



**All Saints' Church**  
*Preston on Tees*

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## INTRODUCTION

### Chairman's Report

Someone asked me in September 2011 how I was doing and I replied, "Great. This is the first time since my arrival here in July 2008 that I feel I am not having to manage a crisis."

Whether it was a knife-edge pastoral situation, a Noise Abatement Order from the Council, repeated website and e-mail hacking, an official complaint, vandalism, a leadership marriage breakdown or some other calamity, my first three years here all had a dash of *annus horribilis* about them.

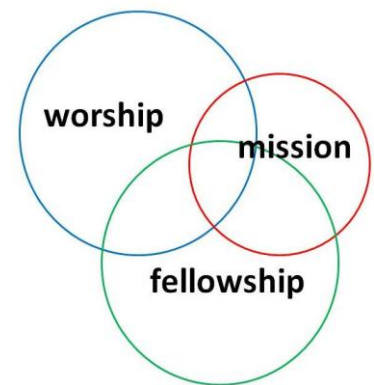
And yet, even in those times, there was nowhere on earth I would rather be. This is where God has called me. This is what I was born to do. I love this church and it is an honour to lead it. Nothing in that baptism of fire persuaded me otherwise. Nevertheless, it is really good to feel that a prolonged rocky patch is behind us and, though every week still brings many challenges, it no longer feels like a day out with the four horsemen of the Apocalypse!

The "Every Home" vision is about to enter its third year and - as is so often the case in God's economy - as we have evangelised, the church has started to grow. I pray that as a response to the sustained effort of outreach from April to July this year God will add others too. If the Holy Spirit drives our mission I am confident he will.

But church *growth* without church *health* will tend to run through the hands like water as soon as trouble arrives. If we tend first to the *health* of the church, growth usually follows.

Healthy churches get a perfect balance between three vital areas; worship, fellowship and mission. A church that is strong on worship but weak on mission and fellowship might have great services but everyone goes home straightaway afterwards and there's no concern for the outside world. Churches strong on fellowship but weak on worship and mission will be friendly and supportive but with little sense of God's empowering presence or his heart for the lost.

When I arrived here I felt the weakest area was mission, particularly our engagement with non-Christians outside the four walls of our building (see right). So the "Every Home" Vision was born. As a result, today I think the circles are more balanced.



So what now? We grow *each circle together*. Our verse for the year from Genesis 28 is about *worship*; encountering the living God. *Mission* carries on apace with the continued implementation of our vision. *Fellowship* needs to keep pace too – initiatives like the Joint APCM Service and shared lunch as well as a wide-ranging proposal before the MDT will grow and enrich our fellowship further. That each circle expands to the glory of God is my prayer for the next year.

One final note; three dearly loved members; Derek Bartram, Ann Wood and Pemma Littlehailes have died since the last APCM. We miss them and find consolation in the glorious truth that the Church is the only organization on earth that never loses a member through death.

*John Lambert*

## Treasurer's Report

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed financially to All Saints' Church during 2011. Many of you give regularly either directly through your bank or through the envelope scheme which means that we are able to claim Gift Aid on nearly all of these gifts. Last year, we received £139,000 from congregational giving which was increased to £173,000 with Gift Aid. Other income sources which this year included the Feed in Tariff from the Solar Panels gave us total income for the year of £189,000. After giving away the first 10% of our income, we gave £77,000 to the Diocese as our contribution to Diocesan Share, around £26,000 on general running costs and £59,000 on mission (including staff costs). Our total expenditure for the year was just over £180,000 meaning that we ended the year with a surplus of £8,000.

Our plans for 2012 require us to be able to generate £180,000 income, which at current levels is going to be challenge and the PCC have approved a budget for the year with a deficit of £4,000. I know that some people have already reviewed their giving and I am grateful to those of you who have responded. Please give generously throughout this coming year so we can realise all of the plans we believe God has for us as we look forward.

For more details, please see my more detailed report in the Financial Statements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me in my role as Treasurer over the last three years and I am delighted to be passing the job onto a pair of safe hands.

*John Belmont*

## Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC has a total of 18 members this year and consists of the clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of representatives of the laity elected at the annual parochial church meeting of the parish or laity who are members of Durham Diocesan Synod or Stockton Deanery Synod from All Saints'. Formally, the PCC are trustees of All Saints and are responsible for our financial affairs and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. Overseeing the church's finances has been a major part of the PCC's work during 2011. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2011 have included:

- Decisions around staffing following the resignation of Rob Pepper;
- Continuation of progress on quinquennial report actions on the condition of our church building and prioritizing the required repairs, with particular focus on church roof state;
- Retain oversight of the church's finances - approving budgets, agreeing additional requests for expenditure;
- Approval of various formal process e.g. drivers' bank and children's activities and leaders;
- Ensure we are complying with our own policies particularly Health and Safety Procedures;
- Provide encouragement and oversight of key ministry activities;
- Received reports from Deanery Synod on developments within the Deanery.

Please pray for us. We really appreciate your support. The PCC in 2011 did have a few vacancies - please consider if you could offer yourself to serve on the PCC in 2012.

