

All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees
ANNUAL REPORTS - 2018

For the APCM 28 April 2019

Contents

Introduction

Chairman's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Planting Curate's Report	5
PCC	6
MDT	6
REACH	7
Deanery Synod	7
Diocesan Synod	8
Administration	8
Fabric Report and Maintenance	9
Safeguarding	10
Publicity, Communication and Website	10

Worship God

Music and Worship 09.00	11
Music and Worship 10.30	11
Midweek Worship	12
Choral Group	12
Prayer	13
Puppets	13
Church Flowers	14
Welcome	14

Make Disciples

Sunday Children's Ministry	15
Youth Church and Refresh	15
Young Adults	15
Life Groups	16
Church Library	16
Sozo	16

Share the Good News of Jesus

Treasure Seekers	17
Play and Praise	17
Gems	18
Toddlers	18
Schools Ministry	18
Messy Church	19
Family Outreach	19
Youth (Midweek) Discipleship	20
Youth (Midweek) Outreach	20
Connect	20
Walkers	21
Introduction to Faith Courses	21

Care for Those in Need

Pastoral Care and Home Visiting	22
Mission Giving and Support	22

INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2018, the standout things for me were:

- An encouraging visit from Alan Farish 10 years after leaving for Stockton Parish Church
- The launch of a faith discovery group for unchurched teenage boys
- The Marriage Course
- Thy Kingdom Come week of prayer
- The arrival of the Arnold family with Paul ordained as our Curate
- New Wine Prayer Ministry training day with a team from the Belfrey in York
- The completion of REACh phase 1 and opening ceremony
- New Wine Inspire at Hollybush
- An adult baptism service in September
- WWI 100th Anniversary Remembrance Service
- The revamping of our Youth Room
- The Christmas Angel children's production
- Sermon series on Mark's Gospel, Ezekiel, Discipleship, Jonah and Worship
- Carols by Candlelight with preacher Bishop Paul, attended by our MP and his family

The biggest shock of the year came in May when we discovered that our main contractor on REACh phase 1 had suddenly ceased trading, leaving their subcontractors, who had worked on site here, unpaid. We had already settled about 90% of our bills. It was a very stressful and testing time, but God is faithful. Thanks to the legendary, near miraculous generosity of the congregation at All Saints' we paid out *again* to ensure that no tradesman doing work in this church went home unrewarded. We had no legal liability – but we felt it was the righteous thing to do, so we did it. And God provided.

Just before last year's APCM, but too late for the annual report, Miriam Fortune went to be with the Lord. Miriam was for many years a regular at 9am and the Lunch Club. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The church has continued to grow numerically, year on year, for at least the last five years. Martin Howard compiled some statistics at the end of 2018. They showed that in 2013 only twice did attendance at 10.30am exceed 160. In 2018 it was 25 times – every other week. Attendance exceeded 180 only once in 2013. Last year it was 8 times – one week in six.

I learned a long time ago though not to be preoccupied by numbers. Remember that God punished King David for counting his army because he did it to massage his ego and measure his greatness in his own eyes. No, we do not want to get obsessed about bums on seats. Instead, our focus is to pour all our energies, under God, into ensuring that the church is healthy and stays that way. If you keep the church healthy, the growth looks after itself. The keys to a healthy church are shared visionary leadership, inspiring worship, sound biblical teaching, every-member ministry and an outward, evangelistic focus.

As we navigate through 2019, continuing to grow in the knowledge and love of God, building team and developing strategy ahead of the church plant into Newtown, and aiming to deliver REACh phase 3, I will make every effort once again to honour the Lord in everything and serve you with love, his precious people.

John Lambert

Treasurer's Report

I am continuously astounded by God's generosity and by members of All Saints'. People obviously give sacrificially to the work of the church because they believe in the work we do. It has been an expensive year, but God has blessed us richly in giving us a surplus of about £14,000 in the general fund budget allowing us to give money back into other projects in this country and overseas. It has also allowed us to put more money in to upgrading the heating system in the church.

Our contractors went in to administration near the end of Phase 1 of our REACH building project, leaving sub-contractors unpaid. We are so grateful to members of the church who gave above and beyond to this project so we were able to pay the subcontractors the money owing to them. We believe in the Biblical principle that workers should be paid for the work they do. Deuteronomy 24:14-15. We want to be excellent stewards of the money God has given us and should not waste it, but neither should we allow those hired to do work for us to be impoverished because of it.

We spent more than budgeted for in renovating the flats that we own making it a comfortable home and workspace for our tenants.

We overspent on training our staff by sending them on training courses, but this is an important investment to maintain excellence as they work for Jesus.

