

ST MARY'S CHURCH LONG NEWTON

APCM SERVICE

SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2017

ORDER OF SERVICE

AND

REPORTS

St Mary's Long Newton

APCM / Service of the Word 23rd April 2017

- Welcome, Opening Prayer
- Hymn
- Creed
- Election & Prayer for Church Wardens
- Apologies for absence
- Approval of Minutes of APCM held on 10th April 2016
- Presentation of Accounts year ending 31.12.16
- Appointment of Auditor for 2017
- Presentation of Offering
- Hymn
- Electoral Roll Report
- Questions on this year's Reports
- Hymn
- Election of PCC
- Prayer for new PCC
- Reading
- Chairman's Remarks / Sermon
- Any other business
- Notices
- Blessing
- Hymn

Following the Service there will be a short meeting of the new PCC to elect officers.

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1. Chairman's Report

Once again, God has been good to us at Saint Mary's. My chief concern and prayer for Saint Mary's is that we should be spiritually healthy. Excellence in worship, vitality in faith, a loving welcome to allcomers, healthy finances, unity in fellowship and numerical growth all grow from the single root of good spiritual health. I am pleased to say that all the fundamentals look to be sound; notably clear Bible teaching, openness to the Holy Spirit and an ongoing commitment to mission.

Among the many things that stood out for me in 2016 were the our first Messy Church baptism, the Puzzling Questions outreach, the happy occasion of celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, dear Norman Barr's funeral, the "Big Questions" sermon series in August, an excellent All-Age Harvest and lunch, some more new banners, and packed Carol and Crib services at Christmas.

There is so much going on in midweek all year round; ongoing pastoral care, the Community Lunch, Home Groups, Tuesday @10, the Drop-In, Little Ted, the Choral Group and our connection with the school to name but a few. This is testament to our serious commitment to grow as disciples of Christ and to reach out to the community in Long Newton.

I said last year that I wanted to make the renewal and improvement of the heating system a top material priority for the PCC. We have discussed this at length and have asked contactors and engineers to advise us. It is important that we do the *right* thing, even if it takes a long time, rather than make a rushed decision that we later regret. As it turns out, the building has not been inhospitably cold this past winter – perhaps as a result of the heating going on much earlier? But we are committed to working towards a heating solution that is both silent and warm.

After the laying of the path in 2015, I am grateful to the Browns for their sterling work on clearing the churchyard. It really is a labour of love and makes the whole place much more welcoming. They, and many others, have invested hours and into making the building and grounds a place that honours God - and it really shows.

Though I suspect our electoral roll might have grown slightly over the last year, one name no longer featuring is that of Norman Barr who went to be with the Lord in July. Norman was a servant of God virtually all his life; not least as a youth leader, lay preacher and organist. Though illness weakened him physically in later life, his stature as a committed follower of Christ was never diminished. I loved the photo of him long distance running as a younger man that was in his room. May we all run the race and finish well as Norman did.

John Lambert

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Parishioners, held during the morning service on Sunday 10th April 2016

Present were:- Rev'd John Lambert (Chairperson) Gill Askew, James Askew, Lewis Ayers, Christine Ayers, Edwina Bainbridge, Jean Bamlett, Jenny Braddy, Chris Brown, Pauline Brown, Antonia Chapman-Jones, Margaret Clark, Gillian Clayton, Paul Clayton, Lynne Dennis, Richard Dennis, Jane Firth, Steven Firth, Sheila Greenway, Mary Henderson, Carole Jenkins, Audrey Lawford, Jennifer Meadows, Cheryl Moore, Ann Moss, Ian Palmer Jones, Joan Pilot, Lauren Reed, Terry Reed, Maurice Richardson, Michael Shaw, Ann Smith, Rita Spark, Ruth Studholme, Lorna Tippet, Alan Wade, Sonia Wade, Vera Wade, Brian Wake, Lorna Watson, Audrey Whitfield, Tom Whitfield. Evalyn Reed and Lily Chapman Jones (children)

The service began with words of welcome, an opening prayer and the hymn I will sing the wondrous story, after which followed the Nicene Creed.

