

All Saints' Preston-on-Tees

ANNUAL REPORTS 2017

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Introduction

Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2017, the standout things for me were:

- Visit of Clare Nelson from Compassion UK leading to 35 children being sponsored
- Theology for Everyone starting in Teesside
- Sermon series in Ecclesiastes and Mark's Gospel
- Another youth house-building team in Mexico
- Gift day for REACH
- The consultation and choice of a design for the new chapel window for REACH Phase 3
- New Wine Inspire at Hollybush
- Nationally prominent speakers Miriam Swaffield and Mike Pilavachi at Refresh
- An adult baptism service in October with 5 candidates
- A clandestine visit by a potential Curate resulting in a curacy beginning summer 2018
- An excellent Puppet Christmas schools presentation
- Christmas Day community lunch

In a sense, everything done in the name of the Lord stands out in *his* eyes. So much is done to further his kingdom here and we are blessed to see signs of healthy life and growth around us week by week.

Since last year's APCM, we have had to say farewell to Doreen Allinson, Mamie Freitag, Doreen Groom, David Harding, Andrew Taylor and Aileen Wilson (who was a regular at our Connect service), each of whom have gone to be with the Lord. We give thanks to God for their lives and look forward with gospel hope to seeing them again one day in Christ's radiant presence. In life, in death, O Lord, abide with us.

And yet we grow. According to the records, in 2013, 2014 and 2015 there were four services each year where we were over 80% of our seated capacity. In 2016, there were 11 services. Last year it was 24. Average attendance at 10.30am has increased five years in a row. Attendance at 9am is stable at just over 40, and MDT is looking this year at how, under God, that might increase to 50. We give thanks for the numerical growth that God has given us and trust that this is matched by growth in discipleship and love for God. Our income increased by 17% last year, not including the immense REACH Gift Day total. God has been good to us.

As we continue into 2018, REACH is well and truly underway. Phase 1 covering the west end will be complete by the time of the APCM, and a "Phase 1½" is planned for the summer to deal with the boilers and heating throughout the church. Phase 2 (the drop-in café on the south side) is in the developed design stage and will hopefully be built next year.

Of course, as important as all this is, we must not lose sight of our primary calling to grow spiritually and reach out to our community. It would be a tragedy if we became consumed by our building vision. We must not turn it into an idol. As we journey with the Lord into 2018 and beyond, let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, love one another, love our communities and give God the glory for all he does amongst us.

John Lambert

Finance Report

As I write this, we are still tying up some loose ends for the end of year accounts before sending them off to the auditors.

I am so grateful to God for the way He provided for all our needs last year and for the team He has given me to help me as treasurer.

2017 was a year of abundance. We saw regular giving increase; standing orders and envelope scheme giving were 23% more than budgeted, meaning we could claim more Gift Aid too.

With more money received, we increased our giving to our Mission partners at home and abroad. We also increased our Parish Share to bless other churches in the Diocese. Alan Farish reminded us recently that none of the spectacular growth and blessing at Stockton Parish Church would have been sustainable without financial support from churches like ours.

We also saw an increase in income from midweek lettings of the church buildings to outside organisations. With more use comes more expenditure on the upkeep of our buildings of course, but the increase in income more than covers that.

Expenditure was over budget in some areas this year, but we believe we have spent wisely. For example, we were able to install new kitchens and bathrooms in the properties we own (558A and 558B Yarm Road) making them much more tenantable. We were without tenants in both properties for several months, but this gave us the time to upgrade them.

We also had the means to invest in mission at All Saints' such as the Alpha Course, our children's work, youth ministry, the Connect outreach, the December In Touch to every home in the parish, the Christmas Day community lunch and much more.

It has been such an exciting time with the start of the REACH project, and to see how people are so behind this and have shown it through their giving. In addition to the increase in general giving, we had a Gift Day that brought in over £80,000. We will complete phase one in 2018 and this will spur us on to continue renovating and extending God's house for his glory.

Thanks to Craig Aston who manages the church utilities, Gill Wake who banks the money every week, Margaret Vaughan who claims the Gift Aid, Jennifer Brown who helps me with the accounts and spreadsheets, and John Belmont who does the payroll and manages REACH's finances. Thank you too to the PCC who ask appropriate questions and advise me when I am floundering. Thank you too to you, the members of this church, who give so generously and pray for me as I continue to do this role.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10.