Again, I am extremely grateful for all the help I am given in keeping up with the work as treasurer. Jennifer Brown was my assistant for several months last year, but due to other time constraints and as she is no longer on the PCC, it was felt that she give up this post. Thank you, Jennifer for all your help. Richard Spratt has kindly agreed to step in, so please pray for him.

John Belmont deals with the staff's salaries and pensions. He also continues to keep me right with the Excel spreadsheet.

Margaret Vaughan tirelessly trawls through the spreadsheets and bank statements from which she claims the Gift Aid owing to us. In 2018 we were able to claim nearly £41,000 which was added to the General account. Not an insignificant sum I am sure you will agree.

Gill Wake continues to count the money put in the offering and goes to the bank weekly to pay this in to the account. She also types in the amount on her spreadsheet and sends it across to me.

Craig Aston reads the utility meters monthly and sends the readings over to our utility providers so our bills are kept as accurate as possible.

As you can see, the finances of the church are a team effort and I certainly would not be able to do it on my own.

I continue to enjoy serving as the church treasurer, but if any other member of All Saints' feels called to take on this role, please do not hesitate to ask for more details of what it entails.

Kathie Lambert

Planting Curate's Report

What a year! This time last year my family and I were just gathering quotes for moving house to Stockton. When we arrived, we received such a great welcome, and we want to thank you so much for your grace and kindness towards us as we settle in.

The rubber has now hit the road for the graft into St Paul's, Newtown, and so much has taken place that keeps us firm in our trust in God's call to this place:

1. **Clear Vision:** After much consultation and prayer and fasting, we know that God wants us to plant a church that is 'Living, Loving and Led.' A building open every day of the week, a church loving its community, living its faith and led by the Spirit.
2. **Two congregations become one:** Newtown Anglicans and Methodists, have combined into a single congregation through a letter of welcome that looked impossible this time last year. This slashes in half the level of red tape for getting change done and increases representation from across the current congregation.
3. **People:** Most importantly from a people perspective, two groups have formed: the Newtown Life Group (from All Saints) — who have a focus on the mission of the church from an All Saints perspective; and the St Paul's Plant Governance Group — who are the working group on change at St Paul's and involves Diocesan, Deanery and members of All Saints and St Paul's.

Next Steps - This year is about building: real physical building work at St Paul's and the most important aspect of building team for the graft. We are planning some exciting stuff: Great worship and prayer, fantastic children and youth provision, cafe church, school run drop-in coffee, CAP partnership, Alpha evangelism and a 24-7 prayer community alongside what currently goes on at St Paul's... all in an amazing, fit-for-purpose building...

...But all that is just empty stuff without you!

We need people with gifts in **hospitality** and evangelism, 'people' people who will be willing to build relationships both inside and outside of the church.

Leaders whose heartbeat is to empower and disciple future leaders.

People with a heart for those on the **margins, where the margin is the mainstream.**

We need people who want to build church, people who are blessed with gifts of **administration** and **organisation.**

People who have a sense that God is wanting to **send** them, who feel that connection with God drawing them to this place.

Enthusiasts who are brimming with stories of the Good News and can't wait to see people come to Christ.

Carers who want to form deep relationship with and look after those around them, and those who are gifted at **teaching** others — of all ages — what it means to live, love and be led as church.

As we step into this adventure, we need God most of all, and we will be looking to more intentional prayer about this as we build towards it, so keep your eyes and ears peeled.

Paul Arnold

PCC

During the past year the following have served on the PCC: Kay Adeboye, Jennifer Brown (until April 2018 APCM), Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Lawrence Gnanaraj, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Karen Killick, Kathie Lambert (Treasurer), Sue Levan, John Littlehailes (Secretary), Sarah Pocock (until April 2018 APCM), Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Ian Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, David Warren, Nicola Wrightson. Chair: John Lambert.

The routine items on the Agenda have been Finances, Safeguarding, and reports from the Wardens and the REACH Team. Recently there has been put in place monthly reporting from the Staff Management Team, and earlier in the period, annual reporting from the Youth Ministries and from the Children's and Families Ministry.

It has been a busy year with the REACH programme absorbing a lot of attention: this will continue as we move on to phase 3 of the re-ordering of the church. Safeguarding is assuming high priority.

