



**“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions  
with all kinds of prayers and requests”**  
*(Ephesians 6.18-20)*



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## Introduction

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I look back at 2013, the standout things for me were our wonderful youth mission trips to Tijuana and Chester, the successful launch of Messy Church, finally getting the roof sorted out (and delighting in the Lord's amazing provision), the excellent New Wine day conference we hosted and the stimulating deanery *Preparing the Ground for Growth* day which sets the agenda for this year.

The 2013 Verse of the Year "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" from Psalm 119 confirmed that All Saints' is a church that takes the Bible seriously. Andrew Killick's excellent series of articles in *In Touch*, the 150 readings plan and some popular sermon series helped keep God's word centre stage. I hope you feel you grew in your knowledge of the Lord through his word last year.

I am really excited about our renewed emphasis on prayer in 2014. The atmosphere is shifting.

The key things this coming year: another mission trip to Mexico in April, the launch of Sozo, the plan to make adult disciples through Messy Church possibly with an Alpha course in the autumn, the weekend with Bishop Paul in June, at which we will refocus our vision, and of course sending Sylvia Wilson on to Eggescliffe after five distinguished years as an ordained minister here and more beforehand as a lay member.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve the Lord here with such an able, unflappable and emotionally intelligent Associate Minister. She is highly esteemed and deeply loved at All Saints' and rightly so. There are so many qualities I could pick out but if I was only allowed to mention one it would be her tireless commitment to people; she is a faithful friend who never judges you and never gives up on you no matter how many times you mess up. This is also her most Christlike characteristic – in this I see Jesus.

People have been asking me "Who's going to replace Sylvia?" since she announced her intention to move on last April. In one sense she is irreplaceable. As football fans like to sing "One Sylvia Wilson, there's only one Sylvia Wilson!" In another sense, no one person is indispensable. The Lord knows what he is doing and he will lead us on. We send Sylvia on to Eggescliffe with gratitude to God for lending her to us, we expect great things for her and for them, and we eagerly await what he has in store for us as well.

Last but not least; four dear members; Eddy Falkous, Dennis Hart, Len Pope and Doris Ward have gone to be with the Lord since the last APCM. All were faithful Christians who gave so much to the life of our church in different ways. We miss them all, are so grateful to have known them and followed the Lord with them - and we look forward to seeing them again in glory.

*John Lambert*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Every year for All Saints is a busy year. We are an active Church with a varied portfolio of activities and ministries. Keeping a financial eye on the events, strategies and consequences this year has been, shall we say 'interesting'.

The scene was set early on in the year with an agreed deficit budget, recognising the challenge that it presented. Borne from optimism and faith in a God who provides, we believed we could have achieved an income of £183K and would spend £189K giving a manageable 'ad hoc' deficit of £6K. The challenge did not

disappoint. Whilst our expenditure was reasonably well managed and ended very close to budget, sadly our income fell short of expectations and led to a number of anxious periods of cash flow quandaries. We have clearly not been immune from the prevailing economic conditions and many have understandably had to reduce their financial support. Consequently we ended falling significantly short of our target, ending the year with an overall deficit of just over £9K.

It would be too easy to view this with some disappointment, but that would betray the Lord's provision to us. Being aware of the possibilities that we may have faced let me assure you our Lord and Saviour poured His favour on us. Many times throughout the year, at particular times of concern and uncertainty, His faithfulness shone through! One example you will be aware of; a major project requiring significant funds was completed this year.

Yes the roof! Not only did it come in under budget, but also approval was given to de-restrict the surplus, enabling us to replenish the reserves that would otherwise have been a major concern and a potential financial limitation for the coming year. There are many more examples that displayed the Lord's grace and favour to us in 2013 but brevity dictates their omission in this report. Suffice to say the Lord's favour came through the obedience of His people, that is the family of All Saints Church, and for that and on behalf of the leadership of All Saints allow me to express a heartfelt thanks to all who contributed both financially and prayerfully.

