

ST MARY'S CHURCH LONG NEWTON

APCM

SUNDAY 29th APRIL 2018

APCM REPORTS

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21. St Mary's Church of England Primary School Report
22. Deanery Synod Report
23. Wilson Centre Report

1. Chairman's Report

Among the many things that stood out for me in 2017 were Paul Clayton taking on the role of focal minister at 10.30am, Ruby Loughran's baptism, Messy Church becoming more and more a settled congregation, Vivienne Stapley's Memorial service, the Talking Jesus pub outreach, the Christian Aid morning, the launch of Prayer and Praise, excellent All-Age services and a packed Carol service with Bishop John Pritchard at Christmas.

As we know, church is not just about Sunday though. Saint Mary's is a midweek hive all year round; ongoing pastoral care, the drop-in and Community Lunch, Home Groups, Tuesday @10, Little Ted, the Choral Group and our connection with the school for example.

Two years ago, after a particularly chilly winter, I said that we would make the overhaul of our heating system, for one that is both *quiet* and *warm*, the PCC's top material priority. It took us a while to get the data we needed to ensure that we made the right decision, but I am really pleased with the result. I hope you are too.

2017 is the year we said farewell to Barbara Dyson and Lorna Tippett who went to be with the Lord after many years as faithful worshippers at Saint Mary's. One of the prayers in the Church of England funeral service says "Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us on earth, to turn to Christ and follow in his steps."

May it please God to answer this prayer in the life of Saint Mary's throughout 2018 and beyond.

John Lambert

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Parishioners, held during the morning service on Sunday 23rd April 2017

1. Present

John Lambert (chairperson), Mike Shaw (secretary), Cheryl Moore, Lewis Ayers, Christine Ayres, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Chris Brown, Pauline Brown, Maurice Richardson, Maurice Bainbridge, Edwina Bainbridge, James Askew, Gill Askew, Ian Palmer-Jones, Jennifer Meadows, Christine Burnell, Lorna Tippett, Joan Pilot, Jean Barr, Laura Watson, Mark Nile, Brian Wake, Brain Settle, Ann Settle, Katherine Settle, Charlotte Settle, Ann Smith, Trevor Birtle, Pam Birtle, Ruth Studholme, Sheila Greenaway, Pat Hawkins, David Hay, Pat Hay, Richard Dennis, Lynne Dennis, Terry Reed, Ann Wade, Antonia Chapman-Jones, Lauren Hope, Jean Bamlett.

2. Words of welcome, opening prayer, hymn, creed.

3. Meeting of the Parishioners to elect two Churchwardens

4. Churchwardens:

Christine Ayers - proposed by Gill Askew and seconded by Chris Brown.

Chris Brown - proposed by Cheryl Moore and seconded by Christine Ayres.

These were the only two nominations and Christine and Chris 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.

5. Apologies for Absence

Sonia Wade, Margaret Clark.

6. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 2016 APCM were accepted as a true record.

7. Matters Arising

None.

8. Accounts

Lewis Ayers (treasurer) presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.

There are two accounts: the general current account and the building fabric account. At the end of the year the general account has a surplus of £1779. There were no unusual items of expenditure. During the year there was no expenditure from the building fabric account.

A financial report is presented to every PCC meeting throughout the year.

- Income

Income was £29,000 of which £21,000 was 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.

St Mary's is very dependent on a small number of families for the bulk of income. 50% of income comes from just 6 families, 80% of income comes from just 20 families. The congregation were asked to think and pray about what they can do.

- Outgoings

- The biggest outgoing is the Parish Share to the Diocese, used for clergy stipends, pensions and initiatives.

- Insurance, gas, electricity and water.
- External Giving. We give 10% of our income to a variety of charities.
- Appointment of auditor
Lewis Ayres proposed that Roger Stevenson, the auditor of the Church's accounts last year, be asked to be the auditor for 2017-2018. The proposal was seconded by Steven Firth and was carried.

9. Presentation of Offering - John Lambert

10. Hymn

11. Electoral Roll Report - Gill Askew

At the start of the year there were 60 names on the electoral roll. Five people have moved away, one has died, and five have been added, making a current total of 59. The list of names is displayed in the church porch.