John Littlehailes

MDT (Ministry Development Team)

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

Last year the MDT:

- Reviewed Christmas, Easter and August ministry
- Discussed ways to strengthen the 9am service resulting in new liturgy books with less jargon and more options for increased variety
- Recommended simplifying the various names for non-eucharistic services (Service of the Word, Worship Word and Ministry, Engage...) to 'Morning Worship'
- Created a Welcome Pack to be given to all newcomers
- Recommended additional coffee service points after 10.30am to reduce long queues
- Regularly looked at and commented on REACH plans from a ministry point of view
- Discussed ideas for accommodating numerical growth at 10.30am
- Prayed with and brainstormed with Paul Arnold about the strategy for preparing the ground before sending a team out to Newtown at Easter 2021

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

John Lambert

REACH

2018 saw the project swing into action with Phase 1 - remodelling the narthex, chapel, office and library and glazing the front doors. The work progressed well until our main contractor ceased trading. We then took over the remaining work and employed contractors to finish it and paid those who had not been paid by the original contractor. A new office, meeting room and enlarged doors between the nave and narthex were completed. In the summer we had the front doors glazed making it possible to see into the church from the street.

The Reordering Steering Group has met many times during 2018. Having decided to split the project into 4 phases the designs for phases 2 (cafe extension), 3 (chancel remodelling) and 4 (nave extension) have been developed over the year. We have applied for planning permission from Stockton Council for phases 2 and 4. We have had fruitful discussions regarding the requirement for additional parking and conservation of many listed trees.

After reviewing the sequencing of phases 2,3 and 4 we decided to bring phase 3 forward; we have applied for a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for phase 3 with the view to completing phase 3 during 2019.

Richard Spratt

Deanery Synod

Stockton Deanery has increased in size over the past year as we welcomed the Upper Skerne part of Sedgfield, taking our Deanery to fourteen parishes. We meet six times per year as lay representatives and clergy, and are tasked to plan the mission of the deanery, encourage each other and link in with the Diocese and other Deaneries. A summary of our meetings over this year:

May 2018: Finalising the Deanery Plan, including prayer for our Deanery, and hearing about the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme.

July 2018: Hearing the celebrations and challenges from Parishes around the Deanery, and praying for each parish.

November 2018: Hearing from Tim Wye Williams the work Youth for Christ is doing in the area, and also meeting our new Archdeacon Rick Simpson who told us his story about coming to faith, and helped us reflect on our Deanery Plan.

January 2019: Meeting concentrated on Resourcing churches and plans from Stockton Parish Church and All Saints' Church, with plans around the Deanery and guest speaker David Tomlinson from the Diocese.

March 2019: An uplifting meeting highlighting the work going on around the Deanery with our children and young people, followed by some time to network with other Parishes and two representatives of Bishop's Council.

Lucy Falcus

Diocesan Synod

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2018. At the June meeting topics included approving the Diocesan accounts, receiving reports on safeguarding and reflecting on the role / responsibilities of Bishop of Jarrow as the time approached for this role to become vacant through Bishop Mark's retirement in autumn 2018.

Many at the meeting were moved to tears during the item on anti-slavery and human trafficking. The personal testimony from the foster son of one of the diocesan clergy giving his experience of being trafficked to this country and held as a slave was harrowing and profoundly humbling. This was followed with updates on human trafficking in our region and how the church might respond.

The November meeting started with each "house" (clergy and laity) electing their new chair for the next three - year cycle. Main items were endorsing the Diocese' budget for 2019, input on how our Church of England schools are being supported to meet the requirements of being a faith school; approval of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy; briefing on Waymark 2019 (Diocesan conference in autumn 2019) and 2020 year of pilgrimage. The meeting ended with an update on Resourcing Churches bid to central church for funding (which was successful in December 2018).

Margaret Vaughan

Administration

This year has been a very varied and extremely busy one in the Administration of All Saints' Church.

As ever, it is always about the wonderful saints who I get to work with, and do life with, very day.

We have been blessed by Church Suite, which has made running things much easier and more interactive. Many people have come on board and made the whole thing run very well. Everything from Rotas to events have been running more efficiently.

We have had our heating system completely renewed and the idea of setting the heating from the comfort of office or home is so lovely. The minimal disruption to users of the building during the installation was welcome too.

We have welcomed a new member of the team, Tracy Wiseman, who has jumped on board and been a blessing to all who come into contact with her. This has meant that I can enjoy time to concentrate on other ministries and projects.

Add to that, another new member of our team Rev. Paul Arnold, with the exciting project of helping resource the church plant that he is going to head up. It is an exciting prospect for the new things that God is going to do through and with us.

Sandra Griffiths

Fabric Report and Maintenance

This was once again a very busy year for repair, refurbishment and replacement projects at All Saints. 2018 saw the start of our Reach Project with Phase 1 during the Spring. Despite the problems caused by our main contractor going out of business, it was completed by the summer with the glazing of the front doors. Our main entrance is now a brighter and much more welcoming space. Thanks go to our Reach Committee for taking over the project and in particular to Richard Spratt for leading much of this work.