The coming year looks equally, if not more promising in terms of both challenges and opportunities to display the Lord's love to our community, so please continue to seek His will for your continued contribution to the work He has commissioned us to do.

It cannot go without saying that we 'the church' owe a debt of gratitude to those who serve the Lord by serving us, in the unconditional giving of their time and energy to lubricate the 'operational wheels' that enable All Saints to be the All Saints we know and love.

To those whom I have failed, badgered or irritated during the year in an attempt to get to grips with the finances and the communication thereof, I commend your patience and tolerance, but rest assured you will be further tested in 2014!

*Terry Doyle*

## PCC REPORT

The PCC has had a total of 15 members during this 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. Oversight of the church finances has been a major concern to the PCC during the past year. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2013 have included:

- The approval of various important formalities such as the drivers' bank and the children's activities and leaders;
- Consideration of reports from the Diocesan and Deanery Synods, the latter being of immediate importance with reorganisation of the Deanery under discussion;
- Work on the new systems for Safeguarding;
- Updating of various policies for Health and Safety within the church;
- Encouragement of the key ministry activities; Youth and Children's ministries and Messy Church.

We have had some vacancies during the past year; please consider offering yourself for service on the PCC during the coming year. Please pray for wisdom and God's guidance for the next PCC elected at this APCM.

*John Littlehailes*

### MDT (MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM) REPORT

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 welcoming at Sunday services
- did some preparation for the New Wine day in October
- got a 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday prayer service off the ground (now reshaped as *Ablaze*)
- met with Euan Gordon and helped him with Young Adults
- commissioned a survey for 9.00am service and analysed the responses
- reviewed Connect in the light of Sylvia's future departure
- gave the green light for Sozo
- identified "prayer", "sharing faith" and "being a welcoming church" as the major weaknesses to emerge from the diocesan *Preparing the Ground for Growth* consultation and started to look at ways to reinforce those areas
- agreed to invite Bishop Paul to lead our Church Weekend in June 2014

I would like to express my thanks to those who serve on the MDT (John Belmont, Gillian Davison, Linda Emerton, Sue Ireland, Anna Levin, Chris Peters and Chris Vass. Thanks especially to Rachel Peters and Sylvia Wilson who stepped down after their term of service in 2013).

*John Lambert*

### SAFEGUARDING

This year has seen a big change at national level from the old Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) system to the new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This affects the categories of people who are required to undergo a check on eligibility for work with children and vulnerable adults. It also changes the way such data is handled, avoiding unnecessary intrusiveness.

As has often been said, safeguarding is about much more than dutifully doing the paperwork to ensure compliance. Effective safeguarding is about maintaining a culture of vigilance and ensuring good practice at every level. With this in mind, the PCC is committed to reviewing safeguarding three times a year, including an annual screening for volunteers in children's work, youth work, those in contact with vulnerable adults and all members of the church drivers' bank.

Karen Killick is our Independent Person, appointed by the PCC to act on its behalf in taking action where abuse is suspected or disclosed. If ever there is *anything* relating to child protection or the protection of vulnerable adults you would like to raise with her, please do not hesitate to do so. No complaints or concerns were raised with her last year.

*John Lambert*

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The deanery synod is made up from representatives from each church in our deanery which includes Stockton, Billingham, the Country Parishes (now a single parish) and Eaglescliffe/Egglecliffe/Long Newton. We discuss issues surrounding these churches and look for ways of working together and sharing common issues and ventures such as Stockton Town Pastors.

Over the past year we have been discussing the changes surrounding the ministry in Billingham as it has become a single parish and finally appointed a clergy team. We have also been considering our own areas of the deanery and how we might work together even more closely in the future, as the number of paid clergy in the deanery reduces over time. We also have been looking at Deanery finances and mission, and through the synod have initiated the employment of a children's worker who aims to resource children's work in churches across the whole deanery.

