

**ALL SAINT'S CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORTS  
2019**

For the APCM 19 April 2020

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# Introduction

## Chairman's Report

As I look back at 2019, the standout things for me were:

- Commissioning Peter Gray as our Licenced Lay Funeral Minister
- The completion of REACh phase 1.5 to overhaul the heating
- The launch of a faith discovery group for unchurched teenage girls as well as boys
- Evening worship and barbecue open day events at Saint Paul's
- Kevin and Elaine Webster's wedding
- Paul Arnold's priesting in Durham Cathedral
- An adult baptism service in July
- Serve Teesside
- New Wine United and Soul Survivor
- Sermon series on Beatitudes, Proverbs, Romans and Elisha
- Carols by Candlelight with Archdeacon Rick Simpson

Last year, we had the grief of parting company in this life with Catherine Doyle and Alan Farish. Catherine discovered lively faith late in life, moving to be nearer Terry (her son) and Roza. She had a radiant smile and loved to worship here. My predecessor and friend Alan Farish's sudden and untimely accidental death in November shook us all. I am so grateful for the guidance he gave me over the years and his legacy here is a lasting one.

The tragic death of Donna Levin, a few days into this year, was to heap sorrow upon sorrow. Her struggles in the last quarter of the year were troubling for us all and our collective remorse that we were unable to keep her safe will take a long time to fade. Three precious souls who are no longer with us - but we will meet them again in glory...

At the other end of life, we were delighted by the births of Caleb Houghton, Toby Howard, Joel Daniel and Holly Falcus. Welcome to the world.

After five years of growth in numbers and finances, and such blessing on our many ministries, we seem to have entered a phase of consolidation where we are not noticeably growing but focusing instead on equipping for ministry and making disciples. Our building is quite full, so we are preparing the team to plant into Newtown and then step on the gas for evangelism again here. It will call for prayer, imagination and hard work – and it will, of course, be under new leadership.

This will be my last Chairman's Report as Vicar of All Saints'. When we came to Teesside from Paris in 2008, we wouldn't have predicted that these would prove to be the happiest years of our lives, certainly amongst the most fruitful professionally.

But we are convinced God is calling us to turn the page and write a new chapter. Since giving our decision to Bishop Paul last June, it has been confirmed in many ways so we are sure it's right, though it will break our hearts to leave.

Our future and yours have uncertainties ahead. Most of us love a comfort zone. Few of us like change and upheaval, but Christians are called to live by faith, not by sight. As someone has said, "Ships are

never safer than when they are in a harbour – but that is not why ships were made.” It’s time to hoist the sails and catch the wind. An ocean of opportunity and adventure awaits.

Thank you for everything. Kathie and I will never forget you.

*John Lambert*

## **Treasurer’s Report**

As the church treasurer, I have seen so much commitment to the church reflected in the finances. It shows how people love God through their generosity which we experience here at All Saints.

### Incomings

To begin with I would like to report on voluntary giving from the members of the church. This exceeded the budget for which we are very thankful. Thank you to those who have changed their form of giving to either standing order, bank transfer and via the Parish Giving Scheme. These methods avoid extra charges we pay to the bank when cash or cheques are deposited.

Other income received exceeded the budget too. This was obtained through letting rooms to outside organisations, rent from our flats 558A & 558B Yarm Road and solar panel energy amongst other things.

### Outgoings

£96,642 was given to Parish Share in the year and a further £21,772 was given to mission organisations – both overseas and locally. This means that almost half of our voluntary giving was given away. I am convinced that this is one of the reasons why God blesses this church so much. Individuals are generous as is the church as a whole.

Nearly £71,000 was spent on mission, outreach and teaching this year. This includes the salaries and pensions paid to our employed staff (not the vicar, nor the curate). Our youth, children and Connect ministries are included in this sum as are visiting speakers and other mission events throughout the year such as Alpha etc.

Maintenance and general upkeep are always necessary. We have spent in excess of £8,000 this year maintaining our building and grounds. Our downstairs flat was treated to double glazing to ensure our tenant remains comfortable.

