

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

Charity No. 1131499

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk



Annual Report 2013



**Diocese of
YORK**



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

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PCC as at February 2014

Ex Officio: Clergy - Revd Paul Peverell, Revd Geoff Jaques & Revd Jon Dean:
Readers - Margaret Lewis & Peter Titchmarsh: Churchwardens Martin
Simmons & Rosemary Wheway (Rosemary also Deanery Synod) -

Deanery Synod Reps: Ken Taylor, Nick Land, Robin Harmar, Craig Cartwright,

PCC Members: Ken Bellamy, Julie Bourke, Julie Leng, Alison Lambert, Enid
Sedgwick, Rob Pepper, Eric Boyce, Caroline Legg, Vicky Gawthorpe.



A Word from the Vicar

There's an old Gospel song that goes:-

*Count your blessings, Name them one by one
And you'll be surprised at what the Lord has done.*

It is so easy to take people and organisations for granted and never really appreciate just what they do. This Annual Report is the antidote for this, for it reveals God's Grace at work in many people and organisations in the life of our Church and community. We are blessed indeed to belong such an active and well supported Church that reaches out so much to others.

May I take this chance to pay tribute to all those, who by their energy and endeavours, have contributed to all the work reflected in this report. Our Church and community would not be as good without the gifts you have been called to use for the benefit of others. Some are stepping down this year after many years of faithful service, and we pray that others may step forward in their places to ensure future generations are as fortunate as us in what is passed on.

As well as all the reports here, I am also pleased to report that Christ Church continues to play a central part in people's lives in our village for Christenings, weddings and funerals with numbers increasing over previous years. Indeed, with weddings in particular, I have been delighted to see a great level of support from other local folk involved in the wedding scene in helping encourage more brides and grooms back to Church.

As I go around helping out in other Parishes I am constantly reminded what a privilege I have in being Vicar here. It is so easy when you live with something good all the time that you can soon take it for granted. Once we do that, then all will disappear like the morning mist.

So enjoy this report and come along to our Annual Church Meeting on **Wednesday 26th March in the Parochial Hall at 7.30pm** and show your support. It may even be that there is a role just waiting for you!

Paul Peverell, Vicar

The Vicarage, Low Green, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, TS9 6NN

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The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

MINUTES of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2013

Present: Reverend Paul Peverell (Vicar/Chairman)

Mike Acornley, Ken Bellamy, Julie Bourke, Eric Boyce, Mary Boyce, Paul Bradley, Craig Cartwright, Helen Dickinson, John Dickinson, Victoria Gawthorpe, Robin Harmar, David Henley, Gwen Henley, Margaret Herriman, Maureen Hudson, Angela Jaques, Revd Geoff Jaques, Lesley Kerr, Alison Lambert, Caroline Legg, Margaret Lewis, Betty Manton, Jean Mitchell, Nicky Pepper, Rob Pepper, Audrey Prunty, Peter Prunty, Malcolm Race, David Rowland, Enid Sedgwick, Martin Simmons, Isobel Swatman, Elsa Taylor, Ken Taylor, Rosemary Wheway, Ann Whittaker, Dorothy Wood, Gordon Wood,

Apologies were received from:

Eleanor Batch, Elaine Brown, Jo Dean, Revd Jon Dean, Doris Huddlestone, Ben Lambert, Andrew Prunty, Lynda Walker, Jonathan Winterschlade, Vivienne Winterschlade,

Meeting of Parishioners

The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting and a prayer was said.

Election of Churchwardens

- The Vicar spoke of how well served the church has been with Rosemary Wheway and Eric Boyce who have been in Churchwardens for such a lot of years.
- Eric's middle names are Conscientious and Reliability amongst others, and these qualities have been gratefully appreciated throughout his time as Churchwarden. As he steps down as Churchwarden this year, the Vicar expressed a great big thank you for all that he has done throughout his years and said that he would like to formally thank Eric in church on Easter Sunday.
- Rosemary has also worked tirelessly and would like to stay for one further year. The Vicar said how appreciative he is that she will be able to guide a new Churchwarden.
- Rosemary Wheway had been proposed by Martin Simmons and seconded by Enid Sedgwick.
- Martin Simmons had been proposed by Eric Boyce and seconded by Rosemary Wheway.
- There were no further nominations and they were duly elected and welcomed as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Those present, who are on electoral roll, were invited to stay for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Apologies for Absence

- A list of the names of people giving apologies was read out.

Minutes of Meeting held 21st March 2012

- The minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Report.
- The minutes were proposed by Ken Bellamy and seconded by Eric Boyce
All agreed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- There were no matters arising.

Electoral Roll Report

- Alison Lambert reported that, following the revision of the roll for 2013, which closed on 3rd March, the number appearing on The Electoral Roll at the Annual Parochial Meeting in 2013 is 270. Although this is lower than the previous roll, it is not as low as she had feared it might be at some points.
- There is 1 person to be added to the roll during the year once they have reached their sixteenth birthday and a further 4 forms were received since the closing date which will be added after the conclusion of this meeting.
- This means that there are still a significant number of church members who are not on the Roll - some were on the previous roll and have not submitted new applications and others simply have not been on the roll at all.
- Applications for enrolment can be accepted after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and throughout the year not just at the Annual Revision.
- Peter Prunty expressed his admiration for Alison as she has been chasing people and knocking on doors and generally trying to make sure everyone knew that the electoral roll was being renewed this year.
- The result of the roll being below 300 means that we may lose a place on the Deanery Synod.
- The Vicar thanked Alison for her report and said how much he appreciated the work she has done.



Presentation of the Annual Report for 2012

- The Annual Report for 2012 has been published and distributed in several formats, including on the website and in paper copy. The Vicar said that it is a 40 page report giving a glimpse of all that goes on in our church – thanks were given to all those who work voluntarily throughout all the areas.
- Thanks were expressed to Julie Bourke for her work on the minutes of each meeting.
- Formal adoption of the report was proposed by Elsa Taylor and seconded by Dorothy Wood and agreed by all present.

Financial Report & Presentation of the Audited Accounts for year ending 31st December 2012

- Ken Taylor presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012 – full details of the income and expenditure can be found in the Annual Report.
- Highlights of the financial year were: Unrestricted surplus = £3,417. Restricted surplus = £3,134, Planned giving is significant – approximately £70,000 out of £110,00 in total. Expenditure is fairly well in accordance with the budgeted figure. £1,000 extra has been paid towards our Parish Share over and above our allocated amount. The high level of reserves was queried but plans are afoot in the next financial year to carry out several projects in Church.
- Charitable giving was detailed – Embrace the Middle East and Share a Blessing combined with the Barnabas Fund received significant amounts – a total of £23,000 was distributed throughout the year
- Thanks were given to the 204 people who belong to the planned giving school – 155 of whom gift aid.
- A query was made about interest on the funds and it was advised that we receive approximately 2% p.a.
- Ken Taylor gave a brief overview of the budget for 2013-2014.
 - It is planned to spend more money on the maintenance of the church
 - The 2013-2014 has been calculated as a balanced budget - £112,000 receipts and £112,000 expenditure
- Adoption of the audited accounts was proposed by Peter Titchmarsh, seconded by Ray Huddleston and all were in favour.
- Ken expressed his sincere thanks to the Sidespersons, Helen Dickinson, Sheila Levett, Jean Goat who all help him to manage the church's money.
- The Vicar thanked Ken Taylor for all his work on the accounts – he is a most efficient treasurer.

