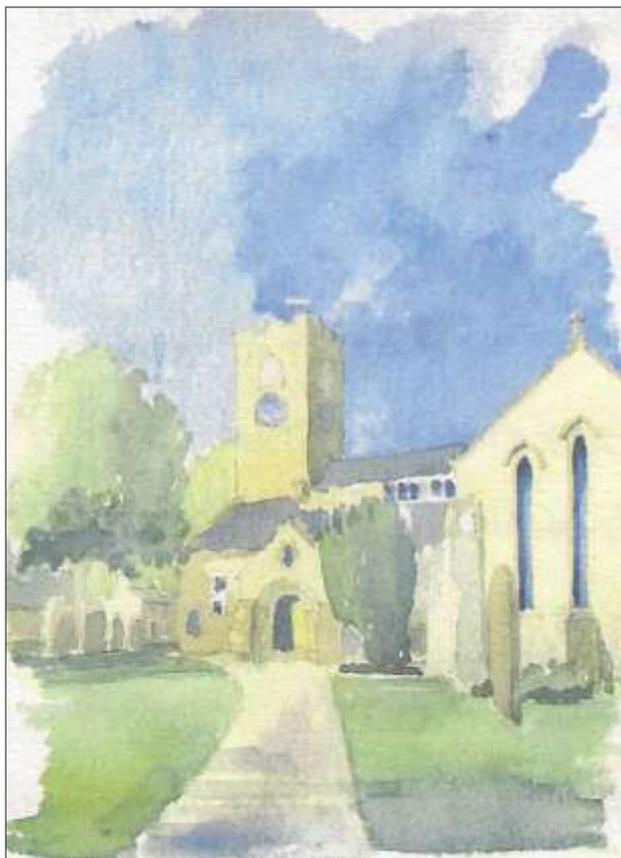


**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and St. James, Newton Hall.**



ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending

31st March 2014

Incumbent

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

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpople, Hexham. NE46 1PA

ANNUAL CHURCH & PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

St Andrew's Church, 27th April 2014, at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2013 at 11.00am.
3. Election of Churchwardens
Linda Hunter and Gilbert Marshall elected 2013 2 vacancies
Proposal: To rescind the motion that Church Wardens can only serve for a maximum of six consecutive years.
4. Financial Statement to include charitable giving Cliff Wright
5. Reports in this booklet

PCC Annual Report 2014

Electoral 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 News

Food bank

Fundraising

Rev Jenny Kinnaird

Rosemary Baker

John Bishop

Simon A Hunter

Max Philbrick

Linda E Hunter

Church Music

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Colin Williams

Linda E Hunter and
Gilbert Marshall

Church Cottage
Church Flowers
Sidespersons
Prayer Group
Home Group
Corbridge Deanery Synod
Churches Together in Corbridge
Women's Fellowship
Corbridge C of E First School

Suzette Milne
Sheila Goldsworthy
David Welsh
Tony Macdonald
Max Philbrick
Deanery Secretary

Linda E Hunter
Roger Lowans

6. Elections

Deanery Synod

Richard Dixon, Monica Philbrick, Elizabeth Robson, Mike Stephenson
Retiring

3 vacancies

Parochial Church Council

Brenda Ford, Louise Stubbs, (2011 – 2014) retiring
Jackie Webb, Suzette Milne (2012 – 2015) continuing
John Bishop, John McNamara, Jennifer Wright (2013 – 2016) 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 14th APRIL 2013**

The Vicar welcomed all those who were present and reminded them that this meeting combined the two meetings, Church meeting and Parochial meeting.

1. PRESENT:

Revd David Hewlett (vicar), Revd Julie Robson (NSM curate), 3 retired clergy, 64 laity.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Michael Priestly, Bridget Lay, Maurice Holmes, Carolyn Holmes, Ryan Webb, Charlotte Webb.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 22nd April 2012 were approved unanimously and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

The Vicar reminded the meeting that churchwardens are elected for one year with the recommendation that they serve no more than six consecutive years. There being three candidates for two churchwarden posts, an election was required. The Vicar introduced each candidate to the meeting. Tellers from the non-voting clergy (Revd Julie Robson and Revd Campbell Matthews) were appointed. Linda Hunter and Gilbert Marshall were elected as churchwardens for 2013-2014.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Vicar thanked the Treasurer, Tony Broady, for the comprehensive Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2012 (circulated). The Treasurer mentioned two generous legacies received in the past year, but also commented that several generous regular covenanted donations had been lost through deaths, resulting in steadily falling income. He urged all members of the parish to covenant their giving to ensure a healthy financial

position. He thanked all those who are part of the Finance team for their work.

Tony Broady now steps down as treasurer. The Vicar reminded the meeting that he had served two years beyond the date he had indicated he wished to retire and thanked him warmly for this. Linda Hunter gave him a small gift as a mark of the church's appreciation. Elizabeth Robson thanked his wife Vivienne for her support during his time as treasurer.

6. REPORTS:

The Vicar thanked all who had contributed to and compiled the Annual Report booklet. He commented on the amount and variety of work it shows going on in and through St Andrew's church and asked for any questions or comments. David Welsh said that there should have been a mention of the Charitable Giving Committee's work. The vicar clarified that this committee which has not met in 2012-2013 will be reconvened when the new PCC meets. David Preece requested clarification about the work required in the tower to meet Health and Safety laws (page 24 of Reports booklet). Linda Hunter assured him that all the recommendations made by David Preece and his team investigating safety issues in the tower have been included in the specification now with the Archdeacon and Diocesan Advisory Committee.

7. ELECTIONS:

Deanery Synod:

Richard Dixon has indicated a willingness to continue to serve on Deanery Synod. There are therefore 3 places to be filled. Elizabeth Robson and Monica Philbrick have indicated a willingness to stand and were therefore elected, leaving 1 vacancy.

