



# All Saints' Church

*Preston on Tees*

## CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2020

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**For the APCM 23rd May 2021**

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## Chair's Report

2020 – a unique year! One no one could have seen coming – a pandemic closing our church buildings in the middle of a major building project, with our minister leaving in June...and it all happened so suddenly the third week of March!

John Lambert in his report last year called upon us as Christians to live by faith and not by sight, and how prophetic that was – having to trust in God as structures changed rapidly, and we could not physically see each other but had to relate through the internet. The PCC has met only online for over a year now, as have committees, life groups, youth and children's groups. Initially it was confusing and worrying. Would there be a church community at the end of the pandemic? How would the finances hold up with jobs at risk and no hiring of our premises? We have had to trust God and live more closely to Him than ever before.

And how amazing has our church family been! Very quickly those technically able got us back together online, prerecorded and then live-streamed, with Zoom meetings for all. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who have sustained our church family online this year – the techies, worship leaders, church staff, our curate Paul Arnold and the many among us who have served beyond all expectation this year. They ensured we kept in contact with church members and communities by email, letter and online, and we were blessed. Thank you all.

There have been sad times. Saying goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to John and Kathie Lambert, initially online in June and then in person in September, was hard. Also hard was to say a farewell for this life to Reg Allinson and Maureen Stockley. But good to welcome little Eli Hubbard to the church family: we so look forward to having him and our other children in a church service back in the building one day.

As the months progressed, we felt weary with all the ongoing tasks, and sometimes lonely, but we have been sustained by the grace and love of Jesus.

And there have been times of joy – meeting each other unexpectedly in person, worshipping in a new Covid way in the building. The first service back was one of great joy and praise as we celebrated the marriage of Sarah Peters to Dani Hatagen. The building project was completed, giving us a wonderful chapel at the centre of the building and enhanced facilities for worship. We have reached out to varying communities with a gift at Christmas, and we have delivered Christmas cards and Hope magazines to many living near All Saints. The online Carol Service and Christmas services for different ages, though different, were full of worship and family fun. In a strange way, we have become closer online.

Thank you to our Parish representatives (Scott Linnett and Lucy Falcus) who gave time, energy and expertise to drawing up a Parish profile and helping us find the next person to lead us post Covid. We also managed to hold our APCM in October and welcomed a new warden Anne Rolfe alongside Martin Howard. They have done more than we will ever know to keep All Saints Church working well in Covid times and an interregnum, and we say a very inadequate thank you to them for all their commitment and service.

We ended 2020 looking hopefully to the future, thanking God for keeping us in this exceptional year as a church community and for provision of our financial needs.

**Karen Killick**  
**All Saints' Chair**

## **Wardens' Report**

This year at All Saints' was different to what we were all expecting.

The year started with the announcement that John and Kathie were to leave us in June and a few weeks later we went into the first National Lockdown.

We began Phase 3 of Reach in February and initial progress was very good until we were informed that all church buildings needed to close completely. The work recommenced in June and whilst at a slower pace due to social distancing restrictions, it was completed by the end of August. It will be great to be able to use the space fully when all restrictions are lifted.

A lot of time has been spent writing and rewriting risk assessments as restrictions changed throughout the year. We really appreciated the support of Geoff Jowett and Jonathan Backhouse on checking through the various documents to ensure we were able to partially reopen the church buildings.

The restrictions significantly reduced our income due to most lettings for the buildings not taking place. We made use of the furlough scheme for some of our staff and reduced our running cost and maintenance budgets as much as possible to help offset this reduction.

Due to lockdown we were unable to give John & Kathie a proper farewell in June, but with less restrictions in September, John was able to preach at the first service back in the re-modelled church building. The same weekend we were able to gather outside in socially distanced groups

across the two days to wish them well as they moved on to the next step in their journey with the Lord.

The interregnum has increased our workload as we have had to take on much of the decision making role of the vicar during this time. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Matt Levinsohn and his family as they join us in 2021.

The lighting to the ladies toilets in the centre was upgraded at the end of 2020 at the same time as decorating them. Other non-essential maintenance tasks were put on hold last year due to budget restraints but when Peter our caretaker has been able to work in the building he has used the time to get on top of smaller maintenance tasks.

This year has seen only minor work on the Church flats. Our commercial tenant in the upstairs flat has been really happy with the space and its location close to the station, however due to the business continuing to expand he informed us at the end of 2020 that he would be vacating the property in 2021. Our thanks go once again to Matt Falcus for liaising with our tenants and managing the flats on a weekly basis.

