



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(APCM)**

SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2019

**APCM
REPORTS**

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1. Chairman's Report

Among the things that stood out for me in 2018 were Paul Arnold arriving as Curate, the arrival of Emma Robertson as Head Teacher at the school, an avalanche of baptisms in the summer and autumn, new posters for the porch, a day to discuss and decide what space to allocate for children's ministry on Sunday (a very clear consensus for the Londonderry Chapel), a superb charity day in September, the War's O'er service on Remembrance Sunday, Charles and Lauren's wedding, a now regular pattern of all-age services, and a really joyful Christmas season.

We are truly blessed to enjoy the varied and gifted contributions of a big ministry team, both clergy and lay. Thanks to all of you who play such a magnificent role in making Saint Mary's the welcoming, well-ordered, safe and spiritually invigorating community that it is.

As we know, church is not just about Sunday. There is much happening in midweek; pastoral care and visiting, the drop-in and Community Lunch, Home Groups, Tuesday @10, Little Ted, the Choral Group and Godzone, for example.

2018 is the year we said farewell to regular worshipper at Saint Mary's Laura Watson who went to be with the Lord in August, sadly just a month or so before the baptism of her great grandson.

Mary, the mother of our Lord, and after whom our church is named, is quoted in Luke's Gospel as saying, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me according to your word." This shapes my prayer for the coming year; that we might serve the Lord with humility and seek to live consistently with his holy word.

John Lambert

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held during the morning service on Sunday 29th April 2018

Present:

John Lambert (chairman), Mike Shaw (secretary), Paul Clayton, Gill Clayton, Cheryl Moore, Lewis Ayers, Christine Ayres, Steven Firth, Jane Firth, Chris Brown, Pauline Brown, Maurice Richardson, Ian Palmer-Jones, Maurice Bainbridge, Edwina Bainbridge, James Askew, Gill Askew, Jennifer Meadows, Joan Pilot, Brian Wake, Brian Settle, Ann Settle, Ann Smith, Trevor Birtle, Pam Birtle, Pat Hawkins, David Hay, Pat Hay, Richard Dennis, Lynne Dennis, Terry Reed, Jean Bamlett, Kath Snowdon, Christine Burnell, Joanne Smith, Sonia Wade, Mike Charlesworth, Shirley Charlesworth, Eva Dyson, Tom

Whitfield, Audrey Whitfield, Jenny Lewis, Jenny Braddy, Alan Wade, Vera Wade. A total of 46.

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 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.

3. Apologies for Absence

Jaen Barr, Mark Nile, Julie Nile.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 2017 APCM were accepted as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Presentation of Accounts

Lewis Ayers (treasurer) presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017.

There are two accounts: the general current account and the building fabric account. During the year there was significant expenditure from the building fabric account to cover the cost of the repair to the window in the Londonderry Chapel, the new church sign, organ repairs and electrical work.

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

- Income

Income was £28,000 of which £25,300 was from congregational giving including Gift Aid. The only other income comes from weddings, funerals and sundry donations. The rent from the Wilson Centre is returned.

The main concern is that St Mary's is very dependent on a small number of people for the bulk of income. 80% of income comes from just 30% of the congregation. A recent pewsheets extra asked the congregation to consider their regular giving.

- Outgoings

- The biggest outgoing (approx. 50%) is the Parish Share to the Diocese, used for clergy stipends, pensions and initiatives. While the Diocese issues guidance on the Parish Share contribution, the actual contribution is decided by the PCC.

- Insurance, gas, electricity and water.

- External Giving. We give 10% of our unrestricted income to a variety of charities.

7. Presentation of Offering – Lewis Ayres

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 2018-2019. The proposal was seconded by Steven Firth and was carried.

9. Sung Worship

10. Electoral Roll Report - Gill Askew

At the start of the year there were 59 names on the electoral roll. Two have died, and one has been added, making a current total of 58. The list of names is displayed in the church porch.

