

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



ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending

31st March 2016

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, 24th April 2016, at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2015 at 11.00am.
3. Election of Churchwardens
Linda Hunter and Gilbert Marshall elected 2015 2 vacancies
4. Financial Statement to include charitable giving Cliff Wright
5. Reports in this booklet

PCC Annual Report 2016

Electoral Roll

Vicar's Report

Maureen Davison

Rev David Hewlett

Children and Youth Work

Creche

Junior Church

Messy Church

Louise Stubbs

Louise Stubbs

Outreach and Communication

Catering

Social Committee

Church Welcomers /Guides

Musical Events

Website

Parish News

Food bank

Fundraising

Carol Maskell

Rev Jenny Kinnaird

Rosemary Baker

John Bishop

Simon A Hunter

Simon A Hunter

Monica Philbrick

Linda E Hunter

Church Music

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Church Cottage

Colin Williams

Linda E Hunter and
Gilbert Marshall

Suzette Milne

Safeguarding
Church Flowers
Prayer Group
Home Group
Corbridge Deanery Synod

Linda E Hunter
Sheila Goldsworthy
Tony Macdonald
Max Philbrick
Richard Dixon

Churches Together in Corbridge
Women's Fellowship
Corbridge C of E First School

Linda E Hunter
Jennifer Aynsley &
David Watson

6. Elections

Parochial Church Council

John Bishop, John McNamara, Jennifer Wright (2013 – 2016) retiring
David Welsh, Mike Stephenson, Monica Philbrick (2014 – 2017) continuing

5 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 26th APRIL 2015**

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

PRESENT:

Revd David Hewlett (vicar), Revd Julie Robson and 35 laity.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Jennifer Wright, Margaret Thompson, Warwick Milne, Edward Pybus, Colin Baker, Jenny Kinnaird and Pat Harvey.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 27th April 2014 were approved unanimously and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

The Vicar gave thanks to the retired Clergy who had covered the Moorland Group stating they had been wonderful filling in for the vacancy adding the people of the Parish are very grateful. In total 345 services have been conducted by the retired Clergy and the newly appointed Vicar has been inducted the previous week.

Gilbert Marshall (Churchwarden) spoke of the past year being a good one including the success of Messy Church, more people attending the Church and achieving objectives that the Vicar had spoken of. Gilbert gave thanks to the Vicar for his work who retorted with much appreciation for the work of the Churchwardens – both Gilbert and Linda Hunter were duly re-elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Vicar thanked the Treasurer, Cliff Wright, for the comprehensive Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2014 (circulated). The Treasurer gave a brief presentation of the previous year's accounts which were adopted by the meeting. He added thanks for the amount of support he receives in the role.

REPORTS:

The Vicar thanked all who had contributed to and compiled the Annual Report booklet and invited questions, assuming all present had read the document.

ELECTIONS:

Parochial Church Council:

The Vicar gave huge thanks to 3 members retiring : Jackie Webb, Suzette Milne and Carol Maskell (2012-2015).

Following members continuing :

John Bishop, John McNamara, Jennifer Wright (2013 – 2016);
David Welsh, Mike Stephenson, Monica Philbrick (2014 – 2017)

One nomination received for the three vacancies on the PCC to be filled – David Preece who was duly elected.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Roger Johns is willing to continue – the Treasurer will pass on thanks to him.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parish communications – the Vicar gave thanks to Simon Hunter for his contribution to making Parish communications “more slick” – also invited the meeting to make any contributions including photo’s to Simon.

The Vicar informed the meeting to approach the PCC Standing committee if they wished to raise or discuss anything as the PCC is a representative body.

The meeting closed at 11.30am with thanks to all for their attendance.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2015

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 exofficio, 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
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Gilbert Marshall

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Richard Dixon, Max Philbrick Elizabeth Robson

Elected Members:

John Bishop	John McNamara	Monica Philbrick
David Preece	Jennifer Wright	David Welsh
Mike Stephenson		

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

Cliff 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 2015 will be found in an accompanying booklet. In the current climate we need to be aware that our expenditure is rising steadily and our income is not keeping pace with our outgoings.

Funding Campaign: This took place during the Spring of 2015 and although providing a modest increase in giving of about 4% we will not be totally clear what the final outcome is until mid June 2016.

We are grateful to Roger Jones for taking on the Independent examination of our accounts again this year.

Charities supported this year

PCC grants were allocated to Tearfund, Church Urban Fund and Blood Bikes

APPOINTMENTS: Thanks should be extended to:

David Welsh who for many years has been the **Convenor of Sidespeople** and decided this year to stand down from this position. Thank you David for the time you have given to this role.

Rosemary Baker who has been **Convenor of the Church Guides** and has stepped down from that role. We thank her for all that she has done. Joan Welsh will take over from Rosemary.

Jean White and Pat Harvey who have relinquished their role as '**Money Counters**'. Thank you to them both. We welcome Fyvvie Bruce and Margaret Thompson onto this team.

Carol Maskell has agreed to become **Catering Co-ordinator** and first contact for all Church catering needs. Thank you Carol for taking on this role

PCC AWAY DAY (November 3rd) was led by Canon John Sinclair

PARISH QUIET DAY: (September 12th) was led by Canon Peter Ball, at Shepherd's Dene and opportunities were provided for listening, reflecting and being quiet

REFORM AND RENEWAL: a National Initiative, which is likely to bring profound changes to the way the whole church – including the Diocese of Newcastle – is resourced and organised.

Some members of PCC attended the Diocesan Roadshow when the following was outlined:

National Research carried out over 5 years has been the basis of a publication 'From Anecdote to Evidence' in 2014, whose findings included that:

- In the last 20 to 30 years the age profile of Church of England members has advanced to an average of 20 years older than the population at large
- There are significant numbers of parishes across the country where there is no-one on the church electoral roll under the age of 70
- If the rate of declining church attendance over the last 30 years continues, by 2055 there will be just 100,000 regular attenders compared with nearly a million today
- If the rate of decline was halted except for the loss of regular church attenders through death, numbers would still decline to 400,000 by 2055.
- If we can immediately stop the average 1.3% per annum decline in numbers attending church, and achieve a steady 3% per annum growth, it would be 2041 before we stopped the overall decline in numbers.
- 50% in the last 30 years, the overall population of England has increased by 50%, and the number of church buildings is static.

The Archbishops' Council carried out a consultation with all Dioceses and the

following areas will form part of the Reform and Renewal process :

Developing Discipleship, led by the Bishop of Sheffield and underpinning all the other strands of work.

Resourcing the Future, which proposes to replace the way that central funds have been allocated to dioceses, and the formula which aimed to ensure a fair spread of clergy across the country. The new approach would base central funding 50% on levels of economic deprivation in a region, and 50% on opportunities for growth, whether in discipleship, numbers or mission and outreach.

Resourcing Ministerial Education, which seeks to address shortcomings in the ongoing professional development and support for those in ministry, and to enable and resource a sharp growth in the number of those being ordained.

