'mystery worshipper' report for a 10.30am service
- discussed the future of In Touch in view of Bill Cockcroft's imminent retirement from the communications team
- proposed the idea of a Christmas community lunch
- reviewed and actioned some feedback on the Welcome Lunch
- discussed and put forward a Verse for the Year 2016

I would like to express my thanks to those who serve on the MDT (John Belmont, Erin Bunford, Gillian Davison, Sue Ireland, Chris Peters and Chris Vass. Thanks especially to Anna Levin who had to step down due to work commitments in 2015).

John Lambert

Deanery Synod

The deanery synod meets every other month and is made up of representatives from the PCCs of all the Church of England churches in our deanery which stretches from Billingham to the boundary of the parish of St John's Egglescliffe. We meet to discuss matters affecting the local church, and over the past year the main focus has been on the Deanery Plan – how we look to organise the Deanery in the coming years to sustain and grow the churches involved. The current representatives from All Saints' are Margaret Vaughan, Bruce Merrick and Lucy Falcus, and members of the Deanery Synod automatically receive a place on the church PCC. Elections take place every three years, and if anyone would be interested in standing for the next cycle please speak to one of the current members.

Lucy Falcus

Diocesan Synod

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2015. Items at the May meeting included approving the Diocesan Accounts. Bishop Paul used his presidential address to talk about priorities for our Diocese, the region and thoughts on national and international matters (Synod met the weekend immediately after the general Election). He reflected on the Diocesan core priorities of Growing Church, Children and Young People and Poverty. He reminded synod that when God calls He gives us the wisdom, strength, gifts and resources that we need to fulfil that calling. The new Governance structures for the Diocese were approved. The November meeting (the first meeting in the new triennium) started with sharing communion together. Chairs of House of Clergy and Laity were elected. Bishop Paul spoke in his address about our calling to Bless our Communities. There then followed an update on the Diocesan "plan on a page" and the Budget for 2016 was endorsed. As this was a new synod – there was then a "model debate" to encourage members to feel confident about engaging fully with the synod. A short report was received from those lay and clergy members of the Diocese who had attended the Shared Conversations on Human Sexuality.

Margaret Vaughan

Administration

It has been another exciting, Jesus filled, year in our church. We continue to grow and evolve, as God leads us, and administration is at the hub of everything that goes on.

As always it is all about people, new people to get to know and love, working together for God's glory. So many people to thank for all the fantastic work that they do to help our Church run smoothly, especially the wardens who both use their experience and wisdom to organise and run the church like a well-oiled machine.

We have a new caretaker, Peter; to fill the big gap when Gary left and to help with our constant need for our building to be transformed for vastly different ministries. He also helps with small DIY and maintenance jobs, this has been so helpful, even though it is early days. We have increased our termly and ad-hoc room bookings, and our congregations are growing, so turnover of consumables and maintenance of equipment is increasing in pace.

Some highlights have been, Alpha in autumn, Vision Day and the togetherness of the 'Church Family', and generally seeing God at work in our midst.

Sandra Griffiths

Fabric Report and Maintenance / Churchwardens

Our church continued busy, thriving and fruitful in 2015. In March our tenant left 558B Church House which gave us the opportunity to undertake some much-needed refurbishment and upgrading of the property. A new tenant took up residence in June.

We were fortunate to have Gary Thompson remain with us to work on the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and site until June. We were truly blessed to have him working with us. The PCC decided to fill the gap left by Gary's departure by creating a caretaker's post for 14 hours a week. This was advertised in September and interviewed for by a panel drawn from the PCC. We are very pleased to have recruited Peter Lankford to the post starting in December. The decrepit oven in the church centre kitchen was replaced during the year with a fit-for-purpose commercial oven funded partly by grants and partly by ever-generous church members. There was enough spare to replace the microwave oven, the island surface in the kitchen and new flooring and revamped storage in the centre kitchen cupboard. Other improvements carried out during the year include new flooring in the Youth Room; a new photocopier on an improved contract and a major clear-out and clean-up of the church garage and church office.

We commissioned Legionella assessments for the church centre and Church House and received a thorough report and recommendations to follow up. We worked with Stockton Council during the year as parking restrictions were introduced in the surrounding streets whilst Eaglescliffe Station car park was closed for improvement and expansion works. Parking waivers and permits were applied for as necessary.

