

All Saints' Church *Preston on Tees*

Annual Report

2014

Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting.
When they came out, they blessed the people;
and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>		
Chairman's Report		3
Treasurer's Report		3
PCC Report		4
MDT Ministry Development Team Report		5
Deanery Synod		5
Diocesan Synod		5
Administration		6
Churchwardens		6
Safeguarding		7
Health and Safety		7
Publicity, Communication and Website		7
 <i>This Church Exists to Worship God</i>		
Music and Worship at 09.00		8
Music and Worship at 10.30		8
Music and Worship at 6.30		8
Midweek Worship		9
Choral Group		9
Prayer		9
Puppets		10
Church Flowers		10
 <i>This Church Exists to Make Disciples</i>		
Children's Ministry		11
Young Church and Refresh		11
Young Adults		12
Small Groups		12
3G		12
Church Library		13
Growing Leaders		13
Sozo		13
 <i>This Church Exists to Share the Good News of Jesus</i>		
Treasure Seekers		14
Parents and Toddlers: Play and Praise		14
Assembly Ministry		15
Messy Church		15
Choose Life (Midweek)		15
Connect: Creating Community for Retired People		16
Walkers		16
Introduction to Faith Courses		16
 <i>This Church Exists to Care for Those in Need</i>		
Pastoral Work and Home Visiting		17
Careforce		17
Mission Giving and Support		18

Introduction

Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2014, the standout things for me were:

- sending Sylvia Wilson out as Priest in Charge at Saint John's Eggescliffe
- the vision weekend with Bishop Paul
- our second youth mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico
- the flourishing of our Connect ministry to retired people under new leadership
- the conversion of our previously sceptical community worker from Kirklevington Grange
- the arrival of our gap year volunteer Ashley Mix from the USA
- a successful launch for Sozo
- after several years of living beyond our means, a full year of abundant financial provision
- increased monthly attendance on Sundays (mostly but not all through Messy Church)

It was a year in which we had hoped to grow in the practice of prayer and we made a good start – but it was disrupted a bit by a prolonged external pastoral placement for our Prayer Coordinator. I think we are now back on track though and, writing this in the week of prayer and fasting, I am encouraged by the 'raising of the prayer temperature' at All Saints'. As DL Moody once said, "He who kneels the most stands the best."

2014 was a year in which we started to search for a new vision; a process that will hopefully have concluded by the time this report is published. The process itself has been an exercise in seeking the face of God. It has been good for us as a church to define what our chief goals are and how we should set about achieving them.

On a personal note, I accepted an invitation to become network leader for New Wine Teesside, (coincidentally my predecessor Alan Farish also did this). This means linking up with other likeminded leaders. In October Paul McWilliams gave a stunning talk about his experiences following a near fatal accident. This March we have Ian Parkinson at the Source and we have also booked John and Ann Coles for a training day on healing in October. The staff team are travelling to the New Wine Leaders Conference this spring and some of us are travelling to Somerset in the summer for the United Gathering. We are also, in association with New Wine, hosting a Children's Ministry Leaders' Day in June. I am sure all this will have many positive consequences for our life at All Saints'.

I am convinced that the more we share and give away resources, the more blessings the Lord will pour back in. It seems to me that this is an increasingly evident and significant strand of our DNA.

Finally; one of our members, Glatton Emerton (David's father) has gone to be with the Lord since the last APCM. He was so attentively cared for by David and Linda in the infirmity of his last years. Their commitment to his comfort, dignity and spiritual welfare were an inspiration to all of us who have elderly relatives. We look forward to seeing Glatton again in the Lord's presence one day.

John Lambert

Treasurer's Report

2014 was a healthy year for All Saints, financially. We remained very active in all areas of ministry, community interactions and structural/functional maintenance, requiring the usual degree of financial oversight from the PCC.

Our voluntary income through congregational giving (Standing orders, Envelopes and service collections) remained largely unchanged from the previous year. This is our most important income stream and dictates what we are able to accomplish for the Lord in all our ministries. Any future

progress in these ministries, in the pursuit of our vision, will need to be funded through an increase in our congregational giving.

Whilst probably one of the most unpopular topics for discussion it should remain a priority for the coming year(s). We do believe the Lord has great plans for All Saints and our obedience to His will, in terms of our personal contributions, is essential if we are to see His will realized in our community. There is so much more to accomplish for Him if we have both financial and practical resources available.

