



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

All Saints' Church
Annual Report 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Report

In 2008-2009 this church had to contend with an unusual number of exceptional challenges. Now, thanks be to God, each has been met in turn, we have emerged stronger and have slowly repositioned ourselves on the front foot. This is not to say that we will not encounter difficulties or opposition in the future but it does feel like we have come through a time of testing and that we are ready now to move ahead from a position of strength.

The country is slowly emerging from one of the deepest and longest recessions of recent times and there have been inevitable pastoral consequences. Unsurprisingly the church's finances have been adversely affected too - and that has had a direct impact on ministry. We have had to be disciplined with budgets, prioritizing spending and living within our means. Our Treasurer has done a fine job managing the church's budget in his first full year in testing circumstances.

As I look back on 2009, I thank God for many examples of committed endeavour in sharing the good news of Jesus. I know that we should be wary about assessing evangelistic effectiveness in and we must stress the sovereignty of God, but we cannot say hand on heart that many people have found faith here recently and that is certainly a matter for the whole church to pray about. I am sure we would all like to see more people coming to a saving knowledge of Christ and I believe that, as we come together before God and pray with passion and faith, we will.

In 2009 we saw a big step forward for our youth ministry, encouraging developments in our children's work, further growth at the lunch club, a great start to our leadership training programme and much more.

Further afield, we have continued to commit resources to St Mary's Long Newton and Stockton Parish Church, working together in a mutually beneficial partnership. We have been involved in Healing on the Streets, Street Pastors and A Way Out as well as showing ongoing support for ministries like HANE. All this bears testimony to the fact that we have a healthy outward focus also. A church that gives much will be blessed much.

We have a clear mission statement at All Saints': This church exists to worship God, make disciples, share the good news and care for those in need." But what is our *vision*? Our mission states where we are, but our vision is about direction. Put it this way, if you asked 10 people at All Saints' "what should our church look like in five years' time?" would you get a unanimous reply or ten different and conflicting answers? Where, under God, are we all going? That is a matter I think we need to address *as a church* and we will be setting about it this spring.

John Lambert

Treasurer's Report

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed financially to All Saints' Church during 2009. 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 just under £120,000 from congregational giving which was increased to approximately £150,000 with Gift Aid. Other income sources such as rent from Church House gave us total income for the year of £165,000.

After giving away the first 10% of our income, we gave £65,000 to the Diocese, around £30,000 on general running costs and £55,000 on mission. Our total expenditure for the year was just under £165,000 meaning that we ended the year with a small surplus.

Our plans for 2010 require us to be able to generate £180,000 income, which at current levels is not going to be a possibility. 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 during 2010.

For more details, please see my more detailed report in the Financial Statements (some copies of which will be available at the APCM or by email if requested)

God Bless,
John Belmont
Treasurer

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC has a total of 22 members 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. 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. Therefore overseeing the church's finances is a major part of the PCC's work. Other matters dealt with at PCC during 2009 have been:

Appointment of new members to the Ministry Development Team

"Choose Life" Youth Ministry including setting up the Youth Room and appointment of a part-time Youth Pastor

Gift day

Church house

New bibles

Noise complaint

Centre Entertainments License

Environment group

Quinquennial report on the condition of our church building and prioritizing the required repairs.

Various new policies have also been approved including a Motorized Vehicle Policy, a Baptism Policy, a Vulnerable Adults Policy, the appointment of a Child Protection Officer and the registration of PCC as an individual charity.

PCC Minutes and Agendas are placed on the Notice board in the centre reception. Please pray for us. We really appreciate your support.

Wendy Sheffield

Ministry Development Team (MDT)

The MDT prayerfully considers what God is calling All Saints' to do, encourages every-member ministry and thinks strategically about resourcing existing ministries. It is sometimes hard to know how to follow through and turn vision into reality; the MDT is a think-tank, not an executive body.

Much of our time this year has been trying to find an answer to the question "Is our building a tool for ministry in the 21st Century or a monument to ministry in the 20th?" After much discussion we presented the PCC a report on our use of space which raises considerable issues.

We have considered significant developments in the vision for Tim's, Julia's and Jan's work which, in each case, sharpen our evangelistic edge.

