

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



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **for year ending**

### **31st March 2017**

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, at 11.00 a.m.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 11.00am.
3. Election of Churchwardens  
Linda Hunter and Michael Collins 2 vacancies
4. Financial Statement to include charitable giving Cliff Wright
5. Reports in this booklet

PCC Annual Report 2017

Electoral Roll

Vicar's Report

Maureen Davison

Rev David Hewlett

#### **Children and Youth Work**

Junior Church

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church

Louise Stubbs

#### **Outreach and Communication**

Catering

Carol Maskell

Social Committee

Rev Jenny Kinnaird

Musical Events

John Bishop

Church Welcomers /Guides

Elizabeth Collins

Website

Simon A Hunter

Parish News

Simon A Hunter

Food bank

Monica Philbrick

Fundraising

Cliff Wright

Church Music

Colin Williams

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Linda E Hunter and

Michael Collins

Church Cottage

Suzette Milne

Safeguarding

Linda E Hunter

Church Flowers  
Prayer Group  
Julian Group  
Home Group  
Corbridge Deanery Synod  
Women's Fellowship  
Corbridge C of E First School

Sheila Goldsworthy  
Tony Macdonald  
Barbara McNamara  
Max Philbrick  
Max Philbrick  
Linda E Hunter  
Jennifer Aynsley &  
David Watson

## 6. Elections

### **Deanery Synod**

Max Philbrick, Elizabeth Robson

3 vacancies

### **Parochial Church Council**

Monica Philbrick, Mike Stephenson (2014 – 2017) retiring

David Preece (2015 – 2018)

Jennifer Herrmann, Michael Rae, (2016 – 2019) Jennifer Wright (2016 – 2017)

5 vacancies (2 for 1 year and 3 for 3 years)

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

The Vicar welcomed all those who were present.

**PRESENT:**

Revd David Hewlett (vicar), Revd Julie Robson and 36 laity.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from John & Barbara McNamara, Max & Monica Philbrick, Jenny Kinnaird, Bridget Lay, Gill McDonald, Michael Priestley, Pat Harvey, Monica & Campbell Matthews, Rosemary Baker.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:**

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were approved unanimously and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:**

Gilbert Marshall and Linda Hunter were elected and huge thanks given by the Vicar for their on-going service and commitment.

**4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

The Vicar outlined the accounts are a team effort & gave thanks to the team. The Treasurer gave a brief presentation of the previous year's accounts which are slightly different from the years prior in order to keep in line with the Statement of good practice.

Questions from the laity were invited and answered by the Treasurer which included thoughts about the impact of the referendum/leaving European Union; planned giving; investments.

**5. REPORTS:**

The Vicar invited comments of the reports from the Annual report booklet assuming all present had read the document.

Discussions on the following :

- Church Organ – the future of it and funding, the Vicar explained there is a small working group looking at funding.
- Safeguarding – the Church has a team ensuring safeguarding requirements are being met.
- 8 regular members of the congregation have died in the previous 12 months and this has an impact on the attendance
- Children in Church – the Vicar asks members to be mindful of the wider vision of the Church with several congregations other than Sunday morning mentioning the success of Messy Church.

The Vicar gave thanks to all for the document.

## **6. ELECTIONS:**

### **Parochial Church Council:**

The Vicar gave thanks to:

Retiring members : John Bishop, John McNamara, Jennifer Wright (2013-2016).

Following members continuing : David Welsh, Mike Stephenson, Monica Philbrick (2014 – 2017);

David Preece (2015 – 2018)

5 vacancies

Two nominations received for the 5 vacancies to be filled – Michael Rae & Jennifer Herman no further offered.

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

The Treasurer is hoping Roger Jones is willing to continue.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Churchwardens gave their thanks to the Vicar for the past year who replied by giving thanks for all the support he receives.

The Vicar spoke about David and Joan Welsh who are off to pastures new and gave huge thanks for their contribution to the Church over the past 20 years.

**The meeting closed at 1150hrs with thanks to all for their attendance.**  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016**

**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.

We have a new **Diocesan Vision - Growing church bringing hope**: this expresses a deep longing to see our worshipping communities growing in numbers, in prayer and discipleship, in serving our communities, above all in making a difference - sharing the hope we have, which is the power of God to transform us and our world.

Bishop Christine says This vision - **growing church bringing hope** - is for everybody, and it is my hope and prayer that in the weeks, months, and years ahead it will help us to determine our priorities and focus our precious resources even more effectively."

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 Priest (NSM):	Rev Julie Robson
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Gilbert Marshall (to July 2016) Michael Collins (from November 2016)

**Representatives on the Deanery Synod:**

Richard Dixon, Max Philbrick Elizabeth Robson

## **Elected Members:**

Jennifer Herrmann  
David Preece

Monica Philbrick  
David Welsh

Michael Rae  
Mike Stephenson

Co opted

Cliff Wright, Jane Stephenson, Jennifer Wright

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting.

**Members:** Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and one elected member. Our elected member was Richard Dixon

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

Five meetings of the PCC and 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 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% this will not be maintained or continued due to a number of our regular givers who are no longer with us. If you feel you could give regularly by standing order please speak to Cliff or one of the Churchwardens

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 Marie Curie

**APPOINTMENTS:** Thanks should be extended to:

Jenny Kinnaird who has been **Chair of the Social Committee** and for all those who have worked tirelessly on the Social Committee. We thank you for all that you have done.

Carol Maskell who has been **Catering Co-ordinator** and first contact for all Church catering needs. Thank you Carol for all you have done.

**MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION:** As the revised time of 11.30am did not prove successful the Wednesday morning communion service reverted back to 10.00am.

**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, if you have please send them to Simon Hunter at [sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk) We are also looking for a small group of say 6 people who could take on the copying and delivery of the 45 paper copies that are delivered out.

**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. We have our annual and well loved Chamber Music Festival which brings a lot of people into church over the weekend. Thanks to Warwick and John for all their hard work with this.

John Bishop has liaised with those who want to put on musical events in church, and organised concerts over the last year. Thank you John for your hard work.

**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. However, every year we struggle to find people to take on the work of collecting. Can you help this year?

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 the year there were 177 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year there has been 1 addition, 3 moved away and 2 deletions. The current total is 173.