I would like to say a special thank you to Amanda Thompson who keeps a close eye on our utilities bills and makes sure that we get the best deals from the utility companies. Craig Aston reads the meters monthly and sends our readings each month to the utility and water companies. We are very grateful to you both for these services. Nearly £8,000 is spent on our utility bills.

Nearly £3000 was spent on tea, coffee, biscuits and juice. This enables us to be hospitable on a Sunday and throughout the week. The photocopying and stationery amounted to a further £4,500 this year.

As ever, I have appreciated the help given me this year by Richard Spratt as my assistant, Margaret Vaughan as the Gift Aid secretary, Gill Wake who counts and banks the money every week and John Belmont who deals with the staff payroll and the REACh accounts.

This report has not taken into consideration the finances for the REACh project which is separate from the general funds.

It has been a real privilege to serve you all in this role over the past few years. Thank you for trusting me with such an undertaking and for your patience when I have not understood all things financial.

*Kathie Lambert*

## Planting Curate's report

This past year has had lots of ups and downs for us all, but the graft project has definitely been one of the ups for us as church.

This will be the final year of my curacy: it seems strange that we are now here with less than a year to stepping into St Paul's with a mission to become the beating heart of God's love in Newtown and the surrounding areas.

### Blessings:

1. Building Team – We are now a team of 24 gifted people, all committed to joining in God's work to making it the beating heart of his love in Newtown. We would love to hear from you if you are discerning if this is the right move, the work will be hard but such an amazing adventure!
2. Building Relationships – A team from All Saints is regularly preaching at St Paul's and we will be building up engagement with the existing congregation this year culminating in plans for my family and I joining with St Paul's congregation from January in advance of the launch in April.
3. Building place – We want to make the place a bustling community hub, where people encounter each other as well as Jesus. We hope to start work in September to make it a warm, open and hospitable place that the community want to call their own.

### Key Challenges:

1. Money – God has been good with funding but this does not cover all the work needed, particularly to the building. We are pursuing grant funding from other sources and have phased the reordering work we would really welcome a conversation if you feel called to support us financially.
2. Saying farewell – As we come close to sending out we need to deal with the loss that this brings:
  - a. Here -- you will be saying goodbye and needing to adapt as key people go and are replaced.
  - b. The team -- as we 'leave home.'
  - c. St Paul's existing congregation – adapting to the new missional culture and size dynamics changing.
3. Baking in the detail – trying to hear God's plans and not be overly possessive of our own. The team on the planting course in Leeds is really coming to terms with this as we build out plans:
  - a. Plans for missional outreach into the area through being a community hub, fighting poverty, celebrating beauty in brokenness, and inviting people to know Jesus.
  - b. Plans for renewing and revitalising worship and prayer creating a passionate heart of spirituality in the heart of Newtown.
  - c. Plans for creating radical community where people share life as family on mission together.

*Paul Arnold*

## The PCC

During the year 2019 the following have served on the PCC: Kay Adeboye (until 28 April 2019), Paul Arnold (Curate), Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod), Lawrence Gnanaraj, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard (Churchwarden), Karen Killick (Churchwarden), Kathie Lambert (Treasurer), Sue Levan (until 28 April 2019), Stuart Levin, Scott Linnett, John Littlehailes (Secretary), Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Ian Taylor, John Taylor (Deanery Synod), Margaret Vaughan (Diocesan Synod), David Warren, Nicola Wrightson (Safeguarding Officer). Chair John Lambert (Vicar).

This was a busy year, with the main focus being on the REACh work (Phase 3 was assured of progress by the end of the year) and on the church planting in Newtown. Safeguarding remains a priority, and the new regular item on the Staff Management Team's work has proven valuable. The Financial items, again regular reports, are very important for the PCC Members: as Trustees of the church they are responsible for the sensible handling of the church's resources. With this, and with the other responsibilities of the group, prayer is an important part of each meeting.