12. Testimony

John Lambert asked David Hay, as a long standing member of the congregation, and Brian and Ann Settle, as new members of the congregation, to talk about their experiences of St Mary's.

David explained that he and Pat had been attending St Mary's for 16 years. Norman Shave had been particularly helpful in welcoming them into St Mary's. David particularly enjoys "Tuesday at 10", and the variety of services St Mary's is able to provide.

Brian and Ann have been attending St Mary's for about a year. They have been made to feel very welcome, and have noticed and appreciate the large number of people who are actively involved in the life of the church.

13. Written Reports

Written reports had been received as follows:

1. Chairman's Report
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Parishioners held during the morning service on Sunday 10th April 2016
3. Churchwardens' Fabric Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
6. MDT (Ministry Development Team) Report
7. Worship Committee Report
8. Pastoral Team Report
9. Communications Team Report
10. Ministry to Children report
11. Messy Church Report

12. Choral Group Report
13. Tuesday Home Group Report
14. Wednesday Home Group Report
15. Tuesday at Ten Report
16. Community Lunch Report
17. Drop-in Report
18. Little Ted Report
19. Safeguarding Report
20. St Mary's Church of England Primary School Report
21. Deanery Synod Report
22. Wilson Centre Report

John Lambert asked for any questions relating to the reports
There were no questions. John thanked everyone who had written a report.

14. Hymn

15. Election of new PCC Members

The PCC works on a three-year rota basis i.e. three members step down or seek re-election each year.

Lewis Ayres, Steven Firth and Jane Firth were seeking re-election.

Lewis Ayres: Proposed by Mike Shaw, seconded by Jim Askew.

Steven Firth: Proposed by Mike Shaw, seconded by Cheryl Moore.

Jane Firth: Proposed by Mike Shaw, seconded by Steven Firth.

In addition, as a new member, Terry Reed was proposed by Christine Ayres, seconded by Lewis Ayres.

All were duly elected to serve for three years.

16. Election of Representative on the Deanery Synod

Based on the number of names on our electoral roll, St Mary's is entitled to two representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Cheryl Moore was proposed by Pauline Brown, seconded by Christine Burnell. There were no other nominations. Cheryl Moore was duly elected.

17. Readings

18. Chairman's Remarks/Talk

"Grace changes everything" - John Lambert.

19. Prayers

20. AOB

Steven Firth expressed appreciation for the work done over the past year by Chris and Pauline Brown to improve the appearance of the church grounds for the benefit of the congregation and the community as a whole.

21. Hymn

22. Final Blessing

Michael Shaw - Secretary

3. Churchwardens' Fabric Report

The building remains in very good general condition.

The following items noted in last year's report have now been actioned and resolved: The repairs to the pathways in the area of the Garden of Remembrance have been completed.

The repairs to the stained glass window (glass work + stonework) in the Londonderry Chapel have been successfully completed.

In May 2017 our new attractive roadside sign board arrived, and we are grateful to the members of the congregation who erected it in position.

Although not strictly part of the building structure, it is pleasing to report that various problems with the pipe organ have been repaired since the last APCM.

During March we had the convector radiator units in the Nave and Chancel replaced with new, silent radiators which have improved both the temperature and the noise level. That work is not yet 100% complete, because the installer needs to return to install 2 radiators that were not available when he performed the work.

During 2017 we had a 5-yearly quinquennial inspection by our architect. He reported that he found the building to be generally in good condition with no serious issues reported.

We have recently identified some relatively minor defects in the stonework in the arch around the main entrance. These can be repaired at a cost of approximately £1,500 (including vat) and we will now apply for grants which would enable us to have this work carried out.

Christine Ayers, Churchwarden

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report to Parish AGM April 2018 in respect of the Accounts for 2017

GENERAL CURRENT ACCOUNT (Unrestricted Funds) After several years of enjoying a surplus of income over spending, we budgeted for a surplus of £2,000 in 2017. The accounts show an actual deficit of £554, but this is after we transferred a contribution of £2,000 to the fabric maintenance funds. So this is a welcome result, and better than budgeted in that we really had a surplus of £1,446 prior to the transfer to £2,000 to reserves for building maintenance.