*Margaret Vaughan*

### Ministry Development Team (MDT)

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

Last year the MDT:

- organized two open-to-all prayer evenings for the "Every Home" Vision
- asked our worship leaders for their thoughts on the current state of worship ministry at All Saints' and took action accordingly
- agreed events like Springboard and the John Archer evening for our "Every Home" Vision
- set in place structures and organisation for Springboard
- evaluated and recommended that a monthly Youth Service on Sunday evenings go ahead
- discussed and agreed priorities for children's ministry in the light of Julia Powell's departure
- conducted an exercise to identify which of our ministries have momentum behind them and which are running out of steam
- gave consideration to a new proposal for a ministry designed to build fellowship throughout the church

We will pursue these last two bullet points in the months to come. I would like to express my thanks to all who serve on the MDT with me (Sola Adeboye, Linda Emerton, John Littlehailes, Chris Peters and Sylvia Wilson). It's a great team to work with.

*John Lambert*

### Deanery Synod

The first Deanery Synod after the Parish's AGMs was held in May at St Paul's Newtown. This meeting received presentations from Rev David Osman and Fran Wood on the different aspects of women bishops. Fran and David were part of a team set up by the Diocese to brief Deanery Synods on this matter before the key Diocesan Synod vote. The case for and against women bishops and the other issues surrounding this topic were explained well and at the end of meeting attendees were asked to show where their own views lay by use of "post-it's" on various sliding scales. No vote was taken as this was a Diocesan Synod voting matter.

Most meetings during the year received updates on the pastoral reorganisation occurring in Billingham and the surrounding parishes following the resignation of Rev Stephen Little and retirement of Canon Richard Smith. Towards the end of the year a scheme has been presented to the parishes directly involved and this scheme is currently in consultation. As in previous years Synod welcomed various guest speakers – the talk by Stockton Town Pastors at the October meeting was particular inspiring and thought provoking.

Oversight of Deanery parish share payments remained a regular agenda item - both in providing updates but also in discussion on how the share should be allocated in 2012. Looking ahead into 2012 the Deanery Plan will continue to be rolled out and developed further with groups of parishes coming together to explore closer working. The following members of the congregation sit on Deanery Synod – Gill Clayton, Lucy Falcus, Bruce Merrick, Janet Atkinson and Margaret Vaughan (+ clergy).

*Margaret Vaughan*

## Diocesan Synod

The May 2011 meeting engaged with the mission-based "Fresh Expressions" project, which aims to reach non-church people in our changing culture, and with the equally vital topic of giving, which is a diocesan priority, and should be part of every Christian's thinking. Sadly the parish share contributions across the Diocese had gone down from over 90% of the amount requested in 2006 to approx 84% in 2010. The share request for 2012 was not rising, and the hope was that deaneries would do their best to ensure payment in full. In September the main item was the legislation concerning women in the episcopate, the principle having been previously settled. All three "houses", i.e. bishops, clergy and laity, voted in favour, as they have in all but two dioceses in England. An amendment seeking to alter proposed arrangements for alternative oversight of a parish which declares itself unable to accept the change was defeated.

In November Bishop Mark led on past and new priorities for the diocese. Non-standard timings for church services and activities have been helping to bring in new people. Lay ministry will need increase in the light of lower clergy availability. In terms of giving, each parish will be encouraged to develop its own strategy, in addition to diocesan-wide discussions on parish share. Bishop Justin plans to launch a prayer and spirituality programme.

*Janet Atkinson*

## Administration

This year has certainly been a year of adjustment (challenges and great blessings) for many, in administration, after Rob Pepper moved on to new things.

Mid-week activities and visitors are still wonderful and getting busier (our building is bursting at the seams at times). We are still greeting new and not-so-new visitors and sharing the love of Jesus with them. Coffee drop-in has been such a blessing for so many people, where troubles can be shared and loneliness disappears. Toddler groups are wonderful, and Play and Praise is growing so quickly Jan would like stretchy walls. Add to that the wonderful Tuesday Lunch visitors and helpers, and the rest of the Connect programme; Flame; Brownies, Guides and Rainbows; and not forgetting the amazing Youth programme which has run a very successful Youth Alpha this year, to name but a few. None of this could happen without an army of volunteers who do so many things, and there are so many people to thank, who make life much easier. The staff team including John and Sylvia who support and encourage, the wardens and assistants who also work so hard, the notice sheet team who take strange scribbles and make them legible; John Belmont who has done an extraordinary job of treasurer and had such patience; Wendy Sheffield, who prepares the visuals every week.

Also those people who have helped to compile the rotas and those on the rotas; those who clean and do the mundane jobs every day.

*Sandra Griffiths*

## Churchwardens' Report

The past year has seen a number of significant events at All Saints' Church, and as Churchwardens we have always sought to seek God's will and pursue the best interests for our clergy, staff, congregation, church buildings, and property.

With Rob Pepper moving on from the role of Church Operations Manager, a number of roles and responsibilities had to be delegated to members of staff, the clergy and us wardens. Whilst this has been challenging at times, we hope that church life has continued to run as efficiently as possible, and we extend our thanks for the support of the PCC, clergy, staff and volunteers who all strive to make All Saints' the fantastic place of worship that it is.

Our Archdeacon, the Venerable Nick Barker, made his 5-yearly visitation to us in September. This is to ensure all of our records are being kept up-to-date and safe, that our valuables are kept secure, that our buildings are in good condition, and that all insurance and policies are in place. This was naturally a very busy and important time for us, but the visit went well, and the Archdeacon was satisfied that all was in order.