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 23rd April 2017
- Churchwardens' Fabric Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
- External Giving Report
- MDT (Ministry Development Team) Report
- Worship Committee Report
- Pastoral Team Report
- Communications Group Report
- Ministry to Children report
- Messy Church Report
- Choral Group Report
- Tuesday Home Group Report
- Wednesday Home Group Report
- Tuesday at Ten Report
- Community Lunch Report
- Drop-in Report
- Little Ted Report
- Safeguarding Report
- Deanery Synod Report
- Wilson Centre Report

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

- Children's Ministry – Kath Snowdon gave the presentation including Messy Church, Godzone, and LittleTed.
- MDT – Trevor Birtle gave the presentation explaining that the purpose of the team is strategic planning. It is an advisory group and not a decision making group.

John Lambert thanked everyone who had written a report, and thanked those who had prepared and delivered the presentations.

12 Sung Worship

13 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.

Brian Wake, Jim Askew and Mike Shaw were seeking re-election.

Brian Wake: Proposed by Mike Shaw, seconded by Gill Clayton.

Jim Askew: Proposed by Brian Wake, seconded by Trevor Birtle.

Mike Shaw: Proposed by Ian Palmer-Jones, seconded by Cheryl Moore.

All were duly elected to serve for three years.

14 Readings

15 Chairman's Sermon

"The River of Life" - John Lambert.

16 Prayers

17 AOB

None.

18 Sung Worship

19 Closing Prayer

Michael Shaw - Secretary

3. Parochial Church Council Report

The Council consists of:

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

During the year beginning 29th April 2018 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.

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

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.

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 29th September 2018 to raise funds (50/50 split) for Macmillan Cancer Support and Christian Aid. The event raised around £800.

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

Michael Shaw - Secretary

4. Treasurer's Report

GENERAL CURRENT ACCOUNT (Unrestricted Funds) We budgeted to break even in 2018. The accounts show an actual deficit of £162, but this is after we made a contribution of £4,325 to the cost of replacement of radiators in the Nave and Chancel, so is really a good result.

Receipts at £31,566 were £3,366 more than budget, and outgoing expenditure at £31,728 (including that £4,325 towards the radiators) was £3,528 more than budget.

In respect of **EXPENDITURE**, other than the payment towards the new radiators, there were no unusual items of expenditure except from an architect's fee of £732.

As usual, the majority (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 £11,163.

BUILDING FABRIC ACCOUNT (Restricted Funds) There were three items of spending in the year. We purchased a new rug for the children's area in the Londonderry Chapel, we had urgent repairs to stonework carried out, and the biggest item was the new radiators at a cost of £14,628.

Half of the cost of the radiators was met by donations plus Gift Aid tax refund.

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 2018 was £17,283, slightly down on 2017 due to the spending on the building.

My thanks to everyone, including our auditor Roger Stevenson.

See the attachment for tables:

Table 1	Main Current Account Performance Against Budget
Table 2	Current Account Details
Table 3	Fabric Account Details

Lewis Ayers - Treasurer

5. External Giving Report

10% of St Mary's income from giving is given each year to causes outside the parish. In 2019 this amounted to £2,700. The PCC decided, on the recommendation of a small working group to make the following donations.

- Sarah Peters - £500 to continue her work with orphan children in Romania.
- The Burgess Family - £500 towards their missionary work in Peru.
- Air Ambulance - £400.
- The Butterwick Hospice - £300.
- A Way Out Stockton - £300.
- Eagle House - £300 Trevor and Pam's work with families requiring support.
- The Moses Project - £200 extra support following the break in and theft earlier this year.
- Wycliffe Bibles - £200 for distribution of Bibles in many languages.

Throughout the year members of the External Giving Group take note of any worthy cause/charity that involves members of our congregation.

Requests for donations are also received and considered at the annual meeting. A number of reminders are also given out to the congregation via the pew sheet.

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

Cheryl Moore

6. 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 work to replace the radiators has been completed.
- The stonework repairs to the arch around the main entrance have been carried out.
- We received a donation of £1,000 towards that work from the Northumbria Historic Churches Trust.

Further necessary works identified for future action are the replacement of the Pressurisation Unit in the boiler room and the replacement of the under-sink water heater in the coffee area. These works will be performed when we have identified the most cost-effective way forward.

Christine Ayers - Churchwarden

7. MDT

MDTs were set up by Bishop Michael Turnbull in the 1990s at a time when, in many churches in the diocese, clergy did just about everything except give out the hymn books. He saw that, especially with declining clergy numbers, churches needed to move towards healthy, every-member ministry in which the gifts of lay people come to the fore.

