

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



**ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2023**

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA



Parish of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall Our Parish Mission Statement

Sharing the length and breadth of the love of Jesus

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. Along with every Church in the Diocese of Newcastle we strive to grow the Church and bring hope

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- in living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese

To this end

- our doors are open
- our minds are open
- our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children, teenagers and adults to Jesus.

July 2019

ANNUAL REPORTS

page

Minutes of AGM 2022	Carol Moffatt	4
Vicar's Report	Canon David J Kennedy	7
Electoral Roll	Maureen Davison	14
PCC Annual Report	Jean Wilks	14
Churchwardens Report	Sue Graves, Jean Wilks & David McEwan	16
Halton Report	Edward Pybus	17
Safeguarding Report	Safeguarding Team	18
Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church	Maintenance Team	19

Mission and Ministry

Messy Church	Louise Stubbs	21
Outside Mission and Giving: Take 5	Max Philbrick	23
River	Revd Sam Lohead	25
Eco Church	Revd Sam Lohead	25
Contemplative Prayer	Revd Sam Lohead	26
Book Club	Jennifer Wright	27
Home Group	Anne King-Lewis and Max Philbrick	27
Prayer Group	Jennifer Wright	27
Church Music	Colin Williams	28
Women's Fellowship	Revd Linda E Hunter	30
New Community Initiatives	Revd Linda E Hunter	31

Outreach

Food bank	Monica Philbrick	32
Electronic Communication	Simon A Hunter	33
Parish News	Max Philbrick	34
Deanery Synod	Acting Deanery Secretary	34
Events & Fundraising	Jean Wilks & Revd Linda Hunter	35
Church Flowers	Ann Prudhoe	37
Corbridge C of E First School	Suz Hart	38

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS HELD IN ST ANDREW'S CHURCH 11.20am, SUNDAY 15th MAY 2022

PRESENT

Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Revd Lynn Caudwell, Revd Sam Lochhead and 37 laity.

APOLOGIES

Michael & Sheila Priestley, Maureen Davison, David & Margaret Preece, Suzette & Warwick Milne.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

David Kennedy explained this first of the two meetings was for the election of two Churchwardens, for which anyone voting must be either resident on the parish or on the electoral register. The two present Churchwardens had both been nominated to stand again and their election was agreed unanimously:

- Jean Wilks, proposed by Gail Williams, seconded by Nicola Swart
- Sue Graves, proposed by Nicola Swart, seconded by Gail Williams

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Acceptance was proposed by Ian Graves, seconded by Janet Kennedy, agreed unanimously, and signed by David Kennedy. There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cliff Wright spoke to the report and accounts. He expressed sincere thanks to all those who help and highlighted the main features over the year:

- Personal giving increased by around 20% on 2020.
- Strong recovery in net income received from fundraising activities notably the Christmas Tree Festival, Donations and Parish Fees with improvements over the previous year of £11,800, £7,600 and £2,200 respectively.
- Improvement of £8,100 in the value of our Charifund investment, although future fluctuations can be expected.
- The major Organ Refurbishment project, together with the much smaller clock winding project were satisfactorily concluded with both jobs mostly funded by special appeal, grants and gift aid.
- The introduction of broadband into the church and a robust card reader has already demonstrated material benefits and is essential to future financing as the use of cash falls away.
- At the end of the year we had reserves of £209,000 which is virtually uncommitted. However, this includes, a legacy of £66,000 which has been earmarked for work required on St Andrews Cottage.

Overall financial results for 2021 provided a happy contrast to the year before, and are undoubtedly underpinned by the generosity of parishioners. However these are extraordinary difficult and challenging times and complacency for the future would be a mistake. There are significant

upcoming calls on our reserves as we meet the demands of the Quinquennial reports on both St Andrew's and Halton and importantly also in meeting the demands of our mission and ministry. David expressed huge appreciation to Cliff for the extraordinary amount of time work that he invests in managing our finances and accounting, with good cheer and fortitude. It was proposed by Alice Bryant, seconded by Gail Williams, and agreed unanimously that the Financial Report be accepted.

REPORTS

David thanked everyone who contributed to and compiled the Annual Report booklet. Linda read out the Deanery Synod report which would now be added to the written annual report; she said work had been ongoing throughout the year in preparing a new Deanery Plan, looking to work more closely together utilising skills and resources, rather than working as individual parishes.

David also expressed appreciation to everyone who gave generously of their time and effort in supporting the work of the church – although much of the work goes unseen he was grateful to all who contribute to the spiritual health and wellbeing of our community, demonstrating a happy and healthy collaboration.

He especially thanked Linda Hunter for acting as administrator to the parish. He hoped that the new PCC would agree to the appointment of a Parish Administrator to take over this role, to free more of Linda's time for ministry following her ordination in July.

Acceptance of all reports was proposed by Marc Bryant, seconded by Brenda Ford, and agreed unanimously.

ELECTIONS

With the retirement of Ian Graves, Jon Williams, Kate Jenkins and David Preece from the PCC, there were now four vacancies on PCC. Two nominations had been received and their election was agreed unanimously:

- Alice Bryant, proposed by Liz Buckley and seconded by Jean Wilks
- Nahida Remy, proposed by Linda Hunter and seconded by Sue Graves

Two further vacancies remained, and anyone interested in standing was encouraged to speak with the Vicar. Standing committee members would be confirmed at the PCC meeting to be held in June. There was one vacancy for a representative on the Deanery Synod; again, anyone interested in standing was encouraged to speak with the Vicar.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Cliff Wright reported that Mike Collins is happy to remain as independent examiner. Acceptance proposed by Alice Bryant, seconded by Linda Hunter and agreed unanimously.

AOB

Linda Hunter thanked David Kennedy, on behalf of all present, for his leadership and support throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in prayer.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2022 – 2023

Churchwardens Jean Wilks Sue Graves

PCC Elected Members

2020 - 2023

Anne King-Lewis David McEwan Edward Pybus

2021 – 2024

Val Barnes Jo Eldridge

2022 - 2025

Alice Bryant Nahidah Remy John Wilson

Deanery Synod

Max Philbrick Monica Philbrick Alice Bryant



INTRODUCTION: STRIDING AHEAD

Last year, when I wrote my Annual Report, I gave it the title – ‘3 steps forward, 2 steps back’ to reflect the start-stop year of 2021-2022 when Covid-19 still had a major impact on Church life. So, it has been great to see normal Church life gradually restored over the past twelve months. Indeed, this has been a fertile period in the life of our Parish with a significant number of new people joining our congregation and some exciting new initiatives and developments in our ministry as a Church. Now is the time to press on, and continue to develop our mission and ministry, trusting in the Lord of the harvest that he will give the increase. Many new members of St Andrew's have commented positively about the welcome they have received, and the sense of community and positiveness in our Church life and the variety of what we offer in our Church programme over the course of the year. I hope and pray that this may continue, not least as we look forward to our 1350th Anniversary year beginning in October 2024. This gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the faith we profess and the spiritual heritage to which we are heirs, and the remarkable continuity of faith, worship and witness in Corbridge over the many centuries of Church life here.

