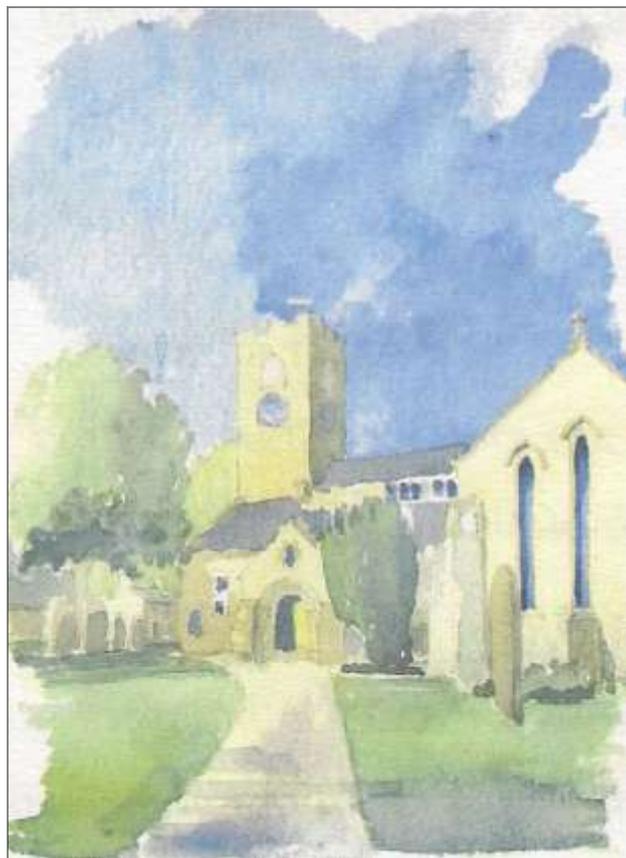


**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and St. James, Newton Hall.**



ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending

31st March 2013

Incumbent

The Revd D B Hewlett The Vicarage, Greencroft Avenue, Corbridge. NE45 5DW

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

ANNUAL CHURCH & PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

St Andrew's Church, 14th April 2012, at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2012 at 11.00am.
3. Election of Churchwardens
Linda Hunter and Elizabeth Robson elected 2012 2 vacancies
4. Financial Statement to include charitable giving Tony Broady
5. Reports in this booklet

PCC Annual Report 2013

Electoral Roll Roll

Vicar's Report

Maureen Davison

Rev David Hewlett

Children and Youth Work

Creche

Junior Church

Messy Church

Kath Abraham

Louise Stubbs

Kath Abraham

Outreach and Communication

Social events

Church Welcomers /Guides

FIESTA

Website

Parish Magazine – The Bridge

Rev Jenny Kinnaird

Rosemary Baker

John Bishop

Simon A Hunter

Mary Lowans

Church Music

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Parish Centre

Pastoral Visiting

Church Flowers

Sidespersons

Colin Williams

Linda E Hunter and
Elizabeth Robson

Suzette Milne

Rev Julie Robson

Sheila Goldsworthy

David Welsh

Prayer Group
Corbridge Deanery Synod
Churches Together in Corbridge
Women's Fellowship
Corbridge C of E First School

Tony Macdonald
Richard Dixon
Rev David Hewlett
Linda E Hunter
Mandy Norton

6. Elections

Deanery Synod all elected 2011 – 2014.

Mandy Norton, Warren Smith, Pam Phillips	retiring
Richard Dixon,	continuing

3 vacancies for the remainder of the term ie until 2014

Parochial Church Council

John Graham, Paul Morris, Max Philbrick (2010 – 2013) retiring

Brenda Ford, Louise Stubbs, (2011 – 2014) continuing

Laura Rhodes, Jackie Webb, Suzette Milne (2012 – 2015) continuing

3 vacancies

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

8. Any Other Business

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETINGS HELD IN THE CHURCH AT 11.00am
ON SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2012**

The Vicar reminded those present that two meetings were being held, as in previous years: one to elect Churchwardens, at a meeting of parishioners and the second of the parochial church council at which only those on the church electoral roll are entitled to vote. However he added that it is now possible to combine these meetings and that will be the format from 2013 onwards.

1.PRESENT:

Revd David Hewlett, Revd. Jenny Kinnaird, 41 laity.

2.APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from; Roger & Mary Lowans, Mandy Norton, Elliott Ward, Paul Hagger, Julie Robson, Richard & Jill Dixon, John Bishop, Pat Harvey, Ron & Jane Gold and Jackie Webb .

3.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL & PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS:

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 17th April 2011 was given by the meeting with all in favour and these were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4.ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

Those present were reminded that anyone resident in the parish could vote for a churchwarden. Linda Hunter and Elizabeth Robson had indicated their willingness to stand again and having been approached, agreed to be re-elected. As both had been correctly proposed and seconded and as there were no other nominations, they were duly appointed, unopposed, for the year until the next Annual Meeting.

5.REPORTS:

The Vicar stated that all the reports had been issued well in advance and thus members had had time to digest them and comment, if necessary. The Annual Report is always a good reminder of what is happening within the church and he never ceases to be amazed at how many parishioners do so much in this parish. Those who talk to him about the building, beauty and facilities of St. Andrew's always express their admiration and this he wished to pass on to those who work so hard and for their achievements. Gratitude was expressed for their work and continuing enthusiasm throughout the year and for producing their reports for this meeting. The Annual Accounts had been approved by the PCC and also were

published with the Annual Report. He thanked all who had been responsible for writing and compiling the reports, in particular Liz Buckley and Tony Broady, with special thanks to Sue Neve and Linda Hunter who had been involved in their production. There were no comments arising from the reports.

The Vicar went on to mention that there had been a lot of changes in the past year.

Firstly, David Preece had retired as Parish Administrator and gratitude was expressed to him for all his work and for his helpfulness to Revd. Jenny Kinnaird through the interregnum.

Tony Broady, having done sterling work as the Treasurer and put the church finances into such a safe and secure place, had wished to step down at the last annual meeting but had agreed to do one more year. It was now time to express our great gratitude and let him go. Thanks were also given to Tony's wife Viv who has put up with his continued long sessions in the church office further than expected.

Liz Buckley also wished to step down from the secretary's post and she also was thanked, particularly for keeping the Vicar on "the straight and narrow"!

Deborah Thorne, who has worked so hard with the choir and as church organist has handed her responsibilities over to Warren Smith. Deborah will still be prepared to help with the Corbridge Chamber Music Festival. The Vicar thanked Deborah on behalf of the meeting.