<b>ADDITIONS</b>
Elizabeth Solomon

<b>DELETIONS</b>	
<b>RIP</b>	<b>Moved Away</b>
Gilbert Marshall Jeremy Handley	David Welsh Joan Welsh Mena Cunningham

## **VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**Rev. David Hewlett**

In November I would have been Vicar here for 9 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!

However, the time has come for retirement as I will be 68 in May and family ties are stretched living up here as we do.

My last Sunday will be 28<sup>th</sup> May. Tessa joins me in thanking you for making us so 'at home' in Corbridge, and for your sharing in the ministry of God's church here.

I gave up being Area Dean on 31<sup>st</sup> January. leaving my successor with vacant parishes: Prudhoe, Bywell, Stocksfield, Mickley, Ovingham, Wylam and Snods Edge. Managing those vacancies was a monumental task and a huge 'Thank You' to those who supported by tweaking services and those who supported here in Corbridge, especially Julie.

So very soon, Corbridge will be in vacancy. During this time, the Area Dean as the "Vicar" and the Churchwardens will have the responsibility, under law, for the running of the benefice. I am sure, too, that Julie will be involved and that her ministry in the vacancy will be vital and remain greatly appreciated. The Archdeacon will consult with the Churchwardens and processes will be put in place to produce a Statement of Need and a Parish Profile. The appointment process will be organised and over seen by our patrons: The Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral.

I wish you all, and my successor, every blessing in the ongoing joyful task of ministry in this place.

### **People**

During this year Gilbert Marshall our much loved, Churchwarden battled with cancer until his strength gave out. He died peacefully with family at The Marie Curie Hospice. We are so grateful to him for his sheer "good-heartedness", his love of people and of St, Andrew's church and for the idiosyncratic methods he had in keeping certain parts of the building functioning. Some of these are still unsolved puzzles! May he rest in Peace and live with our Lord in Glory.

Julie has now completed her period 'in training' and should now be referred to as 'Assistant Priest' not 'curate'. 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.

I want to pay tribute to Linda, not only as Churchwarden, lone Churchwarden following Gilbert's death, but also as a Reader leading worship at St. Andrew's and facilitator of the Messy Church planning group.

Mike Collins has been elected as our new churchwarden and I am so grateful to him [and his family] for taking on this task.

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.

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 our catering facilitator, especially for her ability to recruit and 'bring in' new people to St. Andrews through asking them to be involved in catering and events in general. We wish her and Duke well in their up and coming move.

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 the eM publication launched so professionally. Are you on the eM 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 47 in 2016 and 3 so far in 2017 and it is only 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We said final farewells to a number of people who have been associated with St. Andrews down the years, in particular Gilbert Marshall, Sheila Gordon, Gerry Price, Mary Hornsby, Jeremy Handley & Rosemary Speirs. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Weddings:** 8 celebrated here in 2016, with 14 booked already for 2017. 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. 19 in 2016. We are now following up baptism families and making sure, they are invited to Messy Church and other appropriate events at St. Andrew's.

Thank You to Brenda who looks after those who come for baptisms, weddings and funerals in her role as vergger.

## **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. Andrew's: 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 our Methodist friends and so many from our other congregations are involved in the planning and the delivery of 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.

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 the always lively, Bishop Stephen Pedley, retired Bishop of Lancaster as the preacher at our Festival Choral Communion.

Grateful thanks to those who facilitate the Friday Prayer Group; to the Philbricks for using their homes to host the House Group; and to Barbara McNamara & Helga Marshall for hosting the newly formed Julian Prayer Group.

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 so much that we repeated it again in 2017

## **Schools**

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 The Middle School and Linda contributes 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. I will make sure my pale attempt is left in the parish when I leave.

The Flower Festival was a marvel of colour, organisation and hard work. Thanks to all who helped, and brokered co-operation.

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.

We welcomed +Mark, Bishop of Berwick, to the Diocese in December. He visited the Deanery in January and was very impressive as a listener, vivid communicator and a person of ideas and drive.

### **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 [until 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 17] - Where the vacancies have proliferated.

A member of The Continuing Ministerial Development Task group.

A member of the Local Ministry Task group

A Bishops mentor ( part of the process for supporting clergy going through difficulties)

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 are delighted and privileged to have been in Corbridge and to serve this parish, and hope that church and community will welcome and look after my successor with warmth and affection.

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

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.

### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

**Louise Stubbs, Leader**

The average attendance from March 2016 to March 2017 has again been limited to two or three children but with slightly fewer sessions having zero attendance. Numbers are occasionally boosted by visiting children. They are made most welcome to join us. Junior Church continues to be available every Sunday except during school holidays. Junior Church is for children aged four to nine years old.

Monica Philbrick and I continue as leaders. Our planning is largely led by materials suggested in the 'Living Stones' series of books which focus on the Church's year and provide us with activities suitable for all ages. Junior Church resources and Messy Church resources have been merged and reorganised providing a wealth of materials for both groups.

A children's corner is also always available in Church for all children where Play bags are also stored.

Children are encouraged to be involved with morning services whenever this is appropriate.

### **Activities have included;**

**Mothering Sunday ( 6.3.16)** The theme was 'What does a mum do?' and initially involved listing the essential and desirable qualities a mum requires. The service was led by members of the Messy Church Team. Prayers for Mothers around the world in different situations were read out. All the prayers, readings and hymns reflected the theme. Pot plants were distributed, by the children present, to all ladies in the congregation.

**Easter (16.3.16)** An Easter garden was constructed outside the church entrance for the first time as it has usually been set up in Church. This was organised by Julie Robson and David Preece.

Corbridge First School pupils were involved with the designing and making of the garden with support from their teachers. Julie made a display, in church, of all the children's designs. The garden was appreciated by everyone visiting church and made a wonderful focal point. On **Palm Sunday (20.3.16)** children and adults followed the donkey procession to St. Andrew's Church. Many of us carried and waved palm leaves. On **Easter Day (27.3.16)** an egg hunt took place in the Church grounds. This was not as well attended as in previous years but those present enjoyed the hunt. After the hunt children were invited to the cottage to view a short video of 'God's Easter'. Everyone was offered chocolate eggs at the end of the service.