Towards the end of 2018 the MDT began to sense that its race was run. Time and again there was overlap with what PCC, Communications Group and Worship Committee were discussing, which led to confusion and frustration. MDT discussions became less and less focused.

A significant proportion of later MDT recommendations to PCC were not adopted so it became clear the church was on two different wavelengths which is not a healthy state of affairs. So at the end of 2018 MDT proposed to the PCC that it should disband

and that PCC should create task groups from time to time to work through ministry issues that may arise.

Some MDT members are considering offering their services on the PCC, Worship Committee or Communications Group as vacancies arise. Thanks to everyone who served on MDT over the years. MDT was a vital mechanism for encouraging every-member ministry at Saint Mary's. That is now a happy and established reality and MDT served its purpose well.

John Lambert

8. 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 Bishopston, Redmarshall, Stillington and recently Sedgfield and our own Southern Locality which includes Preston, Egglecliffe and Long Newton.

The Synod meets every other month at a variety of church venues and discusses matters affecting our local churches. During 2018 the main focus was developing children and youth ministry, inclusion of Sedgfield parish, appointment of clergy and the Churches Together event. The Synod also worked on the future vision document that aims to support, sustain and grow our churches.

Current representatives for St Mary's are John Lambert and Cheryl Moore with one vacancy. Deanery Synod representatives automatically get a place on the PCC. Elections take place every three years. If you are interested in standing for the next cycle do speak to John or Cheryl.

Cheryl Moore

9. 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

Some of the ways we have tried to meet these responsibilities are listed below.

2. 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.
 - Any matter a member of the Committee wishes to raise.
3. All-age services have been organised for almost each month with the leader(s) being given full responsibility for all aspects of the service. We have provided written guidance for those leading these services.
4. We have continued the practice of having, during the month of July, speakers from organisations representing 'Christianity in Action.' In 2018 speakers came from Tearfund, A Way Out, The Gideons, the Diocesan Lesotho Link and Stockton Town Pastors.
For this year we have arranged so far to have speakers from Open Doors, The Moses Project, and Safe Families for Children.
5. We had started to plan for a Lent Course in 2019 but then heard that our Bishop wanted there to be a Lent Course ('Waymark') leading towards a conference in October. We felt it was right for St.Mary's to do that course and the relevant booklets were obtained and the course run by the two Homegroups and Tuesday at Ten.
6. 'Prayer & Praise' services have been held monthly at 6pm on a Sunday with the object of learning new songs and praying together -mainly about a specific matter. After diminishing attendance, the last was held in February, it then having been decided that a more popular method of achieving the objective might be to meet on a Sunday afternoon, possibly with tea.
7. The Committee has organised the programme of worship for Holy Week.
8. In exercising its responsibility for themes and readings during Ordinary Time one of our members puts forward suggestions for approval by the Committee.
9. We have been concerned to make sure that that people should have easy access to a bible during services.
10. We have arranged for two new people to be added to the list of readers.

11. We have collaborated with the children's leaders about their ministry.

Brian Wake

10. 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. 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

11. Communications Group

The current members of the Communications Group are:

- Mike Shaw (Chairman and Secretary)
- Jane Firth
- Steven Firth
- Lynne Dennis

During the year Ian Palmer-Jones and Terry Reed stood-down from the group. Ian had been a member of the group since its formation in 2012.

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
- Maintaining a contact list

The 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 "pewsheet extra" is added to the pewsheet from time to time.

Services and events are also publicised by posters displayed in various locations around the village, in St Mary's News and on the website.

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.

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

Banners are designed and purchased for various church seasons and events.

The group prepares the Church Rota every 3 months.

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

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 booklet is regularly updated. 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

The group has been in existence since 2012 and it is felt that the time is now right for the group to be refreshed with new members. Consequently Mike Shaw is now standing down from the group.

Michael Shaw

12. Ministry to Children

Following the Saturday morning Children's meeting in July we moved into the Londonderry Chapel in September.

This has proved to be a great move and with more space and equipment we can see the difference in the children and their understanding and love of God.

We can use the outdoor space when the weather allows.

The back of Church is set up for babies and toddlers (though some toddlers prefer to be with the older children) and is also used as a play area following the service.

We have used the Vestry when we watch a dvd or sing.

We have four leaders plus several helpers and a 'support group' who help us with planning, safeguarding etc.