*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, amongst other things, the MDT:

- Agreed a renewed focus on Life Groups with Erin Bunford stepping up as Life Group Advocate
- Encouraged an emphasis on apprenticeship culture for the making of disciples
- Regularly looked at and commented on REACh phase 3 plans from a ministry point of view
- Processed outcomes from GROW Learning Community and Resource Church conference days
- 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 Erin Bunford, Shiromi Davison, Sue Ireland and Donna Levin whose term on MDT ended at the end of the year. Their contribution was outstanding. We are blessed to have Paul Arnold, Matt Falcus, Rob Govier and Peter Gray continuing on team.

Early in 2020 the process to add new names to the team started. At the time of writing, that process was not complete.

*John Lambert*

## REACH

In 2018 it was decided to change the order of the phases so that phase 3 would precede phase 2. To that object the Reordering Steering Group has met many times during 2019, including several meetings with our architects, in order to finalise the plans. In August the plans went out to 6 contractors.

In September 4 contractors returned their tenders. After reviewing them it was decided that there were insufficient funds to commission a contractor immediately, as had been the plan. Instead we asked the congregation for further funding with the hope that the work can commence in early 2020.

*Richard Spratt*

## Deanery Synod

Stockton Deanery includes fourteen parishes, and we meet six times per year as lay representatives and clergy. Deanery Synod is tasked to plan the mission of the deanery, encourage each other and link in with the Diocese and other Deaneries. We have a Deanery Plan which is available from your Deanery reps and this year there is a task group formed to look at how we forward the mission of the Deanery.

A summary of our meetings over this year:

**May 2019:** Resourcing churches update from Paul Arnold and talk from Martin Anderson about conflict resolution project, following his sabbatical

**July 2019:** Welcome to new clergy members, and a visit from Bishop Sarah introducing herself and her aims as Bishop of Jarrow.

**September 2019:** Resourcing churches update and discussion ahead of the Waymark Diocesan conference.

**November 2019:** Reflections on the Diocesan Waymark conference, and discussion and vote to approve the Deanery Plan.

**January 2020:** Update from our Resourcing churches, and a talk from Bishop Sarah regarding Bishops Mission orders and how this relates to a church plant at Wynyard. Many meetings of the Deanery Synod are open to non-members of synod – speak to your Parish reps if you are interested in attending.

*Lucy Falcus*

## Diocesan Synod

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2019. At the May meeting topics included approving the Diocesan accounts, receiving an update from the team who support the Diocesan focus on poverty (in all its aspects). Bishop Sarah (newly arrived) was interviewed by members of the children's council. It was fascinating to hear of her faith journey from the Welsh mining valley to her calling to be a bishop. The Synod reflected on the clergy covenant – a framework to support clergy and their congregations work mutually to ensure the wellbeing of clergy. Synod was updated on the preparations for Waymark 2019: the Diocesan conference which was happening in early Autumn 2019. The November meeting started with a reflection on our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation, and how should congregations be responding to this. A main item was endorsing the Diocesan budget for 2020 which shows an operating deficit as expenditure outstrips income and reserves are diminishing. The Synod reflected on the recent Waymark 2019 conference where representatives of each parish had come together over a weekend to share what God has been doing and start to discern the Diocese's priorities for the next 3-5 years. The meeting also heard a report from Children's Society on the issues of child poverty in our land.

*Margaret Vaughan*

## Administration

2019 was a time of learning and rethinking the role.

Sadly, Tracy and then Nicola both decided to leave the job share administrator role, to concentrate on other ventures, after bringing their own joy, blessings and insights into the role.

The PCC, Leadership and Staff Management have now taken time to rethink the role and how it has changed over the years.

The decision to make two separate roles of Receptionist, and Administrator will I think work extremely well, and I am looking forward to the future of this relationship.

The Receptionist having responsibility for being the welcoming face of All Saints' to be available to pray and help and encourage both church members and visitors, amongst other things. I have already started to think of ways we can encourage more activities and use of our facilities during the week.

The Administrator will be able to concentrate more on the increasing amount of Administration that a busy growing church needs, without interruption. At the time of writing we have applications for the job being considered. We pray God will help the right person to be appointed.