Over the past year we have, with the approval of the PCC and Diocese, replaced our nave lights (which had become unreliable) with energy-efficient LED units.

We have also replaced taps in all toilets. We recognise these are not of the desired quality and are seeking with the installer to rectify this. The aim was to have taps that cannot be left running, as this happened frequently.

Recent exploratory work carried out on the drains under the car park has revealed some urgent problems which we are in the process of resolving.

After many years of patching up our 100-year-old roof, we have also launched the Raise The Roof project, which aims to completely replace it and add a layer of insulation. This is not a cheap task, and we were thrilled at the generous response to the gift day held in January, as well as the overwhelming support for the project which we hope will bless future congregations for another 100 years. We will be setting up a committee to oversee this project, and work with the Diocese Architect as we go through the planning and construction periods.

In all we do our aim and prayer is that we might support John, Sylvia and the Staff team, and ensure that our church buildings are well looked after to enable His Kingdom to grow in this place.

*Karen Killick and Matt Falcus (Churchwardens)*

## **Publicity and Communication**

The group continues to mainly be involved in producing the In Touch magazine which aims to showcase the variety of human interest stories and news articles surrounding All Saints' Church and its congregation, as well as that of St. Mary's Long Newton. The team is also involved in producing the glossy, colour Community *In Touch* brochures a few times per year which are given out to the houses in our parish.

The group is quite limited in terms of manpower, with three full-time members. It is my aim to increase this by adding more members with skills in writing, proofreading, art and multimedia production in order to strengthen its output – particularly as we have so many events planned this year in which we can engage with our community, which Publicity and Communications can help with.

*Matt Falcus*

## WORSHIP GOD

### Music and worship 09:00

Worship at 9am continues to be led by Pamela Rushton, Janet Smith, and Lucy and Matt Falcus with help from Sue Jennings and Andrew Killick. We have also welcomed back Kathy Beaumont as a regular worship leader which is wonderful. We are enjoying worshipping together and learning new songs with the services containing a blend of traditional hymns and more modern worship songs. Worship is such an important part of life - illustrated in 2 Chronicles 20 when King Jehoshaphat appointed worshipers to lead the people into battle. The vision for worship at 9am service is to be uplifting, joyful and pleasing to our awesome God.

It has been wonderful this year to have Sue singing and Andrew playing violin regularly, and if anyone wants to have a go at joining the band on an instrument or singing it would be great to hear from you!

*Lucy Falcus*

### Music and worship 10:30

**W - WELCOME** to the worship band to a new drummer and vocalist!

**O - OVERWHELMED** by the faithfulness of God to welcome us into His presence and to meet with us every time we come together to worship Him and for providing us with the resources we need to facilitate sung worship at All Saint's.

**R – REVIVAL, RENEWAL and RESTORATION** of relationships with God that have been seen within worship at the 10-30 service.

**S - SOUNDSYSTEM**, now a work in progress so it further 'enhances' sung worship.

**H - HUGE** privilege being involved in this ministry, to be led by God in worship so as to be helpful to encourage others to do the same.

**I - IMPOSSIBLE** to achieve Spirit led, God ordained worship... without God's amazing grace and persistence, and without EVERYONE involved in the Worship Ministry Team's tireless commitment and passion for worshipping our most Awesome God! (Musicians, singers, visuals and sound - desk people)

**P – PRAYER and PRAISE** ...we practice on a Thursday eve and pray for everyone at the service on Sunday...And every week God 'delivers' answers to prayer, His way, within Our worship to Him! Praise You God 'cause there's no one like You!(2 Sam 7 : 22)

*Deb Hird*



### Music and worship 18:30

Another great year of worship at All Saints, which I love being part of. My main involvement is with the 6:30pm services where John Belmont and I lead the worship and in particular the monthly 'The Source' worship meeting which I lead.

We created 'The Source' to be a non-structured and free way to worship and meet with God. With that in kind we don't really plan anything, there is no set sermon or order of service; we just turn up and see what happens!! As a band we don't really use music, I love this as it encourages us not to be distracted, and allows us to freely express ourselves with our instruments. I really like the Autumn/Winter months as the dark nights mean we can light the church with candles, which makes for a beautiful ambience. Attendance to these meetings has been great, and people from many different churches in Teesside have been coming.

I would like to thank our little team of worship servants, it is a pleasure to know and play with you. We have a fantastic team that Debbie and I love to work with, and are constantly looking for fresh talent to bolster our group.

Please come and experience the 6:30pm service, there is life after Sunday mornings!!  
God bless.

*David Benjamin*

### Choral Group

Since last year's report we have welcomed new members and have thus grown in number such that we can no longer fit into the library and have had to move into the nave of the Church for our practices. That is good news. But a shadow came over us in August with the death of Deirdre Shaw. She had led us, not only musically but also spiritually and pastorally, for a long time – latterly very bravely notwithstanding her illness. It was good that we were able to lead the singing at her funeral in a packed St. Mary's Church.

Kathy Beaumont stepped into the breach and guided us musically and with great panache through the autumn term. Kate Pickover then generously came forward to take over – generously because she much prefers singing to directing. We are very grateful to both of them.

We are reviewing our singing of the liturgical parts of the Communion service. Do we continue with the hymn-tune version? Do we use different settings from time to time? Do we settle on just one setting? These are the questions we are pondering and asking people's views on.