Many thanks for your continued prayer and encouragement.

Kath Snowdon

13. Messy Church

Messy Church at Saint Mary's will be 5 years old in October this year. It takes place on the third Sunday of alternate months.

Messy Church is now established as a service amongst families, usually gathering about 40-50 people, about half of whom are children.

There are three essential elements to a Messy Church service. Crafts and activities to draw out learning points on a Bible theme, an interactive and all-age worship time with a Bible story, song and prayers, and 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 love and hard work into this important ministry over the last year.

John Lambert

14. Little Ted

The Wednesday morning Mother + Toddler group "Little Ted" has been going for over 11 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 2018 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

15. Safeguarding

There have been no reported incidents of Safeguarding during 2018. In 2018, an issue arose regarding the internal doors leading out of the church. The issue being that younger children attending " Little Ted " were able to open the door giving them access to outside and leaving the church building. This issue was addressed by having a small clasp fitted to the door making it secure.

A sign has been put on the wall next to the store cupboard indicating where the first aid box is located.

St Mary's Church presently have nineteen volunteers who have been D.B.S. (Disclosure Barring Service) checked, with two further volunteer being processed. In 2019, Durham Diocesan replaced the present Safeguarding policy (Safe and Secure) with new documents, titled " Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Adults, Children and Young People". All documents relating to the old policy have been removed and the new documents put in their place.

A copy of the new policy is in the filing drawers in the vestry, along with a Parish Handbook which supports and supplements the new policy.

I would like to encourage people to come forward and discuss with me any issues they feel where my attention is required.

Pauline Brown

16. St Mary's Church of England Primary School

We have had a wonderful start to the year and we are continuing our aim for excellence.

The school has had a very successful year with the school topping the performance table for schools, which reflects the wonderful abilities of our very special children. The outcomes for children at Key Stage One were very good and we were congratulated

on the significant improvement made since the previous year. The Key Stage Two results were exceptional, achieving the highest results in Stockton.

We have developed 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. The sporting achievements have been great with our football team reaching Tees Valley Finals, Swimming Team reaching 3rd Place in the Stockton Finals etc. We are all very excited about the installation of our new netball/ quick cricket posts later this term with our new playground markings, which will add to our very active time at St Mary's.

The Year 3/4 children have become eco-warriors, which have been led by our very enthusiastic Ms Heaney. They have been studying many texts which have supported their learning and understanding and gave them many wonderful facts which they can retell with great enthusiasm and knowledge. They consolidated their learning with a trip to the 'Tees barrage' where they learned about the after effects of pollution in our waters. The children are developing ways in which we can all become more environmentally friendly as their aim is to 'save' the planet!

The Year 5/6 children have thoroughly enjoyed our new curriculum approach and have engulfed themselves within the world of the 'Greeks' where they have consolidated their learning by visiting the Hancock Museum.

The Early Years is a wonderful place to be and we now offer nursery children 30 hours. The staff and the children continue to make it a special place to be and everyone is excited about the forthcoming trip to Hardwick Park where they are participating in a 'Bog Baby' themed day.

St Mary's is a very special place where staff, children and parents work collaboratively. The motto 'Everyone is Special' is a golden thread which runs throughout the whole of our school

Emma Robertson - Head teacher

17. Tuesday @ 10

Still lots of interest from those attending. We have nine people who attend when they can.

It's very encouraging when we are able to discuss the topics in some length and we have the benefit of Paul Clayton in attendance to help us on our way.

The topic is usually a chapter from the Bible or something relevant to Church life.

As you are aware, it last for an hour with coffee to close. You can join in "if and when" you like or sit, enjoy and listen. We do have a hymn and a prayer. Come along and try it.

Tom Whitfield

18. Tuesday Home Group

I feel privileged to be part of this particular group of people, who display Christian love, empathy and dedication to studying God's word and other related topics. We meet every two weeks, at each other's homes.

Our theme for this past year so far has been the origins of prayers we say weekly at church and use in our daily lives. Also, the WayMark Lent course has taken precedence, its meditation qualities, giving us food for thought as well as spiritual guidance. Other members of the church have joined us during this period.

Prayer is an important part of our gatherings, for the church, its leaders, the people of the village and personal.

We ask for God's blessings on us all as we continue in Christian Fellowship, moving forward with humbleness in awe of our Lord. Amen.