Lay Leadership, whose first priority is to identify a common vision for this increasingly important aspect of church life, and to ensure it is properly guided and resourced.

Simplification: "The dioceses told us everything was too complex and we know that in General Synod you can get involved in the most enormous and encumbered processes which stand in the way of making progress." General Synod is to work through "a great programme which is going to strip the Church of unnecessary complexity; which is going to remove the thorny hedges which surround the Cinderella of the risen Christ and let the people in."

Optimising the National Church Institutions: "It's about making sure we have an engine room fit for purpose. If we're going to do all these things we need the Church House (Westminster) operation to be lean and mean; to focus on effectiveness, not just on cost efficiency.

DEANERY DAY: A Deanery Day was held with the title: IMAGINING THE FUTURE! CHURCH, MISSION & MINISTRY IN CORBRIDGE DEANERY. The main point was to look at possible strategies for deciding where clergy could be located in future as numbers available reduce; and ways of involving lay people more in ministry. Further discussion has taken place at PCC Meetings.

MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION: A consultation took place and it was agreed to change the time to 11.30am on a Wednesday morning.

The PARISH NEWS: continues to be one of our many routes of communication with most people receiving this by email. However, we still need more regular contributors of copy. Please think about whether you have anything that you can contribute.

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

USE OF THE CHURCH: We continue to support other organisations by letting them use the church for different activities.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Jennifer Herrmann organises this on behalf of the Churches in Corbridge and we are very grateful for the time she spends doing this.

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

At the start of this year there were 178 names on the Electoral Roll.
During the year there have been 3 additions, 2 moved away and 2 deletions
making the current total 174.

Additions	Moved away
Miss Rebecca Gobel Miss Laura Sullivan Mr Marc Bryant Ms Kate Chadwick Mr Alistair Jenkin	Miss Amelia Blackett (married) Mr Stephen Howarth Capt David Pringle Mrs Sarah Pringle Mrs Stella Robson

Deletions – RIP
Mrs Shirley Storey Mrs June Burgess

In November I will have been Vicar here for 8 years –the longest period I have stayed anywhere in my ordained ministry and this year has been a very busy, but a very positive one – yet again!

People

Julie has now completed her period 'in training'. She makes such a large contribution to the ministry here that is appreciated by me and by so many to whom she ministers, especially in our Care Homes. Thank you, Julie. Without Julie's support and caring pastoral work, I would have been hard pressed to cope this year as I have been looking after so many vacant parishes in the Deanery.

We had a wonderful day at The Cathedral in October when Linda Hunter was licensed as a Reader in the Diocese. An event which confirmed so much of what she already does here, but also will open up new possibilities for her as she seeks to explore her ministry further. I want to pay tribute to Linda, not only as churchwarden but as leader of worship at St. Andrews; and facilitator of the Messy Church planning group.

I want to thank the retired clergy for their support and especially Jenny Kinnaird who acts as Chaplain to Charlotte Straker, and to Jack Hay who looks after Halton. The help of all the retired clergy is much appreciated, both practically helping cover services in the Deanery and in terms of their support of me, and in so many other ways in the Parish. It was a sadness when Rev. Gerry Price died in February. We thank God for his ministry, especially in Cowgate and for his wisdom and encouragement to so many of us here in his retirement.

Our Churchwardens, Linda and Gilbert, are great. 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. I have tried in my time here to move the post of Churchwarden from a seeming 24/7 role but have failed!! Thank you Gilbert and Linda for all you do and all you are to us here.

We say a big 'Thank You' to our 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 Carol Maskell for becoming our Catering Co Ordinator, especially

for her ability to recruit and 'bring in' new people to St. Andrew's through asking them to be involved in catering and events in general. Thanks too to Jenny Kinnaird and The Social Committee for the events they facilitate.

Thanks too, to Edward Pybus Hon Churchwarden at Halton for looking after people there.

The Parish News continues to grow and prosper. We always need more articles! Huge thanks to Simon Hunter for all his expertise and work in getting this email publication launched so professionally. Are you on the email list to receive it?

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 there were 36 in 2015 and 12 so far in 2016 and it is only 22nd March. We said final farewells to a number of people who have been associated with St. Andrews down the years, in particular May Siddons, Shirley Storey, Geoff Ross, who loved St. Andrews and cleaned it for many years, Sheila Gordon, Gerry Price and Mary Hornsby. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

Weddings: 8 celebrated here in 2015. 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.

Baptisms continue in popularity making it impossible to administer them all in regular Sunday worship. 26 in 2015 and 6 already in 2016. That is nearly twice as many as last year, many of whom come through Messy Church. We are now following up baptism families and making sure, they are invited to Messy Church and other appropriate events at St. Andrew's.

and 'Thank You' to Brenda who looks after those who come for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals in her role as verger.

Worship

Messy Church has grown again this year and is now meeting each month. We regularly have over 90 people in church. Please remember it is one of a number of regular congregations at St. Andrews : 8:00 HC; 9:30 Parish Communion; 6:00 Evening Prayer; Saturday Roman Catholic Mass. Across the board more and more

people come and worship at St. Andrews, even if they may not be at the service you attend.

The Messy Church 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. The open invitation to anyone to join in the planning is involving more and more people and they have a bible study before they plan. I am especially grateful that so many from our other Sunday congregations are involved in the planning and the delivery Messy Church too. It is encouraging that Confirmation candidates and Baptisms are now part of the life of the Messy Church congregation's life and outreach.

How wonderful it is to have such moving music at the heart of so much of our worship. Thank you Colin; to Marc and John who job-share the organ playing so wonderfully and the choir. It is especially gratifying to see St. Andrew's being used as a centre for regional RSCM events, welcoming Margaret Rizza for a study day here this year.

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.

We welcomed Bishop Gordon Mursell, retired Bishop of Stafford as the preacher at our **Festival Choral Communion**. Gordon's energy and fresh insights made us think, and linked music and the life of faith.

Grateful thanks to those who facilitate the **Friday Prayer Group** and to Max and Monica Philbrick for using their home to host the **House Group** and have encouraged their growth.

We are hoping to provide more opportunities for people to learn about / revel in their own faith journeys and the Quiet Day; the proposed Julian Prayer Group and Pilgrim Course are all moving towards this goal. Many have said how inspirational it was to hear the stories of 'ordinary people' from our congregation in 'The Six Other days' series in Lent. Thank you to all who agreed to take part. Your stories encouraged so many of us!

Schools

We are right to be hopeful for the future especially as Jen Ainsley , our new Head Teacher, has really got the First School humming again. We now have a virtually new governing body with good commitment, a variety of appropriate skills and a new will for the school to succeed. David Watson is the new chair who brings great experience and insight to the tasks ahead. I am pleased to say that Monica Philbrick, from our congregation, accepted the invitation to join the governing body this year.

Corbridge C. of E. First School: Julie. Linda and the Vicar take assemblies on a regular basis, often accompanied by 'Mint Sauce'; and Julie and Linda have worked with various classes on RE projects.