We are grateful to Nina Rye for continuing to manage the Food safety and kitchen team and ensuring we retain our 5 star food safety status. Whilst the kitchen has not been used for much of 2020, Nina has continued to pop in when allowed to make sure that everything is as it should be.

We would also like to thank our fantastic team of assistant wardens who look after our services each week. We also thank Shiromi and Sandra who continue to provide admin support for us.

Ours thanks go to Richard Spratt for taking over as interim treasurer from Kathie and to John Belmont for agreeing to take on the role of treasurer from October 2020 on a short term basis.

Finally we would like to thank Karen Killick for all of her time as warden and in particular being willing to extend her tenure until the delayed APCM in October and taking on much of the preparation of risk assessments for Covid-19. To aid the smooth transition I (Anne) shadowed Karen from June to October.

**Anne Rolfe and Martin Howard**  
**Churchwardens**

## Treasurer's Report

Giving is an act of worship. It is our response to the love that God has for us, and is just one of the ways that we can acknowledge His love and show our gratitude back to Him. I was reminded recently of the liturgy that is sometimes used at 9am "*All things come from You, and Your own do we give you*".

One of my favourite passages in the Bible is the one often referred to as the Widow's Offering:

**Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money... a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. She... has given everything she had to live on." Mark 12: 41-44 NLT (edited)**

All of our financial circumstances are different and it is not our place to judge how much other people give. This passage in Mark clearly teaches us that whatever we are able to give, we must give with the right heart and not out of duty or guilt. We give out of freedom and this is between you and God.

In 2020, we received income totalling £223,600 of which almost 90% was from congregational giving. The remaining income came from rent from Church House, Solar Panel income, Centre Lettings and from Government Grants. We are extremely grateful to God for his financial provision throughout the year that has enabled us to honour all of our financial commitments and also make a small surplus!

We continue to give away 10% of all congregational giving to support local and overseas mission which totalled almost £20,000 last year. We paid our Parish Share of £101,475 in full which supports mission and ministry in other churches across our Diocese. Almost £70,000 was spent directly on mission and ministry here at All Saints'. The majority of this money is to employ our Youth Pastor, Children and Families Worker, Caretaker, Receptionist and Administrator. Finally, we spent just over £30,000 on general running costs and maintenance of the buildings.

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Congregational Giving       | £198,100        |
| Other Income                | £25,500         |
| <b>Total Income</b>         | <b>£223,600</b> |
| Mission Giving              | £19,800         |
| Parish Share                | £101,475        |
| Mission Outreach & Teaching | £68,800         |
| General Upkeep              | £31,700         |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>    | <b>£221,775</b> |

I would like to thank everyone who supports the finances of All Saints' through giving financially, serving voluntarily and praying regularly. I would also like to thank Kathie Lambert for her 4 years' service` as Treasurer, and Richard Spratt for serving as treasurer after Kathie left. Also, specific thanks to Margaret Vaughan for her role as Gift Aid Secretary and Gill Wake for serving as Recorder.

Please see the full Accounts for a more detailed analysis and report (pages 3 and 4). Pages 10 and 11 contain a breakdown of some of the income and expenditure for the year, which I would happily answer any questions on.

**John Belmont**  
**Interim Treasurer**

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding continues to be an item on the agenda at every PCC meeting for updates.

A period of transition ensued as I took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in October, 2020. Contact with Beth Miller, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, was established and has been utilised regularly. I, personally, completed Safeguarding Training up to Leadership level by end of November, 2020 and began to undertake the Parish Safeguarding Audit. A number of volunteers have also updated their safeguard training during October-December 2020.

There was a minor safeguarding issue relating to an online group, which was swiftly dealt with, and checks were put in place for future online activities with no residual concerns.

As I continue my new role as PSO I will do my best to adopt Archbishop Justin Welby's vision that:**"We cannot place a high enough importance on safeguarding issues. It is vital that lessons are learned throughout the whole of the Church of England. Everyday, the vulnerable come to us for shelter, for support and for comfort. Their trust cannot be taken for granted."**<sup>1</sup>

After all, it is everyone's responsibility to create a proactive culture of protection in developing a thriving, healthy and safe church.