Looking to the future:

- Ken Taylor explained the concept of **Generous Churches – Making and Nurturing Disciples** which includes the five marks of growing: Christ-likeness, Commitment, Partnership, Influence & Numbers. He explained how the present system of parish share will change in 2014 when parishes will be asked to make a freewill offering into the Common Fund. Parishes are asked to be as generous as possible with their freewill offering. A video was shown of the Archbishop explaining how the system should work

The Vicar's Comments

- The Vicar gave a photographic presentation of the events that have happened during the year. There had been 31 Baptisms, 1 Thanksgiving. Weddings had risen from 6 in 2011, 8 in 2012 to 12 in 2013. Thanks to Cloud9 and Whinstone View for invitations to wedding fairs. There had been 38 funerals during the year, 19 of which had been in Church first. These all show Christ Church playing an important part in people's lives
- A number of videos were shown highlighting events during the year, including the Charity Auction and Education Alternative. Also noted was Whitsun in Whitby; Praise and Party where we welcomed the housebound into church for a Sunday Service and tea; The Diamond Jubilee and Olympics were also well celebrated in the village.
- **People** Some people were stepping down from tasks done, including Nick Land from The Firm and Stokesley School Youth project, Nellie as Verger and Mary Boyce from organising the Church Cleaners. Mary Walker and Eileen Morgan had celebrated their 100th Birthdays, and Margaret Herriman and Malcolm Race had been invited to the Maundy Service in York Minister with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
- Marwood School have recently been assessed as 'outstanding' in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools. (SIAS)
- The Vicar praised all who contributed to many organisations and areas of Church life that were represented in the report.
Special Services There was much to celebrate with many special services over the year which were well supported. Particular mention was made of the Harvest Passing On a Blessing, which had worked very well.

Election of members to the Church Council – 7 vacancies

- One vacancy relates to Craig Cartwright who has stepped down from the PCC to become a member of the Deanery Synod. Nominations have been received from Alison Lambert, Eric Boyce, Enid Sedgwick and Robin

Harmar. They are duly elected onto the PCC . There remain three vacancies on the PCC

Election of members to the Deanery Synod – 2 vacancies

- Two positions are vacant as Eric Boyce and Robin Harmar have stepped down. Craig Cartwright was nominated by Rosemary Wheway, seconded by Pauline Titchmarsh and was duly elected onto the Deanery Synod

Appointment of Sidesmen/Sideswomen

- Sidesmen and Sideswomen are Michelle Armstrong, Eleanor Albrect, Marion Maidment and Delyse Stokeld. Joan Harbottle has left the team. Thanks to all for the work they do.

Appointment of Independent Examiners

- Ken Taylor proposed S.V. Bye be appointed as our Independent Examiners. This was seconded by Robin Harmar and all agreed.

Questions about Church Matters

Recommendations or Resolutions for consideration by the PCC.

- There were no questions. The Vicar thanked all present for their contributions to the meeting.
- Ken Bellamy spoke on behalf of everyone present at the meeting and within the church and thanked the Vicar for his energy and leadership and asked if he could please carry on the good work.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The church silver and other items of value continue to be safe and records continue to be updated and safe; photographic evidence has also been updated.

In July 2013 Christ Church had its Quinquennial Inspection by the appointed architect. The good news is that the building '*is in good health and is well maintained, specific maintenance jobs have been tackled with knowledge and vigour*'. In particular there is a programme of work that is ongoing to keep water and moisture out of the church by improving drainage on the north side of the church, and by repairing and maintaining roof guttering, leadwork and stonework mortar



A strategic review has been carried out to identify work needed over the next 5 years. This has identified work needed to the pipe organ, the bells, electrical switchgear, asbestos removal in the old boiler house, and church redecoration. It is also recognised that refurbishment work is needed in the church lounge. In All Saints Church a faculty application has been made to replace the south chancel window.

Thank you to the many people who support the work of the church, especially those who commit themselves on a regular basis to the many rotas, without which our worship, pastoral work, study and personal spiritual development, and 'facilities management' would be impossible. Many people have also been very generous with their money. The PCC have decided to give around 10% of its unreserved income to good causes, in addition to the money that is given to specific causes through collections at weddings, funerals, baptisms etc. In total about £37K has been given to some 50 charitable causes in 2013. We have now found that as the church is generous to others then the financial needs of the church itself are met with similar generosity. If you would like to remember the work of the church in your will we would be very grateful. It is an area that we have been silent on in the past, perhaps too silent!

Christ Church continues to be blessed with maintaining a steady level of attendance over the last 10 years, and we have one of the biggest congregations in the Diocese. The work with young people has been central to this, because we attract a lot of parents through providing a programme suitable for children and young people. We are very grateful to the people who support work with our children in any way. In 2013 we took further steps to maintain our Child Protection arrangements. Three people attended Child Protection training from the Diocese after which the Policy was updated and all necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks were carried out. These will be reviewed in accordance with national guidelines with the Policy reviewed annually.

We are actively seeking to encourage our younger adults, (anyone less than fifty!) to participate in the direction and running of the church. In June we were pleased to welcome back Bishop Gordon Bates for our Confirmation Service followed by a party in the Hall. It is great to see several candidates already taking a more active role in the life of the church.



We would like to thank all of you who have contributed in any way to the life of the church in Great Ayton, and in particular to thank the leadership and sheer hard work put in

by our vicar Paul, ably supported by Geoff, Jon, Margaret and Peter. In May 2013 Paul celebrated 20 years as our Vicar and this was recognised when many people gathered one Sunday morning to thank him and his family for all that they contribute to Christ Church.

Martin Simmons and Rosemary Wheway Churchwardens



PCC Secretary's Report 2013

Since the last Annual Church Meeting in March, the PCC and Standing Committee have met on 5 and 6 occasions respectively. These meetings were well attended and the effective running of our church was discussed.

Meetings of the All Saints Committee, Ayton Churches Together Committee, Hall Committee, Projects and Fabric Committee were held throughout the year with reports given at the full PCC meetings.

Once again we must thank **all** members of the PCC as they continue to work so hard with the general running of our church as well as specific events and activities and, in particular, thanks to Caroline Legg, Eric Boyce and Ken Taylor for the time-consuming investigations they carried out to determine any potential Chancel Repair Liability at All Saints Church.

Thanks must go to our Treasurer Ken Taylor for his effective guidance in our decision making as well as his constant ability to 'balance the books' so efficiently.

We welcomed Martin Simmons as our new Churchwarden. He took up the reins from Eric Boyce with great enthusiasm and immediately became involved in the many tasks involved in maintaining the church premises in good condition and is working towards restoring our organ, as it has historical interest.

After two years of preparing to 'retire', our long standing Churchwarden, Rosemary Wheway, will finally relinquish her duties this year. Fortunately she is happy to continue with the many additional roles she currently fulfils within church and, hopefully, will still be available for 'consultation' on the Churchwarden role.

Thank you also to our very own Rev Pev, who has once again been a wonderful leader and inspires us constantly to reach out to others and support the work of the church in our own village and throughout the Diocese.

Julie Bourke - Secretary

Stokesley Deanery Synod

As the Parish Share changed into Freewill Offering direct from Parishes in 2013, this has meant less time needed at meetings to talk of finance. Instead Synod has invited a variety of speakers to extend our knowledge of the Church and our involvement with society. Such topics have covered Prison Chaplaincy, Godly Play, Science and the Christian Faith, Middlesbrough Foodbank and Children and Youth Work. Some of the speakers have been inspirational.

Synod also arranged Lent Services with the Archdeacon of Cleveland as the guest preacher and we had a Deanery Service in Christ Church led by our Archbishop. Practical help was also given to Treasurers with the Real Time Information now needed for the Inland Revenue.

Following Nick Green's move from Brookfield, Synod agreed to link Brookfield, Stainton and Hilton together as a Parish. We still await it being filled.