'**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 and the Vicar lead assemblies at the newly enlivened **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

We held **carol singing, the raffle and the mulled wine morning** in December –the Vicar's Mulled Wine was good, but perhaps *still* not quite as good as Paddy's, whose infamous recipe, sadly, does seem to have died with her.

The **Christmas Tree Festival** has now become a regular event, eagerly anticipated by the whole community and supported by businesses, school and village organisations. Apart from raising much needed money to keep the church going, it provides outreach into the community which we seek to serve. Thank you to Linda and her hard-working team and to all those in the community who have responded so positively.

Stewardship Campaign : "Faithraising" was a success, raising our income – details elsewhere in the reports . We are always needing to keep our income in line

with our expenditure and such campaigns help us to do this..... please do continue to respond with thankfulness for all that God gives to us individually and as a church community. Yes, we do have reserves, and in that we are greatly blessed, but we cannot use monies given for specific things for the day to day bills.

The **floods in December** will be etched onto many of our memories, and for those affected personally the aftermath is not over yet. Each home was visited and grants made available from our funds and from the diocesan flood relief fund to support any in dire need. The fact that Julie and I trudged through the mud to visit people was very much appreciated, even more than offers of cash –as one person said : 'It's just good to know that there are those at St. Andrews who are alongside us in all this' . A very humbling reaction. Bishop Christine, before her consecration as Bishop of Newcastle, came on the Sunday, saw the floods, spoke with victims and support agencies and then joined us to make Christingles and talk with so many people after the service.

We welcomed Bishop Christine to the diocese in November as the second woman Diocesan Bishop in The Church of England. She visited the Deanery in February and was very impressive as a listener and a person of ideas and drive. Life will be interesting in this Diocese!

I have publically expressed my dismay at the actions taken against the Episcopal Church in The USA as a result of **The Primates meeting in Canterbury**. As we struggle to talk to 'normal people' who cannot understand the Church's stance of gay people [neither can I!]. We are then enjoined by our Archbishops to mission. There needs to be some joined up thinking here.

The Deanery is involved in a process of producing a strategy for the future, especially as to advising the Bishop where stipendiary clergy should be deployed. Our **Deanery Day** was wonderfully led by Charles Hope and every parish had the chance to engage with the process. Each PCC has been asked to comment of a variety of options by 30th April 2016 so that the Bishop can be informed. HOWEVER events have overtaken this process which was planning for 5 or 10 years hence! When full the Deanery chapter has 13 clergy in it. At this moment we have 7 of those posts either in vacancy or about to become vacant. This will mean a lot of work for the Parishes , for the Area Dean [me] and also bring forward decision-making by the Bishop. We await outcomes.

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 - Where the vacancy at The Moorland Group of Parishes: seven parishes, eight churches was filled on 22nd April 2015 with Rev. Helen Savage's induction. The Parishes of Stamfordham, Matfen & Ryal who have Rev. Rachel Sheffer as their Parish priest, Rachel spending half her time on Children's and Youth work in the diocese. Riding Mill is vacant; Bywell & Mickley become vacant in April; Prudhoe and Wylam become vacant in May and Ovingham becomes vacant in the Autumn.

As a member of The Continuing Ministerial Development Task group.

As a member the Local Ministry 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 archdeaconry. My time in office ended in Sept '15

Diocesan assessor for those seeking ordination.

Bishop's reviewer for clergy Ministerial Development Reviews

Surrogate for Marriages.

Personal Note

Tessa and I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support as Tessa's mobility with her recurring MS has deteriorated. We now have the hand controls on the car; the mobility buggy and the 'Blue badge' so practically things are being addressed. However coming to terms with MS for us both is a hard road and it also means that Tessa is much more dependent on me than in times past. Please hold us in your prayers.

We are delighted and privileged to be in Corbridge and to serve this Parish, and hope that we can do this for some years to come.

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.



David Hewlett

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.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

The average attendance from March 2015 to March 2016 has been limited to one or two children with the majority of sessions having zero attendance. Junior Church continues to be available every Sunday except during school holidays. We leave Church, for the cottage, during the second hymn of the morning service and return in time for Eucharist.

Monica Philbrick and I continue as leaders with (until very recently) Sylvia Smith as a regular helper. The Cottage is the venue for all Junior Church activities where all the resource materials are stored. Monica and I continue to encourage any visiting children to join us.

On a positive note we have very good numbers of children and adults attending Messy Church regularly.

Although Junior Church numbers are sadly depleted children have been involved on several occasions throughout the past year.

Activities have included;

Mothering Sunday (15.3.15) The theme was 'Caring' and involved children at various points. Prayers, readings and poems all reflected the 'Caring' theme as well as expressing our thanks to all who care, are cared for and have a place in God's family. Plants were distributed, by the children, to all ladies in the congregation.

Easter (3.4.15) An Easter Garden was constructed in the main entrance to Church. Three children helped with this activity. A tomb was made with a gravel path leading up to it. Flowers were potted up ready to be placed on the garden for Easter Sunday. On **Easter Day (5.4.15)** our traditional egg hunt took place in the Church Grounds. Approximately twenty children took part in the hunt. After the hunt, Monica provided a challenging tomb making activity. Everyone was offered chocolate eggs at the end of the service.

The **Travelling Crib**. Families were invited to house the travelling crib as it passed

from house to house in the old Mexican Tradition.

Christingle (6.12.15) The service was well attended and was led by Linda Hunter. Everyone in the congregation was invited to make a Christingle to remind us of 'Jesus Light Of The World' The Christingle packs were distributed by those children present. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Christine Hardman to our Christingle service. This was an unplanned visit, to this event, but she was visiting Corbridge during the aftermath of the flood. Bishop Christine was invited, by Julie, to give the final blessing. Once again the Christingle coincided with the Christmas Tree Festival which meant the church was full of decorated Christmas trees. Junior Church could not participate this year as there were no children to help but 'Messy Church' was represented. The Tree Festival (which ran from 4.12.15.-8.12.15) was very well supported with increased entries from last year. Once again children and young people were well represented by several different organisations.

Crib Service Three hundred people attended the Crib service on Christmas Eve. The theme for this was "The Christmas Present"

On **Christmas Day** The family service was led by Rev. David Hewlett. Children in the congregation were invited to bring a small gift to 'show and tell' everyone about it. Rev. Hewlett used several Christmas props in his talk leading up to welcoming 'Jesus the greatest gift of all'

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Junior Church, Messy Church and all Young People in St. Andrew's Church and the wider community. Their time, creativity, enthusiasm and support is always greatly appreciated at every event.

MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church began in 2011. Our 'Messy Afternoons' are very well attended by children, adults and helpers of all ages. Since 2011 there have been several changes to the format which are briefly outlined throughout this report.