Meeting of the Parishioners to elect two Churchwardens

Churchwardens. Christine Ayers - nominated by S. Firth and A. Smith and Chris Brown - nominated by A Brown and L Smith were the only two nominations and were declared duly elected to serve as Churchwardens for a further year.

John Lambert thanked Christine and Chris for their service to St Mary's throughout the year. He also thanked James Askew, who was standing down as deputy warden, for his contribution.

A prayer was said for the churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Service

1) **Apologies** for absence were received from Jean Barr and Maurice Bainbridge.

2) **Approval of the Minutes** of the 2015 APCM Service

It was pointed out that there had been many good things to celebrate and that the system of holding an APCM Service on a Sunday morning was successful.

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record with two abstentions - Christine and Lewis Ayers.

3) **Matters Arising** – None

4) **Presentation of accounts** year ended 31.12.15. Lewis Ayers

Lewis explained that there are two accounts. Figures were presented for both plus tabulation and narrative of how we performed against our budget.

The PCC meets six times per year and holds the APCM. For each meeting a financial report is presented.

Lewis went on to explain that we do still have people in the village contributing to the upkeep of the church. This relates back to when St Mary's Church re-ordering project started.

In relation to the figures presented for this meeting it can be noted that financially St Mary's is in pretty good shape. We had budgeted for a £5,000 deficit (due to the upgrading of the paths) and it was pleasing to note that this figure is actually £1,600. Bills are always paid on time.

Where does our money come from? £29,000 income - more than £20,000 from congregational giving plus £5,000 GIFT aid. The only other income comes from weddings and funerals and sundry donations. The rent from the Wilson Centre is returned.

Outgoings:

- The biggest is the Parish Share to the Diocese and used for clergy stipends, pensions and initiatives. This amount is due to increase.
- Insurance, gas, electricity and water.
- External Giving. We give 10% of our income to a variety of charities.

Lewis asked everyone to think about their personal giving and referred to Malachi Ch.3.

John Lambert thanked Lewis for his work as treasurer and God for His goodness.

Appointment of auditor The Chairperson proposed that Roger Stevenson - the auditor of the Church's accounts last year be asked to do the audit for 2016-2017. This was carried unanimously. A card stating our thanks will be sent to Mr Stevenson.

5) **Presentation of offering** - John Lambert

6) **Sung Worship** - In Christ Alone

7) **Electoral Roll Report** - Gill Askew - Gill reported that one member of the congregation had died and one had moved away. The current number on roll is 60.

8) **Testimony** - Carole Jenkins was interviewed by Brian Wake. Key points included Carole's reasons for moving back into the village, her hobbies and interests, her impression of having an APCM in a morning service which she thought was unusual. When asked to sum up her feelings about St Mary's she said that it was good to see a full congregation and that she had found people warm and friendly. She concluded by saying that she feels comfortable when she comes into church and better as she goes out.

9) **Written Reports** - John Lambert asked for any questions relating to the reports. There were no questions. John thanked everyone who had written a report.

10) **Sung Worship** - My Jesus, My Saviour

11) **Election of a new PCC** The PCC works on a three-year rota basis i.e. three members step down or seek re-election each year.

Antonia Chapman-Jones and Jennifer Meadows were seeking re-election. There being no others they were duly elected to serve for three years.

John Lambert reminded everyone that the PCC was seeking a new PCC secretary.

Brian Wake prayed for the all PCC members.

12) **Readings** - 1 Corinthians 15.12-19 Steven Firth and Mark 9.30-32 Tom Whitfield

13) **Chairman's Remarks/Talk** "Ifs and Buts" John Lambert

John raised the question "What if the Resurrection of Jesus Christ had happened differently?" and went on to rework the narrative. "What if Jesus Christ had stayed in the tomb?" He went on to say that this is what the reading from Corinthians was all about, Christianity without the Resurrection is a fantasy. Everything hangs on the Resurrection.

He responded to those people who say that they have everything they need in life so why would they need Jesus, by reminding them that life as we know it does not go on forever.

He made the point that serving Jesus Christ in ministries is not a waste of time. We are the co-workers building up the Church and in giving reap the joy of faith, peace and blessing. Our prayers are heard. The Holy Spirit is with us.