**Diane Backhouse**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/Church%20of%20England%20Safeguarding%20Review.pdf>



## Planting Curate's Report

What a year! Some days it feels like the blink of an eye, other days it feels like a minute takes a year. This year has been one of a long goodbye for myself and my family as we prepare to move to St Paul's with the team. As I write I have just been in a long meeting about the Pentecost Service which will be the official first day of church in the building together, but most of you will know that we have been meeting online each week since Easter as St Paul's Stockton. We very much are living the Now and not Yet of the Kingdom!

The year began with the announcement of John's departure, leaving me to prepare to plant out and take up some of his duties during that time. I have been so blessed to work with our amazing Church Wardens who picked up a lot of the slack during this vacancy and have worked themselves really hard to keep things going. It has been a really formational time: through lockdowns, rethinking church online in all sorts of ways and all the way through to working on the parish profile and welcoming our new Priest-in-Charge. It has been a great experience to be a part of this family during that time. I want to let you know my thanks and to let you know that I will continue to pray for you as you begin this next year together!

Having been on placement with St Paul's since February it can sometimes feel like I am not still the curate at All Saints, but officially I am and I have been so fortunate to have the loving All Saints family during this time. At the beginning of my time with St Paul's the Church Warden stepped down and two members of the 5 person PCC also left. But because of God's goodness and the amazing team we are bringing we have an interim Church Warden in Richard Spratt, two co-opted members of the PCC and are also using some of the Safeguarding expertise here at All Saints' (namely Diane Backhouse as interim Safeguarding officer and Shiromi Davison to help with DBS processing both have been outstanding) to provide cover during this time.

The church has been beginning to realise what it means to *be* church together and has been busy serving the community through work with Safe Families and other acts in the community. Finally, if you take a look online you will see St Paul's has a new internet presence: <https://stpaulstockton.church> which is courtesy of Matt Falcus.

Thank you All Saints for the love and support that you continue to show to us as we begin this venture. We look forward to sharing stories of Jesus transforming lives and hearts through his love here. And our prayer is that you continue to support us as we take our first steps as a new church this year. "

**Rev. Paul Arnold**

## Parochial Church Council

It was the end of November 2019 when John Lambert asked would I consider taking over the role of the PCC Secretary. It was such an honour and blessing to be considered and to be able to take on this role.

After attending several meetings, in the April I officially took on the role, being co-opted onto the PCC. I joined Paul Arnold, Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Martin Howard, Karen Killick, Kathie Lambert (Treasurer), John Littlehailes, Stuart Levin, Scott Linnett, Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Ian Taylor, John Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, David Warren, Nicola Wrightson (PSO) and Rev John Lambert (Chair). After their many years of service to All Saints' John and Kathie Lambert left in June; therefore, Karen Killick became Chair and Richard Spratt took on the role of Acting Treasurer.

In October the new PCC was elected. Key changes included the stepping down of Stuart Levin, Ian Taylor, John Taylor, David Warren, and Nicola Wrightson.

The election of officers were: Karen Killick as Chair, Diane Backhouse as PSO, John Belmont as Interim Treasurer and myself as PCC Secretary. In addition, we were joined by Paul Arnold, Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Rob Govier, Simon Honeywell, Scott Linnett, John Littlehailes, Richard Spratt (Acting Treasurer) Pamela Rushton, Margaret Vaughan, Paul Wheeldon and Tim Wye-Williams (Co-opted).

**Jonathan Backhouse**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod has not met since the first lockdown was announced. Initially this was because members had a lot on organising their own parishes, and later in the year we decided not to meet online as everyone was feeling Zoom fatigue! We intend to resume meetings once it is safe to do so in person. The Deanery Standing Mission and Pastoral Committee has continued to meet via Zoom. Instead of the usual APCM report here is a very brief report from each parish/benefice.

**All Saints' and St Mary's:** Will be thrilled to have the Rev Matt Levinsohn and his family joining us from April 18th following the departure of John and Kathie Lambert.

**Billingham:** Rev Paul Johnson is continuing as associate priest for another year. We have two Lay Development Workers attached to the parish who are looking to develop the church community over a period of two years.

**Christchurch:** The parish has kept in touch with the congregation through each lockdown with weekly news sheets (by email and post), a 'Buddy system' keeping in touch by phone, Zoom meetings for PCC and Monday meet-up coffee afternoons by Zoom. Services were recorded and uploaded to the church Facebook page and during last lockdown live streamed. St Chad's are now holding Sunday morning services. The PCC are hoping to start work replacing guttering on St Chad's building in the near future.

