

# ***The Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Ayton with Easby***

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

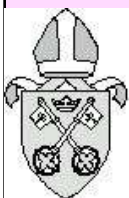
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## **Annual Report**

# **2017**



**Diocese of  
YORK**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

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### PCC as at February 2017

**Ex Officio:** Clergy - Revd Paul Peverell, Revd Geoff Jaques & Revd Jon Dean:  
Readers - Margaret Lewis & Peter Titchmarsh: Churchwardens Rob Pepper  
& Vicki Nath

**Deanery Synod Reps:** Rosemary Wheway, John Dickinson, Nick Land (who also represents York Diocese on the General Synod) .

**PCC Members:** Ken Taylor, Anna Wilson, Mark Stowell, Enid Sedgwick, Caroline Legg, Anna Wilson, Robin Harmar, Rob Pepper, David Oliver.

# A Word from the Vicar



2017 was one of the quickest years I can remember, I suspect because in also taking over Nunthorpe Parish for a year in addition to my work here that time has flown by.

It was also a year when we lost more members of the Church than I can ever remember in 36 years of ministry.

We have seen various changes in Church with who is doing certain jobs. That all is still being done, and being done well is testament to the loyalty and dedication shown by so many folk who contribute to the life of Christ Church. In this report you will hear from many of them and the work they do, but there are many others who quietly go about their own work and witness in a faithful manner. That we have a lively, caring and generous Church is down to them all. Thank you all.

**Paul Peverell, Vicar**

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

Tel 01642 722333 email [revpev@btinternet.com](mailto:revpev@btinternet.com)

## PCC Secretary's Report 2017

At the last Annual Church Meeting in March, Julie Bourke stepped down as PCC secretary and handed the reins over to me. This meant a change to the PCC calendar because due to a hectic lambing schedule, PCC meetings were put on hold until May.



During the 6 meetings held throughout the year, members of the PCC and its offspring committees, have worked hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all to enjoy. Not only do the members ensure the day to day necessities are met, they also work tirelessly to bring projects, such as the wonderful restoration of the organ, to fruition.

Thank you to all members of the PCC and thank you in particular to Paul who has, once again, motivated and supported us all.

The lambing season is due to start again this week, so I will see you all again in May!

**Anna Wilson PCC Secretary**

**The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby**  
**MINUTES of**  
***The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on***  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Present (36)

Reverend Paul Peverell (Vicar/Chairman)

Mike Acornley, Ken Bellamy, Julie Bourke, Elaine Brown, Jon Dean, Helen Dickinson, John Dickinson, Robin Harmar, Angela Jaques, Geoff Jaques, Alison Lambert, Caroline Legg, Margaret Lewis, Betty Manton, Ian McWilliam, Jean McWilliam, Lesley Miller, Vicki Nath, Audrey Prunty, Peter Prunty, Malcolm Race, Enid Sedgwick, Martin Simmons, Christine Smailes, Elsa Taylor, Ken Taylor, Pauline Titchmarsh, Peter Titchmarsh, Lynda Walker, Rosemary Wheway, Heather Whitehead, Stephen Whitehead, Anna Wilson, Dorothy Wood, Gordon Wood

Apologies (9) were received from:

Eric Boyce, Mary Boyce, Jeanne Crombie, Jo Dean, Ben Lambert, Nick Land, Andrew Prunty, Jonathan Winterschlade, Vivienne Winterschlade, Rob & Nicky Pepper.

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Election of Churchwardens**

- The election of the Churchwardens is open to any parishioner living in Great Ayton and they are eligible to vote even if they are not on the electoral roll.
- Churchwardens are elected on an annual basis and we are pleased to say that we have received two nominations for Churchwarden for this year.
- Both Margaret Vicki Nath and Robert Pepper were nominated by Martin Simmons and seconded by Alison Lambert and the Vicar is delighted to declare that there were no further nominations and they were both duly elected.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Those present, who are on the 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 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

- The minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Report.
- The minutes were proposed by Christine Smailes and seconded by Pauline Titchmarsh. All agreed.

## **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- There were no matters arising.

## **Electoral Roll Report as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

- Alison Lambert advised that the Electoral Roll at the Annual Parochial Meeting in 2016 stood at 292. Following the revision of the roll for 2017, which closed on 26<sup>th</sup> February, the number appearing on the Roll is now 289 a net decrease of 3 for the year. This is due to 7 new applications being accepted and 10 names being removed from the list (5 deaths and 5 who are no longer eligible to be on the roll).
- There are still a significant number of Church members who are not on the Roll, particularly younger members.
- Applications for enrolment can be accepted after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and throughout the year not just at the Annual Revision.