John talked about sharing our faith with the village and said that today it is more a case of belonging and then moving towards believing rather than believing and so belonging. He mentioned Bob Jackson's book 'What makes Churches Grow?' and the key points of Pray, Serve and Give'. He asked the question 'What if St Mary's Church had closed?' He closed by saying how God has been so good to us.

14) **Prayers** - Jim Askew

15) **AOB**

- Jenny Braddy described how she had felt close to God at the time of her surgery and afterwards. She had been aware of the many prayers being said for her and felt that she was part of a praying community. She thanked everyone.
- Tom Whitfield acknowledged the role the new banners were making in letting people in the village know what was going on in church and encouraged further communication to the wider village.

16) **Sung Worship** - The head that once was crowned with thorns

17) **Readings**

Psalm 33 verse 5 'The earth is full of the loving kindness of the Lord'

Malachi 3 verse 10 'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house and test me now in this' says the Lord of Hosts. 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows'

Final Blessing

Cheryl Moore

3. Churchwardens' Fabric Report

The building remains in very good general condition.

We recently actioned the replacement of the electrical earth cable that runs from the boiler house to the main switchboard (behind the organ). This is the final item required in order for the building to be given a certificate that the electrical installations are in good condition.

We also took the opportunity to have 2 electrical sockets fitted to the front of the platform in the Nave, so that cables will not need to be trailed so far across the floor, thereby reducing a tripping hazard.

An alarm has been fitted to the Disabled Toilet. Although it was not a legal requirement to have the alarm, this was an item that had been recommended by the architect within the last 2 quinquennial reports.

The following items noted in last year's report have not yet been fully resolved:

The repairs to the pathways have not yet been completed. We continue to liaise with the contractor.

It is intended that the repairs to the stained glass window (glass work + stonework) in the Londonderry Chapel will be performed during 2017. We have received from Lord Londonderry a generous donation of £10,000 towards that work.

During 2017 we will be arranging a 5-yearly quinquennial inspection by our architect.

Christine Ayers, Churchwarden

4. Treasurer's Report



Finance Report.pdf

5. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Constitutional and organisational matters

The Council consists of:

- 9 elected representatives of the laity
- the two churchwardens
- the two Deanery Synod representatives
- the clergy

During the year beginning April 10th 2016 the elected representatives were - James Askew, Sonia Wade (deputy churchwardens), Lewis Ayers, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Antonia Chapman-Jones, Jennifer Meadows, Michael Shaw and Brian Wake.

Cheryl Moore (as Deanery Synod Representative) Christine Ayers and Chris Brown (as churchwardens) and John Lambert (as Priest in Charge) were ex-officio members of the Council.

The Council has met six times during the year, all under the chairmanship of John Lambert

Officers of the Council were:

Lay Vice-Chair: Antonia Chapman-Jones

Secretary: Cheryl Moore

Treasurer: Lewis Ayers

Other Officers reporting to the council were:

Electoral Roll Officer: Gill Askew

Safeguarding Officer: Pauline brown

Children's Ministry Co-ordinator: Kath Snowdon

The Standing Committee, charged with dealing with matters of urgency arising between Council meetings consisted of John Lambert, the treasurer, the secretary, the lay vice-chair, the churchwardens and Mike Shaw

Edwina Bainbridge and Ann Smith continued to serve as St Mary's nominees on the Management Committee of the Wilson Centre.

Business Conducted

Normally each Council meeting:

- started with a Bible reading, prayer and reflection led by various members
- received and discussed the Treasurer's financial report

- decided upon future services, reviewed services and other activities as suggested by the Worship Committee
- received reports and considered recommendations as appropriate from the Ministry Development Team(MDT), The Communications Group, Safeguarding Officer, the Deanery Synod Representative and the External Giving Group annually.

During the year the Council discussed and where necessary made decisions about:

- Repair of the new pathways, car parking at the rear of the church
- Parish Share Pledges - agreement was reached to increase in line with Diocesan request
- The Bishop's Prayer Walk - May 12th-15th
- Church Noticeboard/Sign - A decision was made to purchase a new sign for St Mary's Church and move its position forward. The Communications Group researched the project and a decision has been made.
- Electrical Installations - following an inspection it has been advised that a new larger cable is required. No decision to proceed has been made to date.
- Londonderry Chapel Window Repair. St Mary's has received a large donation from the Londonderry family towards costs of repair.
- Heating System -To review and upgrade the heating system is now a priority
- Painting the church interior - agreed in principle - still to organise
- External Giving - see below
- Employment of a gardener to maintain the flower beds and Garden of Remembrance.
- Enquiries were made with regard to alternative areas in church that could be used for children's Sunday morning activities. It has been decided to put developments on hold as currently facilities for the regular number of children that do attend are working well.