It is a continuing joy to see the happy buzz of activity throughout the week in the church and centre and to know that demand is growing for the events and services we offer. This brings its own challenges as well as rewards and we have spent part of this year considering how best to use our existing capacity. We invited the Diocesan Architect and Archdeacon to visit All Saints' and discuss some preliminary ideas for reordering the church to create greater capacity whilst tackling the improvements required by the 2014 quinquennial inspection such as the heating system and window refurbishment. These ideas will be collated for a first round of consultation with church members at a Vision Day in the New Year. This will be a major project and we pray for God's grace and blessing that we can produce a plan that will fulfil His will for our mission here at All Saints'.

Jenny Lewis and Karen Killick

Safeguarding

The PCC regards safeguarding as one of its highest priorities, and safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. During the year Beth Miller the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer has been providing training which has been attended by me (particularly considering vulnerable adult aspects), members of the Children's Team and All Saints' Staff Team. We have tightened up on the procedures for children's ministry at the end of services and made other minor changes to enhance the safety of our children.

The safeguarding policy document is on display at both ends of the church building. We are grateful to God that there has been no major issue this year.

Karen Killick

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety activity in the church has been of a high standard throughout the year with few concerns to attend to.

The church has employed a new caretaker and part of his role is to carry out minor repairs to the fabric of the church. He has been inducted, and has read all Policy and Procedure documents, and his name now appears in POL. 11.02 Working at Heights. Since an occasion may arise when he is working alone, a risk assessment form has been produced to standardize his safe practices when working in the church.

The Housekeeping and Safety Audits have been carried out quarterly; as detailed in our H and S Policy. It is good to report that standards have improved over the past year.

Fire Evacuation On Sunday 21st June 2015, we carried out an annual fire evacuation practice from the Church Buildings. The 9am service evacuation took 3.5 minutes to complete, and the 10.30 took 4.5 minutes. Both evacuations were carried out in a safe manner.

Accident Reporting

Accidents for the year have decreased on the previous year, as we have had 1 reported accident: Cut finger from a work surface sharp edge. The caretaker has filed down this edge so we would not expect this issue to arise again.

Near Misses

- Child falling off an overcrowded stage.
- Electric kettle in the kitchen. The electric cable had been burnt. This was discovered during Housekeeping and Safety Audit, the kettle was removed from service.

Risk Assessment Review for Staff Team

The staff team are often on the front line of planning events both internally and externally. In recent weeks we have looked again at the processes of carrying out our own Risk Assessments. Further reviews will take place in the coming months.

Kitchen Safety; Fiona Spratt has monitored with great success the Kitchen hygiene. I would like to thank all members of the church for their vigilance in keeping to good practices.

Mark Harrison

Publicity and Communications

The communications team continued to produce the monthly In Touch magazine during 2015. However, the end of the year brought the retirement of Bill Cockcroft, who had been the principal writer and content producer for the magazine since the early 1990s. Since then we have used the time to reflect on the future of the communications output from All Saints', and how God might be changing the direction of what we do.

We produced a colour version of In Touch which went out to every household in our community in early December, covering all of our Christmas activities. This is seen as a key part of what we will do, and we'll continue to produce these community newsletters a few times per year.

We have also continued to create content for the website and Facebook group, and to develop colour leaflets which introduce the many different ministries and activities on offer at All Saints'. These are a great way to help members, both new and old, get involved in life at our church.

The communications group is always on the lookout for those who are interested in how we communicate to our members and community. If you have a gift for writing, photography, graphic design, video production or social media and want to get involved, please speak to me.

Matt Falcus

This Church exists to Worship God

9.00am Worship

The 9am service continues to enjoy music led by Pamela Rushton, Janet Smith and Lucy Falcus, all on the keyboard, with regular input from the Choral Group. Matt Falcus and Andrew Killick also play guitar/violin also. Music tends to complement the service theme and we have a variety of hymns and more modern worship songs.

