



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020

This report would normally have been presented at the APCM.

This year the APCM was scheduled for 26th April.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the APCM has been postponed.

LIST OF REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held during the morning service on Sunday 7th April 2019
3. Parochial Church Council Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. External Giving Report
6. Churchwardens' Fabric Report
7. Deanery Synod Report
8. Worship Committee Report
9. Pastoral Team Report
10. Communications Group Report
11. Ministry to Children Report
12. Messy Church Report
13. Little Ted Report
14. Safeguarding Report
15. St Mary's Church of England Primary School Report
16. Tuesday at Ten Report
17. Tuesday Home Group Report
18. Drop-in Report
19. Community Lunch Report
20. Choral Group Report
21. Wilson Centre Report

1. Chairman's Report

Among the things that stood out for me in 2019 were the poignant annual Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, a brilliant Godzone Walk Through Easter event, renewal and blessing in the school including the opening of a new Prayer Space, another great charity day, seeing four candidates confirmed in September, the vision day in November and the completion of the heating overhaul in the Londonderry Chapel.

2019 is the year we said farewell to regular member at Saint Mary's Sheila Greenway in January, occasional worshipper Raymond Shaw (Michael's father) in April and former teacher Pat Stephens in November. Each will be missed. On a brighter note, it was lovely to celebrate some joyful weddings and baptisms; Charlotte's little boy Jack was baptized in October.

This annual report will be my last, as I announced my intention to move on to pastures new this summer. Thank you for everything. It has been an honour to serve you as vicar over the last twelve years. Though I always gave of my best, I sign off with a long mental list of all the things I feel I should have done better. However, by the grace of God, I give thanks for the growth in service attendance over this time, for the presence of children each Sunday, for increased financial giving, for better spiritual connections with the school, for improvements to the building and grounds (notably the path and the heating), and most of all the growth in faith and spiritual maturity amongst so many here. God has been good to us.

It feels strange that, due to the Coronavirus lock down, I will almost certainly be unable to chair the APCM this year and say all this in a more personal way, but I will make every effort to come back one Sunday after my Sabbatical to say goodbye properly if public worship is not restored before I am due to leave my post.

Who could have predicted all this even a couple of months ago? Life is full of uncertainties. Our only certain and eternally sure foundation is ultimately the Lord himself.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the strength of my salvation, my stronghold.
(Psalm 18.2)

May the Lord bless you and keep you always.

John Lambert

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held during the morning service on Sunday 7th April 2019

Present:

John Lambert (chairman), Mike Shaw (secretary), Cheryl Moore, Chris Brown, Pauline Brown, Maurice Richardson, Maurice Bainbridge, Edwina Bainbridge, James Askew, Gill Askew, Brian Wake, Trevor Birtle, Pam Birtle, Pat Hawkins, David Hay, Pat Hay, Richard Dennis, Lynne Dennis, Terry Reed, Jean Bamlett, Kath Snowdon, Christine Burnell, Sonia Wade, Mark Dyson, Eva Dyson, Tom Whitfield, Audrey Whitfield, Jenny Lewis, Jenny Braddy, Mark Nile, Julie Nile, Ruth Charlton, Ruth Studholme, Janet Russell. A total of 34.

1. Welcome

Words of welcome, opening prayer, sung worship, creed.

2. Election of Churchwardens

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

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

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 (in her absence) and Chris for their service to St Mary's throughout the year.

3. Apologies for Absence

Paul Clayton, Gill Clayton, Lewis Ayers, Christine Ayers, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Ann Smith, Jean Barr, Alan Wade, Vera Wade.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 2018 APCM were accepted as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Presentation of Accounts

As Lewis Ayers (treasurer) was unable to be present, the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 were presented by John Lambert.

There are two accounts: the general current account and the building fabric account. During the year we met all our commitments and stayed close to our budget. There was significant expenditure from the building fabric account to cover the cost of the new radiators. Half of the cost of the radiators was met by donations.