Other changes have involved Julie Robson who will be ordained this year in July (it is hoped that many of the congregation can attend), Linda Hunter who has completed her first year working towards becoming a Reader and Laura Rhodes who is exploring her vocation. The meeting was asked to hold all of the above in their prayers.

6.ELECTIONS:

The Vicar explained that this year Julie Robson was stepping down as a Deanery Synod representative as after her ordination she would no longer be a member of the laity! This required a replacement to continue her term of office. Richard Dixon had indicated his willingness to stand and having been properly proposed and seconded was duly elected.

There were four vacancies on the PCC: Suzette Milne, Laura Rhodes and Jackie Webb had all indicated their willingness to stand and been properly proposed and

seconded. These three were duly elected and a fourth interested party was to be approached with a view to co-option later.

The Vicar reminded the meeting that under the terms of tenure these new members would serve for a period of three years and then have a years rest before being eligible for re-election.

The Vicar went on to give a huge vote of thanks to all the members of the PCC in particular Richard Dixon, Jennifer Herrmann and Elliot Ward who were standing down. He stated that PCCs are one of the subjects vicars always discuss when gathered together and he was delighted to be able to comment on the good debates and contributions found at St. Andrew's PCC meetings.

When Churches Together in Corbridge was reformed it was proposed that the clergy involved would each bring two representatives with them to future meetings and that these representatives would be chosen at each church's annual meetings. Three candidates had indicated their willingness to stand and therefore a vote was now needed. After these votes were counted Ann King-Lewis and Monica Philbrick, having received the most votes, were duly elected.

7. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

The Treasurer had used the firm of Stokoe Rodgers for the 2011 accounts and their work had been excellent. He suggested that they be again asked to examine the 2012 accounts. This suggestion was agreed by the meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

The Vicar requested the meeting to consider the need for a new Honorary Secretary to the PCC.

Colin Baker enquired into the present position of position of church architect and was informed that the new PCC would be looking to appoint one. It was explained that each church is required to have an appointed architect either from an approved list or appointed by the Diocese and that this would be an important consideration for the June PCC meeting. The church architect is paid an annual retention fee and also for specific work and the Quinquennial Inspections.

Our Churchwarden, Linda Hunter, then thanked the Vicar on behalf of the meeting for all his hard work in the parish, seen and unseen, remembering that he also works as Area Dean and for the continuing support from Tessa, his wife.

The meeting closed with thanks for all for their attendance.

PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2013

Introduction

The PCC has the responsibility of working alongside the Vicar, in the community of Corbridge, to build not only on the past but to look to the future, moving forward prayerfully and enthusiastically to embrace the challenges of the church in the world today, which are set out in the vision planning of the Diocese.

Generous, Engaged and Open are the keynote qualities of Diocesan priorities – to pursue Bold Evangelism, to provide Useful Buildings, to Develop Disciples, to encourage Lively Worship, to promote Vocations, and to draw in Young People.

In Corbridge the PCC are very clear that there is a welcome for everyone, no matter what their story, background, marital status, gender, nationality or sexuality. We are an inclusive church.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules or co opted by the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar:	Rev. David B Hewlett
Assistant Curate (NSM):	Rev Julie Robson
Reader:	Roger Lowans
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Elizabeth Robson

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mandy Norton	Pam Phillips,	Warren Smith	Richard Dixon
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Elected Members:

John Graham	Paul Morris	Max Philbrick	Brenda Ford
Louise Stubbs	Jackie Webb	Laura Rhodes	Suzette Milne

Co opted	Tony Broady, Elizabeth Buckley
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It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC.

Members: Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Lay Vice Chairman, Secretary and

one elected member. Our elected member is Richard Dixon

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Six meetings of the PCC and five of the Standing Committee were held during the last year. The Vicar chaired the meetings with support from Linda Hunter as Lay Chair. The PCC receives reports and debates on a very large amount of information throughout the year. This review only covers that material which is not reported on in reports which may be found separately in the Annual Report.

Financial Matters

The monthly report of General Fund expenditure against budget continues at meetings, together with a draft income/expenditure chart for the ongoing financial year which gives the meeting the chance to see actual monthly income against projected income. These are enhanced with detailed reporting on funds and bank accounts. The annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012 will be found in an accompanying booklet. In the current climate we need to be aware that our expenditure will rise over the coming year. If you are able to give through a regular standing order it would help us with our budgeting

Appointments

We have been incredibly lucky that Tony Broady has continued as Treasurer. We are delighted that Cliff Wright has now taken on this role.

Elizabeth Buckley finished as secretary and we thank her for all her hard work. This means that we have spent a greater proportion of the year without a secretary. We do need a secretary so please think and pray about who may be an appropriate person to fulfil this role.

We appointed Mr Ian Ness as our architect.

Mr Richard Dixon has taken on the role of Parish Administrator in a voluntary capacity.

Churches Together Christmas Letter: A team organised by Bill Cunningham and comprising people from all the churches worked together to ensure the production and delivery of the Christmas letter in the village.

Church of England new arrangements for fees for weddings and funerals: A new structure commenced in January 2013 and was an attempt at a uniform process across the country. It was agreed that whilst not wanting to preclude anyone from having their wedding in St. Andrew's, adequate fees needed to be paid to cover the cost of heating and lighting etc.

Communion Café after the Mid- Week 10 o'clock Eucharist: This is going well and that those who do come genuinely appreciate the opportunity to enjoy the cake and have a chat. It is important that this is promoted widely so that members of the congregation and the local community know that a cup of coffee is available in church on a Wednesday morning.

Back to Church Sunday: Back to Church Sunday encouraged members of the congregation to invite others to church. The service using the new liturgy had been very accessible to those who attended. There were a good number of the regular congregation present too and there was a real 'buzz in the air' during the coffee and chat afterwards.

Helena Buque: We were delighted to hear that Helene who we have supported throughout her 7 years of training has now qualified. Her graduation ceremony takes place on Saturday 25th May in Mozambique.

Christmas Tree Festival: A second, well supported Christmas Tree Festival was also held in December and it was agreed by PCC that this be repeated in 2013

Grand Draw: Suzette and Warwick Milne organised the Grand Draw this year. Thank you to them for all the work this involved.

ELECTORAL ROLL
Maureen Davison

At last year's Annual Parochial Church meeting there were 265 names on the Electoral Roll. Since then there have been 7 additions and 6 deletions making a total of 266 names on the list.