Lucy Falcus

10.30am Worship

This Church exists to...Worship God. Having checked out our church website I'm encouraged to confirm that I feel, as a Worship Band, we are "doing exactly what it says on the tin"! – "*Inspiring worship that is passionate, intimate, culturally appropriate and facilitates encounter with God*". As a Worship leader at All Saints' it has ALWAYS and continues to BE my heart's desire, passion, to meet with God in song within the 10-30 service. I feel that God is continually challenging us within the songs to engage with Him to deeper and greater depths. I continue to love the unpredictability of God's Holy Spirit to stir and move among us when we Worship Him together on a Sunday morning. As a band we do not settle for, where we are "at" when it comes to giving praise, thanks, adoration, gratitude, respect and love to Our Amazing, Awesome God.

Every week we simply meet to offer ourselves in worship to Jesus, who meets us in His Spirit, draws us into His intimate presence, touches our lives and transforms us. So, there is no set formula to Worship at 10-30 when God's Spirit is leading...only freedom! (John 4:22-24)

Deb Hird

Midweek Worship

Midweek worship has been a significant growth area in the Church of England over the last decade; services in retirement homes, school services and other 'Fresh Expressions' as they are known have proved popular across the land whilst, nationally, Sunday worship is just about holding its own.

At All Saints' we worship together midweek with Morning Prayer (daily), informal Holy Communion and Play and Praise (weekly), Treasure Seekers and Lunch Club services (monthly). Then there are groups meeting in homes in their various forms. Finally, there are short three-minute reflections at Seated Exercise and Youth Club. Most of this is covered elsewhere in this report.

Morning Prayer (30 minutes) is usually quite traditional though somewhat less so on Thursdays now. It draws a small handful each day. The midweek Communion service (also 30 minutes) is much less formal, seated in a circle, with an open discussion on a Bible passage - last year covered most of Matthew's gospel - a simple Eucharistic prayer and time for tea/coffee afterwards for those who stay. This service attracts as many as 25 people from both the 9am and 10.30am congregations and the Chapel sometimes feels rather congested. We shall have to send people away. Or get a bigger chapel...

John Lambert

Choral Group

The Choral group continues to flourish although our numbers have fluctuated as several members have had to take time out due to health problems. However we are pleased that they are now well on the road to recovery.

Edward, one of our basses, has gone to university, but it is good to know that he has become a Chorister at Derby Cathedral, making his grandparents, Brian and Gill Wake, very proud! We meet on Friday evenings at the Wilson Centre and have sung on 24 occasions throughout the year including two weddings, (one at St John's, Egglecliffe) and one renewal of vows. Last summer several of us attended a Swaledale Festival workshop with Bob Chilcott, renowned choral composer, and conductor. We sang some of his more unusual works which was challenging but a very enjoyable and educational experience.

We sang carols *a capella* on a cold and windy day in the Street at Preston Hall during a Christmas Fair and enjoyed two joint Carol services with the choir from St Mary's, Norton.

We are a friendly group and always welcome new members and remember singing is good for the mind and body as well as the soul!

Kate Pickover

Prayer Coordination Group

The Prayer Ministry Team, a wonderful and committed group of people has once again experienced the grace of God as they have met regularly to listen and reflect on the prayer life of the church.

Through our monthly Ablaze prayer event we have come expectant to hear the Lord, and to pray for a series of important issues that only God can answer. We have prayed for all of our ministries and

mission partners, we have prayed for the national elections and asked that God would raise up Spiritual leaders to govern our nation. We have led a healing service and witnessed the great way in which Jesus ministers to us all. This monthly gathering has continued to sense and experience God in remarkable ways.

We have found that a focus on Vision is essential for church members to feel the urgency to pray and fast. In September 2015, we led such a week to pray focusing on a fresh release of a Spiritual Grace for the gifts of the Spirit. We also focused on the start of a new Alpha Course, praying for all to stay the course. We thank God for the many who came to faith in Jesus through this work.

In February 2016 we led another week to seek God for a heart of unity and vision, all members of the prayer team led intercession services, were key to a 12 hour prayer chain that concluded with a well blessed prayer breakfast and Vision Day Gathering. The week ended with a Church Gift Day where £15,000 was raised for church fabric.

Other important initiatives have been an open heaven in our midst. The prayer walks starting on Maundy Thursday, and several other Saturdays, have brought us to a place of asking God to move in the Parish. We are feeling so encouraged in prayer as we see many new people joining the church. As a whole church we have been praying for growth and have God to thank for how that has been a sign of his love and blessing amongst us.