Kathie Lambert

The PCC

The PCC comprised 12 members elected from among the congregations, plus the clergy and churchwardens, and lay members of the Diocesan and Deanery Synods who represent All Saints'. The PCC are trustees of All Saints' (a registered charity) and are responsible for financial affairs, and for the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. In 2017, the year finished with a significant surplus, but the coming year will place considerably greater demands on our finances, as we move forward with the reordering of the church fabric. Other matters dealt with at the PCC during 2017 have been:

- 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;
- Monthly consideration of Safeguarding issues, which have assumed a much greater importance in our thinking, and monthly reports from the MDT;
- Attention to the maintenance need of the church and centre, and of the properties 558a and 558b.
- Oversight of the important work of the REACH group, with the evidence of phase one of the rebuild around us.

There will be some vacancies arising at the elections to be held at the APCM: please consider offering yourself for election to this important ministry, and please pray for our new PCC during the coming year.

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:

- Reviewed my own ministry, with the goal of drawing up a more focused, prioritised job description
- Studied a report by Carey Nieuwhof entitled "*8 Reasons Why Churches Don't Break the 200 Attendance Mark*"
- Updated the list of members, identifying new people to get to know and encourage to become involved
- Regularly looked at and commented on REACH plans from a strategic ministry point of view
- Decided to go with the Alpha film series rather than live speakers
- Visited 8 drop-in church cafés around County Durham to draw up a report for REACH planning
- Invited Richard Spratt to give an overview of sound amplification in worship and make recommendations for training and equipment overhaul
- Reviewed leadership of Connect in the light of Dawn Wheeldon stepping down
- Discussed ideas for accommodating numerical growth after some particularly packed Sunday mornings

I would like to express my thanks to those who serve on the MDT (Erin Bunford, Shiromi Davison, Matt Falcus, Rob Govier, Peter Gray, Sue Ireland and Donna Levin).

John Lambert

REACH

The REACH programme has been split into 4 phases, delivering one phase per year and completing the project in 2020:

Phase 1 – remodel the narthex and Lady Chapel, replace the tower boiler and glaze the front doors.

Phase 2 – renovate the existing coffee lounge and extend it to create a drop-in cafe. Open the church south wall into the cafe and install bifolding glass doors.

Phase 3 – Remodel the chancel to form a new chapel at the east end and a worship area that can be used by both of our Sunday services.

Phase 4 – extend the church on the north side to enlarge the nave and add 50 seats. Improve the phonic and thermal insulation of the windows.

A gift day was held in April and pledges of a little over £150,000 were made: a bit more than 1/3 of the estimated total project cost.

In July the committee formed a group to decide on the format of the Phase 2 cafe, this was done by visiting other church cafes in the north east and evaluating them. From the visits John Lambert produced a comprehensive report that clearly describes the preferred features of our cafe.

In July, we commissioned a Christian artist and the Banner Group to draw some designs for the artwork that will form the new east 'window' above the chapel/chancel screen of Phase 3. The designs were shown to the congregation who voted and commented on them. A clear consensus selected one design and the comments were passed to the artist so that the design can be developed further.

A faculty for Phase 1 was submitted to the DAC and approved in August. The specification for Phase 1 was then put out to tender to large building contractors mostly recommended by our architect. The quotes received were significantly higher than our architect's estimates and not acceptable. In December the specification was then put out to more, local builders.

In September the first half of a bat survey was completed with the second part due in the May/June 2018. The survey is a requirement of getting planning permission from Stockton council for phases 2 and 4. Over the year the design specifications have been developed and given to the architect along with the cafe report.

Richard Spratt

Postscript: The first phase of REACH is now in full swing. The new office, ministry room and enlarged nave doors have been completed. The front doors will be glazed later in the year and the tower boiler is going to be replaced in the summer when we will also change the radiators in the church after getting a faculty.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod meets every other month, with each parish electing representatives. The Synod aims to share good practice across parishes, support and encourage each other and plan the shape of the Deanery for the future together. We have recently welcomed the Upper Skerne area of the former Deanery of Sedgefield into Stockton Deanery. A summary of this year's meetings include:

May 2017: Met at Holy Trinity with St Mark, Fairfield, and the meeting concentrated on the Deanery Plan

July 2017: Met at Ian Ramsey C of E school, the meeting focused on youth and children's work within the Deanery, and the impact of the work of Tees Valley Youth for Christ

September 2017: Met at St John's church, Christchurch parish. The meeting included financial discussion including meeting the Diocesan Parish Giving Champion and Finance Resources Coordinator, and an update from Stockton Town Pastors.