Receipts were £2,118 less than budget, which is of concern, but outgoing expenditure was £1,560 less than budget.

Looking at the details, congregational giving (planned giving + casual giving) was £1,485 less than budget. Other income, including service fees was generally on budget.

In respect of **EXPENDITURE**, there were no unusual items of expenditure except from an architect's fee of £732. Most of that fee was in respect of the 5-yearly inspection and report, so will not recur until 2022.

We must all keep in mind that the majority (72%) of our spending is items over which we have little control (Insurance, Parish Share paid to the Diocese, and Utilities), and so there is very little opportunity to make economies with our spending.

As a result of the deficit, the year-end balance in the current account was £11,324. We additionally ended 2017 with £2,175 of general funds in the Santander account.

BUILDING FABRIC ACCOUNT (Restricted Funds) There were several items of spending in the year. The new roadside signboard cost £965; sundry electrical works including installation of an alarm in the disabled toilet cost £424; and the pipe organ maintenance cost £2,000. And by far the biggest item of expenditure was the repair to the window in the Londonderry Chapel which was successfully carried out at a cost of £13,714, of which we received £10,000 from Lord Londonderry.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Another successful year in that we met all our commitments and stayed close to our budget.

YEAR END BALANCE

The combined year-end balance at the end of 2017 was £18,993.

My thanks to everyone, including our auditor Roger Stevenson.

We must not become complacent about our giving, as there is much more that we could do if we have the financial resources available, and we remain very much dependent upon a small part of the congregation for the majority of our money.

Lewis Ayers, Treasurer

Attachments:

Table 1 Main Current Account Performance Against Budget

Table 2 Current Account Details

Table 3 Fabric Account Details

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - APCM 29th April 2018

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	
RECEIPTS			
Collections	£3,000	£2,770	-£230
Regular Giving	£19,000	£17,745	-£1,255
Fees	£2,000	£1,462	-£538
Tax Refund Received	£5,000	£4,795	-£205
Sundry Donations	£400	£510	£110
Rent from Wilson Centre	£600	£600	£0
Sundry Income	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	£30,000	£27,882	-£2,118
PAYMENTS			
Electricity, Water and Fuel	£3,150	£3,252	£102
Insurance	£1,860	£1,860	£0
Parish Share	£14,060	£14,060	£0
Deanery Quota	£130	£0	-£130
Service Fees to Diocese	£800	net above	-£800
Printing, Stationery, Supplies	£500	£223	-£277
Printing of Message / Prayer Cards	£50	£0	-£50
Copyright Licence	£150	£146	-£4
External Giving	£2,727	£2,812	£85
Services Upkeep General	£1,000	£452	-£548
Services Upkeep Special	£1,000	£174	-£826

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Pastoral Support	£100	£0	-£100
Wilson Centre Donation	£600	£600	£0
St Mary's School Donation	£250	£250	£0
Outreach Course	£500	£466	-£34
Donation to Fabric Account	£0	£2,000	£2,000
Sundry Expenditure	£1,123	£2,141	£1,018
TOTAL GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS	£28,000	£28,436	£436
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	£2,000	-£554	-£2,554

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TABLE 2 : CURRENT ACCOUNT DETAILS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Opening Accounts Balance at 1 January	£11,880.87	£10,102.03
RECEIPTS		
Cash Collections	£2,769.64	£3,037.28
Regular Giving	£17,745.10	£17,986.30
Fees	£1,462.00	£954.00
Tax Refund Received	£4,794.89	£5,103.58
Sundry Donations	£510.00	£496.00
Rent from The Wilson Centre	£600.00	£600.00
TOTAL TO BANK	£27,881.63	£28,177.16
PAYMENTS		
Electricity, Water and Fuel	£3,251.77	£2,898.60
Insurance	£1,860.37	£1,847.83
Parish Share	£14,060.00	£13,390.00
Printing, Stationery, Supplies	£223.31	£569.17
Copyright Licence	£146.46	£142.88
Donation to the Wilson Centre	£600.00	£600.00
Donation to St Mary's School	£250.00	£250.00
External Giving	£2,812.00	£2,625.00
Services Upkeep General (Candles etc.)	£452.30	£636.47
Services Upkeep Special (Messy, Godzone etc)	£174.15	£979.20
Sundry Expenditure	£2,141.46	£1,640.83
Pastoral Care (Cards, Gifts of Flowers etc)		£180.00
Donation to Fabric Account	£2,000.00	
Outreach Activity Resources	£466.20	£638.34
SUB-TOTAL PAYMENTS	£28,438.02	£26,398.32