Mark Harrison

Puppets

Over the past year we have had varied opportunities as a team to use the puppets to glorify God including a number of appearances at Messy Church.

We were greatly encouraged to be invited to take part again in the Pentecost joint open air service in the Parish Church gardens and the Mayor's Christmas Carol Service.

Jan and I had the privilege of running a training session in puppetry with my brother's theatre company for adults with learning difficulties. They then used the skills learnt in an adaptation of the Jungle Book.

We have also run training events attended by people from a number of churches in the area. They were great opportunities for networking and fellowship as well as helping others with various aspects of developing their own puppet ministries. We also held a fun informal training evening at 3G and as a result recruited a couple of new people to the team. There have been a number of changes throughout the year with new members joining the team and others moving on.

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

Chris Peters

Church Flowers

Last year I was not as involved with the flowers as the previous year. We generally try to keep to £25 per week for flowers (from supermarket) however it is increasingly difficult to do proper arrangements for church and foyer for that amount (not including foliage). We often try to include artificial flowers in order to bulk out the arrangements.

Jennie Dix oversaw Christmas this year and did a fantastic job. Normally we spend £200 at Christmas (including the 3 boxes of oasis for the year). Jenny spent about £60 but a lot of the artificial twigs, lights and flowers were bought over the course of previous years, hence saving on costs this year. She was able to use a lot of greenery from her own garden. I've made numerous requests for foliage on Church news site but have had little response: please be in touch if you can provide some.

I have decided to take a break for now: more help with this ministry, which brings such colour to the church, would be greatly appreciated. The flowers usually take about three hours to do on a Sat morning, plus time spent sourcing flowers and greenery every week. Do please think prayerfully about helping here.

Karen Lamb

To Make Disciples

Sunday Children's Ministry

Over the past year we have sought to creatively explore biblical themes, characters and faith issues relevant to the children's lives. One highlight has been running a discipleship programme called 'Alf 2' which the children are really enjoying. They also loved performing a spontaneous puppet nativity and we have more puppet workshops coming up. We took a group of our children to a Christian 'Crazy science party' in Gateshead in the autumn which was great fun and also a joy to witness a number of them respond to a call to become a friend of Jesus. In the summer we had fun on a boat trip on the river tees and explored related stories from the Bible on the river bank.

More good news is that the numbers of children coming along has grown this year. However the Sunday teaching team has been smaller this past year and we have lost a few great helpers so we are only able to run two groups and some activities have been limited. Our prayer is to grow the team asap so we can continue to develop. A huge Thank you to the wonderful team who lead and help.

Jan Peters

Youth Church and Refresh

We have had a fantastic year at Youth Church and Refresh, seeing growth in both! It has been encouraging to see Youth Church grow, with sometimes 26 young people attending, and it has been great to see them bring friends and make them feel welcome at All Saints'. We have studied series' including; the book of Joshua, names of Jesus, and another on what do our worship songs really mean? We also invited adults from All Saints' to come and speak on themes that they were passionate about, and currently we are focusing on encouraging the gift of prophecy. A particular highlight has been leading a youth service at the 10.30am service and seeing the young people using their gifts there, as well as seeing them serve regularly.

It has been an exciting year for Refresh! We have seen many young people attending from approximately 10 different Teesside churches, and have been blessed with funding from the Rose Education Foundation. This has enabled us to invite top quality speakers, both locally and nationally, and it is exciting to see what God does when lots of young people come together! There are exciting things coming!

Kathryn Belmont

Life Groups (were Small Groups)

All Saints' Small Group ministry has been renamed "Life Groups". The name better reflects the groups' purpose that together we are exploring and deepening our faith and what it means to live as Spirit filled Christians. To acknowledge different types of groups meet in different ways but the basic purpose remains.

As group leaders we have been guided by our vision and worked to implement this in order to communicate the value of being part of a fellowship group. A good number of people joined the Indoor Picnic and Walk we hosted last summer and we hope to repeat it.

This last year we have seen some growth in people joining groups which is encouraging. Following the Alpha course two new groups have started. One daytime lead by Anne Wildsmith and Dawn Wheeldon and one evening lead by Mark and Julie Harrison.