November 2017: Met at St Mary's Norton, and main discussion was the Mission of the Deanery and how this relates to our individual parishes.

Lucy Falcus

Diocesan Synod

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2017. Items at the May meeting included approving the Diocesan Accounts and accepting a set of revised rules for Deanery Synods. Synod also studied the national church report, "Setting Gods People Free", about unleashing gifts in all God's people (particularly lay). There were also items on the Diocesan Poverty priority, with a useful input on the web of poverty.

The November meeting included interesting items on Sports Ministry, Parish Giving Scheme and Children's Council. The diocese's budget for 2018 was endorsed – this included details of the shortfall in 2018 parish share pledge that would result in the number of stipendiary posts being reduced over the next few years. The final item on the Church's response to asylum seekers and refugees was inspiring, humbling and challenging as we listened to the testimony of a teenager trafficked to this country as a child, and of modern slaves being found in towns within the Diocese. The item was hard hitting and thought provoking about what our response as Christians should be.

Margaret Vaughan

Administration

This year has felt like a time of preparation for some exciting plans God has in mind for the future.

Our church family have continued to grow, each a different manifestation of God, with so many gifts and blessings.

Our Building work has started and the various challenges that brings is being worked out on a daily basis, but it's good to be part of planning for the needs of extra people and ministries.

Also for preparation and management of our growing evolving church, is the launch of "Church Suite" a data management system which we hope will help us to be more efficient and run more effectively. It's a little bit of a steep learning curve for many of us to start with but like all things worth doing once we are au fait with it, I'm sure we will wonder how we ever managed without it.

I look forward to the challenges of what God has got in mind for next year.

Sandra Griffiths

Fabric Report and Maintenance

This was a very busy year for repair, refurbishment and replacement projects at All Saints: in particular the kitchen floor, new Centre boiler, hall dado rail and repainting of the walls at lower level. Additional lighting has been installed to the exterior of the building. In August a new lightning conductor was installed to the Church tower and upgraded to the current standards required. During the Autumn a general tidy of the site was carried out and a new section of privet hedge added to replace an old wooden fence.

It is great to have our caretaker Peter on site during the day to deal with the ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

The major expense this year has been in relation to the Church flats. The commercial tenant of the upstairs flat gave notice unexpectedly in the summer and we were amazed at Gods provision of a new commercial tenant within a few weeks when we previously we had struggled to obtain a tenant. In December we welcomed an Iranian Christian family as new tenants of the ground floor flat. Both flats had had minimal maintenance over many years and we needed to upgrade the facilities. Both kitchens were replaced, a new damp proof course was installed to the ground floor flat along with carpets, decorating and new heating.

A large part of the year has also been taken up with the Reach planning and in particular the faculty application for Phase 1 of the project which was received in August.

Another major task this year is the updating of the Health and Safety Policy for the Church and we are very grateful for the support and professionalism of Jonathan Backhouse in producing this. It is great to see the church buildings so well used at all times of the day and bookings for use of the facilities have increased significantly throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to God for all the people he brings into our buildings and the continued growth of All Saints.

Karen Killick and Martin Howard

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be regarded as one of the PCC priorities and time is made on the agenda for this at every meeting.

There have been 2 safeguarding training days at All saints' this past year covering c1 and c2 and All saints' members have also visited different venues to complete this training too. This training will be continued over the coming months and then will need to be followed up every 3 years. There has been a change of procedures for the Xplore children's ministry to help with transfer of responsibility of children from Xplore to parent at the end of the service. Children now are delivered back into church before the end of the service.

A new lock for the main hall double doors has been installed this year to help with the security of our children during all children's ministries and is working well. Safeguarding covers children, youth and vulnerable adults here at All Saints' and we are grateful to God that there have been no major issues this year within church.

Jennifer Brown

Health and Safety

Lord Atkin, in *Donoghue v Stevenson* (1932), quoted Matt 22:39, ESV "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" and stated that "you must not injure your neighbour."

Early in 2017 I took on the role of Safety and Health Consultant here at All Saints, following on from the work of Mark Harrison and Kevin Webster. I appreciated this opportunity to serve the church.

Over the last year, I have developed the new health and safety policy. I also have had the opportunity to undertake an accident investigation, reportable under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013, to organise training and to advise on several safety issues (including loft space, bell tower ladders, etc.) and fire safety concerns. In addition to fire, health and safety I have also advised on food hygiene matters.