The work of John Ford, our Rural Dean, was also recognised last February with a well deserved Canonry of York Minster. He is now Canon of Wetwang!

All Saints Church

The 2013 season began with 2 Christenings in the 1st month!

Little work to the fabric was necessary - the exception being the ventilation pane in the south window of the chancel, which was identified following the Quinquennial Inspection.

We are again grateful to Hambleton District Council for their reliable attention to the churchyard.

Services during the year, climaxing in the Christmas Candlelit Service, continues the life of this 12th Century Grade I listed Church. Throughout the Summer, the Church welcomed a total of 1,214 visitors, many coming from afar, and other from various parts of this country. Volunteers welcomed and guided them. One day a volunteer guided 2 Australians, 2 from Mauritius. 2 Germans and 2 Italians.

The Church is well placed to continue its long life.

Roger Arkell Custodian.

Roger retired at the end of 2013 after 17 years as Custodian. We thank him most sincerely for all the many hours and devotion he has given over this time.



Financial Report 2013

Financially, 2013 was a satisfactory and at times dramatic year which resulted in a surplus of £4,342 being recorded on our unrestricted funds.

Unrestricted income rose from £110,344 last year to £120,760. The increase in the number of weddings and funerals is reflected in the increase in fee income while we were the fortunate beneficiaries of a £5,000 legacy from the estate of Vera Winter.



The Gift Aided Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was introduced during the year and we were able to claim the full amount of £5,000 in loose collections which enabled us to receive an additional tax rebate of £1,250 from HMRC.

Unrestricted expenditure also increased from £106,927 in 2012 to £116,398 this year. In this, the last year of the Parish Share, we again paid our allocation in full. Operating costs were kept under reasonable control though it was necessary to carry out a number of significant stonework repairs around the tower in an effort to eliminate persistent water leaks in this area.

We again increased our mission giving from general funds from £7,735 last year to £9,816 - part of this increase was accounted for by a subsidy to the young people attending the Wydale Weekend. There is no doubt that the presence of a number of young people enhanced what was in any event a very successful and enjoyable event. We also decided to increase our support to the Tees Valley Youth for Christ project at Stokesley School.

New recipients of our mission giving this year were the Middlesbrough Food Bank, School Aid India, and the Christian Fellowship at Leeds University.

During the year we ran three major appeals. At Harvest, we supported the Barnabas Fund in its efforts to assist the stricken people of Syria and in November we made an urgent response to the Philippines Disaster Appeal through Christian Aid. For the Christmas appeal this year, we decided to support "A Way Out", a local Charity which helps primarily vulnerable young people in the Stockton area. The excellent total of £2,823.35 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Overall, our mission giving from funerals and weddings, special services, appeals, donations (including one of £5,000) and our general funds reached the record total of £36,773 which was distributed to 51 different charities – a magnificent sum which

again demonstrates the enormous generosity of the people of this parish (see attached table for full details)

We were fortunate to obtain a grant of £5,645 from the Banks Community Fund to enable us to replace the central heating boiler and radiators in the coffee lounge. We also replaced the fire door on the side of the Hall. Although bookings held up well, the Hall accounts showed a deficit of just over £3,000 for the year.

As noted earlier, we achieved a surplus of income over expenditure for the second year running which took our unrestricted reserves to £51,525 equivalent to over 5 months of unrestricted expenditure. As this is above our target of 3-4 months expenditure, the PCC proposes to include in the budget for 2014 a number of important projects to remove asbestos from the old boiler house, upgrade the church electrics and renovate the bells.

A major event in the life of the PCC this year was the process to determine our Parish Offering for 2014 (the successor to the Parish Share). Archbishop Sentamu's "Generous Churches Making & Nurturing Disciples" campaign laid the foundation for a lengthy and at times emotional debate on how we should respond to the call to be "generous". Our response was generous and we now need to work together to make this a reality.

Following changes in tax legislation, we are now treated by HMRC as a small business and are required to register with the tax authorities and create a payroll system even for our part time employees- this unfortunate increase in bureaucracy does nothing to make management of our finances easier! I am therefore particularly indebted to those who put in much time and effort to help me keep the finances in order- Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Sheila Levitt and all the sidespersons – many thanks to you all!

Ken Taylor
Hon Treasurer

Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples

Great Ayton was used as an example of a generous Church in a recent Diocesan Video, and Ken made a valuable contribution to it. If you are reading this as a pdf, you can watch the video by clicking [Generous Churches Part 2.](#)

Sunday School Report



Always the highlight of the year 'The Crib Service'. This year we had 30 children taking part singing some lovely songs and telling the Christmas Story accompanied by Mrs Winterschlade on the piano.

We meet every Sunday during term time school except for the 2nd Sunday of the month when it is Family Service at 11am. We have

over 40 children on the register with an average attendance of around 28. A good number of parents help on the rota. This year we have had two old members of Sunday school assisting for six months as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

Activities are available from 9am for early arrivals. We start with a service. The children take turns lighting the altar candles, we change the colour of the cloth as in Church to teach the children about Church colours and seasons. The service continues with our weekly story, prayers, the peace and singing. We finish with a craft activity linked to the story we have told. The children go into Church for the end of the service and show their crafts and tell the congregation what they have learnt.

We have followed the Lectionary with our stories at Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Harvest. We have studied many other bible stories too. On Good Friday we had around 70 children attend the craft workshops. The children produced some lovely crafts and were joined by their families for a short service in Church.

We participated in the special services for Love in a Box and Christingle. Dave the Time Traveller came for our party in January and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon.

We would thank the PCC for their continued financial support which allows us to do interesting crafts and run special events for the children.

Karen Peverell and Alison Collins.

Alternative Worship

Another year of 'Alternative Worship' has brought new ideas and new directions, our music & singing group continues to develop – we are always open to new instruments, voices and ideas, if you have one please get in touch!

Despite generally good summer weather, in July we had to move our 'Open Air' Alternative indoors as torrential rain swept the village! The result was a packed Parochial Hall! Music was again led by our own AMSG and returning brass North Skelton Band. Rob Pepper gave us a visually dramatic presentation of the



depth of poverty on our own doorstep after which we welcomed special guest Heather Black Chair of Middlesbrough Foodbank who gave us a real insight into the work of Foodbanks in general and Middlesbrough Foodbank in particular. The Bradley School of Dance & Musical Theatre performed to "Food Glorious Food". A car load of food was donated by those present as well as a monetary collection for Middlesbrough Foodbank.

Other Alternatives included Christian Aid in May and in September when several worshippers shared their thoughts on 'Contentment': *'Listening to a favourite piece of music' 'Being outside amongst Nature, thanking God for each new day.' 'Being there for someone who needs a friend, and we all do.'* *"Contentment comes from within."* *'Coming back to my comfy home and grateful for having happy thoughts.'* *'Contentment to me means peace of mind. Most of the time I have peace of mind. When I feel my peace of mind slipping away I say "Jesus Christ have mercy on me". In time it becomes "Jesus Christ be praised."* *This sounds quite simple, but has taken me many years to reach the stage when I can say, most of the time I have peace of mind.'*

Our year had begun with the Education Alternative in January entitled 'Believing & Belonging', we heard about the work of local charity School Aid India (SAI) and its school "Roseberry School Darjeeling". Our worship featured several of our youngsters from Roseberry, Stokesley and Marwood schools ably supported by parents and staff.

Do come and join us in 2014. All are welcome.

Revd Geoff Jaques

Christ Church Choir

2013 has been an extremely busy and highly productive year for the choir. I would like to thank all of our choir members for the enthusiastic and positive contributions throughout the year.

March 2013 saw the choir perform *The Choral Express* a mixture of sacred and secular music throughout the ages. In addition to the normal services and festivals, the carol services at Newton and Ayton were extremely well received with the choir performing a new carol for the first time. Outside of the parish the choir have continued to perform well.