Parochial Church Council:

Five nominations were received for the three vacancies on the PCC to be filled. After the first count a recount was required. After a second count three people were elected – John Bishop, John McNamara and Jennifer Wright.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Linda Hunter proposed that the appointment of an independent examiner for the church's accounts be held over until the new PCC has considered the suggestion made by our own treasurer that treasurers of the churches within

the Corbridge Deanery should examine each other's accounts and thus save money. The proposal was seconded by Richard Dixon and carried by the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vicar thanked the churchwardens for their hard work and support during the past year and reminded the meeting that much of their work goes on unseen. Linda Hunter thanked the Vicar for all that he does and the inspiration he gives to us. She also thanked Tessa for the unseen support that she gives to David. Linda appealed for someone to volunteer to be PCC secretary and outlined the job. Elizabeth Robson thanked the retired clergy for all the help they give in the parish. Sheila Goldsworthy asked for people to offer to provide flowers for the high altar, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Jennifer Herrmann appealed for volunteers to collect during Christian Aid Week.

The meeting closed with thanks to all for their attendance.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2014

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 Gilbert Marshall

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Richard Dixon, Monica Philbrick Elizabeth Robson Mike Stephenson

Elected Members:

John Bishop	Brenda Ford	John McNamara	Suzette Milne
Louise Stubbs	Jackie Webb	Jennifer Wright	

Co opted Cliff Wright and Jane Stephenson

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

We were really pleased to welcome Cliff Wright as the new Honorary Treasurer. Cliff has been building on the good work carried out by Tony Broady and has spent a major part of the past year learning about the complexities of the financial matters of the Church of England. He has kept us updated at our meetings, providing us with a variety of graphs and charts to enable us to understand better our own financial situation. These are enhanced with detailed reporting on funds and bank accounts. The annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2013 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 and our income is not keeping pace with our outgoings. If you are able to give through a regular standing order it would help us with our budgeting. A small team of people are meeting to look at the fundraising in the parish – see report further on. We are grateful to Roger Jones for taking on the Independent examination of our accounts this year.

Appointments

We welcomed Jane Stephenson as our minute secretary.

The Bridge. It was decided that sustaining the parish magazine was becoming more difficult due to lack of copy. It was therefore decided that December 2013 would be the last issue. We would like to thank Mary Lowans, Al Logan, Warwick Milne, Max Philbrick and Brian McConnell for all their hard work with the Magazine. Thanks also to the huge band of people who have so diligently delivered the magazine to all the subscribers.

Projector screen: A new projection screen was purchased during the year and has been invaluable for Messy Church and All Age Services.

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

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: A group of people got together to organise the Christmas Fayre which took place on late night shopping night in church. The stalls were really well received and the church was a buzz of noise as many people came in to see what was happening.

USE OF THE CHURCH: We continue to support other organisations by letting them use the church for different activities. We were delighted that the Community Fair for the Syrian Refugees raised so much money for the valuable aid work in Syria.

MISSION ACTION PLANNING: The Diocese encourages churches to review their Mission Action Plan (MAP) every three years. The Mission Action Plan (MAP) is a means of helping the Parish plan for mission and is produced following prayer and discerning God’s call for the Parish. We began with a PCC away day, at Newton Village Hall, when we were led through a process of structured conversations by Rev Peter Kenney the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer. Three rounds of conversation took place and after each round of conversation each group was invited to give a headline which summed up their discussion around that particular topic. Words, phrases, sentences were written on the table cloth (paper!) as discussion took place. We followed this with a congregational consultation and finally the Action Plan was approved at the March PCC meeting.

St. Andrew’s Church, Corbridge. Mission Action Plan 2014

Build on our caring, friendly environment to provide a safe place to enable people to develop their own personal faith and discipleship.	
	ACTION
Look for ways of nurturing discipleship within the congregation through setting up a series of evenings.	Quiet Days – one prior to Advent and one prior to Lent – possibly at Minsteracres PCC Away day in June – possibly at Newton Village Hall
Encourage our Faith and Widen our Vision	Invite speakers from outside re Tear Fund, Street Pastors to talk at a service
Form a contemplative prayer group using silences and images to come near God.	Invite Alison White (Diocesan Spirituality Adviser) to come and introduce the concept of Contemplative Prayer. Make a link with The Northumbrian Community and 3 rd Order Franciscans so that members of the congregation can discover what is available for them

Reflect on our current ministry with families and young people and look for ways of nurturing and engaging more effectively with them.	
	ACTION
Build on the teamwork of Messy Church to encourage connections with services such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Christingle, Christmas.	Continue to broaden the Messy Church membership. Encourage more links between those attending 'regular' church services and MC. Develop the MC team by drawing in more people from the fringes.
Encourage young people to be involved in musical activities in church.	Encourage & support the 'Family Choir' and the development of a Music Group to provide music at Family Services and AAW.

Devise and implement a series of events/ ideas that raise the profile of our church within the local community	
	ACTION
Encourage fellowship and provide opportunities for people outside the congregations to be involved in activities	Continue the events organised by the Social Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pancake night & Quiz • Lamb Supper • Mulled Wine & Mince pies • Outings to local places of interest
Plan and devise an events calendar that has a balance of social and fundraising events	Use the range of events suggested by the Fundraising committee to provide social opportunities as well as fundraising opportunities ie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedding dress Fashion Show • Monthly quizzes • Christmas Tree Festival • Open Gardens
Develop and build on the events we already have in the calendar	Fundraising Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas card • Calendar • Grand draw
Engage in dialogue with community groups to see what the church can do for	Encourage members of the congregation in the work that they carry out in the local community. Provide opportunities to affirm this through

them	profiles in the Parish News.
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ADDITIONAL ITEMS	
	ACTION
<p>COMMUNICATION Increase our communication both within church and out into the local community</p>	<p>Small committee has been set up to develop a communication sheet called THE PARISH NEWS which will be emailed / distributed 6 times a year.</p> <p>This still however needs people to provide items and should not be left to the production team to do this.</p> <p>Those leading activities to be encouraged to provide items for the website.</p>
<p>Church Grounds</p>	<p>Have regular working parties to ensure the church grounds look well maintained.</p>