Additional lighting has been installed to the exterior of the buildings around the car park area, making it much safer for those using the car park during the evenings. In July work was carried out at high level to replace some of the lights in both the Nave and Church Centre as well as refitting some of the ceiling tiles.

The summer months saw a refurbishment of our youth room which included new sockets installed, decorating, new furniture and a projector. Part of the decorating included some art work by one of our young people. It is now a superb room to use both by our young people and others who use the room each week.

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

This year has seen some more minor work on the Church flats than last year with the painting of the windows and minor work inside. The commercial tenant of the upstairs flat is really happy with the space and its location close to the station. During the summer our tenants of the ground floor flat were offered a larger property in Yarm which unfortunately meant we were once again looking for a new tenant. Fortunately, we were able to find another tenant quite quickly. Our thanks go to Matt Falcus for liaising with our tenants and managing the flats on a weekly basis.

The end of the year saw the approval of our faculty for the new heating system that we are now benefitting from. Hopefully we will also see the financial benefits of a modern efficient system as we move through 2019.

Numerous other items of work have been carried out on our buildings throughout the year. It is great to have our caretaker Peter on site during the day to deal with the ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

We continue to work with Jonathan Backhouse to ensure that our H&S policies and risk assessments meet current requirements and update them as required.

It is wonderful to see the church buildings so well used at all times of the day and bookings for use of the facilities continue to be in demand. We are extremely grateful to God for all the people he brings into our buildings and the continued growth of All Saints.

We would also like to thank our fantastic team of assistant wardens who look after our services each week.

Karen Killick and Martin Howard
Churchwardens

Safeguarding

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

As I adopted the Safeguarding Officer role this year, contact with Beth Miller, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, has been made and maintained. We have benefitted from her support throughout the year. In May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), came into force and we have worked to ensure we are complying with this legislation.

In March of this year, the Diocese rolled out the new Durham Diocesan Synod Safeguarding Policy - 2019. The PCC have adopted this and its attached policies and we continue to uphold its principles and procedures.

We continue to value safeguarding training for staff and volunteers. A new online training is now available for C1 and we will ensure that those who require training will be able to access it in the coming year. Although we have dealt with two safeguarding issues this year relating to social media, we are thankful to God that they have come to successful conclusions with no residual concerns.

Nicola Wrightson

Publicity, Communications and Website

Our aim is to keep events and life at All Saints' well-publicised through informative and appealing literature and publicity material.

The biggest part of our work is the printed programme of events which over the past year has mostly run on a monthly basis, and often runs to eight pages. This has given an opportunity to give leaders a chance to talk about their ministries alongside the usual notifications of upcoming events, the monthly calendar and service information. It has also been a way to keep members informed about REACH and the Newtown church plant.

We also produced a glossy Christmas card incorporating the Church of England's #FollowTheStar campaign which went out all the houses in our parish promoting our Christmas events.

Our website continues to provide an important means of communicating what is going on at All Saints' to members and those looking for a church in the area. We also keep an updated presence on the AChurchNearYou website.

Matt Falcus

WORSHIP GOD

Music and Worship at 9 a.m.

The nine o'clock service continues to worship with a mix of traditional and new songs, from the Mission Praise collection. The Choral Group leads services once or twice per term and the other services are led from the keyboard by Janet Smith, Pamela Rushton and Lucy Falcus, with accompaniment at times from others on instruments. The worship often has a reflective or contemplative feel along with the more celebratory services such as Advent or Palm Sunday. Songs are chosen both to complement the theme of the service and uplift the congregation in worship. The songs we use often contain wonderful words and phrases that can be used also in private prayer, following the service.

Lucy Falcus

Music and Worship at 10.30 a.m.

We **W**elcome God into all our worship times.

We are frequently **O**verwhelmed by the grace and Mercy God pours out on us as we sing songs of love, thanks and praise to Him.

We **R**espond to God's word and the moving, stirring, prompting and breathing of His Holy Spirit, in song and are drawn deeper into his life changing presence.

Our Heavenly Dad stirs us by His **S**pirit to declare, speak out, shout out what He has done for each of us in His Church.

We **H**onour our Awesome God worshipping Him in truth from our hearts.

We **I**dentify that it is God that we worship, Praise, lift up, love and serve. It is all about Him.

His **P**resence is present in each note played, and each word sung. As His people, called into His Worship Ministry, we're forever grateful for the gifts He's given to those he has called into our Worship Bands.