Finally for those who like statistics, during the year ending 29th February 2012 we have sung at 8 Communion services, 1 Service of the Word, 1 Evensong, 1 Bereavement service, 2 Carol services, 1 Christian Unity service, 1 Flower festival, 2 weddings and 2 funerals.

*Brain Wake*

### Prayer

The Lord is good and his love endures forever. I thank God for his faithfulness to us. He never fails.

We have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth who will guide us into all truth. When we pray we are empowered by the Spirit of God to pray according to the will of our Father. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness, James 5:16.

The prayer breakfast continues to hold once a term, a time of fellowship and prayer for the church activities, ministries, our lives and nations. God answers prayers. We have the assurance that Jesus, our High priest intercedes for us before the throne of God. The Holy Spirit guides us as we agree with the will of God for his Church. Be encouraged as we come together, one will chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight. It is neither by our might nor by our power, but all by His Spirit. The verse for 2012 (Genesis 28:16-17) which I hope we have all received at the beginning of the year, came out from one of the evening Prayer meetings. Let us be aware and be fervent in prayer, "Surely the Lord is in this place, this is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven".

*Sola Adeboye*

### **Puppet Team**

Over the past year the puppet team has continued to take part in services at All Saints and other events including The Glow Party. We also performed our family show "The Voyage of Discovery" at an outreach event in Osmotherly Church.

In the summer a team went to New Wine to help in Pebbles with the 3-4year olds. We performed a daily routine helping to reinforce the theme and story for the day. This, sadly, was our last time at New Wine after attending and helping for a number of years.

In the last year God has led us into a new area and that is providing training, advice and help to other churches who have either just started up their own puppet team or who are thinking about doing so. We have held two well attended training/networking events and will be organising further events in the future.

Please continue to pray for us as a team as we serve God in this ministry.

*Chris Peters*

### **Flowers**

This year has been a very satisfactory one. Each week Karen Lamb and I have been able to decorate the church with attractive flower arrangements, usually at very little cost. At major festivals we were helped by Jane Harmer, Jean Shelton and Sylvia Renshaw. For the second year running we did a flower workshop at the "Home and Away" event and in addition we twice taught the children of the church.

At the Harrogate Flower Shows Karen, Jean and I did some in-service training learning all we could from the NAFA\* lectures. One lecturer was the lady who made Kate Middleton's bridal bouquet – do you remember sweet williams and lily-of-the-valley? She urged us to use locally-grown flowers and to grow our own. Some of us told her that we were already doing this to a large extent, which pleased her greatly.

So thank you all you gardeners and allotment holders who gladly let me raid your plots. Thank you also to Maureen and Alan Stockley who so lovingly tend the church garden, which provides us with so much greenery and flowers. Karen and I could not manage without your help.

*Rosemary Doherty*

\* National Association of Flower Arrangers.

## MAKE DISCIPLES

### Just Believe

The past year has seen big changes in our Sunday children's ministry. Julia Taylor-Powell resigned from her position as Sunday co-ordinator in the summer, and since the autumn the groups have been led by volunteers from the congregation. The following is a brief summary of what has been happening in the various groups:-

Crèche is now well established in the library, caring for 0-3 yr olds during our 10.30am service, except for Engage service week when all the under 5's meet together for a fun worship and Bible story time hosted by Big Ted. In crèche we provide toys, books and singing with instruments when appropriate, providing a secure and fun introduction to church for the children. Attendance varies from 1 – 7 on any week, and we have 8 children on the registrar. Crèche is led by Fiona Spratt, Sola Adeboye, and Linda Emerton with assistance once a month from Dami Adeboye.

The 'Orange' group is for children of nursery and reception class age. It is led by Stuart Main, Chris and Jan Peters, and Julie Harrison. The Scripture Union 'Bubbles' program is used for the teaching, which enables the children to develop their faith and understanding of The Bible in a fun and playful way. Topics have included starting the New Year looking at how God is with us from year to year, meeting Old Testament kings, Hezekiah and Josiah, finding out about Jesus; how he is a friend to all of us, how amazing he is and how forgiving he is. The children enjoy re-enacting bible stories, craft or art activities, action songs with instruments and dancing and sometimes we even get a visit from our puppet friends! In the two months so far this year we've had 16 children attending at an average of 6 per week. The children really seem to enjoy the sessions. They are very attentive, knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and it is wonderful to see them remembering the themes and stories from week to week and growing in their faith and love of the Bible.

The Red and Blue group (school yrs 1 – 6) have joined together under the leadership of Stuart and Donna Levin. Other leaders this past year have included Julie Harrison, Steve Wilkes, Carol and Cerian Bridge, Alice Griffiths and Jayne Davies. The children have been following a fun packed 10 week programme called 'The Amazing adventure'. They have been discovering how they can have an amazing adventure following Jesus in their own lives, as well as looking at the amazing journey and adventure of various characters in the Bible. Fun activities enjoyed by the children include Drama, games, craft, memory verses, action songs, storytelling and more! Since January 46 children have attended this older group at an average of 18 children per week. It is great to see the children growing in their faith, experiencing God in their lives and building friendships together.

In this year of transition please pray for all the children who come along, for their leaders, and for wisdom for the way ahead and current plans to employ another Children's worker in 2013.