The good news is we did see an overall increase in income of approximately £4.4K, which primarily came from an increase in the hire of the Centre hall and Church facilities, as well as maximizing the new gift aid allowances on small cash donations.

Expenditure came close to budget, which was set in 2013 assuming we were to face a more severe financial climate than actually transpired. Better to be safe than sorry!

Our overall figure for the year was a surplus of £3.7K. This included expenditure from the 'Designated Maintenance fund' of almost £6K. We purchased a new boiler for 558A Yarm Road, replaced the floor covering in the Centre foyer, purchased new blinds in the hall and some much needed chairs. This effectively gave a surplus of over £9K for the general fund for the year. Indeed a very healthy result. That said it is clearly not our intention to generate surplus cash. We are to use what is given for the Lord and trust Him for our financial security. Included in that is to plan responsibly and protect our future ministries. You may recall we did have a deficit of £6K last year and measures did need to be taken to avoid any repetition.

On a personal note, these last 3 years have passed incredibly quickly for me, and this being my last year as treasurer I would like to thank all those who have made this role so enjoyable and rewarding. We do have an incredibly wonderful group of people who give so much of their time and energies to serve us all in a variety of ways, to which we all owe a debt of gratitude.

Once again thank you all for making All Saints such a vibrant and active Church, and such a joy and privilege to be part of.

Terry Doyle

PCC Report

The PCC has had a total of 15 members during this past year. It is made up of the clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of elected laity (elected at the annual parochial church meeting) and laity who are members of Durham Diocesan Synod or Stockton Deanery Synod from All Saints'. The PCC are charitable trustees of All Saints' (which is a registered Charity) and is responsible for the financial affairs and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. During the year the church finances moved back onto a good footing. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2014 have included:

- The approval of routine 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;
- Work on Safeguarding;
- Updating policies for Health and Safety within the church;
- Encouragement of the key ministry activities; Youth and Children's ministries and Messy Church.

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 Littlehales

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 youth ministry in the light of Tim Wye-Williams' departure and the proposed arrival of a YFC gap year volunteer
- agreed to run a *Journeys* Course in the autumn
- endorsed two new 10.30am service leaders and approved a training evening for service leaders
- planned and prepared the visit of Bishop Paul
- discussed and processed the data that came from Bishop Paul's visit
- assessed a proposal for a new 'dads and kids' ministry called *Who Let the Dads Out?* – no yes or no decision as yet
- brainstormed ideas and planned the January 11th Vision Service
- assessed the personal outreach programme *Try Praying* and recommended to PCC that we go ahead
- identified 11 key ministries to review throughout 2015 inviting a lead representative each time

I would like to express my thanks to those who serve on the MDT (John Belmont, Gillian Davison, Sue Ireland, Anna Levin, Chris Peters and Chris Vass. Thanks especially to Linda Emerton who stepped down after their term of service in 2014).

John Lambert

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod is a group made up of representatives from each Church of England church in our area: Stockton, Billingham and the areas surrounding; Eaglescliffe, Egglecliffe, Long Newton and the Country Parish. Over the past year we have discussed events such as 'Love Stockton' and 'try praying' and also issues surrounding our church schools with Ian Ramsey becoming an Academy and the advent of a new Church of England primary school in Wynyard. We also have overseen a deanery children's worker come into post, financed by donations from each church. We have also looked at the diocesan mission statement and how we can forward this in our area. In forthcoming meetings we will look at the deanery plan- trying to look at ways we can work together more closely and look at ways of increasing our outreach both as individual churches and together.

Lucy Falcus

Diocesan Synod Report

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2014. Items at the May meeting included approving the Diocesan Accounts and dealing with the necessary "next steps" in the reframed "women Bishops" measures prior to the July General Synod - this motion was passed with a strong majority. Bishop Paul's address reflected on the upcoming European Elections and the role of Christians to use their vote (and to use it wisely).

In November, Synod received a presentation on the Diocese's finances, an update on thinking on how the Diocese's governance structures would be streamlined, a lively interactive presentation from an

initiative supporting Churches to take the Good News into primary schools. The Diocesan vision continued to develop - that we should be "*Blessing our Communities*", with the strapline that Durham Diocese is : "*The Church of England from the Tyne to the Tees and the Dales to the Sea, blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all*". Three priority areas that all churches should be focussing on – as ways of blessing our communities – working titles for these are "growth (numerical and spiritual), children and young people, poverty (supporting those in need, getting alongside those in need).