We continue to let it be known that Yahweh is the only one that is worthy of every breath we could ever breath, so let's "Bow down and Worship the Lord our Creator." (Psalm 95:6 CEV)

Deb Hird

Midweek Worship

At All Saints' we worship together midweek with Morning Prayer (daily), informal Holy Communion and Play and Praise (weekly), Treasure Seekers and Lunch Club services (monthly). Our youth gather in midweek as well for worship and discipleship. Then there are groups meeting fortnightly in homes in their various forms. Finally, there are brief reflections at Seated Exercise and Youth Club. All of this is covered elsewhere in this annual report.

Morning Prayer (30 minutes) draws about 10 people, mostly but not all from the 9am congregation, to pray daily in the temporary chapel for the life of All Saints', our mission partners, local Christian outreach to the poor and needy, the persecuted church and the suffering world.

The midweek Communion service (30 minutes in the Meeting Room) is less formal, with an open discussion on a Bible passage - last year we covered most of Genesis - a simple Eucharistic prayer and time for tea or coffee afterwards in the Youth Room for those who can stay. This service attracts 20-30 people from both the 9am and 10.30am congregations.

John Lambert

Choral Group

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

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

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

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

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

Kate Pickover.

Prayer

Rob Govier and helpers continue to promote and encourage the work of prayer at All Saints, supplementing those who meet faithfully for morning prayer, a steadfast and continuing work which should not be overlooked! The “Ablaze” monthly meeting has seen a gradual growth in numbers, generally running with around 20-plus attendees. Increasingly, rather than have a tight structure, we have sought The Holy Spirit in the manner of Romans 8:26 regarding prayer topics. Far from becoming unfocussed and undisciplined, we find that He has his own structure and agenda which we can discover if we are sensitive to His leading, as well as bold, and obedient. The regular prayer breakfasts have been led in a similar manner, and although not as well supported, have been times of fervent praying and good fellowship.

Just as The Apostle Paul was aided by the use of “modern” Roman roads to speed the gospel message, we make use of modern electronic highways for Kingdom purposes. The All Saints Facebook group is used for daily distribution of a thirty-day programme of focused prayer topics for the church, it's members, and wider area. A paper copy of these topics can be obtained from Sandra Griffiths. Unfortunately, it is not possible to put these in a neat, manageable, and compact paper document due to the range and scope of issues. Whether we feel comfortable with social media or not, the “prayer work” is getting done, which is our key priority! I would encourage those who do not participate to consider joining the Facebook group, as it is an outstanding means of rapid communication.

Half-nights of prayer have been held, attracting a small but faithful band of prayer warriors, although it would be great to see more saints participating even for half an hour or so. Increasing use has been made of the resources of the “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, a week of focused national prayer. Overall, across the life of the church, we seem to see more things “coincidentally going better”, as well as some specific direct answers to prayer. Prayer ministry after the 1030 service continues to attract those with needs. We continue to both facilitate and encourage effective prayer within All Saints, especially so as we continue to face the challenges of growth, reordering and “planting out” at St Paul's Newton in 2020.

Rob Govier

Puppets

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

In October we presented the gospel at the Glow Party using our glow in the dark puppets that light up with the use of UV lighting - they always go down well. We also went to St Mary's Church and took part in their family service using the puppets to help explore the theme of the fruit of the Spirit.

In December we did a presentation looking at the true meaning of Christmas as part of the Eden teams Christmas party on the Mill Lane estate in Stockton which went down really well.

We have continued our links with the local schools. Jan and I went into Preston Primary School and led an after-school club teaching the children the basics of puppetry in a fun way.

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

Chris Peters

Church Flowers

The spend on the flowers for church is between £75 and £85 per month, so of the order of £1,000 per year, with greenery from my garden and from the church garden to keep the costs down. Some flowers are contributed from other gardens when available. I am fortunate to have ready access to the church so can be flexible about times for doing them.

Kathryn Hutton

(Editor's note: Kathryn is modest: the flowers are always excellent, and sometimes breathtakingly fine, and we are very grateful to her for her work.)

Welcome

The ministry of the welcome team continues to flourish. We have 7 welcomers assisting at the 9am service and 12 volunteers at the 10:30 service. Both groups are well established and feedback shows that the welcome given by both teams is of the highest standard. We continue to look for ways to develop the ministry to meet the ongoing needs of both congregations and the challenges of a growing church.

Nicola Wrightson and Gillian Davison

MAKE DISCIPLES

Sunday Children's Ministry

Trailblazers is for children school years 1 -6. Numbers vary between 14 to 25. We pray together, learn, praise, play, create, build friendships and have fun! Sessions are based on material from the Urban Saints – 'Energise' resource, which we adapt and plan to suit our needs.