As co-ordinators we try to support group leaders. We keep looking out for useful resource materials for them to use. We met with the MDT in January, this was helpful and encouraging. We have a group leaders and 3G meeting in the Spring and Autumn terms to share ideas, discuss, pray and encourage one another and check our compass.

David and Linda Emerton

3G

Wow!...What a year 3G has had since the last report! We've welcomed new faces, some are new to our church, some have been on the Alpha Course and some have been members of All Saints' Church for many years.

We feel 3G ticks the boxes for people who want to meet together every other week for friendship, faith building, for a new challenge, new experiences, food, fun, laughs and general mayhem all in a caring, friendly environment. New things we have shared in throughout the last 12 months include an Iranian Christian guest speaker, Daniel, who inspired everyone with his story of escape to the UK and his journey with God. We grasped the challenge of a Car Treasure Hunt, enjoyed all things Scottish on our Theme night and cried with laughter whilst experiencing a Puppet Workshop!

We promote every member ministry within 3G, exploring our gifts and skills, finding new ones and sharing them with the rest of the group. All our events have been led by members of 3G, many of whom have pushed themselves out of their "Comfort Zone" and have blessed us all enormously whilst being encouraged and empowered to run these events.

The Hirds

Church Bookshop

The bookshop sources books from the Baptist Tabernacle on a sale or return basis, rotating stock approximately two to three monthly. The stall is available after the 10.30am service and during office hours in the week. A Christmas Children's book session was popular in 2015 and will hopefully be repeated this year. We receive 10% of any sales, which covers occasional donations of books, with any profits being fed back into the Church.

It would be great to have some help with the books on a Sunday. It's a great way to get to know folk you may not have chatted to. If anyone would like to help, possibly once a month for 6 months, do speak to Caroline as it would be super.

Caroline Ryder Jones

Sozo Prayer Ministry

The Sozo team now consists of six women and three men, and all have attended the Bethel Sozo Introductory training. The funding for training has come through the Diocesan Mission Grants Fund. In addition, some on the team have benefited from attending the Advanced Sozo training.

The team has also grown spiritually through attending a monthly team meeting, a time given to reflection, on developing one another's ministry, and praying for those coming forward for Sozo. In the past year the Regional Centre for Bethel Sozo, in Bradford, has identified the Kings Church Darlington as a resource church for the Durham/Tees Valley region. The regional leaders met with our team in August 2015 to introduce themselves, inform us on the process of validation, and relay regional activity. Since that time we have progressed validation and attended some of the regional days.

As a team we have given ministry to 20 people in our All Saints' Church family. Every Sozo experience is unique, as we find the Holy Spirit revealing the need of inner healing in a specific way to all who come forward. The team is encouraged and impassioned for the ministry to grow. Once validated we will open our ministry to all in our Parish and Deanery.

Mark Harrison

To Share the Good News of Jesus

Treasure Seekers

Treasure Seekers are a group of adults with learning difficulties who live in our parish. We are “treasure seekers” because we are seeking God’s treasure by getting to know Jesus together. The Treasure Seekers team consists of Evelyn Leadbetter, Bruce Merrick, Jenny Scaife and myself. Two members of the team meet once a fortnight in the home to share the good news of Jesus. We chat, sing worship songs using percussion instruments and actions. We read and talk about stories from the Bible, do a craft connected to the story and pray. At present there are three men in the group. At Christmas some members of the choral group visited to sing carols and have a cup of tea with the residents. It was an experience we all enjoyed.

Recently we have asked those who meet for 9am morning prayer to pray for specific needs for staff and residents. The staff and residents often express appreciation for our visits. We all look forward to our visits and feel that God is really blessing this ministry.

Please continue to pray for this ministry.

Karen Snowden

Toddlers / Play and Praise

Both our busy mid - week Toddler groups and Play and Praise sessions on a Friday have continued to be very popular this year, providing lots of fun activities for the toddlers, important spiritual input for families, and time for carers to meet new friends and feel supported. One of the many encouragements for us has been the amount of opportunities we have to share faith and particularly the openness from some people to allow us to pray with them and to support them pastorally. Two of our young mum's also attended and enjoyed the Alpha course and one of the families join us regularly on a Sunday and has joined a nurture group. Over the year we have seen a number of wonderful answers to our prayers and have seen people move forward positively in their lives and be more positive about God and the church as a result. Sadly I lost Nichola Main as assistant leader at Toddlers in the summer, but have been thankful to have Nina helping for six months as part of her gap year. I have really appreciated the support of my wonderful teams this year.