*Lucy Falcus*

## DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

There have been two meetings in 2013 - May and November. Items at the May 2013 meeting included approving the Diocesan Accounts. Bishop Mark focussed his address on challenging us all to understand who are neighbours are how we can minister to them. He shared some startling statistics on differences in key social indicators in different parts of the Diocese. *[for more info go to <http://www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland> and type in your postcode]*. Christian Aid then spoke of their work overseas and again the stark realities of the widening imbalances in wealth in our world were highlighted. The meeting also had a major input about Church Schools and the challenges facing our church schools as the framework in which they operate changes. The Diocese reaffirmed its commitment to providing church schools.

The November 2013 synod received a presentation on the Diocese's finances, and heard from a local credit union. The 2014 priorities were then shared. These are in four areas – praying, serving, giving and growing – some to highlight include:

- Following on from the Deanery Saturdays there will be a day of workshops on different styles of prayer in each archdeaconry; and seminars on welcome;
- working with congregations to recruit 1000 members for local Credit Unions and to encourage members of congregations to offer volunteer support for them;

*Margaret Vaughan*

## ADMINISTRATION

Another year has gone by so quickly, and God's blessings keep growing. Our church is a vibrant hub of activity, with many and varied ways to worship and glorify our creator. The church calendar is always full and obviously behind the scenes, this means that administration, organisation and a small army of people are working to help the events happen.

I would like to sincerely thank EVERYONE who has contributed to the smooth running of our church, cleaners, rota members, rota compilers, coffee makers (not forgetting the very valuable skill of chatting, encouraging and listening to people) and so many more! We are always happy to welcome on board new team members, if you're not sure what your "gifts" are, have a chat and pray with me or other staff members.

My extra thanks also go to the Wardens who are such great organisers and workers, and generally lovely gentlemen.

Highlights of the last year were the roof renewal; this was quite a task not just for the roofers, but for the people who did extra cleaning, extra moving of furniture, paperwork and liaising. The "New Wine" day we had in October, when we welcomed many people from other churches to worship our great God together, just as Psalm 133vs 1 says. Also the work of the men from Kirklevington with various tasks in Church has been and continues to be a blessing, in both directions.

*Sandra Griffiths*

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Last year's wardens' report announced the intent to start the replacement of the church roof in July 2013. This was achieved and the result was an amazing testament to God's provision with the work completed successfully, to the highest standards and with a financial surplus that can be used in upcoming maintenance projects. The insulated, watertight roof is a wonderful legacy for the future generations.

Our relationship with HMP Kirklevington Grange has continued this year with their Taskforce, led by Steve Wilson, helping on various projects around the footprint of All Saints'. They were a particular blessing to us in the build up to the roof project, clearing the north side of the centre ready for the scaffolding to be erected. The feedback from the prisoners about the hospitality they receive at All Saints' has been universally popular. Thank you to all who contributed to this through meals, serving, washing up or otherwise. We intend to take the relationship forward in 2014 with regular visits from a community worker to assist with maintenance. Planned works to improve the Narthex end of church were completed this year, with the Taskforce renewing the railings, topped with gold paint which has been noted favourably by some neighbours. A new sign was mounted on the church wall to better promote our presence in the community and the door and paving were repaired.

We have also welcomed new tenants into Church House during 2013. Positive Support in Teesside, led by Dave Barras, are a community interest company that work with disabled adults to support them in independent living. They had outgrown their office in Hartlepool and are very happy to be based in here. We hope they'll be long term neighbours.

Aside from these more notable events, there is a steady stream of many and varied everyday tasks that need to happen to keep All Saints' functioning. We are greatly thankful to all those that help in this by serving All Saints' in any capacity.

Matt Falcus will step down from his post as Churchwarden at this year's APCM after three years in the role. He would like to thank the clergy, staff team, Standing Committee and PCC for their endless support for us wardens, and in keeping All Saints' ticking and focussing on advancing God's kingdom here in Eaglescliffe.