July 21st 2013 saw the choir being invited to sing at Doncaster Minster for the 11:00 Sung Eucharist. The visit was extremely enjoyable with a lot of positive feedback received. The choir has been booked to sing again at the Minster in 2014 as well as Ripon Cathedral. The choir also sang as part of a combined choir for the RSCM NE Yorkshire Festival at Ampleforth Abbey in October. Mike Nash and I continued to represent Christ Church Choir at RSCM Voices North throughout 2013 and into 2014. Congratulations go to John Dickinson who has successfully joined RSCM Voices North for 2014. Alison Lambert also gained her RSCM Silver Award (with merit) which was presented at Ampleforth Abbey in October.



I am very grateful to the people who aided the choir during my illness especially Peter Swift, Victoria Brown, and Jeremy Maritz who helped for the Doncaster Visit.

Craig David Cartwright
Organist and Director of Music

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

Through their various resources BRF aim to help people of all ages – children, adults and families – to explore Christianity and to grow in faith. You can find out about the various aspects of their work at www.brf.org.uk

At Christ Church the group of people using Bible reading notes produced by BRF as an aid to reading the Bible regularly, has grown to 42.

“New Daylight” which provides four months of daily Bible readings with a brief explanation of the passage and how it can be of use today, continues to be the most popular of the choices and is used by 37 people. There are 25 **“New Daylight”** readers who now meet together



occasionally for discussion and prayer. To build up our fellowship we plan to increase our contact with each other this year by meeting monthly in small groups, to share day-to-day experiences of the relevance of **“New Daylight’s”** bible passages and commentary for our lives.

There are spare copies of **“New Daylight”** and other notes available for you to try. Please ask if you would like one.

Enid Sedgwick

Bible Study Group

What does the Bible Study group do? Well sometimes we listen to music; sometimes we read poetry and we certainly eat a lot of cake. But mostly we do 'what it says on the tin' , we study God's word and help one another understand the Bible and apply it to our lives.

Last year we did a series on 'Contentment', thinking about what things make us discontent and learning how Jesus promises that anyone who believes in him will never again hunger or thirst. Currently we are studying the Trinity and finding out how it is central to our beliefs and our salvation.

In March we will study Hosea - a love song and story about how much God loves his people. We really welcome new members. No expertise is necessary and you can say as much or as little as you like! We meet every other Thursday at 8pm - see the notices for details.

Nick Land

Church Cleaners

We would like to say a big thank you to all the kind people who give their time throughout each year to help keep the Church and the brasses clean. Your hard work is very much appreciated and we hope we can rely on your continued support for the future.

When we took over from Mary Boyce, we were quite in awe of the excellent way in which she had everything organised and, truthfully, we were a little overwhelmed by it all! However, she had written notes so that we knew when and what to do to keep up the good work. This has helped enormously, so thank you Mary.

After a bit of a wobbly start and third time lucky with the rotas (they were a little more complicated to do than I had at first expected), we think we have now got our heads around things. We will probably still make a few mistakes along the way, so please be patient with us.

A couple of people have retired recently: thanks to them for all they have done over the years. We have been fortunate to recruit a few new people to the rota and are grateful to them for volunteering their services. However, more volunteers are still required to cover the rota so if you know of anyone who would be willing to help out, please let us know.

Thank you to all the members of the cleaning rota for your continuing reliability and effort. We feel this is the ideal opportunity to recognise and congratulate you all on such strong teamwork (in all departments - not just the cleaning) to help make our Church so wonderful and welcoming.

This year the annual spring clean will be on Friday 21st March at 5.00pm and Saturday 22nd March at 9.00am. We hope many will be able to join us.

Please let us know if you think we need to update or be aware of anything.



Contact numbers:-

Jan Thompson..... 01642 723344 (with regard to cleaning)

Irene Reah01642 723804 (for alterations to the details on the rotas)

Making & Nurturing Disciples

You'll remember our adverts in Spire in April launching our Discipleship for Dummies – based on the best selling series of books – Computing for Dummies, Knitting for Dummies. We didn't know who'd be interested but 10 people from across our different congregations answered the advert!

An amazing cross-section, two married couples (Jean & George Robinson, Mark & Emma Stowell) 4 other women (Dawn McNamara, Emma Wood, Grace Enderwick & Vicky Gawthorpe) and 2 other guys (Craig Cartwright & Robin Hazell) – with Margaret Lewis and I acting as their guides.

The group gelled really well – even though most only knew 1 or 2 other members when we first met. We met in different houses had 50 minutes input/teaching/learning followed by 10 minutes prayer/worship and an open ended coffee and cake ...

The basic course was held over 8 evenings. What to do afterwards was always at the back of our minds – Rob & Nicky Pepper had already had some experience in their previous church of leading Discipleship Groups so we floated the



idea to D4D (as they'd become known) – did they want to continue after the 8 sessions and if so Well, Nicky & Rob were invited to join us for our late evening coffee and Cake and the group decided that they did want to continue and that Rob & Nicky's guidance would be welcomed – they continue to meet fortnightly.

Margaret and I will be starting another Discipleship course in 2014 based on the Church of England national "Pilgrim" programme – if you'd like to know more please talk to one of us or ask any of D4D!

Rev'd Geoff Jaques

Christ Church Visitors

There continue to be 17 Visitors in the group who regularly meet with the clergy and visit 37 people who are either housebound, elderly or in hospital on a long term basis. This is the



same number of Visitors as last year with a small change in personnel and an increase of 7 in the people we meet - showing that more people are required to meet a growing need for our service.

It is interesting that since our formation in November 2005 we have been in contact with 114 people. We visit people mainly in their own homes but have also visited most local hospitals and several residential homes with Visitors regularly going to Stokesley, Middlesbrough and Nunthorpe.

We follow a set of guidelines which are reviewed and agreed annually and we meet monthly with the clergy in order that they can monitor our visits. We continue to receive appropriate training at some of these meetings and have recently met a representative of Cruse for bereavement training.

The group supports the monthly and Christmas services in Hollygarth and also transports some of the people who would otherwise be unable to attend. This is open to **anyone** who appreciates a monthly service on a mid-week afternoon – not just the residents of Hollygarth.

We deliver a card and speak to next of kin close to the anniversary of a bereavement and have identified suitable prayers and cards to use during visits. In 2013 we hosted the second Praise and Party service in September followed by tea in the Hall. At this service we hoped to attract those for whom the 9.15 service is too early. The congregation numbered 106 with 26 people personally invited of whom 5 were in wheelchairs. They very much appreciated both the “praise” and “party” and we hope to host a similar event in May 2014.

With the help of the congregation we hope to continue a system of visiting new arrivals to the village and have taken Welcome Packs with a welcome card, letter from Christ Church, Spire, Stream, newssheet and map. You can help in this by telling any Visitor of any new neighbours you may have.

It is a very rewarding task and we would welcome anyone to join us so that we can reach more people.

Rosemary Wheway

Flower Guild Report

We were expecting 2013 to be very busy with lots of wedding flowers to arrange but ended up with only four which we enjoyed doing.

Our first wedding in February was very interesting as the young couple were from travelling families. Judging by the television series we thought they might wish to have lots of flowers which would have caused problems since the following day was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. However the bride and her mother chose to have only three simple arrangements, thus solving the problem. As the wedding day was Flower Club in the hall members were so interested in it that the meeting was held up! There was a lot of admiration for the driver of the huge stretch limo who single-handedly sorted out the traffic jam.