Additions	Deletions
Charlotte Larman	Peter Graddol
Antonia L R McNamara	Howard W.Bradley
John McNamara	Pamela Michie
Claire Beckham	Patricia Hay
Julie Logan	William Taylor
Narissa Rezai	Carol A.Richardson
Katherine Friend	

The Electoral Roll is undergoing a complete revision this year and the final numbers will be reported at the Annual Meeting.

VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been a very busy, but a very positive one.

People

- We had a wonderful celebration at The Cathedral at Julie Robson's ordination to the Diaconate. Her ministry is a huge support to me and a big contribution to the life of the parish. We have to remember that she is in training for the first 4 years of her ordained ministry. We are looking forward to her priesting on 30th June, again, at The Cathedral. I hope as many people as possible will be there to support her.
- Roger continues to make huge contributions both to liturgy and to parish policy; and also at Corbridge First School where he is a governor. His experience in FE is being very well used, not only in Corbridge, but in the wider diocese especially in Reader recruitment and selection and on the Diocesan Board of Education.
- I want to thank the retired clergy for their support and especially in acting as Chaplains to our residential homes and to Jack who looks after Halton.
- Our churchwardens, Linda and Elizabeth, are excellent. Their expertise, kindness and ability to arrange, organise, welcome and love St. Andrew's and those who come, is a valued ministry. Elizabeth stands down this year and I especially want to thank her for the contribution she has made.
- We say a big 'Thank You' to our treasurer, Tony Broady, not only has he put our financial administration on a smooth track, but he has stayed on two years more than he had hoped to. This year he retires properly, and with a huge 'Thank You' from us all, which is, of course extended to Viv for letting us have so much of Tony's time.
- We couple this with the news that Cliff Wright is taking over from Tony and we thank him for this most warmly.
- Richard Dixon took on the role of Parish Administrator this year. He has been an invaluable member of the team and has done so much to streamline the administration of the parish.
- Many thanks to Jenny Kinnaird and her team for taking on The Social Committee. Resourced by a new large cooker, bought with part of Pamela Michie's generous bequest to the church, we now have more social events and are getting to know one another a little better than before.
- Thanks too, to Edward Pybus Hon Churchwarden at Halton for looking after people there.
- We will say 'Farewell' to Laura, Mark and Annabel Rhodes this autumn as Laura will be beginning her training for the ordained ministry in Oxford. I am delighted that she has been recommended for training and thank everyone who has been so supportive of her and Mark during all that has been involved in the discernment of her vocation.

- I want to pay tribute to Linda Hunter, not only as churchwarden but as leader of worship at St. Andrews both at All Age Worship and at Evensong. Linda continues her training for Reader ministry. We await a date for her licensing.
- Thanks to Mary Lowans, who is retiring after 6 years as editor of 'The Bridge' and to her expert team who produce 'The Bridge' each month.
- We all said a sad 'goodbye' to Warren Smith organist, PCC member, Deanery Synod Rep. and all in his 20s! Warren is now Director of Music at Ponteland and we have enjoyed one joint service with his new choir and another is planned for the summer. Congratulations and 'Thank you' Warren.
- Congratulations to Antonia McNamara who raised the money and the enthusiasm for her visit to Africa where she worked in an orphanage. She is hoping to return very soon.
- The County Show was held for the last time in Corbridge this year, and many thanks are due to all who helped organise the Churches Together tent on the show ground, especially to Max and Monica Philbrick for their work. The show moves to Bywell next year, but the tent will go on, under 'Local Management' –local to Bywell!

I cannot thank everyone individually ... our churches have so many people that do so many things. Without this pulling together as the Body of Christ here we could not witness to the, love of God, as we do.

The Pastoral Offices

Funerals: were down from 25 to 34 this year. We said final farewells to a number of people who have been associated with St. Andrews down the years, in particular Pamela Michie, Billy Taylor, Peter Graddol, Pat Hay, Chris Lloyd and Sir Laurie Barratt each of whom contributed so much to the life of St. Andrews and the wider community in their differing ways for so many years. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Weddings: 15 celebrated here in church this year, including Andrew Passmore marrying Rhein at Christmas – the music was wonderful, as one would expect! Couples and their families always comment on the warm welcome they receive at St Andrew's both on Sundays and in the organising of their weddings. A number become members of our regular congregation.

Baptisms: continue in popularity making it impossible to administer them all in regular Sunday worship. 22 this year including one Mateo Lowans, who came all the way from Mexico for the service. We continue to follow up baptism families and make sure they are invited to Messy Church and other appropriate events at St Andrew's.

Worship

How wonderful it is to have such moving music at the heart of so much of our worship. Thank you Colin and the choir. The Chilcott weekend will long remain in the memory, especially the choir singing the piece they commissioned from him for Corbridge.

We do have a huge responsibility to offer the best worship we can, as so often we are host to people who only come irregularly to church. They so often say how welcome they feel –our church is open to all who want to come without exception, whether they come once or 100 times a year. And at Christmas they came, more than ever before again we had 970 people at our services and the RCs had 400 at their Mass ... and at Remembrance Sunday they came too. How privileged we are.

We welcomed The Very Rev. Victor Stock, just having retired as Dean of Guildford, as the preacher at our Festival Choral Communion. Victor made us think, made us smile and led a stimulating session in the cottage on the Monday night.

The new altar frontal for The High Altar is being produced as we read. We will have a service of blessing and dedication when it arrives.

We held services to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee; 25 years of The Charlotte Straker project, in which clergy from all our denominations took part; and Back to Church Sunday, thanks to Roger and Laura who did the organising.

Schools

I visit Corbridge C. of E. First School to take assemblies on a regular basis, often accompanied by 'Mint Sauce'.

'Open the Book' assemblies are led by a group from the parish twice a term, and have been very well received by staff and children alike. The team are dedicated actors!

Linda has led assemblies at The Middle School and at Mowden Hall.

Mowden Hall School

The school has bought the redundant St.James' church and provision is being made for local people to access it for occasional offices. There is also a warm welcome from Mowden to anyone who would like to join with them in their services on Sundays. The old churchyard at St, James will not be formally closed in the foreseeable future and remains in the care of the PCC.