*Sandra Griffiths*



## Fabric Report and Maintenance

This was an exceptionally busy year for repair, refurbishment and replacement projects at All Saints with our maintenance budget being well and truly spent.

The lighting to the centre toilets was upgraded early in the spring and the whole of the church centre roof was checked and repaired as required. Following a successful application to the council we were able to carry out essential pruning of the trees on site including the removal of one that was leaning close to the building.

The summer months saw the decorating of the main hall and the installation of new more effective blinds to the windows. As the hall is used so much by both church groups and external bookings it is essential that we maintain a good standard of decoration. The purchase of a new floor cleaning machine will allow the floors to be cleaned more efficiently and to a higher standard.

This year has seen some more major work on the Church flats with double glazing and new electric heaters being installed to the downstairs flat. Our commercial tenant in the upstairs flat continues to be really happy with the space and its location close to the station; and during the summer carried out work at his expense to provide more office space within the property. Our thanks go once again to Matt Falcus for liaising with our tenants and managing the flats on a weekly basis.

2019 saw the next stage of our Reach Project with Phase 1a during the Spring with our new heating system being installed. Our heating is now not only more reliable but also more efficient and we have already seen a reduction in gas usage in the church by over a third. Thanks go to our Reach Committee for taking over the project and in particular to Richard Spratt for once again being our main contact with the contractor. A lot of time has also been spent by our Reach members preparing documents, specifications and meeting with our architect and suppliers for the successful faculty application for our next major phase of the work in the chancel area. After receiving tenders in September and the congregation being able to provide the finance during the autumn, the work is due to commence early in 2020.

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. Thank you to our administrative and caretaking staff for liaising with contractors when essential maintenance is required.

We are grateful to Nina Rye for taking on the Food safety and kitchen team and ensuring we retained our 5 star food safety status; and also the teams from the various ministries who are deep cleaning the kitchen each term.

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.

I (Karen) am now in my ninth year as a warden (with a gap in the middle) and it has been a duty and absolute joy to serve as warden during that time. Time has flown but it is now time to stop and take up Nana duties for a couple of years.

Karen Killick and Martin Howard  
Churchwardens

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding the vulnerable, whether children or adults, is often spoken of as our duty in the Bible. 1 Peter 2:12 encourages us to live such good lives that everyone may see our good deeds and glorify God. Having good safeguarding procedures in church ensures there is complete transparency in all we do for others.

This year we have used and completed a new safeguarding audit which is part of the diocesan Safeguarding policy. The audit showed that All Saints is working well towards keeping all our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe in all our ministries.

As our church grows, it is possible that we could be facing increasingly more challenging situations. Influences from social media, in particular, present a challenge to us. This year it has been a blessing to me to be able to talk to our ministry leaders about any of their concerns and help make All Saints a safe place for children and young people to be.

*Nicola Wrightson*

## Publicity, Communications & Website

Our main outlet this past year has been in producing the monthly programme which is given out at All Saints'. Aside from listing details of services, meetings and church events, it has grown to give a snapshot of life within our congregations. This has hopefully been an encouragement each month, as well as a good way of communicating what's going on among our members and church as a whole.

The church website continues to be our flagship presence online and seems to be successful in telling visitors and those looking for a church all about who we are.

We also have our private Facebook page which is a useful resource for members to communicate with each other, make prayer requests, ask for help and advertise events. This year we have also launched an outward facing Facebook page which is visible to anyone and allows us to better promote our church to our community.

The communications group will naturally look to support the St Paul's Church plant next year in any way it can. However, the workers are few – so if you have a knack for writing, graphic design, video or web development, why not get involved?