WORSHIP

It has been wonderful to see the congregation gradually build up over the year, with average Sunday attendance now well over 100 for services at St Andrew's and healthy numbers at Halton. Also, the Wednesday morning mid-week communion now attracts up to 20 worshippers each week. *River*, our monthly informal and inter-active gathering is now well-established as a key part of our worshipping life, attracting up to 30 people, including those new to our church. Messy Church is now really building up again – recent meetings have attracted about 18 children and on Good Friday we had 38 children present. I'm delighted for our highly committed team because for much of 2022, numbers were discouragingly low. This is a reminder to keep praying and persevere, until growth comes and we trust that this will continue.

The music of our Church is developing. The new hymnbook has enabled us to introduce new hymns and songs. It has been great to see new members joining the choir, especially sopranos and altos and some new men (although we need more). But the quality of the music the choir brings us is evident for all to hear and the choir itself is a very committed mutually supportive group. Similarly, we are grateful for the music of *River*, led by Paul Morris with his excellent guitar playing and leadership. We were grateful to Simon Caudwell for his piano playing and we miss him, but I'm delighted that Jenny Watson and Nicki Swart have brought their skills as pianists to *River*.

During the past year we have continued to explore the ministry of healing, focussing on inner healing with prayer and the laying on of hands and anointing, and a further healing service will be held in July. Compline and Address is now a firmly established aspect of our Advent, Lent and Holy Week worship. This year we have explored ‘the 4 last things’ (death, judgment, heaven and hell) in Advent, the writings of Thomas Traherne in Lent, and the aspects of the passion narrative – the cup, the darkness, the veil and the earthquake, in Holy Week.

It was a delight to see a packed Church on Christmas Eve for the Crib Service (242 people) and Festival of Lessons and Carols (367, with standing room only), with 221 attending worship on Christmas Morning. Our Holy Week and Easter worship was very well attended, with 266 people at worship on Easter Day.

This past year has been a most poignant and significant year for the Monarchy. In June we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a memorable Civic Service and celebration including a magnificent rendering of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* by our augmented choir. In September, the Queen's death saw St Andrew's as a hub of corporate remembrance with many people coming into Church to light candles and sign the book of condolences. We re-ordered our worship to mark this most significant moment in our history with a Requiem Eucharist on the first Sunday and a very well attended Civic Service on the second Sunday during the period of national mourning. And of course, we have recently celebrated the King's Coronation with another Civic Service where *Zadok* appeared again, followed by a shared lunch – street party-style!

We have been delighted to restore our ministry to Charlotte Straker House, Burnbrae Lodge, Riverhill, Abbeyfield and Primlea Court. The congregation of Corbridge Methodist Church now worships in St Andrew's twice a month. Once again, we celebrated the Covenant Service together in January and shared in Easter worship together. It is great that the Revd Marie Beard is so much a part of our shared ministerial team.



PEOPLE

The great highlight of last year was Linda Hunter's ordination as Deacon by Bishop Mark at the Cathedral. A bus-full of members of St Andrew's attended the service and we had a joyful celebration of Linda's new ministry on the Sunday morning following with another show-stopping cake made by Lynn Ward. Linda moved seamlessly from her ministry as a Reader to her ordained ministry and has firmly established herself in both Church and Community in this public and representative role. She has also initiated a real advance in our pastoral ministry with the new pastoral visiting hub and the establishment of Tea and Chat as part of our outreach to members of the community who value the opportunity to meet together for company and support. We look forward to Linda's ordination as priest on 1 July and her first presidency of the Eucharist on Wednesday 5 July at 7.30pm when the preacher will be Bishop Dagmar Winter.



In February we bade farewell to Lynn and Simon Caudwell on Lynn's appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St Christopher's, Pott Shrigley, in the Diocese of Chester. Lynn presided and preached at her final service followed by speeches, presentations and an excellent shared lunch. We give thanks for Lynn's ministry over four years here at Corbridge and a group of us were delighted to be present at her Licensing, many more watching the service on-line.

We were delighted to welcome David McEwan as our new churchwarden, working alongside Jean Wilks, and David has assumed his new duties with energy and positivity. We are blessed to have two such dedicated and talented wardens. Sam Lohead completes three years with us as Curate in July, and so will soon begin in his fourth year the process of discerning where God will call him as in the next stage of his ministry. We look forward to welcoming the Revd Phil Smith as non-stipendiary Associate Priest of Corbridge. Phil will be licensed by Bishop Mark on Monday 19 June at 7.30pm. We were delighted to welcome Anastasia Moskvina, an ordinand training for the ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham, on a six-month placement from October to Easter. Ana made a great impact through her friendliness, preaching and leading, and it was a particular joy to hear her sing the Easter Proclamation, the *Exsultet*, at the Easter morning Dawn Service. For those who were there, it was unforgettable. We are fortunate to have such talented and complementary ministers in the life of our Church. Jennifer Wright has continued her role as Pastoral Assistant, and in

September, Fiona Warin began training as our second Pastoral Assistant. We look forward to Fiona's commissioning in due course, but this further strengthens the development of quality pastoral care in this parish. In January, Lorna Petrie began as our new Part-time Parish Administrator, working 10 hours a week in the Parish Office. This is a vital development of our parish administration, freeing Linda Hunter who exercised the role with absolute diligence over many years, but is now exercising a people-centred role as an ordained minister. Lorna has made a great start and is getting to grips with the complexity of parish life in this busy benefice. Ann Prudhoe has succeeded Sheila Goldsworthy as our Flower co-ordinator (although Sheila continues as part of the team); we are enormously grateful for the years of service Sheila has given. Lynn Davidge resigned as part-time cleaner and we have just appointed Charlotte Alexandra to succeed her. We were saddened by the death of a number of worshipping members of our Church community over the recent year, notably former Church Treasurer Jack Dalton, Margaret Telfer, Rena Adamson and Ron Gold, loved and valued members of our Church family. A Memorial Service was held for Beccy Graves, daughter of Ian and Sue, and there will be a forth-coming memorial service for John Sykes, former Director of Music, in June.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

The BBC *Songs of Praise* programme, part of which was recorded in St Andrew's, was duly broadcast in May and we were delighted to welcome the Revd Kate Botley to St Andrew's where her fun and humour were infectious.





We continue to seek to grow in our knowledge of the faith. We have had special sermon series on 1 Peter (using the Archbishop of Canterbury's *Thy Kingdom Come* material), inner healing, and a recent Eastertide series preaching through 1 Corinthians 15. A 5-session teaching series on the Creed was offered on Zoom in the autumn and 3 sessions on our Christian responsibility for the environment, led by Richard Adams, in the early part of 2023. In Lent, we held two well-attended sessions exploring the Letter to the Hebrews. Well-established groups such as the home group and Book Club have continued to enable engagement with our faith.

Prayer continues to be central. Through the generosity of a member of the congregation, we were able to provide *Try Praying* booklets inside and outside of St Andrew's and many were taken and we trust used. We also offered the novena prayer resources for *Thy Kingdom Come* between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Sam Lohead continued to lead sessions on contemplative prayer, and the Thursday prayer group has met weekly. Morning and Evening prayer are said daily in Church. On the run-up to the Coronation, the Church of England special commemorative daily prayer books were distributed.