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BANK BALANCE at 31 DECEMBER	<u>£11,324.48</u>	<u>£11,880.87</u>				
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	<u>-£556.39</u>	<u>£1,778.84</u>				
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2017						
<i>Assets</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>N.C. Jones</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>TOTALS</i>	
	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Memorial</i>	<i>Bequest</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
Santander Account	£2,175.24	£231.65	£3,174.22		£5,581.11	£5,504.04
Natwest Bank Accounts	<u>£11,324.48</u>			<u>£2,087.28</u>	<u>£13,411.76</u>	<u>£15,361.35</u>
TOTAL CASH	<u>£13,499.72</u>	<u>£231.65</u>	<u>£3,174.22</u>	<u>£2,087.28</u>	<u>£18,992.87</u>	<u>£20,865.39</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>					<u>£nil</u>	<u>£nil</u>

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - APCM 29th April 2018

TABLE 3 : BUILDING FABRIC ACCOUNT DETAILS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Opening Balance at 1 January	£3,480.48	£2,271.92
 RECEIPTS		
Contributions to Building Maintenance and Fabric	£869.00	£964.00
Transfer from Main Account	£2,000.00	
Tax Refund Received	£240.00	£243.00
Donations to Chapel Window Repairs	£10,120.00	
Donations to Crypt Repair & Redecoration	£1,000.00	
Donations to Organ Maintenance	£1,480.00	
Bank Interest	£1.40	£1.56
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£15,710.40	£1,208.56
 TRANSFERS AND PAYMENTS		
New Signboard	£964.80	
Organ Maintenance	£2,000.00	
Window Repair	£13,714.80	
Sundry Electrical Repairs & Improvements	£424.00	

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - APCM 29th April 2018

TOTAL PAYMENTS	£17,103.60	£0.00
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BANK BALANCE at 31 DECEMBER	£2,087.28	£3,480.48
	<hr/>	<hr/>
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	-£1,393.20	£1,208.56
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All funds are restricted		
More specifically:-		
Specifically restricted to Crypt Redecoration & Door Repair	£1,000.00	

5. Parochial Church Council

The Council consists of:

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

During the year beginning April 23rd 2017 the elected representatives were:

Lewis Ayres, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Brian Wake, Antonia Chapman-Jones, Jennifer Meadows, Jim Askew, Terry Reed, and Mike Shaw.

Christine Ayers and Chris Brown (as churchwardens), John Lambert and Paul Clayton (as clergy) and Cheryl Moore (as Deanery Synod Representative), were ex-officio members of the Council.

The Council has met six times during the year.

Officers of the Council were:

- Chairman: John Lambert
- Lay Vice-Chair: Antonia Chapman-Jones
- Treasurer: Lewis Ayers
- Secretary: Mike Shaw

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 Cheryl Moore.

Sonia Wade continued to serve as deputy church warden.

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

Cheryl Moore stood down as secretary at the beginning of 2017, but has continued to provide assistance to the incoming secretary throughout the year.

At each PCC meeting, the Council considers reports and communications from the following:

- Safeguarding officer
- Worship Committee
- MDT

- Treasurer
- Communications group
- Deanery Synod representative
- Building & Maintenance

The Council, where necessary, determines further actions on these matters and on any other business raised.

A fundraising event was held in St Mary's on Saturday 30th September 2017 to raise funds (50/50 split) for Macmillan Cancer Support and Christian Aid. This replaced the annual house to house collection for Christian Aid. The event raised £1210.

Reports on all St Mary's activities are covered elsewhere in this APCM Report.