High Spots

There have been so many it is hard to pick out specific ones but:-

- The **Corbridge Chamber Music Festival and Eucharist** with wonderful music ... our thanks to all the home team who facilitate this and to The Gould Piano Trio, their friends and families who make such beautiful music possible
- **"Messy Church"** where children, mums, dads, grandparents etc pack in to church on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to sing, play, eat and hear stories
- The **third Deanery Confirmation** was held this year at Ovingham and Corbridge had some of our young parents confirmed.
- **Churches Together in Corbridge** has ceased to exist as a formal body – see report in booklet; but the Churches here are all committed to doing as much together as we possibly can and to improve our communications so that we can support one another's ventures.
- The village bids farewell to **Rev. Stephen Caddy** and his wife as they leave for Beverley where Stephen is to be the Superintendent Minister. I will miss him greatly, and we are all, I am sure, very grateful for his ministry here. It is a sadness for our Methodist friends that there will no longer be a Methodist Minister resident here in Corbridge when Stephen leaves.
- The second **Christmas Tree Festival** was a huge success both in the money raised for Charlotte Straker but also for its message that St Andrew's is here for the whole community. 800 people came through the church in two hours on the Late Shopping Night! Linda and her team organised it brilliantly.
- We held **carol singing , the raffle and the mulled wine morning** during the Tree Festival –the Vicar's Mulled Wine was good, but perhaps not quite as good as Paddy's, whose infamous recipe, sadly, died with her.

Conclusion

I have been asked to serve in various places in the wider diocese this year:-

- As Area Dean of Corbridge Deanery. Where there will be vacancies at The Moorland Group of Parishes from July for which I will be responsible.
- As a member the Local Ministry Task group
- As a member of The Continuing Ministerial Development Task group. Both Task Groups have had to shoulder a good deal of work this year inducting newly appointed Diocesan Advisors.
- As a bishops mentor (part of the process for supporting clergy)
- Member of The Bishop's Council
- Diocesan assessor for those seeking ordination.
- Bishop's reviewer for clergy Ministerial Development Reviews
- Member of Diocesan Strategy Group
- Surrogate for Marriages.

Reflection

At national level the Church of England's failure to enact The Women Bishops Measure was a huge disappointment and separated us even further from society than before. I do hope that the quick resolution of this issue that we have been promised is passed as soon as possible.

The Anglican Communion was also debating The Anglican Covenant. This cannot be laid out here, but it is sufficient to say that had it gone through the whole 'feel' of Anglicanism would have been changed. Some provinces would have become second class citizens and we would have been consigned to moving forward at the pace of the slowest of the provinces. Thankfully, the Church of England dioceses rejected The Covenant, our diocese included.

The Bishop of Durham is our new Archbishop of Canterbury after less than a year in Durham. We wish him every blessing in his daunting task, and to ++ Rowan a fulfilling ministry in Cambridge, to which he goes with the thanks of the whole church.

We have so many people who do so much in this parish that one cannot be but grateful and pleased.

Perhaps we need to get to know one another a little better. Can I repeat what I said last year: our excellent Social Committee has already begun work on arranging more events where this can happen. But it only happens if we take part.

We do not, as a church, give much support to evening meetings or groups so we have added a more overt teaching angle to some Sundays in the 'sermon slot', which seems to be being well received.

As your vicar I am always available to be consulted on any matter, in confidence. May I thank you all for the part you play in God's work in this place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

David Hewlett
Vicar

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK

Our ministry with Children and Young Families involves so many people on a regular basis. Thank you to all those who give up their time to support this vital ministry.

CRECHE

Kath Abraham, Convenor

Crèche has dropped in numbers due to the majority having their fourth birthday over the past six months and moving up to Junior Church. It is still available and has a good number of helpers on the rota. There is now a file of activities to do during crèche which involves some worship, prayers, activities and story time. When the weather is nice crèche often moves outside into the cottage garden.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

Attendance numbers at Junior Church over the past year have remained at between four and six children attending regularly. On several occasions numbers have increased when visitors with children attend Church or when relatives/ friends of children at Junior Church come and join us. Everyone is made very welcome. Junior Church continues to run every Sunday except during School Holidays.

In July 2012 we said farewell to Faith Rutherford after two years as a Leader. Faith was presented with flowers, a small gift and a card made by the children in Junior Church. We thanked her for the energy and time she gave to working with Junior Church. In September Laura Rhodes and Monica Philbrick started as new leaders and we welcome their enthusiasm and input. All our Leaders are ably supported by a team of regular helpers.

The Junior Church room in the cottage is well resourced with materials which enable children to 'make and create' as well as take part in activities which help them understand the Church Calendar. We continue to plan from the 'Living Stones' series of books supplemented by ideas we resource ourselves.

Children are regularly involved with services throughout the year and especially with 'All Age Worship'. Activities and services throughout the year have included, **Mothering Sunday** when children made card 'Handbags' for their mum's. The service held in Church was led by Linda Hunter. The theme was 'Unconditional Love.' A story initiated the theme. Flowers and candles mounted on daffodil shapes were distributed to Mums by the children. Children have also been involved with

the **Palm Sunday procession**, constructing the Easter Garden and the Easter egg hunt which is always a popular event.

In the lead up to the '**Christmas Tree Festival**' Junior Church focused on making 'Peg people' and angels for their entry to the festival. A model of St. Andrew's Church was under the tree with some of the peg people making their way to Church. This was a combined effort by children, parents and helpers. We were delighted to receive another Gold Award. The event attracted many more entries this year with children and young people being represented by six different organizations.

Three hundred and forty three people attended the **Crib Service**. The theme was CLUES and the children had to look for clues to find the baby. Tom Collins enjoyed helping Linda with this service.

The **Christingle service** was held on 9th of December. Linda Hunter explained the significance of Christingle and everyone in the congregation was issued with a 'Do -It -Yourself Christingle pack. This was a lot of fun and made the service memorable. The service ended with the lighting of the Christingles and singing of 'We are Marching in the Light of God'.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Junior Church. Their help and support is greatly appreciated.

MESSY CHURCH

Kath Abraham

Messy Church has gone from strength to strength this year. There is now a regular group of families attending and a great team of organisers and helpers. We started running Messy Church on a Saturday but have moved it to Sunday afternoons for the last few services and the feedback has been positive – people feel it's more like going to church because it is on a Sunday.

The team of organisers have worked very well together but sadly three of the six are moving away from Corbridge and we will hopefully recruit some new organisers for September. The services generally attract between 40 and 50 children, always run with a Christian theme and involve a number of activities (arts and crafts, games, cooking etc.) as well as worship (we have recently added two guitarists and a couple of singers to lead the music) with a short service/story followed by a picnic tea. We have also started a vegetable patch in the cottage garden which the children have enjoyed enormously, giving some of the produce away to Abbeyfields care home.