Our next task was to transform the church with our Easter arrangements. It gives us great pleasure to arrange flowers for those who sponsor them and we appreciate their support. At Christmas we had many requests to sponsor the flower arrangements. This year we managed to fit in 18 Unfortunately there were some we had to turn down and they have booked for next year! May I suggest you book early to avoid disappointment!

On the day we did Harvest flowers we were very upset to receive the news that our friend and fellow member. Joan Heaviside. had died quite suddenly although she had suffered a great deal in the past year. We miss her warm smile and her flower arranging skills very much. The Flower Guild arranged the font in her memory at Christmas.



Grateful thanks to the Flower Guild who are the most supportive and hard working team of ladies. They give freely of their time and skill and strip their gardens of foliage throughout the year!

Special thanks to Jeanne for the coffee and biscuits, to Dot for decorating the link window (the remotely controlled candles were a hit!) and to Dave Sedgwick for his help in putting up(and taking down) the garlands round the pillars.

The Memory Tree was very well used and a donation of £67.82 was sent to Herriot Homes. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored or gave donations. We do appreciate the interest you take in our work and especially your many kind comments!

We look forward to lots of happy flower arranging days in 2014

Dulcie Jones

Chairman Christ Church Flower Guild

Christ Church Charitable Giving 2013									
Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
Christian Aid	223.66	16.56	211	1003.62					1454.84
Save the Children Fund							365.4		365.40
Tear Fund		17							17.00
Barnabas Fund	119.52			692.42					811.94
United Society (formerly USPG)		1057.52							1057.52
Church Mission Society								1000	1000.00
Church Army								1000	1000.00
Childrens Society			429.47					500.00	929.47
Gideons International		500							500.00
Bible Society		500							500.00
Children in Distress		500	466.05		1401.34				2367.39
Tees Valley Youth for Christ								3000	3000.00
British Heart Foundation							271.92		271.92
Kidney Research UK							551.76		551.76
Cancer Research UK							350		350.00
Cancer Relief UK							47.42		47.42
The Stroke Association							572.71		572.71
Yorkshire Cancer Research						163.34	342 5.55		3588.89
JCUH (Palliative Care Trust Fund)							30		30.00
Marie Curie Cancer Care					151.52				151.52
"A Way Out"	312.53			2510.82					2823.35
Great North Air Ambulance							119 4.96		1194.96
ITU Friarage Hospital							431.52		431.52
Herriott Hospice Homecare		105.36							105.36

[illegible]

Great Ayton Mothers' Union Report



This year we have had a full and varied programme. Zoes Place told us of their work and fund raising, Barnados informed us how their work has changed dramatically from when the first homes were founded. Jennifer demonstrated how to make a cross for your pocket using needle work. Elizabeth regaled us about her visit to York Minster on Maundy Thursday along with other Aytonians. Rev. Hutchinson told us about his journey into the ministry and we were given a potted history on local seaside piers.

Some of our members attended the Lady Day Service which was held in Coulby Newham Cathedral, the Deanery Festival and Hutton Rudby, the Deanery Quiet afternoon at Nunthorpe and we hosted the Archdeaconry Service by kind permission of Paul.

We had a fund raising quiz at the Royal Oak with scrumptious Pie and Peas. Thanks to all the staff for their help with a few problems.

We lost three of our members since last year, Sheila Waters, Nellie Harland and Florrie Webb.

Again we supported the Women's Refuge. Kath and I took a brimming car loaded with goods and we also took a few bags of items to the Seafarers. They were both very grateful for our support as always. Items for the baby unit are taken throughout the year.

Thanks go to Paul and all his staff for their support.

Lynda Walker - on behalf of the Committee

The Firms

The Younger Firm have enjoyed lots of interesting and varied activities this year. One particular highlight was rising early on a Sunday morning for our half term hike in October to watch the sun rise over the top of Roseberry Topping and finishing our walk with bacon butties and a photostory in church to show members of the congregation what we get up to. We also were lucky enough to attend the XLS event held at Lightwater Valley which saw around two thousand young Christians enjoying the delights of the theme park, followed by a Christian music concert.



We have steadily increased in numbers this year and welcome anyone aged between 10 -14. We meet on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Our members have enthusiastically taken part in the 'Alternative' service, the 'Come and Praise' service, reading and leading prayers on a Sunday Morning at 9.15am. Many of our group are servers, bell ringers or help out in Sunday School. We said a very fond farewell to Nick Land who has contributed so much of his time, energy and enthusiasm into both our youth groups and warmly welcome our new leaders; Claudia, Julie and Helen to our team.

Claire Sheridan

The Senior Firm is a youth group held twice a month and provides younger members of Christ Church and the local Methodist Church a chance to meet together and learn about the Bible whilst having fun.

Since the last Annual Meeting, Nick Land and Nicky Pepper have stepped down after 10 successful years running The Older Firm.

Claudia Kirby, Helen Dickinson and Julie Bourke have stepped into their shoes with the hope that they will continue The Firm with the same level of enthusiasm. Neil Harris, our Stokesley School Youth Worker, will continue with his focus on Living the Faith.

We have 20 members but this increases significantly when our 'former members' contingent' return during their holidays from university.



We have continued the club nights and enjoyed special nights, including a chocolate fondue night, our Christmas Party with a Quiz along the lines of a 'Nick Land special'. We invited members of the Younger Firm to our New Year Party to enjoy the disco and the tasting of non-alcoholic cocktails.

We thank The Lands for hosting the annual Firework Night and hope to meet for an Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ as tradition dictates.

The team are now looking forward to 2014 when a representative from Daisy Chain will be at our next meeting to talk of their work with children with autism as The Firm has adopted this charity and hope to raise funds to support it.

Julie Bourke, Helen Dickinson, Neil Harris & Claudia Kirby (As pictured)

Servers Report 2013

I am very pleased to report that we have some new young faces on our team this year. Niamh, Francesca and Matthew have all joined us following their confirmation. They began by shadowing more experienced servers and then took their place on the rota later in the year. May I also thank the families of these



young people for their support and encouragement in getting to church on time and on the right date.

At Christmas we welcomed back Jonathan, David and John who took part in our special services of celebration. As always it was lovely to see them and find out how they are doing out in the big wide world, they've grown up in our congregation and we are very proud of them.

Eric, Lynda, and Richard are our early risers who serve at 8 o'clock, with Jo, Edward, Frances, Adrian, Ellie, Gina and I serving at 9.15am

I would like to thank all our loyal and faithful servers for helping the services to run smoothly throughout the year.

If you would like to join us, please find me in the coffee lounge after the service for a chat.

Lesley Miller

A Few Facts and Figures

Previous year in brackets (2012)

Average Adult Attendance	129 (136)	Baptisms	27 (31)
Average Child Attendance	30 (29)	Thanksgivings	1 (1)
Easter Attendance	318 (279)	Weddings	12 (8)
Christmas Attendance	597 (508)	Funerals	52 (38)

Little Fishes

Little Fishes has now been running for over three years and seems to go from strength to strength! We recently welcomed our 100th Little Fish (baby Lluna) to join us. Attendances vary from week to week with numbers ranging from 6 to 15 Little Fishes with parents and carers.

This year we were pleased to include Vicky Gawthorpe in our leadership team and continue to include “guest” storytellers, Jean Mitchell, Janet Smith and Margaret Hore on a regular basis. Since we commenced two of our carers were confirmed at Christ Church last year – Emma Wood, Dawn McNamara and two Little Fishes were baptised – Amelia and Molly.



As Little Fishes move on to nursery and school many attend the “Come and Praise” services held once a month and also progress into Sunday School, so keeping the important link with the church.

The service runs to a similar format every Tuesday at 9.30am in term time - action songs, prayers led by the carers, stories – always very popular, and a time of quiet. The children love to sing with actions as many are now familiar with the songs. Birthdays are always celebrated with a rush to blow the candle out first! It is a relaxed, happy time of worship followed by refreshments and playtime in the Coffee Lounge.