The development of the policy and the accident investigation has been made possible by members of the church; including both churchwardens. Everyone has been supportive of my role and I look forward in 2018 to completing the risk assessments/safe systems of work and undertaking the fire risk assessment after the first stage of the REACH project.

Please feel free to discuss any related matters with me.

Jonathan Backhouse

Publicity, Communications & Website

We continue to produce a bi-monthly programme of all events, services, meetings and courses at All Saints', or relevant to its members. The purpose is always to highlight all of the great stuff which is happening and provide a handy list of dates which is easy to keep as a reference. The programme is also an opportunity to give a member of our leadership the chance to write a short message of encouragement or an update on their ministry. We also produced a glossy Community In Touch newsletter which went out all the houses in our parish ahead of Christmas.

Looking forward, we are starting to think about opportunities to support and promote the REACH project and all that it means for our church and community. After all, how often do people hear that churches are growing and need bigger buildings?

Matt Falcus

Worship God

Music and Worship at 09.00

The nine o'clock service continues to worship with a mix of traditional and new songs, from the Mission Praise collection. The Choral Group leads services once or twice per term and the other services are led from the keyboard by Janet Smith, Pamela Rushton and Lucy Falcus. Andrew Killick and Matt Falcus also play on a regular basis on guitar or violin. The worship often has a reflective or contemplative feel along with the more celebratory services such as Advent or Palm Sunday. Recently there has been an insert with some songs not included within the book added after the back page, including songs like 'Cornerstone' and 'Ten Thousand Reasons' which add variety and blessing to the worship. Songs are chosen both to complement the theme of the service and uplift the congregation in worship.

Lucy Falcus

Music and Worship at 10.30

What is 10-30 Music and Worship? It's us, God's kids, His family, showing and telling our Heavenly Dad what we think about him and listening and responding to what He thinks about us! Every week our church family meets to do this...together! Sometimes this worship is BIG with drums, guitars, voices, trumpet and keyboard, loud, happy, shouting, Spirit – stirring, declaring, no holding back, undignified, unrestrained, involving a full body workout and flag waving! "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150.

Sometimes this worship is on our knees, broken, crying, lamenting, grieving, interceding, reflecting, bowing down, submitting, yearning, longing, aching, soaking, savouring, receiving, peace-felt, heartfelt, listening, sighing, 'Being- not- doing', "Psalm 46:10a".

For music worship to happen two factors must be present... the worshippers, us!...and the One to be Worshipped, our awesome, mighty God! Both are found at 10-30 in All Saints' Church!

So, thanks to everyone involved in Music Worship ministry; leaders, singers, musicians, sound technicians and visual operators...but the biggest thanks to Yahweh, who we give our worship to and who shares Himself with us every time we worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

Deb Hird

Midweek Worship

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 annual report.

Morning Prayer (30 minutes) is usually quite formal though somewhat less so on Thursdays. It draws a handful to pray daily for the life of All Saints', our mission partners, local Christian outreach to the poor and needy, the persecuted church and the suffering world. The midweek Communion service (30 minutes) is much less formal, with an open discussion on a Bible passage - last year covered 1 John, selected Psalms and Ephesians - a short/simplified Eucharistic prayer and time for tea or coffee afterwards for those who can stay. This service attracts about 20 people from both the 9am and 10.30am congregations.

John Lambert

Choral Group

The choral group has had another busy year having sung at 18 Church services, plus 2 funerals, 4 weddings and a memorial service for a former member of the choral group.

We continue to help St John's Church, Egglecliffe, by singing at two weddings and two funerals when several members of St John's church choir join us when they are available. We also sang at St Mary's for two Long Newton weddings.

We paid a return visit to Preston Hall to sing carols during their Victorian street fair in December. Some of our group were also able to visit Oak Road to help swell the residents' voices when they had a carol service.

We are fortunate to have Ann Wade as our accompanist for rehearsals and to be able to call on Isaac Conroy to play for our services.

We meet weekly, usually at the Wilson Centre, on Friday evenings 7.30 till 9pm and would love to see anyone who would like to join us. It does not matter if you cannot read music, (roughly half our members do not) there are no auditions, and we are a friendly group. If you enjoy singing or hearing a choral group singing in harmony please join us for an evening to give it a try.