External Giving

10% of St Mary's income is given to causes outside the parish. In respect of 2016 this amounted to £2,727 The Council decided, on the recommendation of a small working group, to make donations as follows:

Sarah Peters - Work with Romanian Orphans	£500
Missionary Partners in Peru The Burgess family	£500
The Lighthouse Centre Stockton - free counselling	£500
Parish Church Stockton - refugee support work	£500
Wycliffe Bible Translations	£200
Justice First -	£200
A Way Out - support for Mums and children	£200
The Moses Project	£127

Total £2,727

During the year the members of the External Giving Committee - Edwina Bainbridge, Cheryl Moore, Lauren Reed, Mike Shaw and Lorna Tippet take note of any worthy causes/charities that involve members of the congregation. Requests for donations are also received throughout the year and are considered at the annual meeting. From time to time throughout the year members of the congregation are given reminders via the pew sheet. All requests received by the group are given due consideration.

Information regarding our mission partners in Peru - the Burgess family - is also shared via the pew sheet extra and can also be accessed on line at - www.theburgessfamilyblog.blogspot.com and on Facebook.

Other Giving

Produce from the Harvest Festival was shared between two women's refuge centres and the Moses Project. Gifts from our Gift Day in December were shared between the women's refuge centres and A Way Out -Stockton

Vision and Outreach

- The Lent Course proved to be successful having on average sixteen people attending each week.
- Psalm Sunday Songs of Praise service proved popular and enjoyable.
- The range of services for Holy Week was well organised and meaningful.
- Sunday morning children's ministry is developing well.
- The introduction of All Age Worship on specific meaningful days e.g. Harvest and Mothering Sunday has been a success as was the introduction of a Crib Service Christmas Eve.
- The collection of church banners has continued to grow and we now have sufficient banners for display throughout the year.
- Jennifer Meadows, our APA has continued to give Communion at home by request and has offered time for prayer and discussion on Tuesday afternoons in church. Sadly due to personal circumstances Jennifer is no longer able to take the Tuesday afternoon sessions.
- Sermon Themes on Discipleship and More Big Christian Questions were well received.
- In celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday 100 books 'The Servant Queen' were purchased and given out to church members and friends.
- The 'Puzzling Questions Course' organised by John Lambert ran successfully.
- Talking Jesus - an initiative introduced by the Bishops of the Northern Province of York. Durham's turn was 2nd - 5th March. The two activities planned for St Mary's -

Godzone and an evening meal at the Derry. Bishop Graham Dow came to both events and proved a popular speaker.

- The agenda of the MDT (Ministry Development Team) continues to have a focus on Church Growth based on a book by Bob Jackson.
- Messy Church and GodZone continue to run monthly where possible and alternate.
- Community Lunch and Drop In held at the Wilson Centre continue to thrive.
- Kerb Appeal - The new paths, banners and proposed new signage enhanced by the hard work of Pauline and Chris Brown clearing much of the unwanted vegetation has much improved the external appearance of the church and reflects the care and warm welcome of St Mary's congregation in church.

Cheryl Moore (Secretary 2014-2017)

6. MDT Report

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

In 2016 Saint Mary's MDT business covered, amongst other things the following:

- Sorting out the running of the musicians' rota
- Planning some family-friendly services (Queen's Birthday, Harvest)
- Organising the Puzzling Questions outreach
- Working through the book "What Makes Churches Grow?" by Bob Jackson with a view to identifying areas for strengthening
- Discussing options for the Talking Jesus mission
- Reviewing prayer at Saint Mary's
- Discussing the use of space in church especially with children in mind

I am grateful to Lynne Dennis, Chris Brown and Pauline Brown who stepped down from MDT at the beginning of 2017 after their three years' stint and to Paul Clayton, Pam Birtle and Trevor Birtle for their ongoing service.