Do remember that if you want anything discussed at a PCC meeting please ask one of the members to ask for it to go on the agenda. Minutes of PCC meetings can be found in the file near the PCC board at the back of church.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

A complete revision of the Electoral Roll was carried out in 2013

After the revision the final number was **147**

Since the completion we have had 37 additions, 1 deletion and 2 moved away making the current total **181**

Additions	Additions
Daphne Anderson	Katherine Ferguson
Amelia Blackett	Lawrence Loughlin
Flora Blackett	Zoe Coates
Isabella Blackett	Lloyd Hewitt
Henry Blackett	Frances Holmes
Evelyn Charlton	Anthony Foster
Nancy Dickinson	Kirsty Wade
Alan Foster	Ian Graves
Norma Foster	Susan Graves
Eileen Hopkins	Anna Stacy
Kim Levingston	Mavis Hamer
Sandra Mordue	Elliott Ward
Carol Palmer	Mary Mason
Robert Palmer	Camille Chandler
Stella Robson	Sebastian Pearey
Jane Stephenson	Lindsay Cunliffe
Judith Taylor	Michael Cunliffe
Roger Thorn	
Carolyn Holmes	
Maurice Holmes	

Deletions - RIP	Moved away
Grace Nairn	Sharon Cochrane
	Pamela Phillips

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 priesthood. 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.
- Roger continues to make huge contributions both to liturgy and to parish policy; and also at Corbridge First School where he is now Chair of Governors. 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. Roger moves from being licenced to having a Permission to Officiate.
- 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. There are now, and will be more retired clergy in our congregation and we welcome them.
- We were all saddened at the death of Rev. Paul Adamson and our sympathies are with Rena and the family at this time. Paul's ministry has been so varied: visiting parishes in Guyana on horseback or by boat; to urban Benton and Cowgate; town ministry in Prudhoe and the rural acres of Northumberland. We were all so grateful for his wise and saintly presence among us.
- Our Church Wardens, Linda and Gilbert, are excellent. Their expertise, kindness and ability to arrange, organise, welcome and love St. Andrew's and those who come is a valued ministry. They lift so many potential burdens from my shoulders, for which I am personally so very grateful.
- We say a big 'Thank You' to our 'new' Treasurer, Cliff Wright, whose skill, especially in explaining financial matters to the Vicar and the PCC in a way that is easy to understand, is much appreciated.
- Many thanks to Jenny Kinnaird and her team for taking on The Social Committee. We now have more social events and are getting to know one another a little better than before. Working alongside the new Fundraising Committee is proving fruitful
- We have said 'goodbye' to a number of our young families this year: the Rhodes's going to Ripon College, Cuddesdon where Laura is training for ordination; the Cochranes and the Phillips families moving south to new jobs; and last week the Mills family moving to Yorkshire, and Joel to a new post at Hull University. We miss them all but wish them God's speed and his blessing in their futures.
- Thanks too, to Edward Pybus Hon Churchwarden at Halton for looking after people there

- I want to pay tribute to Linda Hunter, not only as churchwarden but as leader of worship at St. Andrew's both at All Age Worship and at Evensong. Linda continues her training for Reader ministry. We await a date for her licencing.
- This year saw the last edition of The Bridge after many many years. As I write, we are working on how we will be communicating within the parish and the community of Corbridge in ways that are accessible to a wide range of people.
- I want to record a very big "Thank You" to John Ross and Marc Bryant who have been playing the organ for us on a 'fill in' basis for most of the year; and I am so pleased that they have agreed to take on the post permanently between them in a contracted job-share arrangement with me and the PCC.
- 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 up from up from 34 to 41 this year. We said final farewells to a number of people who have been associated with St. Andrews down the years, in particular Jessie Smith; Greta Hails, Lucy Smyth; Archie Spiers and Henry Buckley each of whom contributed so much to the life of St. Andrew's and the wider community in their differing ways for so many years. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- Weddings:** 12 celebrated here in church this year. 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. 11 this year. We are now following up baptism families and making sure, they are invited to Messy Church and other appropriate events at St. Andrew's.

Worship

- Messay Church has grown this year and we regularly have over 90 people in church. The planning team is inspirational – it cheers me to see so many ideas and so much enthusiasm. The Holy Spirit moves in many ways and we have to discern where the energy is and go with it joyfully. This is not always easy as hoping people will come to the events we have valued throughout our lives does not always produce results. I am especially grateful that so many from our Sunday congregations are involved in the planning and at Messy Church too. The newly formed Messy Church Family Choir will be singing at our All Age Worship Sunday services further encouraging the links between the various congregations at St. Andrew's.

- How wonderful it is to have such moving music at the heart of so much of our worship. Thank you Colin and the choir. It is especially gratifying to see St. Andrew's being used as a centre or regional Royal School of Church Music events.
- 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 come, but in slightly fewer numbers than of late. We may have to look at making our Festival & Civic services even more accessible to those who only come a few times each year.
- We welcomed Bishop John Gladwin, former bishop of both Guildford and Chelmsford as the preacher at our Festival Choral Communion. John's energy made us think, made us smile and he led a stimulating session in the cottage on the Monday night.
- The new altar frontal for The High Altar and the banners are now in place and +Martin dedicated them during Lent. Despite the fears of a few people there have been some very complementary comments made, especially highlighting the way that art can help us deepen our spiritual lives.
- Grateful thanks to those who facilitate the Friday Prayer Group and to the Philbricks and The Morris's for using their homes to host the House Group.