In the autumn, we prayerfully identified the key priorities to address as we saw them. Before this academic year is through, in addition to the above, we will have covered:

- setting aside a dedicated and flexible space for prayer
- how we care for those in need
- home groups

We also felt the need to come before God and seek him, so in February we invited anyone who wished to join us in prayer to come along and we had a profitable evening which, I think, deepened our motivation and joyful desire to "pray heaven down" on our church and community.

John Lambert

General Synod

There was no debate at either February or July meetings on the chief current topic - women bishops. It was hoped that detailed options for legislation would be ready for February, but the committee responsible will only finalise the work for this July. The decision to go ahead has been taken: the difficulty is in the detail of provision for those who feel they cannot accept the principle.

Last July we worked on financial matters - giving (how many meet the challenge of 5% after tax?) and clergy pension funding, terms of service, and disciplinary measures. We asked for a report on deployment of bishops and senior clergy, and received reports on the Good Childhood enquiry by the Children's Society, and on ministry with people with learning difficulties - among other topics.

In February, we heard a thoughtful address from the Archbishop of Canterbury, on how best to tackle questions that divide us without becoming anxious and self-protective. We voted, rather surprisingly, to increase the pension rights of a surviving member of a clergy civil partnership, currently well below that of a spouse, although all clergy are going to be asked to put in more years before pension age. We had lively debates on Fresh Expressions, strategy for children, faith and science, BBC neglect of religious matters, and how we should relate to North American churches that have broken away over the election of same-sex bishops - and tidied up various pieces of legislation.

Janet Atkinson

Operations Manager

The past year has seen another change in the staff team with the appointment of Kathryn Belmont as our Assistant Youth Pastor, Kathryn was appointed in October and I am sure will make a significant contribution to the development of our youth ministry work.

With regards the running, maintenance and improvement projects around the church and centre, this has been somewhat hampered by the general lack of funds and continues to be a challenging concern. I would especially like to thank our team of volunteer church cleaners for their sterling efforts and would like to appeal yet again for more people to help in this area of servant ministry.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers on the various Sunday rotas, without these people our regular Sunday worship could not operate in anything like its current form.

Finally I would like to thank John Doherty as he retires as church warden for his support and assistance over the past three years.

Rob Pepper

Fabric Report

Electrical

The nave lighting is still proving unreliable and we have stopped having expensive repairs done to it. It will be more cost effective to replace the metal halide lamps with a cheaper alternative when we begin to notice the need.

Electrical inspection and testing continues regularly, and we would remind users of electrical items that they should present them for testing when required and that second hand items should not be put into use until they have been tested.

Grounds

We have appreciated help with litter clearing and snow clearing during the year and as spring approaches we hope that more people will volunteer to help with mowing the grass and other work in the grounds. Some areas have been made most attractive by a small band of helpers

General

Maintenance – see report by Bruce Merrick

We are still experiencing difficulty in keeping record of the Church possessions. If you borrow something please enter it in the loans book on Sandra's desk and book it back in on return.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have helped us this year, especially the assistant wardens whose invaluable help have made our task much easier.

John Doherty

Quinquennial Inspection and Maintenance

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by last June and revealed a considerable number of maintenance jobs which will be attended to in the next 2 years, some of the more urgent work including the repair of the lightning conductor having been already carried out. We are indebted to a member of the congregation who is undertaking to do much of the work on a materials only basis. The inspection also revealed that in the past the church has not made adequate provision in the budget for ongoing maintenance of the building and this situation has now been rectified.

The Church heating system has struggled to bring the building up to a comfortable temperature during this particularly cold winter and we feel that increased insulation in the roof and replacement of windows would largely cure this. This would be a high cost initiative and is therefore something we must look at in the longer term.

We would appeal to anyone who has maintenance skills of any type which could be used at Church to let us know.

Finally I would like to thank Sandra and the Assistant wardens for all their help during the year.

Bruce Merrick

Publicity and Communication

It has been a quiet twelve months for All Saints' Church publicity and communications as planned activities have been put on hold due to budget constraints with church funds.