John Lambert

7. Worship Committee Report

1. Included in the Committee's responsibilities are:
 - To choose themes and readings for Ordinary Time services (broadly a short period after Epiphany and between Pentecost and November).
 - To propose services for special occasions (including those especially for families/children).

- To think creatively about keeping worship fresh, edifying and glorifying to God.
 - To invite new people to read and lead prayers
 - To suggest new service leaders and preachers
2. It has met five times during the year under review. Meetings are at the homes of the members.
 3. It reports to each PCC meeting.
 4. The current membership is Gill Askew, Eddie Bainbridge, Jenny Braddy, Gill Clayton, Richard Dennis, Cheryl Moore, Trevor or Pam Birtle and myself. John Lambert took over from me when I was engaged in the *Talking Jesus* project.
 5. A typical agenda will include:
 - A review of the worship since the last meeting, evaluating what went well, what could have gone better and what could be learned.
 - Planning for future worship including (where relevant) choosing themes and readings.
 - A general discussion bearing in mind the responsibilities outlined at 1 above.
 - Any matter a member of the Committee wishes to raise.
 6. A particular matter presently under consideration is the introduction of new songs at St.Mary's.

Brian Wake

8. Pastoral Team Report 2017

The members of the Pastoral Team are currently, Gill Askew, Jennifer Meadows, Ann Moss and Sonia Wade. The team continues to monitor those people in the village, and those of the congregation outside the village, who may need support.

Sonia Wade ministers to our congregation members who reside at Middleton Hall.

Ann Moss ministers to those of our community in North Tees Hospital.

Jennifer Meadows offers home communion. Two people are receiving home communion each week. Jennifer also visits members of the community on a weekly basis. Some just need a chat, for others, prayer also helps.

The team are very busy welcoming new people to the village. We are still looking for new members so if you feel called to do this work please have a chat with any of the team or call Jennifer on 01642 582405.

Jennifer Meadows

9. Communications Team Report

The members of the Communications Group for 2016-17 were:

- Mike Shaw – Chairman
- Ann Smith – Secretary
- Antonia Chapman-Jones
- Ian Palmer-Jones
- Jane Firth
- Steven Firth
- Pauline Brown
- Terry Reed

The group is responsible for all internal and external communications, in particular to ensure that services, events and activities are well-publicised.

During the past year the group has met approximately every 2 to 3 months.

The group is responsible for:

- Weekly pewsheets
- St Mary's News
- St Mary's website
- Notice boards (inside St Mary's, in the porch, at the gate)
- External publicity

The group maintains a calendar of services, events and activities, which is displayed in the vestry. This calendar is used to ensure that services and events are well publicised, that dates and times are clearly identified and clashes of dates are avoided. Services and events are then publicised via the weekly pewsheets, posters displayed in various locations around the village, St Mary's News and the website.

The weekly pewsheet is the prime means of communication. It is circulated to all those who are on the contact list with e-mail addresses. A supplementary sheet "pewsheets extra" is being added to the pewsheets from time to time.

A contact list of all who attend St Mary's is regularly updated.

During the year the group has produced three editions of the newsletter, St Mary's News, which was distributed to every house in Long Newton at the end of August, mid-November, and mid-March.

During the year five banners have been purchased for display at the entrance to the churchyard. These banners were for Harvest, Remembrance Day, Easter and 2 non-seasonal general purpose banners.

The group monitors the various church noticeboards in order to keep them tidy, relevant and up-to-date. The noticeboard located near the gate is in poor condition and is to be replaced with a church sign.

The "Welcome to Long Newton" booklet is a newcomer's guide to Long Newton and contains practical information about the village and surrounding area. The aim is to personally deliver a copy of the booklet to people when they move into the village. The group are aware that, once again, the booklet requires an update and reprint.

The group maintains a Facebook page for St Mary's.

The group also reviews the content of the website www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk

If anyone would like to bring anything to the attention of the Communications Group, will they please contact either Ann Smith or Mike Shaw.

Mike Shaw

10. Ministry to Children Report

Sunday:

We are having between 1 and 11 children on a Sunday from a group of 21 who have been for 3 or more times over the last year. We are having a lot of grandchildren and also two families who have been to GodZone and wanted to know more.