Our aim is to learn about the bible and how following Jesus can help us in everyday life. This year's subjects include Heroes, Harvest and Prayer. From January we have followed a theme of "living more abundantly" with topics such as; Look after your body, Relax and enjoy God's creation, keep safe, Eat well and enjoy food, Look after your mind and Sleep is important.

More helpers on a Sunday would enable us to develop closer relationships with the children and better cater for their range of ages, needs, abilities and levels of understanding. Please continue to pray for the children, the team and whether you feel called to get involved, get in touch for more information.

Levin Family and Honeywell Family

Youth Church and Refresh

This year we felt that God gave us a specific vision statement for the Youth Ministry - '*We want to help young people become life-long followers of Jesus*'. Mid-week discipleship is a vital part of seeing this vision come to fruition.

Our discipleship comes in various forms; we have two weekly Life Groups where young people come to grow deeper in faith by studying the Bible, discussing their faith, praying and encouraging each other. We aim to make every young person feel like they are at home when they are with us. We also started a Leadership Life Group this year where we invest in some of our older young people through accountability, leadership opportunities, and reading together. We alternate between reading books and YouVersion Bible plans - it has been a privilege to grow together.

Many of our young people are part of Doulos, meeting with young people from around Teesside to learn to lead like Jesus. Meanwhile many have also been linked with mentors, who are also a key part of their discipleship. Finally, we returned to Soul Survivor this year. This is always a special time for our young people to invest in their relationship with God!

Kathryn Belmont

Young Adults

Due to a growing number of young adults in the 18-25 age range, we felt that it was the right time to rebrand young adults in 2017. We wanted to make sure All Saints' is providing discipleship for those who

have recently left the youth group, and to offer support to students who are away at University. We currently meet twice a month, usually in the first and third weeks of the month. Mint Hobo has become a meeting place for our socials and we also meet in people's homes for a deeper Bible study which is led by different members of the group. The group is still very new and we would welcome anybody within the 18-25 age range to join us.

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

Kathryn Belmont

Life Groups

We have seen steady growth with more members of the congregation joining Life Groups over the last year. There are now seven evening and one day time group. Erin Buford, a member of the Ministry Development Team, is helping to promote Life Groups in the church with interviews of members during services and has recently revamped the notice board in the hall. Each group is different but they all include prayer, Bible Study, fun and fellowship- so important as we grow as disciples of Jesus. We are keen to establish more groups over the coming year and look forward to more people joining.

David Emerton

Church Library

Currently, the library remains in a reduced state, with books stored on the shelves in the temporary chapel (the coffee lounge).

Because of the ongoing REACH project part of the library has been packed away in boxes and is stored at the vicarage. However, all of the Bible commentaries and a selection of other books including those on Discipleship and Christian Living are available to borrow. These books may be out of order, please note that you may have to search for what you want, as fitting them onto the shelves was a priority.

I hope that eventually we will be able to reorder the library to return more books to the shelves and add new ones.

Sue Levan

Sozo

Our Sozo team have continued to grow in confidence this year as facilitators, but we give all glory to God who has done all the work.

We have seen amazing and mind-blowing freeing of people who have lived with fears or other supernatural weights and blockages.

I have reduced my hours, partly so that I can spend more time training and facilitating Sozo. We have a new member of our team, Nicola Dursley has done her basic training, and is starting to sit in occasionally and practice on team members. She is a spirit filled woman and will be a great addition to the team.

The rest of the team (also amazing spirit filled people) have done "Advanced Training" and are in the process of being released to minister to people in other churches, so we are excited to see what God is going to do this next year.

If you would like to book a Sozo or find out more, please contact prayer.sozo@gmail.com.

Sandra Griffiths

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

Treasure Seekers

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

At Christmas a group of church members visited to sing carols. Residents, staff and all in the church group had a very joyful time.

On the team at present are: Karen Snowden, Evelyn Leadbetter and Jenny Scaife, but anyone is welcome to join us. If you want to know more please ask one of us.

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

Karen Snowden

Play and Praise

Play and Praise is for children under 5 and their accompanying adults; parents, grandparents and childminders. We typically have 50-60 families, with 1, 2 or 3 children. The children enjoy a fun packed programme of puppets, action songs, musical instruments, drink and biscuit, and playtime. The adults mostly enjoy the same plus chats with friends old and new.

We have a dedicated team with varied gifts – organising the kitchen needs, setting up the puppets and theatre, looking after the sound system, being silly upfront, setting out the toys and tidying them away. We also make ourselves available to chat/listen/pray; great opportunities; we feel blessed, and from comments from the visiting adults, so do they.

