

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



ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending

31st March 2018

Incumbent

The parish is in a vacancy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

ANNUAL CHURCH & PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

St Andrew's Church, 22nd April 2018, at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2017 at 11.00am.
3. Election of Churchwardens
Linda Hunter and Michael Collins 2 vacancies
Both willing for re - election
4. Financial Statement to include charitable giving Cliff Wright
5. Reports in this booklet

PCC Annual Report 2018

Electoral Roll

Maureen Davison

Church during the Vacancy Report

Linda E Hunter & Mike Collins

Children and Youth Work

Junior Church

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church

Louise Stubbs

Outreach and Communication

Church Welcomers /Guides

Elizabeth Collins

Website

Simon A Hunter

Parish News & Vacancy Communications

Max Philbrick &

Simon A Hunter

Food bank

Monica Philbrick

Fundraising

Suzette Milne & Linda Hunter

Church Music

Not available

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Michael Collins

& Michael Rae

St. Oswald's Halton

Edward Pybus

Church Cottage

Suzette Milne

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Team

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

Sheila Goldsworthy
Max Philbrick
Barbara McNamara
Max Philbrick
Linda E Hunter
Jennifer Aynsley & Andrew Neal

6. Elections

Parochial Church Council

Jennifer Herrmann, Michael Rae, (2016 – 2019)

Suzette Milne, Warwick Milne, Kate Jenkins, Anne King Lewis, Edward Pybus (2017 – 2020)

2 spaces available

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 2nd APRIL 2017**

The Vicar welcomed all those who were present.

PRESENT:

Revd David Hewlett (Vicar), Revd Julie Robson and 32 laity.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Michael Priestley, John & Barbara McNamara, David & Margaret Preece, Pauline Bennett, John Bishop, Paul Hagger, Mary Rae.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 24th April, 2016 were approved. There were no matters arising.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

Linda Hunter and Michael Collins were elected. The Vicar was very grateful to them both for all the help they gave.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr Cliff Wright, the treasurer, gave thanks to all the team. He then went on to give a brief presentation. He also added that last year the Fund raising was excellent. The Vicar thanked Cliff.

REPORTS:

The Vicar invited comments of the reports from the Annual Report booklet. The Vicar also stated that the Social Committee had come to a natural conclusion and was to end. Simon Hunter was thanked for the Parish News. He is always looking for photographs and items of interest to include.

The choir, John and Marc our organists, were also thanked.

Church Maintenance – Michael Rae was particularly mentioned for dealing with problems. He was much appreciated.

Linda asked if there was one person who would like to be included on the rota for counting money.

The Vicar spoke briefly about what was to happen when he retired at the end of May 2017. The Area Dean and the Church Wardens would be responsible for the Parish during the vacancy. The Dean and Chapter of Carlisle – Patron of St Andrews would be involved in the appointment of the new Vicar. They will advertise the post for the new Vicar. The Vicar also thanked Julie and how very fortunate we are to have her at St Andrew's.

ELECTIONS:

Parochial Church Council:

Deanery Synod – 3 vacancies - Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright were elected.

Parochial Church Council – vacancies

The following were elected to join the PCC : Warwick Milne, Suzette Milne, Jackie Webb, Ann King-Lewis, Edward Pybus, Kate Chadwick

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Roger Jones has said he is willing to continue.

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.

Mr Tony McDonald wished to thank Linda Hunter for all the work that she does, also for all the behind the scenes work.

The meeting closed at 11. 45 hrs with thanks to all for their attendance.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Introduction

On 13th July 2017 our Vicar, Rev David Hewlett retired. The responsibility for running the parish became that of the Area Dean Rev Lesley Chapman and the Churchwardens.

As a consequence the PCC and SC have met most months, working hard 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.

The **Diocesan Vision - Growing church bringing hope**: 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.

In Corbridge the PCC are very clear that there is a welcome for everyone.

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:	Vacant from 29 th May (but retired on 13 th July)
Assistant Priest:	Rev Julie Robson (up to 01.11.17)
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Michael Collins

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright

Elected Members:

Jennifer Herrmann	Michael Rae	David Preece
Kate Jenkins	Warwick Milne	Suzette Milne
Anne King Lewis	Edward Pybus	Jackie Webb

Co opted	Cliff Wright	Treasurer
	Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members: Churchwardens, Treasurer, Kate Jenkins and David Preece

PEOPLE

REV DAVID HEWLETT: After almost 9 years as Vicar of the Parish, David retired. A service to celebrate his ministry here, took place on 28th May followed by a 'Farewell' Lunch in the Parish Hall. David and Tessa moved on 13th July to Herefordshire

REV JULIE ROBSON: Retired on 5th November so that she and Elizabeth could spend more time together. We are all very grateful for her ministry in Corbridge, particularly her ministry with those who are elderly.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

10 meetings of the PCC and of the Standing Committee were held during the last year. The Vicar chaired the May meeting and Linda Hunter, as Lay Chair, has chaired the meetings throughout the vacancy. The PCC receives reports and discusses a large number of topics throughout the year. This review only covers material which is not reported on in other reports in this booklet. More detail may be found in the Minute file available at the back of church.