Kate Pickover

Prayer

Rob Govier and the prayer coordination team continue to promote the work of prayer at All Saints', supplementing those who meet faithfully for morning prayer, a steadfast and continuing work which should not be overlooked! The "Ablaze" monthly meeting has seen a gradual growth in numbers, and we have spent some events focused on specific needs and areas, as well as welcoming visiting representatives from Cleveland Police, "A Way Out", and other organisations. Similarly, the regular prayer breakfasts have been "themed" and have been times of fervent praying and good fellowship.

Our prayer coordination team has met less frequently in recent times, as we felt that there was little to discuss or amend, and good channels of communication already exist. Much use is made of the All Saints Facebook group for distribution of a thirty-day programme of focused prayer topics for the church, its members, and wider area. A paper copy of these topics can be obtained from Sandra Griffiths. Unfortunately, it is not possible to put these in a neat, manageable, and compact "fan-fold" pamphlet due to the range and scope of issues. However, the "prayer work" is getting done, which is our key priority!

Half-nights of prayer have been held, attracting a small but faithful band of prayer warriors. Overall, we are heartened by the continuing realisation among the church of the need to under-gird all our activities with prayer. We continue to both facilitate and encourage effective prayer within All Saints, especially so as we continue to face the challenges of growth and reordering.

Rob Govier

Puppets

Over the past year we have had varied opportunities as a team to continue to use the puppets to glorify God including regular appearances at Messy Church. In October we presented the gospel at the Glow Party using our glow in the dark puppets that light up with the use of UV lighting - they always go down well.

We have had two great opportunities of building on our links with some of the schools in the local area and helping to create new links with others. In April we invited local schools to a 1 hour presentation of the Easter story that included the puppets, upfront games and storytelling. In December we followed on with a similar presentation this time about the Christmas Story. Both were very well received.

We were also greatly encouraged to be invited back to take part in the Mayor's Christmas Carol Services again. They are attended by many local primary schools and dignitaries. It was a great opportunity to remind them of the true meaning of Christmas.

Please pray for us as we seek to develop the puppet ministry and look for new opportunities to present the Gospel.

Chris Peters

Church Flowers

The church flower arrangements cost of the order of £20 - £30 per week, though I use the church garden and my own for greenery to keep costs down. Contributions, either in cash or by giving access to our local gardens would be most welcome. I love doing the flowers and contributing in this way to the beauty of our church, both for our routine of weekly services and for the special events such as weddings or funerals.

Kathy Hutton

Welcome

Being a welcomer is a role that lasts throughout the whole service each week. As a team we work together to make sure everyone whether new to All Saints or long-standing members are supported to feel at home here. People on the Welcome team wear their badge each week whether on the door or not so that anyone who is new can identify someone who can help them.

This year the 10.30 service has seen several new families join us and the Welcome team have been busy responding to this, introducing families to the children's groups, showing them the ropes, offering refreshments and ensuring their experience at All Saints is an enjoyable one that leads them to meet with God. The 10.30 team has also been blessed with three new members this year which has been great, especially at busy times of the church year such as Christmas.

The 9 o'clock Welcome Team is smaller but works hard to support that congregation. They are a very efficient team.

Welcome is central to how our church fulfils Jesus' great commission, 'Go and make disciples of all nations'. Matthew 28 v 19. As our church building expands the team look forward to filling that space with more people seeking the welcome of God's kingdom.

Nicola Wrightson and Gillian Davison

Make Disciples

Sunday Children's Ministry

Trailblazers have been creatively exploring biblical themes, characters and faith issues relevant to the children's lives including a series on Bible heroes. One highlight was the children at communion course and acting out the Passover meal which the children engaged well with. Another special time was designing prayer cards with each child's name on and the congregation took one and promised to pray regularly for their child. Also the transition trip - taking year 6 children bowling with some of the youth. Our older children are being encouraged to contribute in worship and help lead at Engage services. Our little ones (Gems) enjoy weekly playtime followed by God time with Bible stories, craft, song time, creative prayer etc. More good news is the numbers of children has grown again and it has been a joy to welcome new families. The Sunday teaching team has grown but we still need more helpers. At present we can only run two Sunday groups and some activities have been limited but our prayer is more people will join the team as soon as possible so we can continue to develop. A huge thank you to the wonderful team who lead and help.

Jan Peters

Youth Church and Refresh

Youth Church continues to be an informal place for our young people to meet with God where they feel at home. We love to build community by having breakfast together each week whilst learning more about God and asking Him to move in our lives. We are currently studying the Alpha Course themes for our talks, and we have also covered topics like 'the I AM sayings of Jesus'. We also invited adults from the Church to come and share about their faith which was inspiring to hear. There are currently around 45 young people on our Youth Church register.