*Jan Peters*

### Youth Church

It has been such a privilege to meet with our young people this year to worship God, learn about Him, and see them move on in their relationship with Him. We have studied a wide range of themes, and have also had the great opportunity to welcome in outside speakers at different points throughout the year. We have put a real focus on encouraging our young people to lead, and have

been able to give them various opportunities each month to do this. Some have preached, led services, planned refreshments and decor, been involved in worship, led games and interviews, and done the visuals. It has also been amazing for them to lead two main church services and most young people have been involved in these services.

This year also saw the introduction of our evening Youth Service. We believe this has so much potential and we are working with other local youth workers to make it happen. We want it to be an encouraging place where young people from our local area can come together to worship God united with others who are a similar age to them. Please pray for this as we go forward!

*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 alternated meeting socially (which we feel is important for building relationships within the group) and meeting for Going Deeper evenings, where we come specifically to study the Bible, pray for each other and be challenged to live out what we have learned. Over the past year we have met more within people's homes, and most members of the group have contributed to leading sessions. It does however feel that Young Adults is entering a new season, and I am very pleased to say that Hannah Gordon has agreed to take over the leading of this group. Hannah has already coordinated a vision meeting for us, and is in the process of compiling ideas and praying about where God is leading us. There may be some changes to come in the near future, and it feels like a very exciting time.

*Kathryn Belmont*

### **Small Groups**

We have had responsibility for co-ordinating Home groups since November 2011. The number of home groups has reduced over the past year or so to one daytime group and two evening groups at present.

Together with John Lambert we have a vision to encourage the development of more groups and to explore different ways of running them e.g. café style etc.

We agreed together to change the name from Home groups to Small groups as this gives greater possibilities. We hope that we can increase awareness of the benefits of being part of a small group. We see our role as enabling, encouraging and supporting small group leaders as much as we can. One way we can do this is to reduce preparation time for leaders through provision of resource materials.

*David and Linda Emerton*

### **Library**

The number of books held in the Library is about the same as last year - in the region of 1700. This year has seen a donation of a large number of Christian novels for easy reading. More donations have been made which have not yet been put into stock. The number of borrowers is steady and mainly consists of those preparing sermons. Many thanks to Vicki who helped in checking the stock

to see whether there are many books missing - these number a very few. We also removed multiple copies of a good number of books in order to compensate for the loss of one stack of shelves, given up to the children's work. If you find books expensive to buy these days have a look in the Church Library; there is a good selection to go at, for free!

*Gill Wake*

### **Bookshop**

The Church Book Stall has run throughout the year. Books are selected on a sale or return basis from the Baptist Tabernacle Book Shop and are changed quarterly. Books can also be ordered on request. During 2011, the Book Stall has been made available after most Sunday morning services - this has been made possible by a small group of volunteers. The Book Stall has provided an easy route for congregation members to buy books that have been recommended for general study e.g. Lent Books.

### **Growing Leaders Course**

The Growing Leaders course is currently running its third cohort. June 2011 saw 13 people complete the course and a further 12 people joined us in September.

Based on the greatest book ever written on leadership 'The Bible', the Growing Leaders course runs over 9 months - 7 evening sessions plus 2 all day sessions.

In the 1st term we explored why leadership matters, what is leadership, what is different about Christian leadership and examine our own leadership styles and its impact on others and why it is important to ensure our identity is rooted in our relationship with God, finally finishing the term with clarification of our calling.

The course starts the new year by looking at vision and how we determine where God is leading us. In February we looked at how we can help others to grow as disciples and leaders themselves and finished the term how we can develop teams who work well together and support those which are less productive.

The final term examines the realities of leadership, how we handle the costs and unrealistic expectations of being a Christian leader, the importance of staying fresh and maintaining focus during our leadership journey.

Mentors: Fundamental to the success of the course are the mentors. Each participant chooses a mentor who meets, supports, challenges and prays with them throughout the course - a big thank you to the mentors for their time and commitment.

It has been a blessing and privilege to work together with other members of the church, sharing the word of God and studying what we can learn from the greatest leader of all, Jesus Christ. If you are interested in joining the next cohort in September please speak to John or myself.

*Debbie Bunford*

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

### Toddlers

Our church Toddler groups have met each Wednesday and Thursday this past year and have continued to grow and flourish. It has been lovely to get to know so many Parents and carers, and of course lots of gorgeous little toddlers, who continue to amaze me with how much they understand and with their keenness to help. We had 2 special `Peppa pig` themed parties in the summer, with a visit from Peppa herself! I'm not sure who were most excited – the children or the parents (or possibly me!).

Our Christmas parties were also a hit, with a visit from Santa amongst the highlights. During the year it has been a privilege for a few of us to have opportunities to support some of the carers through sharing in their difficult times, and to pray with some of them. This is a really important part of the vision for toddlers. I have recently started a face book group to encourage people to develop friendships with each other and with us. I also plan on organising social events and another parenting course. A huge thank you to my fantastic team - Anne Doogan, Chris Heslop, and Nichola Maine.

*Jan Peters*

### Play and Praise

`Play and Praise` is our weekly service and playtime for under 5's and their carers, hosted by Henry bear. Over the past year it has continued to be an absolute joy to lead it. Each Friday there is a wonderful sense of God's presence amongst us and a lovely atmosphere as children and adults mix together and have fun. We enjoy praising God through singing, dancing, playing instruments, watching our puppet friends acting out Bible stories, and creative prayer, and then it's time for refreshments and playtime.