**Christingle (4.12.16)** This was led by Linda Hunter with members of the Messy Church Team reading at various points during the service. As in previous Christingle services everyone in the congregation was invited to make a Christingle using the packs provided. Linda explained the process, step-by-step, and the meaning of each item as the Christingles were assembled. Twenty seven children attended and they helped distribute the Christingle packs to the congregation. The now annual **Tree Festival** coincided with our Christingle service giving the whole church a special atmosphere with beautifully decorated Christmas trees in every available space. The Festival ran from 2.12.16-5.12.16. It was extremely well supported and Young People were well represented by the local school, Play group, Nursery, Messy Church and different organisations in the immediate community.

**Crib Service** This was held on Christmas Eve with three hundred and thirty one people in attendance. The theme was 'Hunting for clues for the Christmas story'

On **Christmas Day** the family service was led by Rev. David Hewlett. As is now customary, the children were invited to bring along a gift and tell the congregation about it. Some children showed great restraint and managed to bring an unopened gift which was exciting for them and the congregation.

## **MESSY CHURCH**

### **Louise Stubbs**

Looking back it is hard to believe that Messy Church began in 2011. Much has been done to develop the Messy Church afternoons and make them such an important part of our Church life and Family. The Messy Church Team has grown in size and expertise. Every member contributes to the planning and their ideas and suggestions are always valued. Linda Hunter chairs our meetings allowing our time to be spent productively but we always have time for a cup of tea and chat!

Messy Church continues to take place on a monthly basis except for the months of August and December. This necessitates regular planning meetings where we review the previous Messy Church and 'iron' out any issues before planning our next theme. There is always a brief Bible study which underpins the current theme being planned.

The Methodist representatives Heather Wilson, Audrey Graham, Brenda Mearns, Duncan Walne, Rev. Jane Cook and Diane Wylie (New Methodist Preacher) all continue to give us their support and enthusiasm which is greatly appreciated.

Publicity has been heightened with the purchase of a huge banner which is put up in the Church grounds on the days preceding our Messy Day. This has encouraged visitors to drop in and stay including members of our community who have visited and then stayed for tea. We have gained very positive feedback from visitors and our regular families. Max Philbrick continues to produce our flyers which are distributed in Church and School and also produces some amazing designs for table top games.

Monica, Ian and Paul form the Celebration group and lead the singing. Everyone enjoys this part of the afternoon and Monica's enthusiasm never wanes.

Sue Neve, Gail Bright, Kath Abraham, Warwick and Suzette Milne have all been involved in quietly producing an enjoyable tea for us all. The children currently sit at one long table/tables with all their food ready at the given time. Tea time is more inclusive with parents and visitors being encouraged to have tea at the same time and then mingle /chat with other parents and helpers. The menu has been varied but 'hot dogs' have proved to be very popular with children and adults.

At the beginning of September 2016 the resources stored in the cottage were given a complete overhaul and more shelf space added. Resources are available for all team members to use. The PCC have allocated money, to Messy Church, to enable us to purchase books and set up a lending library for children, parents and helpers. Various titles have been suggested and we are grateful to the 'Forum' bookshop who are going to source the books for us.

Numbers for this year have varied between 14- 45 children and 30- 40 adults. On two of our best days we had 45 children and 39 adults (9.10.16) then 42 children and 44 adults (13.11.16)

Themes this year have included Messy Spring, Messy Birthday (Pentecost) Messy Water (postponed due to events taking place in the village to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), Messy Olympics, I am the real vine, I am the good Shepherd, Journeys and David and Goliath. From September 2016 it was decided not to include the word

'messy' in our theme titles. Themes have been set for the year up until July 2017. The list is available for parents.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is involved with Junior Church, Messy Church and all young people in St. Andrew's and our wider community. In particular, I would like to thank Linda for her unstinting dedication to Messy Church and her expert leadership. Also, a big thank you to all the members of the Messy Church Team who make Messy Church so special for all concerned.

## **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 particularly the Catering team please let us know.

## **OUTREACH**

### **CATERING CO ORDINATOR**

#### **Carol Maskell**

During the last year there have been two large catering events. The first, the Flower Festival was held in September. Initially we planned to serve cakes and biscuits, with hot and cold drinks, in the cottage; leaving the Church with more space for visitors to see the flowers. This wasn't what the visitors wanted. Short of customers, because the visitors were reluctant to travel the short distance between the Church and the cottage, we decided to move the refreshments to the back of the church and serve from there. Charging for refreshments--giving a set price for an unlimited number of drinks and a piece of cake--proved also to be unpopular, so we reverted to donations and at last everyone was happy!

Throughout August and early September there were Friday lunch time organ recitals, where the audience were encouraged to bring their own simple lunches, and tea/coffee and cold drinks with biscuits were served.

In October I stopped being Catering Co-ordinator.

The Christmas Tree festival was approaching and it was decided that instead of one

person supervising the five days as previously, the catering for each of the five days would be organised by one or two members from a team. As always, the congregation was generous with their contributions of mince pies and shortbread, and also with their time. They helped during quite long days, to serve, clear and set tables, and wash up. The new arrangement worked well.

However, we do now need somebody (or bodies) to do the work of the Catering Co-ordinator. We all enjoy the fruits of the work the Social Committee does, their mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas, the pancake quiz night at the beginning of Lent and the Maundy Thursday lamb supper which they organise and provide. But the Committee works independently.

Occasionally unexpected catering events occur. If there is no-one or no team responsible for these, the organisation must inevitably fall on Linda and Mike. Their work-load will increase dramatically when the interregnum begins, and I'm sure they won't want catering as an additional responsibility.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS**

### **Rev. Jenny Kinnaird**

In the past year, since the 2016 ACM, the Social Committee have organised four events. In June we held a Royal Quiz Night with Coronation Chicken Supper to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The last Saturday before Christmas was the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Morning with carols from the choir and the Drawing of the Christmas Raffle.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Quiz Evening has become a firm favourite and a fun evening was had by all.

In Holy Week we kept Maundy Thursday with a Lamb Supper with music from the choir, the reading of the Passion story and the stripping of the altars. This is always a very moving occasion as we remember the events leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord.

As we go forward into an Interregnum and into a new Incumbency the time is right for a change. From this ACM, 2017, the current Social Committee will be disbanded. Membership of the committee has been depleted recently and all attempts to recruit more members failed. The church has a Catering Manager and very active teams, led by the churchwardens, organising major events.