## **Presentation of the Annual Report for 2016**

- The Annual Report for 2016 has been published and distributed in several formats.
- There is a tremendous amount of work that goes on in the church and thanks were given to all those who have contributed their written words to the Annual Report and for all the work that they carry out voluntarily during the year to make Christ Church such a successful Church.
- Formal adoption of the report was proposed by Geoff Jaques, seconded by Helen Dickinson and agreed by all present.

## **Financial Report & Presentation of the Audited Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

- Ken Taylor presented the financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 – full details of the income and expenditure are available in the Annual Report.
- Highlights of the year were the Heritage Lottery Fund grant that was received and largely spent during the year and the grant received for Feasibility Study for the Church Hall.
- Generous donations were received to pay for a new organ blower that was deemed necessary following the restoration of the organ.
- Charitable giving has reached a record number of recipients.
- Income and expenditure in respect of the church's General Fund were virtually balanced (there was an in-year deficit of £375).
- Income into the General Fund reached £141,056 as a result of a high level of donations, grants and legacies received.
- Expenditure from the General Fund of £141,431 included our Freewill Offering to the Diocese of £86,040, ministry expenses, maintenance and running costs, mission giving, salaries and administration and miscellaneous expenditure.

- Our reserves are £39,494 which equates to approximately 3-4 months operating costs.
- Fabric expenditure has included repairs to the storm damaged roof (net of insurance claim), re-pointing of the stonework and renewal of the drains by the bell tower, replacement of the organ blower, additional work to protect the organ and the removal of the hedge and dead tree in the grounds.
- Details of the organ restoration project were given showing a breakdown of expenditure.
- Details of expenditure of restricted funds were given – this expenditure was in respect of All Saints Church, the Church Hall, major projects and miscellaneous funds/agency funds.
- £36,807 was distributed to 60 charities throughout the year.
- It was highlighted that there was no mention of the significant amount of food donated to The Foodbank in the charity donations – although it was confirmed that cash contributions donated to The Foodbank are mentioned in the 56 charities supported. It was agreed that it would be useful to write a paragraph in the Annual Report to acknowledge the significant value of the food contributions – thanks were given to Dorothy and Gordon Wood for coordinating the collection of food for the Foodbank and thanks to all those who have contributed so significantly.
- Details of the Budget for 2017-2018 were given:
- Income is budgeted as £136,000. There are 179 members of the planned giving schemes, including 144 who gift aid.
- Expenditure is balanced at £136,000 to include a Freewill Offering to the Diocese of £88,200 (an increase of approximately 2%) – we are one of the biggest givers in the diocese (possibly 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> as a benefice).
- The PCC agreed at their last meeting that this budget be submitted for approval at this Annual meeting.
- The Budget was proposed by Robin Harmar, seconded by John Dickinson and agreed by all.
- Ken thanked Helen Dickinson, Ynez and John Clarke, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and all the Sidespeople for helping to look after the money.
- The Vicar said a very big thank you to Ken Taylor for all his work on the accounts – he is a very efficient treasurer and carries out his role in what appears to be an effortless manner ! Thanks to Ken and his team who help him.

## The Vicar's Comments

- The Vicar was pleased to report that the church is still a significant part of people's lives - particularly at important occasions. He advised that, in the last year, there had been: **22 christenings** in Christ Church – thanks were expressed to the team who support the baptism ministry – clergy, sidesmen and anniversary card distributor.