OUTREACH

EVENTS & SOCIAL

Rev. Jenny Kinnaird

The Social Committee sees itself increasingly as an outreach team and its activities an integral part of the Mission and Ministry strategy of St Andrew's church. Outings and home-based social events are an opportunity for all church members to get together and for us to welcome newcomers and others who wouldn't think of themselves particularly as church members.

In the year April 2012 to April 2013 we have organised a variety of events. In May 2012 there was a Wine Tasting Evening in church where Andrew, the wine shop manager, introduced our taste buds to some good tipples. At the start of July the committee organised the Reception following Julie's ordination as a deacon. Unfortunately our planned visit in August to Beamish open air museum had to be cancelled – possibly the wrong time of year. A Harvest supper when we were entertained by the Middle School band, enjoyed a delicious supper and then participated in a quiz took place in the Autumn. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies were served during the Christmas Tree Festival – the vicar's mulled wine recipe being a closely guarded secret as was Paddy Longley's before his! This year, 2013, to date we had a Pancakes and Quiz evening on Shrove Tuesday – always a popular event, and the celebration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday with music, readings, worship and a lamb supper – a rare opportunity to mix a social occasion with the commemoration of the most solemn events of Jesus' life as we keep Holy Week and Easter.

In between these events Jackie Webb and her band of caterers have also cooked and served suppers for evenings with visiting preachers and diocesan Readers, meetings of the Greater Chapter (Clergy, Readers, and retired clergy of the deanery.)

We now have a new and larger cooker in the cottage kitchen which will make the committee's work so much easier.

In 2013 the Social Committee will continue to provide a variety of activities – the programme is filling up already. Sign up early to book a place on the outing to visit some "ancient and modern" churches in County Durham in June and to see the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham in September. And there's more.

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Rosemary Baker, Convenor

Church guides were present regularly from April 8th to the end of October and occasionally in other months.

This year we have 10 guides: Ian Hampton Graves, and John Graham joined the team. Ron Gold, Audrey Graham, Robin and Mary Gray, Jeremy Handley, Tony Macdonald, Joan Welsh and Rosemary Baker. Anyone interested is very welcome to join us.

The Visitors' book is nearly always available. Many sign but many do not. One signature might represent a group. It is impossible to state accurately the number of visitors. The comments express interest and often warm appreciation of this lovely Church. They are helped by those who work in the Church and speak to them.

The information sheets in many languages are well used.

This year in addition to many visitors from Great Britain, the book had entries from 16 countries. 25 entries were from USA and 2 from Mexico. In between, in descending order were Australia, Germany, Canada, Holland, France, Italy, New Zealand, Switzerland, Brazil, Belgium, Sri Lanka, Russia, Austria and Poland. Some of the comments in the visitor' book were as follows:

'Thank you for the German guide sheet'

'Wonderful history given by the warden'

'Lovely church, top guide'

'Peaceful, tranquil, beautiful, fantastic and very impressive'

'It's inspirational, warm and welcoming'

'Wow factor – magnificent – and so much better for having Geoff to show us round'

From France – 'A beautiful sanctuary and well kept. Well done and thank you'

'I am not religious but am fascinated by how peaceful and thoughtful this church makes me feel.

'Very impressive and able to light candles. Thank you'

'Josephine Butler – a flame of fire – hope she makes it to official sainthood'

I have included many of these comments because it is good to know that the visitors gain so much from the Church being open and available to all. As usual, we enjoyed the visit from Mowden Hall School.

FIESTA

John Bishop Events Co Ordinator

By the day of the AGM, FIESTA's concert with Prince Bishop's Brass, postponed because of icy gridlocked roads on 5th December, will finally have taken place. We, the various people involved in staging FIESTA events over the last ten years, have enjoyed the experience and would like to sincerely thank all the individuals of every audience for their enthusiasm and support.

So now about the future.

Already in 2013 there have been three events, one book launch and two concerts. Further bookings are as follows:

Thursday 23 rd May	Northern Chords Festival
Saturday 1 st June	Tynedale Rotary Concert
Saturday 29 th June	Orpheus Choir
Friday 5 th July	Three Charities Concert by the Busch Ensemble in support of Charlotte Straker Project, Lifespan and Tynedale Hospice at Home.

Members of the FIESTA committee will continue to stage these events.

Corbridge Chamber Music Festival begins this year on Friday 2nd August.

We know that the use of St. Andrew's Church as a concert venue has proved popular and if we, the music loving community of Corbridge continue to support these events there is every reason to trust that they will flourish in the future.

WEBSITE St. Andrew's Church Website. (www.corbridgechurch.org.uk) Simon A Hunter, Webmaster

In the Autumn of 2012 the Church website was relaunched, with a completely new design and lots more content. The new design incorporates some new features like the Calendar of events and Photo galleries. The site is now easier to use because of the new sections divided into subsection containing more information, so nothing is more than a couple of clicks away from the Home page.

The good news is since the relaunch the number of people visiting the website has increased and we have recorded about 3000 hits since November 2012. Any organisation's website is now its principal point of presence to the outside

world, the internet has become a way to find out information about organisations such as St Andrew's Church. Hopefully the number of people using our site will increase over the year.

We would also welcome contribution for the News and Events section these can be emailed to sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk

Scan the QR code with your phone to go directly to the website



'THE BRIDGE'
Mary Lowans, Editor

There have been no major changes during the last year in the production of the Bridge. The printing costs, the use of colour, the cover design, and the costs to both advertisers and subscribers have all remained the same.

Only the number of subscribers altered, with more people leaving than joining. A look at the electoral roll indicated there were a number of church members who were not subscribers. Here was a specific group of people for the Bridge team to target in our recent January drive to recruit more subscribers. This we did with some success.

It is a well-known fact that before the Bridge reaches the doormat many people have been involved. It is truly a shared task with many of the congregation acting as distributors - to complete the job begun by the editorial team who organise the business side, the advertisements, and the monthly production. All deserve thanks.

CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams

This time last year we had just received the proof copy of our commissioned anthem 'Pied Beauty' by Bob Chilcott, and we were to give its first public performance on the Sunday after Easter, enjoying a great weekend with Bob, who took the practice on Saturday, joined us for a choir meal in the evening and a service arranged around the new anthem on Sunday morning. It has been a real thrill having a St Andrew's anthem which is by common consent a rather special piece of music and has a wonderful resonance particularly in the spring and autumn.