We continue fully to support Corbridge Church of England First School. During the year we bade farewell to Jen Ainsley our excellent Head Teacher and welcomed Suz Hart as her successor as Executive Head of Corbridge and Broomhaugh Church Schools. The ministry team lead weekly assemblies and Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of Year services are celebrated in Church. This autumn we were delighted to welcome parents and families to the School Services once again after Covid restrictions. Linda Hunter continues to lead regular assemblies and services at Mowden Hall School and Sam Lohead has re-established our links with Corbridge Middle School, leading some assemblies each term.

We continue to seek to engage positively with the wider community. Linda Hunter and myself are Trustees of the recently-formed Corbridge Community Partnership and St Andrew's is thus a partner in seeking to develop the new Community Hub in the former Methodist Chapel in Princes Street. David Waugh, Ian Wylie and Sean Cutler (from the Pele Tower) are on our 1350 Committee. These initiatives, along with our links with the Traders' Group - Visit Corbridge, the Christmas Tree Festival, the new Pastoral hub, Tea and Chat, our schools ministry, and our significant ministry through occasional offices, ensures that St Andrew's is fully committed to serving the common good.

Many, many people contribute to the diverse life of our Church and I will make that a feature of what I say at the APCM.



THE DEANERY OF CORBRIDGE

I have continued as Area Dean and Linda has done a magnificent job as Deanery Secretary as we have responded to a diocesan process of devising a new Deanery Mission Action Plan. Part of this is a response to a reduction in stipendiary posts following consultation with Diocesan Synod and PCCs about what they can offer in Parish Share. As part of this, we are exploring whether Corbridge should also assume responsibility for the Parishes of Slaley and Healey following the forth-coming retirement of their Vicar, Helen Savage, in October. The PCC has had initial discussion of this and a formal consultation with the Archdeacon and Bishop's Staff will ensue.

CONCLUSION

As I look back over the year, and re-visit many memories in writing this Report, I feel an enormous sense of thanksgiving – to God, for his sustaining grace and the privilege of exploring this great and holy Faith, and to the many people who contribute to the life of St Andrew's and Halton. Of course, no Church, no Minister, no Christian, is perfect. There is the Church God desires and the Church we are prepared to give him. But the pandemic has taught me to count my blessings and, corporately, we have so many blessing for which our thanks and praise are due. A Church which places thanksgiving at its centre (and we do indeed celebrate the Eucharist – the Great Thanksgiving - each Sunday) will be a Church that is positive, giving and joyful. May we continue to grow in this grace and serve the Lord cheerfully and to his praise and glory.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

David



ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

At the beginning of the year there were 160 names on the Electoral Roll. During this year 15 names have been added and there have been three names removed.

The current number on the Electoral Roll is 172.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Jean Wilks

MEMBERSHIP 2022-2023:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio:

Vicar: Canon David J Kennedy
Assistant Curate: Revd Lynn Caudwell
Assistant Curate: Revd Sam Lohead
Assistant Curate: Revd Linda E Hunter
Churchwardens: Sue Graves (until Nov. 2022), David McEwan (from Jan. 2023), Jean Wilks

Elected at APCM in May 2022:

Val Barnes	Edward Pybus	Jo Eldridge
Nahida Remy	Anne King Lewis	John Wilson
David McEwan		

Elected at APCM, and representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Alice Bryant

Co-opted

Cliff Wright	Treasurer
Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE

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: Vicar, Assistant Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We welcomed three new PCC members in May 2022: Alice Bryant, Nahida Remy and John Wilson. We thank them for joining us and for all that they will bring to the PCC.

Four PCC members stood down at the 2022 APCM: Ian Graves, Kate Jenkins, David Preece and Jon Williams. Also, Sue Graves resigned as PCC member and churchwarden in autumn 2022 due to increased family commitments. We thank them all for their many contributions and their hard work.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Eight meetings of the PCC and eight of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, following the APCM on 15th May 2022. PCC has been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. More detail may be found elsewhere in this report, and in the Minute File at the back of church or on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

As well as our regular business, and one-off events covered elsewhere in this report, we have also discussed:

Mission statement: part of each PCC meeting is used to review a specific section of our mission statement

Welcome card: a card is being prepared and printed, and will be given to new Corbridge residents

Appointment of Parish Administrator

Corbridge Methodist Church: working together following closure of their building

Corbridge Community Partnership and Community Hub: opportunities for joint working

Plans for St Andrew's 1350 anniversary celebrations: a sub-committee is planning a range of exciting events and projects

Pastoral Visiting

Plans for the Coronation weekend



It has been a changeable year for the churchwardens. Due to increased family commitments, Sue Graves made the difficult decision to resign as churchwarden during summer/autumn 2022. David McEwan replaced her as churchwarden in January 2023.

Sue continues to work as Senior Sidesperson. We thank her, and all the volunteers who take their turn as sidespeople and on the coffee rota. We are so grateful for all that you do. This is a really important part of the church's Ministry of Welcome. It is also a great way of getting to know more people! If you haven't yet signed up to help, please do give it a try.

Thanks also to everyone involved in all the other tasks, rotas and committees which ensure that things run smoothly for all our different services and activities. There are far too many of you to mention by name, but we really do appreciate all your hard work.

As ever, we thank all our Ministry team for their tireless work and enthusiasm, and for being so inspiring to work with. We also thank their partners and families for supporting them in all the work that they do. This was an exciting year, which saw Linda's ordination as Deacon, and Lynn's move to pastures new at the end of her Curacy.

It has been good to be able to return to more normal routines as we emerged from the pandemic. Church services have at last been able to run without the rituals of advance bookings, socially-distanced seating and sanitising pews. We have had a full events programme, and all three of us have enjoyed taking an active role in running the tree festival, arts and craft exhibition, and a wide variety of concerts.

We found it especially rewarding acting as stewards in church following the death of the Queen. Many people visited, to sign the book of condolence, or light a candle, or just sit quietly. It was good to see how much they valued this, and the comfort they got from being here.

Both churchwardens are members of the PCC and Standing Committee, so we share in all decision-making about the work of our churches. We are also responsible for maintaining the church building and property, and addressing health and safety issues, and we are both active members of the Maintenance Committee. In particular, this year we have worked on commissioning our architect to conduct the quinquennial inspections of the cottage and of both Halton and St Andrew's churches, and on exciting plans for upgrading the cottage. And we oversee the work of our church cleaner. We have turned our hands to a wide variety of tasks when required, including odd jobs and repairs, locking/unlocking church, cleaning loos, clearing cobwebs, sorting out store cupboards, counting money, putting up banners in the churchyard, and stocking the bar for concerts!