*Matt Falcus and Stuart Main*



## ROOF PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the £97,000 project to repair, insulate and rebuild the church roof started on 22 July 2013 after funding was raised earlier in the year. The church congregation generously gave £59,000 towards the project and the balance of £38,000 was raised from successful applications for grants. Grants were received from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Sir John Priestman Trust, All Churches Trust, the National Churches Trust, the Durham Diocese, the William Webster Charitable trust, the Ropner Trust, and the Goshen Trust (Tees Valley Community Trust). The work was undertaken by a local building contractor, Neil Sweeting and his team.

The church and community centre remained in use throughout the summer despite scaffolding swathing the church exterior, with extra vigilance maintained around the building and car park. To mark the successful completion of the repairs in early September, a celebration service of thanksgiving and rededication was held at All Saints on 29<sup>th</sup> September, combining the two morning congregations and attended by the builders and architect. Praise and thanks to God was given for the provision of funds and resources which enabled the works to go ahead.

*Jenny Lewis*

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report was submitted.

## PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION

The past year has primarily been about producing In Touch magazine, which covers events and stories happening within our own church and Deanery. Our small team usually plans and produces most of the content, but is always very pleased and relieved to receive articles, stories and help from those who are doing interesting things and have things to say, so please keep speaking to us about your stories! We have also had the pleasure over the past year of working with the new Communications Team at St Marys, who are much better placed to write about what is happening at that church. We are also grateful to Jan Peters for encouraging parents and children to contribute to the Xplore Column.

There were no issues of 'Community' In Touch produced last year, partly due to the costs involved. However, promoting All Saints' to our community remains a focus for the year ahead.

We have recently been involved in producing a new brochure to encourage the hiring of our Centre.

*Matt Falcus*

## WORSHIP GOD

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT 09.00 SERVICES

The 9 o' clock service continues to enjoy a variety of music led by Pamela Rushton. Janet Smith, Lucy and Matt Falcus and Andrew Killick on the violin. We continue to use the newest Mission Praise hymn books giving up a variety of hymns and more modern songs. We also enjoy the services led by the choral group which add both variety and beauty in worship.

*Lucy Falcus*

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT 10.30 SERVICES

"Sing a new song to The Lord! Everyone on this earth sing praises to The Lord, sing and praise His name" (Psalm 96:1-2) and that's what we are doing within sung worship at the 10-30 service! Over the last few years Worship Central and Soul Survivor have created amazing new songs of contemporary worship which we have introduced into our 10.30 service.

These songs complement our vast bank of other worship songs and have been helpful in encouraging the worship band and the whole congregation to higher praise of our awesome God and equally have helped us to go deeper into our intimate relationship with our loving Heavenly Father. Our desire as a team of musicians and singers remains unchanged; to worship Our God in Spirit and Truth and to ensure that our sung worship is wholly inclusive and never a hindrance to anyone who joins us for Sunday morning 10-30 worship. We are all called to serve Jesus and each other so many thanks again to all involved in the 10-30 worship team; visuals, sound, musicians, singers and worship leaders.

Let's continue to "Sing a new song to The Lord" throughout 2014!

*Debbie Hird*

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT 6.30 SERVICES

No report was submitted.

### CHORAL GROUP

The choral group continues to meet on Fridays, usually at Long Newton.

Looking back we have had a busy year with highs and lows. We sang at a joint Easter Day evensong with the choir at St Mary's Norton which was well attended.

Following this we agreed to have joint carol services at both St Mary's churches just before Christmas, which was much enjoyed by those who attended as well as those in the choirs.

In June 11 of us attended a choral workshop at Richmond School run by John Rutter which was very enjoyable. The latter half of the year was overshadowed by the acute illness and subsequent sad demise of Dee Palmer – Jones, one of our altos who is greatly missed. She gave me great encouragement and support in taking on the role of conductor two years ago and her humour and contribution to the group was immeasurable.

We sang at 23 services throughout the year at both All Saints and St Mary's, including three funerals and two weddings.

We always welcome new members, so if anyone would like to try singing in harmony please come along and give it a go.

*Kate Pickover*

## PRAYER

As the Psalmist wrote, I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. The word of God has been a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Verse of the Year 2013). God has been faithful to us at All Saints in many ways and we have a lot to be thankful for.