- **17 weddings** – we had our highest year in living memory, with a further 23 weddings at Newton and a blessing at Angrove Park. Thanks were expressed to the wedding team of vergers and musicians.
- **44 funerals** – Christ Church bucked the trend with people still using the church to mark these occasions. There is an excellent team in the village, both inside Church and with Funeral directors, florists and funeral teas.
- Attendance figures are fairly steady
- £774,000 has been received in the Diocese from fee income from Weddings and Funerals, with Stokesley Deanery contributing £55,689 (7.2%) of this and Christ Church and Newton accounting for 25% of the Deanery total.
- Those who ran all the different groups associated with Church were thanked: Little Fishes, Sunday School, WLTD0?, Come & Praise, and the Church Visitors. We also had Workshops, Charity Auctions WWI Anniversaries and Coffee Mornings. The support each month for Middlesbrough Foodbank was commendable and thanks were expressed to Gordon and Dorothy Wood for organising and encouraging it.
- Church reaches out to others in many ways, including appeals and our giving to many charities and causes. The Christmas Appeal for Roseberry School in Darjeeling broke all records, and as Christmas 2017 will be our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Appeal, the Vicar is hopeful we will do even better this year!.
- We reach out to the community through Spire, the Website and social media
- The organ has been successfully restored and returned. Thanks so very much to Martin and Vicki and the team who led this successful project.
- Margaret Lewis has celebrated 25 years as a Reader - all in this parish – she received a certificate from the Archbishop in York Minster in November 2016.
- David Rowland has retired after 50 years of polishing the brass at Christ Church (amongst other things!).
- On 6th January 2017 the Vicar was also licensed as priest in charge of Nunthorpe parish for a year to help them through their latest vacancy.
- Other members of the team have also been helping to take services, working across the deanery. This will become more of a feature in the future.
- We are a strong parish in the Deanery and it is important to support other parishes.
- Thanks were expressed to Julie Bourke and her pink laptop for her 10 years as PCC Secretary – she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.
- Thanks were expressed to Martin Simmons for 4 hectic years as Churchwarden – we have seen the organ restored, asbestos removed, diseased trees removed, damp cured in many places, the church pointed, roof repaired and the coffee lounge roof replaced. He has been a welcoming and encouraging presence in church. He is a man of Christian faith and integrity and has been a great asset to our church and a great support as Churchwarden over the last four years.
- The Vicar thanked all the Parish Staff, Church Officers and all mentioned in word or photo who do so much for our Church life.

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Nick Land as he attends a Discernment Day for Reader Ministry on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Election of members to the Church Council – 9 vacancies**

- There are 9 vacancies on the PCC – there had been three vacancies during the year and the term of membership ended for Julie Bourke, John Dickinson, Mark Stowell, Ken Taylor and Anna Wilson. Rob Pepper became Churchwarden at this meeting and, as such, his position on the PCC became vacant.
- Readers are nominated and seconded annually.
- The following Church members were nominated, seconded and accepted as PCC members:

Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded by
John Dickinson	Julie Bourke	Martin Simmons
Margaret Lewis (Reader)	Julie Bourke	Martin Simmons
Martin Simmons	Nicholas Land	Robert Pepper
Ken Taylor	Julie Bourke	Angela Jaques
Peter Titchmarsh (Reader)	Julie Bourke	Christine Smailes
Anna Wilson	Julie Bourke	Martin Simmons
Elaine Brown	Christine Smailes	Martin Simmons

- There remains five vacancies on the PCC

### **Election of members to the Deanery Synod – 3 vacancies**

- The following church members have been nominated and were duly elected for the next three years.

Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded by
Nicholas Land	Martin Simmons	Robert Pepper
Rosemary Wheway	Martin Simmons	Vicki Nath

- The Vicar asked if there was anyone else who wished to be nominated for the Deanery Synod and there were no further nominations.
- There remains one vacancy on the Deanery Synod.

### **Appointment of Sidesmen/Sideswomen**

- Ron and Jean Mitchell are standing down for the year due to family illness. New Sidespeople are Betty Manton, Nicky Pepper, Frances Brown and Enid Sedgwick. Sidespeople continue to do an excellent job every week and on special occasions.
- Thank were expressed to the Churchwardens and Sidespeople who do such an excellent job.



**Appointment of Independent Examiners**

- Stanley Bye have been taken over by Baldwins – a medium sized accountancy firm. Ken Taylor has met with Jon Gresham to ascertain if they are the right company for Church to appoint as independent examiners – Jon Gresham has expressed a willingness to act for us. Ken Taylor proposed Jon Gresham of Baldwins be appointed as our Independent Examiners. This was seconded by Malcolm Race and all agreed.

**Questions about Church Matters - Recommendations or Resolutions for consideration by the PCC.**

The Vicar thanked all present for their contributions to the meeting and asked members of the PCC to stay for a brief meeting following the APCM.

Martin expressed great thanks to Paul for his enthusiasm, energy and the way he works with people. It was agreed that we are very lucky to have him.

Signed ..... Date .....

**In Memoriam**

All the people below regularly attended worship at Christ Church and died in 2017. We thank God for all they gave to our Church over the years.



## Stokesley Deanery Synod

In 2017 the Parish was represented by Nick Land, John Dickinson and Rosemary Wheway. There is one vacancy. The clergy also attend.



There were three meetings in 2017 held at various venues in the Deanery. Apart from the business of information sharing and financial necessities some meetings begin with an informative talk and any member of the congregation can attend the talk and stay, as an observer, for the business meeting.

In January, Deanery Synod met for an Action Day entitled “Dreaming the Dream”. This was led by Revd Tim Robinson, Rural Dean of North Ryedale and discussed Deanery resources and priorities.