The monthly Church newsletter, In Touch, has continued to be developed in its new smaller format and the communications group will continue to review this vital piece of church communication. As always, constructive feedback is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Matt Falcus who designs and edits the newsletter each month making sure it meets the print and publication deadlines, closely assisted by our 'eager newshound' (and 'paparazzi snapper') Bill Cockcroft.

The Church website continues to be valuable communications resource with news and activities being added on a regular basis - well worth a browse!

A new welcome / information booklet has been designed and will be printed in due course and the external Church notice boards are also set to receive a much needed update.

Finally, a 'big thanks' from me to everyone in the team who generously gives up a great deal of their own free time to help and assist with this important church activity.

Simon Clayton

WORSHIP GOD

Music Group

10:30am Worship

Worship at the 10-30 service has changed again! Our prayers of God providing people to be involved with worship have been answered in the welcomed addition of a bass player, vocalist, and drummer joining the group! This has been a practical and Spirit filled blessing. We now have an increased core of people who are prepared to meet on a Thursday eve to worship God and to seek His heart for the congregation through musical practice and prayer. We continue to welcome sound desk, visual operators and worship leaders to join us in our preparation for the service, as worship at All Saint's involves a team of people, not just singers and musicians. 10-30 sung worship continues to be a God praising, Jesus loving, Spirit filled time, open to everyone regardless of age! We continue to actively seek God's face every week and long for relationships to be taken to higher heights and greater depths with God as we worship Him in Spirit and in truth. So the vision for worship in 2010? God asks that we "come as we are, just as we are, to worship Him". As a famous Meerkat once said... "simples"!!

Deb Hird

6:30pm Worship

To Him, for Him and about Him

It was great news to hear in the autumn that the council have now approved of the sound levels during our times of worship at All Saints Church. I would like to thank those involved in 6:30 worship whether through playing, singing or by serving on the sound/visuals desk over this past year for both their patience whilst the sound issue was being dealt with but also for their ongoing time and commitment to helping us embrace the presence of God.

The 6:30 service has looked different on occasions over the past few months as we look to hear from and meet with God in different ways. We continue to be blessed with gifted musicians and worship leaders at All Saints, each with their own style and each with the same heart to lead us into the presence of God. My prayer is that as a congregation of Gods people, we will continually come expectant to our times of corporate worship, ready to give all that we are in worship to Him, for Him and because it is all about Him.

Tim Wye-Williams

Choral Group

The Choral group exists to lead worship in a traditional style. Over the past year we have lead 9am services at All Saints', 10.30am services at St Mary's and a few services for special occasions. We don't sing every Sunday, just the occasional. The happiest service of the last year was probably one of a couple of weddings, the wedding of Christine Doherty. On the other hand, the saddest service was the funeral of Letty Brown, founder of the Group.

Although we sing a more traditional style, that does not limit our repertoire. As well as the more traditional hymns we will be singing Taizé and Matt Redman songs at the Ash Wednesday service.

2010 saw the recruitment of our youngest member, Edward Wake, the group's first Treble. It is great to have him with us and it would be nice to have a couple of younger members in the group. So, if you love God, love singing and have a sense of humour, come along to the library at All Saints' on a Friday at 7.30 pm when we meet to practise; whether you're 10 or 90 you will be most welcome.

Richard Spratt

Prayer

At the MDT open prayer meeting in February we felt led to repent of our prayerlessness as a church. It is not that we never pray at all, but certainly prayer does not command the priority it should. Indeed, God has spoken to us again and again about prayer and the mood of the meeting was that it is time to become the House of Prayer that God says he wants us to be.

Such is the importance of praying for the mission of the church that, at the MDT's suggestion, one Sunday after Easter all our services will be centred entirely on intercession.

There are lots of little prayer gatherings around the church, too numerous to mention here. But I would like to form a team this year to take a lead in raising the profile of prayer and planning prayer opportunities for the *whole church*. Our quarterly Saturday prayer breakfasts have had a promising first year, attracting up to 30 people. We would like to introduce more evening prayer meetings, perhaps varying the day so as many as possible have a chance to come and pray. And why not organise occasional prayer walks around the boundaries of the parish?