I thank all who have worked so hard and with great commitment over the years.

## **MUSICAL EVENTS**

### **John Bishop**

St. Andrew's continues to be a popular venue for musical events. These included the music of Lander Mason, the annual Friends of Northern Sinfonia an event led by Glen Davis for talented young singers and a well attended Choral evening from the Orpheus Choir under the inspirational baton of their conductor Mark Edwards.

In August we had our popular Chamber Music Festival when we welcomed the Gould and friends to St. Andrew's.

## **CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES**

### **Elizabeth Collins, Convenor**

Liz Collins, Joan Welsh, Ron Gold, Fay Dickinson, Rosemary Baker, Audrey Graham, Robin and Mary Gray, Anne King-Lewis, Ian Hampton-Graves Tony Macdonald and Colleen Petrie.

In 2016 Guides were in church from March to October. At present we have 11 guides who greet visitors and guide visitors, if they wish, around our beautiful church. Over that time we saw approximately 1281 visitors who were recorded on the times and days that our guides were in church.

Visitors arrived in church from as far away as New Zealand, America, Germany, France and The Netherlands. Leaving behind them lovely remarks such as 'Stunningly peaceful church' and 'Inspirational place' in our visitor book. Of course we had many UK visitors who also enjoyed spending some reflective time in church, all leaving a story or two with our guides.

We had a party of Durham University students visit with their Professor in June as part of their studies. A party of 26 Archaeology students who were walking the Wall also popped in in September as part of their studies.

Joan and myself were delighted to show a lovely party of Year 3 pupils from Mowden Hall School in October. Their enthusiasm and boundless questions kept us on our

toes. Also our own Corbridge First Cof E First School also had a class visit as part of their Buildings Curriculum .

Joan Welsh on moving to Guisborough has relinquished her role, which has now been taken by Liz Collins.

**WEBSITE St. Andrew's Church Website. ([www.corbridgechurch.org.uk](http://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 5,000 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](mailto: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](mailto:sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk) to be put onto the data base.

## **FOODBANK**

### **Monica Philbrick**

West Northumberland Food Bank was a project hosted by Hexham Community Partnership and is now an independent charity set up specifically to help people in hardship across Hexham, Prudhoe and Haltwhistle, as well as surrounding towns and villages. It does this primarily from the Food Bank (based at Hexham Enterprise Hub, Burn Lane). The Food Bank also runs "Eat Well for Less" cookery sessions and a Welfare Rights Advocacy service. The five trustees employ one part-time Project Coordinator who supports around 80 local volunteers in a variety of roles. The Burn Lane unit is the hub of the food distribution network (where some of our congregation also volunteer) and donations received at St Andrew's are taken there every week. The location of the collection point in church means donations come from the wider Corbridge community too.

### **Why is a Food Bank needed?**

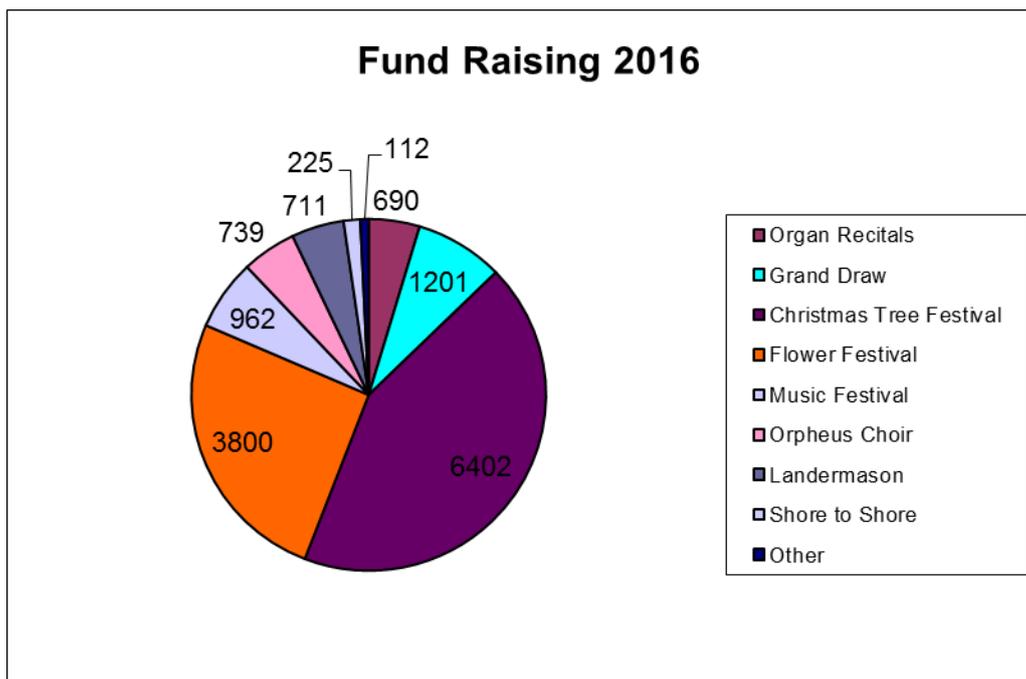
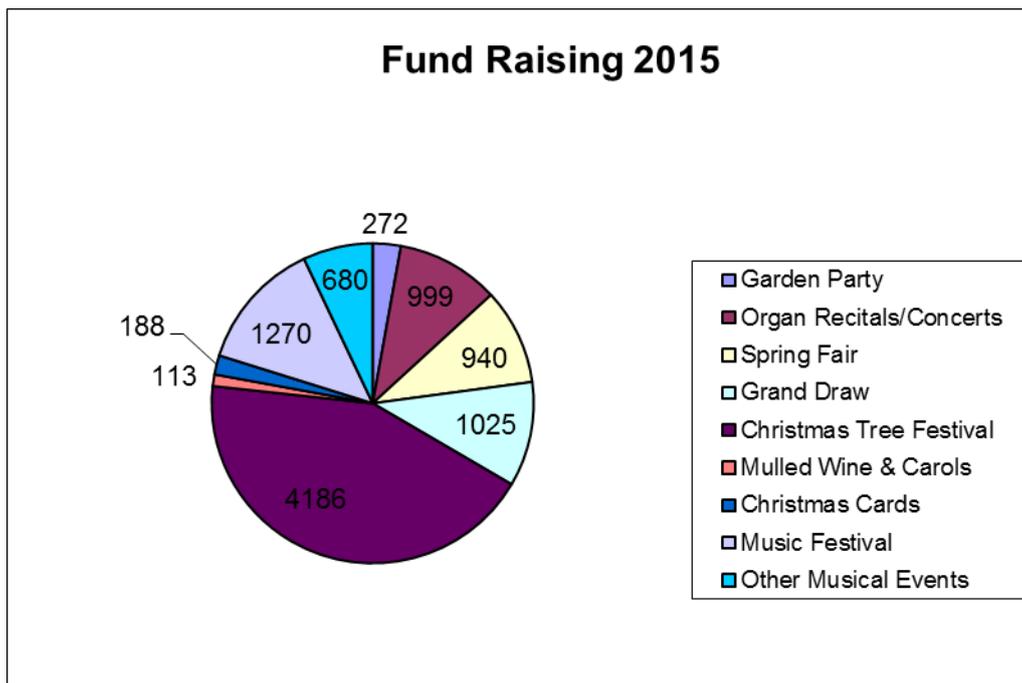
During the last 12 months 2100 food bags have been distributed to 245 households with 302 adults and 186 children.