Truly when we pray, God works. Among the many things accomplished were Mission trips to Mexico and Chester by our young people, Completion and Celebration of the Roof Project, the launch of the Messy Church, New Wine Day Conference at All Saints' to mention a few. The Lord is good to us.

The Church continues to seek God during the week in the Chapel and the Sunday Intercessory prayers in obedience to His word to call on Him. Personal testimonies abound to the goodness of God. The Prayer Breakfast continues quarterly and we are trusting God for growth in attendance.

The launch of Ablaze Prayer replaces the prayer meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in 2014. We pray the Spirit of God sets our hearts on fire as we pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests (Verse of the Year 2014, Ephesians 6:18).

The Pray together meeting on the last Wednesday evening of the month has ceased for now. The Sunday morning Prayers (10 -10.30 am) started in January and is open to all. We ask for God's blessings on our Church just after the 9 am and before the 10.30am services. We are blessed as we come together and I urge you to come when you can.

God is at work in us and through us. As a body of Christ in this community, I pray we will be his house of prayer.

*Sola Adebeye*

## PUPPETS

Over the past year we have had varied opportunities as a team to use the puppets to glorify God including appearances in the Engage services, X:Site Teesside events and Messy Church.

However the main thing for us this last year was the Easter production "Gus' World of Adventures". Set in a theme park the 50 minute production followed Molly and Jack as they visited the various parts of the park including a circus, sea life centre and pirate ride, where they found different clues. They took the clues to the

Book of Truth who lived in the forest grotto and he used the clues to tell them about the Easter story. We performed the production twice to two packed audiences.

The puppet team currently consists of Kathie Lambert, Euan Gordon, Louis Govier, Roland Major, Gary Simmons, Jennifer Burgess, Jan Peters and myself.

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

*Chris Peters*

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Once again it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been involved with the flower arranging. We have an average spend of about £25.00 a week on the flowers and cut most of the greenery from parishioners gardens to save costs. We have further tried to reduce costs this year by interspersing the real blooms with artificials and also by doing only artificial flowers once a month. We spent £200 at Christmas but this amount has not increased for a few years now.

We are very sorry to be losing Linda Errington. Linda is very talented and has made some truly stunning arrangements for us this year. Evelyn Ledbetter and Yvonne Lowes have agreed to help with flowers once a month. This is a great help but a few more people would be very welcome.

Please consider leaving donations of cut flowers or greenery from your gardens in Church Friday afternoon or Saturday morning (9.00): this could bring a lot of variety to displays.

*Karen Lamb*

## MAKE DISCIPLES

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Over the past year a fantastic team of volunteers have continued to support me in leading our Xplore Sunday children's ministry. In both our Discoverers and Trailblazers groups we have sought to creatively explore many biblical themes, characters and faith issues relevant to the children's lives.

The teaching material we use is the Scripture Union material which appears to be working well. It has been a joy for us to spend time teaching the children and watching them grow in their faith, relationship with the Trinity, and friendships. We also seek to 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 a lot of fun together with water pistol fights in the woods, picnic/games in the park and a highlight was the autumn treasure hunt in Preston park. It is also encouraging to see that numbers of children attending groups have grown over the past year or so, and it has been great to welcome a number of lovely new families into our church.

A huge Thank you to the wonderful team – Fiona, Linda, Donna, Stuart, Nichola, Stuart, Chris, Julie, Jayne, Amanda, Joanne, Caroline and Carl. We really need a bigger team asap though so please pray for this.

*Jan Peters*

### YOUTH CHURCH AND REFRESH

Youth Church is a place where our young people can come and meet with God as well as other young people at All Saints'. We run each week of the month in a different style; the first Sunday is Service style with a worship band, speaker and response time. The second Sunday is Café Church style, with croissants, hot chocolate and an opportunity for the young people to input into the service, use their own gifts, and encourage everyone with what God is doing in their lives. The young people stay in the Engage Service on the third Sunday, and on the fourth Sunday we have a discussion week where we split into groups and enjoy getting into the Bible together.