Anne Wildsmith

Gems

Gems is thriving! We usually have around 10-12 under 5s and the new meeting room is a huge blessing, enabling us to be more creative and active as we explore Bible stories, learn about Jesus and spend time playing and discovering friendship together.

Since Christmas we have been exploring how God created the world, through storytelling, action prayers, craft activities and the imaginative use of an extensive range of props. This week we start looking at Easter, with the bonus of our wide range of resources easily accessible from the new storage cupboards, another blessing which we give thanks for.

Fiona Spratt

Toddlers

Toddlers continues to thrive and grow. We now have more families from different faith backgrounds and, in recent months, several mums from TVCC.

Praise God for many opportunities to talk about our faith, openness to prayer and for interest in followed by attendance at Messy Church. We are blessed by positive feedback including that we offer something unique in the welcome and atmosphere.

Thanks go to Jan Peters for the preparation enabling Toddlers to run smoothly, to those who have stepped up to help during Jan's sabbatical and to the Lord for his blessings on this group.

Jayne Davies

School Ministry

Secondary school

All Saints' is involved in leading four assemblies at Egglecliffe Secondary School each fortnight. We seek to engage the students by presenting our faith in a comprehensible manner whilst referencing relevant topics and events the students interact with (i.e. self-worth and anxiety).

All Saints' also seeks to engage the young people at Egglecliffe School in a relational way at a weekly lunch club gathering. We fellowship over snacks and games and explore elements of our faith together on

a deeper, conversational level. We have discussed, most recently, elements from the Sermon on the Mount and who God says we are.

Caroline Davis

Primary School

Schools ministry has continued to provide an important opportunity to share faith with hundreds of children in our community. Creative assemblies take place regularly at St Mary's and Preston primary. I have loved giving groups of excited children tours around church and answering their great questions. Highlights have also included the 'Life exhibition' where approx. 400 children from 8 schools visited to explore the life of Jesus in fun ways. I also ran a Bible stories based after-school club at Preston primary using an exciting app called 'Guardians of Ancora'. 15 children attended. It was a great way to learn about Jesus and for me to get to know the children better.

Jan Peters

Messy Church

God continues to bless Messy church and it has been a joy to meet so many lovely families who love coming along. Average numbers are 120 people. A lot of families wouldn't otherwise have any links with a church, so it has been an important opportunity to provide spiritual input, share faith, and build relationships. Messy Church provides a next step after Toddler group/ Play and Praise for families to come closer in their relationship with God and with us as a church.

God's presence is evident during the event and we believe that many seeds of faith are being sown. Each month we explore a Biblical theme through fun crafts and a worship time, followed by time to share tea together. Socials like the summer picnic/ treasure hunt and autumn circus skills event have also been a hit.

As a Christmas treat families were invited to attend the Christmas Angel Nativity show which was well received. As a team we reviewed Messy church in the autumn and have plans to develop the vision to provide even more opportunity for families to go deeper in their faith journey.

Jan Peters

Family Outreach

This year a lot of our family outreach has taken place within Messy church, Toddler group, and Play and Praise including socials such as the summer and Christmas parties, treasure hunt, circus skills event, and Dug Horley Christmas angel show.

Other big outreach opportunities have included the **Camp of Champions** summer event in Preston Park which attracted lots of children from local schools who loved joining in the sports and hearing about Jesus. Alongside it I ran a popular under 5's and carers play area providing great opportunities to connect with families.

Our **Glow Party** was great fun with a circus skills workshop, lots of activities and a Gospel presentation by our glow in the dark puppets which was a big hit. It was an important opportunity to provide a safe, family fun time in a Christian setting, as an alternative to Halloween activities. It attracted just under 200 people and the feedback was very positive. All the children left with a 'bag of Hope' full of goodies.

Jan Peters

Youth (Midweek) Discipleship

This year we felt that God gave us a specific vision statement for the Youth Ministry - '*We want to help young people become life-long followers of Jesus*'. Mid-week discipleship is a vital part of seeing this vision come to fruition. Our discipleship comes in various forms; we have two weekly Life Groups where young people come to grow deeper in faith by studying the Bible, discussing their faith, praying and encouraging each other. We aim to make every young person feel like they are at home when they are with us.

We also started a Leadership Life Group this year where we invest in some of our older young people through accountability, leadership opportunities, and reading together. We alternate between reading books and YouVersion Bible plans - it has been a privilege to grow together.

Many of our young people are part of Doulos, meeting with young people from around Teesside to learn to lead like Jesus. Meanwhile many have also been linked with mentors, who are also a key part of their discipleship. Finally, we returned to Soul Survivor this year. This is always a special time for our young people to invest in their relationship with God.