*Matt Falcus*

## **Worship God**

### **Music and Worship at 09.00**

The nine o'clock service continues to worship with a mix of traditional and new songs, from the Mission Praise collection, although this year the song words are projected onto the screen as well as being available in the Mission Praise books. 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**

"Keep it simple, Keep it real, Keep it up"- The words of Pete Greig founder of 24/7 Prayer. Pete's referring to our prayer life, but the same applies to Worship! Throughout 2019 into 2020 our sung Worship has been led by Leaders who have a heart and a passion for God and who help lead us into the presence of Jesus. All our Worship team have a desire to meet with God. We're constantly in awe, amazed and stirred as we sing of what Yahweh has done, is doing and continues to do in our lives. We're stirred, challenged and changed by His Holy Spirit as we sing songs of praise, love and thanks to Him who's greater, higher, bigger, stronger and "immeasurably more than we ... can imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Recently our Worship has reached deeper depths through lament, pain and grief...but this is what is meant by "Keeping it Real". Our Worship is a true outpouring of what's in our hearts revealed by words and music. Our challenge within sung Worship is; "Keep it Simple and Real and to Keep it up" EVERY time we Worship our real and everlasting Heavenly Dad! "Simples!"

*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) is drawing a few new people, up to about ten, from both the 9am and 10.30am congregations, 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. This will move into the new chapel once it is completed in April.

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 Luke's Gospel - 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 and will also move into the new chapel shortly.

*John Lambert*

## Choral Group

The Choral Group still has a core of 17 member from both All Saints Church and St Mary's, Long Newton, many of whom have been members since its inception in 1997. We all enjoy singing and the challenge of singing in 3 or 4-part harmony. This year we were delighted to welcome a new member, Tony Wildsmith.

Our accompanist for rehearsals, Anne Wade, has sadly had a recurrence of a wrist injury for which she is awaiting further surgery and she is therefore having to take a prolonged sabbatical from playing for us. We have been fortunate that Mike Shaw from St Mary's has stepped in to help us. We are also pleased that Isaac Conroy is still able to play for our services for the time being and are thankful for all our musicians

2019 was another busy year for us when we sang at 21 services, including two weddings, three funerals and a baptism. Thanks are also due to Beryl Gathergood for faithfully compiling our statistics!

We continue to meet weekly on Fridays at 4pm for approximately 1 hour and would love to welcome anyone who enjoys singing to come along to give it a go.

*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 though not as well supported, have been times of fervent praying and good fellowship.

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 appearances at Messy Church and being a part of the new Discovery Church at which we will be a regular feature

We had a great opportunity to build on our links with the schools in the local area. In the Autumn term we went to The Links and Junction Farm primary schools and presented an assembly looking at world peace, the peace that God gives and the fruit of the Spirit. Both were very well received.

We are also using puppets within Gems. Mr Bible is proving popular with other puppets helping to tell Bible stories.

*Chris Peters*

## Church Flowers

The spend on the flowers for church has been between £0 (March and December) and £65 per month, so of the order of £460 per year, significantly lower than last year's £1000, 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 a key for ready access to the church so I can be flexible about times for doing them.

*Kathryn Hutton*

## Welcome

The welcome ministry in 2019 continued to function really well without any significant challenges or changes for either 09:00 or 10:30 teams. For this reason, the decision was taken not to hold a welcomers' annual meeting in 2019. We lost a couple of members of the 10:30 team during the year but had sufficient resources within the rest of the team to back-fill. We look forward to 2020 to see what God has in store for us as a welcome team.

*Gillian Davison*

## Make Disciples

### Xplore Sunday Children's Ministry

It has been a great encouragement to see a continued rise in the number of children under 11 attending our children's groups regularly. They are wonderfully enthusiastic and a joy to spend time with and teach. We continue to need more helpers so that we can expand the ministry further.

#### **Gems (Babies to Reception age).**

Fiona Spratt and Chris Peters with a team have done a fantastic job of running Gems especially since September when I needed to swop to Trailblazers. The children enjoy playtime, juice & biscuits and teaching time, exploring lots of Bible themes through craft, Puppets, role play, games, storytelling, praise and instrument time, prayers and more!