Refresh is our monthly Tees Valley wide youth service, which we run with Yarm Methodist Church and The Vine. It is a place for young Christians from across Teesside to come together to meet with God in a really relaxed environment! We have a café, worship band led by Tanner (a YFC gap year student), and we invite an inspirational speaker each month to encourage the young people. Refresh is growing and is a really exciting service.

*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 have continued to alternate between meeting socially (which we feel is important for building relationships within the group)

and meeting for Going Deeper evenings, where we come specifically to study the Bible, pray for each other and be challenged to live out what we have learned.

In the last year we have continued to meet in people's homes, with all members of the group contributing to leading sessions. This has helped us all to continue to grow in our faith, both individually and as a group. In the last few months we have been focussing on looking deeper at the bible and going deeper with our prayer life. We hope to continue on in this vein and we would welcome any new members to the group.

*Euan Gordon*

## SMALL GROUPS

Over the last year the Families Small Group has grown and is flourishing, with a well-attended weekend away in the summer, when they had a great time together.

Young Adults under Euan Gordon's leadership has shown the way by taking a 10.30am Sunday service which was a real blessing to the congregation.

One Small group has come to an end after about fourteen years of fellowship together. Two other evening groups and one daytime group are continuing and overall we are encouraged by the positive testimonies to their value by the members, as seen on the notice board in the church centre. All the existing small groups are now linked with mission partners.

We continue to work towards the overall vision of expanding the number of groups. The Small group leaders have found the Resource Library useful and we continue to build up the stock. It is now located in the locked Bookshop Cupboard in the church centre.

We met as Small Group Leaders in the Autumn and spent some time praying for the various groups and sharing ideas and suggestions, including one of the groups taking a 10.30am Sunday service this year, so watch this space.

*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.

*Deb and Duncan Hird*

## CHURCH LIBRARY

Once again I bring to your attention the books available for you to borrow from All Saints' Church Library.

They are all on Christian subjects; some are old some are new. I have had quite a few donations from church members this year - unfortunately there is not much space available to display them - this may be able to be remedied this year. Do take advantage of this great resource - instructions for use are on the board near the window.

*Gill Wake.*

## BOOKSHOP

No report was submitted.

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

### TREASURE SEEKERS

This is a major highlight in our ministry. We love visiting the residence, telling stories, singing and making a joyful (and very loud) noise unto the Lord, doing crafts, and eating cake! Our friends are wonderfully unique and show us a very great deal of love.

It has been a great privilege to have most of the residents come to worship in All Saints and to have Colin as a regular member of the lunch club and seated exercise class. We were delighted that Colin could help with a sermon then to have he and Michael lead our 'Treasure Seekers' action song was most moving and joyful. We had a great time when we were invited to go to the Christmas party at Oak Road to watch the performances there. It was lovely too to have Colin come to our church Christmas party. We are so grateful to the staff for making us so welcome and look forward to another amazing year ahead.

*Sylvia Wilson*

### TODDLERS AND PLAY AND PRAISE

#### PARENT and TODDLER GROUPS

Both of our busy weekly Toddler group sessions have continued to be as popular as ever over this past year and provide lots of fun activities for the toddlers, as well as time for carers to chat with friends. The sessions appear to be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by those who attend.

One of the great encouragements for us has been the increased amount of opportunities to share faith and particularly the openness from some people to allow us to pray with them and to support them pastorally. Over the year we have seen a number of wonderful answers to those prayers and have seen people move forward positively in their lives and be more positive about God and the church as a result.

I have greatly appreciated the wonderful assistance of Nichola Main who has been a regular helper this past year, and a Huge Thank you also to my kitchen team, Chris Heslop and Anne Doogan who continue to do a fantastic job keeping up with the demand for refreshments, and to Sandra who gives everyone a lovely welcome in the foyer and offers prayer at times.