Up until a few weeks ago we met in the youth rooms for the worship time, but over the months the attendance has grown greatly to between 100 – 145 each week so we now meet in the hall. A number of Christian families attend, but for a lot of people `Play and Praise` is the closest they get to `church` or experiencing God, so as a team we are very aware of what an exciting opportunity God has given us to encourage people in their faith. `Play and Praise` couldn't happen without the commitment of the fantastic team who help me run it, so a huge thank you to Fiona Spratt, Jennifer Belmont, Jennifer Brown, Evelyn Leadbetter, Jean Shelton,(and others who help from time to time)

*Jan Peters*

### Big Ted

Our resident church teddy bear `Big Ted` and his team have experienced big changes in their ministry to under 5's this past year. Last summer we felt that God was calling us to bring to an end the monthly in-house event that had been running for 25+ years, and in its place God gave us a new vision to take the Big ted event out to local school nursery/reception classes. This was a big decision to make because we were aware of all the families who still loved coming each month. Whilst sad to see the end of such a special ministry, the team felt a peace about it, and an excitement about the new opportunities to share the gospel with under 5's in schools. We also felt that `Play and Praise`,

hosted by Big ted's friend – Henry bear, now offers a weekly in-house alternative for families to attend. Since September we have been visiting 4 local schools in rotation – Preston, The Links, St Marys, and Junction farm. We offer a half hour upfront programme which includes action songs, a fun activity, Puppets acting out a bible story, creative prayer and a craft. The feedback from each school has been very positive. A huge Thank you to the present team – Sylvia Wilson, Deb and Duncan Hird, Linda Emerton, Phil Donegan, Evelyn Leadbetter, and to those who helped when Big ted was in-house.

Jan Peters

### Events for Children and Family

Last year `The Club` family events continued to prove popular in February and October half terms, attracting approx 250 people per day, mainly from the local community. It's always a joy to look around and see families, children, and adults of all ages mixing together in a safe environment, enjoying all kinds of fun activities. The `Glow` party in October also proved very popular with families and it is important that we can provide a fun, safe alternative to Halloween activities. One highlight was the puppet performance, which enabled us to share the Gospel message in a fun, non-threatening way. They are the best evangelists at our family events!

All the family events have provided great opportunities for us to serve our community, build relationships, share our faith, and invite people of all ages to other church activities. From all the positive feedback we get it seems clear that the community appreciate us running such events, and the efforts of the wonderful team who help run them. So `Thank you` team! The Club didn't run this February because we are organising family events in the summer this year. Please pray that God will continue to bless ministry to families and bring lots of fruit from it.

Jan Peters

### Flame

Flame has continued to be a place where children have learnt about and met with God in their own way. Around 40 children have been learning about trusting in and being obedient to God, forgiveness, love in action, praying and how God talks to us through the Holy Spirit. Each session has provided the opportunity for practical application and it has been a joy to see so many children, take up the challenge to engage. We have seen the impact of this on behaviour and attitudes, not least amongst some of the more boisterous boys, and several special needs children have grown in confidence. Christian children have been blossoming in their faith, readily volunteering to pray and to say what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them during times of soaking.

Parents and carers are aware that Flame is very direct about the gospel and some of them have experienced this for themselves through attending several open sessions. They are generally very happy for their children to attend.

Flame has been blessed by a strong team of leaders and helpers. They and the children will be sad that Flame comes to an end in March. The last few sessions will focus on enabling the children to live a Christian life, even if they are not yet Christian.

Jayne Davies



## Choose Life

Another fantastic year in youth work leaves us begging for more. 360, our Friday night youth club continues to bulge and seems to be enjoyed by so many. Our 3 midweek Lifegroups are still well attended and the hope is that a 4<sup>th</sup> group will start after the Easter Holidays. Lifegroups took a break between January and April whilst we hosted a youth Alpha event partnering with Yarm Methodist Church on Wednesday Evenings. Various guest speakers came in to challenge our young people about some of the key issues of the Christian faith after eating a scrumptious meal!

In the summer of 2011, working alongside Yarm Methodist Church, we made our annual trip to Soul Survivor where we took 40 young people camping and worshipping for a week. One of the most exciting highlights from the year has been the development in the relationships with other local churches; Yarm Methodist church, TVCC and The Vine. We meet together monthly as youth leaders to pray and strategically plan how best we can work together. As well as Youth Alpha, we are also enjoying a monthly Cafe Church meeting at Costa in Yarm and a Spring and summer Local Mission Event. We are so excited about the potential of working closely with other local churches over the coming months.

It has been great to see a couple of our older young people taking a more active leadership role at Lifegroups and 360 and we also welcomed Jenni Jackson and Euan Gordon on to our team. They have both added so much and it has brilliant to have them working with us.

We still have so much more we would love to do and would love to speak to anyone who may be interested in working alongside us in this exciting work.