John Lambert

Puppet Team

Although this has been a quieter year for the puppet team we have continued to take part in family services and events such as the Glow Party.

Jan and I were also asked to lead a puppet seminar at the New Wine Children's Workers training day in Stockport. We also had great fun being a part of the Pebbles team along with Carol and Cerian Bridge at New Wine, where we used the puppets to tell Bible stories.

In January I organised a training day at All Saints led by Marcus Clarke who has worked with the Muppets and is a puppeteer on children's television. We had a great day learning new skills as well as meeting up with 3 of the other teams in the area.

I have also set up a small puppet team within my work at Tristar Homes and we have been into schools with the puppets looking at topics such as healthy eating and fire safety.

Please pray for us as we continue to look for God's direction for the future, particularly with the project to join with the Oakwood Centre's puppet team to work on an Easter production for 2011.

Chris Peters

Banner Group

It is with some regret that I report that the banner group effectively ceased to be this year. Geraldine and I have been unable to attend due to work and family commitments. Jean Shelton and Pat Snaith refurbished the harvest banner, improving upon the original design with very pleasing results. They have continued to be members of the craft group, which has now joined the Long Newton craft group which meets on a Thursday afternoon. We hope that, in God's timing, a new banner group may be formed in the future; banner making will always be a fun and creative way to give glory to God.

Fiona Spratt

Flowers

What a blessing the Church Garden is! Every week it provides us with greenery for the church and saves the church at least £100 a year. Thank you to Alan, Maureen, Ann and others who give their time and skills caring for it.

Several church members also give me leave to raid their gardens and allotments for flowers (again saving the church money). Thank you to them too.

Flowers for festivals and weddings I buy from the wholesale florist. This year I spent £872-90 there. Otherwise I buy from supermarkets and local florists. (£284-46)

Easter 2009 – Lent 2010 I spent £1,157-36 of which £200 came from the PCC and £957-36 from private individuals.

The team – Karen Lamb, Bettina Dufton, Jean Shelton, Sylvia Renshaw Stella Benson and I arranged flowers for 3 magnificent weddings and earned £505 for the church funds. Thank you team!

Now it is Lent and time for a 6 week rest before Easter. Thank you for the nice comments you make about the flowers. That makes it all worth while.

Anyone interested in joining our team will be welcome – no previous expertise is necessary, just a love of flowers and plants.

Rosy Doherty.

MAKE DISCIPLES

Just Believe

This year has been one of the spiritually hardest years within the Children's ministry, personally speaking. Which is not surprising when we look and see what God is doing and has done. We have approximately 50 new children-attending Fuse hearing about God every week. Healings, Young lives deciding to live for Christ. By popular demand we received a petition for a new kids club. Congregations praying and interceding for children, other churches requesting our Kids church services. We have Children as young as 3 praying for people, learning and living in the Kingdom. Five and six year olds receiving pictures and words from the Holy Spirit and 8 -10 year olds becoming aware of the magnitude of His kingdom and growing in curiosity and hunger to receive more. This has been an awesome year. By God's grace, this is just the start.

Matthew 19:13 One day some parents brought their **children** to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the **children** come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these **children**."

Julia Taylor-Powell

Engage

Engage is our weekly Youth Church which meets in the Youth Room during the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings. Each week we spend some time in worship, have some teaching, time for prayer, play games, watch video clips and discussion times.

Over the past year we have looked at Relationships (with God, parents, friends, family and boy/girl friends!), Old Testament Bible Characters and also did some teaching on the Choose Life Mission Statement, to REACH others, CONNECT with each other, to ENGAGE with God and to DISCOVER life to the full.

Recently, whilst away at Soul Survivor, some of the young people wanted to start supporting a child through Compassion. We now sponsor a 4 year old girl Heidy who lives in Guatemala. We regularly pray for her, raise money and write to her which has been great for the young people to share in.

We feel it's important for young people to have a place to express themselves in worship among their peers and to grow together as a youth group spiritually. We aim to give opportunity to discover gifting and to help equip them in different areas of church ministry.

Tim Wye-Williams

Young Adults

The Young Adults meet every Monday, alternating socials and 'Going Deeper' evenings, welcoming anyone in their 20s and 30s, whilst also inviting those who have just left college.