Halton continues to flourish thanks in greatest part to the pastoral energy and care of Canon David Kennedy and Revds Lynn Caudwell (sadly no longer with us and we wish her all the very best in her new ministry at Pott Shrigley), Sam Lohead and Linda Hunter who make time in turns to come up the hill and conduct our services and preach. From the retired clergy Canon Michael Thompson stands in occasionally and is always most welcomed and most welcoming in equal measure. Our congregation comprises a core of 15 or so and there is a number of others who attend less frequently. Severally they contribute in many ways, in particular in maintaining the church building, arranging the flowers and tending the graveyard. We are deeply grateful to them all.

Regular services of Holy Communion have been held on the first Sunday of the month throughout the year (average attendance 12), including Harvest Thanksgiving in October, together with Easter (42) and Christmas (40). Additionally, David conducted Choral Evensong (40) on 26 June, members of the choir from St Andrew's performing some quite lovely music, Sam Evening Prayer (40) on 6 July at the conclusion of the Parish Pilgrimage Walk from Heaven Field to Halton, and David a further Evening Prayer (6) on 31 July.

In addition to providing a serene place of worship Halton also attracts many visitors. The number seems to increase year by year. Mainly walkers, some exploring Hadrian's Wall, they admire the matchless setting with its expansive view of the Tyne Valley and enjoy the peace and quiet. They are delighted to find the church building open and many write in the Visitors Book messages evidencing how they draw from their visit variously inspiration and hope, solace and spiritual support. One summarised it briefly: "A hidden gem. I'm so pleased my walk brought me here". A sentiment we can all share.



SAFEGUARDING

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mandy Norton Tel: 01434 632585
Safer Recruitment Officer: Richard Adams Tel: 01434 634869
Asst PSO (Admin): Linda E Hunter Tel: 01434 633742

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.' Here in St. Andrew's and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to listen if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information or further support. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

We have continued to use the National Church Dashboard in order to keep up to date with all that we need to do to ensure that our churches are safe places. We have consistently been at level 3 (highest level!) Safer recruitment is really important as we ensure that we recruit to roles safely and those who work with children or vulnerable adults have all the appropriate checks. All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. In addition some people have received training in Domestic Violence Awareness and Safer Recruiting. Basic Awareness training is completed on line and anyone who wants to know more about Safeguarding can go on the Church of England website and register to complete this training.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and all PCC members are kept up to date current information.

Over the next few months we are going to be part of a pilot exploring how Safer Recruitment and DBS can link in with the dashboard.

Remember if you have any concerns please speak to Mandy or one of the clergy, or Carol Butler: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding for further information.



The fabric of both our churches is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

Quinquennial Inspections: St Andrew's Cottage. As reported last year, the inspection completed in 2021 revealed a substantial amount of work to be undertaken, especially control and elimination of damp, installation of under-floor heating, and a new kitchen. Our architect is preparing detailed specifications and tender documents.

Halton Church: The inspection was completed in 2022. Recommendations to be followed up this year include repairing the chest tomb, some work on the paths, and some minor repairs and maintenance inside the church. Some repointing is required by the end of next year. Discussions are in progress to implement these recommendations.

St Andrew's Church: The inspection should be done this year.

Maintenance and works undertaken: Statutory Requirements. During the year we have had inspections of the fire extinguishers, boilers, alarm system, and regular inspections of ladders. Electrical PAT testing was done in November 2022. The 5-yearly electrical inspections of St Andrew's church and the cottage were done in October 2022, and all recommended remedial work completed in February 2023. Halton's 5-yearly inspection is due in 2023.

Clock: The clock's annual inspection was done in October 2022. We are grateful to Mike Collins who checks, monitors and adjusts the clock when required. Fortunately, it no longer needs winding three times a week, thanks to the automated winding installed in 2021.

- **Roof.** Maintaining a watertight roof, as with all historic buildings, is an ongoing challenge. There have been some leaks in the north transept and the vicar's vestry; repairs are in hand.
- **Lighting.** All defective bulbs in the chandeliers and high-level lights were replaced in April 2022. More have failed since then, and plans are in hand to get them replaced.
- **Halton:** heaters. Repairs have been arranged for some faulty overhead heaters.
- **Cottage boiler.** A new gas boiler was fitted in August 2022, to replace the old one which was failing repeatedly.
- **Churchyard and garden.** We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council, which has responsibility for the churchyard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths. In March 2023, a volunteer working party was organised to do an extra tidy-up. Special thanks are due to Warwick and Suzette Milne for their work in the cottage garden.

Utilities: contract renewals: New electrical contracts for St Andrew's, Halton and the cottage have been taken out as from May 2023. The cottage gas contract is fixed until 2024. St Andrew's gas contract runs until 2025.

Health & Safety: We are in the process of reviewing our fire safety risk assessments. Event risk assessments are carried out for all new events.

Security Review: We regularly monitor our security arrangements. If you have any church key and are no longer in the role for which it was issued, please return it to the churchwardens.

The Maintenance Committee: The committee meets regularly and reports to PCC. Members are Michael Rae, Jon Williams, Canon David Kennedy, Revd Linda Hunter, and both churchwardens. The committee is especially indebted to Michael and Jon, for all their wisdom, expertise and hard work. Jon has been designated Eco-Champion on the Maintenance Committee, to ensure that environmental concerns are taken on board in all discussion and decision-making.

Church Furnishings: Two beautiful new open ciboria, given by Lindsay Brooker in memory of her father David Ketley have adorned our Eucharistic worship. Also, the existing ciborium was fully refurbished by Reid and Sons of Newcastle and has been restored to use. Also, new altar cloths and altar linen were kindly given by Canon and Mrs Thompson.

Thank You

The fabric of our churches is well looked after, and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way, by giving their time, expertise or financial help. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this, as so many people are involved. We are always looking for more volunteers to take on maintenance tasks; if you could offer some help, please speak to the churchwardens.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church is now celebrating its thirteenth year and we have seen many positive changes throughout this last year. The Messy Church banner is displayed well in advance within the church grounds. It serves both as a reminder for our regular participants, but also encourages visiting families to join us. It is pleasing to note that families have visited us from further afield and returned! Our team has welcomed new members and we would encourage anyone who is interested, in helping, to come along and see what it would entail. It can be 'Messy' at times but is always a rewarding experience. We conduct planning / review meetings via Zoom but recently have resumed face to face meetings.

Canon David Kennedy, Revd. Lynn Caudwell, and Revd. Sam Lohead have regularly attended our planning meetings and Messy Church days, whenever they have been available. The team has been grateful for their involvement and support. (Revd. Sam's enthusiasm for clay activities hasn't gone unnoticed!) Revd. Linda Hunter has continued to lead the team and her efficiency, commitment and encouragement ensures we all stay on task during our planning and Messy Church days. Thank you Linda.

The Messy Church format has thankfully reverted back to pre-covid days, which allows 'face to face' communication and interaction with children/ adults in attendance. We begin with a game which we have found to be a successful approach as everyone can participate. This is usually linked to the story being presented. A video is often used to tell the story with input from Clergy or members of the team.