Lynne Dennis.

19. Wednesday Home Group

During the past year we have had mixed experiences with fluctuating numbers in attendance as various other commitments have prevented some regular members from attending.

Following several sessions on *Titus and Philemon* we have looked at several examples of Christian Witness. We then followed the Rob Parsons course of video and written material titled "The Wisdom House" which is centred around a series of interviews or chats that Rob has with his grandchildren, with themes such as "Be My Best Friend" and "Life's Not Fair".

Starting into 2019 we intended to hold discussion sessions based on the sermons and talks we have received in the Sunday services, but this has been slightly limited because not all preachers upload their sermons onto the St Mary's website. More recently we started to follow the Durham Waymark Lent course.

The group has no set leader and various members have led and hosted the fortnightly meetings. Attendance is definitely **not** a "**by invitation only**" group and if you would

like to come along to try it, please speak to anyone else in the group about coming along.

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

We meet at 7.30pm and usually begin with a song or hymn, 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 biscuits.

Lewis Ayres

20. Drop In

The Thursday morning Drop-In has had another successful year. The numbers attending have again increased and we have got to know each other really well.

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 good support from many members of the congregation.

Our postman Andrew is a regular member of the group as are number of cyclists.

This past year we have established a Birthday Book for those prepared to disclose their birth date. As a result we have been able to celebrate lots of birthdays with cards and with cakes and flowers on significant birthdays.

This simple act has really drawn the group together.

Another innovation this year has been to use donations to pay for a lunch for everyone at the Londonderry. We had a lovely meal and were well looked after by the staff there.

We have had to say goodbye to Sheila and Min who have died and we miss them.

Others have joined us over the year

This is truly a church group. We hope we are welcoming. We try to support all who come and encourage them to come to church. There are lots of laughs and we have a bit of fun together.

Thank you to all who support us in any way. Why not come and join us.

Jenny Braddy

21. Community Lunch

Community Lunch has had another successful year and has become a regular feature of the village on the second Thursday of the month. Twenty-five to thirty people

generally attend with a gathering of forty at Christmastime. These lunches continue to provide an opportunity for folk to enjoy eating a meal together and to socialise with friends, old and new. Meals are served in the Hall at the Wilson Centre, a pleasant bright space.

Meals consist of a main course of homemade soup with garlic bread, rolls and butter, followed by a 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 lunches throughout the year e.g. Christmas time, Valentine's Day, Easter and summer special.

Eddie Bainbridge, Cheryl Moore and Terry Reed prepare the food and 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 in reserve. God is at the heart of all we do.

Cheryl Moore

22. Choral Group

The Choral Group has been in existence 22 years and we currently have sixteen singers from members of All Saints and St Mary's congregations.

We are fortunate to have Anne Wade to accompany us for our choir practises, and Isaac Conroy who plays for our services.

We have had another fairly busy year, singing at 23 services, including 4 weddings at St John's, Egglecliffe and one at St Mary's, Long Newton.

We have also provided a choir for funerals at both St John's and St Mary's Churches. Having practised on a Friday evening at the Wilson Centre, Long Newton, for the past 5-6 years, as the Wilson Centre now has another long term booking on Fridays, we have recently reverted to meeting at All Saints in the meeting room, still on Fridays but now at 4pm which means after all these years, we have our Friday nights free to do other things if we wish!

We would love others who enjoy singing to join us and hope that the new timing may suit people better now. Why not come along and try it?

Kate Pickover

23. Wilson Centre

2018 was another successful year in the life of The Wilson Centre serving the people of Long Newton. We now have regular users booking sessions on every day of the week to the extent that there are only a few hours during the week when the Wilson

is not in use. Our Big Breakfasts continue to be hugely successful in bringing in a good number of residents to meet, eat and share the experience and it is our great pleasure to host the Drop In and Community Lunch where our church reaches out to the village to engage with those who might have become lonely but now have the chance to join in the vibrant community.

The Wilson Centre is now a registered charity. This is very largely due to the skill and perseverance of Brian Wake who was determined to deliver our Charitable status before he retired as chairman. With that mission now accomplished, Brian has stepped down with our grateful thanks from the Chairman role that he has filled most admirably for several years.

Steven Firth - Chairman – Wilson Centre Management Team