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

7. Presentation of Offering – Tom Whitfield

8. Appointment of auditor

John Lambert proposed that Roger Stevenson, the auditor of the Church's accounts last year, be asked to be the auditor for 2019-2020. The proposal was seconded by Mike Shaw and was carried.

9. Sung Worship

10. Electoral Roll Report - Gill Askew

At the start of the year there were 58 names on the electoral roll. Three have died, one has moved away and one has not responded. Eleven new names have been added, making a current total of 64.

11. Written Reports

Written reports had been received and circulated as follows:

- Chairman's Report
- Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Parishioners held during the morning service on Sunday 29th April 2018
- Parochial Church Council Report
- Treasurer's Report
- External Giving Report
- Churchwardens' Fabric Report
- MDT (Ministry Development Team) Report
- Deanery Synod Report
- Worship Committee Report
- Pastoral Team Report
- Communications Group Report
- Ministry to Children report
- Messy Church Report
- Little Ted Report
- Safeguarding Report
- St Mary's Church of England Primary School Report
- Tuesday at Ten Report
- Tuesday Home Group Report
- Wednesday Home Group Report
- Drop-in Report
- Community Lunch Report
- Choral Group Report
- Wilson Centre Report

Presentations on two of the above reports were given as follows:

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - Annual Report April 2020

- Children's Ministry – Kath Snowdon gave the presentation including Messy Church, Godzone, and LittleTed. It was noted that during the course of the year Children's ministry on a Sunday morning had successfully moved into the Londonderry Chapel. A confirmation service will be held in September and preparation sessions will be held over the summer.
- Worship Committee – Brian Wake and Cheryl Moore talked through the Worship Committee report.

John Lambert thanked everyone who had written a report.

12 Sung Worship

13 Election of new PCC Members

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

Antonia Chapman-Jones and Jennifer Meadows stepped down, but were not seeking re-election. There were no new proposals for membership.

John Lambert thanked Antonia and Jennifer for their years of service to the PCC.

14 Readings

15 Chairman's Sermon

"Wisdom - Friendship" - John Lambert.

16 Prayers

17 AOB

- It was suggested that a Parish Vision Day be held later in the year.
- Grateful thanks were expressed to Jim Askew for his donation of the hand-held microphone.

18 Sung Worship

19 Children's Activities this morning

20 Closing Prayer

Michael Shaw - Secretary

3. Parochial Church Council Report

The Council currently consists of:

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

During the year beginning April 2019 the elected representatives were:

Lewis Ayres, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Brian Wake, Jim Askew, Terry Reed, and Mike Shaw. Gill Clayton was co-opted onto the PCC during the year.

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 five times during the year. The sixth meeting scheduled for March was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, key items of business for this meeting were conducted by e-mail.

The minutes of each meeting are displayed on the porch noticeboard.

Officers of the Council were:

- Chairman: John Lambert
- Lay Vice-Chairman Jim Askew
- Treasurer: Lewis Ayers
- Secretary: Mike Shaw

Other Officers reporting to the council were:

- Electoral Roll Officer: Jane Firth (Gill Askew stood down as officer during the year)
- Safeguarding Officer: Christine Burnell

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.

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

- Safeguarding officer
- Worship Committee
- Treasurer
- Deanery Synod representative
- Building & Maintenance
- St Mary's School

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 28th September 2019 to raise funds (50/50 split) for Macmillan Cancer Support and Christian Aid. The event raised around £634.

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

Michael Shaw - Secretary

4. Treasurer's Report

GENERAL CURRENT ACCOUNT (Unrestricted Funds) We budgeted for a deficit of £1,000 in 2019. In fact we had a positive surplus of £2,388, which is a really a good result.

Receipts at £34,455 were £4,855 more than budget, and outgoing expenditure at £32,067 was just £1,467 more than budget. Almost all the additional, over-budget, spending was external giving to various charities as a result of (a) donations received at funerals, and (b) the money from the September charity coffee morning. There were no other unusual items of expenditure.