TOPICS COVERED

A substantial amount of time has been spent discussing items related to the appointment process and the Parish Profile.

In addition to routine topics such as Maintenance, H & S, Safeguarding, Events calendar and service cover, the following were discussed in more detail:

Finance

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 2017 will be found in an accompanying booklet. In the current climate our expenditure is rising steadily and our income is not keeping pace with our outgoings. The PCC is acutely aware that this must be addressed as soon as possible. The Standing Committee is busy formulating an financial action plan based on discussions at PCC and this will be shared with the congregation once

completed.

If you feel you could give regularly by standing order please speak to Cliff or download the planned giving form from our website.

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

Other topics discussed

HLF Bid: We were unsuccessful in our round 1 bid. The HLF group has split into 2 groups, one to look at work connected with the organ and the other with Heritage.

Data Protection: the implementation of the new data protection regulations for us as a church

Photocopier: Changing the copier and leasing a more up to date model

The Mission Action Plan: was updated and can be found at the back of the Annual report.

In addition a Safeguarding audit and a Health a safety audit took place and the subsequent action plans were approved by PCC.

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 173 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year there have been six additions, eight moved away and five deletions. The current total is 166.

CHURCH DURING THE VACANCY

Linda Hunter and Mike Collins

In conjunction with the Area Dean we have tried to keep the day to day arrangements, the seasonal services, pastoral offices and events running smoothly.

THE RETIRED CLERGY: We are grateful to the retired clergy from our Parish: Canon C Matthews, Canon M Thompson, Rev J Kinnaird, Rev J Hay and Rev B McNamara for helping out with services during the vacancy. In addition we have had help from retired clergy and visiting stipendiary clergy across the Diocese.

Rev J Hay has 'retired for a second time' from active ministry and we would like to thank him for all the time he has given to Halton over the years.

We cannot thank everyone as there are lots of people involved in the various teams ensuring that things run smoothly for different services and events, Thank you to all that are involved in anyway, we really do appreciate what you do.

PASTORAL OFFICES

There have been	11	Baptisms
	9	Weddings
	25	Funerals
	1	Burial of ashes

EASTER 2018

It was a joy to welcome Bishop Mark to share Easter with us. He led us through Holy Week with sensitivity. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were so moving and meaningful. Easter Day was joyful and uplifting.

SCHOOLS

We have continued to work with Corbridge C. of E. First School, Corbridge Middle School and Mowden Hall School in a variety of different ways.

In addition to Home Communion we take communion to Charlotte Straker, Burnbrae and Abbeyfield. Paul Morris has been licensed by the Bishop to take out Communion to those who are unable to come to church. If you know of anyone who would like to receive communion at home or would like a visit please let us know.

Vacancy Work

- July** The Archdeacon met with the churchwardens to discuss the vacancy and the selection process.
- September** Archdeacon met with PCC
- October** A facilitated conversation, led by Rev Catherine Pickford, was held for the congregation. This was an opportunity for us all to reflect on the parish – where we were and where we could see ourselves in 5 – 10 years time. Records of discussion were recorded on tablecloths.
A consultation was also carried out and congregation, community groups and schools were asked a range of questions linked with the skills and attributes we would like to see in our new Vicar. Both the results of the consultation and the tablecloth conversations were used to inform our planning for the Profile.

The Standing Committee, with the addition of Max Philbrick and Jennifer Wright, worked on producing the parish profile which was completed at the end of November.
- December 6th** A Section 11 meeting was held, the main purpose of the meeting was to agree the Parish Profile and to elect the Parish Representatives. The profile was agreed. 5 people were nominated to be the Parish Reps, a pencil and paper vote was held and Mike Collins and Linda Hunter were duly elected as the Parish Representatives.
- January 21st** A Section 12 meeting was held with the Dean of Carlisle, Bishop of Berwick, Archdeacon and PCC to talk about the Parish Profile and to ask any questions.
- March** Post of Vicar advertised
- April** Shortlisting and Interviews

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

The average attendance from March 2017 to March 2018 has continued to be limited to one or two children but with slightly fewer sessions having zero attendance. Junior Church is available every Sunday except during school holidays. During holiday time activity bags are available in the Creche area. 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. The cottage is the venue used for all Junior Church activities and where all resource materials are kept. We provide various age appropriate activities for the children in attendance. Monica and I encourage any visiting children to join us.