We ran a very successful toy/children’s bookstall at the Church Coffee Morning last year and will be doing so again this March. Any items not sold will be given to the local Women’s Refuge where they are always gratefully received.

Support is provided by a good team serving refreshments and ensuring that good fellowship is enjoyed by all and a cheery welcome is always provided at the church door. We look forward to continuing success in spreading the word of Jesus to more Little Fishes and carers in the years to come. Do come along and see what happens – anyone is most welcome.

Angela Jaques

Christ Church Bell Ringers

Twelve young people ring our bells on a regular basis. On behalf of the whole congregation I should like to thank them for their efforts.

We were sorry to lose Caitlin Calgie, she rang for almost two and a half years, we wish her well as she pursues her other interests.

Our current ringers are:-

Edward Land Hannah Peverell Ella Jones Luke & Harry Banfield William & Tom Jackson Emily & Matthew Sheriden Libby Hendry Elinor & Oliver Northey

This year the Bells have rung for sixty eight regular Sunday services and festivals.

They were booked for eleven weddings, earning welcome pocket money for our more senior ringers, who are strong enough to keep going for the extra time required.

The Bells had their regular two yearly service in September. They were stripped and fully renovated nineteen years ago. The engineer reported that rust was now evident, and they were again in need of another major overhaul. One estimate has been obtained, and it has yet to be decided who will carry out the work, and whether or not a faculty is required.

It is very easy to learn how to ring our octave of Tubular Bells. Campanology is an unusual skill to put on your UCAS form, which can be useful if you wish to study a competitive degree, such as law or medicine. **We are happy to welcome new ringers onto the team. Should you like any more information please contact Elsa Taylor on 722400**

Wydale Weeekend

Last March we enjoyed what many consider one of our best Wydale Weekends yet. A large group of us when away to Uncover Jesus, both in the Scriptures and each other - and we found lots of lovely surprises.

We were all involved in leading groups, the worship and the entertainment - all of which revealed many gifts. The hospitality of Wydale Hall was excellent once again.



Communications

We use a variety of ways to communicate within Church and the community.

Churchwebsite This continues to grow and is visited by a growing number of people *spread throughout the world!* We had 3,879 unique visitors throughout the year from 59 different countries, with 6,330 visits overall. The Top Pages were 1. Welcome 2. Calendar 3. Magazines 4. Church Hall 5. Readings 6. Rev Pevs Page 7. St Oswald's Church & 8. Photo Galleries.

Other features to the site such as calendars, audio and video files, etc. are also shown. If you haven't had chance to have a browse yet then go to www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk.

If you are a secretary or one of those responsible for one of our different organisations, details of information and news of activities can be featured on individual pages on the website. Such information should be sent, preferably by email, to either myself, **Peter Titchmarsh**, or the Vicar.

Spire The Church Magazine comes out ten times a year and has a growing circulation reaching across the world. Just over 500 copies go via the internet with a further 300 paper copies available in the village. Spire is also downloaded direct from the website. Paper copies are also left in Cafes and Surgeries. Copies of Spire are also passed on.



We aim to show aspects of the Church in action with stories of real people and activities in our village alongside forthcoming events. We try to give a good read and with many photos. If you have anything for Spire, see the **Editor of Spire, Paul Peverell**.

News for the Pews A printed sheet is produced each week with topical news items and information for our Sunday services. The Collect of the day is included together with the text of the prescribed Lectionary Readings for the main (Eucharistic) service. Relevant items of news of forthcoming church events in our parishes to be included should be submitted to the editor by 5pm on Wednesday. The printed sheet is *usually* available at the back of church from Friday afternoon.

Peter Titchmarsh - Newsheet Editor

Church Men's Group

Our enjoyable evenings of faith, fellowship and food at the Royal Oak continued to be a feature of life during the year. Topics included 'Christian Youth work in South Africa' by Stokesley School TVYFC Youth Leader Neil Harris and 'Life as a Prison chaplain' by Rev'd Jonathan Sewell.

Our best attended evening was when we welcomed home Oli Simmons who told us about his life as a student at Durham University and the part he had been playing there with the Christian Union; he also gave us an insight into his future role as the UCCI Relay Worker at Leeds Uni & Met CU.

We organised for a mixed family group trip to Gateshead for an excellent afternoon of athletics at the European Team Championships where two of our younger members was captured in camera with former Olympian and broadcaster Colin Jackson.



Earlier in the year several of us had taken up the invitation from the Methodist Men to join them for coffee at Windle Bridge Nursery. It was particularly inspiring to be present at our Confirmation Service this year when 3 Church Men Robin Hazell (pictured), George Robinson and Mark Stowell were confirmed by

Bishop Gordon Bates.

We are looking forward to another varied year in 2014. All church Men are welcome at any of our gatherings, no need to sign up – keep an eye of the Pew News and come along!

Geoff Jaques

Christ Church Parochial Hall

During 2013, we have continued to upgrade Christ Church Hall facilities.

We have new fire doors in the main hall, which enhance the appearance and prevent loss of valuable heat from the room.

With the help of a generous grant from BANKS, we replaced the ancient boiler which, when all the little demons have been ironed out will be of great benefit. The coffee lounge is proudly sporting a smart new large rug, blending beautifully with the existing furniture & making the coffee lounge a welcoming place to sit and chat.

Christ Church Hall continues to be the venue of choice for many activities which are held here in Great Ayton. It remains for me to extend my thanks to all my unseen & valuable team, without whom I could not manage. Thanks must be extended also to "Sunday Coffee" Ladies and 200 Club Members for their donations to funds.

Jennifer Roberts
Hall Secretary

Sunday Morning Coffee

Sunday Morning Coffee continues to be a very popular social gathering and a means of welcoming newcomers and visitors to our congregation.

Our numbers have increased quite significantly over the last year. Sadly, one of our longest serving ladies, Nellie Harland, passed away – she is greatly missed. Our thanks go to another of our long-serving ladies, Irene Saunders, who decided to 'call it a day' due to other commitments. We welcome two new ladies to the Rota – Frances Brown and Alison Maclean.



Our thanks go to all the ladies on the Rota, the extra helpers from the congregation and David Rowland, whose services are greatly appreciated. Any profit we make goes towards the running of the Church Hall.

Pauline Titchmarsh and Val Moore

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This has been another successful year, during which £8,626.42 has been raised.

Some of our events included:

The Box opening and coffee morning which totalled £1814.17. The soup lunch was very popular, as usual, and we served 89 people, some twice, in under an hour! We are very grateful to the extra helpers who assisted us for this event.

Our thanks go to Helen Dickinson for organising the sale of Children's Society Christmas cards and we were pleased to receive an improved sales profit percentage from head office this year. We are also grateful to Pauline and Peter Titchmarsh for the continuing sales of recycled cards and the matched funding.

We had a successful Bridge night, arranged by Jancie as usual, which the participants greatly enjoyed and appreciated. This year, we held a flower demonstration evening with Jean McClure which was well received and resulted in some lovely arrangements, all of which were offered as prizes at the end of the evening.



The carol singing morning grows in number each year. This time we had 29 singers, ably accompanied by John Appleyard and Jamie Harvey on their guitars. Afterwards, many of us retired to the Royal Oak for a well-earned cup of coffee, kindly donated by Simon, having raised £192.25.

Our thanks go to all our regular helpers and counters and to our hard working committee. We would love to have some new members so if you would like to know more about us, please speak either to myself or any of the committee.

Marina Charlton Chairman.

Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Marwood School continues to be a happy, friendly and popular school, achieving very high standards in teaching and learning across all areas of the curriculum. This is recognised by the local authority with their regular visits to the school.