Commencing in September 2015 'Messy Church' has taken place on a monthly basis except during the months of August and December. This has required regular planning meetings which are always well attended by our team. We have adopted the same format for all 'Messy Church' planning meetings. We begin by welcoming everyone. The team then recaps the previous 'Messy Church' and reflect on

positives as well as possible improvements. There is a brief Bible study. This forms the basis for our theme which is then discussed. Activities are planned and allocated to team members. Messy Grace concludes all our meetings. The Methodist representatives and Rev. Jane Cook continue to give their support and enthusiasm, for which we are very grateful.

There is no pressure to attend every 'Messy Church' meeting as we have a good communication system in place.

Max Philbrick continues to do all the publicity and graphics. He has produced some challenging and decorative board/table top games which have been greatly appreciated by those of us less skilled with technology.

Monica, Ian and Paul form the Worship group and lead the singing. This has proved to be a popular part of the afternoon and everyone joins in with the singing (with enthusiastic encouragement from Monica)

Sue Neve heads the catering team and always provides an enjoyable tea for all the children present. Refreshments are also provided for adults and helpers.

Our resources have continued to grow steadily, thanks must go to the congregation for supporting us, by fulfilling somewhat strange requests, at times! Members of the congregation also help to set up after the morning service on the planned day. All team members help to clear away at the end.

The resources have been sorted into a manageable system of labelled boxes and shelves (with more shelves to be added) This has enabled team members to quickly locate items they need for activities.

Numbers for this year have been 30+ for children and 50+ for adults. Sunday afternoon is the time allocated for 'Messy Church' but it now runs from 3.00-5.00 pm. The new time commenced in September 2015.

Themes this year have included Messy Road To Easter, Messy Picnic, Messy Colours, Messy Money, Messy Kings, Messy Caring and Messy Love.

The Messy Church team led by Linda Hunter continue to plan and provide an amazing wealth of creative and meaningful activities for our 'Church Family' making all our Messy Church afternoons thoroughly rewarding for everyone involved.

MESSY CHURCH - ADDITIONAL NOTE

Linda E Hunter

A huge THANK YOU to all those who are part of the Messy Church Team and have given up the extra time necessitated when we began meeting on a monthly basis. Messy Church has really grown and developed and that is due to the hard work of the team. All are welcome to be involved in the planning or to come along and take part during the afternoon. If you are interested in being part of the Music group or the Catering team please let us know.

OUTREACH

CATERING CO ORDINATOR

Carol Maskell

I have been given the role of co-ordinating ("overseeing in a friendly way" says Chambers Dictionary) all aspects of catering at Saint Andrew's.

This doesn't mean taking over the Social Committee, but working along-side it: helping, or asking for help, where necessary. This seems to work well. The committee successfully organise events throughout the year. These include the popular pancake supper and quiz, the Maundy Thursday lamb supper, a summer outing and the mulled wine and mince pie event at Christmas, as well as occasional celebrations like Linda's licencing as Reader.

But, larger and longer events, with their inevitable refreshments, have become part of St Andrew's calendar. Many of these are fund raising and include the four day Christmas Tree Festival. This year there will also be the three day Flower Festival which is to be held in September.

I don't want to work on a committee but with the congregation. A notice on the board at the back of the Church, asking for refreshments, and helpers to man the coffee pots and ever-lasting washing up, is always generously filled. St Andrew's congregation is wonderfully supportive. Thank you.

Another aspect of "my job" is to check that the cottage, when hired out, is left clean. Most visitors do this but occasionally things go wrong, and on one occasion very wrong. A few members of our congregation, who happened to attend a concert, were surprised to find themselves with a lot of clearing away and washing up to do. The cottage hirers had hurried home.

A challenge or two might come my way. The recent Palestinian meal was one. I am

now intimately acquainted with 'baba ghanoush', tahini, falafels and tabbouleh. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation, serving and clearing away, and a special thank you to Ann King-Lewis who abandoned the 'Good Food' recipes and gave us the authentic taste with "far less cucumber and much more parsley"

No doubt come the summer there will be more lists at the back of the Church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

Rev. Jenny Kinnaird

Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated" – so said Mark Twain – and so says St Andrew's Social Committee. Last summer rumours were flying around that Social Committee was to be closed down! Not so – though significant changes have been made.

This past year has seen the important task of clarifying the role of Social Committee and separating this from the increasing work of general catering which is required by the many events which take place at St Andrew's. Following a meeting of Churchwardens, Vicar, PCC representative and Social Committee Chair in July 2015, a clear division was made and the organisation of general catering work was taken on by Carol Maskell. Social Committee will support Carol in her work and continue to organise social events, which are non- fund-raising, for the enjoyment of the congregation and community.

Social Committee therefore continue to organise the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies with Carols on the Saturday before Christmas, Pancakes and Quiz Evening on Shrove Tuesday and The Lamb Supper which is an integral part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy in Holy Week. In addition Social Committee members provide a supper for the Deanery Greater Chapter which happens twice per year. Outings are occasionally arranged – generally in the summer. Unfortunately the 2015 summer outing had to be cancelled due to insufficient support making the cost per head for the bus too expensive.

All events organised by Social Committee in the past year have been enjoyable and successful. £250.00 was sent after the Pancakes and Quiz Evening to Braithwaite parish in the Carlisle diocese where people have been flooded out three times in the recent floods and the church is organising a "Shop in a Box" to provide flood victims with essential supplies

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Rosemary Baker, Convenor

In 2015 Guides were often in Church from April to October and sometimes in other months. We greet visitors, and if they wish, we show them aspects of the Church and its history. At present there are 9 Guides.

Sometimes visitors are very knowledgeable and it helps us!

Occasionally groups let us know they are coming. In June 40 came from Durham on a "mystery tour" before they then went on to Bywell Church. We were ready with 5 guides and refreshments.

Very occasionally visitors come prepared to take prayers in the Lady Chapel. Earlier on that day we had 12 visitors unexpectedly from Oxford.

In August Fay Dickinson had a party of 17 among them Japanese and Germans . We enjoy the variety!

In July 5 guides Robin and Mary Gray, Ron Gold, Fay Dickinson and Rosemary Baker were present when a WEA group visited. Joan Welsh had 20 Dutch visitors unexpectedly on her own !

Audrey Graham, Ian Hampton Graves, Tony Macdonald completed the team. We would welcome more.

Comments in the visitor's book are good to read:

"A warm and welcoming Church"

"I loved messy church"

"I enjoyed everything , especially the Altar Cloth"

"Beautifully kept"

"Wonderful windows"

Rosemary has now relinquished the role of Convenor of the Church Guides and we would like to Thank her for all she has done. Joan Welsh will take over at the beginning of the season

MUSICAL EVENTS

John Bishop Events Co Ordinator

In 2015, four (external) music events took place in addition to the ever brilliant Corbridge Chamber Music Festival. St. Andrew's played host to: the Orpheus Choir, the Da Vinci Quartet (for Tynedale Hospice) Royal Northern Sinfonia Players – a private concert for their Friends and joint choirs conducted by Glenn Davis who produced a worthy interpretation of Handel's Messiah. These four concerts provided £656 for Church Funds.

This will be my last annual report as the Fiesta account has now been amalgamated with Church finances.