Margaret Vaughan

Administration

To sum up administration over the last year I would like to share 2 Bible passages.

Colossians 3:17: " And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him".

Philippians 2:2: "Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose".

Thanks to every member of this church family, I think we make Him truly happy; I am certainly a joyful administrator. Working together for His Glory is an amazing privilege, with such willing, conscientious and joyful brothers and sisters. I am even more excited for what God is going to do this next year, with new members and new exciting projects, to share Gods love and follow where He is leading.

Sandra Griffiths

Church Wardens' Report

2014 has been another busy year in the life of All Saints where there seemingly is no quiet day. The church buildings are an almost constant hive of activity whether it be church events or community groups and that is wonderful to see. As ever we are immensely grateful to Sandra, the staff team and all that give of their time and resources to help All Saints function throughout the year.

Our relationship with HMP Kirklevington Grange has continued. We welcomed Gary Thompson onto the staff providing 14 hours work per week around the footprint. It has been a great blessing both to us and to Gary to be able to have him working with us. Meanwhile the prison taskforce undertook the renewal of the hall, sanding and waxing the floor as well as repainting the walls. We used some of the money left over from the roof fund to purchase new blinds and also new chairs to help run bigger events without needing to transport the nave chairs. The flooring throughout the centre was also replaced with a smart, non-slip, wipe clean covering replacing the old carpet which had certainly seen better days. We've had an increase in bookings this year which added to our own events mean it is in use most times of the week. 2015 will hopefully see us renew the decoration of the youth room, again replacing the floor and painting the walls.

In the nave itself we closed off the roof project with the architect and builders carrying out a snagging assessment and final works 1 year after last summer's work. It would be remiss to let this pass without again thanking Karen Killick and the roof committee for their stewardship of this work. We also took the opportunity early in 2014 to repaint the chancel arch to correct the area damaged by water coming through the old roof.

Looking forwards to 2015 and beyond, we now have the report from the 2014 Quinquennial Inspection of the church structure. This identifies some minor works that we will need to carry out over the forthcoming years. With a similar view on the medium term, we have started to look at the

church heating system to explore our options and look at the cost impact for the day the boiler currently located in the coffee lounge is no longer fit for purpose.

Stuart Main and Jenny Lewis

Safeguarding Report

All Saints takes this issue very seriously and it is now an item on every agenda of the PCC. I am pleased to report that there have been no major issues this year. The staff and PCC are always looking to improve our practices and have made minor changes to the way we do things in the course of the year. We have also benefited from training given by Beth Miller, the Safeguarding Advisor for Durham Diocese. By the nature of this issue it is always a pleasure to have very little to report other than continuing vigilance.

Karen Killick (Safeguarding Person at All Saints' for Children and Vulnerable Adults)

Health and Safety Report

The Housekeeping of the church is generally good. In the past year all key users of the building have been trained in achieving best practices. We now have staff members carrying out Housekeeping and Safety Audits, along with the Church Wardens. This has started well, but the program is progressing slowly.

The Audits have identified areas of the building that were in need of attention. They have led to the removal of an unsafe gas cooker, and repairs to lights in store rooms around the church. We have cleared storage areas and eased safe handling of stored equipment at height through the purchase of a six tread set of steps.

Last year we carried out evacuations of the Church Building, led by the Leaders of both services and the Church Wardens, on Sunday morning; 28th June. Minor problems arose, which did not interfere with the evacuation and the matters have been dealt with.

POL. 11.02 "Working at Heights" has been altered.

Incidents and accident reporting: Accident numbers have increased on last year, as we have had 4 reported, but minor, accidents.

It is to our credit that incidents are few and not too serious. Well done everyone.

Mark Harrison

Publicity, Communication and Website

Over the past year the small publicity and communications team has been kept busy with a number of tasks in helping promote All Saints' and its many ministries, events and activities. Most recently we have been involved in producing a range of new leaflets using a standard design. These introduce a variety of aspects of life at All Saints', from Sunday worship to groups and activities, giving, and important ministries such as Sozo and Pastoral Care. More leaflets are currently in production. Other aspects of our work involve creating logos and adverts for various groups, as well as sending out press releases to local newspapers and media when we have important news or events to talk about.

As always we have been kept busy producing In Touch magazine, and have been continually blessed by contributions from many church members. Such contributions keep the magazine going, and are an important way of keeping people in the loop on what's happening within our church, so please keep sending them in.