**Country Parish:** Unfortunately Rev Clare Gibbs has struggled with ill health again. The church plant at Wynyard has proceeded at pace with Revs Mark and Emily Hudghton heading up the team there.

**Holy Trinity with St Mark:** Sadly the wraparound childcare run by the church has struggled significantly due to lockdown. The Church has continued to meet online and since Easter has restarted in person services.

**St John's Egglecliffe:** Has not met in person for a year now, but has continued community and worship on zoom and opened the church for private prayer.

**St Mary's and St Michael and All Angels, Norton:** Norton Foodbank, based at St Michael's formed part of the Covid-19 response with Catalyst and Stockton Borough Council, with members of both parishes delivering food parcels & engaged in extensive pastoral ministry/community engagement

**St Paul's Newtown:** Rev Paul Arnold has commenced his post with St Pauls, to be joined by a team from All Saints' at Pentecost. There is also an exciting building project in progress.

**St Peter's and Elton:** These parishes are exploring a plurality between themselves which is in keeping with the direction of travel in our deanery plan.

**Stockton Parish Church:** Has moved completely online since the first lockdown, with Sunday worship and small groups, and the mission to Mill Lane continuing too.

**Upper Skerne Parish:** There is currently a vacancy for position of Team Rector following Rev Geoff Short leaving at the end of 2020.

**Lucy Falcus**

## **Diocesan Synod**

There have been two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2020. The scheduled meeting in May was postponed being held eventually on an evening in September (via zoom). At this meeting the critical business held over from May was progressed including acceptance of 2019 financial statements for the Diocese. The main item of business was the agreement to adopt a revised way of supporting parishes to understand the amount they should pledge for parish share. Parishes are being provided with a suggested (guided) amount that they should be contributing based on the level of their resources and local context. Diocesan Synod then met in mid-November for a Saturday meeting (via zoom).

This was a busy agenda with updates from the Board of Education on how schools had coped during the pandemic, an introduction was given to Living in Love and Faith, the Diocesan Safeguarding policy was approved with various updates from changes in national policy and guidance. There was a significant item on the process to discern the Diocesan priorities for the next 5 years, this had come from the Waymark process (Diocesan conference back in Autumn 2019). The Diocesan budget for 2021 was approved. The impact of the pandemic on local church finances is having a knock-on effect on parishes' ability to contribute parish share, and the budget assumes that there will be restrictions on being able to fill parishes that fall vacant. The meeting also noted that 2021 will be a year of Diocesan Synod elections for the next tri-ennium (3 year cycle).

**Margaret Vaughan**

## Administration

I started in the role on 31 March 2020, as the first lockdown started - working from home and speaking to John Lambert daily by phone. I made it into the church office in July and worked from home again between November 2020 and March 2021.

It is difficult to communicate with everyone when we are not meeting in person and I set up the Weekly Update as a helpful way of sharing information, and to reduce the number of emails I send out.

I continue to review the information on Church Suite to ensure it is up to date. I update our website regularly including adding an audio copy of each sermon every week. Thank you to all who have written articles for the Monthly Programme.

Thank you to the following people for their help and support over the year: Sandra Griffiths, Karen Killick, Martin Howard, Anne Rolfe, John Lambert and all those who encourage me, and to my family for their support.

My first year has been very different to how I imagined but I have loved serving in this role. I am looking forward to 2021 and welcoming Matt as our new vicar.

**Shiromi Davison**  
**Administrator**

## Reception

As Receptionist, I had many plans for how the new role would play out last year. Being the Church "first point of contact" and welcoming visitors, praying for people and helping to answer queries was all in my plan.

However, as we all know that person to person contact was not to be. The first 6 months of last year was spent on complete furlough as the job could not exist whilst lockdown was so strict. Since then I have returned on a part furlough, and found working with Shiromi a very happy arrangement. I have been based in the centre whilst she is in the office.

As yet the locked doors are not opened for welcoming everyone back as I hoped.

The contact I have had (booking seats for services and answering some queries and chatting to some of you on the phone) has been very enjoyable.

Also being able to help Shiromi with service bookings. I hope that this lifting of restrictions may mean some more socially distanced contact will be able to happen in the near future.

**Sandra Griffiths**  
**Receptionist**

## **Publicity, Communication & 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**

## **Health and Safety (COVID19)**

The arrival of Covid and the initial lockdown was a shock to everybody. Not going to church was something we had never considered.