May St. Andrew's continue to host wonderful musical events, both religious and secular, under its ancient rafters.

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

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.

The number of people visiting the website has steadily increased and we have recorded about 3700 hits since April last year.

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

The increased use of social media, smart phones and mobiles devices means it is essential to be able to communicate with as many people as possible. We now have a Twitter account and you can follow Corbridge Church using the following hashtag @CorbridgeChurc1.

PARISH NEWS

Simon A Hunter



The Parish News has successfully been produced 5 times since the last annual meeting with most issues being 4 or 8 pages.

We have reduced expenditure by people having the Parish News emailed to them. Over 125 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.

We are always looking for photos and information to go into the Parish News please email it to the Vicar.

FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick

West Northumberland Food Bank,

Food has been collected at St Andrews and taken into Hexham on a regular basis over the last two years. The work of the Food Bank has grown over that time... here are some extracts from coordinators report for October 2014 to September 2015.

In our second year of operation we aimed to improve access to the Food Bank and do more than provide food so we focused on Hexham as a pilot area to test out 2 new ways of addressing Food Poverty 'Eat Well For Less' and 'Welfare Rights Advocacy'. We have achieved everything we set out to do and more, and are now ready to build on year two by expanding our services to meet the growing needs of people facing poverty across West Northumberland.



Eat Well 4 Less

24 Hexham residents attended two 3 week courses at WNFB learning how to cook healthy food on an extremely limited budget.

“It has made me feel I can do anything”

“Thanks for a very valuable service”.

“These courses are brilliant, I’ve got all my family and friends making soup now, we’ve saved a fortune!”

Improving access to the Food Bank. Since West Northumberland Food Bank opened in June 2013 we have met over 2200 requests for help by distributing over 4100 bags of food to around 500 Households. These figures include distribution data from year 2 where we have dealt with 1035 requests for help from 320 households and distributed 1879 bags of food as follows;

Prudhoe. 372 bags of food to people and families in hardship in Prudhoe through our Distribution Partners including Sure Start Children’s Centre, Tynedale Floating Support Project for Adults with Learning Disabilities, The Spetchells Centre and our new Prudhoe Churches Together distribution centre

Hexham. 666 bags of food in Hexham through our Distribution Partners including Stopgap Homeless project, No28, Hexham Community Centre, Sure Start Children’s Centre, Hexham Youth Initiative, Barnardos Links as well as our own directly managed Distribution Centre in Hexham.

Haltwhistle. 601 bags of food in Haltwhistle through our Distribution Partners at the Adult Learning Service, Sure Start and Haltwhistle Churches Together.

Other. 240 bags were distributed directly to clients by our partner Distribution Agencies such Health Visitors and the Mental Health team as well as Children Services who also helped us distribute Christmas bags of seasonal food and treats to families they support in December 2014. This figure of 240 also included food bags distributed through our partners in some of the smaller towns and villages in West Northumberland including Bellingham Sure Start Children’s Centre and our new Allendale Churches Together Distribution Centre.

Trends.

3% of requests for help are due to under employment/low pay or starting a new job and waiting for first pay.

15% of requests for help are due to illness, such as hospital transport costs or no employers sick pay.

24% of requests for help are due to other reasons including escaping Domestic Violence, Homelessness, debt or a sudden increase in expenditure for families in particular school holidays, school uniforms and school transport as well as unexpected bills in particular fuel bills and or large appliance breakdown like washing machines and cookers.

Our client data during year 2 indicates 4 areas of concern

1. Welfare Reforms 44% of requests for help are due to benefit sanctions and benefit delays.

2. Rural hardship; Unemployed residents in rural locations are facing greater hardship due to limited access to the resources needed to maintain their JSA Claimant Commitment and job searches such as local internet access and affordable reliable transport into central locations.

3. Child Poverty It's estimated that around 1million children are fed by Food Banks in the UK and over 400 of them live in the households we support. Welfare reforms such as benefit sanctions and delays are contributing to Child Poverty across West Northumberland. During this period we dealt with at least 160 requests for help from people with families to support, the majority of which have children under 5 years old. 54 of those requests were due to reported benefit delays and 31 were due to reported benefit sanctions.

4. Long term use. Trends in usage have remained consistent. 52% of the people we have helped since we opened have only needed to visit us once as to get them through a tough week or a sudden short term crisis.

23% come to us 2-3 times often consecutively and need our support for a number of weeks, this is generally due to a new benefits claim delay particularly when someone has just lost their job or they have become unable to work and are navigating the benefits system for the first time and this is where our Welfare Rights Advocacy Service can be of help. Others may be living through or recovering from a benefit sanction or during those tough weeks at the start of a new job waiting for the first pay.

17% visit 4-9 times, largely people who we've helped in the past who have returned to us some months down the line when another problem has arisen. Around 8% of people who have used the Food Bank over 10 times even as many as over 30 times, some of these people have multiple problems pushing them into long term hardship such as addiction or poor mental health and need far more support than the Food Bank can offer alone.

Welfare Rights Advocacy

Since March 2015 a small dedicated team of trained Welfare Rights Advocates (WRAs) have been available on Monday Wednesday and Fridays from 10-12 to distribute food and support people in Hexham. In year 2 they helped 20 clients reporting benefit delays and benefit sanctions, needing help with new claims as well as some clients who have become recently unemployed.

All trainee WRAs have reported an improvement in their skills and knowledge. For instance 2 of our WRAs are unemployed and feel the training and experience as a volunteer Advocate will help them in general training for a job. Some comments for trainees,

"Thank you so much, I really don't know how I would have survived without the Food Bank"

A lady recovering from a stroke and facing a long delay for an ESA payment, her GP had referred her to WNFB after noticing a dramatic loss of weight.

"I have learnt not to be judgemental of vulnerable people"

"I have, learnt there is more to running a Food Bank than distributing food"



Public support, partnerships and Volunteering

With great support from our retail partners public have donated over £40,000 worth of Food since we opened and during year 2 we have grown our pool of volunteers to a small army of around 60 wonderful people in a variety of roles who all really do prove that..... *Together we can make a difference!*