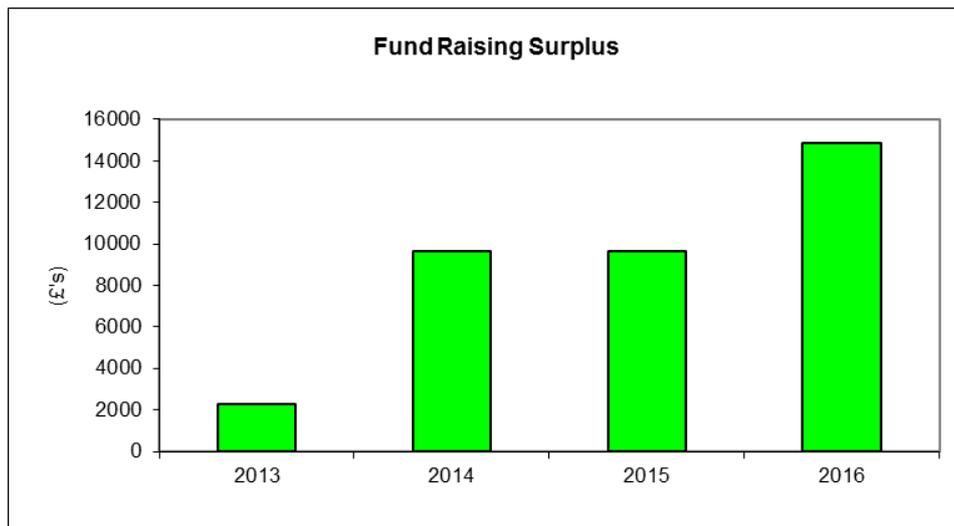
52% of the people helped since the Food Bank opened have only needed to visit once to get them through a tough week or a sudden short term crisis. The rest need support for a number of weeks and sometimes months: this is generally due to a new benefits claim delay, particularly when someone has just lost their job or is unable to work through sickness or disability. They may be navigating the benefits system for the first time. To help people in this position there is a Welfare Rights Advocacy service staffed by volunteers.

This year St Andrew's ran a "Reverse Advent" calendar – encouraging people to give something each day of Advent. We collected extra food, toiletries and Christmas gifts in early December, which the Food Bank distributed to families before Christmas. Donations received later helped to fill the inevitable post-Christmas gap, especially for families with children on holiday. Clearly some supporters entered into the spirit of this, as the donations filled our car boot!

Thank you to those who regularly donate, and to the car drivers who help transport donations to Hexham. As the Food Bank motto says: "Together we can make a difference".

**FUNDRAISING**  
**Linda E Hunter**





	2013	2014	2015	2016
Surplus	2284	9652	9673	14842

2016 was one of the best years we had for Fundraising.

We had:

- The Flower Festival
- The Christmas Tree Festival
- Musical events – Chamber Music Festival and various concerts
- The Summer Series of Organ recitals
- Grand Draw

These events brought in a huge amount of money and we are really grateful for the teams that put the energy into organising them.

**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**

The familiar rhythm of the Church services throughout the year has again afforded us many opportunities to deliver a very diverse range of choral music, both accompanied and unaccompanied, capitalising on the constant support of our two organists John and Marc.

Both have also conducted a mid-week bass part practice, which is enormously appreciated by our bass singers.

The last report for the AGM commented on the increasing challenge of fluctuating numbers and in particular fewer upper voices. The same concerns have applied throughout the last year, but most of the time we manage to adapt the choice of music to suit the available voices. Sadly we said farewell to two tenors, Dennis Dring and David Welsh who have both moved away from Corbridge. We miss them both, and it has left our remaining tenors feeling rather lonely. Due to personal circumstances Liz Beattie has temporarily left the choir, but to our delight Gail Williams, recently moved into Corbridge, has enthusiastically joined the alto line and has quickly become indispensable. In the Autumn Richard Dixon resigned. The disruption caused by a tiny minority has been put behind us, with a shared resolve to sustain the choir. The renewed esprit de corps has been striking – and very heart-warming – which naturally has resulted in singing of real quality.

'I really look forward to Friday evening choir practice with such a great bunch of people and with such a good choir master and organists. It's a privilege to sing in a beautiful, peaceful St Andrews.' *Ian Graves, Bass*

'I have sung, and do sing, in a lot of choirs, but St Andrew's is among the most close knit and warmly welcoming.

We have had the chance to attempt a wide range of church music, both familiar and unfamiliar. I have personally felt greatly supported and helped with my sight-singing - not a strong point! I might mention that I do find it incredibly difficult, if not impossible, to sing the Alto harmony to any hymn where an alternative tune, on a different page, is chosen - especially when trying to do so while processing with a choir folder and pile of other music, order of service, etc.!