Schools

- The First School has had a difficult year, and thanks are due to those who have helped out as Acting Headteachers. The staff have worked so hard to maintain a good education for our children, and Roger Lowans, as Chair of Governors, has put in hours of work to secure a bright future for our school. We are right to be hopeful for the future; although, at times, the confidentiality demanded by the processes at work in a very complex situation, has meant that not as much information has been able to be made available as some people might have wanted.
- Corbridge C. of E. First School: Julie and the Vicar take assemblies on a regular basis, often accompanied by 'Mint Sauce'.
- 'Open the Book' assemblies 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.

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
- The village welcomes Rev. Jane Cook from Wylam as the Minister responsible for Corbridge Methodist Church. The Manse here is on the market, a sadness for our Methodist brothers and sisters whose fellowship- with the Roman Catholic congregation- we value in so many ways.
- We held carol singing, the raffle and the mulled wine morning in December –my Mulled Wine was good, but perhaps not quite as good as Paddy’s, whose infamous recipe, sadly, seems to have died with her.

Conclusion

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

- As Area Dean of Corbridge Deanery for a further five years. Where there are vacancies at The Moorland Group of Parishes: seven parishes, eight churches.
- As a member the Local Ministry Task group
- As a member of The Continuing Ministerial Development Task group.
- As a bishops mentor (part of the process for supporting clergy going through difficulties)
- Member of The Bishop’s Council- elected by clergy of Lindisfarne archdeaconery.
- Diocesan assessor for those seeking ordination.
- Bishop’s reviewer for clergy Ministerial Development Reviews
- Member of Diocesan Strategy Group
- Surrogate for Marriages.

Reflection

- The Women Bishops Measure. A resolution of this issue seems near, with dioceses voting in favour of the new measure by very large majorities.
- I must mention The Pilling Report, which advocates discussion and conversation in the dioceses on the issues of sexuality. One wonders how much longer and how many more ‘conversations’ we need to have! However, this process was undermined when the archbishops published a so-called ‘Pastoral letter of Guidance’ on the area of Marriage between same-gender partners. This letter was ill conceived, contradictory, anything but pastoral and has placed many clerical gay couples, who were planning to marry under the new legislation, in an impossible position. One of the real sadness’s is that the Bishops who opposed the publication of this letter remained and still remain silent. We need pastoral leadership on this matter so that love, fidelity and life-long commitment can be honoured. I will do all I can here to welcome joyfully any same gender couple who wish to have

'prayers' [permitted by the regulations] at the time of their marriages or Civil Partnership.

- In the parish, we are becoming aware that we need to raise more money than simply asking people to raise their Direct Debit; hence, we have a new Funding Committee that will be sponsoring events which both raise money and encourage more togetherness within the parish.
- We have so many people who do so much in this parish that one cannot be but grateful and pleased.
- 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. We will also be looking at other possible ways of helping individuals to deepen their spirituality, perhaps through Third Order Franciscans or The Northumbria Community.
- I think we do need to count our blessings at St. Andrew's a little more than we do. I have been disappointed by the opportunities taken by some individuals to offer public unattributed moans when asked to make positive suggestions for mission via our Mission Action Plan consultation. Perhaps we should remember the churches of The Moorland Group, who are without any clergy or Readers at the moment. One church with a congregation of five has no churchwardens and a PCC of one – how lucky we are!

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 style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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

Crèche is still available but as our number of young children has decreased it is not always used. Thank you to those who help on the rota, it is greatly appreciated by those parents who use the crèche

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

The average Attendance numbers at Junior Church, up to the Summer break of 2013, remained at between three or four children attending regularly. Three children subsequently left the area and attendance is currently depleted. We continue to encourage visiting children to join us. Everyone is made very welcome.

Junior Church continues to run every Sunday except during school holidays. In July 2013 we said farewell to Laura Rhodes, one of our leaders. We thanked her for the time and enthusiasm she gave to working with Junior Church. Monica Philbrick and I continue as leaders, ably supported by our helpers.

The Junior Church room in the cottage is a pleasant, well resourced area enabling children to take part in activities which help them understand the church calendar. Our planning is led by materials presented in the 'Living Stones' series of books and often supplemented by our own resources.

Children are regularly involved with services throughout the year. 'All Age Worship' is especially child orientated but appeals to all. Activities and services throughout the year have included, **Mothering Sunday** when our theme was 'Mothers of the Bible'. The service held in Church was led by Linda Hunter. Potted plants were distributed to all Mums along with teapot shaped cards (and attached teabag which were made by the children present) A montage of our Mums was put together by Linda Hunter.

Children have also been involved with the **Palm Sunday procession** following the

donkey to St. Andrew's Church. **Easter Day** was heralded with musical instruments played by the children. An egg hunt took place in the Church grounds and proved to be very popular, especially, as paste eggs could be exchanged for the chocolate variety.

A visit to **Abbeyfield** took place on the 23rd June. A group of children accompanied by Laura Rhodes spent time with the Senior Citizens at Abbeyfield. They joined with the Senior Citizens in singing and various planned activities.

Advent: Linda Hunter led assembly at both Corbridge Middle and Mowden School. Linda visited Little Tinkler's Nursery where she told the Christmas story to the nursery children.

There being no Christmas tree festival this year Junior Church made advent calendars and decorated a Christmas tree for the Cottage. Christmas cards were made for the Residents of care homes in the parish.

The **Christingle service** was held on 15th December and was well attended. The same successful format was repeated from last year. Linda Hunter explained the significance of Christingle and all members of the congregation were given a 'Do-it-yourself' Christingle kit distributed by the children. The service culminated with the lighting of the Christingles and the entire congregation encircled the church to sing.