*Tim Wye-Williams and Kathryn Belmont*

## Connect

There are three main areas to report regarding 'Connect':-

1. Tuesday Lunch Club; This continues to grow and develop, we are welcoming up to forty guests each month to the simple two course lunch. We have around 20 people who attend the Service of the Word which lasts for half an hour before lunch and is very much appreciated by people who otherwise would not get to church at all. We continue to build good relationships with our guests and are seeing significant spiritual growth. This is a real team effort with very dedicated people taking responsibility for; set up, the kitchen and cooking teams, the service team and the drivers.
2. Tuesday seated exercise class; Jayne Davies continues to organise and lead this growing community of people who enjoy the seated exercise followed by a short Christian reflection. They also have a soup lunch together once a month. The benefits of this physical activity are very apparent for those who attend every week, and the sense of community is growing all the time.
3. Home and Away holiday club 2011 proved once again to be very popular. The first day based at All Saints included, crafts, seated exercise, all day coffee lounge and lunch followed by watching a feature film on a big screen. The following day we boarded our coach and travelled to the Falconry Centre near Thirsk where we really enjoyed seeing all sorts of birds of prey and were amazed at the flying displays. The weather was lovely and we enjoyed our picnic very much.

We are very grateful to everyone who helps with this ministry – you know who you are!). We are depleted however following the moving on of Becky Maarschalk and the very sad loss of Pemma Littlehailes who was an amazing servant of this ministry for many years. If you think you'd like to join our team please don't hesitate to speak to Karen Killick or Sylvia Wilson.

*Sylvia Wilson*

### **Primary Schools**

This past year I have continued to enjoy leading regular assemblies in 2 of our local primary schools – Preston primary and St Marys, Long Newton. Thank you to John Taylor who also leads assemblies, and to John Lambert who has recently started leading assemblies at St Marys. I have also loved taking up invitations from other schools such as 'The Links' to chat to various classes about what the Bible and Prayer mean to Christians, and about what the Christian faith is all about. We are also enjoying leading a 'Big ted' event in 4 local school nurseries, with very positive feedback.

A couple of schools have visited our church this year and enjoyed having a tour, asking many questions about our faith and what we do, as well as eating lots of biscuits! I have sought to support a couple of schools by attending a couple of school productions this past year which was fun! These are all wonderful opportunities to build good relationships and it's also a privilege to be given the freedom to share about the Christian faith and stories from the bible with so many children, especially in the present climate. Please pray that the doors remain open and many seeds of faith will continue to be sown.

*Jan Peters*

### **Walkers**

With the untimely death of Pemma Littlehailes our group has lost a fine walker, staunch friend and extraordinarily energetic organiser. Pemma passed away on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, after a long and very courageous battle with cancer. Evidence of that resilience came just ten days before she died. Well wrapped up against the cold, Pemma asked to be pushed in a wheelchair to the church centre to make a brief appearance before the start of our group annual dinner. Jeremy Atkinson was on hand to present a bouquet from our walkers while Pemma, characteristically, used the moment to reflect encouragingly on the past and present, and to urge diligence in seeking new members.

Since about 2004 Pemma had, effectively, acted as group coordinator, planning and circulating walk rotas, searching out and booking self-catering accommodation for twice yearly away weekends and biennial full week breaks and coordinating arrangements for the annual dinner. Her organisational skills were especially valuable in planning parish hikes where logistical challenges can be truly challenging. Where circumstances called for it, Pemma could be a formidable adversary, as one very uncooperative property discovered! Now Pemma is no longer with us walk rotas will be in the capable hands of Sarah Pocock, Bruce Merrick will organise the weekend breaks while Janet will supervise catering. Bryan Moss continues in charge of finances.

Four of England's finest national parks lie within comfortable reach of Eaglescliffe and over the years all have been visited by our walkers. Last September a group spent a most enjoyable week in a self-catering property owned by Alnwick Estate in Northumberland, exploring footpaths inland in the Cheviots as well as along the coast. In Spring that year we had a popular return visit to Mark Close

Farm just outside Alston in the North Pennines. And throughout the year walk leaders sought out routes in attractive countryside closer to home, only one having to be curtailed because of treacherous ice.

*Bill Cockcroft*

### **Rainbows**

We started off the year learning about Mexican Rainbows called Sunflowers. We took part in the Division competition to make a 'Day of the Dead' collage and were the proud winners! In the spring we joined in two County events, where we tried out line dancing and cheerleading at the Thinking Day celebration, and lots of art activities as the Rainbows took over MIMA. We celebrated the Royal Wedding with a red, white and blue Street party with the Brownies then spent the rest of the term doing challenges based on the number 40 to gain our 'Egton 40 Challenge' badge. Activities on the beach at Teesmouth ended the summer term. In the autumn we enjoyed another visit, this time indoors to Crazy Corner to let off steam! The Rainbows all worked on a 'Roundabout' challenge and gained a badge to sew on their uniform. A trip to the pantomime, where the whole of Middlesbrough theatre was taken over by Girlguiding Cleveland, and a party ended the year.

Thank you to Rebecca Craig and Helen Brooks for all their support over the year.

*Christine Brooks*

### **Brownies**

We started off the year with a winter visit to the Planetarium at Wynyard. Our next few meetings focused on Mexico as we joined in the Division competition to make a 'Day of the Dead' float. Our Brownies then joined others from the County at a special Thinking Day event where they had a go at salsa, belly dancing and drumming, amongst other things. Our County Guide House at Egton celebrated its 40th birthday so, as a unit, we took part in the 'Egton 40 Challenge', gaining a badge and raising nearly £500 towards the refurbishment of the bathroom. We actually stayed there for our Pack Holiday and enjoyed five sunny days doing activities connected with 'Toy Story'. We celebrated the Royal Wedding with our own red, white and blue party. Another County event enabled us to join with our fellow Brownies at Kirkleatham Hall for the Saxon Surprise where princesses were in abundance. We also visited Teesmouth Nature Reserve and enjoyed lots of activities on the beach. In the autumn everyone completed their Home Safety badge, had a Bonfire Party and organised a surprise 50th party for Brown Owl. The year ended with our annual trip to the pantomime. My thanks go to my brilliant team who make our unit so successful and popular.