There are 6 adults involved in the leadership team and others who help in the background.

We have celebrated all the Church festivals and learnt about Noah, Daniel and the Lion's Den and David and Goliath. At the moment we are learning the Lord's Prayer and writing prayers for the Mothering Sunday service.

The children enjoy taking the collection and any work they have done to the front. They also enjoy joining in the singing when they know the songs.

GodZone

GodZone is a great collaboration between Church and School and continues to thrive. More parents/carers are joining us and arriving early to get a seat! It would be good to have more helpers both on the day and with the planning.

The recent visit from Bishop Graham was a great success, the children enjoyed seeing, and hearing about, all the different items of clothing a bishop wears.

Kath Snowdon

11. Messy Church

Messy Church started at Saint Mary's in October 2014 and takes place on the third Sunday of alternate months.

The structure is like a tripod; each of the three legs is vital to the coherence of the whole. The first leg is crafts and activities which draw out some of the learning points of a particular Bible theme. (This is where the name comes from by the way – no one has yet succeeded in combining young children with paint, glue, sand and glitter, and ended up as clean as they started)! The second leg is an interactive and all-age worship time with a visual or dramatized Bible story, songs and prayers. The third leg is a shared tea seated around tables, during which old and young alike can reflect on what they discovered at Messy Church.

From hesitant beginnings, Saint Mary's Messy Church has now become a popular and established service amongst families, sometimes gathering about 50-60 people, including 20-25 children. We celebrated our first Messy Church baptism in March.

Messy Church is only possible thanks to the dedicated and hard-working team. Thanks to everyone who invested so much into our Messy Church over the year.

John Lambert

12. Choral Group Report

The choral group have had a busy year having sung at 19 Church services, plus 4 funerals, 7 weddings and an infant baptism.

We have been happy to help St John's Church, Egglecliffe, by singing at 6 weddings when their church choir was unavailable.

We also paid a return visit to Preston Hall to sing carols in the Victorian street in December, which luckily was not on such a windy day as the previous year!

Some of our group were also able to visit Oak Road to help swell the residents voices when they had a carol service.

We are thankful to be able to call on Isaac Conroy who is currently studying in Durham University but is able to accompany us on the organ or piano for our services.

Ann Wade, our accompanist for rehearsals, unfortunately had a broken wrist and was thus unable to play for several weeks and we are very grateful to Janet Smith and Mike Shaw who have played for us during this time.

We meet weekly at the Wilson Centre on Friday evenings and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. It does not matter if you cannot read music, there are no auditions, and we are a friendly group. Why not give it a try?

Kate Pickover

13. Tuesday Home Group

There are eleven members who attend regularly, and within the 'outreach ethos' of the group 3 others who are welcomed on a more ad hoc basis, which suits them. During this last year, our bible study also included attendance at the Puzzling Questions sessions. This allowed us to talk to people in the church and other groups.

We have begun our new year with pre-planned and agreed topics, for most of the year - input by all members.

In our prayers are the people of the village, church leaders, the sick and needful. Pastorally all church members are included in prayer, and visited, where possible. We welcomed our newest member Terri just before Christmas, and all are appreciative of her refreshing outlook and input.

Lynne and Richard Dennis

14. Wednesday Home Group

A steady year in which a few people have come in and some have gone from our group so the numbers remain roughly the same, around 8-9 on a good night. We generally meet once every 2 weeks.

We have studied a number of books by Tony Horsfall (<http://www.charistraining.co.uk/books/>)—who I worked with many moons ago when he was the chaplain at Barnsley Football club.

These included "A fruitful Life" looking at John 15 and the parable of the Vine/vine cutter. We are currently reading through "Spiritual Growth in a time of change—following God in Midlife" which has been up to now, quite stimulating and thought provoking.

We also looked at a number of Christian people's lives through the ages from a book called "Silent Witness" (not the TV programme!) whose quiet but committed Christian faith in their daily lives left a lasting effect on the world they lived in.

We have enjoyed occasional social events in Summer and at Xmas. The group has no "leader" as such but people are happy to take on roles to lead studies/prayer if they feel comfortable in doing that.