Max Philbrick operates all the technology involved with the laptop and screen. His input is greatly appreciated. Table top activities are now the norm and we always include a physical activity which could be something like a simple obstacle course. This form of activity has always been popular. The days conclude with a recap of the story, song and prayers. A 'help yourself buffet' has also been reinstated with tea and coffee provided for adults This has proved to be a great opportunity to sit and chat with parents and children. More recently Janet Morrison has, once again, agreed to prepare tea for us. It is served by members of the team. Janet retired from the team in 2019 and we are grateful for her renewed involvement. The teas are always excellent! Our attendance figures are increasing again. We have been delighted to welcome two Ukrainian families who now attend regularly.

Some of the themes we have addressed have included;

Good Friday /Easter activities, David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Noah's Ark, The Wise and Foolish Builders, The Great Escape, The Shepherd Boy who became King, Light of the World, The Greatest Journey, The Good Samaritan and The Parable of the Sower.

In conclusion, Messy Church could not continue without the unstinting support, enthusiasm, commitment and creativeness of our team. As in previous reports a special mention must go to Max Philbrick. He has continued to produce a colourful monthly flyer to publicise our days. The flyers are

distributed in school and are always available in church. Thank you Max. for all your skills in technology! We have been delighted to welcome Charlotte Paton and Mike Bewick to our team this year.

As always, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all our Messy Church families and everyone who contributes, in any way, to Messy Church.



Used with permission

The 'Take 5' team (named after the 5 Marks of Mission) is responsible for:

- maintaining links with our external mission partners
- making recommendations to PCC about the distribution of charitable donations from the planned giving income, and
- encouraging engagement by the congregation with the '5 Marks' and with our current external mission partners.

This is done in line with our mission statement, and we support five projects that reflect the holistic nature of mission. The partners/projects we have supported through 2022-23 are:

- Phil and Sylvie Good working with the Church Mission Society in North Africa and Lebanon. They are retiring in summer 2023 and we will be looking to make links to new CMS 'Mission Partners'.
- Getachew and Gezashign Yohannes engaged in Bible Translation with Wycliffe Ethiopia, where they are based. Our support is earmarked for the education costs of their four children.
- Gap Supported Housing (which changed its name from StopGap during 2022) working with homeless and vulnerable adults, and based in Hexham.
- The Lighthouse Project, which has a vision to develop the building of St Michael's Church, Byker so that it remains a place of worship, and becomes a flexible and modern space for the community, especially young people. In early 2023, with an expectation of major grant funding being received for this work, we decided (with their agreement) to transfer our support to MINE, which runs the youth work with links to St Michael's.
- We have made progress toward St Andrew's and its people being more intentional stewards of God's creation in all aspects of church and personal life, and achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award.
- Team members during the year were Revd Lynn Caudwell (Chair until she left the parish), Revd Sam Lohead, Richard Adams, Anne King- Lewis, Max & Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright and Malcolm & Fiona Warin. On Lynn's departure, Malcolm took on the role of Chair, with Revd David Kennedy joining the team.

The team planned to meet monthly, which – with some inevitable gaps – has been mostly achieved! Some key points to mention for the year include:

- Richard Adams preached at the 10am service on 23rd October 2022, drawing on the concepts of covenant, law, and repentance as he explored the challenge to us all of climate change. He followed this up with a series of three Zoom seminars around the same themes in February.
- We recommended to the PCC that we should not financially support A Rocha this year. Instead we contributed to Climate Stewards (a partner of A Rocha). They work in overseas programmes and our gift will offset our carbon footprint.

- Sam Lohead has established a working group (including a member of the Maintenance Committee) to plan for an Eco Festival in June.
- In June 2022 Andrew Sanders, CEO of Gap Supported Housing, spoke during the 10am service at St Andrew's. We are planning a visit to their main building in Spring/Summer 2023.
- As well as supporting our 5 Marks activities, we recommended to the PCC that a one-off donation should be made to Corbridge Youth Initiative, in need of extra funding.
- In early 2023, we revised the Take 5 Noticeboard, reducing the number of 'Marks' covered at one time, and changing the content to 'tell stories' of the projects and their beneficiaries. We have not been able to sustain changing the Board monthly, and still have concerns as to how many people are reading it.
- We included articles in two editions of the Parish News.



RIVER

Revd Sam Lohead

River has continued to grow in various ways over the last year. The average number of people gathering for River each month has steadily increased, as has the number involved in the music and leading worship. It has been wonderful to see the particular 'charism' of River as an informal and flexible time together develop, for example through regular discussion of important questions around our faith and how this is lived out in daily life. For example, in 2022 we considered a series of, 'Fruits of the Spirit', such as peace - where we felt it was particularly needed in the world and also how we find it in our own lives.

As River grows, so does the variety of contexts and forms of worship we explore through it. For example, over the last year River has taken place outside in the form of a summer afternoon picnic, and during Passiontide 2023 we held River for the first time in the former Methodist Chapel. By worshipping in these different spaces and places, River reminds us of the opportunity to encounter and worship God wherever we find ourselves, as well as through those who we sit with; get to know and learn from as we worship together.

River continues to be an important part of our life together at St Andrew's, allowing us to explore new approaches to prayer and worship; to learn new songs; and to welcome new faces into our community. River is open to all, both newcomers to church and those who have been a part of St Andrew's for years - if it sounds like something you would like to try, now is a great time to experience it for yourself.

ECO CHURCH

Revd Sam Lohead

Our commitment as a parish to care for God's creation has become an increasingly significant part of our work and prayer as a church. Alongside Take 5's continued support of A Rocha UK, we have had a series of sermons and talks reflecting on environmental themes.

We were very grateful in February 2023 that Richard Adams was willing to lead a wonderful series linking theological ideas such as covenant to our own responses to the climate crisis, both as a church and as individuals. These talks were held on Zoom, and prompted lively and engaging discussion after each one. The last of these talks, focusing particularly on practical suggestions around individual responses, was recorded - please speak to The Revd Sam Lohead if you missed these talks, but would like an idea of what was offered to us.

Additionally, the parish now has an established Eco Committee meeting regularly, as we continue to develop and expand our engagement with sustainability. This group reflects on both practical matters relating to the parish's environmental footprint (particularly looking at the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target for 2030), as well as ideas about how to further engage the congregation and community in environmental discussion and action.

Linked to this, we continue to work towards our A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award, which we hope to achieve in the coming year, and we excited to be planning an Eco Festival for the 22nd and 23rd of June 2023. This will include displays from local charities; community groups, and schools exploring all that is already taking place in and around Corbridge to help preserve the environment we share. It will also involve live music; activities for children; and a panel discussion exploring the overlap between local initiatives and the wider church's work to face both the challenges and opportunities of living sustainably. This event should prove a real highlight and hopefully act as a catalyst for further discussion and change within the life of the church - and perhaps even further afield!

There are further plans extending into the Autumn - more on this soon. In the meantime, if you would like to join our Eco Committee, or would like more information about helping put together our Eco Festival, please contact The Revd Sam Lohead.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Revd Sam Lohead

The role of various forms of contemplative prayer continue to grow within the life of our community. Regular opportunities to gather and explore different forms of contemplative prayer continue to widen our understanding of what it means to dwell in God's presence.