We were also organising the first ever Come and Sing event at St Andrew's, The Crucifixion by John Stainer, sung on Palm Sunday Evening. We are singing it again this year featuring the same two soloists, Jim Laidlow and Tom Rowarth, with John Ross on the organ.

In early May, some of the choir joined the RSCM Festival at Hexham Abbey, and later in the month as a complete contrast a few of us joined the Stamfordham choir to sing evensong in Ryal Church. We are looking forward to doing this again on Pentecost Sunday.

Saturday 2nd June was always going to be referred to as The Wedding of the Year, and as the father of the groom I had the wonderful experience of listening to the choir under the direction of Warren Smith singing a stunning sequence of wedding music specially for Dominic and Catherine.

In September, St Andrews hosted a Singing Day on behalf of the RSCM with Bob Chilcott. It was an outstanding success and proved yet again that our church has a unique ambience and scale for such events – so much so that this coming September we are hosting a similar event, this time with Will Todd, a rising star in the world of choral composition and whose music has featured in two recent Royal occasions. The singing day was also significant in that it was in many ways a farewell to Warren Smith who is now Director of Music at St Mary's Ponteland. We were devastated to lose him, but delighted that this opportunity gives him the chance to further his musical career. We have not lost touch: the choirs of St Andrew's and St Mary's joined forces for a choral celebration of Candlemas, enjoyed so much by both choirs and their respective directors that we are going to Ponteland in July for a two-choir choral evensong.

In November the choir was one of several who sang evensong with the Cathedral Choir of St Nicholas – an inspiring experience under the direction of the Director of

music, Michael Stoddart.

It has been a busy twelve months, but not without sadness. Peter Graddol, who was a member of the choir (and treasurer) for as long as anyone can remember, suddenly died last summer. We still miss him.

Since Warren's departure we have failed to find a permanent organist but we have enjoyed working with a number of guest organists, particularly Mike Dutton who played for both the Remembrance Service and the Carol Service, Michael Haynes, and John Green. Paul Ritchie, Gavin Hardy and Chris Britton have all helped us when they have been available. John Ross has played stalwartly for the regular services and we are enormously grateful that he has returned to St Andrews yet again, to act virtually as a full time organist. He is less available this summer and finding an organist will continue to be challenging.

Despite this uncertainty we have enjoyed a year of singing a great variety of music, supported on a practical level by a very large number of people. Particularly we are grateful to Liz Collins, our mistress of the robes; Warwick Milne and John Bishop for looking after the music library; Mary Lowans for acting as our CRB liaison; Liz McCoull who has taken over as Choir Treasurer; and our indefatigable secretary, Margaret Cuthbert.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Linda E Hunter and Elizabeth Robson, Churchwardens

Every year seems to get busier and this year has been no exception.

Maintenance items have included the following:

The Church

- Woodworm in the Choir vestry dealt with by Rentokil
- The leak in the garage roof was repaired
- A considerable number of light bulbs have been changed in the church and a maintenance review of the lighting system has been carried out. The settings were reprogrammed.
- The toilet door lock was repaired
- Ivy was removed from the north wall and the toilet block
- A complete overhaul of the Sound System took place. We now have 5 clip on radio microphones, 2 hand held microphones in addition to the lectern microphone, the pulpit microphone and the swan neck microphone. Additional speakers have been installed under the choir seats to improve the sound in that area of the church. The T loop cable was repaired after it was nibbled by a mouse.
- Soakaways continue to be cleaned out on a regular basis
- Central Heating Boiler –a burner bar bracket was replaced and the system serviced.
- New lock fitted on the tower door as it kept sticking

The Cottage

- Kitchen radiator repaired
- Main downstairs lighting repaired
- Front door rehung, new hinges and handles fitted. "Sticking" problem addressed

We have also had all the usual annual maintenance checks which include organ tuning, clock servicing, fire extinguisher checks, gutter cleaning and servicing of heating boilers. Ladder checks have been carried out.

The **Memorial Garden** has had more names inscribed on the plinth this year and there was a slight delay in completing this due to the inscriber being ill. All names are now on the plinths and the memorial book is up to date.

As with all old buildings maintenance is an ongoing task. In the light of Health and Safety regulations we are continually prioritising the maintenance tasks we have and the order in which we deal with them.

We have some matters of maintenance that are outstanding but will be completed as soon as process allows:

- The **Atkinson door** requires work on the door handle and on the glass as a safety measure. We are progressing this slowly in collaboration with the family.
- **Altar wheels** – we have been investigating appropriate wheels which will be aesthetically pleasing and strong enough to support the weight of the altar. We cannot continue with our present system for moving the altar.
- **Cottage windows and skylight** need attention as they are leaking
- **A new bellrope** is required as it is frayed
- **The Tower.** We have spent a considerable amount of time looking at the various aspects of safety that need addressing in the Tower. We have met with a safety consultant, our insurers and the architect. In the light of these meetings a specification has been drawn up and we are now in the process of accepting tenders for the work. We are very grateful to Michael Rae who has agreed to project manage this work for us. This work will require a faculty so it will be some time before it is completed.
- **Baptistry Window Arch.** Masonry is falling from this area so further investigations are in progress for this.

Purchases

We have purchased:

- new hoover for the cottage
- new hoover for the church.
- health and safety notice to use when cleaning
- an events banner to use outside church
- a legacy from the late Pamela Michie has enabled us to purchase a new range cooker which will be an enormous help when we have social events. This meant that there was a rearrangement of some cupboards in the kitchen and also the purchase of a new blind. Thanks are due to Richard Dixon for overseeing this project.
- Sir Miles and Lady Irving donated a hostess trolley to the cottage which was put to good use over the Christmas period.
- a new fire extinguisher and a larger fire blanket for the cottage.
- a new small step ladder for choir vestry to replace one already there

We are continuing to monitor carefully our heating and lighting costs because although we want to make the church as welcoming as possible we are mindful of the high and ever-increasing cost of gas and electricity. The boiler is timed, by the Churchwardens, for all events and services, and does not require any input from those using the church. We are pleased to report that Gilbert Marshall has agreed to be the Utilities Procurer on behalf of the PCC. He will look after all contracting for utilities, advising the Churchwardens.