Over the past year our socials have included: meals out together, games evenings, meeting at Starbucks and more. We believe that the social aspect of the group is important in helping to build community, welcoming new members, and supporting each other.

Our 'Going Deeper' evenings have varied greatly over the year, and there are now a number of members who are involved in leading these sessions. We have covered a wide range of themes, and always make time to pray for each other. We have also held worship evenings, and fundraising events.

The Young Adults group is made up of a wide selection of people, including students who come back to the group when they are on holiday. We have also welcomed a number of new members this year which has been encouraging.

I would like to thank everyone who has committed to the group over the last year and a half, and I am praying that God will really bless this group over the year to come.

Kathryn Belmont

Homegroups

Unfortunately, the person identified last spring to coordinate Home Groups unexpectedly left All Saints' so this ministry has lacked overall leadership and organization. It has not so far been possible to find someone with the necessary vision, availability and skills to take on the role of Home Group Coordinator.

Nevertheless, there have been two gatherings of home group leaders and hosts and both went well. These are good opportunities to share resources and materials, to flag up issues and to learn about healthy group dynamics.

Our Cranmer placement student Kuhan Satkunanayagam has been touring the Home Groups since October and is writing a report on their strengths and weakness which the MDT will discuss and act upon in April.

During the year two home groups have ceased meeting (in both cases the combination of falling attendance and busy lives became increasingly difficult for those who remained) but two others have started up and are going well and there is talk of still another starting up possibly this spring.

As always, the issues are finding the right chemistry of willing leaders, ideal location, members with things in common and sufficient critical mass.

John Lambert

Library

The stock now consists of about 1650 books most of which have Christian content, over 350 sermon CDs and some children's videos, as we have abandoned the worship tapes. A few more books have been bought and donated since last year and those using the library seem to be the same few. The number of meetings being held in the Library is becoming a problem as they prevent people accessing the books and me from being able to work on them at a time when the church is open and people would expect the Library to be available. The suggestion has been made that there is a designated opening time for the Library, and I think that would be worth trying so watch out for announcements. Our Library is a resource which is not being tapped so do find out where it is, at the end of the Narthex, and browse for some interesting reading.

Gill Wake

Bookshop

During the first half of this year the bookshop was open after each service held at All Saints'. Many people commented that it was a useful resource, particularly for people who find it difficult to get to a good Christian bookshop themselves, and we therefore sold a reasonable amount of books, and took many orders from different people.

Unfortunately due to time constraints I have been unable to open the bookshop during the second half of the year. However we are currently in the process of changing hands, and reorganising, and the bookshop will be reopening in the near future. Many thanks to the people who have helped me to run the bookshop in the last year, and also to the people who have offered to help in the future.

Kathryn Belmont

Launch Gap Year

Launch represents an excellent opportunity for young Christians to gain practical ministry experience and broaden their Bible knowledge. It really adds value to our ministry here too. Unfortunately, there were no applications for Launch in 2009 so we have not had a Launch team this year. We advertised in New Wine magazine, updated our Launch web page and printed hundreds of cards to be distributed at Soul Survivor and Momentum. We need to discover more fruitful ways of publicising our project so as to develop it in the future. If anyone has ideas on this please see Rob Pepper or me.

John Lambert

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

Toddlers

I have been encouraged to see our 3 weekly toddler group sessions continue to flourish. Average attendance is 80 – 100 toddlers/carers each session. Many newcomers have joined us, and we have said sad farewells to those leaving for nursery. Special fun events recently have included Teddy bears picnics, and Christmas parties, which went well.

Many opportunities have arisen to build relationships, share our faith and invite people to church activities. Toddlers continues to be the main feeder for the Big Ted event. An increasing number of families are having their children baptised at our church, a few have attended courses such as Journeys, and now attend church. It's encouraging to see such 'fruit', and I pray that this is just the beginning. Recently we introduced a lending library with Christian books and a prayer requests box. The past few years I have been seeking to follow the vision God placed upon me for toddlers, step by step. The next stage of the vision sprang into action in January

with the arrival of 'Play and Praise'. This is a weekly worship based event for under 5's and their carers, with action songs, bible stories, puppets, craft, and more!