Three hundred and fifteen people attended the **Crib service** on 24th December. The service was based round a crossword puzzle with clues. Tom Collins and Linda Hunter led the service.

On **Christmas day** the service gave children the opportunity to open their presents and show them to the congregation.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Junior Church including **all** the children. Their attendance, enthusiasm and support is greatly appreciated

MESSY CHURCH

Kath Abraham

Messy Church has continued to run smoothly this year despite a fundamental change to the team of organisers. On a sad note four of the original team of nine have now left the area, Rachel Kearton, Sharon Cochrane, Laura Rhodes and Pam Philips. However, a number of new organisers have joined the team and whilst creating a new dynamic, it is by no means a negative. We have joined together with the Methodist Church who have at least one representative present at

meetings and run at least one if not two activities on the day. We all get on very well and it feels as though we've been a team for years. A number of new team members from the community have joined, bringing great spirit and energy to the group. A mention should be made for the additional effort made by Louise Stubbs and Linda Hunter who both add that bit extra to the group and ensure continuity; learning and creativity are part of the event.

Messy Church has been described as a "well oiled machine" and although it takes a great deal of effort I tend to agree. This is mainly thanks to the process that is now in place and also a huge team of helpers of all ages. A small worship group has formed who provide music, songs and a story/prayer time, a huge team of volunteers help run tables of crafts and activities, the whole congregation chip in when asked for supplies like plastic bottles etc and Sue Neve and her team now organise the food for each event. Linda Hunter asks the congregation to help set up after the service on the day of the event and there's a good number of helpers to clear away at the end. I think the key has been to give people responsibility for their activity whilst being given some direction from the creative team who ensure it is well organised and people are provided with what they need. One of the greatest successes of MC is the range of ages involved in the events, it truly is an all age effort and seeing Gilbert, one of our elder volunteers (sorry Gilbert) creating such enthusiasm in the youngsters while teaching them about electrical circuits through a creative activity whilst they are generally being taught about the light of God really does feel special – a lot of glowing lighthouses were taken to school for show and tells the following week!

Events take place quarterly and all have been well attended, the best being 65 children and 60 adults for Messy Pirates with the Storm on the lake and a fish and chip supper. Other titles have included the Lindisfarne Gospels, Love and Friendship, Getting Ready for Easter and the Parable of the Sower. Average attendance is around 45 children and we cater all activities and food for 50. MC takes place on a Sunday afternoon from 2.30 – 5, we received feedback that families feel like they've been to church "properly" if it is held on a Sunday.

OUTREACH

EVENTS & SOCIAL

Rev. Jenny Kinnaird

It's been another busy year for the Social Committee with a variety of activities on offer in the year April 2013 to April 2014.

In June an outing to three historic churches in County Durham included a visit to Escomb Saxon Church one of the best examples in the country of Saxon architecture. In September we visited Durham to see the Lindisfarne Gospels which were on loan to Durham over the summer of 2013. This was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all.

In the Autumn a simple Harvest Supper of Pies and Peas was topped off with a somewhat hilarious Beetle Drive with much changing tables and getting to know each other – and no one quite sure who had won! At Christmas the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies were, for many who came, the real start of Christmas despite the fact that the shops had been in full seasonal swing for what seemed like months. The Vicar's mulled wine was superb – and he still hasn't revealed his recipe! It was good to have some of the mince pies provided by the Number 6 Café – a simple outreach connection with the village (as of course we do with the greengrocer's for Christingle oranges) The choir added their offering of carols – rather earlier than expected which disappointed some who came just too late to enjoy them. On Shrove Tuesday there were pancakes, wine and a quiz – an annual fixture. On Maundy Thursday Social Committee worked with the vicar in the organising of the Last Supper in church with a traditional lamb meal. This provided a mixture of social gathering with a commemoration of the final events of Jesus' life in the Upper Room – always a most moving occasion and a fitting addition to our Holy Week and Easter programme.

Catering for other events is another service offered by Social Committee (particularly by Jackie and her willing kitchen-slaves) Supper was provided for an Evening with Bishop John Gladwin after the Chamber Music Festival weekend in August and for two meetings of the Corbridge Deanery Greater Chapter. For Julie's ordination to the priesthood at Peter-tide lunch in the parish Hall catered for around 70/80 people. Social Committee thanks all members of the congregation who provided food for the feast.

Social Committee will be welcoming two new members this year. We could do with one or two men! Any offers?

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Rosemary Baker, Convenor

As usual Guides aim to be in church as much as possible between April and the end of October. We greet the visitors. If interest is shown in the architecture we enjoy talking to them about the history and development over the years. It's age astounds those who do not know. It astounds us too! I was told by one visitor my wife is a Professor of Archaeology..... I learnt what I could from her. Sometimes visitors come to sit quietly to pray. We do not intrude. The Lady Chapel is much appreciated and also the votive candlestand and Prayer Tree.

The great variety of visitors and their reasons for coming adds to the interest of being a Guide. The visitor's book reveals many nationalities: In the first six months of 2013, in order of entry, visitors came from USA, Albania, Botswana, Portugal, Italy, Canada, Holland, Germany, Norway, Tasmania. Reasons for coming are very varied and sometimes the visitors wish to tell us why they are here. Many appreciate the church being open.

We would welcome more Guides and are delighted that Mrs Fay Dickinson is joining us this year.

If you would like to help please contact Rosemary Baker: 633823 or 634942

FIESTA

John Bishop Events Co Ordinator

Our church continues to prove an attractive venue for a variety of events. Seven concerts and a book launch took place in St. Andrew's during the year. The highlight was one more Corbridge Chamber Music Festival in August, the requirements of which were particularly demanding. However, Warwick's leadership and Gilbert's electrical expertise allowed audiences to enjoy the Festival to the full.