In response to our new church vision, we hope to facilitate outreach to our community over the coming year through various publicity materials.

Matt Falcus

Worship God

Music and Worship at 9.00am

The 9am service continues to thrive with music provided by Pamela, Janet and Lucy and we welcome the Choral group regularly too. We continue to mix hymns with more modern songs provided in mission praise. Over the next year we hope to plan more variety into the service where possible, and John Lambert is looking to create a group that can look for ways to improve the service.

Lucy Falcus

Music and Worship at 10.30am

Jeremiah 29:12 says; "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you". We've witnessed this as we praise God and call on His name as a whole church together, in song, every week. Within our times of both exuberant praise and reflective personal worship we have experienced the goodness and the love of Jesus. He has poured out His Spirit on us and released us in praise and Worship of who He is and what He has done for us. He has also challenged us to be changed by Him as we draw closer to Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 says; "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart". I feel this is the Vision (Challenge) from God for worship here at All Saints in 2015. Coming before Him with an open heart and mind and not holding back is essential in worshipping him. So too is praising Him regardless of circumstances in order to seek His face. We are called to enter into that special place, His presence, where we are His ...and He is ours.

Deb Hird

Music and Worship at 6.30pm

I am responsible for 'The Source' worship meeting which happens on the first Sunday evening of the month. John Belmont and I lead the worship bands. The structure of the meeting is pretty fluid, we don't have many (if any) plans, which gives scope for spontaneous and prophetic worship to flow, and I try and choose musicians who are comfortable playing without music and without structure. It's great when the nights are dark as we light up the church with candles which creates a great atmosphere.

Numbers of people attending the meetings are pretty low, on average we get around 30-40 people, which from a church our size I think is disappointing. I appreciate people are attracted to different

services/styles etc, but I would really love more of you lovely people to come along and worship with us, it is such a vital part of our church life. (And I'd love to hear why people don't come, please speak to me)!

Dave Benjamin

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 officially known have proved very popular across the land whilst Sunday worship is just holding its own.

At All Saints' we worship together midweek with Morning Prayer (daily), informal Holy Communion and Play and Praise (weekly), and Treasure Seekers and Lunch Club services (monthly). Then there are small groups in their various forms besides Thought for the Day slots at Seated Exercise and Youth Club as well. Most of this is covered elsewhere in this report.

Morning Prayer (30 minutes) is quite traditional using the red Common Worship Daily Prayer book though there is space for more improvised prayer as well. It draws a small handful each day. The Communion service (also 30 minutes) is much less formal, seated in a circle, with a short discussion on a Bible passage, a simple Eucharistic prayer and time for tea/coffee etc afterwards for those who can stay. This service attracts 20-25 people most weeks from both the 9am and 10.30am congregations and sometimes the Chapel feels a little overcrowded.

John Lambert

Choral Group

The choral group comprises members of the congregations of both All Saints and St. Mary's Long Newton. We enjoy singing in 3 and 4 part harmonies and in 2014 helped to lead 17 services between the two churches. This year we led the singing at the War Memorial after the service in church. We also sang at a bereavement service at Long Newton which was much appreciated by those who attended. At Christmas we also had two joint carol services with the choir from St Mary's Norton.

Our accompanist Ann Wade has unfortunately had to undergo several operations on her eyes which meant she has been unable to play for us since last summer. We have been fortunate in having Isaac Conroy, a talented sixth former from Egglecliffe School who was able to step into the breach. He has also been able to extend his talents by playing the two church organs for some of the services we have sung.

Whilst it's useful to be able to read music, fewer than half our members actually do so. We welcome church members who like to sing, so if you think you may enjoy singing in a friendly group, please come along and try it out.

Kate Pickover

Prayer

In the past year a Prayer Team has been formed with the aim of following Christ and his teaching and emphasis on prayer. Several new and exciting prayer events have taken place in the church including Ablaze which meets on the 4th Sunday evening of every month.

This has been well received: we have seen our gatherings rise to an average of 25.

We have prioritised prayer for the mission activities we are engaged in as a church: in our Ablaze events we have focussed on World Issues and the crisis in Iraq and Syria, sending support to our fellow Christians in Baghdad. We have prayed for our Locality and the Rural Churches.

The prayer team were responsible for the quarterly Prayer Breakfasts, the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, the Sunday Morning 10.00am Prayer time, the Fanfold Prayer List, and the recent Prayer and Fasting Week.