Kathryn Belmont

Youth (Midweek) Outreach

All Saints' engages youth in the community in a variety of ways. Once a week, the doors of the church are opened to host Youth Club for young people residing in the parish. We seek to create a safe space of community and belonging by combining games, conversation, and relationship-centered discipleship.

Once a week, All Saints' hosts an after-school lad's group. The lads spend time together playing football, pool, and table tennis. Afterwards, they dig deeper into Bible topics and answering questions about faith. These lads are committed to coming each week and because of the relationships formed have started attending other church events together (Youth Club, Soul Survivor, and Life Groups).

On a monthly basis, All Saints' partners with Costa in Yarm to host Cafe Church. We see students from a variety of our outreach events attending Cafe Church regularly. Young people from Lads Group, Youth Club, Youth Church, and other churches in the community share their gifts of music by singing or playing instruments each month. Additionally, a talk is given regarding the relational God we worship by leaders all over Teesside.

Caroline Davis

Connect Ministry

Connect is a monthly lunch club for retired people. It starts with a short optional service in church. The numbers for this service continue to grow. A delicious two course lunch is followed by entertainment.

A weekly seated exercise class, run by a professional tutor helps to keep joints supple. This is followed by a short "thought for the day", tea and a chat.

2018 has been another successful year. Many people see All Saints as their church and really appreciate the welcome. New friendships are made, the bereaved are supported and the lonely feel less isolated.

This year we visited Kirkleatham Museum and Owl Centre. Our guests enjoy the opportunity to visit local places with their friends. Christmas lunch was a real celebration. After lunch the children from St Mary's school choir sang carols and Christmas songs and encouraged us to join in.

God continues to bless this ministry. I would like to thank the dedicated team who have a real passion for this ministry. Nothing is too much trouble and our guests are certainly aware of God's love being shown by all the Connect team.

Karen Snowden

The Walkers

We have had a good year's walking, with more of the joint walks (Long and Short Walks overlapping) which continue to be a great success, both in terms of the actual walks, and in bringing together the two groups. We have also had our usual weekends away in beautiful places: the Swaledale weekend in March being marked by the arrival of the "Beast from the East" which helped make the weekend one of the more memorable! The Autumn weekend was a delight, up near Haltwhistle, and sadly marked the end of Janet and Bruce's longstanding contributions to these events.

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

John Littlehales

Introduction to Faith Courses

As the 2017 Alpha Course attracted somewhat fewer guests from outside the church, we decided to leave the field fallow for a year. The next Alpha Course will be May-July this year and already (early March) several people have signed up. We are praying for a really good Alpha that will hopefully result in more people attending Life Groups afterwards.

We felt instead that in the winter term 2018 it might be good to run The Marriage Course (building foundations, communication, resolving conflict, forgiveness, impact of family past and present, healthy sex and love in action) instead. Ten church couples attended and there was very good feedback from those who came.

John Lambert

CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Pastoral Care and Home Visiting

Pastoral care is a response to Jesus' command to 'love one another'. God asks each of us to care for those in need. Every member of the congregation has the privilege and responsibility to play their part with regard to caring for others, both within church and in our wider community. Our pastoral team are there to extend this help by listening, praying, giving practical help and making home and hospital visits.

Currently the team is :- Karen Snowden, Peter Gray, Jayne Davies, Chris Vass, Craig Aston, Rona Aston, Jeremy Atkinson, Karen Killick, Evelyn Leadbetter and Dawn Wheeldon. Nicola Dursley and John Taylor have recently joined the team.

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

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

Karen Snowden and Peter Gray (Team Leaders)

Mission Giving and Support

The Mission Support Group continue to meet twice yearly to allocate the funds that are available. This year, because of increased giving to the church we have again been able to increase our contributions to all our regular Mission Partners, including those sent out from All Saints, the Mains in Sunderland, and Sarah Peters in Romania. We have also supported the Moses project, and continue to take regular donations to the Mary Thompson fund. Half of goods donated for Harvest went to them, and the other half to Bridge House. Christmas gifts went to St James' House and again to Mary Thompson Fund for refugee families.

Prayer support is also vital, and many of our Mission partners are also supported by one of the Life Groups. News and requests from our partners are received regularly and posted on the notice board.

There is also a folder with up to date news which is kept on the bookshelves in the coffee lounge. Do have a look at it if you are interested in what is going on!

Visits from Mission partners in the coming year include Carolyn Kemp, who visits in April.

We would welcome new members to the Mission Support Group.

Sue Levan