A substantial financial contribution was provided from the FIESTA fund for an upgrade on our sound system. Our thanks are again due to several members of the congregation who work in the background, selling tickets, providing transport, humping chairs, moving pianos, welcoming people, selling programmes, serving drinks, washing up, clearing up and more. To all of our helpers we would like to say 'Thank You'. Thank you also to everyone who comes to support and enjoy the events in our Church.

WEBSITE St. Andrew's Church Website. (www.corbridgechurch.org.uk)

Simon A Hunter, Webmaster

The use of the internet and email is increasing all the time. The number of people visiting the website has steadily increased and we have recorded about 9,500 hits

since March 2013.

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.

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



PARISH NEWS

Since the last issue of THE BRIDGE a small group of people have been considering the options available for communicating church information to our members and to the wider community. THE **PARISH NEWS** a 4 page document is now going to be produced every other month to fit in with the church year ie early September; end November; pre Lent; pre-Easter; late June; January –a 'Calendar' edition.

In order to reduce expenditure we are encouraging people to have the Parish News emailed to them. So far over 100 people have signed up for the email version and 45 for a paper copy. If you would like to have a copy emailed to you please complete a data collection form which is available at the back of church or email : sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk to be put onto the data base. If you wish to receive a paper copy please ring Mrs Pat Harvey: 633221 and she will ensure you get a copy.

If you have any information to go into the Parish News please email it to the Vicar.

FOODBANK

Max Philbrick

We began accepting contributions for a Newcastle Food Bank in 2013, and after a few months changed to becoming a Collection Point for West Northumberland Food Bank. Thanks to the generous support of our unknown donors, the storage boxes at the back of church are now being cleared at least once each week, and our volunteers are also clearing the food donated at the village Co-op.

Everything is taken to the Food Bank office in Burn Lane, Hexham, where bags of provisions are made up, and sent out to the distribution centres in Prudhoe, Hexham and Haltwhistle. So far, over 1000 bags have been given out to more than 160 households, helping to feed around 200 adults and over 160 children.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Linda E Hunter

We are looking at ways to increase our income through

1. Fundraising
2. Planned giving

A small group met to look at the FUNDRAISING EVENTS and the following were approved by the PCC

Event	Date	Co Ordinator
Christmas Tree Festival	5 th to 9 th December 2014	Linda Hunter
Grand Draw	To be drawn at Mulled Wine and Mince Pies morning	Suzette Milne
Monthly Quiz in cottage bring your own drinks.	First Friday of the month	Jackie Webb
Wedding Fashion Show	Saturday 13 th September and Sunday 14 th September	Suzette Milne plus team

We will also have a Christmas Card for 2014 and a calendar has been proposed for 2016.

Open Gardens have also been suggested and we are looking for someone to organise this. Could YOU do it?

If you would be able to help with any of the events please speak to the person who is the named co ordinator.

Do you have an idea for fundraising ? Please speak to the Church Wardens if you do.

The members of the FUNDING CAMPAIGN Steering Committee have reconvened and will be looking at the overall plans for broadening our income stream.

CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams

Shortly after the last annual report, a second Come and Sing event was held at St Andrew's: The Crucifixion by John Stainer, sung on Palm Sunday Evening. By popular request we are singing it again this year featuring the same two soloists, Jim Laidlow and Tom Rowarth, with John Ross on the organ.

In September, St Andrews hosted a Choral Workshop on behalf of RSCM Northumbria with Will Todd. This was a fascinating day, which included working on some of Will's jazz pieces. Singing this type of music was something new for nearly everyone, and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Arrangements are already in hand for the next Workshop, which this year will be on 4th October to avoid clashing with the Hexham Abbey Festival, and will be directed by John Rutter.

Christmas was not only memorable for the choral carol service, but also a very special wedding. A past choir member, Carrie Churnside invited the choir to sing at her wedding at the end of December, and through her research as a Doctor of Music at Birmingham Conservatoire had unearthed a little known Italian composer, Giuseppe Antonio Silvani. Joined by some of Carrie's friends and professional colleagues we performed two of these pieces, possible for the first time in over two hundred years.

On Sunday 2nd March the choir led a choral parish communion service, singing several pieces from Officium Divinum, a new work by Margaret Rizza. Under John Ross's expert tutoring, two young flautists and a trumpet player enriched the instrumental sections, and evocative violin playing was provided by Louise Khazee.

We have received many requests to repeat this, and many of the comments from the congregation were extremely moving.

The above were some of the more significant events in another year of music, but there are very few Sundays when the choir is not there to lead the choral worship and this always includes singing a relevant anthem within the setting for parish communion. For special services and more complex music we are fortunate in being able to draw on the talents of several guest singers, but the responsibility for leading the musical worship every Sunday remains with the core choir, and this is an appropriate opportunity to record my personal thanks for the faithful commitment and hard work of all our singers.

As is normal for a parish church choir, numbers continue to fluctuate but currently total 21, and we no longer have any spare robes, which indicates how well we have been able to maintain the total number of choir members. For most services we rarely drop below 12 singers. Unusually, at the moment we are short of upper voices. We are also short of young people, but in this the choir reflects the demographic of the church. Our two teenagers, Faye and Rachel, continue to give their faithful support despite their busy lives and school exam commitments. They both contribute immeasurably to the quality of the singing. With Linda's enthusiastic help we are trying to find a way to build on the success of Messy Church – the first outing of the 'Family Choir' will be on Mothering Sunday.

The uncertainty over finding an organist continued throughout the year and it is only in the last two months that this has been finally resolved. St Andrew's is now unique in having a formal job share agreement with two organists – John Ross and Marc Bryant – which promises to be a richly rewarding arrangement for both the church as a whole and the choir. This arrangement gives great flexibility for covering holidays and personal commitments, and enables both organists to continue to enjoy their freelance work. The future is full of exciting possibilities – an organ recital is already being planned, and the choir are enjoying working with two very experienced musicians.