The church has changed in the past year and the atmosphere of prayer has become wonderful. The Prayer team has been Spirit led and we to thank our God for all his blessing, but we hunger for more, and seek to expand this team in 2015.

Mark Harrison

Puppets

Over the past year we have had varied opportunities as a team to use the puppets to glorify God particularly in a number of appearances in Messy Church and Engage services. The puppets also made an appearance when Bishop Paul visited the church.

We were greatly encouraged to be invited to take part in the Pentecost joint open air service in the Parish Church gardens and the Mayors Civic Christmas Carol Service. We had very positive feedback following both events.

We also had the privilege of running two training events attended by people from a number of churches in the area. They were both well attended and as well as a networking and fellowship opportunity, we were able to help those who attended with various aspects of developing their own puppet ministries.

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

Once again I have had a very enjoyable year doing the flowers. I have been blessed with the help of good friends Linda Errington, Evelyn Leadbetter and Yvonne Lowes and it makes all the difference! (an answer to some serious praying).

This year we have not increased the amount spent on flowers. We have again maintained the amount spent on Christmas flowers at £200 and a weekly limit of £25 for the rest of the year. Over the winter months the flowers might last two weeks then we are able to buy a small bunch of flowers and just tweak out and replace a few dead ones. Some weeks we use artificial or artificial interspersed with real ones to keep the costs down.

However whilst we are managing to keep the costs low we are finding it increasingly difficult to do three large arrangements on such a small budget and have resorted to getting the cheapest flowers possible from Aldi who don't always stock very good quality.

Karen Lamb

Make Disciples

Xplore Sunday Children's Ministry

Over the past year in both our Discoverers and Trailblazers groups we have sought to creatively explore biblical themes, characters and faith issues relevant to the children's lives. One highlight has been running a teaching programme exploring the Lord's Prayer which the children responded really well to, and we will soon be starting a creative discipleship course. It has been a joy for us to spend time teaching the children and watching them grow in their faith, and friendships. We also encourage them to help others so it was a special time to watch them enthusiastically helping put together shoe boxes for Romania.

On a social level we have also had fun times together with one highlight being an afternoon of adventure aboard the Endeavour ship. It has been great to welcome a number of lovely new families into our church this year.

A huge thank you to the wonderful team – Fiona, Linda, Donna, Stuart, Nichola, Stuart, Chris, Sarah, Julie, Amanda, Caroline, Carl, Michelle, Simon and Dawn. We really need a bigger team, and soon, so please pray for this.

Jan Peters

Youth Church and Refresh

It has been a great year both at Youth Church on Sunday mornings and Refresh on Sunday evenings. It has been encouraging to really see our young people grow in depth of relationship with God. Recently Sunday mornings have been focused on themes taken from the Soul Survivor New Testament in a Year which we are encouraging the young people to read.

We also feel that God is challenging us to leave more space for the young people to encounter Him, as well as learning about Him. We are devoting time to praying specifically for each young person and it has been great to see God move through that. We also had the opportunity to do a youth-led service, and it was fantastic to see that God has gifted our young people in many different ways.

Refresh has seen a year of growth and there is a real buzz when young people from across the Tees Valley come together once a month for this service! We have welcomed some amazing local and national speakers and believe that it is a really exciting place for young people to be encouraged and equipped to go out and live their lives for God!

Kathryn Belmont

Young Adults

The Young Adults group has continued to enjoy meeting as a supportive, encouraging community of people in their 20s and 30s who seek to learn more about God and get to know Him better. We alternate between meeting socially (which we feel is important for building relationships within the group) and meeting for Going Deeper evenings, where we come specifically to study the Bible, pray for each other and be challenged to live out what we have learned. This helps us to continue to grow in our faith, both individually and as a group.

In the last few months we have been exploring the book "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster. We have been looking at different spiritual disciplines, what the Bible teaches us about these disciplines, how we can implement them into our everyday life and how they can help us to grow in our faith and strengthen our relationship with God. We hope to continue on in this vein over the coming months and we would welcome any new members to the group.

Euan Gordon

Small Groups

On Sunday 1/6/14 we had a Small Groups bring and share lunch in the Church Centre which was well attended, including John and Kathie Lambert who are themselves Small Group members and to which those interested in joining a group were invited to. It was a mutually encouraging time and great that a number of families came along too. We hope to do this again this year.