In February we had a business meeting as it was the last meeting of the three year term. Accounts were accepted and it was explained that from the next meeting we would have an Area and Lay Dean heading a Deanery Leadership Team which would have a minimum of six members. This team would work with Synod to produce a Deanery Plan to describe how Mission and Ministry will be developed beyond the level of benefices.

June was the first Synod of the new Triennium and the Area Dean, Revd John Ford, presided at a Eucharist. The new Deanery Leadership Team was announced and feedback was given on the Deanery Action Day, in particular reaching young adults and the work of the Deanery Liturgy Group.

In October we had a presentation led by Jo Bowden on “Why am I so shy about saying I am a Christian” which was followed by group discussions.

Each year the Deanery organises four Lent services. In 2017 these were held in Stokesley Parish Church and had four excellent speakers:- Chief Superintendent Kerrin Wilson, Durham Constabulary, (our own) Nick Land, Revd Sue Greenwood Nunthorpe Methodist Church and Rt Revd Dr John Thompson, Bishop of Selby. The theme was “Faith in the World” and each session ended with a short act of worship.

**Rosemary Wheway**

# CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



The congregation can be reassured that the Church silver and other items of value continue to be kept safely and securely and records continue to be updated.

2017 has been a very busy and challenging year for Paul as he has been responsible for Nunthorpe Parish as well as our own. He has done an excellent job in Great Ayton, Newton under Roseberry and Nunthorpe and we are blessed to have him as our Vicar. I am sure he would agree that the support of his staff has enabled him to take on that role and they have worked very hard and deserve our thanks for all the extra work they have taken on.

We have continued general maintenance to the fabric of Christ Church, All Saints Church and the Church Hall. No new major projects have been undertaken this year and to date no crises have occurred. We hope to look at updating our lighting in Christ Church in the near future.

Our Organ restoration project is still ongoing. The organ is safely back in situ and we are working to complete the project with the 3 year series of concerts and workshops. The aim of these is to introduce both young and old people in the area to organ music of all different genres. 2017 saw concerts ranging from Stops and Strawberries, a family afternoon in church to a Come and Sing Faure's Requiem. Nigel Ogden from Radio 2 also performed earlier in the year to a full Church. Adult and children's workshops run by Professor Baker from Halifax were both successful. Both concerts and workshops will continue and are already arranged for 2018.



On 31<sup>st</sup> December we welcomed our new organist and choirmaster Ewan Murray who joined us as Michael Aisbitt stepped down from the role. Ewan is young, talented and enthusiastic and I am sure he will be a great addition to Christ Church.

2017 has sadly seen the death of a number of our congregation who over the years have contributed so much to the life of our church in so many different ways. They will all be greatly missed. There is always a large group of people working behind the scenes, the flower ladies, the cleaners and the Sidespeople to mention but a few. They keep the church looking beautiful and the services running smoothly, our unsung heroes who we wish to thank.

**Vicki Nath and Rob Pepper - Churchwardens**

## Financial Report 2017



2017 was a relatively quiet year financially, dominated in the early months by the completion of the organ restoration project. Overall, our unrestricted reserves fell slightly from £39,494 in 2016 to £38,214 this year. Unrestricted income fell from £144,087 last year to £134,112. There were a number of contributing factors – a fall in one-off donations, no legacies and no fundraising events. Planned giving held up well considering the large number of bereavements we suffered during the year.

Unrestricted expenditure fell from £144,462 in 2016 to £137,495 this year. Maintenance and repair costs were much lower than in recent years following completion of a major repair programme in 2016. However, one source of unplanned expenditure was the decision by

the PCC to support the renovation project for the Church Hall by funding the costs of producing architectural drawings, obtaining planning consents and preparation of tender documents.

The PCC agreed to increase our contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund to £88,200, roughly in line with inflation. Elsewhere our operating costs were generally in line with the budget. We again donated £10,000 to mission giving from general funds. Our recent practice of encouraging recommendations from members of the PCC was continued, and we again supported a number of local, national and international Christian-based charities. As is our practice, collections from baptisms were donated to three children's charities- Zoe's Place, Daisy Chain and CLIC Sargent- the choice of charity being made by the parents.

During the year we ran four major appeals. Our Easter appeal raised £2,669 for the work of Christian Aid in relieving suffering in East Africa following the severe drought. We supported the British Red Cross twice during the year, to help with relief efforts following the London fire and later following the destructive Caribbean hurricane. Our Christmas appeal raised a further £3,183 for School Aid India- its founder, Helen Jones, again gave us a progress report on the work being carried out to complete the building project and to fund the poorest pupils moving on to secondary education in Darjeeling.