We have shared a year of singing a great variety of music, supported as always on a practical level by a very large number of people. Particular names deserve to be mentioned. Over the last eighteen months John Ross has taken on the bulk of the organ playing and his support has been indispensable. We are grateful to Liz Collins who looks after the robes; Warwick Milne and John Bishop for looking after the music library; Mary Lowans for acting as our CRB liaison; Liz McCoull as Choir Treasurer; and Margaret Cuthbert our choir secretary.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Linda E Hunter and Gilbert Marshall Churchwardens

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

In September we had our three yearly 'inspection' of Corbridge and Halton by the Archdeacon. Along with the good care we had taken of the buildings we were commended on our accurate and precise paperwork!

Maintenance items have included the following:

Major Expenditure

- **Lighting** – a large number of luminaires had become misaligned over the last few years and a number of bulbs had failed. This was impairing seriously the effectiveness of the lighting system so we have had extensive work done to remedy this.
- **Tower** – the work has been completed and looks very good. We are very grateful to Michael Rae for project managing this. Please note no one should go above the mezzanine floor level of the tower without permission from the Church Wardens.
- A **new gate** was hung at the west side of the church – as in our agreement the Parish Council have paid half of the purchase price
- A **new gate** between the cottage grounds and the church grounds has been hung
- **Central Heating boiler.** Along with the annual service we had to have new electrical circuit boards fitted by Tynedale Boilers and the system recommissioned by Bell controls.

Other items of maintenance – Church

- The wall safe which was broken into has had the lock replaced
- A section of beading on the choir stalls has been repaired
- Electrical socket near the organ has been repaired
- The altar now has wheels and moves very smoothly over the floor
- Memorial Garden – engraving completed, stones pointed and cleaned.
- Flag pole was resealed
- All outside light bulbs renewed
- Gutters cleared and tower drains unblocked

Other items of maintenance - The Cottage

- A new faucet has been fitted to the kitchen sink
- Slight rearrangement of cupboards took place and we were able to dispose of

one.

- The cooker control socket was moved from the position above the cooker to the side of the cooker
- The wall above the cooker was retiled.
- Photocopier had some parts replaced – this is now code protected to limit the number of people using it.
- New hot water supply was installed in the downstairs toilets

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.

We appear at the moment to have eradicated our house guest in the church but I am sure when it gets colder we will see him / her again!

As with all old buildings maintenance is an ongoing task. As you can see from above we have spent a considerable amount of money this year on Lighting, Heating, Gates and the Tower.

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**. We are progressing this slowly in collaboration with the family.
- **Cottage windows and skylight** need attention as they are leaking
- **A new bell rope** is required as it is frayed.
- **Baptistery Window Arch**. Masonry is falling from this area so further investigations are in progress for this.
- Intermittent **leak** in roof at the joint in the North Transept
- Improvements to the **boiler control system** to give easier setting of the temperature in church

Purchases

- New gift aid envelopes
- New fire extinguisher at Corbridge and Halton
- New projection screen

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. Gilbert has spent an incredible amount of time trying to source fuel at as competitive a rate as possible. We also took advice from the Diocesan Clock Adviser and have now changed our maintenance contract to Cumbria Clocks rather than Smith of Derby.

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 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.

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 and we are in regular contact with the chairman of the Parish Council

Illumination of the Church Yard for Christmas: Good links were made with the Parish Council and Gilbert represented the church at a variety of meetings to ensure the safe installation of the LED Christmas lights. Thanks too, to Mike Stephenson who was 'on call' for any technical hitches over the Christmas period.

One of our main problems in the churchyard are the bins which unfortunately often need 'sorting' due to items being put in the wrong bin!

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 and I am sure it will be completed soon. We do have one or two items of maintenance outstanding at Halton.

We hold evensong in Halton Chapel on the day of the Red Cross Open Gardens – this year Evensong will be held on Sunday 22nd June at 5.00pm

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)

We have had a complete revision of our Health and Safety Manual which was approved by the PCC in September 2013. Since then we have had visits from Harry Wright, Ecclesiastical Insurance and John Wright, Watch Manager, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service. In the light of these visits we have rewritten our: Lone Worker Policy, Fire Safety Policy, Tower and Church Risk Assessments and these policies supersede all previously written policies. After the visit we received the following in an email from John Wright *'just to confirm following my visit to St. Andrews Church in Corbridge this morning that the Fire Authority are happy with the fire safety precautions within the Church, the fire safety procedures that are being put in place and the positive helpful attitude of the Church Wardens.'*

SAFEGUARDING (previously known as 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.

A new document was issued by the Church of England in June 2013 in relation to

the Safer Recruitment of both volunteers and paid workers. This needs to be implemented in all parishes. Luckily we were pretty much on target with all of this so for us the changes have been minimal.

Thank you to those who have come along to help clean or set up for various festivals we really do appreciate you helping us out.

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. A particular thank you to the small group of Jennifer Wright, Liz Buckley, Sue Neve, Kath Baume, Carol Maskell, David Preece and Max Philbrick who carry out regular photocopying duties for us all.

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

The Parish Centre continues to be used by wide ranging bodies within the community. A new booking is a lady who is giving music lessons.

Linda, the cleaner, continues to do her good work, many thanks to her.

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 i.e.: celebrating your birthday or an anniversary, it's not expensive, see Sheila. More information will be gladly given by me 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 meets every Friday from 9.30am to 10.00am in the cottage. About eight members of St. Andrew's pray for our church, our clergy and various organisations within the church. We also pray for anyone as long as they have agreed to their name being given.

We always welcome new members to the prayer group so please think about joining this vital part of our church ministry.