Mark Nile

15. Tuesday @ 10 Report 2017

Tuesday @ 10 is a discussion group which works through chapters of the Bible and books by various authors.

During 2016-17 we covered John Lambert's book "Believe It or Not", Philemon, Hebrews and James, and have started Andrew Killick's book "Confident Faith".

The beauty of this group is "discussion". If you have questions, you can ask. It's not a "service". We are there to read a chapter and discuss the content. It's a great learning curve.

We are about eight in number, and have recently been joined by Paul Clayton. You don't have to come every Tuesday. We all have things to do in life which means we can't always get to the meeting. However, if you don't come along and try it, you'll never know what you're missing. You will find it a benefit and a comfort.

Tom Whitfield

16. Community Lunch Report

Long Newton Community Lunch continues to be a regular feature of village life. Twenty-five to thirty people generally attend with up to forty at Christmastime. The lunches continue to provide opportunity for folk to enjoy eating a meal together and socialising with friends old and new. The meal itself is held in Room 1 of the Wilson Centre - a pleasant bright room. Meals are served in the room allowing kitchen staff to enjoy the atmosphere and to chat to everyone.

Meals consist of a main course of homemade soup with garlic bread, rolls and butter and a pudding, followed by tea/coffee. There is no set charge for the meal however donations are gratefully received to help cover costs. Thanks to generous donations the Community Lunch is self-supporting and it has been possible to have a number

of special lunches throughout the year e.g. Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and Summer Special. In 2015 it was also possible, with approval from everyone, to pay for St Mary's Church gates to be stripped and repainted. A new project is currently being decided.

Edwina Bainbridge, Cheryl Moore and Terry Reed are the key people in the kitchen. They were joined by Anne Settle quite recently however Anne has been quite ill for a few months and has not been able to be with us. We pray for her recovery so that she can be back with us soon. The lunch would not run smoothly without the help and support of those who wait on tables - Audrey and Tom Whitfield, Maurice Bainbridge, Ann Moss and Lynne and Richard Dennis. John Taylor continues to provide the thought for the day. It reminds us that God is always at the heart of all we do. We all thoroughly enjoy this monthly event even though it can be challenging at times.

If you feel you would like to join the team just have a word with Cheryl, Eddie or Terry. Please encourage friends in the village to come join us for a meal on the second Thursday of the month. They would be made most welcome.

Cheryl Moore

17. Drop In Report

The Drop in has had a successful year and is thriving. This is due in no small measure to a small team coming forward and keeping it going when I wasn't there through illness. My thanks to Terry and Jennifer and Cheryl for their commitment and loyalty plus many others who helped on an ad hoc basis.

Thanks also to everyone from church who continue to support the Drop In by coming. It really does serve an important pastoral roll. People know they can come and there will be someone to talk to and if there are problems these can be shared.

Jenny Braddy

18. Little Ted Report

Little Ted

The Wednesday morning Mother + Toddler group "Little Ted" has been going for over 9 years now.

The numbers attending each week do vary, but recently we have had a peak of 12. There is no charge for attendance.

At Christmas 2016 we had a children's Christmas party in church, with food and games. Father Christmas visited, thanks to Lewis Ayers.

We continue to meet every Wednesday in term time from 9.15 to 11.00 and have tea & coffee while the children play and get to know each other.

Eddie Bainbridge continues to attend, together with Margaret Taylor from The Willow Chase who is a great and very enthusiastic helper and very much enjoys it.

We comply with the Diocesan Safeguarding policy. Everyone who helps has been DBS checked.

New helpers are always welcome. We have an enjoyable social time, and it is not hard work.

Christine Ayers

19. Safeguarding Report

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents during 2016.

Fourteen members of the church congregation underwent successfully D.B.S. (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, which brings a total of nineteen members of the congregation cleared.

D.B.S. checks are the checks carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau in order for people to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

St. Mary's Church now meets all the requirements of the Durham Diocese regarding the displaying of the Safeguarding Policy, (one in the porch of the church, one on the notice board at the rear of the church). There is also a box file in the church vestry with necessary safeguarding documents for reference.

Displayed in the porch of the church is a photograph and contact numbers for the Safeguarding Officer assigned to St. Mary's Church.