In October the Small Group leaders met along with the 3G leaders to consider the different aspects of discipleship in relation to Small Groups and 3G and how these can be addressed through the groups. We found this a useful exercise which focussed us as leaders. We also looked at profiling, publicity and growing the numbers of people in groups. As a result of this, with support from MDT, we undertook a survey in early December in both morning services, in order to discover what understanding there was about Small Groups and 3G. Fellowship was seen as the most important aspect of the groups ministry by all surveyed. (Full results can now be seen on the Small Groups notice board).

A further meeting was held in December to decide on priorities for a vision plan for 2015, and preparations began for Sunday 11/1/15. On that day, as Small Group and 3G leaders we shared four short dramas to illustrate the main aspects of the groups' ministry- Looking into the Bible, Serving and Sharing, Fellowship and Fun, Prayer. Two testimonies were shared by group members followed by David sharing the leaders' vision for 2015-

- Share the value and role of Small groups and 3G in spiritual growth in the Church.
- To raise the profile of the Small Groups and 3G.
- Inform and update people about what is going on in the groups.
- Invite people to join the groups and inspire new leaders too.

We feel that we have become more of a team as Small Group leaders over the past year and hope that we can continue to build on this as we work together to implement our vision.

David and Linda Emerton

3G

3G was set up for people in the 30(ish) - upwards age bracket, it runs on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month on an alternating spiritual/social basis. Spiritually we have organised evenings including "Faith in 5" (testimonies in 5 minutes), "What's your song" (a worship evening of people's favourite songs) and an Easter Labyrinth. Socially we have had Games nights, a "Youth Club" and Bowling etc.

The purpose of the group is about building a deeper relationship with God and also with other Church members. Although 3G is headed up by Duncan and Deb Hird people are encouraged to organise and run evenings, thereby giving a whole group ownership of how things are planned and run.

During the time that the group has been running we have seen a deepening of people's faiths and an openness to discuss things in a safe environment. New members are always welcome to come along and find out more.

Duncan and Deb Hird

Library

All Saints' Church Library is situated in the Narthex; turn right as you come in the front door and go into the room on your left at the end. There you will find half a room full of shelves containing books on many varied aspects of the Christian faith - Bibles, books of Prayers, commentaries on the different books of the Bible, books on the way to live as a Christian, books about Jesus, books about the Holy Spirit, books on pastoral topics, biographies and autobiographies of many Christian people, some well-known, others not so well known but inspirational in the way they lived their lives. There is also a section of fiction books for lighter reading, some children's books and some encyclopaedic volumes providing detailed information about a myriad of biblical subjects.

All in all a great resource is available in the Library which is being added to through gifts and purchases. Many thanks to those who donated books in the past year. Do find your way to the Library and have a browse along the shelves - you never know what you may find! Instructions for borrowing a book can be found on the board near the window and behind the cabinet which holds a card catalogue of books arranged in alphabetical order of authors.

Gill Wake

Bookstall

No report was submitted.

Growing Leaders

This ministry, which supports members of our congregations in leadership roles and prepares other members for taking on important roles within the church, has not run during 2014, but will restart in September 2015.

Debbie Bunford

Sozo

The Bethel Sozo prayer ministry has been an addition to the healing and wholeness ministry of the church. Sozo helps an individual to enter into a new and fresh experience of life in God, by healing damage caused by past unwholesome encounters in life.

Over the past year our Sozo team members have had personal Sozos which has been an enabler when studying the training tools. Our team comprises four women and three men with our newest member coming from St Mary's Long Newton.

To date we have given 14 Sozos and in that time we have heard some great testimonies from those who have come for this prayer ministry.

The Sozo team has a bi-monthly meeting to plan and exchange person feelings and experiences of this ministry. We also consider its personal impact: we are dealing with strong spiritual issues so we need to pray for God's protection on our lives.

The next phase of team development is for all to be given further advanced training by Bethel and then for us to be audited. With this concluded we will be able to offer this ministry to other churches in the North East.

Sozo Prayer ministry is also helpful for children. Training tools are available which we shall explore and consider in the years to come.