Jan Peters

Big Ted

This has been another fantastic year at Big Ted. We continue to meet on the third Wednesday and Thursday of each month. Wednesday is the quieter day with between 50 & 60 people attending and 70-90 on Thursday. We begin with craft then move into church for songs, stories and prayers with puppets and lots of fun! Then it's off to lunch which everyone loves. To be a success we have a brilliant and very hard working kitchen team who are really appreciated by everyone. The 'up front' team are incredibly dedicated to planning, preparing and setting up which is no mean task, we are very pleased to have Wendy Sheffield, Euan Gordon and Duncan Hird as welcome additions to our team since September. There is a small army of volunteers who help with cutting out crafts, setting up and putting away to whom we are very grateful (you know who you are!). We are delighted at seeing the fruit of this event in the shape of relationships being built, baptisms and significant numbers of adults signing up for Christian exploration courses with some becoming members of the main body of believers at All Saints church.

Sylvia Wilson

Events for Children and Family

In the past year 'The Club' family events have continued to prove popular in February and October half terms, attracting 300+ per event, 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! Please pray that God will continue to bless ministry to families and bring lots of fruit from it.

Jan Peters

Fuse

I'm not entirely sure what we would do if all 63 children turned up at once. We have Years 4, 5 and 6 (age 8 - 11). Jesus is introduced to children; we share stories and truths to listening ears. This is one of the most fantastic ages to be sharing Jesus. They have an incredible amount of influential power with their parents and parents want their children to be safe and happy. Fuse offers all of the above. We have seen 3 young people come to Breathe on a Sunday (kids Church). One child has decided to be baptised and another 11 stand to accept Jesus into their hearts, and even more exciting "want to learn more about God 'n' stuff" and come to Soul Survivor in the Summer. This is a very exciting time for Children's ministry in general. God is opening doors, not just in churches, but families and new relationships. We have a whole world to reach on our doorstep, please pray for us. We do need support and help for this growing ministry. One word was given during a prayer time: 'Aslan is on the move'. God we want to see you glorified.

Julia Taylor-Powell

Choose Life

It has been a significant year in the life of the youth work. A 5 year vision document was submitted and approved by the PCC and over the summer months, through successful funding applications and anonymous

donations, the 2 meeting rooms became the youth room. The new youth room has been welcomed and enjoyed by many young people since and is also benefitting other groups in the church.

We have also been able to welcome Kathryn Belmont as a part time youth pastor after a generous gift day, and the youth work is already seeing the benefits of Kathryn's employment. Kathryn brings great organisational skills, gifts in leading and teaching and a passion to see young people move deeper into faith. Her employment has also enabled us to start a weekly detached work and drop in, a weekly rock solid club and offers the girls in our youth work a great mentor and role model to look up to.

We continue to run assemblies, midweek life groups and 360 where we had 90 young people just before the summer encouraging us to split the night into 2 separate age groups which is proving successful.

Tim Wye-Williams

Tuesday Lunch Club

Thanks to the serious dedication of cooks, drivers and helpers this event is proving very popular amongst many retired people. We begin with a half hour service of the Word with about 20 regular members who regard this as a 'life line' as it's their only opportunity for worship. The meal is always beautifully presented healthy food. We have a wonderful variety of entertainment which Rosy tirelessly organises. After lunch we have a short gospel message talk and this has given opportunity to talk with people and to pray for individuals as well as the whole gathering of people. It is a privilege to work with our guests we have such fun and we are finding that we are being invited to share Gods love in supporting our guests and their families through sickness and bereavements. It is an equal privilege to hear life stories and stories of life long friendships of the people who attend. A significant development this year has been that we are becoming know as a place where the newly bereaved or those older people who have moved into the area to be near their children can come and make new friendships

Sylvia Wilson

All Saints Kings Academy FC

ASKA followed up last seasons Division Two title by winning the Division One title, losing only one league game on the way. The team worked hard and the camaraderie between the players was excellent throughout, playing football the way that it should be played (for most of the season!)