Another year of added improvements to the physical environment has seen the school playground being resurfaced and re-marked with colourful and educational designs that will further enhance the children's playtime experience. The timeworn Millennium Garden has made way for a well-constructed pergola that will frame the school's 'Spiritual Garden' and provide an area of peacefulness, prayer and spiritual contemplation for the pupils. In fact, there has been much excitement amongst the children about how it will be decorated and the children have been discussing appropriate ways to use their new garden and display their creativity.



Marwood School continues to use the church each month for worship with the Vicar and also for special services as well as for Marwood weddings and baptisms. The children are encouraged to attend our services, such as Love in a Box, Education Sunday and Christingle. Similarly, the opportunity of attending Sunday School and Easter Workshops are made known to parents on an on-going basis or when relevant. The children's parents are also invited to come into collective worship when it is hosted by Christ Church and these are well supported.



The Foundation Governors and the Headteacher, Mrs Celia Wilson, are very proud of the school links with the Church and the Church links with the school. The school has a strong focus on promoting spiritual development and upholding the Christian values of the church and this was recognised in the most recent SIAS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican

Schools). A dedicated team of staff, helpers and a supportive parent body collaborate to maintain a happy, caring and well-supported learning environment. We are extremely grateful to all the staff, helpers and parents who aim for such worthy goals.

Vicky Bradley
Foundation Governor

Celia Wilson
Headteacher

Guiding in Great Ayton

Great Ayton District has had another very successful year with all units enjoying many activities both indoors and outside. We have one retirement this year, after many years Janice Thompson has retired from Guiding, we hope she enjoys her retirement and would like to thank her publicly for all she has done for Guiding.



By the time of this meeting the Brownie Units will have been to the Sage in February to celebrate 100 years of Brownies with a day of music and song. Most Brownie and Guide units have been away for weekends in the last year with leaders putting a lot of hard work into making these weekends fun and special for the girls.

We continue to see Guides doing a lot of hard work to achieve their Baden-Powell Challenge Awards and also Senior Section members achieving their Young Leader and Adult Leader Qualifications. We appreciate the effort they put into being part of the teams running weekly meetings and also into gaining their qualifications at a time when they are also busy with school, college, etc.



I'd like to thank all the leaders and young leaders for all their hard work over the year providing the girls with the opportunities to try new things.

The social side of Guiding for the adults involved is also important, with District and Division social events throughout the year. The Trefoil Guild is active in Great Ayton with regular meetings and outings.

There are 2 Rainbow, 3 Brownie and 2 Guide Units in the village along with the Division Senior Section Unit (for those aged 14-25). Most of the units are full but there are some spaces available.

We are looking for leaders to help at Guides on a Monday night and Rainbows on a Tuesday night so please get in touch if you are interested.

Alison Lambert

Leven Division Commissioner

2nd Great Ayton Rainbows

Rainbows have been very busy again in 2013, a full unit of 17 girls.

The weather has been much better and allowed us to get out and about more in addition to our usual crafty afternoons.

In April we had a visit from Yoshi – a guide dog puppy in training – an honorary member of guiding as his trainer – Kirsty, is a guide leader. The girls loved grooming him, and finding out what life is like for a guide dog pup.



We had an afternoon of craft in Hobbycraft at Teesside Park making lots of different crafts and for the first time, we had our summer outing to the beach and it was still HOT! All the girls in swimsuits and paddling in the sea – and yes it was in Redcar.

September saw the introduction of the new promise for all members of Girlguiding, the Rainbows have now learnt their new words.

Together with the Brownies & Senior Section girls we visited Fletchers farm to watch the cows being milked as part of a MOO challenge and also have a tour of the farm, seeing new born calves. The Rainbows thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the badge they received, as usual it involved food! (milkshakes/chocolate and cheese tasting)



Finally, our annual trip to the pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty with Girlguiding Teesside, and a Christmas party with the Brownies.

Christine Kenyon
Rainbow Leader

1st Great Ayton Brownies



We started 2013 with a fitness theme and the girls worked on their Healthy Heart and Agility badges, these were then tested by an outside assessor which always gives the girls an extra incentive. Some girls were very fortunate to be able to go away twice with Brownies last year – once in April

and again in September when Ashleigh Huntsman successfully undertook her Holiday Licence training and test.

Congratulations go to Ashleigh who had only just finished her Adult Leaders Qualification at the end of 2012 before taking on the Holiday Licence.

One of our highlights this year has been the Moo Challenge where we have taken on all manner of tasks - all cow related – visited Fletchers Farm, decorated cow biscuits, made origami cows and hand- made butter.

We have been ‘fishing’ in the river, fed the ducks, been to the beach (and the sun finally shone on us!)



We made another trip to Middlesbrough Theatre Pantomime which was a load fun filled evening! and ended our year with a Christmas Party with the Rainbows.

Once again I thank all the ‘ladies’ and girls who make running Brownies such good fun.

Alison Selby
Brownie Leader

1st Great Ayton Guides

We have had another eventful year, starting off with a pink themed Hen night – which was a first for all the girls and a huge surprise to me! This then led to a surprise Guard of Honour at my wedding.



We have enjoyed some lovely walks out including a train ride to Kildale with a lovely walk back to the village, Roseberry Topping, Captain Cooks Monument and Guisborough Walkway.

We then had a fun weekend away to Holme House near Grosmont where we made lots of crafts linked to our cupcake theme, we enjoyed a trip to Whitby where we enjoyed fish and chips sat outside by the sea.

We ended the summer term with a trip bowling and to the beach with the Rainbows, Brownies and Senior Section.

We had another first when we held a baby shower for Katherine before she went on maternity leave to have her son Jack. All our games were linked to babies and we all dressed in onesies!

A couple of our girls went on International Selection weekends and Anna Burton was lucky to be chosen to go to Norway in the summer. A fantastic opportunity for her and we are now helping her with her fundraising efforts.

We have completed our First Aid and Emergency Helper badges and had great fun completing the Moo and Reindeer Challenges, where everything we did or made was linked to cows and reindeers. Five of our girls have just completed their Baden Powell Challenge awards We ended the year with a trip to see Sleeping Beauty at the theatre

Veronica Snaitb
Guider

Leven Division Senior Section

Leven Senior Section is a twice monthly meeting for girls from across Great Ayton, Stokesley and Hutton Rudby Districts aged between 14 and 25. We continue to have a full unit and a regular attendance of around 20 girls.

We have challenged them with team building exercises – decorating cakes and lighting fires without matches.

Their craft skills are growing we have made fantastic gingerbread houses, sparkly Christmas trees and messy string balls! We have even tried soap carving and constructed bird boxes at Guisborough Walkway.



Outside we have been geocaching, orienteering, walking and attempted some tin can cooking. They built some impressive sandcastles on the beach in the summer too. The girls enjoyed a film night and pub quiz but I think the most memorable night this year was the Great British Bake-off Technical Challenge when they attempted to make trifles with limited instructions, limited time and limited success!

A number of girls have just attended an international selection weekend and we are very pleased to have girls travelling to India, Denmark and Japan.

We ended 2013 with a Christmas party which saw them revert to their younger childhood playing pass the parcel, musical chairs and musical statues to name but a few.

Thanks go to all the other Leaders who help out and here's looking forward to another busy year.

Alison Selby
Senior Section Guider

1st Great Ayton Scout Group

The Scout Group has a healthy membership of young people and has enjoyed another year of growth. We currently have 109 young members, 12 warranted leaders and 29 registered adult helpers. Our Scout Hut is in use every weekday night, with some nights seeing more than one unit meeting.