Mark Harrison

Share the Good News of Jesus

Treasure Seekers

Treasure Seekers outreach was started by Sylvia Wilson and has been running for just over two years. I have taken over leading since Sylvia moved. We meet with a small group of adults with learning difficulties and their carers at their home in Oak Road. At present the Treasure Seekers team from All Saints is made up of five church members. Two people from the team visit approximately once a fortnight. We chat, sing worship songs with instruments and hand signing, read stories about Jesus, do crafts and pray a short prayer. One of the residents has visited the chairbics class and Connect lunch club in the past and has come to know many people from the congregation. At Christmas a small group from church went to sing Christmas carols. The time spent with our friends at Oak road blesses us so much and has really built up relationships between the church and the residents and staff at Oak road.

Karen Snowden

Toddlers / Play and Praise

Both our busy midweek Toddler groups and Play and Praise sessions on a Friday have continued to be very busy and 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. Over the year we have seen a number of wonderful answers to those prayers and have seen people move forward positively in their lives and be more positive about God and the church as a result. This year we have seen an increase in the number of families from Toddlers and Play and Praise linking with church through Baptisms and Messy church in particular. I have greatly appreciated the wonderful assistance of Nichola Main and the kitchen team at Toddlers, and the fantastic Play and Praise team, all of whom are a great support. A big thank you to Jennifer Burgess who is an amazing support in all areas of my ministry.

Jan Peters

Assembly Ministry

It has been a great year of assemblies at Eggescliffe Comprehensive School! Assemblies are an amazing way to share our faith with the students, pray over the school and serve the teachers wherever possible. We are also able to invite the young people to our Youth Club when we lead assemblies.

A real highlight this year was being invited to speak at the Christmas assemblies, where we were able to talk about Jesus to 1400 young people! The new Head Teacher is fantastic and very open to us sharing our faith in the school so please do pray for him!

Kathryn Belmont

Schools ministry has continued to provide a very important opportunity to share our faith with hundreds of children in our community. This past year the St Mary's school church assemblies team has included John Lambert, John Taylor and myself. We have enjoyed leading assemblies and getting to know the children better. John Taylor and I also lead assemblies at Preston Primary. I have also loved giving groups of very excited children from a few local schools tours around church and answering their many great questions. At times I have also had opportunity to take part in lessons at schools. Please pray for more school workers so that we can extend this vital schools ministry.

Jan Peters

Messy Church

God has blessed our Messy Church this past year and it has been a joy to meet so many wonderful families who say they love coming along. Approx. 120 people attend each month. 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 has now become an important part of the jigsaw, providing the next step 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 are already seeing the fruit from it which is so exciting to witness. Each month we explore a Biblical theme through lots of fun crafts and a worship time, followed by time to share tea together.

On a practical level it has been a challenge due to the high level of planning/prep needed but worth it! A huge thank you to my wonderful core team (Jennifer Burgess, Vikki Howard, Linda Errington, Evelyn Leadbetter) and our amazing large team who help on the day.

Jan Peters

Choose Life (Midweek)

We have continued to meet with a group of girls from our community every Wednesday, showing them God's love wherever possible as well as sharing our faith with them. We also have a midweek Life Group for our Churched youth, where they explore their faith on a deeper level. Alongside that, we are also involved in running Yarm Café Church, which is a non-threatening way of 'doing' Church and perfect to invite friends to.

Youth Club has a great atmosphere, and we welcome roughly half non-Christian young people, and half Christian. We spend time building relationships and sharing our faith.

We have five young people taking part in Doulos, which is a leadership training programme, and I am involved in leading that alongside a team of other local Youth Workers. We are so passionate about seeing young leaders rise up from across the Tees Valley and see them follow God's call on their lives, so we love that they can take part in this!

Finally, it has been a privilege to take young people to Soul Survivor, on mission to Mexico and Texas, be part of Camp of Champions and see them mentored by amazing members of this Church.

Kathryn Belmont

Connect

Connect 2014 has been wonderful and full of blessings. The numbers at all the events have increased, 55 – 60 people for lunch and around 40 for the church service, but more than that the building of relationships and community has become stronger. In addition to this we have had successful days away to Durham Cathedral and Locomotion. For many of the people who attend this is their only chance to have a day out. The greatest compliment given following one of the away days was that it 'was like having a day out as a big family, I felt loved, safe and supported'. This is the atmosphere we want to create that we are a family, journeying together, supporting each other and helping to pick each other up when we fall. We had a successful home day in June incorporating flower arranging, lunch, crafts and a film. Seated exercise has also seen a steady increase in numbers.

Believing in Ecclesiastes 3 that for everything there is a season, Connect will be undergoing a season of change, whilst still maintaining the current activities. It's exciting and as a team we are ready to embrace this and ultimately we trust God with everything and pray for continued blessings into 2015.