However, as the lockdown was lifted guidance started to flow including, social distance requirements, how many people allowed, sanitising and cleaning arrangements, the requirement to develop risk assessments to cover church activities. All to be taken into account to allow church meetings to restart even on a limited basis.

Risk assessments were produced to cover allowable activities, this required taking into account the size of rooms, what the meeting was for, and who would attend, with the aim of being able to start meetings again compliant with Government and Church of England guidance. Failure to complete a compliant risk assessment was and still is a criminal offence.

Services restarted without singing, lessons were learned, no wine at communion, don't put your mask on the lectern, do we need a lectern, no fraternising after service, book your place in the service, can we have two services, all to be taken into account and constantly reviewed as guidance changed.

Then the latest lockdown came, services still allowed, but a decision made to stop services.

We have to constantly review what we do, and it has got to be understood that it is not always wise to do what is allowed taking into account that a good number of church members' are in the high risk category.

Where are we now with restrictions gradually being lifted? Undoubtedly there will be new guidance, but we have to consider how we get back to normal whatever normal is. Will we still have to wear masks? Will there still be limits on numbers? Will some not want to mix with people who have not had a vaccination. Many questions will have to be answered, and we still will need to comply with all the relevant guidance.

To finish I would like to thank all those who have been involved with the management of the services and activities. It was a steep learning curve and certainly lessons were learned, however you have done a great job and deserve all the credit.

**Geoff Jowett**

## **Music and Worship 09.00**

During lockdown whilst the church building was closed the pre-recorded 9am service included worship led from home by Lucy Falcus, sometimes accompanied by baby Holly! When services have taken place in church the lead musicians – Janet Smith, Pamela Rushton and Lucy have been accompanied by Sue Jennings, Kate Pickover, Andrew Killick, Margaret Vaughan and David Munby who have led the singing beautifully whilst the congregation have been unable to sing out loud....we look forward to the day when we can all raise our voices again in worship, hopefully later this year!

**Lucy Falcus**

## Music and Worship 10.30

Well, over the last 12 months COVID has disrupted almost everything, but I'm so pleased to report that sung Worship has NOT been prevented from happening! Thanks to a team of fantastic people who have gone above and beyond, we, as a Worship Team, have been able to help our lovely church family worship together in their own homes. Home recording and Live Streaming from Church has given us all the opportunity to continue to worship our God, in Spirit and in Truth! I'm so grateful for those who also recorded live intimate Worship and posted onto Facebook or our Church YouTube channel mid-week to help us to constantly refocus onto our awesome Heavenly Dad instead of the overwhelming circumstances we all find ourselves in in these difficult times. Romans 8: 35 – 39 talks of NOTHING separating us from the love of God, and when we actively 'love' God, we Worship Him, and so we continue to Worship God regardless of circumstances! As I now step down from serving in the 10.30 Worship Team, I pray that the Team will continue to help lead you all into God's presence to Worship Him every time you meet.

**Deb Hird**

## Children

Well this has got to be the most unusual APCM report I have written in my 21 years of being Children's worker so far!

As we know 2020 / 2021 has been an extremely challenging and unique time which has meant that 'normal' ministry had to adapt hugely and new ways of engaging needed to be found quickly. Despite the shock and sadness of not being able to meet with all the children and families in our usual activities and my longing to meet in person with everyone again soon, I feel that some good things have come from this time both for my ministry areas and myself as children's worker and ministry has been alive and well - just different!

I have learnt new skills and ways of communicating - becoming more confident with social media and technology such as the wonders of using 'Zoom', developing skills in recording for a wide variety of videos Chris and I have sent out, enjoying the freedom and creativity of having to put the 'norm' aside and 'think outside of the box' a lot, the opportunity to be inspired by many online Kids ministry training conferences/ seminars / networking which have been valuable, amongst many other things.