As usual, the majority (almost 70%) 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.

The year-end balance in the current account was £13,550.

BUILDING FABRIC ACCOUNT (Restricted Funds) There was only one item of spending in the year. We had the 2 remaining convector radiators in the Londonderry Chapel replaced. This was particularly appropriate now that our children's Sunday morning activities take place in that space.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Another successful year in that we met all our commitments and improved on our budget.

YEAR END BALANCE

The combined year-end balance at the end of 2019 was £18,830, slightly up compared to 2018.

My thanks to everyone, including our auditor Roger Stevenson.

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 - Annual Report April 2020

TABLE 1 : CURRENT ACCOUNT – PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS			
Collections	£3,000	£4,247	£1,247
Regular Giving	£20,000	£19,931	-£69
Fees	£1,000	£3,232	£2,232
Tax Refund Received	£4,500	£5,280	£780
Sundry Donations	£500	£531	£31
Rent from Wilson Centre	£600	£600	£0
Charity Coffee Morning	£0	£634	£634
Sundry Income	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	£29,600	£34,455	£4,855
PAYMENTS			
Electricity, Water and Fuel	£4,000	£3,935	-£65
Insurance	£1,932	£1,932	£0
Parish Share	£15,797	£15,797	£0
Deanery Share	£130	£0	-£130
Printing, Stationery, Supplies	£250	£275	£25
Copyright Licence	£160	£155	-£5
Wilson Centre Donation	£600	£600	£0
St Mary's School Donation	£250	£250	£0
External Giving	£2,700	£4,290	£1,590
Services Upkeep General	£500	£482	-£18
Services Upkeep Special	£600	£519	-£81
Pastoral Support	£100	£320	£220
Sundry Expenditure	£1,381	£1,512	£131
Building Maintenance	£2,000	£2,000	£0
Outreach Course	£200	£0	-£200
TOTAL GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS	£30,600	£32,067	£1,467
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	-£1,000	£2,388	£3,388

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - Annual Report April 2020

TABLE 2 : CURRENT ACCOUNT DETAILS

	2019	2018
Opening Accounts Balance at 1 January	£11,163.50	£11,324.48
RECEIPTS		
Collections	£4,247.02	£5,149.29
Regular Giving	£19,931.00	£19,534.00
Fees	£3,232.00	£1,130.00
Tax Refund Received	£5,280.45	£4,539.73
Sundry Donations	£531.00	£612.50
Rent from The Wilson Centre	£600.00	£600.00
Charity Coffee Morning	£634.13	
Sundry Income		
TOTAL TO BANK	£34,455.60	£31,565.52
PAYMENTS		
Electricity, Water and Fuel	£3,935.41	£3,174.67
Insurance	£1,931.75	£1,961.16
Parish Share	£15,797.00	£14,900.00
Deanery Share		
Printing, Stationery, Supplies	£275.33	£442.91
Copyright Licence	£155.46	£151.55
Donation to the Wilson Centre	£600.00	£600.00
Donation to St Mary's School	£250.00	£250.00
External Giving	£4,290.00	£4,035.00
Services Upkeep		
General (Candles etc.)	£481.95	£413.92
Services Upkeep		
Special (Godzone etc)	£519.47	£378.76
Pastoral Care Support	£320.40	
Sundry Expenditure	£1,512.23	£1,093.53
Donation to Fabric Account for Building Maintenance	£2,000.00	£4,325.00
Outreach Activity		
Resources		
SUB-TOTAL PAYMENTS	£32,069.00	£31,726.50
BANK BALANCE at 31 DECEMBER	£13,550.10	£11,163.50
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	£2,386.60	-£160.98