Dawn Wheeldon

The Walkers

Our walks continue with a long walk and a short walk during each month. For various reasons we have had smaller numbers on both of these during recent months, although we expect this to change as the better weather approaches. The midweek very short walks (not more than 4 miles and usually less) with refreshments at the end have been very popular and will start again by Easter.

Our weekends away are also in demand although usually from a core of the 'members'. We had a lovely property at Muker in the Autumn and the weather was kind throughout the weekend, we were also made very welcome for the Harvest Service at the Parish Church there. This year we are going back to Frosterley in March, one of our favourite places and we will have a week away in early October at Sebergham at a lovely property we used two years ago. If you fancy trying a walk but would like further information, do contact me or one of the other walkers, or try a Wednesday walk with cake at the end – you are sure to enjoy it.

Bruce Merrick.

Introduction to Faith Courses

In October and November 2014 we ran a *Journeys* Course on Thursday nights in the Youth Centre. *Journeys* is an excellent DVD course that explores questions of faith through fascinating testimonies in as low-pressure a way as it is possible to imagine. The course attracted about a dozen people, a few of whom came every week. (We also use this *Journeys* DVD in baptism preparation as a discussion starter).

In 2015 we plan to run an Alpha course from early October to mid-December. The hope is that some of our regulars at Messy Church and others contacted through the *Try Praying* mission might wish to take things a bit further. It is essential in *Alpha*, like *Journeys*, to be zero-intensity, non-directive, and big on welcome and hospitality. The material starts much further down the line of enquiry – 'Who is Jesus?' is the theme for *Alpha* in week 1, while *Journeys* begins with 'Is There a Spiritual Side to Me?' Both courses have proved their worth in helping people to find and grow in faith.

We will have to prepare the ground thoroughly in prayer and I expect we will get going on this in the spring.

John Lambert

Care for Those in Need

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care continues to be very important to All Saints' for all members of the congregation. The pastoral team of 11 church members from both 9.00am and 10.30am services seek to serve and care for those in need within the congregation. The team meet together each month to pray for those in need, to encourage one another and to thank God for all He is doing.

The APAs meet with John Lambert regularly to communicate needs for support. Support is offered through listening, prayer, home and hospital visiting and /or practical help as needed. Jayne Davies and Chris Vass join me as qualified Authorised Pastoral Assistants, having been commissioned last July 2014. Jayne has taken responsibility for listening and talking with parents and carers who bring their children to Play and Praise on Fridays. Chris is now part of the Sozo team.

Sozo prayer ministry is an extension of regular prayer ministry. This is a new ministry to All Saint's and has proved a beneficial tool to aid pastoral care.

Links are also being established with Connect, the monthly Tuesday lunch club for retired people. The aim is to support those who may not be church members and so share the good news of Jesus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the team and every member of All Saints' for their commitment to caring this year.

Karen Snowden

Careforce

Careforce was created in 2012 to provide practical support for our immediate parish as well as charitable organisations within the local area. In the past we met every two weeks to complete practical tasks during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, however due to other commitments this has not been possible and recently we have only undertaken a few tasks within the parish. In the past we have also spent a number of evenings at Teesside Blind Society, Daisy Chain and Bridge House doing painting, gardening and organising quiz nights. We have a small group of workers but are always looking for more people who can liaise with other church groups to identify areas where we could support members of our community.

We are keen to expand the role of the group so please let us know if you have skills you would like to share or if you feel you could take on some of the leadership of the group. If you know of anyone who you feel would benefit from some practical help from Careforce, then please let us know either at Church one Sunday or via the Church Office.

Martin Howard

Mission Support Group

Our members are, as last year, David Emerton, Margaret Vaughan, Kathie Lambert, Sue Levan, Pauline Taylor and Bruce Merrick.

For those who aren't aware, it is our task to give away 10% of our Church's income to Mission Partners, Christian Charities and community organisations with a Christian ethos. We get many requests each year and spend time praying and carefully look at each request before granting funding. We also arrange events for visiting Mission Partners and encourage people to keep in touch with them. We try and support organisations where there is a link through a member of our church family. Small Groups now support Mission Partners in prayer with a different Mission Partner 'twinned' with each group. We are also involved with the organisation of collecting boxes for goods for Mary Thompson Fund and Bridge House. If you would like to know more please speak to me.

Bruce Merrick