Jan Peters

Schools Ministry

Jess and I are grateful that we have the opportunity to go into Egglecliffe School to lead three assemblies fortnightly. We give an encouraging message, share a bit of our faith and pray over the young people. It is exciting that Deb Hird has just been given the opportunity to go and do an assembly fortnightly too! Finally, we have started a new Christian Union called ‘The Hub’ for Y10-13s and will be launching one for Y7-9s after Easter, alongside other churches. These are an opportunity to relax at lunchtime and be encouraged in your faith at school!

Kathryn Belmont

Schools ministry has continued to provide an important opportunity to share our faith with hundreds of children in our community. This 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. I have also led assemblies at Preston primary. A big thank you to John Taylor who has recently retired from leading assemblies after many faithful years. I have also loved giving groups

of very excited children from a few local schools tours around church and answering their many great questions.

Jan Peters

Messy Church

God has blessed our Messy church again this past year and it has been a joy to meet so many lovely families who say they love coming along. Numbers vary with the average being approx 120 people. A lot of the families wouldn't otherwise have any links with a church, so it has been an important opportunity to provide spiritual input, share faith, and build relationships with the children and adults alike.

Messy church provides a next step after Toddler group/ Play and Praise for children and families to come closer in their relationship with God and with us as a church. God's presence is very evident during the event and we pray that many seeds of faith are being sown. Each month we explore a Biblical theme through lots of fun crafts and a worship time, followed by time to share tea together. We have also enjoyed social events together. On a practical level it has been a challenge due to the high level of planning/prep needed and the need for a larger team, but worth it! A huge thank you to my wonderful core team and our amazing large team who help on the day.

Jan Peters

Family Outreach Events

Camp of Champions – in July was a great success, with a good number of families from toddlers and play and praise joining the under 5's fun area when the weather allowed us to run it, and large numbers of 5-11 yr olds enjoying sports with the mission team.

Glow Party - Our Glow party in October was great fun and as always was an important opportunity to provide a safe, family fun time in a Christian setting, as an alternative to Halloween activities. It attracted over 200 people and the feedback was very positive.

Jan Peters

Choose Life (Midweek) Discipleship

Discipleship of our young people continues to be a great privilege and takes place in many different forms. Life Groups are a fun, relaxed place to come and learn more about God, meet with Him, discuss big topics, and be a community of believers who support, encourage and challenge each other. Alongside this, we established a mentoring scheme which partners a young person with an adult in the church who will commit to praying for them and supporting them in their faith. This is an ongoing process. As a youth team we meet with the young people on a one-to-one basis and in groups throughout the year to build relationships, support them in their faith, and to welcome new people.

Lots of our young people are taking part in Doulos, a TVYFC run leadership programme that equips them to be servant leaders, and challenges them to consider where God is calling them to lead. We also attended Soul Survivor last year, which is always a fantastic time of seeing the group grow in faith. It has been an amazing year where we have seen lots of young people grow, learn, serve and encounter God.

Kathryn Belmont

Choose Life (Midweek) Outreach

Going out into our community and building new relationships is a very important part of our work. One way we do this is through detached ministry at the local skate park where we hang out with young people and invite them to upcoming events. One of those events might be our weekly Youth Club where young people can have fun hanging out with friends and then hear a short story about God.

We have also partnered with other churches in the area to host a monthly Café Church in our local Costa Coffee. It is a great place for young people to hang out in a relaxed environment and hear about God while drinking coffee and listening to live music.

Camp of Champions is a big sports day camp that takes place in Preston Park once a year. We work in partnership with TVYFC to run the event. We tell young people stories of champions from the Bible during breaks between playing fun team games. Lastly, we host a weekly Girls Life Group where we hang out with young women and spend time talking about the issues and struggles they are facing in their lives.