Throughout the Church year young people have been involved with several events as outlined below.

Activities have included;

Mothering Sunday (26.3.17) This service was led by the Messy Church team. The theme was 'How does a Mum show her love for us and look after us' Photographs of Mums at work, a short drama, readings, prayers and hymns all reflected the theme. Pot plants were distributed, by the children, to all ladies in the congregation.

Easter (21.3.17) For the second time, Julie Robson and David Preece worked in collaboration with Corbridge C.ofE. First School to produce an Easter garden outside the Church entrance. The school staff and children were closely involved with the designing and making of the garden. This again provided a talking point on entry to church. On **Palm Sunday (9.4.17)** children and adults, led by Rev. David Hewlett, followed Dorcas the donkey in procession to St. Andrew's's Church. All children made Palm leaves. On **Easter Day (16.4.17)** our traditional egg hunt took place in the Church grounds. Twenty one children (supported and encouraged by parents and Grandparents) took part in the hunt. After the hunt the majority of children watched a short video of the Easter story before making and decorating wooden crosses to take home. Everyone was offered chocolate eggs at the end of the service.

Midsummer Night Activities Community Event (22.6.17) The Messy Church team provided taster activities for children from the village. A lot of people passed through and leaflets promoting Messy Church were distributed.

Christingle (3.12.17) This service celebrates the coming of the Birth of Jesus using the symbolism of the Christingle. The service is always popular and well attended, in the lead up to Christmas. The service was led by Linda Hunter, supported by members of the Messy Church team. Everyone was supplied with a ready prepared 'Christingle pack' to assemble.

The Christmas Tree Festival coincided with Christingle which meant the Church was full of creatively decorated trees, providing a seasonal feel to the service. The festival was very well supported with an increase in entries from 2016. Children and Young People were very well represented by the local school, Playgroup, Tinkler's Nursery, Messy Church and various other organisations in the community.

Crib Service. This was held on Christmas Eve with three hundred and fifty people in attendance. The theme was 'The Greatest Gift of all'

On **Christmas day** the family service was led by Canon Michael and Rev. Janet Jackson. Children in the congregation were invited to bring a small gift to show and then tell everyone about it. One participating young boy was a 'Star' and had everyone (including Janet) in the palm of his hand. We all left Church with a smile.

MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

To quote from the 2012 annual report "Messy Church is essentially for families-for everyone and not just children" This statement certainly holds true for the past year as we have welcomed local as well as visiting children, parents, grandparents and lots of babies.

Messy Church has taken place on a monthly basis except during the months of August and December. The afternoon runs from 3.00-5.00 pm

We continue to run using the same format as outlined in last year's report.

Briefly this comprises regular review and planning meetings which are always well attended by our very able and creative team which now has twenty members. Our planning meetings always include a reflective period to enable the team to discuss what went well and also to suggest improvements. There is a brief Bible study which forms the foundation for the theme. Activities are then planned and allocated to team members. The Methodist representatives all continue to give us their support and enthusiasm which is greatly appreciated. Tea, coffee and a chat always play an important part in the proceedings.

Max Philbrick is responsible for producing the Messy Church flyers and any other art work required. His science and technology skills have been put to the test during recent themes as we have endeavoured to make activities more challenging for both girls and boys (with considerable success).

Monica, Ian and Paul form the Worship group and lead the recap of our theme, singing and prayers. This continues to be a popular part of the afternoon and everyone joins in with the singing. A large screen with projected words is an

invaluable aid to the singing and can also be used to project an animated story where appropriate. We are grateful to the 'trio' for their contribution to the afternoon.

Janet Morrison now heads the catering and provides expertly prepared teas. Janet always links the tea to our theme with so many tasty items to choose from and beautifully decorated individual cakes. New tables and benches were purchased and all the children sit together in one area. Adults are encouraged to eat and chat with other parents and helpers. Every Messy Church tea is like a 'party' and the empty plates indicate how much it is appreciated by children and adults.

We regularly review and sort our resources and all our themed materials are filed in labelled boxes. Our resources are comprehensive and readily available for all our team to use. The congregation are often called upon to supply us with materials and we are grateful for their support. Members of the congregation also help to set up after the morning service and all the team clear away at the end of the day.

The PCC allocated some funding for Messy Church to purchase some books and set up a Lending Library. This is now available at every Messy Church where children can borrow books on a 'read and return' basis. This has now been extended to include adult christian books and is located in the South Transept.

In September 2017 the team distributed information leaflets to all Messy Church families on our register. Numbers for this year have varied between 13-38 children and 25-36 adults. On one of our best days we had 38 children and 34 adults.