Michael Shaw - Secretary

6. External Giving Committee

Members - Edwina Bainbridge, Lauren Hope, Cheryl Moore and Michael Shaw.
10% of St Mary's income is given to causes outside the parish. In respect of 2017, this amounted to £2670. Donations were made as follows:

- Wycliffe Bibles - £100 Distribute Bibles in many languages
- Justice First - £200 Provides legal support for those who cannot afford it
- Stokton Parish Church - £400 To meet the many needs of this town church
- A Way Out - £200 Support women in difficulty in Stockton
- The Moses Project - £200 Support local men with drug and alcohol problems
- The Lighthouse Centre - £200 Provide free counselling for those in need
- Megan/Mexico trip - £120 House building for the poor
- Sarah/Romania project - £250 Working with Romanian orphans
- Burgess family in Peru - £400 Missionaries in Peru
- Bellarus - £300 To support the next convoy to Bellarus
- Bellary Support Group £300 Missionaries - providing education in S India

Cheryl Moore

7. MDT

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. It operates under the authority of the PCC.

In 2017 the MDT, amongst other things:

- Recommended a new leadership structure with Paul Clayton becoming focal minister at 10.30am and John Lambert taking a more general oversight role
- Proposed the new Prayer and Praise evening service
- Identified a new 10.30am service leader and preacher (Brian Settle and Mark Nile) arranging training for the latter
- Reviewed services, regularly noting items to flag up with Worship Committee
- Invited home group leaders to come and share any issues
- Made several organisational suggestions for Holy Communion which the PCC decided not to adopt
- Drew up an early wish list for the new Curate's involvement

I am grateful to Gill Askew, Pam Birtle, Trevor Birtle, Paul Clayton, Brian Settle and Kath Snowdon for their ongoing service. They are a good (and fun) team to work with.

John Lambert

8. Worship Committee

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

9. Pastoral Team

The members of the Pastoral Team are currently, 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.

Thanks are due to Terry Reed for her help during the year.

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

10. Communications Group

The current members of the Communications Group are:

- Mike Shaw (Chairman)
- Ian Palmer-Jones
- Jane Firth
- Steven Firth
- Terry Reed
- Lynne Dennis

During the year Ann Smith, Antonia Chapman-Jones and Pauline Brown stood-down after serving on the group for several years.

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

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

The group is responsible for:

- Weekly pewsheets
- St Mary's News
- St Mary's website
- Notice boards
- External publicity
- Church rota

The group ensures that services and events are 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.

During the year the group took over the preparation of the Church Rota, which is prepared every 3 months.

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

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.

A new church sign was purchased and erected adjacent to the church gate.

The group monitors the various church noticeboards in order to keep them tidy, relevant and up-to-date.

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

Michael Shaw

11. Ministry to Children

Children's Church:

There are 4 regular leaders on Sunday mornings and 20 children who attend regularly. We have had a further 28 children who have visited for baptisms etc.

"We have enjoyed learning more about Jesus through reading, singing, watching DVD's, doing jigsaws and lots of different crafts. We have also joined in the services

by singing, reading the Bible, writing and reading prayers and showing the things we have done to the congregation." (quotes from children)

One young visitor told his parents:

"I like that Church, Jesus is outside as well as inside"

This was following one of our many outside activities.

GodZone:

GodZone changed a bit this year and we have held a service in the Wilson Centre as well as Church and School.

We still have good support from parents, grandparents and village residents who join us at the service and some help as well.

We have struggled at times with lack of people for the planning group and delivering the zones, but God is good and a couple of parents helped.

Kath Snowdon

12. Messy Church

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

Messy Church is an answer to prayer; it is a popular and established service amongst families in our church, usually gathering about 40-50 people, including about 20 very happy children. For anyone who says, "Wouldn't it be good if families came to St Mary's" – there are, and this is where you can find them.

If you are unfamiliar with the format, there are three essential elements to a Messy Church service. Firstly, there are crafts and activities which draw out some of the learning points of a Bible theme. (This is why Messy Church is messy. If you give young children paint, glue, sand and glitter, they will not emerge spotless and neither will the floor)! Secondly, there is an interactive and all-age worship time with a visual or dramatized Bible story, songs and prayers. Thirdly, there is a shared tea during which old and young alike can reflect on what they enjoyed learning.

Messy Church is only possible thanks to the dedicated and hard-working team. Thanks to all who put so much into this important ministry over the last year.

John Lambert

13. Choral Group

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

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

We paid a return visit to Preston Hall to sing carols during their Victorian street fair in December.