Particularly rewarding last year was a choir visit to sing Evensong at Brinkburn Priory, although the high spot of the last twelve months was (not surprisingly) Christmas, when we were able to contribute a lot of music, both with Colin's guidance, and with

John and Marc accompanying. I think listeners may have enjoyed it, too!' *Mary Oswell, Alto (but only out of personal kindness to Colin. Mary is at heart a soprano)*

The holiday period of lunch time organ recitals attracted increasing numbers and is now an established part of summer in Corbridge. John and Marc approach these recitals with their customary enthusiasm and their entertaining comments and variety of music are much appreciated.

Autumn again featured a wonderful supper at Alice and Marc Bryant's house, and a practice working on the music for a return visit to Brinkburn Priory to sing evensong. Once again the choir revelled in the glorious acoustic of this ancient building, and we will be singing there on two occasions this year.

We were joined by a few pupils from the Middle School for the Remembrance Service and we hope that this will become a regular feature. We are still hopeful of recruiting some young singers from the school and Becky Beard has been joining us for choir practice and will sing her first service with us on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

And then once again it was Christmas, and what amounts to three weeks of Carol Singing, in the community, the care homes, the Christmas Tree Festival, and the candle-lit Carol Service on Christmas Eve, which for the choir and St Andrews is the high point of the church year.

There are several special events to look forward to this year: By the time this report is published we will have sung devotional music for Maundy Thursday.

The monthly informal choral evensongs are now firmly established, and a full choral evensong for Lent will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The choir is hosting a 'Come and Sing' performance of the Fauré Requiem on Palm Sunday evening joined by at least 50 singers from the surrounding area.

On Ascension Day we have been invited to sing a Choral Eucharist at Brinkburn Priory.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, the choir will sing in St Mary's Cathedral for Corpus Christi.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June the choir will lead Choral Evensong at Halton for the Red Cross Open Gardens.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July the choir has been invited to sing choral evensong at Brinkburn Priory.

Last year's report mentioned the start of an exercise to consider the future of the organ. This has gathered momentum and is dealt with in a separate report.

Finally, heartfelt thanks: to each choir member; 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.

## **HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING BID FOR ORGAN REFURBISHMENT**

### **Alistair Jenkins**

A group including representation from church, Corbridge Village Trust, Visit Corbridge, our two local schools, the Roman Catholic congregation and the Parish Council has been established to look at the viability of a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to refurbish our church organ. An initial survey of the instrument was carried out indicating the need to upgrade the electronics and modernise other aspects. This indicated a cost in the region of £90,000 - £100,000.

It was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity to reach out and involve many strands of life in the village in a project which could improve accessibility to and usage of the organ. Initial discussions led to a project enquiry being submitted to HLF in November 2016. The project involved using the organ as a basis for encouraging people of all ages and from all parts of the community to engage with the undoubted heritage merit offered by our church and its environment. A meeting was held in March 2017 with the Regional Grants Officer from HLF, who gave positive feedback on our enquiry and encouraged us to move towards a first stage application for funding.

This will involve some more detailed work, ensuring that we have a viable project which links strongly to heritage and involves a wide range of groups and organisations in its delivery. Our chances of success are much stronger if we can prove that the project will make a lasting impact to heritage, people and community

## **FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

### **Linda E Hunter and Michael Collins Churchwardens**

2016 was a sad year when Gilbert who did so much for the church passed away peacefully in July. We are indebted to him for all that he did over the years for St. Andrew's, a church he loved so dearly.

This year, as ever, 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 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 we have had inspections of the following:

- Fire extinguishers
- Alarm system – and updated
- A full electrical inspection of the church and the cottage and we await the report
- Boilers have been tested and certified
- Ladders

### **Items of maintenance at Church of St. Andrew:**

#### **Church Clock:**

Annual maintenance inspection took place.

#### **Church Roof Leaks:**

**North Transept Roof** - Repairs have been made to the North West gully of the North Transept roof to stop the water leak there. The source of the leak was apparent when the lead was stripped off, there was a crack in the old lead.

Cost £860.00

#### **Church Organ:**

There is a report re the organ elsewhere in the annual report. The organ and the pianos have been regularly tuned.

## **Baptistery Arch**

Restorative works have taken place on the Baptistery arch costing £600.

## **Woodworm**

The woodworm in the choir vestry has reappeared and we are in the process of meeting with the claims negotiator to claim on our guarantee for the work which will need to be carried out.

## **Minor works undertaken:**

- Energy supply contracts negotiated.
- New Union Jack flag purchased £150.
- New water heater fitted in vestry
- New smart gas meter fitted
- Gutters and gullies all cleared out

We engaged a handyman to carry out a variety of tasks in church which included the following:

- Securing loose pews in main body of the church and floorboards in Choir stalls
- The following doors were treated with boiled linseed oil: Front door, choir vestry door
- A repair was made on the North Transept door. Further painting has been left until the Spring, to ensure the paint adheres in dry weather. All doors will undergo any necessary repair work.

## **Churchyard Maintenance:**

We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council who have responsibility for the upkeep of the church yard. They arranged for the vegetation on the wall between cottage and church yard, cottage wall, outside toilet, and garage to be cut back and the bushes removed to give a clear area. Branches that were impacting on the Hearse House roof were cut back.

During the Summer the Parish Council arrange the grass cutting of the churchyard. We are very grateful to Warwick and Suzette Milne who continue to keep the cottage garden tidy.

## **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. We are in the process of looking at options for the extension of the plinth.

### **Sound System**

We now have a matching unit which enables the lap top computer controlling the overhead projector to interconnect with the sound system. This feature is particularly useful when using dvds in presentations.

### **Cottage**

The Cottage main room lights have been repaired and the bulbs replaced with replaced by Light Emitting Type

### **Security Review**

Our annual key check took place and this indicates there are too many people with keys to various parts of the church. If you have a key and you are not the role you received it for please return to the Churchwardens.

We are now in the process of compiling a Security policy.

We would particularly like to thank Michael Rae who has project managed most of our maintenance work this year and has been an invaluable support to the churchwardens.

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**

Regular services are held at Halton monthly, on the first Sunday of the month, and on Easter and Christmas Days. There is also the occasional wedding and funeral on request.

Revd Jack Hay takes all the regular services with a dedication and enthusiasm which is both the envy and joy of all who attend and deals with all the administrative arrangements as well. Over the past year Rev Brian Topping has joined the congregation with his wife Barbara and he both reads the gospel and assists in administering the chalice. Edward Pybus plays the organ with Alice Smalley deputising when he is not available. Average attendance over the year has been around 15, a modest increase over earlier years. At Easter we had 37 and at Christmas 58 which was most encouraging.