Refresh aims to bring young people from all around Teesside together under one roof to be encouraged and equipped to live their lives for Jesus. We feel that they should not have to travel far to hear inspirational speakers or be motivated in their faith so we aim to do that at Refresh! This year we welcomed some incredible speakers such as Mike Pilavachi (founder and leader of Soul Survivor) and Miriam Swaffield. We have seen God move in many ways, and we pray that this will be a great place for our young people to encounter Him.

Kathryn Belmont

Young Adults

Due to a growing number of young adults in the 18-25 age range, we felt that it was the right time to rebrand young adults in 2017. We wanted to make sure All Saints' is providing discipleship for those who have recently left the youth group, and to offer support to students who are away at University. We currently meet twice a month, usually in the first and third weeks of the month. Mint Hobo has become a meeting place for our socials and we also meet in people's homes for a deeper Bible study which is led by different members of the group. The group is still very new and we would welcome anybody within the 18-25 age range to join us!

I would like to thank Euan Gordon for his excellent leadership of the previous young adults group. This group continues to meet as a Life Group and encourage and challenge each other in their faith regularly.

Kathryn Belmont

Life Groups

"As iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27.17

The weekly Wednesday Holy Communion Group plus Seven Life Groups at All Saints have been meeting in different ways and times- mainly every two weeks. The groups are for friendship, fun, prayer, learning from God's word and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to build each other up. In a big church like All Saints a Life Group is an opportunity to get to know a smaller number of people better. As individual believers we face challenges at times. We ourselves have been greatly helped by the love, support and prayers of our present Life Group family. As Life Group coordinators we value all those who are hosting, coordinating and leading groups. Anne Wildsmith has now stood down as a Life Group leader. We are most grateful to Anne for leading various groups over the years. More information about the groups is on the Notice Board in the hall in the Church Centre. If you are not yet involved in a Life Group pray about it and if you feel it is right to progress contact us.

David and Linda Emerton

3G

Eating, drinking, walking, dancing, laughing, sharing, listening, asking, questioning, understanding, learning, growing, trying, testing, experiencing, inspiring, reflecting...all these words describe 3G sessions!

We still meet twice a month for Social and Faith building / sharing nights. We welcome anyone who wants to meet together in a relaxed environment. It's a great way of getting to know some of our church family better and to share our faith with each other.

We share our faith stories, listen to others sharing, and have fun experiencing and learning new things. So if you need an excuse to get out on a Monday evening, come along and be encouraged, it would be lovely to see you there!

Deb and Duncan Hird

Church Library

There have been a lot of changes within the library this year. Some older books have been discarded. Furthermore, some books were moved to the coffee lounge to make them more accessible.

Currently, because of the ongoing REACh project, part of the library has been packed away in boxes. All of the bible commentaries and a selection of other books including those on Discipleship and Christian Living are still available to borrow from the bookshelves in the coffee lounge. These books may be out of order, as fitting them onto the shelves was a priority. No new books have been purchased recently because of the need for reorganisation and difficulties with storage. I hope this will be rectified as the REACh work is completed.

Sue Levan

Sozo

God has powerfully and graciously continued to bless people throughout the year, using this ministry. By its very nature, as something which helps each person who chooses to use this amazingly powerful tool, it helps them work through problems; dropping weights and lies that God doesn't want them to carry, then meeting with God and learning truths that bless and encourage.

We have continued to grow in confidence as facilitators and hope that we can continue to use our skills for the benefit of others. If you would like to book a Sozo or find out more, please contact me in the church office.

Sandra Griffiths

Share the Good News of Jesus

Treasure Seekers

This is an outreach to a small group of adults with additional learning needs, who live in our parish. Two members of the team meet at their home once a month to chat, sing worship songs, listen to a Bible story, do a craft activity and pray.

Recently one or two from the group have visited the 10.30am service with one of their carers. All have said how much they enjoyed their visits and how welcome they felt.

On the team at present are; Karen Snowden, Evelyn Leadbetter and Jenny Scaife. If you want to know more please ask one of us.

It is a real privilege to visit this group and we feel really blessed by their friendship.