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019						
Assets	General Funds	N.C. Jones Memorial	Wilson Bequest	Fabric Funds	TOTALS	
					2019	2018
Fabric / Reserve Account		£231.65	£3,174.22	£1,873.83	£5,279.70	£6,119.41
General Account	£13,550.10				£13,550.10	£11,163.50
TOTAL CASH	£13,550.10	£231.65	£3,174.22	£1,873.83	£18,829.80	£17,282.91
<i>Liabilities</i>					£nil	£nil

St Mary's Church, Long Newton - Annual Report April 2020

TABLE 3 : BUILDING FABRIC & RESERVE ACCOUNT DETAILS

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Opening Balance at 1 January	£6,119.41	£2,087.28
RECEIPTS		
Contributions to Building Maintenance and Fabric	£1,041.00	£744.00
Bequest from Joanne Smith		£1,000.00
Transfer from Closed Santander Account		£3,306.11
Compensation from Santander Bank		£100.00
Transfer (Donation) from Main Account	£2,000.00	£6,600.00
Tax Refund Received	£470.00	£1,662.00
Donations to Heating Improvements	£900.00	£5,960.00
Donations to Stonework Repairs		£1,580.00
Donations for Children's Facilities		£424.05
Bank Interest	£13.69	£5.47
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>£4,424.69</u>	<u>£21,381.63</u>
PAYMENTS		
Heating System Improvements	£5,264.40	£14,628.00
Masonry Repairs	£0.00	£2,347.96
Children's Facilities	£0.00	£373.54
Sundry Repairs & Improvements	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>£5,264.40</u>	<u>£17,349.50</u>
BANK BALANCE at 31 DECEMBER	<u>£5,279.70</u>	<u>£6,119.41</u>
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT IN YEAR	<u>-£839.71</u>	<u>£4,032.13</u>
All funds are restricted. More specifically:-		
The Wilson Bequest for School Bibles	£3,174	
N.C. Jones Memorial Fund	£232	
Building Fabric	£823	
Children's Facilities	£51	
Crypt Door Repairs	£1,000	

5. External Giving Report

Throughout the year members of the External Giving Group take note of any worthy cause/charity that involves members of the congregation. Requests for donations are also received and considered at the annual meeting of the group. A number of reminders are also posted on the pew sheet.

Information regarding our mission partners in Peru, Mark and Anna Burgess, are also shared via the pew sheet extra and can be accessed on line at www.theburgessfamily.com or on Facebook.

Every year, 10% of St Mary's income from giving is donated to causes outside the parish. In 2020 this sum amounted to £3,200. The PCC decided on the recommendation of a small working group to make the following donations-

- Sarah Peters £500 to continue her work with orphaned children in Romania.
- Mark and Anna Burgess £500 to support their missionary work in Peru.
- CFM (Trevor Birtle) £500 to support free counselling sessions.
- The Moses Project £400 to support their work with the homeless.
- A Way Out £300 to support their work with troubled families.
- Wycliffe Bibles £200 to enable the translation of the Bible into world languages.
- Safe Families for Children £200 – Nicola Wells spoke to us last July.
- Open Doors £200 – Tolu came to speak to us last July.
- Christians Against Poverty £200 – Lucy Falcus, lay chair of synod spoke to us last July.
- Toilet Twinning £200 to purchase three toilets – pictures to be displayed in the toilet area in church with information about the work of the charity.

We are blessed to be able to make a difference to so many people's lives.

Cheryl Moore

6. Churchwardens' Fabric Report

The building remains in very good general condition.

Since the last APCM:

- We have had the church redecorated internally.
- The 2 remaining convector heaters in the Londonderry Chapel have been replaced.
- The heating system pressurisation unit which was mentioned in last year's Fabric Report has been replaced.
- A replacement sump pump at the Boiler Room entrance has been installed due to failure of the old unit.

There have been some occasional problems with the heating system and the entire electrical services which have tripped out on occasion. Examination by qualified electricians has failed to identify the intermittent fault, and we continue to monitor the situation.