Sir Hugh Blackett generously arranges for his estate staff to carry out essential maintenance to the church building and to mow and generally maintain the graveyard, keeping it in its immaculate state, and all concerned are extremely grateful to him.

We hold evensong in Halton Chapel on the day of the Red Cross Open Gardens – this year Evensong will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 5.00pm

## **CHURCH COTTAGE**

**Suzette Milne, Convenor**

The cottage is in need of some 'tender loving care'. The chimney stacks and spouts need attention, to reduce the risk of damage to the public. The interior needs redecorating after checking for damp.

Two embroidery classes meet regularly, and there have been several individual bookings. We could of course do with more occupancy.

Regarding finances, we have again saved the Church £780 this year by cleaning the cottage ourselves. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the small band of people who make this saving possible

A request from me please ,those Church organisations who use the Cottage please tidy up after use, and empty any rubbish which they have accumulated into the bin

by the Kings Oven.

## **THE COTTAGE**

### **From the Churchwardens**

The cottage will be our priority over the next few months we are busy obtaining quotes to have the chimney repaired, the gutters reinstated and other outside maintenance work completed. We will then be talking to professionals re eradicating the damp and finally we will look at redecoration

## **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.

An extensive Diocesan Training Programme has been produced and those working in positions requiring information / training were asked to attend. Many 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. This has involved some training as the DBS checking is now done on line. Thank you Margaret for all your hard work with this.

Our safeguarding team has been very recently strengthened with the addition of Richard Adams and Janet Morrison but we have yet to meet together

## **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 trying to keep up to date.

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"

**Flower Festival** – The Flower Festival was one of the highlights of the year and we thank all those who participated, in particular Mrs Vivien Bolton from Stocksfield South of Tyne Flower Club who masterminded the arrangements.

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**

The Group meets as it has done for many years to intercede on behalf of people who for whatever reason ask for prayers, for the The Church, the Parish, St. Andrew's and those who minister to and serve it, for Christians persecuted for their faith, for peace and for any current happening (eg.victims of disasters). It meets most weeks on Thursdays (at 9.30 in the Cottage.)

This year we felt we had to debate our future as most of the members are "getting on in years" and we wondered if there was a future for a prayer group or an alternative in another form. Also if it could be made more "appealing" for a wider number of the congregation. We were guided and encouraged by the Vicar and the Diocesan Spiritual Adviser that we need to continue because a lay prayer group is important and that it will have a continuing life – so we continue!

Anyone who wants prayers to be offered for themselves or for someone else can be assured that their names will be held in confidence and will be prayed for. And of course if you think it might be "your thing" please come along.

## **HOMEGROUP**

**Max and Monica Philbrick**

The Home Group has only functioned during Advent and Lent over the past year, which is unfortunate, and largely our fault for being on holiday at times of the year when the group has met in the past.

Before Christmas we discussed our way through a short course: 'Living in the Light' which focussed on four different reports of the coming of Jesus at Christmas, from Luke, John, Mary and Paul. The material from 'York Courses' as usual featured CD contributions from the course author but unusually not from 'big' or 'famous' names. Instead we heard from four ordinary Christians from different places and Christian traditions. We're not entirely sure this change is worth continuing!

At the time of writing, we are once again enjoying meeting in parallel with the village Methodists, throughout Lent. With Tuesday and Thursday meetings using the same material, this makes it easier for people to find a time that suits them. We started by watching the 2010 film 'The Way', which observes four very different pilgrims walking the famous route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Our weekly

discussions are exploring the huge Christian theme of salvation – of importance to all of us.

21 people have been along to meetings during the year, although fortunately not all at the same time. We're not a group of spiritual high flyers(!), but we do enjoy being able to talk about our faith and our doubts, listening to each other, and sometimes learning something new.

## **JULIAN GROUP**

### **Barbara McNamara**

The Julian Group is a nascent prayer group which began in the parish last November. We are following the pattern of silent prayer in the tradition of Julian of Norwich.

We soon settled on meeting every other week usually Wednesday morning. Sometimes our prayer begins with music & sometimes someone from the group will bring a reading or something they wish to share with us. We then have half an hour of silent prayer followed by tea & coffee. We tend to alternate our meetings between the homes of Helga Marshall (01434 633696) & Barbara & John McNamara (01434 622139). Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome.

We have between half a dozen & about ten of us meeting, most from the parish & some from nearby. We are still hoping to gain members from other denominations. By the time you read this we will have met 11 times.

## **CORBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD**

### **REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Max Philbrick, Elizabeth Robson, Richard Dixon (retired January 2017)**

**Changes!** Early in the year Revd Lesley Chapman became priest in charge at Riding Mill, but from then on this has been a year of increasing vacancies as clergy have retired or moved on. At the end of the year Wylam, Ovingham, Prudhoe, Bywell and Mickley were in vacancy, and since then Snod's Edge has been added to that number. Thanks to Revd David Hewlett as Area Dean (now retired from this role) for all the work in caring for these parishes and ensuring that priests are in place for worship. The chaplaincy at Albermarle Barracks has also changed (welcome to Revd Nathan King). The Deanery welcomed Revd Diana Penny to the Moorland Group. Synod lost its long-standing finance officer with the death of John Spoor of Heddon.

### **Deanery Development**

**The year ended** with the approval of a Vision Statement for the Deanery, which had been developed by the Deanery Development Group:

*Our vision for 2022 is for Corbridge Deanery to be focused on mission. We will be actively responding to God's mission in our Deanery, through the Holy Spirit, transforming the lives of individuals and communities.*

*In order to achieve this we believe that Christ calls us to:*

- *develop, sustain and grow a range of more accessible approaches to faith and worship that encourage community and particularly engage families and young people, and to*
- *engage in discipleship in a variety of ways that are relevant to people in all stages of their faith journey, whilst encouraging and supporting those who sense God's call to ordained and lay ministries.*

*Our vision is for ordained and lay people to be working together in cross-parish geographical areas and across the Deanery in formal and informal teams so as to use their skills most effectively in parishes and in relation to specific projects.*

An action plan has been agreed, with four strands, designed to encourage sharing and support between parishes as part of achieving our mission focus:

1. Communications (an underpinning theme)
2. Prayer and worship
3. Hospitality

#### 4. Developing outreach

The February Synod recognised that 'the vision for this development has not yet been caught by Synod members'. In the light of this, it was agreed to initially take forward only the 'foundational' strands: Communications, & Prayer and Worship.