Themes this year have included The Lord's Prayer, Who Cares (Christian Aid week) Wise and Foolish Builders, Miraculous Catch, Daniel in the lion's den, God's story, I am the light of the world, Ruth and The man let down through a hole in the roof.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Messy Church team for all their continuing hard work in the planning and delivering of Messy Church days. Linda Hunter leads our team and deserves a special thank you for the time and effort she puts in behind the scenes, and on the day, to make every Messy Church a resounding success. May we continue to grow as a 'Church Family'.

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 to meet 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

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Elizabeth Collins, Convenor

Liz Collins, Robin and Mary Gray, Fay Dickinson, Ron Gold, Ian Hampton-Graves, Anne King-Lewis.

In 2017 our guides were in church from March to October. Our numbers have dropped and we would really love to have new members to join us. Sadly we lost Rosemary Baker, who was a wonderful lady, who welcomed lots our visitors with her own friendly style - we will miss her.

We saw a fantastic mix of visitors throughout the year from all four corners of the globe. Lots left inspired, impressed and instilled with knowledge from our brilliant guides.

A total of 1119 recorded people came through our doors during those months - including a 30 strong group from Germany who rushed in, on their Tour of Roman Britain to ask me "Where is your Mr Bean door?" I pointed it out - they thanked me - then left - no more than 40 seconds spent in our beautiful church ! Our Heritage Weekend in September saw lots of interested visitors coming through our doors - not only able to learn more about our building, but also to see many wonderful pictures donated from various groups in the village.

Another great year in the history of St Andrews - what will happen next year -we can't wait to see!

Thank you to the team for giving up their time to guide our visitors round the church.

St. Andrew's is now mentioned on the National Churches Trust – explore churches website. The link below will take you onto the website.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/st-andrew-corbridge>

WEBSITE

Simon A Hunter, Webmaster

The church web site helps people stay up to date with services, church events, and gives them access to the weekly bulletin and Parish News.

This year the format of the website was changed and updated to make it more user friendly. The number of people visiting the website has steadily increased and we have recorded about 7,000 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

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.

You can follow Church on our Twitter account using the following hashtag @CorbridgeChurc1 or on facebook under Corbridge Church please help us to use social media to publicise our services and activities by sharing or liking our posts.

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

PARISH NEWS and VACANCY COMMUNICATIONS

Max Philbrick, Simon Hunter

Over the past year 6 editions of The Parish News have been produced, with Simon Hunter sending out around 125 emails for each edition, reminding 'subscribers' to download a copy from the parish website. From the start of the vacancy, Max Philbrick took over responsibility for collating and editing all submitted content and producing the finished publication. The number of printed copies has increased to 70, which are quickly taken from the back of church (and are provided free, although they currently cost over 60p to produce). We can save money if more people are willing to have the electronic version instead: to request this, email sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk to be added to the database. (You can cancel at any time.) If you have any material for the Parish News – articles, photos, reports – please give it to Max Philbrick or email max@philbrick.eclipse.co.uk.

The Parish News continues to be one of our many routes of communication. We are 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. Can you help out?

When the vacancy began, a small Communications Group was established, to try and ensure questions and concerns people might be having, both within the congregation and the wider village, could be channelled to the church wardens and PCC, and be responded to. In the event the group has only met once, and informal checking round the group members did not reveal any matters that needed a response. This may have been partly through the provision of the Vacancy Noticeboard at the back of church, which has been updated periodically (if not always instantly!); together with

information provided during services and in the weekly Bulletin. The Board includes a list of those in the Communications Group, any of whom can be approached with questions.

FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick

The church hosts a collection point for the West Northumberland Food Bank, an independent charity operating from Hexham Enterprise Hub, Burn Lane. This helps people in hardship across Hexham, Prudhoe and Haltwhistle, as well as surrounding smaller towns and villages. The Food Bank is now in its fifth year of operation, and the project report to September 2017 included much sobering information.

Just one group in receipt of assistance has been those in treatment for mental and physical health problems. The Bank recruited and trained additional Volunteer Welfare Rights Advocates, and offered more sessions from their centres in Prudhoe and Haltwhistle and doubled efforts to get in extra donations of food and household essentials. The Advocates supported 88 households in claiming over £88,000 of benefit entitlement that people with disabilities or mental health issues were finding incredibly difficult to do on their own.

And although expecting to help about 24 additional households in 2016-17, the Bank actually helped 148 more than the year before, an overall increase in demand of 111%. There were 2194 requests for help, 1088 from single people, 791 from families with children, and 325 from adult families. A very high proportion of clients are in receipt of benefit (most frozen since 2015), or waiting for it to be processed – and experiencing real financial hardship.