Recently a leak was discovered in the pipework to and from the 2 radiators nearest to the church main entrance door. To stop the leak, that pipework has been isolated. A long term solution will need to be found so that the 2 affected radiators are brought back into service.

Christine Ayers - Churchwarden

7. Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is made up of representatives and clergy of all the Church of England parishes in the Stockton Deanery which includes Billingham, Norton, Central Stockton, Hartburn,, the outlying villages of Bishopton, Red Marshall, Stillington, Sedgfield and our own Southern Locality which includes Preston – on – Tees, Egglecliffe and Long Newton. The current Area Dean is Paul Neville who is vicar at Holy Trinity Church Fairfield.

The Synod meets every month at a variety of church venues and discusses matters affecting our local churches. During 2019 to 2020 a new Deanery Strategic Review Group was set up. The purpose of this group is, through discussion, to review the current Deanery Plan. The group is to explore the use of church buildings in relation to forms of worship and to look at what mission means in each parish. Information from each parish will be collected and considered.

A notable visiting speaker to Synod this year was Bishop Sarah who spoke about growing churches. She posed challenging questions such as " What is the need in our communities?" "How do we reach out to a group of people and share the good news?" "Do we do that from our existing church building or do we need to go somewhere else?"

Current representatives for St Mary's are John Lambert (until June) and Cheryl Moore, with one vacancy. Deanery Synod representatives automatically have a place on the PCC. Elections take place every three years and are due this year. If you are interested in standing for election for the next cycle please speak to John or Cheryl.

Cheryl Moore

8. Worship Committee

Members: Rev Paul Arnold, Rev Paul Clayton, Edwina Bainbridge, Gillian Clayton, Lynne Dennis, Richard Dennis, Cheryl Moore.

Areas of Responsibility entrusted to the Worship Committee:

- Choose themes and readings for Ordinary Time services.
 - Propose services for all special occasions.
 - To think creatively about keeping services fresh and relevant in today's society.
 - to suggest new service leaders and preachers
 - to invite new people to read and lead prayers.
1. The Worship Committee meets bi monthly and members take it in turn to Chair the meetings. All contribute to the agenda. Minutes are taken and are easily accessible.
 2. The Worship Committee had organized the programme for Lent and Holy Week. However, due to the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in with the Coronavirus, alternative forms of worship have been arranged with on line services.
 3. The theme for Ordinary Time in the month of June is, The Role of Women in the Church, focusing on Deborah, Hannah and Lydia. Father's Day on June 21st will follow an alternative theme.
 4. We have agreed to continue with the Discipleship theme for July and widen our range of speakers.
 5. We have collaborated with the children's leaders and are delighted to have Lynne on the committee to keep us up to date.
 6. In discussion with PCC members the name Service of the Word has been changed to the more meaningful Morning Service.

Finally, a word of comfort from scripture in these trying times:

For I am convinced that neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 9:38.

Gill Clayton

9. Pastoral Team

The members of the Pastoral Team are currently Jennifer Meadows and Sonia Wade. (Ann Moss is taking a temporary break.) 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.

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

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 Communications Group was set up in 2012. During 2018-19, the group felt that they had achieved the remit to establish good communications at St Mary's. Therefore, in 2019 the group disbanded. However, communication continue by various means, principally by the weekly pewsheets.

It is circulated to all those who are on the contact list with e-mail addresses. A supplementary sheet "pewsheets extra" is added to the pewsheets from time to time.

A contact list of those who attend St Mary's is maintained and regularly updated in line with GDPR legislation.

Services and events are also publicised by leaflets and posters displayed in various locations around the village, and on the website.

St Mary's maintains a website www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk and a Facebook page.

Michael Shaw

11. Ministry to Children

The children's Sunday morning ministry continues to be an active group, giving ministry to children of varied ages. Whilst every effort is made to follow the main theme of the service, we do have some restrictions on our activities, due to the noise element travelling into the main service. However, the warmer weather brings relief in that we can use the outside area.