Beaver Colony

At Beavers we have lots of fun learning to experience and enjoy our fantastic local environment. We do this all year round, getting outside every other week in the winter and most weeks in the summer.

A few ways we do this are night walks spotting star constellations, hunting for bugs in the margins of the cemetery, relay games on the Low Green, adventure walks, following trails, sledging and paddling, digging and fossil hunting on the beach.



On our summer camp based at Watson centre in Carlton we flew off in the rocket ship to explore a strange new planet. Later we had a mega water battle and launched pop bottle rockets. When we are inside we play plenty of games, have

made rocky road no-bake cakes and cooked pancakes, have created Christmas and Mothering Sunday cards and last week made bird feeders and learned to recognise some of our garden birds. As we haven't had any snow yet to sledge on we made snowmen out of Beavers at our Christmas party.



Endeavour Cub Pack

Endeavour Pack has had another great year full of a variety of scouting activities.

Camp was at Ravengill again, this time it was a little colder than previous years which led to the cancellation of the water fight, even the Cubs thought it was too cold! A constant supply of bacon buns and cake seemed to keep the boys going. Our main activity was laser tag at Picton followed by a play on the playground at Preston Park.

We did the usual outdoor activities with night hikes, fire lighting, camp fire cooking, shelter building, tracking. We are looking forward to the light nights when we will be able to get out and about again.

We had an excellent visit to Wynyard planetarium as part of the Astronomer badge. We also used iPads to create our own film trailers as part of the entertainer badge. Cubs also completed the Book Reader badge helped by a visit by Jean of Great Ayton Discovery Centre. Several Cubs also completed the Chief Scouts Silver Award before they moved up to Scouts.

Monument Cub Pack

2013 has been a successful and enjoyable year for both the Cubs and Leaders to look back on, with several highlights and a lot of fun along the way.

We were fortunate at the beginning of the year to include some sledging in the outdoor activities along with beach and wood walks. Indoor activities included cooking, Challenge 13 sessions and swimming. The high point though was winning the District 5-a-side football tournament – the first time for 22 years!



During the summer we took advantage of the weather with walks from Kildale, to Stokesley, took advantage of Gribdale for games and activities. A range of activity badges was also completed as part of these activities. The highlight in the summer term was the design, construction and testing of shelters made only from woodland materials.



During the autumn term the preparations from earlier in the year were put to the test when some of the Pack attended the District Camp at Sexhow, near Hutton Rudby. It was great to join other Packs from District to share some their long-standing camp traditions. The boys even managed

to deal with some stormy weather over the weekend.

The autumn term saw us return to Pack nights in the Scout Hut with a variety of indoor activities, including learning about and making paper aeroplanes, with a wide variety of success, cooking and investitures of some of the new cubs coming to the Pack. We also said farewell to some of the older Cubs, as they progressed to Scouts to take on greater and new challenges, having learnt many of the basic skills in Cubs, as well the ability to challenge themselves.



Tuesday Scout Troop

It is difficult to outline all that Tuesday Scout have done during 2013, as we have done that much. However, here is just a brief summary:

Tiger Woods would have been proud of the troop following a visit to Stokesley Golf Range. Lent once again proved really popular, everyone is more than capable of making pancakes, some even had normal fillings! They were enthralled by a Climbing Mount Everest talk by a real life Mount Everest Climber. The Scout tied

themselves in knots whilst learning how to tie them. The bats proved elusive on the bat hunt, however it was a nice walk though, better hunting next time. First aid was learnt and tents erected, some would even keep out the weather, which was just as well at summer camp.

Summer camp was nearly a washout, but the scouts improvised, adapted and overcame the flooding. They tested themselves on a 10 mile mountain bike ride, drank homemade teas, went swimming (in a pool), bowling, made fires and cooked on them and basically had a great time. Despite the weather, as always, they are looking forward to the next one.



The scouts enjoyed a visit to the Cleveland Search and Rescue Base, to see all the equipment and get a better understanding of how this valuable service works. The following week they experienced their work first-hand how they worked, as they played injured casualties during a Search and Rescue Exercise.

Thursday Scout Troop

The troop participated for the first time in Scouting's worldwide 'Jamboree on the Internet' (JOTI) in October. In this event, thousands of Scouts from all over the world meet and communicate with each other over the Internet, using any technologies locally available, from web browsers to e-mail, chat programs, microphones, scanners and digital cameras. Laptops, webcams and two large screens were set up in the Coffee Lounge and a WIFI connection set up, kindly provided by Paul Peverell.



We made contact with scouts (and some Guides) in about 70 countries – including Russia, Philippines, Alaska and Australia. It was a very enjoyable event that we hope to repeat next year.

We entered two teams in the North Yorkshire County Scout Cooking Competition at Easingwold. Each team of 3 scouts had to prepare a two-course meal for 4 people under camp conditions. One of our teams impressed the judges and gained 3rd place!



A week's summer camp was held at High Yewdale in the Lake District. Apart from very heavy rain on the first and last nights, the weather was kind to us this year – with the firewood easy to keep dry.

Other significant events have included a nautical skills day at Ellerton Lake - when scouts undertook kayaking, canoeing and dinghy sailing to gain their Scout Nautical Skills badge, a

geocaching event and an indoor climbing wall night, climbing in darkness by the light of head torches. A night of ice skating was enjoyed for our Christmas outing.

Two of our scouts attended a selection camp to try for a place on the North Yorkshire contingent going to the next World Scout Jamboree in Japan in the summer of 2015. One of them, Rhys Selby, was successful in being selected. He is now busy fundraising for the trip of a lifetime. The Jamboree is to be held near Yamaguchi City in southern Japan.



Titanic Explorer Scout Unit

Our Explorers have re-named themselves “Titanic Explorers – after their successes with their pedal car racing team – “Team Titanic”.



The unit is busy preparing for this year's 24-hour race by attempting to build their own car. Chassis plans have been pored over and various fund raising plans are being developed to meet the cost. We again plan to enter two teams in this year's race – one using our own car and the other using a loan car.

October saw us entering Operation Escape – a weekend event across the North York Moors, which sees teams of Explorer Scouts avoiding capture by leaders, whilst carrying all their food, and camping equipment with them. Our team missed the winning rostrum by some distance, but enjoyed themselves nevertheless.

Three of our Explorers attended the Jamboree selection event, but were unfortunately unsuccessful in gaining a place. However 4 of our Explorers are busy planning and training for a 10-day expedition to the Mountains of the Jotunheimen National Park in Norway this summer. Their fundraising for the trip began with a sponsored Boxing Day dip in the sea at Saltburn – in fancy dress (cartoon characters)!



Other activities included number of cooking challenges – nutritious meal for 4 for £4-00, pancakes on tins, beach cooking, ready steady cook competition – model car racing, Lego competitions, rocket building (and misfiring) and a number of outdoor evenings in all weathers including snow and ice.

Our Christmas outing was an indoor bowling competition at the Hollywood Bowl.

The Group Supporters Committee continues to support the group and has organised a number of fundraising events through the year, including a magic evening, village duck race and a very successful fireworks and bonfire night at Woodhouse Farm, Little Ayton. The next event planned is a Race Night in March.

Our thanks go to Christ Church for their continued sponsorship of our Scout Group. We very much appreciate the use of the church grounds for our scout hut and the many other ways in which we receive help from the church community. Our association with Christ Church continues into its 89th year - long may it continue!

Ian McWilliam
Group Scout Leader

The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 26th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting 20th March 2013
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2013
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year end 31st December 2013.
7. The Vicar's Comments
8. Election of Deanery Synod Members
9. Election of Parochial Church Council members
10. Appointment of Sidesmen and women
11. Appointment of Independent Examiners
12. Any Questions on Church matters for consideration by the PCC