**Future planning.** During the year, in work that started in October 2015, there was much consideration of possible future locations of stipendiary and house-for-duty clergy and the roles of clergy and lay leaders. This looked at options for grouping parishes for various aspects of ministry, including some which could impact on our own parish. This thinking is ongoing, and is to assist the Bishop and senior staff as well as the Deanery and Parishes in thinking about future ministry and deployment needs.

**Change of Synod:** in April 2017 a new Synod will be elected. With Revd Lesley Chapman as the new Area Dean, this Synod will need to elect officers in June – including a new secretary and finance officer!

**Celebrations:** in June 2016 the Deanery enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Shepherds Dene as part of their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

**Finance:** Parishes have continued to work together and to support on another where there are challenges, to present a very high return of parish share overall.

**Other inputs to Synod.** Most Synod meetings contain a presentation or report to inform and inspire members. Topics covered this year included:

- Developing discipleship, through the use of diocesan and nationally available courses.
- Support for the poor and homeless, and the diocesan initiative: the Companions of St Aidan.
- The importance of communications, including the use of websites and social media.
- Prayer, both individually and for mission.

## **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.

We commenced 2016 with a talk by River watch which was most pertinent considering the storm we had in December. This was most enlightening. We were treated to an inspiring talk about the journey that Tom Collins is on to become a Dr. At present Tom is out in Cairns having medical experience in a hospital out there. Following on from that retired general surgeon and ordained minister George Proud had us trying to identify a range of flowers. In September Brian Tilley, recently recovered from an operation, talked about his time with the Hexham Courant. Our own Vicar, David Hewlett was the speaker the next month when we heard all about his experiences as a hospital chaplain. Our own Carol Moffatt inspired us all when she came with all the quilts that she had made we were just amazed at the work that had gone into them.

We had a very successful Saturday morning to raise money for our charities when we had a BIBLE COFFEE MORNING. People worked individually or with friends to create a bible cake. It was most interesting to see the variety of cakes created from the same recipe! Along with stalls this was a good money raiser but hard work. Our Summer Outing to Minsteracres followed by Supper in the refectory was most enlightening, we then walked ( or drove) down to the Peace Garden and had a cup of tea whilst Ross Menzies outlined the role of the Peace Garden and the support it gives to those who attend.

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 Corbridge Youth Initiative and Spirit of Africa. 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. We have said goodbye to some members who have either decided they do not want to come out in the evenings or have moved from the area. 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 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**

<b>Current number on roll</b>	153	<b>% of SEND pupils (Special Education Need / disability)</b>	5%
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3-9	<b>% of disadvantaged pupils</b>	1%

The school continues to have a termly visit from our School Improvement Partner and the strengths of the school from our autumn 2016 visit include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headteacher provides strong and determined leadership to the school. She is well supported by a highly skilled and dedicated team of staff who support the drive to further improve outcomes for pupils</li> <li>• Teaching is good with an increasing proportion of lessons that show outstanding progress. Teachers plan and deliver lessons that engage pupils so that they learn well</li> <li>• Governors provide good support and challenge, ensuring that pupils receive a high quality education by checking regularly how well the school is doing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils receive outstanding support for their personal development and well-being. They behave exceptionally well in school and are very keen to learn. They are confident and self-assured and work and play in harmony</li> <li>• Outcomes at all key stages are above the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. In some areas pupils perform well above the national average and make outstanding progress</li> <li>• Pupils get a good start to their time in school now as the early years has significantly improved so that progress is now at least good</li> </ul>
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As teaching and learning continues to show good and even more outstanding evidence, our robust systems of performance management, training and continued

professional development remain integral to our continued school improvement. Additional school improvement focus areas include:

<p><b>Outdoor learning</b></p> <p>Plans for developing our onsite allotment are underway.</p> <p>A lottery bid has been made to try and secure further funding.</p>	<p><b>Middle leader development</b></p> <p>Accredited courses are being undertaken by our Maths and English leaders for middle management and senior management.</p> <p>The impact of their work is very clear.</p>	<p><b>Developing EYFS to manage the 30 hour nursery funding</b></p> <p>The school is placed in the positive position of being able to utilise our extensive EYFS resources and provision to extend the Early Years offer for families in the community.</p>
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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 to becoming an outstanding school.

Mr David Watson, Chair of Governors, is 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. Julie Robson (Headteacher of Archbishop Runcie) has stepped down from our Governing Body and we wish to thank her for her dedicated service. We now have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.

The commitment and dedication of the staff team and all those involved in our school community are what continues to make us strong. We were all extremely saddened by the sudden death of our caretaker, Kevin Lee, who had always been a devoted servant of the school and colleague of us all. Our prayers and thoughts remain with his family.

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.**

## **INFORMATION RE THE VACANCY**

The Churchwardens will update the congregation regularly about where the parish is in the process and what is happening. There will be a section on the folding noticeboard to keep you all informed.

### **The Vacancy Process**

- a. Vicar has already meet with Area Dean to provide information she will need in the vacancy.
- b. Vicar's last Sunday will be 28<sup>th</sup> May .
- c. Area Dean will meet with Churchwardens to make arrangements for running of the parish in the vacancy as it is the three of them who are legally responsible for the parish in the vacancy. The Area Dean becomes 'vicar'.
- d. Area Dean will meet with Julie, to make sure she is in the picture and that her availability is clear and her role in the ministry of the parish is respected.
- e. Archdeacon will meet with the churchwardens to begin the process of a new appointment, which involves the parish providing a Statement of Need and a Person Profile; and the Archdeacon a Role Description. [The latter is additional to the process undergone last time around because the next vicar will be under Common Tenure, which I am not.]
- f. The patrons of the parish will consult about the appointment process and will manage it as they did last time. The Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral are the patrons, and The Dean will arrange for advertising, and chair the interview panel, having consulted over short-listing.