Here are a few ways we have seen Gods hand at work:

The numbers attending from the 1st April 2019 to the end of February 2020 (ie excluding March 2020) are 426 in total. This gives an average over 11 months (48 weeks) of 8.75 children per week attending.

We have 3 leaders and 2 helpers. A big thank you to those who have supported us with safeguarding, and advice, and to the parents/ grandparents who bring the children along.

This excludes - 82 children who attended Christingle, and 133 children attending God Zone from St Mary's school. This gives a footfall of children over the threshold of St Mary's, (some regular attenders) who have been to a service in the above period - totals 640. This is without the Messy church numbers, and is extremely encouraging.

We Never Know What Seeds The Lord Has Sown.

Congratulations to two of our children who have been confirmed during this last year, Ruby and Lily, now taking holy communion on a regular basis and one waiting to be baptised, Evalyn.

A Big Welcome to anyone who thinks they have a role/calling to work within this important area. This would give some relief to others then able to join in the service intermittently. It is a privilege to serve in this area.

The message of the bible is always foremost in all our planning and activities and we have fun along the way. Keeping our notice boards filled with crafts produced by the children. Sharing with the congregation at the end of the service. As well as the many ideas that have come forth in his name.

Thank you to the congregation of St Mary's for their love and tolerance with our ventures.

Every One a Disciple, Every one a Disciple Maker.

Lynne Dennis

12. Messy Church

In 2019 there was a big change in leadership with Katy Wilson and Ruth Charlton taking on the leadership of the Messy Church planning team. Thanks to Antonia Chapman-Jones who has been such a star in getting Messy Church established here from the start. Messy Church at Saint Mary's marked its 5th birthday in October last year.

It is now very popular amongst families, usually gathering about 40-50 people, half of whom are children and with an increasing proportion of families from the village who know the church already through Little Ted.

Messy Church is only possible thanks to the devoted and fun-loving team who have such a heart for nurturing faith in a non-threatening way amongst families who would otherwise have little or no involvement with church. Thanks to everyone who put so much love and hard work into this important ministry over the last year.

John Lambert

13. Little Ted

The Wednesday morning Mother + Toddler group "Little Ted" has been going for over 12 years now.

The numbers attending each week do vary, but recently we have been getting as many as 20.

There is no charge for attendance.

At Christmas 2019 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 9.00 to 11.00 and have tea & coffee while the children play and get to know each other.

Edie 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

14. Safeguarding

There have been no reported incidents of safeguarding in 2019/2020.

Pauline Brown stood down as the designated Safeguarding officer for St Mary's Church and Christine Burnell has taken on this role. All documentation now has this change recorded.

St Mary's has 20 volunteers who have complete Disclosure Barring System (DBS) checks and there are to be two more. Durham Diocesan no longer use a paper system to carry out the DBS, they are to be completed online, Chris Burnell has been given the appropriate login account details and these are to be used for all future DBS checks. It is expected that training updates will be necessary for some of the current volunteers, dates to be sorted when this information becomes available.

To reiterate the same encouragement that Pauline gave to encourage people to come forward should there be any concerns that they feel are appropriate for my attention.

Christine Burnell

15. St Mary's Church of England Primary School

The recent pandemic has created huge uncertainty among us and we continue to show our 'love, care and hope' to our children, families and community. As we are currently, only open to those families of key/critical workers or those who are within the vulnerable group's category, our support for the wider school and community remains strong. Our genuine and sincere love goes out to you all, if we can help or support you in anyway, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us: stmarys@sbcschools.org.uk

St Mary's CE Primary School is a place where we 'invest in the uniqueness of each individual' to ensure we all as individuals flourish. Throughout the year, we have achieved many successes both within and outside of school. Our drive for excellence remains strong.

We continue to develop our 'Active Lifestyle' and all children have had many opportunities to attend sporting events and competitions both within Stockton and within our cluster, events including gymnastics, hockey, tag rugby, swimming, active games, balance bikes, festivals and much much more. We were successful with our application for the CAF, which will see a Community Active Lifestyle Facility (multi-use games are) be installed later in the year, which will be able to be used by the whole community to support activity and engagement further.