For example, since the last APCM we have gathered together to consider how the writings of saints can inspire and refresh our prayer, particularly looking at poetry and writings by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross.

We have continued to reflect on different ways of praying as well, usually by practising a new approach over an extended period of time. We spent three weeks looking at Imaginative Prayer, and another three weeks taking a further look at *Lectio Divina*. It was during the latter we welcomed our first guest to speak to us about contemplative prayer, as The Revd Ollie Dempsey visited from St George's Church in Jesmond to share an approach to 'living out' what God reveals to us as we prayerfully engage with Scripture.

Our parish practices of contemplative prayer have also begun to link with other areas of our shared life, such as in May 2022 when we looked at contemplative prayer's relationship to healing. This has been an invaluable way of bringing to God both our own needs and the needs of others; something which we then engaged with further when we practised 'contemplative interceding' - silently holding before God people and situations when we find ourselves lost for words.

This expansion of contemplative prayer into different parts of church life was also apparent in our developing practice of pilgrimage - we took ideas from contemplative prayer with us as we went to visit Durham Cathedral, taking time to meet God through its history and architecture.

In the coming year we hope this development will continue, with particular links between our contemplative prayer and our engagement as a church with mission. Watch this space!

BOOK GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The two book groups have amalgamated. We are now a group of seven meeting weekly in the cottage. We finished a book that we started with Lynn Caudwell entitled, "The Seven Deadly Sins of Women in Leadership". Now we are reading a book called Listen by Kathryn Mannix.

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick

The Home Group continues to meet at the home of Max and Monica every Thursday afternoon at 4pm starting with a cup of tea and biscuits.

This past year we have had some good sessions using a variety of materials usually centred round a Bible passage. During Advent and then in Lent we have been using meditations by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. We didn't finish them all before Easter, and enjoyed continuing on through into May.

Although someone leads the discussion, we all have the freedom to add our own thoughts. We find it is a very rewarding way of getting to know one another better. We always end with a time of prayer for needs of the church as well as our own. The group is open and welcoming to all. We also have Zoom turned on, and Lynn Stow who used to worship at St. Andrew's often joins us from Bath!!

Why don't you join us sometime!

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The prayer group is now meeting every Thursday afternoon in church. We continue to pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world.

We pray for the work of the Ministry team and all of the groups working within our church including the regular church services, Messy Church, River service, book groups, home group, YouTube services etc. We also pray for people we know of who are unwell, or have asked for us to pray about their particular needs.

In addition, we remember those we have chosen to support financially through the "Take 5" initiative. This includes:

- Stop Gap - helping Hexham's homeless
- The Lighthouse Project- a church in Byker where they are working to make their church into a flexible modern space for the whole community to us, including a place of worship. Also the youth work of MINE (Mission Initiative North East) in the Baker area
- CMS (Church Mission Society) - for Phil and Sylvie Good in Lebanon
- Getachew and his family in his work as a Bible translator in Ethiopia
- The Eco Church programme involving St Andrew's in environmental issues and looking at ways we can get involved as a church. (See Church notice board for regular updates of Take Five projects). We are a small group and would welcome anyone who would like to join us for a relatively short time each week.



CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams Musical Director

In March last year we were hosting an edition of Songs Of Praise – little did we know that this would turn out to be a ‘superspreader event’ which decimated the choir and once again disrupted church life, including the cancellation of the planned performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion. It was therefore particularly satisfying this year to re-institute the Come and Sing performance of this classic setting of the Crucifixion story on Passion Sunday with an augmented choir and superb accompaniments by our organist John Roper and two guest soloists, Owain Bennett and John Hewitt.

The trials and tribulations of the Covid period are now in the distant past and the choir has rediscovered much of its repertoire and is currently thriving, encouraged by the arrival of several new members. Here are comments from three singers:

It was a bit daunting when I walked into my first rehearsal with the choir a week before Christmas 2022. I need not have worried. The friendly atmosphere made me feel most welcome. The choir is warm hearted, inclusive and laughter as well as singing is a feature.

Joining the choir is one of the best things I’ve done since moving to this area. Developing skills and the friendly social side of the choir make it worthwhile.

The friendship and singing as a member of the church choir has enriched my life.

As well as the regular anthems in the Parish Communion Services we have contributed to all the special Festivals, in particular the services of Healing; the Dedication Festival, the Remembrance Service featuring a setting of Pie Jesu by Kim Arneson and a hauntingly beautiful solo by Charlotte Collins, the Advent Procession and the Christmas Eve Festival of Carols.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed the musicianship of our two resident organists, and this is an opportunity to thank John and Marc for their patience in choir practices and their continued enthusiasm and contribution to the music of our Church. I write this just before the Coronation – an opportunity to sing some special music, including a new piece specially commissioned by the RSCM which will be sung by Parish Churches all over England on the Sunday Morning. Further ahead we have started rehearsing for Ascension Day, and in June we are looking forward to singing Evensong at Halton Church.

Nicki Swart has taken over the role of Choir Secretary and has quickly become an indispensable focus for all choir communications, not least keeping me up to date with anticipated attendances which is a crucial factor in planning the music.

Liz Collins continues to manage the robes, patiently ensuring that everyone including new members look their best. Each singer makes an essential contribution and it is a real privilege to lead such a committed and enthusiastic choir.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Revd Linda E. Hunter

We have now been meeting in St. Andrew's for over a year and have found that meeting in the afternoon with the opportunity for chat after our talks, has been a good move. So, that will continue. We now have about 45 members.

Following our AGM last year we were supposed to have Adrian Langford talking about the work of a First responder unfortunately he caught covid so we were lucky to have Ian McLeod step in at last minute to talk to us about the changes in history over a period of 100 years 1921 to 2021. What a lot of changes there were, some for the good and some well..... In March Kathleen Wilson was unable to join us as she was unwell too. So we ended up having one of Sheila's fantastic quizzes. Our April Lent service took the theme of Palms to Stones when we recalled the events of Holy Week, members of fellowship led readings and took part. Sally Urwin the 'pint sized' farmer gave us a wonderful talk about her life as a farmer's wife. That was most interesting. We ended the year with more cake, conversation and tea.

We began again in September when Fiona Sample shared with us her experiences of chairing the Oswin Project and the various activities that were offered to help with the rehabilitation of prisoners in particular the Café no 16 in Newcastle Cathedral. Work with Refugees and his experiences over the years working and volunteering in this area was the topic of the talk given by Malcolm Warin. It was devastating to hear how many people were still struggling to remain in the UK, the legalities taking many years whilst people were 'stuck' in a system that wasn't really fit for purpose. We all took a trip down memory lane when Alex Clark spoke about familiar objects of the 30's, 40's and 50's. It was fascinating to see a range of memorabilia from our childhood. Our Advent service in December, based round the theme of Waiting for the gift of Christmas, was an opportunity for us to have some quiet reflective time amidst that Christmas hustle and bustle. Of course we finished off the afternoon with more mince pies and tea.