*Christine Brooks*

### **Guides**

We started the year with an international theme and this was continued when each of the 4 patrols ran a night based on China, India, Africa or South America; all of the meetings were very well planned and executed. This new found independence was followed up with the Finding Your Way badge which culminated with the girls organising a trip to Saltburn. And if it hadn't been such a cold night it would have been lovely. During the summer term each of the groups wrote, directed and acted in films warning of some of the dangers that young people face today. To celebrate the final products we all dressed up for an Oscar's night, complete strangely coloured "cocktails" and over the top acceptance speeches. The only thing that let us down was the technology which refused to play one of the films. The autumn term was much more active with swimming, skating and Zumba

added to our normal mix of games, so we were all ready for the slumber party at the end of November when we "chilled" in some rather nifty pyjamas.

*Karen Brown*

## CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

### Pastoral Work

Pastoral care continues to be an important part of All Saint's Church both for the congregation and in the wider community. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated pastoral team, which has grown in members to thirteen since last year. We have started to meet once a month after the morning services to pray for the people we support and also to encourage each other in what can sometimes be a very difficult, but also rewarding job. We have links with the pastoral team at Long Newton, who are invited to join us for any training.

If a need for support through listening, prayer, a home visit and/or practical help is identified by a member of the team or a member of the congregation, it is communicated to Sylvia, John or myself. The best way of meeting these needs by the team is prayed for and discussed at regular weekly meetings.

Since September two members of the pastoral team have begun their three year training as Authorised Pastoral Assistants (APAs). They are Jayne Davies and Chris Vass. They will tell you more about the course if you ask them.

Jayne is at present helping to run a seated exercise class every Tuesday in the centre. Jayne gives a short Christian reflection after the class and most people stay for a cup of tea and a chat. Sylvia and I have visited a home for adults with learning difficulties in the parish. We hope to increase this contact with All Saint's and to run a course for them to find out more about God. The 'Pastoral Drop In' continues to run every Monday morning with the help of volunteers. Everyone is welcome for coffee and a chat, with an opportunity for prayer and a confidential conversation if needed.

Each member of the pastoral team is trained in listening skills and prayer ministry. Together they have a great deal of experience in pastoral issues. Much of their work is unseen due to its confidential nature.

Our church is blessed with a pastoral team, who work behind the scenes, with great compassion. I would like to thank each one of them on behalf of everyone at All Saint's.

*Karen Snowden*

### Careforce

Following the success of Springboard last summer it was decided that a group serving the community in a practical way all year round was an important part of our mission here at All Saints. For many years the Men Who Care group had provided practical support for local charitable organisations but it was felt that it was time to move forward in a new direction.

Careforce was therefore created to provide practical support for our immediate parish as well as charitable organisations within the local area.

To date the group has met on two occasions to discuss the vision of the group as well as the practicalities of identifying the needs within our community. We now have a clear focus on the role

of the group and it is hoped that practical support for the community will be underway later in the spring.

In addition to myself, the group is being co-ordinated by Jenny Lewis and Bruce Merrick, so if you feel you would like to be involved either fill in a skills audit form or speak to one of us.

*Martin Howard*

### **Mission Giving and Support**

We continue to support four main overseas Mission Partners i.e.

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

Our Main thrust of support in the U.K is the work of Sowing Seeds Ministries (Gram Seed and his team) and "A Way Out" (Jessie Joe Jacobs and Team) We decided some time ago that these would be the main regular support we would give from our church tithe although there are a number of others we support in a smaller way.

In this coming year we will be faced with some difficult decisions as we have received some new requests of considerable worth and we will have a difficult task to answer all of them positively.

The group takes its work very seriously and decisions on who should be given monetary support are not taken lightly. I would ask you to remember our members in your prayers, they are, Kathie Lambert, Sue Levan, Pauline Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, David Emerton and myself. Please look at the Mission Board in the Centre when waiting for coffee (or at other times) and remember the work that is being done by those people. Thank you

*Bruce Merrick*

### **Energy Group**

The Energy Group has continued to make progress in reducing the carbon footprint of the church buildings and in encouraging people from our congregations and the communities around to reduce their waste.

We have organized an Electric Cars Day and two events to help people reduce their gas and electricity bills. The whole community was informed of these events by leaflet drop. Our events always attract a few people but we are certain that more could use what we have to offer.

Throughout the past year we have worked closely with the Environment Department in Stockton Borough Council and they have been good friends to us particularly in supporting us with grants to pay for leaflet printing and more recently for support for a Feasibility Study of our energy use and heating in all our buildings. The Feasibility Study is being prepared as I write this and will report before the end of March. Using the information this will provide us with, we hope to further reduce

our energy consumption and prepare the way for the next new church heating system in the not too far distant future.

We hope to continue our work in reducing waste and preserving the Earth's resources for future generations.

*John Doherty*