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

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

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

Kate Pickover

14. Tuesday Home Group

We are a home group of eleven, formed mainly from church members of St Mary's who meet fortnightly at each other's homes.

The essence of the group includes fellowship within a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Our prayers include any personal and or family issues, as well as for other church members, our leaders, and the people of the village and beyond.

Our theme for this past year has been a study of hymns, their origins, composers of the music and lyrics. An analysis of the words comparable in some cases to certain psalms has proved a very uplifting experience.

We are now moving onto the origins of the prayers we say weekly at church and in our daily lives. This will be led initially by Jenny Braddy.

We hold a social event at Christmas and at the end of the summer break, which others are invited. The group also assisted with the food at the recently held Agape supper during Holy Week.

We ask for Gods blessings on us all as we continue in Christian fellowship, learning more about our Lord and we can walk each day in his grace.

Lynne Dennis.

15. Wednesday Home Group

During the last year our numbers have grown considerably and if everyone was in full attendance we would probably fill the Wilson Centre or have enough for a football team! Due to people within the group having other church roles as well as busy family/work commitments and overseas holidays our fortnightly meetings generally number 7-9.

Since last Autumn (2017) the group followed part of *Andrew Killick's Confident Faith* book, recently we have worked our way through the *Wisdom House video/discussion (Rob Parsons)* course on Christian Living and challenges. In the coming spring/summer we will be studying *Titus and Philemon*.

The group has no set leader and various members have led and hosted the fortnightly meetings. Can I (we) say that this is **not** a "**by invitation only**" group and if you would like to come along please speak to me or anyone else in the group about coming along.

(Mark/Julie Nile, Pam/Trevor Birtle, Lewis/Christine Ayres, Anne/Brian Settle, Jill/Jim Askew, Cheryl Moore, Jane Firth, Chris Brown, Cath Snowdon)

We meet around 730pm to start by 745pm and usually begin with a song or chorus, followed by the main study/discussion/reading and mostly finish with a short period of prayer around 9pm. There is no pressure to lead or to host and we generally finish with a cuppa and some cake or goodies.

Mark Nile

16. Tuesday @ 10

Still going strong. Numbers vary with members having other commitments. We are fortunate that those attending are fully supportive of the ethos of Tues @ 10 - it being to discuss various topics of our faith. During 2017 until February of this year, we have read and discussed each chapter of Andrew Killick's book "Confident Faith". We covered 40 chapters and learnt a lot.

Our next study is to have a look at Luke's Gospel. As we've just started, why not come along and join in.

We do have John Lambert and Paul Clayton who attend alternately when able. Our discussions are thought provoking and enlightening. You may have some thoughts about a sermon you didn't quite understand or agree with. This is the place where we can discuss it.

We have a prayer and a hymn, and later a coffee - all in the space of an hour at most. Why not come along and try it? I'm sure you'll enjoy it, and we will benefit from your input.

Tom Whitfield

17. Community Lunch

Long Newton Community Lunch has been running now for eight years and continues to be a regular feature of village life. On average twenty-five people attend with up to forty at Christmastime. As with Drop In the Lunch is held in the Wilson Centre. It provides an opportunity for people to meet together, share news and a meal in a bright pleasant environment.

The meals themselves are mostly homemade and generally consist of soup with rolls and a dessert followed by tea/coffee and chocolates. There is no set cost for the meal however donations are gratefully received to cover costs. Thanks to generous donations it has been possible to have a number of special meals throughout the year ie Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and a Summer Special. Due to popular demand there is now a lunch every month including August and they continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month.

Edwina Bainbridge, Cheryl Moore and Terry Reed are the key people in the kitchen. There is also a great team of helpers Audrey and Tom Whitfield, Lynne and Richard Dennis, Maurice Bainbridge, and Ann Moss, who make each lunch run smoothly. John Taylor continues to provide the 'Thought for the Day' that reminds us all that God is at the heart of all we do. We all enjoy providing this worthwhile monthly event.

Please encourage friends in the village and surrounding area to join us for a meal and fellowship. We would love to welcome new people of any age.