HOME GROUP

Max and Monica Philbrick and Paul Morris

The Home Group continues to meet together for several short series of evenings, followed by gaps of varying lengths – we don't meet at all over the summer. Over the past 12 months we have covered:

A 5-week series on 'Jesus Rediscovered', using material from York Courses; and 3 weeks on 'Jesus Miracles', based on a DVD series 'Talking about Jesus'. For these we also made use of the BBC programmes presented by Rageh Omaar in 2006.

During Advent we met twice in the Cottage for evenings of readings, song, and silent reflection. More recently we have enjoyed a DVD series based on the book "What's so amazing about grace?", and extracts from a Lent Course by David Adam.

We have enjoyed good fellowship and some lively discussion, sharing new insights and understanding in a relaxed and informal way. Numbers have varied between 8 and 16, and more than 20 people have come along at least once!

CORBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Secretary

A very successful Deanery Away Day on Saturday 22 March 14 at The Fuse Centre Prudhoe encouraged those present to think about and consider those with Dementia and in particular their carers.

The Annual General Meeting of the next Deanery Synod is on 18th June 2014 at Snods Edge

In recent months the Parish Share has been very much on the Deanery discussions. It was agreed to continue paying this year to the present formula and the Rural Dean who has I believe agreed to carry on in that post is examining how the Norham Deanery now apply their Parish Share. A further meeting of Parish Treasurers is being arranged for 19th March 2014. A presentation of the Newcastle Diocese Anglican Link with Botswana proved very interesting. The Vacant Moorlands Group will possibly resolve in the 3rd Quarter of this year. Some lay members felt they were ill informed compared with the Clergy when asked to agree changes. Each Parish to remember their Deanery Synod elected representatives will elect members to discuss the subject of Women Bishops at an early Diocesan meeting.

A paper on Sharing the Burden within a parish was re-issued and discussed. Revenue; we have been reminded that it is essential the Parish Share is the priority to be paid. We were reminded there must be no 'off book accounting' and where parishes are registered with the Charity Commission each PCC member is a trustee and is therefore responsible. Changes to the Gift Aid scheme were received. The summary of the Diocese Parish Share working group were presented.

Reports from the General and Diocesan meetings were presented including the Open Meeting of the Diocese on Poverty.

The Deanery Away Day held at Auckland Castle was a great success.

Throughout this Deanery Synod the re-occurring topics have been Parish Share and Women Bishops both of which are still 'In Progress'.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORBRIDGE

Although Churches Together does not exist as a formal group the churches in Corbridge continue to work together on the following initiatives:

- Lent Lunches
- Prayers for Peace during Lent
- Women's World Day of Prayer
- Christian Aid Collections
- Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Easter Day Sunrise Service on the banks of the Tyne
- In addition the prayer groups at The Methodist Church and St. Andrew's meet and pray together.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

We began our year, as always, with our AGM and this time a new venue, that of the Wheatsheaf. This made a pleasant change for everyone especially the committee who were able to relax and enjoy the evening a bit more.

Our topics for our monthly meetings have been varied. At last minute Jane Percy was not able to attend the January meeting so we started the year with a Beetle Drive which appeared to be enjoyed by everyone. A lively talk by Canon John Sinclair helped us to learn a little more about the work that he does as the Canon for Evangelism at the Cathedral. Mark Winter had us all guessing the names of the different birds when he showed a variety of pictures of birds from the Northumbrian coast. Anthony Atkinson gave a fantastic talk about Mary Eleanor Bowes(1749 – 1800) all without notes which was just as well because when the school lights went off he just continued on. Pam Swift really made us think when she talked to us about the Night Stop Project. Some people were really lucky at the November meeting when they won the dishes that Marjorie Goodchild demonstrated. I wonder whether anyone has tried out the recipes ?

We had a very successful morning to raise money for our charities when we had a variety of stalls outside the Lych gate. It was so warm we had to keep moving the cakes into the shade as the icing was melting. Our Summer Outing to Riding Mill Village Hall as a really good evening. It was a good opportunity to have a chat over a tasty meal and relax with entertainment by 'Shirley's Singers' .

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 Alzheimer's Society and The Priory School at Hexham.

Our membership has fluctuated. Unfortunately this year has seen the deaths of quite a few former and current members: - Nora Bain, Grace Nairn, Nellie Foster, Greta Hails and Lucy Smyth. 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.

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

Roger Lowans, Chair of Governors

Ofsted Inspection

The School was inspected on 18-19 September 2013 and its overall effectiveness was graded as 'requires improvement'. This was a disappointment as at the previous inspection it was graded as 'outstanding'. However the Ofsted framework has been revised twice since the previous inspection and is now more stringent.

We responded to the inspection outcomes by producing an action plan to enable the School to reach a grading of at least 'good' within two years. The action plan is being implemented and we are being monitored in this by regular visits from our supervising HMI.

HMI Visit

We are happy to report that School has made great progress this term. A recent visit by the HMI who is monitoring our development went well.

He made favourable comments about the pupils' achievements, the standard of teaching, the leadership and management and the contribution of the governors. There is much more to do but the HMI's comments were encouraging.

Staffing

We said farewell to Mrs Byerley who has moved to a job nearer to her home and we wish her well and thank her for her contribution. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Kate Carter as our new lunchtime supervisor.

Mrs Dunnage left the School at the end of the Spring term and we thanked her for her service as a teacher over many years.

Mrs McGowan and Mrs Thompson are back teaching full- time in years 1 and 3. Both of them, along with Mrs Armstrong will be part of the management team.

School leadership

Progress is also being made to secure the permanent leadership of the school.

Mrs Tawse and Mrs Gibson have worked with great energy and commitment along with the staff of the School. Both governors and a number of parents have

expressed their appreciation and thanks to all the staff for this work.
Mrs Tawse and Mrs Gibson will be leading the School until the permanent leadership is in place and will assist in any required handover arrangements. They will be joint head teachers and will continue with the good work outlined above.