Karen Snowden

Toddler Group and Play & Praise

Our busy Thursday Toddler group and Play and Praise sessions on a Friday have continued to be very popular this year with approx. 60 children and 50 adults attending each session, 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 encouragements 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. 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. Two ladies also attended our Alpha course and one has started attending Sunday services as a result. Quite a lot of families who attend Messy Church are from these groups which has been encouraging as well. It has also been a privilege to welcome and resource a number of people from churches who want to start their own Play and Praise and came to get ideas. A huge thank you to my wonderful teams.

Jan Peters

Schools Ministry

I am so excited about what God is doing in Eggescliffe School. We have a great relationship with the school and are able to be there often! Rachel and I do three assemblies every other week and Deb Hird also delivers assemblies. We aim to share our faith, encourage the students and build relationships. Our weekly lunch club 'The Hub' is going very well and we have some amazing stories of God moving in the lives of the students! I am currently preparing to take 13 students on the Rebuild Mexico trip – please pray that this is a life changing time!

Kathryn Belmont

Schools ministry has continued to provide an important opportunity to share faith with hundreds of children in our community. Creative assemblies take place regularly at St Mary's and Preston primary. I have loved giving groups of excited children tours around church and answering their many great questions, as well as providing faith lessons. Highlights also have included the Puppet based Gospel presentations at Christmas and Easter to which approximately 500 children attended from 5 local schools and gave very positive feedback. It was also a joy for a team of us who recently took Play and Praise on tour to Preston school to share the theme of the lost sheep with 60 little ones.

Jan Peters

Messy Church

God has been blessing Messy Church and it has been a joy to meet so many lovely families who love coming. Along. Average numbers are 120 people. A lot of 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. Messy Church provides a next step after Toddlers / Play and Praise for 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 believe that many seeds of faith are being sown. We asked families in a survey whether Messy helps them spiritually in their faith journey and the majority said "Yes it does". Each month we explore a Biblical theme through fun crafts and a worship time, followed by time to share tea together. Socials like a ceilidh have also been a hit! On a practical level it has been a challenge due to the amount of planning/prep needed and the need for a larger team, but worth it! A huge thank you to my wonderful core team and the team who help on the day.

Jan Peters

Family Outreach

This year a lot of family outreach has taken place within Messy church/ Toddler group/ Play and Praise including socials which are great for building friendships with families. These include a family fun event with archery, bouncy castle and lots of other fun activities last September, a Ceilidh in January which had a wonderful community feel about it, summer and Christmas parties with great entertainers joining us and our Glow Party in October which was great fun with a live DJ, inflatable disco dome, lots of activities and a Gospel presentation by our very own glow in the dark puppets which was a big hit. As always it was an important opportunity to provide a safe, family fun time in a Christian setting, as an alternative to Halloween activities. It attracted about 200 people and the feedback was very positive. All the children left with 'Jesus, light of the world' goodies.

Jan Peters

Choose Life (Midweek) Discipleship

We run two different Life Groups, one for young people in Year 7-9 and one for Year 10-13. These are places where our young people can enjoy time together as a Church family, ask difficult questions, study the Bible, pray together, and go deeper in their faith. We have covered all sorts of series' including; studying different Bible characters, factors that put pressure on our life and faith, different aspects of God's character, spiritual disciplines and many more. We love this time together as we can be open, honest and encouraging.

I am pleased to say that thirteen of our young people are now on the Doulos leadership training programme. They meet monthly with young people from other Teesside churches and learn what it looks like to be servant-hearted leaders, like Jesus. The heart of Doulos is to learn through incredible

experiences, so we climb hills and eat meals together, visit new places, go on mission, make new friends, learn from inspirational leaders as well as other exciting things!

Midweek discipleship is also about meeting young people on a smaller scale, whether that is through mentoring, meeting to pray together, or discuss something they are struggling with. All of these things are encouraged!

Kathryn Belmont

Choose Life (Midweek) Outreach

We have had an exciting year of outreach, especially with the young people that attend Youth Club, and we can sense that God is really moving in their lives. Over the past year these young people from our local community have started to feel more at home at All Saints' and we have got to know them much better. Some have started asking a lot of questions about our faith and we are having some good conversations! Because of this, we started a Boys After-School Club where the young people can have deeper conversations and talk more openly about God. Very excitingly some of these young people have started attending Café Church and Refresh, so we pray that God continues to move and meet with them! During 2017 our team continued to go out to the Skate Park and show the young people that All Saints' Church loves them. We are currently praying about the future of this ministry.