Our collection point, is one of many in churches, schools, Scouts/Guides groups, workplaces, sports clubs and community groups, as well as in shops in the area. Thanks are due to all those who leave gifts of food and household essentials (and sometimes treats as well) at the back of church. The Reverse Advent Calendar resulted in a generous level of Christmas treats being added to the donations.

Quantities collected fluctuate a lot, and we appreciate that some will donate at local stores. But, especially during school holidays, we can find when we take what we have to the base in Hexham their stocks can be running low, so please keep your donations coming!

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

Linda E Hunter and Suzette Milne

We continue to have a wide range of events taking place in church. These events brought in a huge amount of money and we are really grateful for the teams that put the energy into organising them.

The Christmas Tree Festival - which just seems to get bigger and better every year I steadily increasing in popularity and is a focal point in the village late night shopping evening. It was fabulous last year to see so many people in church over the weekend and particularly on the late night shopping evening. Numbers exceeded all previous years.

St. Andrew's continues to be a popular venue for musical events. We have our annual and well loved Chamber Music Festival which brings a lot of people into church over the weekend.

Our late Summer / Autumn Friday Lunchtime concerts / Organ recitals are very popular. In addition we have had a range of musical events and concerts in church over throughout the year.

The Grand Draw which is drawn at the Mulled Wine and mince pies morning is good money raiser.

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

However, we will need to increase our fundraising so do you have an idea for an activity or an event that could raise money. Please speak to Linda or Suzette if you do.

CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams

Unfortunately Colin is unwell so we do not have a music report. Once he is feeling better we will send out a music report with the Parish News.

The Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank those who give up their time on a regular basis to sing in the choir it is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank John and Marc for the series of Organ recitals and lunchtime concerts that are organised over the Summer months.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Michael Rae (Maintenance & Project Manager)

Michael Collins (Churchwarden)

2017 has kept us busy to maintain everything in good order and support the many Church activities that 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, the cottage and Halton. The reports revealed nothing serious other than the need to renew the underground power supply cable to the toilet block.
- Boilers have been tested and certified
- Ladders are regularly inspected

Items of maintenance at Church of St. Andrew's:

Church Clock: Annual maintenance inspection took place.

Church Roof Leaks: North Transept Roof - Repairs have been made to the North East end of the box gutter on the North Transept roof to stop the water leak there. The source of the leak was a long-standing crack in the old lead.

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

Woodworm The contracts to renew the woodworm infested panelling in the choir vestry have been let. The work is expected to be completed in May 2018.

Minor works undertaken:

- Energy supply contracts negotiated.

- Gutters and gullies all cleared out
- New doors were fitted to the meter house, cottage back door and one of the toilets
- The dwarf retaining wall to the east and south of the building has been re-pointed

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

- All exterior doors were painted.
- Loose floor boarding in the choir stalls was secured
- Many loose parquet blocks in the Vicar's Vestry were re-fixed
- A door closer was fitted to the outer door to the Choir Vestry

Churchyard Maintenance: We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council who have responsibility for the church yard. We are very grateful to them for funding the replacement of our floodlights.

During the Summer the Parish Council arrange the grass cutting of the churchyard. We employed a gardener for a few hours in the Autumn to clear leaves from the paths and outside steps.

We are very grateful to Warwick and Suzette Milne who continue to keep the cottage garden tidy.

Memorial Garden: We are in the process of looking at options for the extension of the plinth. (Agreement to proceed was obtained early in 2018.)

Cottage: The west chimneystack has been rebuilt, the guttering to the north wall renewed and a new back door fitted. It was agreed to completely re-point the exterior walls with [the correct] lime mortar in an effort to reduce the level of damp in the internal walls.

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 in the role you received it for please return to the Churchwardens. Additional security has been put in place this year. We are continually monitoring our security arrangements and take advice from our insurers.

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.

Health and Safety: A risk assessment is always carried out when we carry out a new event. We have undertaken a full Health and Safety review for both St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's and are in the process of actioning some minor points. If you wish to see a copy please speak to the churchwardens who will be happy to let you see it.

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTE: We are greatly indebted to Michael Rae who has been a tremendous support with all our fabric requirements and we would like to thank him for all he has done

HALTON ST.OSWALD

Edward Pybus

During the year :

1. Holy Communion has been celebrated at Halton monthly, on the first Sunday of the month, and on Christmas and Easter Days. The only exception was in March when the service had to be cancelled because heavy snow made it too difficult to get to the church.
2. At one of the Holy Communion services a couple renewed their marriage vows.
3. There are been two baptisms, one private and the other (twins) public.
4. An Evensong service was held in June to coincide with the Red Cross Open Gardens Day at Halton Castle and Evening Prayer was said on one further occasion.

Attendance at Christmas was 47 and at Easter 32. Excluding those Feast Days and the other special occasions the average attendance was 15, unchanged from last year.