Regarding the ministry areas here is a very brief summary of some of the highlights:

1. Prior to lockdown in early 2020 we launched **`DISCOVERY CHURCH`**.  
This was an exciting new vision aiming to provide a place to invite those families from Messy church in particular, who were ready to dig a bit deeper into our faith to join us in a café style setting to explore faith together in a creative way. A great team helped to run the two sessions in February and early March and we felt that we made a very positive, encouraging start.
2. It has been so helpful to **set up separate face book groups** for Toddler group, Play and Praise, Messy church and Xplore families to keep in touch and **post regular relevant resource ideas and teaching material** .
3. **Recording special Bible based Puppet and song time videos** for church & Messy families and Toddlers/ Play & Praise groups to enjoy anytime at home - have had lovely feedback from parents dancing and singing round their living rooms. Proving to be a great witness to have gospel stories and songs being played at home!
4. Running a **weekly Xplore Church Children`s Zoom time on Sundays** – What a joy this has been to stay connected through fun activities and Bible teaching together. The children have been amazing !
5. Loved organising **social activities** and **ways to encourage ministry to others** when lockdown rules allowed such as – walks in the park for families with under 5`s, Treasure hunts, halloween Pumpkins of Hope, Window displays, acts of kindness to neighbours etc and recently our **Easter trail** which was enjoyed by lots of families from the community as well as church.
6. Loved putting together **200 Christmas gift bags** for children from Messy church, Toddlers, Play & Praise and Church to collect from church - it was a wonderful way to catch up with families and share the good news of Christmas.
7. Another joy was – organizing and taking part with some of our families and others in **recording four Christmas message services/ outreach videos** – A Nativity, Messy church, Under 5`s and Time with Gus. Recording in a real stable was so exciting!
8. **Leading recorded / zoom assemblies** for St Mary`s school -so lovely to stay connected to the teachers and pupils.
9. **launching a weekly life group on Zoom for our older children** – loving spending time with these amazing kids - mixing fun games with going a bit deeper with a Bible based theme.
10. I have enjoyed **visiting our church children with a bag of goodies** - themed craft, bible fun sheets, sweets termly and chatting with families.
11. Also **offering support and prayer** to those who attend any of our activities, sending out messages via e-mail and face book groups, and have **visited Preston primary and St Mary`s schools termly** with encouragement cards, offers of support/ prayers, and gifts of chocolates/ biscuits for the staff.

No space left to share all the other stories from the past year but God has been so good and I am sure that these experiences will help us move forward in new, exciting ways! Please pray in more workers to enable this.

A huge thank you to my husband Chris who has been a brilliant support to me (and Gus) and to everyone who has helped with Kids ministry in any way. You are greatly appreciated.

**Jan Peters**  
**Children and Families' Worker**

## Youth

I think it is fair to say that Youth Ministry at All Saints' has looked considerably different this year from any other year that we have been involved! When everything was stripped away due to COVID-19 we were left with the questions; how do we best serve our young people during this time? How can we continue to encourage them in their faith? How can we simply be there for them through such a difficult time? We have been seeking God's wisdom and we have been through a process of reimagining what this ministry could look like throughout.

Of course this involved online Youth Ministry! We have been holding Life Groups on Zoom since March 2020 and have counted it a joy and a privilege to see the young people that have joined us. Together we have been thinking about series like; Where Jesus' Name is Never Heard, Life with Jesus at the Centre, the Psalms, Less Familiar Bible Characters and recently we have studied the whole of Colossians together. Online Life Groups always include time to catch up, games, bible studies, discussions and prayer responses!

At the beginning of the pandemic Youth Church was pre-recorded, however we came to the conclusion that Zoom was a much better option so that we could actually engage with our young people. We have worshiped, prayed and learned together in all sorts of creative ways and have been so encouraged by all of the wisdom, insight and words from God that our young people have had to share.

We have also enjoyed a variety of online socials together such as; bake-alongs, escape rooms, quizzes, treasure hunts and many games! Fun times like this have been light relief in the heaviness of a pandemic and have enabled us to be family together.

Having said all of this, there have of course been young people who we have not seen as much throughout this time. Therefore when possible we have enjoyed doing doorstep deliveries – including Easter bags, resource boxes and doughnuts deliveries! This meant that we got to see many of our youth, even for a short space of time, and remind them that they are loved by everyone at All Saints’.

We have very much missed seeing our Youth Club young people over the past year – this has been the hardest group to maintain a connection with, however we were blessed with help from multiple church members who wrote cards to 170 young people, and further cards were sent out at Christmas time. We are hoping to reconnect with a smaller group of these young people from the beginning of June, and then widen the group with time.

Social media has become a significant part of our ministry as we seek to encourage our youth! As a team we have created many devotionals, fun (ridiculous!) videos, reels, worship and book recommendations, challenges, giveaways and more. We pray that these posts lead many young people to Jesus. We have also enjoyed taking part in group bible reading plans with our youth, using the YouVersion bible app.