Pauline Brown

20. St Mary's Church of England Primary School Report

The school has had a very successful year with the school topping the performance table for schools in Stockton and in the top 6% of schools nationally. The outcomes for children aged 7 were very good and for children aged 11 they were exceptional. The school also achieved the highest progress for children aged 11 in reading and mathematics with our results being commended by the authority's chief adviser. The school has successfully gone through two Inspections in 2017. In January we were inspected by OFSTED. The school was judged to be GOOD, however we were very close to being judged OUTSTANDING. On reflection I feel the judgment was fair with the school in a very good position to build on this and get the magical outstanding next time around.

In March went through a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The outcome of this was that the school was OUTSTANDING. The report recognised the very close link between the school and the church and acknowledged the success of the GODZONE services and the impact the services have had on the children and the village community.

Some Quotes from the Inspection:

"The Christian ethos of the school permeates every aspect of the school community and distinctively Christian values are central to the life of the school community."

"Pupils' engagement in and enthusiasm for collective worship transmits to their life both within and beyond school. It is clear that collective worship is greatly valued and woven into the fabric of school life and the local community. In particular the God Zone services have been further developed since the last inspection. Pupils actively volunteer to be part of whole school worship and treat these occasions with reverence".

The school continues to provide the children with opportunities to express themselves through sport and the arts. We have had success with our Year 3 / 4 football team who finished third in the league. Year 6 children are about to perform a Street Dance sequence at the Arc in Stockton. All Year 3 children learn the violin and we have groups of children who are learning to play the cornet, the flute and keyboards. The school choir is going from strength to strength thanks to Deb Hird and we now have a school orchestra. Future opportunities are for guitar instruction and drum instruction.

I firmly believe that the school is in a very good place. This is due to the hard work and commitment of the staff, the support and challenge of the governors and the positive attitude of the children; we are a school where "Everyone is Special."

D Moorfoot. Head teacher

21. Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod is made up of representatives from the PCCs of all the Church of England parishes in the Stockton deanery which includes Billingham, Norton, central Stockton, Hartburn, the outlying villages of Bishopton, Redmarshall, Stillington, etc and our own southern locality which includes Eaglescliffe and Long Newton.

The synod meets every other month and discusses matters affecting our local churches. During 2016 the main focus was the Deanery Plan which is about how we organise ourselves and work together in the future to support, sustain and grow our churches.

The current representatives from Saint Mary's are Cheryl Moore and myself. Deanery Synod reps automatically get a place on the PCC. Elections take place every three years, and if anyone is interested in standing for the next cycle do speak to either of us.

John Lambert

22. Wilson Centre Report

With the prospective demise of the village Community Centre and the Wilson Centre a dilapidated, barely useable "reading room", the decision was taken to lease the Wilson Centre to a management team who then obtained Grant Funding to refurbish the centre.

Moving forward several years, Long Newton has now lost its Community Centre and The Wilson has taken on the additional load as well as becoming a thriving hub of activity within the village. The annual rental of £600 paid by the Wilson Centre to St Mary's is returned as a donation with the agreement that St Mary's can run events at The Wilson without cost provided there are no other commercial bookings at that time. Some of the greatest successes of our outreach, the Drop In and Community Lunch are now part of the fabric of village life and The Wilson Centre, along with the choir practices, pastoral team meetings, PCC and events such as Puzzling Questions all using the centre and displaying St Mary's efforts to be outward facing within this village.

There is a continuous programme of renovation and repair to maintain The Wilson Centre as a high quality facility within the village. Last year we replaced the flooring throughout, repaired the heating system, maintained the redecoration programme, created a loft storage space, provided kitchen ventilation and installed new coloured and ambient lighting in the hall. This sounds expensive – and it was- but we manage

to pay our way through fund raising events, donations, memberships and booking fees and we are especially thankful to the congregation of St Mary's for their continued strong support of The Wilson.

The Wilson Centre management team is a small dedicated band of volunteers who aim to help The Wilson do the best it can for Long Newton. St Mary's does provide two nominated members of the management team but having a strong St Mary's influence is not bad thing and has served the community extremely well to date. There are vacancies on the team and if anyone would like to join us you would be most welcome.

Steven Firth