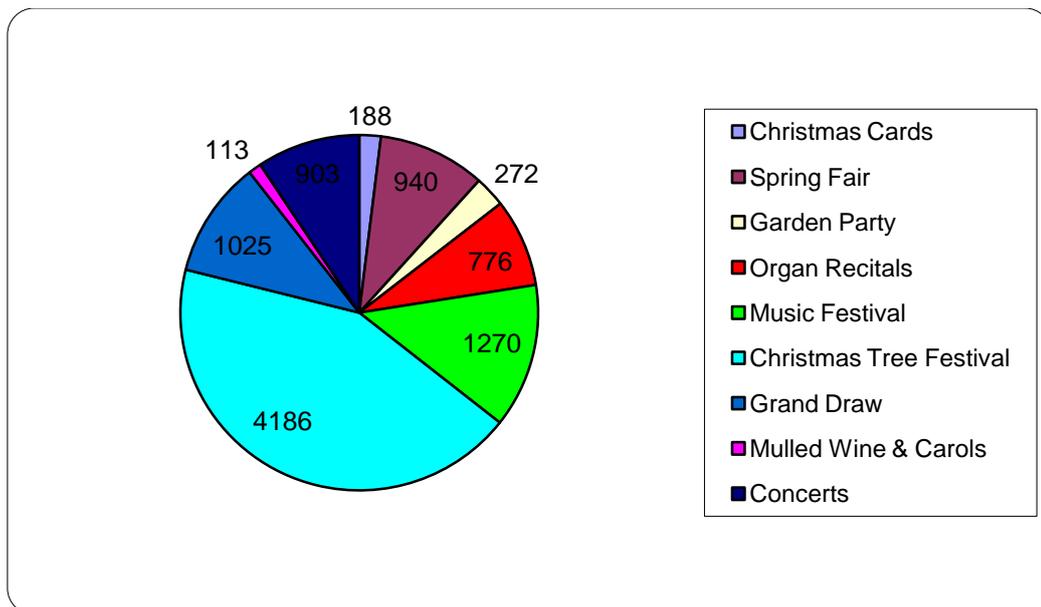
Taken from a report from Sam Gilchrist Project Coordinator

Thanks to all those who regularly contribute to the Food Bank, or who help out there. As the Summer approaches please remember that school holidays can put extra pressure on low income families....

FUNDRAISING

Linda E Hunter

We had fantastic year for FUNDRAISING



THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with this—your support has been much appreciated.

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

CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams

Re-reading the previous year's report for 2014/15 I have realised that the last twelve months have been more challenging due to fluctuating numbers and in particular fewer upper voices. However this has not dampened the enthusiasm or the dedication of the choir as a whole and we have maintained a regular choral presence every Sunday, singing the occasional choral evensong and made a significant contribution to Festival services.

A Lenten evensong began the period covered by this report, featuring appropriately reflective and sober music. This musically was in striking contrast with a further evensong in June for Trinity Sunday. In between was a sequence of music sung on Maundy Thursday, much of it unaccompanied, sung from the Lady Chapel using Marc's chamber organ when required. A different sound for a very different occasion, much appreciated by the congregation and the choir.

In April Jane Morris returned to university having contributed hugely to the soprano line and the overall sound of the choir in the few months she was with us, and is much missed – although she re-appears whenever she is home. Two other new members are now feeling well at home in the choir stalls: David Welsh brings a delightful tenor voice, and Mary Oswell has recently given us two sublime solos. Over the summer we enjoyed singing at several weddings, including two during August with specially requested music.

Autumn began with a delicious choir supper at Alice and Marc Bryant's house, and a practice for the Choral Evensong at Brinkburn Priory. The choir revelled in the wonderful acoustic of this ancient Priory. David Hewlett kindly came up to lead the service and the choir was thrilled that a few of the St Andrew's congregation came to support us. We are delighted that we have been asked to sing another evensong at Brinkburn in June.

In October we again hosted the now traditional RSCM Choral Celebration day, this time led by Margaret Rizza. This was a resounding success – Margaret was truly inspirational and her gentle sincerity, her very personal commentary on her approach to choral composition and the vital link between singing and spiritual awareness will long stay in the mind. The comments we have received from the diversely ecumenical participants have been without exception full of admiration and gratitude for a very special day. RSCM Northumbria greatly appreciates the opportunity to use St Andrews in this way – it is a brilliantly appropriate venue.

Particular thanks are due to Warwick Milne for helping with the 'stage management'.

The Remembrance Day Service was notable in that for the first time we were joined by the Middle School Choir to sing Faure's In Paradisum. This was much enjoyed by all the singers and we are hoping to work more with Bethany Fisher (the Head of Music) although it is proving difficult to find the right opportunity in relation to the time that Bethany has for rehearsal, but the will is there.

And then it was Christmas and Christmas Music. This year the choir supported the Middle School Carol Service, as well as the customary singing at the mulled wine/coffee morning, singing at the Abbeyfield Homes and marking the culmination of much hard work, the highly acclaimed Carol Service with an overflowing, spell-bound congregation

A critical part of the worship and music activities in St Andrews is the organ. Indeed, the church has a reputation well beyond its parochial status for its music, not only the regular Sunday worship and church festivals, but hosting a variety of musical events including the Corbridge Music Festival, the RSCM Choral Celebration days and organ recitals.

Many will not realise that it is now nearly 40 years since the organ was last refurbished, and the PCC and the congregation at that time had the vision to restore the organ as a future legacy for the worship at St Andrew's. Like all complicated instruments it will not go on for ever, and unquestionably is showing signs of age. John, Marc and myself have devoted a lot of time during the last twelve months considering how the church might develop a sustainable strategy for the organ, both for the short term and long term future, and to realistically consider the financial implications. At our prompting the PCC commissioned a detailed report in May 2015 by Paul Hale, an internationally acclaimed organ consultant who emphatically is of the opinion that the organ is worth looking after. More information on all of this is included in the PCC report.

What we do is very much as a team, but it would be amiss not to mention Margaret Cuthbert, choir secretary; Warwick Milne and John Bishop for looking after the music; Liz Collins for looking after the robes; and our two dedicated and constantly enthusiastic organists, John Ross and Marc Bryant. At the end of March the choir financial arrangements are changing and the Choir fund will be transferred to the main church account administered by the PCC treasurer. My sincere thanks to Liz McCoull who has acted as Choir treasurer for the last few years.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Linda E Hunter and Gilbert Marshall Churchwardens

2015 has kept us busy to maintain everything in good order and support the many Church activities which form part of our outreach programme. We are pleased to be able to record the completion of most of the works identified, and to acknowledge the teamwork necessary to handle the wide diversity in what we tackle.

We want to record our particular thanks to those who undertake the many routine jobs daily and weekly. In particular we want to record our thanks to Michael Rae who monitors ladder safety and oversees much of the building works we do and his work with David Welsh to keep the clock running sweetly and regulating village activities; to Colin Williams, John Ross and Marc Bryant as careful custodians of our organ to John Bishop and Warwick Milne for their patient setting-up of the raised flooring and readying of the church for the many musical events we host; to all those who 'lift and shift' and who help with the preparation of the church for our liturgical programme; to all who help with photocopying and respond to appeals by the Churchwardens for assistance. We would like to thank our teams of Church and Cottage cleaners.

We can report that the fabric of the Church is in serviceable condition and that all goods and ornaments are as required for Worship to take place in both St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

Statutory Requirements:

During the year the required inspections of fire fighting equipment have been made; the intruder detection equipment has been serviced; and the boilers have been tested and certified. When accidents occur the details are recorded in the book and it can be reported that none gave rise to the need to alter any procedures. In this connection it should be emphasised that Risk Assessments must be made for all activities which take place in the church.

Items of maintenance at Church of St. Andrew:

Church Clock:

The work needed to keep the clock mechanism in good condition was undertaken at the time of annual maintenance and cost £624.00.