Cheryl Moore

18. Drop In

The Thursday morning Drop-In has had another successful year. The numbers attending have increased. Despite the larger numbers we have succeeded in keeping this as a single group simply by adding another table. The group is now run by a team rather than being the responsibility of one person. Terry, Jennifer and Cheryl and myself form the main team with others who can be called on if necessary.

We have all got to know each other better and try to be welcoming to casual visitors - some of whom now come on a regular basis. This is a lovely group of people who have much experience of life and who have much to offer. Some are of great age and others live with life limiting disease and disability. In some ways this past year has been rather sad. Lorna Tippet, one of our most indefatigable and interesting members died and we miss her a lot. We also said goodbye to Bill Richardson, a real character who joined us now and then. Then we have seen less and less of Sheila and Marion Frazer as they have become more infirm and both are now in homes. However new people have joined us and we are getting to know them.

We have started to celebrate the birthdays of those who are prepared to reveal their birthdates. This has been helped by the ready supply of cards made by a village resident in aid of the Butterwick Hospice.

We now meet throughout the year because for some people this is their only contact with people outside their homes. We also try to follow up those who don't come because of illness or other difficulties. Many people come and support this group from the congregation and Andrew our postman comes most weeks. Those of us who run this group feel it is part of the outreach of our church.

Jenny Braddy

19. Little Ted

The Wednesday morning Mother + Toddler group "Little Ted" has been going for over 10 years now.

The numbers attending each week do vary, but recently we have had a peak of 18.

There is no charge for attendance.

At Christmas 2017 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

20. Safeguarding

I am pleased to report that there has been no reported incidents of Safeguarding in 2017.

In 2017, the Diocese of Durham requested everyone in the parish who works or volunteers with children, young people or vulnerable people are to be D.B.S. (Disclosure Barring Service) checked and attend a safeguarding training course, and that Church Wardens also be D.B.S. checked and attend the said course.

Over the period of 2017, all persons who are D.B.S. checked have attended the required training course. We now have nineteen members of our congregation meeting the requirements of the Durham Diocese, this includes the Church Wardens. I continue to make observations within the church re health and safety. I also encourage people to come forward and discuss with me any issues they feel my attention is required.

Pauline Brown

21. St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Report awaited.

D Moorfoot. Head teacher

22. Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is made up of representatives from the PCC's of all Church of England parishes in Stockton Deanery. This includes Billingham, Norton, Stockton, Hartburn, Elton, the outlying villages of Bishopton, Redmarshall, Stillington, etc.; our own southern locality, including Eaglescliffe and Long Newton and recently the parish of Sedgefield. and all clergy The Synod acts as a link between PCC's and the Diocese.

The current Area Dean is the Rev'n'd Paul Neville who is vicar of Holy Trinity and St Mark's. The Synod meets every other month and discusses matters affecting our local churches. During 2017 the main focus has been the implementation of the Deanery Plan which involves church organisation within the deanery and projects designed to support, sustain and grow our churches. An updated document will be produced for 2018 - 2023.

The current representatives for St Mary's are Rev. John Lambert and Cheryl Moore. Synod representatives are automatically given a place on the PCC. Elections take place every three years. St Mary's does have one spare place for Synod so if you are interested, speak to either John or myself.

Cheryl Moore

23. Wilson Centre

After spending many years presiding over the remarkable regeneration and growing success of The Wilson Centre, Brian Wake has managed to retire as its Chairman and

does so with the grateful thanks of the Management Team and everyone associated with the centre. Thankfully, Brian will remain part of our Management Team and his wisdom and experience will be invaluable.

The Management Team is constantly reviewing the fabric of the Wilson Centre to ensure that it continues to provide a high quality facility for Long Newton. We are fortunate that several groups meet regularly in the centre offering a broad range of activities and the hire charges are now providing sufficient income to cover the ever increasing cost of maintaining The Wilson Centre.

The Wilson Centre is delighted to host the Drop In and Community Lunch which continue to grow in popularity and we were able to step in to offer the facilities for Tuesday@10 and Godzone when St Mary's was out of use when its heating was being upgraded.

Our strong relationship continues as The Wilson Centre aims to provide a broad range of events for the village and we are always grateful for the excellent level of support we receive from St Mary's congregation.

Steven Firth - Chairman – Wilson Centre Management Team