Jessica Davis

Connect

Connect has had another wonderful year, we have seen the ministry grow both in the numbers of people attending and those from church who are offering their time and energy to serve. The monthly lunch events attract 65-70 people, most of whom now attend the short church service beforehand. We have been spoilt for entertainment with quizzes, bell ringing, choral groups, music and singing. We have enjoyed days away to the theatre and to Kiplin Hall. It has been lovely to see friendships both old and new growing.

We started a weekly coffee drop in on a Tuesday morning and this has been another source of companionship and support. Seated exercise every Tuesday continues to be well attended and enjoyed. In April I attended a conference about Ministry and Mission to older people and as a result of this have joined a steering group to help churches engage more with this age group. We benefitted greatly from a Dementia training session delivered by Steve Amos, and this is something we plan to arrange more of in the future. It continues to be a privilege and a joy to be working alongside an awesome team of people in this ministry.

Dawn Wheeldon

The Walkers

I heard recently that some people thought that The Walkers had “fallen off”. This is not the case, although we made a conscious decision last summer, to have fewer walks at the weekends (six in twelve months) whilst the shorter Wednesday walks have been very popular.

Our weekends away still have a regular following of around a dozen and we enjoy taking cottages in various locations each spring and autumn and visiting the local church for morning (or occasionally evening) service near to where we are staying. If you are new to All Saints’ and would like to join us, walks are advertised in the notice sheet and we welcome newcomers. If you would like to know more before committing yourself speak to Sandra and she will point you in the direction of one of us who can help you with more information.

Bruce Merrick

Introduction to Faith Courses

From October to December 2015 we ran an *Alpha* Course on Thursday nights in the Centre. *Alpha* is an excellent and proven discovery course that explores questions of faith through a shared meal, well-structured presentations, discussion groups and a day away on the Holy Spirit. The course attracted about 20 guests, plus an excellent team of 15, including the kitchen angels who served up really tasty suppers on beautifully arranged candlelit tables.

I have led about two dozen *Alpha* courses over the years but this was the first one where nobody dropped out before the end, though not everyone could make all the sessions due to work commitments or prearranged holidays. Most people made little steps, or great strides, of faith on the course and at least 10 have started to come regularly or occasionally to church since *Alpha* started. Some would say they are still ‘on a journey’ and that’s O. K. What, after all, is following Jesus if it’s not a journey?

John Lambert

And to Care for those in need

Pastoral Work and Home Visiting

The pastoral care team consists of 13 members from 9am and 10.30 congregations. Recently three new members joined the team. At present team members are :- Karen Snowden APA, Jayne Davies APA, Chris Vass APA, Craig Aston, Rona Aston, Jane Harmer, Karen Killick, Gill Clayton, Val Pritchard, Kathie Lambert, Dawn Wheeldon, Evelyn Leadbetter and Peter Gray. Our aim is to provide spiritual, emotional, physical and practical support for members of the congregation.

We meet once a month to pray, communicate specific needs and encourage one another. APAs meet with John Lambert on a regular basis. Prayer requests are sent immediately by text to the team and / or put on church Facebook page with the consent of the person being prayed for.

The pastoral team has links with Connect ministry to older people and with those who attend Play and Praise, enabling us to support people who are not church members. Some of us recently attended Dementia awareness training. Jayne, Chris and I are also on the Sozo team and are pleased to use this to aid pastoral care.

Please pray that God gives us wisdom, discernment and opportunity to care for His people.

Karen Snowden

Mission Giving and Support

We are happy to report that David Warren has joined us since last year which means there are now seven of us. We continue to distribute a tithe of All Saints' income which is circa £8000 each half year. More than half of this sum continues to support our Mission Partners David Stedman (A.P.F.), Hugh and Debbie Skeil (C.M.S), Carolyn Kemp (O.M.F. Diaspora Ministries) Mark and Anna Burgess (Oikos Ministries) and Mark and Gillian Newham (U.F.M.) whilst the rest goes to charitable organisations, most of whom we have a link to through church members.

We are also involved with visits of Mission Partners in co-operation with John Lambert and sometimes organise shared meals / talks when visits occur. We also link our small groups with our Mission Partners and since last year had a Skype "meet up" with the Burgess's thanks to David and Linda Emerton.

A new leaflet outlining the Mission Support Team work will be available from reception soon.

Bruce Merrick