Church Roof Leaks:

Quotations were obtained for repairs to the roof at the junction of the North Aisle and the North transept in the amount of £860.00. The contract was extended to cover repairs to the organ loft roof which was leaking and the cost of this work will be determined as the work proceeds. The work will now be undertaken in April subject to the weather.

Church Organ:

The Consultants report on the refurbishment of the organ gave an estimated cost of £111,000.00. The PCC decided that this amount was impossible for the church to consider and resolved that sufficient money should be made available to undertake the repairs necessary to keep the organ in operation as at present; and to plan to replace it at whatever time repairs to a value in excess of the purchase price of a modern church class of electric organ arose.

However, it has been drawn to our attention that a number of churches have made application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and have received amounts sufficient to cover the full cost of the works required. The Vicar has convened a steering group consisting of Churchwardens, Choir Master, Organists and Elliott Ward, and chaired by himself to examine the possibility of HLF funding. The first meeting was held on 17th March.

Minor works undertaken:

- Rearrangement of West End to improve access and safety.
- Energy supply contracts negotiated.
- Latch fixed on North Transept door.
- Repairs to piano legs and support frame.
- Hearse house doors repaired and painted.
- Cooling fans fitted to Sound System to avoid overheating in Summer.
- New shelves erected in Garage to store consumables and both garage and hearse house reorganised
- Replacement of high-level lights £365.
- Lighting controls serviced by Belazaire Controls £375.
- Disabled person ramp to give access to Lady Chapel and Chancel £ 350.
- Umbrella rings on rear pews repaired.
- New Union Jack flag purchased £150.
- Price obtained for Baptistery arch repairs £600.
- New water heater fitted in vestry
- Two chandeliers fitted with Light Emitting Diode bulbs £376.

We also purchased a new credence table and two small stools. The Choir

purchased a ctv system at a cost of £700.00

Churchyard Maintenance:

The churchyard maintenance is kept under review with Corbridge Parish Council and improvements to grass cutting and tree trimming have been agreed. We asked the Council if it would be acceptable to them for us to have the work done ourselves and to recover the cost from them and it was decided to review this in the next financial year.

Memorial Garden:

The engraving of the stone surround to the Memorial Garden has been brought up to date and there is now not much space left for more inscriptions. It will be necessary to consider continuation of the stone edging along the west side of the Garden.

Quinquennial Survey:

A new survey has been completed for St. Andrew's by our church architect Mr. Ian Ness. The report for St. Oswald's is outstanding and it is hoped that our Architect, when doing the inspection, will be able to check the parapet sealing at the South East end and recommend measures to reduce the water ingress on this wall.

We are in the process of formulating a plan of works in response to the items on the report.

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.

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.

Items of maintenance at Church of St. Oswald Halton.

Church heating:

The background heating has been in use this winter to reduce the effects of condensation.

Storm damage:

Repair work to the roof is in hand and will be undertaken when the winter is over. At the same time repairs to the hinge on the front gate will be undertaken. This work has been arranged by Sir Hugh and we extend our thanks for that.

We hold evensong in Halton Chapel on the day of the Red Cross Open Gardens – this year Evensong will be held on Sunday 19th June at 5.00pm

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

The new windows in the cottage are a huge improvement and making the building looking a lot smarter.

Volunteers are cleaning the cottage on a rota basis. Thanks to those good people.

The mother and toddlers group has started again and seems to be very popular. Embroidery group continues to provide regular income. Jubilate choir are rehearsing on some Thursday evenings.

Other Items of Maintenance – The cottage.

General:

Boiler repaired and retested.

The cottage windows were repaired and redecorated at a cost of £ 3070.

Upholstered chairs cleaned.

Replacement lights purchased for main room, LED type £210.

New cupboard installed to hold Messy Church equipment

SAFEGUARDING

Linda E Hunter Parish Safeguarding Officer

There is a growing understanding that protecting children, young people and adults at risk is at the centre of our faith. Safeguarding is about creating churches that are safe spaces for everyone; spaces where children and adults can flourish and fulfil their potential.

TOWARDS A SAFER CHURCH: CREATING A SAFE SPACE the Diocesan Policy and Procedures document is based on National Documentation and gives an easy to read set of guidelines for the Diocese and Parishes to follow. All Parishes have been asked to carry out a Safeguarding audit which our Parish Safeguarding Group did over the Summer.

The PCC agreed to:

- Adopt the written Safeguarding Policy for the Parish
- Approve the Safe Practice Guidelines
- Agree the reviewed Safer Recruitment process for both volunteers and paid employees
- Support the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Vicar in encouraging volunteers to attend Diocesan training
- Approve Junior Church, Messy Church and the Choir to undertake work that will involve children and young people
- Agree the process of cascading information about safe working practices and safer recruitment to those who lead groups

An extensive Diocesan Training Programme has been produced and those working in positions requiring information / training were asked to attend. 19 members of our Parish have attended Diocesan Safeguarding Training with some booked onto courses later on this year.

In order to ensure that we are fully compliant with all current legislation we are asking all members of the following groups: Messy Church Team, PCC, Church Guides, Choir, and Flower Arrangers to complete volunteer registration forms. Each person will be given a set of Safe Working Practice Guidelines.

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

CREATING A SAFE SPACE : Keeping Safe on Church Premises (previously known as Health and Safety)

The Church Wardens 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 are always keeping up to date, and our updated Health and Safety Manual will go to the PCC in September.

Please note that further detailed information may be obtained by reading the documents which can be downloaded from the Diocesan website:

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sheila Goldsworthy, Convenor

The Flower ladies produce lovely flowers each week. Flowers from the garden and the Super markets, all stunning. The list is on the notice board in the North Transept for your chosen dates and the name of the monthly duty flower ladies, all ready to arrange your flowers. You may like to arrange your own, which would be lovely. Celebrate a birthday or anniversary with us all.

You will have noticed that the porch always has a lovely welcome, for you and all the visitors we have from around the world. We are very lucky in having beautiful gardens in Corbridge to "Prune"

If there are flower arrangers, water and sort ladies who would like to join our teams, please contact Sheila Goldsworthy 632595 A huge "Thank You" for all the donations you give to The Easter Box and the Christmas donation boxes

PRAYER GROUP

Tony Macdonald, Leader

We have been debating the future of the group. It has been in existence for some 25 years and it is difficult to draw in new participants, so perhaps it is time to think of something different. We have concluded that as prayer is so essential in the life of the Church, prayer from us the laity must continue and we must go on much as we have been.

A way forward, however, appears to be to join on a regular basis with members of the other congregations in Corbridge. Therefore there will be a regular monthly meeting with them to be held on the morning of the first Saturday of each month, at 10.00 am in the Methodist Church Hall. The St.Andrews group will continue with the Friday morning meetings (at 9.30 for 1/2 hour in the cottage), except on that first week of the month.

We would be pleased if others could join us in these collective prayer meetings, and we will of course include prayers for anyone whose names are given to us - confidence will be kept.

Notice of meetings will be in the weekly bulletin.