I am pleased to say that we are now gradually starting to meet in person for Life Groups, Doulos and occasional Youth Church gatherings. As a team we are asking God about how things will look post-pandemic, and we very much look forward to seeing all of our young people together again soon!

**Kathryn Belmont**  
**Youth Pastor**

## **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.

In 2020, among many other things, the MDT;

- Looked at succession and apprenticeship in the life of All Saints.
- Considered the future shape of Messy Church.
- Staff supervision requirements on the departure of John Lambert.
- Considered the impact of the departure of members who will join the St Paul’s congregation and helped identify/suggest replacements in key roles.

- We processed issues highlighted in the survey conducted as part of the preparation of the Parish Profile.
- Pastoral issues presented by Covid 19 were reviewed and updated.

Thanks to Paul Arnold, Matt Falcus and Rob Govier for their continued service to the team and to new members Hannah Daniel, Michelle Honeywell and Karen Snowden. Esme Howard was also part of the team until her departure to University. We have not completed the process of a replacement for Esme at this stage.

**Peter Gray**

## Prayer

Although meetings may be suspended, the activity of prayer has not stopped. On-line morning prayer has been a key point of virtual gathering, with regular use of the outstanding devotional resource "Lectio 365".

Our new chapel has been available, by prior arrangement, for private prayer. It has also hosted various prayer events, restrictions permitting.

In addition, our thirty day cycle of prayer topics, distributed via Facebook, has continued. It has been significantly enhanced by the anointed, creative and considered input of Sandra Griffiths. This has made the output more inspiring and topical, hopefully inspiring us to pray creatively.

Around two years ago, I sensed that my service in the role of prayer coordinator was coming to an end, and the time was right for someone else to take on the tasks with new vision, creativity and energy. David and Jill Munby have, after seeking the Lord, agreed to take over, for which I am very grateful.

May I take this opportunity to thank members for their faithful support and diligent prayer over the past few years, and commend David and Jill to all as they take this vital work forward.

**Rob Govier**

## Morning Prayer Zoom Meetings

There has long been a meeting within the church for Morning Prayer. With the arrival of Covid 19, and the general restrictions on meeting, Paul Arnold initiated a weekday 09.00 meeting for prayer using Zoom. The group (typically 5 to 7 strong) uses generally the Lectio 365 app, with occasionally the Northumberland Celtic Morning Prayer and even less often the Church of England Morning Prayer. This has continued, with other leaders taking turns, and it provides a valuable start to the day for each of us, an opportunity for reflection and prayer, and a chance to meet (even if only virtually) one another regularly. If you would like to take part, even if just to try it out, the access code is 835 4592 5539, and you will be very welcome.

**John Littlehailes**

## Sozo

As with most ministries, this year has been an unusual one.

We have had to find new ways of communicating and God has blessed our endeavours. The national and international facilitators have encouraged and informed us all, and much training and helpful information has still been happening via zoom and video conferencing. Many other Sozo ministry groups were finding Zoom Sozo was being blessed by God and our regional facilitator was encouraging us to do the same.

Helpful advice on confidentiality and how to make the most of different communication methods, which had been tried and tested, were useful.

We tried an initial “practice” session in our own team and as usual God showed up and blessed us. We have since had quite a few successful Sozo sessions, both in church and external, and we have pending applications.

Holy Spirit doesn't worry about methods of communication and amazing freedom from lies and barriers to God broken down, have been the order of the day.

**Sandra Griffiths**

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a response to Jesus' command to love one another because we are first loved by God. He asks each of us to care for those in need and **every** member of All Saints has the privilege, responsibility and opportunity to play their part, both within the Church and in the wider community. Our Pastoral team is there to extend this help by listening, praying, offering practical help and (usually) making home and hospital visits.

Currently the team is: Jayne Davies, Peter Gray, Chris Vass, Jeremy Atkinson, Karen Killick, John Taylor, Evelyn Leadbetter, Nicola Dursley, Kate Pickover, and Dawn Wheeldon.

Jayne and Peter meet/talk regularly to highlight concerns, pray and discuss actions which may need to be taken. These concerns may be taken to the regular team meetings where we pray for the congregation and seek to minister to each other.

In the last year of course, face to face pastoral care has been sorely tested by Covid constraints and sustaining "normal" care has been very difficult indeed. Phone calls, even Zoom have been essential tools to plug the gap for the team but we are so grateful for all the much-valued personal relationships and friendships, including those vital Life Group contacts, which have been so firmly at the forefront of meeting most needs, both immediate and prolonged, spiritual and practical, which have presented themselves over the last year!