As mentioned in my School's Work report, we are about to take thirteen Eggescliffe School students on the Rebuild Mexico trip. Please pray that they go with open hearts and that they experience God's love in their lives.

Kathryn Belmont

Connect Ministry

Connect is a monthly lunch club for retired people. There is a short service before lunch for those who wish to attend. Lunch is followed by an entertainment and also a weekly seated exercise class, which continues to be enjoyed by many.

2017 has been another successful year with numbers growing for both lunch and service. Many people see All Saints as their church. Many new friendships are made, the bereaved are supported and the lonely feel less isolated.

This year we visited Ormesby Hall. For some it is their only trip out in the year and it was a wonderful day. Our Christmas lunch was another highlight, not only for the food but also for the entertainment. Matthew Haworth (head of music at Eggescliffe school) and Ines Antunes, who has the most beautiful voice, performed Christmas songs.

Sadly for us Dawn has stepped down from the team to take a full time job. She will be missed and I would like to thank her for the hard work she has put in to make the club such a success. However God has blessed us with a fantastic team who have a real passion for this ministry.

Karen Snowden and Dawn Wheeldon

The Walkers

We have had a good year's walking, with more of the joint walks (Long and Short Walks overlapping) which have been a great success, both in terms of the actual walks, and in bringing together the two groups. We have also had our usual weekends away in beautiful places. Our grateful thanks are very much due to Bruce and Janet Merrick, who are stepping down from the important roles they have filled in our weekend walking history, supervising the food and cooking for us (Janet) and more recently taking on the onerous task of finding places for us to spend the weekends (Bruce). We hope they will continue to join us whenever possible.

We welcome any and all who are interested in walking in our area: we are lucky to be surrounded by God's wonderful creation, and walking is one of the best ways to appreciate this joy, and with the walking comes marvelous fellowship. Come along. The Walkers Rota is available on the church Website and on the Church Facebook Page with the leaders' phone details.

John Littlehailes

Introduction to Faith Courses

From October to December 2017 we ran an *Alpha* Course on Thursday nights in the Centre, led by our Cranmer intern Isaac Sibanda. *Alpha* is an excellent and proven discovery course that explores questions of faith through a shared meal, well-structured presentations (this year we used the outstanding *Alpha* film series – check it out on YouTube, you won't be disappointed), discussion groups and a day away on the Holy Spirit. The course attracted about a dozen guests, accompanied by an excellent, servant-hearted team.

Most of those who attended the course have popped into church at least once since it ended. We must leave the ongoing work of growth in faith to the Holy Spirit and pray that the fruit will be ongoing and abundant.

John Lambert

Care for Those in Need

Pastoral Care and Home Visiting

Part of All Saints' purpose statement is to care for those in need.

Each member of the congregation has the privilege and responsibility to play their part with regard to caring for others, both within church and in our wider community. Our pastoral team are there to extend this help by listening, praying, giving practical help and making home visits.

Currently the team consist of: Karen Snowden APA, Jayne Davies APA, Chris Vass APA, Craig Aston, Rona Aston, Jeremy Atkinson, Peter Gray, Karen Killick, Evelyn Leadbetter and Dawn Wheeldon. Gill Clayton has stepped down from the team and Jeremy has joined.

APA stands for Authorised Pastoral Assistant, which means these people have been trained by the Diocese in various aspects of pastoral care.

The APAs meet with John Lambert regularly to highlight concerns, to pray and to discuss action which needs to be taken. These concerns are brought to a monthly pastoral team meeting where we pray for the congregation and support each other.

I thank God for belonging to such a caring church and especially for the support of this dedicated, compassionate pastoral team.

Karen Snowden

Mission Giving and Support

The Mission Support Group continues to meet twice yearly to allocate the funds that are available. This year, because of increased giving to the church we have been able to increase our contributions to all our regular Mission Partners, including those sent out from All Saints, the Mains in Sunderland and Sarah Peters in Romania. We also made a contribution to the planned trip of John and Kathryn Belmont to Mexico with a group from Egglecliffe school.

Prayer support is also vital, and many of our Mission partners are also supported by one of the Life Groups. News and requests from our partners are received regularly and posted on the notice board. there is now also a folder with up to date news which is kept on the bookshelves in the coffee lounge. Do have a look at it if you are interested in what is going on! Visits from Mission partners in the coming year include Mark and Gill Newham from Mongolia, Hugh and Debbie Skeil from India and Mark Burgess from Peru.

We would welcome new members to the Mission Support Group.

Sue Levan