#### **Trailblazers (School years 1 -6).**

One highlight in our teaching programme has been the 'Mission possible' theme. We turned into special agents for God and carried out all kinds of missions to show God's love. The children led a morning service on this theme and were brilliant - showing us how gifted they are. We have also enjoyed a few

social trips out together. A huge thank you to the Honeywells and team. Donna and Stuart Levin have been brilliant leaders in Trailblazers for years. We are deeply sad that Donna is not with us anymore and miss her and Stuart greatly.

*Jan Peters*

## **Youth Church and Refresh**

There is something immensely exciting about a room full of young people coming together in one place to meet with God! This is something that my team and I are privileged to witness at both Youth Church and Refresh!

Our time at Youth Church consists of breakfast together, games, a talk, sung worship and prayer response times. This year we have focused on many themes including; being a Justice Generation, hearing God's voice, Biblical young people that God used, and more! We long to see our young people grow in faith, and it has been especially encouraging to see them become more confident in prayer this year.

At Refresh we have been thrilled to welcome some of the best local and national speakers including Ste Sutton, Laura Hancock, Phil Knox and more. We are committed to giving Teesside young people the best possible opportunities to meet with God and be inspired to share His love with the world. We have loved seeing young people experience the Holy Spirit for the first time this year, as well as being prayed for and committing to lives of justice. We pray that God will continue to meet them powerfully.

*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 currently have eleven Life Groups and also the Wednesday morning communion group. Over the last year a group for younger adults has been restarted and there is also a post alpha group. The Breakfast and Bible group is continuing to meet in a café in Yarm once a month. The Newtown group have been learning how to tell their Christian stories and how to progress “relational evangelism”. Several of the groups use WhatsApp to share news and prayer matters needs between meetings. Members share that they are helped in their Christians lives by studying the bible, prayer, mutual support and practical help. There is capacity for more people to join several of the groups and we hope to be able to establish further groups in the year ahead.

*David Emerton*

## Church Library

Currently, the library still 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 the Bible commentaries and a selection of other books including those on Discipleship and Christian Living are available to borrow. There are also some children books available. The books may be out of order, so 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. This may not be until after the completion of the REACH project which will give us more room.

*Sue Levan*

## Sozo

2019 was a busy year for the Sozo team.

After our advanced training earlier in the year, we were encouraged by our regional leader Liz Gregg to apply to be able to do Sozo ministry for those from other churches. She came and did some extra training and mentoring then did an assessment day in October, which was fairly testing.

We then had some more intensive mentoring (Bradford became a regular destination for a while) and after Liz liaised with John Lambert we were added to the Sozo website.

We had our first external candidate in November and were very encouraged by the feedback, freedom from long term problems and joyful meeting with God.

We have also had some more really encouraging feedback from others since then.

Other positives are times of prayer and encouragement with Stockton Parish Church Sozo team, with whom we hope to work more in the future.

Since the new year, because of working through our own challenges, we have had a time of consolidation but are waiting for what God is doing next.

If anyone would like to consider having Sozo ministry, please contact [prayer.sozo.as@gmail.com](mailto:prayer.sozo.as@gmail.com)

*Sandra Griffiths*



## Share the Good News of Jesus

### Treasure Seekers

Treasure seekers are seeking the good news of Jesus. This is the name given to an outreach ministry to a home for adults with learning difficulties living in our parish.

A small group of us have been visiting regularly for many years. At present team members are :- Karen Snowden, Evelyn Leadbetter and Jennifer Scaife. We are privileged to be invited into their home and always receive a warm welcome from the staff and residents.

Two members of the team visit and chat with some of the residents and staff. We play worship songs and sing along with percussion instruments. We make a very joyful noise to the Lord! We also read, tell Bible stories together, do craft activities and pray.

The staff at the home asked us if we would be coming to sing carols at Christmas again. We were delighted to be asked. A few members of the choral group joined us to sing carols and the time was enjoyed by residents, staff and all who attended.