In the summer, we achieved FA Standard Charter Club Status, an official recognition from the FA that we run the club both on and off the pitch in a professional manner. The award gives us good status within the football community and also a platform to move the club forward and to begin working toward expanding the vision for kids/youth football. With the help of Jason Powell and Matthew Trotter, we now have approximately 12-15 boys aged 11-13 training every Tuesday with the view to starting an official All Saints Kings Junior Football Team in September.

At the time of writing (Feb 2nd), the adult team are currently unbeaten and top of the Premier Division, searching for a third successive league title.

We would love your support on Saturday mornings at Allens West, and you can check our fixtures and lots more at www.allsaintskingsacademy.co.uk

Tim Wye-Williams

Primary Schools

This past year I have continued to enjoy leading regular assemblies in 3 of our local primary schools – Preston, The Links, St Marys, Longnewton. Thank you to John Taylor and Susie Green who also lead assemblies. I also enjoy teaching the Old Testament 'Bible Explorer' course to yrs 5 & 6 pupils in local schools. This 5 week course gives lots of opportunity to bring the bible to life through drama, puppets, competitions, games etc. A few schools have visited our church this year and enjoyed having a tour, asking many questions, and eating lots of biscuits! I was given a great opportunity recently when invited to a school to chat to yr 5 children and

answer questions, 'What is a Christian?' and 'What does being a Christian mean to you?'. It's not every day I get the chance to share my testimony with a whole class! I feel it's a privilege to be given the freedom to share the Christian faith and stories from the bible with so many children in our schools, especially in this present climate of political correctness. Please pray that the doors remain open and many seeds of faith will be sown.

Jan Peters

Walkers

We have enjoyed another year of walking, in mixed weathers. We had to cancel one walk because Gilling West fields were heavily flooded, but we did get back to that walk. In fact so good a walk is it that we did it twice – or was it three times!

We had a weekend away at Morland Hall near Appleby. It's a lovely house where we have been twice before. Sadly it now costs rather too much so we will probably not be able to return there.

A new-found property is Grey Barns in Northumberland, part of the Alnwick Castle Cottages. The garden runs down to the shore. We had a magnificent week in glorious weather here in September. We walk long walk, short walks, beach walks and hill walks – and some didn't walk at all but painted and rested a sprained ankle from falling down a rabbit hole!

We have a meal together at the Centre once a year – so it's not all walking.

We continue to space longer walks with shorter and easier walks ranging from near Elton to Byland Abbey and Ripon area. We are glad to welcome new members.

Pemma Littlehailes

Rainbows

In the spring the Rainbows worked towards their Roundabout Get Healthy badge through lots of fun activities. In February they all dressed up as princesses and enjoyed a VIP limo ride.

They learned about their sister Rainbows (Gumnuts) in Australia through activities organised by Young Leader, Helen Brooks, who was going to Australia on a Guiding trip at Christmas.

In the summer they visited Elementis where pond dipping was the popular activity. They also learned how to care for dogs during a visit from Canine Care. Teaching the dogs some tricks was quite an experience! Some Rainbows enjoyed taking part in the 'Uniform through the ages' parade at Ormesby Hall to mark the launch of Guiding's Centenary. They then started to work on the Adventure 100 Challenge. Activities included going horseriding and having a Duck Night, where they made hats and fondant ducks! In the autumn they joined with the Brownies for a Sparkle Evening for Bonfire Night and ended the year with a trip to the pantomime.

We still have a long waiting list as Rainbows continues to be as popular as ever. My thanks to my dedicated team for their support.

Christine Brooks
Rainbow Leader

Brownies

The year started with Jan Peters helping with the Faith Awareness badge, which culminated in the Brownies participating in the All-age service and serving refreshments afterwards, which gained them their Hostess badge as well.

Brownies learned about Deaf Awareness for Guiding's 'Changing the World Challenge'. Learning to sign their Promise and a Dress up Loud night raised funds for the National Deaf Children's Society.

In June we participated in the National Giant Sleepover, sleeping over in the Centre, and in July we splashed out for our Pack Holiday, spending five nights at a Guiding Activity Centre where girls and leaders had a go at archery, crate stacking and grass sledging. Also in the summer we joined with other Brownies from all over Cleveland for an Ugly Bug Ball at Nature's World. Everyone dressed up as bugs, even the leaders.