Rosemary Rayfield began as secretary in July 2006 and after almost 16 years in the role she has decided to step back but will remain on the committee, so a special thank you to Rosemary. Thank you to Sheila, Liz, Elsie, Janet and Daphne who have all helped to keep things running smoothly. And to Claire Hay who expertly co-ordinates the refreshments.

We always like to welcome new members so do come along and see what happens, we usually meet on the 4th Monday of the month in church at 2.30pm (unless there is a bank holiday!)

CHRISTMAS ANGEL YARN BOMBING

In the months preceding Christmas many knitting needles and crochet hooks in the village and further afield were clicking away. Angels were being created – knitted or crocheted, each angel different as the patterns were interpreted in a range of ways, each individual. The angels came together on a tree at the tree festival – it was laden with angels. Then on a dull Monday afternoon in December the angels gathered together in church along with their creators. A short service of blessing was held. That evening a group of people set off in the dark to hang angels in as many different places as possible to surprise people in the morning. More were put out at 6.00am. As the village awoke many people were surprised to see the angels. Hundreds of Christmas Angels were now in place with a message from St Andrew's Church of hope, joy, love and peace at Christmas. Slowly the angels disappeared as people took them home. Many comments were made 'it started my Christmas', 'it brought a smile to my face', 'what a lovely idea'.



THE PASTORAL HUB

In the Autumn a small planning team met together to look at ways in which we could support the pastoral needs of people at St. Andrew's and the wider community. Building on the principle we began during covid we invited anyone who would like to be involved to attend a meeting to discuss what our approach would be. Approx 10 people attended 3 sessions of training led very ably by Mandy Norton. We now have a group of parish visitors who currently about to start regular visiting. If you would like a visitor or you know someone else who would like a visitor please let us know.

TEA AND CHAT

Tea and Chat began at the end of March and meets in Corbridge Community Hub (formerly the Methodist Chapel) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Tea and homemade cake is served and we enjoy good conversation over a cuppa. It is an ideal opportunity to meet new faces and to get out for a couple of hours. We can collect people if they are unable to get there themselves. Thank you to all those who are helping to get this initiative 'off the ground'. If you would like to be involved in these 2 initiatives and have some time to spare please do contact, in the first instance, Linda.

OUTREACH

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick



Boxes at the back of the church are regularly collected and taken to the Food Bank in Burn Lane, Hexham. Over the last year the growth of the work of the Food Bank has been both inspiring, yet sad, as one sees the need increasing...and it's not just food!

Some key user figures *October 2021 – September 2022*

570 households - 1241 adults and children

313 households using the Food bank for the first time in the last year

500 regular cash donations – allowing purchases to supplement the Food Bank or provide vouchers*

30+local businesses providing support

65 food bank volunteers

23 trained helpline volunteers

5075 deliveries to 570 homes

Deliveries to 44 towns and villages (Haltwhistle and West, Prudhoe and East)

Hardship awards:

Cash donations and money from Northumberland CC can be used to provide these awards which are distributed via the Help Line which runs alongside the Food Bank. Energy and shopping vouchers* are made available. The Help Line gets calls from 100 households each week and, as well as organising the awards, can help people access other services.

Case Studies: Dave, Vicky and the WNFB

Dave* works 20 hours a week; he can't work any more hours due to health problems. He receives Universal Credit (UC) monthly. Occasionally his payday from work falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, so he gets paid early. That means he gets paid twice in one UC monthly assessment period, so he doesn't get any UC for the following month. Dave has shared custody of his children. He has a two-bedroom property but doesn't get any UC housing element for the second bedroom. After paying his rent and bills, he's left with just over £20 per week to live on. When Dave contacted WNFB for help, his cooker had broken beyond repair and he had very little credit left on the gas and electric prepayment meters. They used some Hardship Funds to buy Dave a new cooker and get it safely installed. WNFB also provided him with energy vouchers to top up both meters, and supermarket vouchers to stock up on some fresh food.

Vicky* is a single parent of three children, but her youngest was born just after the Two Child Limit came into force in April 2017. This means she gets no extra UC for her youngest, which would have been worth £244.58 a month.

When she contacted WNFB in January, she'd had a very difficult winter. After the Universal Credit uplift of £20 per week ended in October and the energy price hikes came into effect, Vicky was finding it increasingly difficult to afford to keep the prepayment meter topped up and her home warm. She told WNFB that she tries to batch cook for the week ahead and get all the laundry done on Sunday, as her energy supplier can't turn off the prepayment meter at the weekend. WNFB used Hardship Funds to provide an energy voucher so she could top up the meter. **Names have been changed.*

For more details, do read the WNFB annual report on their website:

www.westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

The increased use of social media, smart phones and mobiles devices has meant we have been able to communicate with more people in the parish than ever before.

At St Andrew's we have sent out a weekly church email which has helped to keep everyone up to date, we have over 350 households subscribing.

It provides a link to THIS WEEK page on the Church website which gives you access to the bulletin, reflection, orders of services, YouTube services, Messy Church Videos and other relevant information. This information can also be accessed via the Church website directly, or streamed. Services can also be accessed directly from YouTube: St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge.

If you haven't already subscribed to the weekly email, you can do this online on the church website or via our database application form which is available in church.

Website: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk :- Each week the website is updated with the Sunday service resources and also the link to the YouTube channel. Streaming takes place on our YouTube channel at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.

Facebook: We have three Facebook pages: Corbridge, Corbridge Church Families and St. Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival and a twitter account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurch1

At the main festive seasons: - Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter we produce a booklet containing all the relevant service and event information these are made available on the website.

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

Paper copies of the Bulletin and Booklets are available to members of the congregation who don't have access to the internet

Three editions of the Parish News were published over the last 12 months (in May, October and February), with printed copies available at the back of church, and an online version to read or download from the church website.

Max Philbrick stood down as design and production editor after the February 2023 edition.



DEANERY SYNOD

Acting Deanery Secretary

Corbridge Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year to discuss various relevant topics and the Deanery Development group meets more frequently. This is principally a group reflecting on, and suggesting ideas, to take forward the development of the mission and ministry of the Deanery. The decision-making body is the Synod. In this session of Synod we have looked at: Living in Love and Faith, Lay Ministry and our Deanery Mission Plan. We have also set up working groups to look at various aspects of the mission and ministry of the Deanery, these are: Shared Ministry, Simplification Management – Use of Skills, Eco church, Communication, Identity / Getting to know each other All Deaneries have been asked to produce a Deanery Plan on a standard proforma so a considerable amount of time has been spent engaging with this information from the Diocese in order to compile our plan using the Diocesan toolkit.

Thank you to Max and Monica Philbrick and Alice Bryant for being our representatives. Their term of office has now completed. Alice is happy to continue as a rep but we are looking for 2 other people

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

MUSICAL EVENTS

Revd Linda E. Hunter and Jean Wilks

A small team comprising Mary Oswell, Jenny Watson, Coleen Petrie, Gail Williams, Nicki Swart and Marc Bryant and ourselves meet regularly to plan the musical events for St. Andrew's.