*Jan Peters*

#### PLAY AND PRAISE EVENT

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

We have a great time together praising God through action songs, Bible stories acted out by the puppets, instrument time, creative prayer and more! followed by time to play, chat and enjoy refreshments. Quite a number of the families who come along do not profess to be Christians and do not attend church so it has been a joy to have opportunities to share faith, as well as offering pastoral and prayer support to some people over time. Play and Praise has continued to grow (we now have approx 120-150 people attending most weeks)



and in order to keep things running well in this busy setting we have a fantastic team to whom I am very grateful.

A Huge Thank you to Fiona Spratt, Jennifer Belmont, Evelyn Leadbetter, Jennifer Burgess, Jean Shelton, Jane Waters, Jayne Davies, and Isobel Clements. In recent times we have often been short of team though so please pray for more workers.

*Jan Peters*

### **BIG TED AND ASSEMBLY MINISTRY**

The Big Ted team have had the privilege of visiting four local school nurseries monthly ( Preston, The links, St Marys, Junction farm)in rotation over the past year with a Bible themed programme including songs, puppets, bible stories, and craft hosted by Big Ted (our Church Teddy bear). Each of the schools are enthusiastic about our visits and we have loved going in.

We love the fact that a fair number of the children have already had links with All saints through toddlers/Play and Praise/ Family fun events, and this has been a great opportunity to re-connect with them once they have started school. However after a recent prayer time with the team we feel God is saying for us to take a rest from this part of the ministry in 2014. A huge thank you to the wonderful team who have been with me – Deb Hird, Linda Emerton, Evelyn Leadbetter, and Jennifer Burgess

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 AND OTHER EVENTS FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES**

**Messy Church** - After lots of anticipation our first ever Messy church took place in May last year and is now an exciting monthly event, meeting on the afternoon on a second Sunday. Each month we have had a very encouraging number of families attending (the average is approx. 150 people) and the feedback has been very positive.

It has been great to welcome new families as well as quite a number who we have had links with us over the years through the various activities we have been running for children/families. It is special for me to see how Messy church is fitting in wonderfully with the vision strategy I feel God gave me approx 8 yrs ago, providing a great opportunity to build on all the foundational work done through all kinds of events/activities both past and present. It is 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 I would like to say a huge Thank you to my wonderful core team (Jennifer Burgess, Vikki Howard, and Linda Errington) and our amazing large team who help on the day.

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

*Jan Peters*

### CHOOSE LIFE (MIDWEEK)

Life Groups are a great place for our young people to go deeper with God. We come together, play some games, and then split into smaller groups to do Bible studies, discuss issues, do creative prayer and have lots of fun! Two highlights from the past year have been doing a prophetic treasure hunt, where our young people prayed for people in the community, and also when they blessed people in Yarm with flowers! We also run a Life Group for some girls from our community.

Youth Club is a place where young people from Church and our community come together on Friday nights and have a great time! We have introduced a section in the middle of the night where we share our faith with them, and we are encouraged that the club is growing! We particularly have a large group of new Year 7's so please do pray for them!

I am excited to be doing assemblies at Egglecliffe School fortnightly! I am also able to mentor young people on Tuesday nights, as well as going to Café Church with them monthly. We are returning to Mexico very soon, and look forward to Soul Survivor in the Summer!

*Kathryn Belmont*

### CONNECT: CREATING COMMUNITY FOR RETIRED PEOPLE

This has been a very fruitful year as we have sought to share God's love with those who are retired. The lunch club goes from strength to strength as we now regularly have in excess of 30 people worshipping at the service and up to 55 at lunch. There were 64 guests at the Christmas Special. People are engaging with God in what are often new ways for them.

There are very significant challenges; our cook's team is small and the growing numbers puts an added strain on these stalwart volunteers. There is a very urgent need for kitchen volunteers to staff the dishwasher which when catering for such numbers is very hard work indeed. The oven is still a concern but there is hope for a replacement.

The exercise class continues to be very joyful. Friendships are formed and the good news of Jesus shared. Exercise makes a huge difference in the lives of our guests. We are desperately short of leaders and helpers.