September saw the launch of Guiding's Centenary year with a County Celebration at Ormesby Hall. We then embarked on the Centenary Adventure 100 challenge-horseriding proved popular.

We attended events with our friends in Tees West Division. A day at Lightwater Valley and a Sleepover and disco were well attended. An exciting year, made possible by the support from my fellow leaders.

Christine Brooks

Guides

A lot has happened at 1st Eaglescliffe Guides this year:-

We changes nights, again.

We gained a new leader, and three young leaders.

At one point it looked as if our numbers were getting dangerously low, but in September we had a huge influx of new starters so we are now introducing a waiting list.

We planted trees and set fires.

Went to the seaside.

Ate chips in the rain.

Raised money and bought Chickens through Save the Children

Dresses in Bin bags and as Pirates.

Looked at the traditions of Guiding.

Did a lot of First Aid.

Went climbing and walking.

Played games and made things.

Now, as we celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding we have a lot of special events planned, including a once in a lifetime trip to Mexico for some of the older Guides and Young Leaders and a trip to Durham for the rest of us.

CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Pastoral Work

Whilst pastoral care continues to be the privilege and responsibility of all members of All Saints we have a very dedicated team of people who have a heart and passion for walking with others when their journey is difficult. A great deal of pastoral work is unseen and we are very grateful to the team for all they do and for their dedication in long term situations. We meet regularly to discuss issues and update training. There are people representing each of our three services on the team. We are also very pleased to have Karen Snowden who is training as an Authorised Pastoral Assistant, she has studied for three years and will be commissioned by the Bishop of Durham at the Cathedral in July. Along with other volunteers Karen has been running a 'Pastoral Drop In' every Monday morning in the coffee lounge between 10am and mid day. Everyone is welcome for coffee and a chat and there is the opportunity for prayer and a confidential conversation if that is needed. All our pastors are trained in listening skills and in prayer ministry, they have a wealth of experience which is a huge blessing to this church.

Sylvia Wilson

Pastoral home Visiting

Home visiting has been part of the work of the pastoral care team. It is a huge privilege to be invited into the homes of people who need pastoral care and it requires sensitivity and much love. We visit those who find it difficult for pastoral reasons to attend church as well as our church members who are elderly or infirm. This is part of pastoral care which we hope to develop further in the coming year.

Sylvia Wilson

Men Who Care

Our group now numbers 14, some of whom are able to attend more regularly than others. Most recently we have done work at Teesside Society for the Blind and Daisy Chain Project. In December we made our usual visit to Bridge House to sing Carols with the help of some other men from the congregation.

Most of the work over the winter months has been painting and we look forward to the spring coming when we can do some outside jobs again. This year we are starting a programme of social evenings again, on a once a quarter basis, as well as our twice a month work sessions.

We are always on the lookout for new members, particularly those who are young and strong, but all would be made very welcome to our fellowship. If you are new to "All Saints" and want more information please let me know. One doesn't have to be particularly good at D.I.Y. skills as long as you are willing (we always need a tea maker!). If anyone knows of local charities needing work done, do let us know.

Bruce Merrick

Mission Giving and Support

The current members of the group are Bruce Merrick (Chairman), David Emerton, Kathie Lambert and Margaret Vaughan. Our Church continues to give a tithe from its income to a number of organisations engaged in Mission both at Home and Abroad. Our 5 Main Foreign Mission Partners are A.P.F., C.M.S., Crosslinks, O.M.F. Diaspora Ministries, and U.F.M. whilst in the U.K our main support goes to Sowing Seeds and "A Way Out". We also support a number of other organisations with which in most cases, we have a link, are Christian organisations or have a Christian Ethos and send us regular updates on their work. The Mission Board in the Centre is updated regularly with news from our Mission Partners – please pray for them. If anyone would like further details or have any queries they should contact me.

Since the Mission – Prayer – Action group closed in December, prayer in support of these organisations is done through the Homegroups. If your group is not involved in this, please let me know.

Bruce Merrick