The Year 3/4 children have been completely immersed with their topic of the Romans and had many opportunities to deepen understanding and question their knowledge.

The Year 6 children had an amazing time at Robinwood earlier in the year and completed all challenges set, further embedding their self-determination and perseverance!

The Early Years is thriving and children are excelling in all areas from their starting points, the staff have developed a vibrant and engaging environment, which is set to be expanded upon in the coming months. The children will gain space to develop their creativity and curiosity further.

Mrs Saunderson-Darkes planned a whole school theme week around the text 'Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns', all children in school enjoyed a visit to the mosque as part of the week. The Year 1/2 children also created mosques out of a range of materials- they were spectacular!

St Mary's is a very special place where staff, children and parents work collaboratively. The motto 'Investing in the uniqueness of each individual' is a golden thread which runs throughout the whole of our school and holds true meaning.

During these unprecedented times, it is important for us to remain strong together. Together we are stronger and together we can help and support one another to share our love both within our community and to the wider world so no one feels alone or unsupported.

Take care, stay safe and keep in touch.

Emma Robertson – Head Teacher

16. Tuesday @ 10

Tuesday @ 10 is an hour well spent in your day, with coffee / tea and a biscuit at the end.

The numbers attending vary according to what else we have going on in our lives. We have about ten regulars and that includes Paul Clayton.

The content is reading a chapter from the Bible (so that we can improve our regular reading of the Bible), which we then discuss. You can sit and listen, ask questions, join in with discussions, give your opinion. We are a friendly bunch. We all learn something extra! We sing a hymn and have a prayer. It's a great way to start your day.

Unfortunately, we can't meet at this moment, however, we would love to see you when we restart.

Tom Whitfield

17. Tuesday Home Group

In 2019 our group started the Waymark Lent Course on February 12th so that we could complete it before Easter. This was in spite of problems getting the material three

weeks before Ash Wednesday. We invited others to join us and four people took up the invitation. The course was a success in two ways. We completed the course, which did have its limitations but I think we all gained something from it. However, the big positive result of the course occurred afterwards because, to our surprise, our visitors all opted to stay with us. So we are now 15 strong, with 12 or 13 meeting at any given time.

After Easter we launched into a study of Genesis, starting with the Creation and finishing with Abraham. This proved to be incredibly challenging but we all learnt a lot. We followed this high pressure theology with a couple of quiet sessions practising some meditation techniques.

Later in the year we started to look at our vision for St. Mary's in preparation for the Vision Day and afterwards we discussed the conclusions reached that day. Then we concluded the year with a study of John's first letter.

This year we again started our Lent Course very early. However, this year we chose a very different study using one supplied by the charity 'Embrace the Middle East'. This charity is the one that supplies the well-known carol sheets. It proved to be a very practical few weeks as we looked at the needs of the wider church, particularly in the war zones of the world.

Our group has never been solely a study group. We have continued to spend half of our time praising God in singing and praying for the needs of our church. We try to encourage and support each other as well. We have had a number of social events, including pancakes, a Christmas do at Christine's at Darlington and a summer BBQ at Alan and Vera's. This last was notable for its cosmopolitan nature. Gillian Kerr had just returned from inspecting her factories in China; Eva brought her sister visiting from Hong Kong and Alan and Vera invited the interpreter accompanying the children visiting from Belarus.

All together this has been an encouraging and learning year for our group. We look forward to getting back together and seeing where the Lord will lead us.

Jenny Braddy

18. Drop In

This has been another great year for the weekly Drop-In. The group is going from strength to strength. Thank you to Our Lord that this get-together is such a success and an encouragement to all who go. The numbers have increased over the year to

the extent that we are thinking of doubling our table space. Andrew our postman is a welcome part of the Drop-In community and one of our cyclist visitors has now fully joined us. Terry and I have a good team of supporters, mostly, but not exclusively from our church community, and Eileen has recently agreed to stand in for myself and Terry if needed. However everyone helps to keep us together and well informed with news.