The church continues to remain open from 8:45am until 5:30pm or thereabouts depending on the weather. 8:45 - 9:15 is 'Quiet Space' in church for those who wish to use it and anyone wanting to carry out any tasks in church should wait until after 9:15, please. We are grateful to those who assist with the unlocking and locking – Michael Rae, David Welsh and Mary Gray. We are pleased so many parishioners 'pop' into church on a regular basis thereby helping with the security. The presence of the Church Guides during the summer months is a great advantage.

The **South Transept** with its votive candle stand and prayer tree is much used and greatly valued. This has also been a source of much income over the past year. The addition of a bookcase containing paperbacks for purchase has been highly successful and this has also provided welcome funds.

The silver, ornaments and linen are in good condition. We are delighted that we have received a faculty for the new altar frontal and look forward to seeing it in use in due course.

Churchyard

The floodlighting of the church continues to be under our control and we monitor carefully its timings and its costs. We are, as always, most grateful to Corbridge Parish Council which has responsibility for the care and maintenance of the churchyard. We are particularly grateful to Martin Rutherford who has recently retired from his post with the council.

St. Andrew's Cottage

The Cottage is well used by a variety of non church groups as well as church organisations. Heating and lighting costs continue to be carefully monitored.

HALTON ST.OSWALD

Edward Pybus continues to assist us at Halton. Rev. Jack Hay takes the monthly

services with great enthusiasm and presides over the administrative arrangements generally. Attendance is reasonable, with numbers increasing a bit which is helpful and encouraging.

A team from the congregation continue to keep it clean and tidy. Richard Dixon and John Bishop have undertaken to produce a map of the churchyard showing the position of the graves. They are working very hard on this task. I am sure you have read about their exploits in the 'Bridge'. We do have one or two items of maintenance outstanding at Halton.

Health and Safety

As Church Wardens we are ever mindful of health and safety issues. Regular checks are carried out and all our maintenance work adheres to the regulatory requirements of the Diocese, who advise us via the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Council)

Responsible Caring

Margaret Preece continues to be the person in charge of CRB now DBS checks and she maintains the up to date register for the Parish. Thank you Margaret for all your hard work with this.

The fabric of our churches is well looked after and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way either in person or financially. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this. Many people are involved. Thank you to all volunteers.

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

Once again it has been a very busy year in the cottage with lots of regular bookings.

As with all well run organisations, I feel it is necessary to increase the hourly rate of hire of the cottage from £5 per hour to £6 per hour. This comes as a combined result of heavy expenditure in the kitchen and the likelihood of new windows needed, or at the very least repaired. I believe it is 4/5 years since the last increase.

Linda, our cleaner, is back after her recent illness. We must thank her daughter-in-law Vicki for filling in when Linda was absent.

PASTORAL VISITING

Rev Julie Robson

At St Andrew's Church Corbridge there is now a pastoral visiting group. The group has been created to bring care and companionship for people who are unwell, bereaved or isolated. The group visiting is co-ordinated by Julie Robson, the pastoral advisor is Mandy Norton. Mandy is a trained counsellor.

Security checks for the team of visitors have been carried out and are all up to date.

A listening skills training session was held the on the 28th February 2013. All confidential information concerning visitees will be treated with sensitivity and respect.

Anyone wishing to join the team of visitors should contact Julie or the vicar. Contact numbers are:- Julie Robson. tel. 07957 949881 or David Hewlett. tel. 01434 632128

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sheila Goldsworthy, Convenor

We could do with more help with the altar flowers. Out of the approx. no.of 44 Sundays, there are on average 6 to 8 people who consider helping with the flowers for Church. We need team leaders for March, September and October and extra help for January and February.

The Flower Teams do a wonderful job in the decoration of our Church. It is a very rewarding pastime and we meet so many people from around the world.

The contributions to the Christmas and Lent boxes have provided our Church with so much beauty for special festivals.

Please sign up to provide flowers for your chosen weekend ie: celebrating you birthday or an anniversary, it's not expensive, see Sheila. More information will be gladly given by myself and any of the Flower Teams

SIDESPEOPLE

David Welsh, Convenor

We are greatly indebted to our team of Sidespersons whose sterling efforts ensure that all who attend services at St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's are properly welcomed and cared for. If any member of our congregations would like to offer to become a sidesperson, he/she would be added to the team very quickly !

PRAYER GROUP

Tony Macdonald, Leader

The Prayer group continues to meet in the cottage every Friday morning at 9.30 for half an hour. Prayers are offered for the Church worldwide as well as our Parish, for persecuted Christians, for the Corbridge community, for the needs of the country, for peace, and for many individuals who have asked for prayers. We have started to meet jointly with members of the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches for ecumenical prayer, and a pattern of monthly such meetings is intended. These meetings as well as those on Friday mornings are of course open to anyone and everyone from St Andrew's and the other congregations and from the village – "all are welcome"

CORBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

Richard Dixon, member.

There have been three Deanery Synod Meetings during this past year. The meetings have been characterised by a move to form a more cohesive and influential unit. This is being achieved through better transfer of information about, and challenges in, each parish and by holding more integrated meetings. Following a successful away day at Auckland castle another away day is being planned to allow Synod members to concentrate on the significant issues facing the Deanery. The theme will be "The next step in developing Deaneries, developing what we do, who we are and what more could we do."

With the possibility of parishes in the Deanery facing increasing difficulty in administering their day to day activities, Corbridge has initiated a discussion on sharing the burden of routine tasks. The proposal is that there may be grounds for sharing routine functions, e.g. treasurer functions, printing, cleaning

In accordance with one of its primary functions, the Synod is taking part in furthering the word of God through promoting courses and literature. A specific topic was presented by Richard Ferguson who challenged the Deanery to make arrangements for the Gospels to be read in churches in their entirety, that is in

context, rather than in isolated sections as at present

The Synod is considering improving Pastoral Care in the Deanery by concentrating especially on the care of people with Dementia and allied conditions.

Routine reports have been received from Diocesan Synod and General Synod, and also from the Bishop on the need to improve the level of Parish Share. The latter resulting in a reply to the Bishop with a request for guidance.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORBRIDGE

Rev David Hewlett

At the AGM on Sunday 20th January 2013 the following motions were passed.

The proposal is that we disband the formal mechanism of Churches Together in Corbridge and membership of CTBV & I and replace it with an informal meeting of the Clergy and those Church Officers or representatives chosen according to the policy and leadership of each of the local churches * to discuss and plan shared events. This meeting to be annual or more frequently as required by those meeting.