We continue to thank God for belonging to such a caring church and especially for the support of you all and for this dedicated, compassionate Pastoral Team.

**Peter Gray and Jayne Davies**

## Life groups

We currently have seven Life Groups and also the Wednesday morning communion group (which have not been able to meet due to COVID). During the year a new group has started, led by David and Jill Munby, and this has already gathered several new members. The group for younger adults and the post-alpha group have stopped meeting. The Life Groups have all been using Zoom to meet and many of them also use WhatsApp to share prayer matters and to keep in touch. For many people this has been a wonderful way of keeping in touch and encouraging each other during this difficult time. We have held two meetings with the leaders during the year and been able to share news, encouragement and prayer requests. We have also linked groups with our six mission partners, and the feedback from this has been very positive.

1. **Caroline Kemp** - linked with the Tuesday daytime group coordinated by Sue Levan
2. **Mark and Gill Newham**- linked with the Tuesday evening group coordinated by Pam Rushton.
3. **Hugh and Debbie Skeil** - linked with the group coordinated by Martin and Vicky Howard.
4. **Mark and Anna Burgess** - linked with the Tuesday evening group coordinated by David Emerton
5. **Sarah Hatagan** - linked with Geoff and Sandra Jowett's group
6. **Stuart and Nicola Main** - linked with Derek and Judith Evans' group

There is capacity for more people to join some of the groups and we hope to be able to establish further groups in the year ahead.

**Ruth and Stuart Johnson**

## **Connect Lunch Club and Chairobics**

This past year has posed many challenges for the lunch club. The team discussed how to cope with this new situation. Our priority was to keep in touch with everyone and offer help when needed.

Team members volunteered to phone a small group of guests each every few weeks. At Christmas we took out “goodie” bags to each guest. At Easter everyone received a bunch of flowers and an Easter card. All said how touched they were to know we were thinking about them. My thanks to everyone who helped with this.

Some guests said how much they missed the church service before the lunch. We were able to direct them to the Sunday service online.

Pam Rushton oversees the Chairobics group. She has kept in touch via their Whats App group, sending out encouraging Bible based messages.

Despite everything God has blessed this time. We have built quality relationships with our guests and hope to continue to build on these when we can meet again.

**Karen Snowden**

## **Treasure Seekers**

Treasure Seekers is the name that was given to the ministry to a group of adults with learning difficulties, who live in our parish. During 2020 it has not been possible for us to visit. However, we have made occasional phone calls to keep in touch. The staff appreciated our calls and said how much the residents missed us visiting. Hopefully we will be able to meet again soon.

**Karen Snowden**



## Walkers

Although the walking group has been very active over many years the arrival of the Covid 19 virus meant that during 2020 we only managed five walks, each well attended: early in the year three long and one short (two of these were before our annual meal, this time at the Seven Stars in Shincliffe), and we squeezed another long one in between the lockdowns. They provided welcome reminders of how much pleasure we get from one another's company and the sheer exhilaration of walking even modest distances together. We hope to restart the walks, short (up to 5 miles) and long (6 to 9 miles) soon. There are currently 33 people on our circulation list, and if you wish to be included, and thus to get details of proposed walks, please do contact me ([johnlittlehailes77@gmail.com](mailto:johnlittlehailes77@gmail.com)) and I'll add your name(s).

**John Littlehailes**

## Choral Group

The Choral Group, with members from both All Saints and St Marys' congregations, had to abandon our schedule when the Covid pandemic took hold in March 2020, as it had been found that the virus was most likely being transmitted when people were projecting their voices whilst singing.

It has been a great loss to all involved as singing in a choir benefits both the health and well-being of those involved as the social aspect of singing as a group should not be underestimated.

It has been hard not being able to sing at the usual services in the church calendar, especially at Easter and Christmas, but we were able to record for the All Saints carol service, a quartet harmony version of "It came upon the midnight clear"

In May 2020 we were extremely sad to learn of the death of Tom Whitfield who had been a founder member since the choir's inception in 1997. Tom was well known in the area as a wonderful tenor and he is greatly missed by all who knew him.

We will meet in June to discuss if members would like to resume Choral Singing whenever it is allowed.

**Kate Pickover**

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

## **CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2020**

**For the APCM 23rd May 2021**

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