The Rev Jack Hay has continued taking all the regular services with his usual dedication undimmed but, sadly for the rest of us, at the service in February he announced his intention following this coming service at Easter to retire (for the second time at least) and stop taking further services, confirming rumours which had been circulating and which we all fully understood but willfully hoped were not true. Jack has presided at Halton for more than 20 years, not only conducting the services but in dealing with all the administrative arrangements as well. In effect he has selflessly assumed and discharged an overarching pastoral responsibility for us there. His commitment has been total and his enthusiasm infectious (which it still remains). The members of the congregation are hugely indebted to him. We are losing a caring shepherd and a dear friend. There is consolation, though, in that Jack confirms his

intention to continue coming to services at Halton when he can and we will be seeking to ensure that for him as often as possible.

Edward Pybus plays the organ. Alice Smalley deputises for him when he is not available.

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.

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

The cottage is used quite regularly by a good mixture of village organisations and the odd organisation from 'afar'. As we all know it is in great need of damp proofing. A ventilator has been fitted into the main room to try to assist with the eradication of this problem. A new chimney has been fitted onto the west gable end, and looks very impressive, exterior cottage doors have been painted.

A possibility for further use of the cottage could be a reception room for small funerals. The fee is still the same £6 per hour, it is several years since the last increase, and perhaps the PCC should be looking at increasing this figure. Special thanks to Michael Rae for his willingness to help when needed.

SAFEGUARDING

Parish Safeguarding Team Richard Adams, Mandy Norton & Linda E Hunter

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.

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 asked all members of the following groups: Messy Church Team, PCC, Church Guides, and Choir, to complete volunteer registration forms. If you belong to any of these groups and have not completed a form please speak to one of the team. Each person was given a set of Safe Working Practice Guidelines. This year we will be following the Diocesan guidance and

ensuring all those involved in any of the above groups or have a particular responsibility also have a role description too.

Richard Adams has taken over the DBS checks from Margaret Preece. Thank you to Margaret for all her work. Richard maintains the up to date DBS register for the Parish. This has involved some training as the DBS checking is now done on line.

A Safeguarding audit was carried out in March and we are now looking at one or two small points. A copy of the Action Plan can be obtained from one of the team if you would like to read it.

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.

HOMEGROUP

Max and Monica Philbrick

The Home Group continues to meet non-continuously for discussion evenings on Thursdays. After Easter 2017 we started reading the book of Acts. This proved more exciting than we were expecting, as we glimpsed the challenges experienced by early Christians trying to convince their fellow-Jews that the Messiah had truly come; and then under God's instruction realising that non-Jews (like us) were also to be

welcomed into God's kingdom. The significance of Jesus' resurrection, witnessed by many of these believers, also came out clearly again and again.

After a summer break we continued to Acts 12, then spent two weeks using materials from a church 'down south' on how to approach our weekly services – under the headings Preparation, Praise, Penitence, Prayer, Proclamation and Participation. For Advent we followed the same pattern as Corbridge Methodists, and over four weeks watched the BBC series 'The Nativity'. We knew the ending of course, but still found it moving and often thought-provoking in its distinctive presentation of the characters of both Mary and Joseph, and of the three Magi.

January saw us continue in Acts, as Paul faced both welcome and opposition preaching the gospel and reached 'Europe'. We have more of his travels to follow. For Lent, we used the 'Let Your Light Shine' materials which followed the #LiveLent booklet made available to the congregation. Numbers fluctuate (usually between 6 and 18) and we were sorry when Tony and Gill Macdonald moved away, but we have been joined by two new regular members, and there are still some seats available in our front room.

JULIAN GROUP

Barbara McNamara

Our prayer group has been meeting for about eighteen months now following the silent prayer tradition of Julian of Norwich. We meet fortnightly alternating between Helga Marshall & John & Barbara McNamara's home. We usually begin with some music as we quieten our minds and then have half an hour of silent prayer followed by tea or coffee.

We have about half a dozen of us meeting from the parish & nearby. We were very sorry to lose two members during the year due to their re-location and would love anyone interested to just come & try our sessions. If you love silence you might find our meetings helpful.

We usually meet on every other Wednesday morning at 10am and dates of our meetings are available in the bulletin or the back of the church.

CORBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

REPRESENTATIVES:

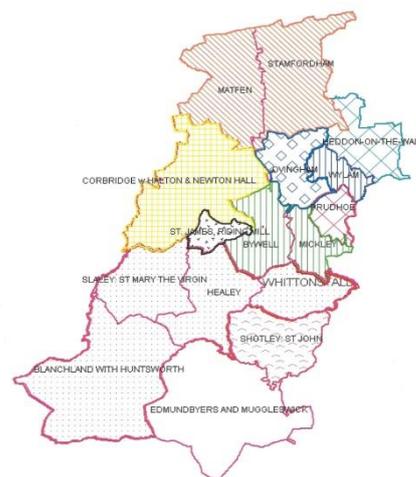
Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright

1 When, Where and Who?

Synod met four times - 10 January at Riding Mill, 14 February at Stocksfield, 6 June at Snod's Edge, 24 October at Wylam. The last two were a new synod with the following officers - Area Dean Revd Lesley Chapman, Lay Chair Mick Greves, and Secretary Robert Peers. Mick Greves also took on the Finance Officer role until a replacement could be found.

2 Clergy posts

Following the resignation of Revd David Hewlett in January, Revd Lesley Chapman was appointed Area Dean. During the year there were new continuing or new vacancies in the parishes of Bywell, Stocksfield & Mickley, Corbridge, Prudhoe, Ovingham, Shotley and Wylam. This led to considerable additional work for the Area Dean, for the remaining licensed ministers and for retired clergy.



During 2017, Revd Tom Birch was appointed Priest in Charge of Wylam and Ovingham, and Revd Dan Freyhan was appointed Priest in Charge of Prudhoe. The new Bishop of Berwick, Rt Revd Mark Tanner, visited synod in January.

3 Major Items Discussed

We spent a useful evening navel-gazing under the title 'Why Are We Here?' which has informed our revised vision statement. David Ratcliff, Lay Chair of Hexham synod led a stimulating discussion on Deanery Development. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Revd Rachel Scheffer, the Corbridge Deanery Face Book page was launched with a few parishes getting involved.

Martin Sheppard, then Diocesan Director of Communications, led an evening suggesting where we might improve our communications. An Advent Bring and Share proved to be a great success, revealing just how much was going on in the deanery. A session on Prayer was led by Revd John Penny.

4 Social

A pleasant evening meal was enjoyed by a few members of the Greater Chapter (all licensed ministers including retired) at which it was agreed to invite spouses in the

future. The Deanery Day in July had to be cancelled due to the workload of the few people available to organise it.

5 Other Business

The deanery vision statement continued to be revised to bring it more in line with Growing Church Bringing Hope and the changing priorities within the deanery itself. Important links were maintained with General Synod (reported by Canon Carol Wolstenholme) and Diocesan Synod (reported by Robert Peers).

Parish Share proved a controversial issue after the deanery decided to allocate only the amount that it thought parishes could expect to raise, rather than the full - apparently unobtainable - amount. In the end, we raised more than our target and came midway in the rank of amount paid by deanery.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

Time really flies and it seems no time at all since I sat at the computer writing the annual report. We began our year, as always, with our AGM at the Wheatsheaf. I know everyone enjoyed the evening and I was sorry not to be able to stay for the meal and the quiz. Thanks to Rosemary and Sheila for all their hard work in organising this.

We commenced 2017 with a talk by Tom Richardson with a talk about Wheelbirks and samples of ice cream to taste which were a great hit.

Brian Birnie and his colleagues gave a most comprehensive talk about their work for the charity that he founded – Daft as a Brush . It was so good to hear about the way in which people received such good support from them.

This was followed by Sam Gilchrist telling us about the West Northumberland Foodbank, it was good to hear what happened to the food that many of us donate on a regular basis but quite sad to hear that the numbers accessing this service were growing steadily.

Bill Cunningham took us on a virtual pilgrimage through Northumbria with pictures and words. It was good to see some familiar places.

In September we began with Ian Wylie surprising us all when we heard what a talented journalist we had in our midst, he amazed us with his stories about who he had met and we all enjoyed seeing the photographs and memorabilia he brought with him. Following on Max and Monica Philbrick explaining about the charity Reaching the Unreached – it was really humbling to hear about the work that is carried on by so many people. Vivien shared her flower arranging expertise with us

all when made a variety of arrangements. How quick and professional she was. The arrangements were raffled and 6 members went home with a fantastic arrangement.

Our Summer Outing to Kirkharle was really interesting. The talk developed on the talk we had heard a few years ago and enlightened us about the various changes that had taken place and the new Capability Brown exhibitions. We had a lovely supper.