* eg Methodist Minister and Senior Church Steward.

We propose that any remaining funds of CTiC be held by St. Andrew's to pay for the joint Christmas letter and the three churches represented to be informed when the money has run out.

The Methodist Church, The Roman Catholic Congregation and St. Andrew's will continue to work together on the following annual programme:

- Lent Lunches
- Prayers for Peace during Lent
- Womens' World Day of Prayer
- Christian Aid Collections
- Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Christmas Letter to each home in the village
- Easter Day Sunrise Service on the banks of the Tyne
- In addition the prayer groups at The Methodist Church and St. Andrew's are going to meet and pray together.

We have all committed ourselves to improved communications and to inviting one another to events we hold or to help with projects we take on.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

We began our year, as always, with our AGM which as usual was an excellent meal cooked and served by Viv March. The highlight of the evening must however have been the entertainment by the committee – thank you all for being such good sports.

Our topics for our monthly meetings have been varied. We were all speechless at the exquisite items that Jill Dexter showed to us, the colours in the scarves were so beautiful. As usual we have had speakers from our charities – the Cyrenians and the Mountain Rescue Service. Wonderful photographs characterised the talk from Lynne Potter and Karen Phillips enthralled everyone with her story. A change of venue for the October meeting did not detract from the interesting talk about the history of Kirkharle Courtyard. I am sure we will all look with different eyes the next time we visit. What a busy time Fiona Sample had during her time as High Sheriff, we were surprised at how much she had to do and the wonderful variety of projects she was involved in.

Our Summer Outing to Shepherd's Dene was most interesting and we enjoyed a delicious meal in very pleasant surroundings with lots of time for conversation. We even managed a walk in the grounds without getting wet.

A trip to Oliver organised by Rosemary Rayfield, and not without some difficulty, proved to be a fabulous evening. The set, the acting and the music were just brilliant and we all felt we could just go back and see it again. What a wonderful night we had.

We held our Advent Service and our Lent service in St. Andrew's church .As usual we have given a substantial amount of money away to charity this year. We presented cheques to the Mountain Rescue Service and At Home in the Community.

Our membership has fluctuated as we have lost some faithful members this year. We were particularly saddened by the death of a longstanding member – Pamela Michie

We have however welcomed people as visitors and then as members. It has been a pleasure to have some husbands and interested men to some of our meetings this year too.

Thank to all those who have been involved in any way but special thanks to

Rosemary Rayfield, Sheila Neilson, Mary Gray, Mary Rae, Margaret Logan, Elsie Fletcher and Joan Welsh who all help to keep things running smoothly, particularly during the time when I was in hospital.

We welcome all women to our meetings..... and men if the topic is of interest to them!

Please continue to spread the word of our existence among your friends – you don't need to be a church person to join.

CORBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Mandy Norton, Foundation Governor

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this year, so far, has found the First School under the very able leadership of Mrs. Lynn Johnson. Most importantly, Mrs. Johnson has maintained the School's steady and seamless running and ensured that the pupils continue to make above average progress and enjoy a stable school life.

Standards:

The school has continued to have excellent end of FS scores compared with the LA and national averages. Although on entry to Nursery the children's attainment is broadly as expected by the time they begin Reception they often have high entry points. Since most have attended the school nursery we consider this to reflect the excellent provision within the Nursery. We also know that many of our children come into Reception with strong literacy and mathematical skills due to high parental involvement in preschool education. We are confident that we build successfully on these skills.

The standard of attainment in school continues to be strong. Almost all groups of pupils are at least in line with national averages and many are above average. However where standards of any group, or individual, is below those of pupils nationally intervention strategies are introduced and monitored carefully to ensure that we do all we can to close the gaps.

Raiseonline shows that over the past five years the school has been sig + in all subjects with 81% sig + in subject specific results.

Looking at data over the past five years there are no significant trends in gender achievement, some cohorts have particular issues e.g. 2010/11 significantly more boys achieved L3 in maths but this is not seen year on year and we conclude that what we see is the normal distribution of attainment in particular cohorts and not a

subject specific trend that would lead us to be concerned about teaching or inclusion. Results over time indicate that almost all children make sustained progress in most subjects given their starting points.

Staff development:

The whole school worked with the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) on their last teacher training day to develop children's access to learning using Shakespeare's plays from nursery to Y4. It was a joint day with Wylam school and all staff had a very productive day learning new and exciting techniques.

Individually staff have attended Early years development training and Mrs Armstrong and Miss Evans are going to the Early years conference to hear about changes to the early years curriculum.

Mrs Dunnage is attending a day on the development of creative non fiction writing, Mrs Kershaw and Mrs Thompson are going to London to attend training on mindfulness.

Mr Parker is beginning his SENCO training with Edge Hill university which will give him a qualification in special needs.

Mrs McGowan is continuing with her Masters degree. Mr Harrison has completed his NQT qualification. Mrs Johnston is attending an Emotional First Aid course delivered by The Learning Challenge.

Parents and the community:

The Christmas plays were given enormous support by parents and families, Governors and local Councillors. The children were so well versed in their production and enchanted us all. The spirit of Christmas settled upon everyone present and our thanks went, as ever, to the dedication and care of the Staff. Throughout Mrs. Logan's incapacitation, parents, Staff and Governors have been incredibly supportive to each other, and the children have benefitted from this sense of community and stability.

By this time next year, we hope to be able to report the instigation of Pre-school on the School grounds. Presently awaiting Planning Permissions, it is proposed that this new addition will ensure that toddlers will make a smooth transition to Nursery. Premises have already been identified and secured.

Sports, visits and visitors:

The School, as ever, has been proactive in these areas. Clubs and Sports engagements enjoy continuing success. During the excellent Fete, planned by

Friends of the First School, many visitors enjoyed all the 'fun of the fair' and a most successful day.

Pupils have enjoyed participating in 'Singing in the Community' and making preparations for the Tynedale Music Festival.

St Andrew contribution:

The children loved exhibiting their tree at the popular Christmas Tree Festival. Rev. Hewlett is a regular visitor, with 'Mint Sauce' his lamb puppet and several Congregation members participate in School assemblies, once a month, by enacting Bible stories with 'audience participation' - great fun!

In conclusion, I am happy to report that, whilst the School has and is undergoing a somewhat difficult time, the Governors, Staff and Parents have and are ensuring that an amazing and stimulating life continues at Corbridge C of E First School.