Our visits are always a joyful and blessed time. I encourage anyone to come along to experience this blessing with us. If you want to know more, ask Karen, Evelyn or Jenny,

*Karen Snowden*

### Toddler Group & Play and Praise

What an exciting year we have had in both Toddler group and Play and Praise! We have continued to welcome many new families alongside our regulars, at times needing to put a waiting list in place to cope with the demand, making sure we keep things safe and comfortable for everyone. With a strong vision of providing a consistent and intentional Christian presence through our wonderful teams, we are continuing to see God at work amongst the families with lots of opportunity to pray for the adults in particular and to share testimony, as well as providing an important listening ear and practical support. We also provide a friendly, safe and fun space which families love and have been showing their appreciation for through their lovely feedback. Both groups also continue to be a springboard to families attending other ministries such as Messy church and a few families now attend regularly at our 10.30am service.

Our special worship time at Play and Praise has continued to attract both non Christian and Christian families who mix well together and joy fills the hall as we praise Jesus through songs, instruments, puppets telling bible stories, creative prayer and more!

*Jan Peters*

## Schools' Ministry

### Secondary school

We are so thankful for the relationship we have formed with Eggescliffe Secondary School. Biweekly, our youth team deliver assemblies to three year-groups. We seek to provide relevant content which engages the young people and points them to experiencing Jesus for themselves. These assemblies also act as a great opportunity to invite the youth to our midweek outreach events.

Every Tuesday, we run a lunch club called "The Hub". We get the opportunity to see about 25 young people each week at our lunch club as we share snacks, play games, and discuss our faith. The Hub acts as a safe environment for these young people to ask questions and form faith-based relationships amidst the busyness of school.

*Caroline Davis*

### Primary School

Regular assemblies, school tours, yearly Christingle event at church and good relationships with both Preston primary and St Mary's schools have continued this past year. I also spent time weekly in both schools listening to children read, helping in the classrooms, getting involved in RE lessons, and helping on trips out. I am continuing some of these things this year. Play & Praise on tour went down a treat at Preston nursery/ reception with a keenness for us to return. New opportunities included an invitation to lead assemblies at Junction farm and The Links which were well received.

*Jan Peters*

## Messy Church & Discovery Church

After seven exciting, successful years welcoming hundreds of families to Messy church and sharing Jesus with them in creative ways, we held a review in 2019 resulting in us recognising the important sowing seeds of faith ministry that Messy church provides and also looking at ways we can help those families who are open to going a bit deeper on their faith journey to do so. This has resulted in fresh vision for 2020 including continuing to run Messy church but on a termly basis. In February we launched a brand new families ministry called `Discovery church` which meets on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of most months. It has a different format to Messy church, though we have included a couple of things we know families engage well with. We start with yummy refreshments and family fun activities at tables, followed by an All age service, then time to respond to the theme through creative Prayer zones, craft, an opportunity to be prayed with and ask `Big questions`. We aim to create Christian community and opportunity for discipleship helped by a committed team, including a small number of our Church families mixing in with the families who attend. Prayers appreciated!

*Jan Peters*

## Family Outreach Events

Most of our family outreach activities takes place within Toddler group, Play & Praise, Messy church and now Discovery church. We enjoy fun parties at special times of the year and everyone is also invited to our **Glow Party on 31<sup>st</sup> October**, which was once again well attended and enjoyed by whole families who commented on how much they love and appreciate it and the range of activities provided.

Last summer we hosted **Camp Of Champions**, a Children`s games event in Preston park and I provided an under 5`s family play area. All who attended had a great time. I also helped at two weekly **Holiday Hunger** family events run by local churches in Stockton which was a privilege.

*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. The weekends away have, for the moment, fallen into abeyance, but we hope that they will be revived.

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. If you only want a stroll, the Wednesday Wanderers (dates in the Notice Sheet) may suit you very well. The Walkers Rota is available on the church Website and on the Church Facebook Page with the leaders' phone details, and you will be very much welcomed.

*John Littlehailes*

## Introduction to Faith Courses

In the spring we ran an Alpha Course, this time using the brilliant Film Series instead of live speakers. The food was excellent and the atmosphere was lovely. In truth, the course was not as well attended as some have been in the past; let's say it was small but perfectly formed! However, some guests began attending Life Groups afterwards having grown in faith during the Course and that's what it's all about.

*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*