HOMEGROUP

Max and Monica Philbrick and Paul Morris

St Andrew's has one home group, which doesn't operate continuously but meets for short series of discussions at various times in the year. The period from Easter to the summer is always difficult with people often being away, and in 2015 we managed just one meeting, when everyone was invited to come along and share a favourite poem, hymn or Bible passage. During the autumn we spent seven evenings looking at the remarkable life of Elijah: often kept waiting by God for long periods, he warned the idolatrous king Ahab of a coming drought, then intervened dramatically before the prophets of Baal to demonstrate that the LORD was truly God. Only days later he fled in fear of his life from the infamous Jezebel! What a fascinating character and a major spiritual leader, despite being very human and flawed – quite encouraging for us ordinary people!

During Advent we met in parallel with the Methodist home group, working through a book of reflections (The Meaning is in the Waiting, by Paula Gooder) on how

several Biblical characters – from Abraham to Mary – lived with waiting, often for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

In Lent we again ran ecumenically with the Methodists, and were joined by several of them – just as some of our regulars went along to their Tuesday sessions. Using a York Course, featuring contributions on CD from several speakers, and written notes from Bishop Stephen Cottrell, we read and discussed 5 different Psalms and some of the questions they raised. Perhaps those of us who only go to the 9.30 service are missing out on ‘a library of praise and petition for us to build our prayers upon’.

The Home Group is currently lead by Max Philbrick, with Paul Morris playing guitar for us when we sing. We have had up to 15 people fitted comfortably(?) into Max and Monica’s front room. New members are very welcome.

CORBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

REPRESENTATIVES: Richard Dixon, Max Philbrick, Elizabeth Robson

Summary from Corbridge Deanery Synod for the year 2015 from Deanery Secretary Elaine Ryder

Finance: main item of February meeting at Stamfordham. Parishes have worked together during 2015, with more transparency and support leading to a greater proportion of requested Parish Share paid.

Mission: main item of May meeting at Riding Mill. Parishes were encouraged by Revd Canon John Sinclair to think about Mission Weekends, and how to share the Good News in their communities.

Disability: In October at Wylam, Revd Bill Rigby and Revd Ben Pullan helped Synod members to reflect on barriers that may be present for those with a wide range of disabilities who would wish to engage with the church, and how churches may address these issues.

Deanery Development: The Deanery Development Group has met during the year, and a Deanery wide day was held in October, to address how the Deanery might be organised in such a way as to enable ministry and mission to be most effective, especially in the light of reducing numbers of stipendiary clergy, and fewer people offering for house for duty posts.

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
- Village Christmas card
- In addition the prayer groups at The Methodist Church and St. Andrew's meet and pray together.
- Members from the Methodist Congregation are on the planning team for Messy Church

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

We began our year, as always, with our AGM at the Wheatsheaf. This was a most enjoyable evening. Thanks to Rosemary and Sheila for all their hard work in organising this.

Our topics for our monthly meetings have been varied. We started the year with a most illuminating talk by Ingrid Kilner about her life in Baghdad, everyone enjoyed the evening when Vicky Moffitt talked about how she and Peter set up and ran the Vallum, she kindly distributed vouchers for us to use in the restaurant. Diane Bell and her daughter took us back in time when they talked about, and showed us, memorabilia from their Museum of time which was centred round the books she had written about Mr George the clock man. Carol Tree really made us think when she showed us photographs of the work setting up a Nursery she and a small group of volunteers were trying to carry out in Africa. She brought a small stall and many of us brought items from it. A return visit from Tony Atkinson enabled us to learn more about another historical character – Charles, 2nd Earl Gray. As ever this was a fascinating evening. We rounded off our year with a fashion show of Vintage dresses. The model Jane Orange elegantly showed off the variety of styles from over the years, whilst she making quick changes Gabby entertained us with a range of garments from her suitcases.

We had a very successful Saturday morning to raise money for our charities when we had a variety of stalls outside the Lych gate. Our Summer Outing to Hexham Abbey Heritage Centre was an opportunity to see the new developments combined with a delicious meal served by the Abbey restaurant.

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 Cancer Relief India and the Charlotte Straker Project. We also collected items of medication and toys for Cankids and clothing for the People's Kitchen.

We have 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 Liz Buckley 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

David Watson, Chair of Governors and Jennifer Ainsley, Headteacher Ofsted Inspection Report

The school was inspected in October 2015 and was graded as a GOOD school. The summary states

This is a good school because:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is improving quickly as a result of stable, clear-sighted leadership. The headteacher, fully supported by the staff team, has improved teaching and as a result standards have risen and rates of pupils' progress are increasing.• Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 make consistently good progress in all subjects. Those pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding and those with disabilities or special educational needs make the same good rates of progress as other pupils.• Teaching is good. School staff have received well-targeted training to develop their expertise. They assess children's capabilities accurately and throughout Key Stages 1 and 2 plan activities which extend pupils' learning.• Pupils arrive to school punctually and attendance is above the national average.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils behave well both in class and at lunchtime. The vast majority cooperate well, are polite and have a positive attitude to learning.• Pupils feel safe. They have trusted relationships with adults in school. They have a well-developed understanding of how they can keep themselves safe, including when using technology.• The curriculum in Key Stages 1 and 2 is well organised to ensure that children make good progress. Tailored programmes help pupils catch up when they fall behind and the use of specialist teachers enhances pupils' skills and capabilities.• Governance is effective. Governors have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They use their knowledge well to hold school leaders to account.
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The school is not yet outstanding because:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early years requires improvement. Not enough children make the good or better progress of which they are capable. They are not challenged sufficiently to think deeply and the activities provided do not stretch them enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes teachers' challenge to pupils is not enough to help them make more rapid progress. • Middle leaders do not yet check the quality of teaching and as a result they do not contribute
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We are very proud of all that has been achieved to date and we are working hard to continue our focused journey on becoming an outstanding school.

Leadership

Headteacher, Ms Jennifer Ainsley, (appointed in September 2014) supported by Ms Louise Storey, Deputy Headteacher and SEND leader, (appointed in April 2015) continue to drive school improvement with the support of a dedicated and knowledgeable Governing Body.

Mr David Watson, (Chair of Governors), and Andrew Neal (Vice Chair) are scheduled to meet regularly with the Headteacher to monitor and support whole school improvement.

The Governing Body offers support and challenge and is active in monitoring key aspects of school life, including standards, curriculum, worship and value for money. We wish to thank Jeff Wilkinson for his dedicated service as a member of the Governing Body as he has now left his post. We have two appointments underway which will create a complete Governing Body on their conclusion.

Staffing

Our staff team has been further strengthened this year with the appointment of Mrs Nicola Burton, an experienced middle leader. We have two newly qualified teachers in post on temporary contracts, one of whom is covering a maternity leave.

The appointment of Barbara Shevlin in the school office has transformed communication and her skills have again strengthened our team.

We continue positively on our journey with clear planning to achieve our goals.

With God's guidance we strive each day to be the best we can be.