We held our Advent Service and our Lent service in St. Andrew's's church. As usual we have given a substantial amount of money away to charity this year. We presented cheques to Let's Get Growing (The Peace Garden at Minsteracres) and Daft as a Brush. 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. Rosemary Baker, Elizabeth Bulman and Doreen Allinson former members have both died this year

Thank to all those who have been involved in any way but special thanks to Rosemary Rayfield, Sheila Neilson, Mary Gray, Mary Rae, Margaret Logan, Elsie Fletcher and Liz Buckley 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

Andrew Neal, Chair of Governors and Jennifer Ainsley, Headteacher

Current number on roll	156	% of SEND pupils (Special Education Need / disability)	3%
Age range of pupils	3-9	% of disadvantaged pupils	2%

The school continues to have a termly visit from our School Improvement Partner and the strengths of the school from our autumn 2017 visit include:

<p><i>Outcomes in 2017 were good and the school have a sharp focus on raising attainment and progress.</i></p> <p><i>The leadership team is strong and provides clear direction enabling all staff to move the school forward. Members of the team act as mentors for new staff coaching and encouraging.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring and assessment is secure and accurate analysis highlights key areas for development.</i></p> <p><i>Pupil progress meetings and staff assessment are used effectively to ensure that all pupil groups meet their optimum standards.</i></p>	<p><i>Teaching is consistently good and over half is outstanding.</i></p> <p><i>Personal development behaviour and welfare is outstanding. The pupils are nurtured and they feel safe and enjoy learning and being at school.</i></p> <p><i>The teaching assistants make a significant contribution to the school.</i></p> <p><i>The active governing body immerse themselves in school life and their role is increasing.</i></p> <p><i>EYFS leadership and the team is strong and the provision offers a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum.</i></p>
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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 development focus areas include:

<p>Outdoor learning</p> <p>The onsite community allotment is taking shape and children and families are becoming more and more involved in the exciting project</p>	<p>Assessment in non-core subjects</p> <p>Further develop the assessment procedures across the Foundation Subjects.</p>
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Mr David Watson (previous Chair of governors), stepped down this year following a four year term in which he has offered challenge and support to ensure the school could grow and develop to become the high quality provision we are now all proud of. We would like to thank him for all his time and commitment.

The new Chair of Governors, Mr Andrew Neal regularly meets with the Head Teacher 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 currently have a vacancy for a foundation governor and await the appointment of the new Vicar to complete the governance team.

The commitment and dedication of the staff team and all those involved in our school community are what continues to make us strong.

With uncertainty surrounding the future of education in the west of Northumberland, as two consultations are underway, we continue positively on our journey and remain dedicated to providing the best education for our children.

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

Mission Action Plan

Area	Long term objectives	Achieve by end of February	Achieve by June
Growing the Church	Pastoral Offices: establishing a relationship with individuals / families and then having meaningful follow up.	Source some appropriate literature to give to clergy who are officiating at occasional offices to pass on to those they are ministering to. Deliver crosses to bereaved families who were not able to attend the All Souls Service.	
	Set up a pastoral visiting team.	Have one person 'trained' and licensed to go out with Home Communions. Ensure that those who are ill or in need receive a visit from a church member.	Next stages to be decided in conjunction with new Vicar.
	Look at ways of encouraging and establishing opportunities to broaden the age range of people attending church.	Discussion with PCC and new Vicar.	
	Set up an effective Lay Ministry Team.	Discussion with PCC and new Vicar.	
	Extend and broaden our welcome to those new to church and the village.	Revise our Parish News email list and try and encourage people from the wider community to subscribe to it.	Plan event to draw in non-church people who are retired.
Area	Long term objectives	Achieve by end of February	Achieve by June
Worship, Prayer and Learning	Identifying ways of helping people move on in their faith journey and recognising that we all learn in different ways, eg some people are not comfortable with small groups.	Purchase 150 'God with Us' books and distribute to congregation; any remaining to be left in church. Source material for individual reading during Lent and Easter. Ask various people to write a book review and display on noticeboard. Widen variety of hymns sung at services. Put words of anthems on bulletin.	Devise a leaflet to explain why we do certain things in our liturgy.
	Use any opportunities when members of the community are coming into church.	Make the Messy Church library available in church with the addition of some books for adults.	Plan a Summer Celebration with strawberries and cream.
Area	Long term objectives	Achieve by end of February	Achieve by June
Engaging with the Community	Always to be seen to part of village events and activities.	Source some appropriate literature that can be available in church for people to take away.	Ongoing
	Establish a variety of musical events.	Extend our programme of activities to ensure a broad range of musical, social, community engagement and fundraising activities.	
	Have a varied programme of events.		
	Plan more social events for the church community.		Harvest Supper with Ceilidh (in September)

Area	Long term objectives	Achieve by end of February	Achieve by June—September
Buildings	Ensure the church and cottage continue to be properly maintained and used to best advantage.	Woodworm in Choir vestry to be eradicated.	
		Work on Cottage damp.	
			Replace Cottage central heating boiler?
			A strategy for the use of the cottage – will influence any capital expenditure above that already indicated.
Area	Long term objectives	Achieve by end of February	Achieve by June—September
Finance	Look at the decline in planned giving and suggest ways in which we can change / diversify / increase our income stream.	Planning Group report to February PCC.	Depends on outcome of PCC discussions.