We share a simple lunch together once a month but this may have to stop without volunteers. Thank you to all the team; you are amazing.

*Sylvia Wilson*

## THE WALKERS

It has been another active year for our walkers with regular walks, both short ( 4 – 6 miles ) and long ( 7- 10 miles)and sometimes a little more, a weekend away last spring at Sleights near Whitby and a week away in September, in the beautiful countryside in an area North of the lakes near Sebergham and Caldbeck. We have walked in all weathers and over various terrain, but when the sun has shone, and it has, we have been greatly blessed with some wonderful views and good fellowship and food.

This Spring we are returning to Draughton near Skipton and staying in a property that is familiar to us, having stayed here at least twice before.

Our new venture for 2014 is mid-week walks on a Wednesday which will be a maximum of 4 miles and often less and will usually have an association with food, ending up at a spot where we can partake of a scone or cake or similar, together with tea or coffee.

Bryan Moss will be leading these and we look forward to those who have not ventured out with us before giving this a try. Our walks rota is now on the church website and hard copies are available in the Narthex or adjacent to Sandra's desk in the Narthex. In March we will once again enjoy our annual meal in the Church Centre and are looking forward to getting together again with fellow walkers and their partners.

*Bruce Merrick*

## CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

### PASTORAL WORK

Pastoral care is a vital ministry of All Saint's Church. The pastoral team care for the congregation and the wider community in All Saint's parish. The team meet every month to share, pray together, encourage one another and identify areas for further training. Support is offered through listening, prayer, a home visit and/or practical help as necessary.

Jayne Davies and Chris Vass are now starting their final year, of a three year course, training to be Authorised Pastoral Assistants (APA). They will be commissioned at Durham cathedral in July 2014. I am sure they would tell you about the many ways they have grown both spiritually and in knowledge of pastoral issues during their course. I would like to give them special thanks for their commitment to the course and for the many journeys up to Durham.

The 'Pastoral Drop In' continues to run every Monday and Wednesday morning with the help of volunteers. This provides an opportunity for coffee and a chat and prayer and confidential conversation.

Pastoral care is the privilege of each member of All Saint's congregation and I thank all those who continue to care for others. Often only God sees the care that takes place on a daily basis. I want to thank everyone for their compassion, but especially the members of the pastoral team for their work 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. We generally meet every two weeks to complete practical tasks during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, however due to other commitments this has not been possible recently. We have undertaken a range of jobs within the Parish from gardening to tiling a kitchen. We have also spent a number of evenings at Teeside Blind Society, Daisychain and Bridge House doing painting, gardening and organising quiz nights.

We have a small group of regular workers but are always looking for more people who are able to spend a few hours every other week. We are keen to expand the role of the group so please let us know if you have skills you would like to share. In addition to myself, the group is being co-ordinated by Jenny Lewis, so if you feel you would like to be involved then please speak to one of us.

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

*Martin Howard*

## MISSION GIVING AND SUPPORT

The members of our group remain as last year and the six of us meet, in the main twice a year to agree on distribution of the funding to Mission Partners and charities. We meet at other times for other Mission connected purposes and sometimes for prayer. We give away 10% of the church's income and our five main foreign Mission Partners get the majority share of this, after which we endeavour to concentrate on local Christian Charities after this.

We try to give to those where we have a personal contact, often through a church member. Our Main foreign Mission Partners are O.M.F., C.M.S. U.F.M, A.P.F, and Oikos Ministries. Other examples of those we support include Open Doors, Scripture Union, Durham – Lesotho Link and Tees Valley Youth for Christ.

We have visits from our Mission Partners whenever we can, often at Sunday Services and our Mission Board in the corridor to the Centre keeps everyone informed of what is happening. Please look at this and pray for our Mission Partners. I am always happy to answer any questions in connection with our support of Mission and charities. If you would like to send a letter or Prayer to our Mission Partners, even a few words, they would be pleased to hear from us.

*Bruce Merrick*