We celebrate each person's birthday and must thank Jenny for keeping us supplied with her charity cards. Photographs of our grand bairns are passed round the table and worries and sadness are also shared. Cards and visits are sent and made to any who are sick. We have continued to pray for those in need and those who have asked for prayer

We once again celebrated with a meal at the Londonderry.

For part of the year, whilst her work schedule allowed, Lauren spent half an hour encouraging us all to exercise to music. This was really helpful. Thank you Lauren.

Terry works really hard to get everything ready before people arrive despite her many other responsibilities. Thank you Terry and thank you for keeping us all positive and providing us with cake.

On a sad note Doris Wright who started the Drop-In quite a time ago now and worked so hard to get it off the ground has died after 5 years in a care home. Grateful thanks to Pat for visiting her so faithfully for all that time and keeping us informed about her welfare. This group is a fine legacy to her commitment.

Thank you to Cheryl, Jen, Eddie and Maurice, Ian, Audrey and Tom, Eileen, Lynn and Richard, Jean Bamlett and Joan Pilot and many more for your continued support. God bless you all in these strange days.

Jenny Braddy, Terry Reed

19. Community Lunch

Community Lunch continues to be a welcome event in the village and is held on the second Thursday of the month at the Wilson Centre. Around twenty- five to thirty people generally attend with a gathering of forty or more for the special Christmas lunch. Both the Thursday morning 'Drop In' and the Community Lunch provide opportunities for any member or friend of the village to meet together, to exchange news and socialise. For some people who live alone the Community Lunch is the only meal they have with company. The meals are served in Room 1 at the Centre which is a bright pleasant space.

Meals consist of a choice of homemade soups served with garlic and cheesy bread followed by dessert then tea/coffee and chocolates. There is no set charge for the meal however donations are gratefully received to cover costs. Thanks to generous donations the Community Lunch is a self-supporting event and it has been possible to have a number of special meals throughout the year celebrating Easter, Summer Special, Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Eddie Bainbridge, Cheryl Moore and Terry Reed prepare the food. Audrey and Tom Whitfield, Lynne and Richard Dennis and Maurice Bainbridge help with serving etc. John Taylor continues to provide the 'Thought for the Day' with Jenny Braddy stepping up if John is unavailable. God is at the heart of all we do.

Obviously the lunches have ceased due to the Coronavirus. The team look forward to the day when they can resume and are already planning a real celebration meal.

Cheryl Moore

20. Choral Group

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

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

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

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

Kate Pickover

21. Wilson Centre

The Wilson Centre continues to be one of the focal points of Long Newton. Classes and activities are thriving in the Centre which was completely redecorated during last summer holiday. Covering such costs and maintaining what is essentially an old building remain a continuing balancing act between raising sufficient income and providing facilities at a reasonable cost.

Apart from the redecoration, we have funded several improvement projects over the past few years including:

- Complete resurfacing of the wooden floors
- Created a loft storage area
- Major repairs to the heating system
- New lighter weight chairs
- Extra tables
- Created opening roof lights
- Roof repairs

We are pleased to host St Mary's Drop In every Thursday and the Community Lunch each month as well as our Vision Morning in November and we stood ready to host the church services when the church heating failed in March.

We have no idea how long the Coronavirus crisis will keep our doors locked but our caretakers are using the time to ensure that the Centre is deep cleaned and ready for action as soon as we have the green light.

The Management Team is constantly looking for new members to run the Centre. We always need new ideas, new skills and new enthusiasm and we are required to have two representatives from St Mary's on the Management Team (Ann Smith and Edwina Bainbridge), all volunteers are very welcome.

Steven Firth - Chairman – Wilson Centre Management Team