We have held the following musical events in 2022 / 2023:

10 th April	St. John Passion sung by the Bishops Consort
23 rd April	Gould Trio Concert
14 th May	Ryton Choral Society Concert
6 th May to 3 rd June	Lunchtime Organ Recitals: Marc Bryant, John Roper & John Ross
10 th June	Jubilate Concert
9 th July	Pupil concert: Sarah Robinson
28 th July to 31 st July	Corbridge Chamber Music Festival
5 th July	Lunchtime Summer Music: Piano – Cristo Harijan
19 th August	Lunchtime Summer Music: Organ – John Ross & March Bryant
26 th August	Lunchtime Summer Music: Piano – Cristo Harijan
2 nd September	Lunchtime Summer Music: Organ – John Roper
3 rd September	Birkett and Fisk Jazz Concert: This was a very good concert but poorly attended which was disappointing
6 th September	Khrystyna Mychailichenko: Piano Concert

Unfortunately we had to postpone 2 lunchtime concerts and the Music from the French Baroque concert due to the death of the Queen

23 rd September`	Lunchtime Summer Music: Marc Bryant
30 th September	Lunchtime Summer Music: John Ross
7 th October	Lunchtime Summer Music: Deborah Thorne and Nick Butters
19 th November	Antiphon
20 th November	Ryton Choral Society
17 th December	Mulled wine and Carol Singing led by the Choir
11 th January	Khrystyna Mychailichenko: Piano Concert
28 th January	Music from the French Baroque Afternoon Concert
16 th February	Gould Piano Trio Concert
24 th Feb to 17 th March	Lunchtime Organ Recitals: Marc Bryant, John Roper & John Ross
11 th March	Pupil Concert: Sarah Robinson
25 th March	Sage Chamber Choir Concert
26 th March	Stainer Crucifixion – St. Andrew's Choir

EVENTS

July Fete and Autumn Fayre: Lots of people came to browse and purchase items.

Textile and Art Exhibition: This was the first exhibition, the displays were fantastic. We couldn't believe how talented people were in the village.

Corbridge's Roman Legacy talk by David Waugh, this was well attended and was enjoyed by all present.

Christmas Tree Festival: As usual there were many innovative ideas interpreted in a range of ways, it was a delight to walk round and see them all. Staying open later on 3 nights helped ease the congestion and made it easier to view the trees. We raised a total of £10,387.00 on this event which with gift aid should be about £11,000, this was a fantastic result.

Pancakes and Quiz evening organised by Pauline and Susan Bennett.

FUNDRAISING: Thanks to Suzette and Warwick for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

If you would like to be involved in helping with any of our events or have some suggestions of others that we may have do let us know.



The flower arranging Team have had a busy, interesting, varied and fascinating year given the many diverse aspects and nature of the work undertaken at St. Andrew's Church. The year has also been one of transition.

A Brief outline of Progress and Developments

First of all, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to the Sheila Goldsworthy who has been Team Leader for the flower arranging work at St. Andrew's Church for many years. Sheila has done a simply sterling job and she decided towards the end of the year that she wished to step down from the leadership role however Sheila plans to carry out some flower arranging work from time to time. We all wish her well for the future.

Planning the Future

The long-term plan is to encourage members of the church community and also all people around the community who may be interested in joining the flower arranging team. In this regard experience and knowledge is not important as the simply qualification is to join the team and gradually progress in the knowledge and experience of the activity.

The aim is to create a happy and enjoyable environment so that the people keep coming back and so the long-term goal to build up an enlarged and accomplished team is achieved.

Finally

We wish to thank all people who have donated money for flowers for Christmas and Easter and anyone who would like to be involved with the flower arranging team are invited to contact Ann Prudhoe on Mobile No: 07483 855385 or 01434 632971.





I am very proud to be the Executive Headteacher of Corbridge and Broomhaugh First Schools; special places to learn and grow. Since my appointment in September 2022, and promotion from Executive Deputy Headteacher, I have worked hard to build on the successful foundations already in place.

Our team of dedicated staff work hard to provide engaging lessons that inspire our children to take their subjects beyond the classroom and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We have the Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, thankfulness and kindness guiding us in all we do, helping us to be courageous advocates who make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

'Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.' 1 John 3:18

Through high expectations and encouragement, we empower our children to believe in themselves and be the best they can be!

School Information

Number of children on roll: 158	% SEND pupils: 8%
Age range of pupils: 4-9 years	% of disadvantaged pupils: 14.6%

Our number on roll has increased from 138 at the end of the academic year 2021/22 to 158 this year. We have reached our maximum intake of 30 children for Reception in September 2023. There are still a number of places in our Nursery available and we welcome new starters throughout the year.

Key Developments (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education)

The whole school ethos, and promotion of personal development, are enhanced through collective worship, RE, the work of the play leaders and worship leaders, the work of the school council and the work of the eco-council. Picture News is used in whole school worship to discuss current affairs; pupils can access the content at a suitable level. The use of Picture News encourages discussion and debate through links to current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to talk about things happening in the world right now, becoming courageous advocates for change. Staff look at how the Bible can be linked to Picture News. The worship schedule is on the school website so that parents can use links

from Picture News at home and know what has been discussed in school. Leaders will assess the usefulness and impact of this going forward. Pupil voice on PSHE and worship was carried out last year – pupils were positive about their experiences and stated that they enjoy working and learning together.

A PSHE enrichment calendar has been created for the year across the Federation; it includes, for example, global goals week, Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, Christianity projects, STEM, Remembrance Day and Children in Need. There is a strong focus on the purpose of the days and why the school takes part. In both schools, a Rainbow Bake Off was held to support Children in Need. This was to emphasise that we are all different, like the colours of the rainbow, but we are all equally important. This took place during Anti-Bullying Week and supported the work on this. A lead assembly looked at bullying and homophobic bullying linked to this. British Values are interwoven with the Christian Values (Respect, truth, forgiveness, thankfulness and friendship) and ethos of the school. As part of the PSHE curriculum, each half term each class has a British Value that they dig deeper into. British values are also discussed in assembly. Members of the ministry team support this in school through worship and time spent in classes, working with the children and training prayer and worship leaders.

Commando Joe's respect curriculum and work in Forest School develop character. Pupils are supported in their development of good listening and communication skills. At CFS, children in Year 4 and Reception have a weekly Forest School time. The rest are allocated throughout the year. Carol Orrick has a day release each week to work on outdoor and grounds development. She has submitted funding bids to extend the allotment area and meetings have taken place to explore establishing a bee colony within this (Our 'bee the best you can bee' bees!) Work is also starting on establishing a sensory garden at CFS and children access weekly allotment sessions. At both schools, we are focusing on food, food miles and global consciousness, allowing the children to understand where their food comes from and to grow their own.

Every day, every class chooses someone to be a special person. The special person hears positive affirmations from their peers and provides their own self-affirmations; some pupils can initially find this difficult to do, however self-esteem is boosted as a result. The work also supports oracy and language development.

The SENDCo works closely with a number of external partners to promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health in school; she has put in place a range of strategies to support pupils and parents. The SENDCo is a highly skilled practitioner who has a sharp focus on achieving the best outcomes for all pupils.



Textile and Art Exhibition 2022



Khrystyna Mychailichenko