Overall, our mission giving from funerals and weddings, special services, appeals, and donations from general funds reached the excellent total of £34,943 distributed among 56 different charities.

Our organ restoration project was completed during the year with the focus moving to community involvement by the Friends of Music group in organising concerts, tutorials and other activities to encourage people of all ages to take an interest in the organ.

The Church Hall had a successful year with reserves increasing to £3,616 - much effort was put into developing the hall renovation project and by the year end applications had been made to two major grant agencies to provide project funding. Following the quinquennial inspection, the finances of All Saints' are becoming precarious as maintenance costs are barely covered by donations from visitors and special services.

Our church has always prided itself in its generosity towards people in need around the world and in supporting the mission of the church in our Diocese. If we are to maintain this tradition, we must find ways of increasing our income. The Giving in Grace programme was well supported when it was launched in 2014 - perhaps now is the time for us all to re-assess what we give to the church?

The management of the church's money is a team effort involving time and commitment by many people- to John & Ynez Clarke, Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and all the Sidespeople – a huge thank you to you all!

**Ken Taylor**  
**Hon Treasurer**

## All Saints Church



It was another challenging year for All Saints', mainly in the context of a continuing decline in the number of volunteer guides available to open up the church, though ageing and ill health in our demographic group mean that this is no great surprise.

In particular 2017 saw the sad loss of Ray Huddlestone, who as well as being a guide for many years had also organised the rota and helped with many other tasks. Ironically he died just a few months after his friend Eric Boyce, another stalwart of All Saints' over the years. Our thanks and thoughts are with their families and all those who for various reasons have had to give up their duties.



Nevertheless visitor numbers were up on the previous year to nearly 1,400, mainly because of an increase in the number of group visits, especially from local schools. Getting young people interested and involved in the church is a vital part of sustaining the life and well-being of the church and something

in respect of which we probably need to do more. It is a testament to our dedicated guides that we still managed to remain open most of the time and so a special thank you to those who took responsibility for group tours, and kept the church open at weekends.

Fortunately the Quinquennial Inspection came and went without revealing any costly repairs needed to the fabric of the church, though expenditure on the inspection as well as routine items such as insurance means that outgoings again outstripped our modest revenue. I shall be calling a meeting of guides and all those interested in All Saints' sometime in March, mainly to consider the issues of Church opening, guide recruitment, and fund raising.



To end on a positive note: the rewards of being a guide can often be taken for granted but I know from talking to all our volunteers that they are very real and can range from the pleasure of welcoming and talking to visitors from all over the world to the satisfaction of helping someone to discover an old family grave. A

lady from Surrey visited the church in October, explaining that she was researching her ancestors. Imagine her surprise when, after all the ivy was removed, a legible inscription on a headstone revealed that it was the resting place of her great, great, great grandfather's brother, Joseph Brittain, who died in 1855. (See photo above)

For me as Custodian the aura of All Saints is ever present and I only have to see over a hundred people packed into the church for our candlelit Carol Service to know the value of keeping this ancient monument alive.

**Robin Hazell**  
Custodian



## SAFEGUARDING



After nearly six years in the post of Safeguarding Officer for Christ Church, Great Ayton, I have now handed over to **David Fox**. The two main aspects of the job throughout this period, and in my part of 2017, were keeping the paperwork up to date for individuals, and keeping up with the many changes in legislation and procedures. Following from these, I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in the task - dare I say chore? - of filling in forms and providing all the necessary documents, every few years.

The post that David has taken on is one that is essential, and indeed a statutory requirement, for any present-day organisation. I will end my involvement with the topic by asking all those affected by the Safeguarding of our Parish (especially children and vulnerable adults) to give him their cooperation, as they gave it to me.

### Gail Juckes

Safeguarding Officer, Christ Church Great Ayton - retired 2017



### Introducing David Fox

David has taken over the important role of Safeguarding Officer from Gail. David attends the Sunday morning service and is married with two children. As Safeguarding Officer he cannot work personally with young people. He is dealing with all the applications for DBS check, which are now all done Online, and notifying people of the level of training required. The initial levels are now online, but some people require higher level training delivered by attendance at a course, and David will be in touch with people to advise them.

If anyone has any concerns over a Safeguarding issue, then please contact **David Fox on Tel. 07595 898844.**

## Christ Church Visitors

We are currently a group of 19 who visit 24 people on a regular basis and, we hope, make a difference to their lives and spiritual growth. There are more housebound and/or elderly people in our parish who would benefit from this service so more volunteers are always welcome. Sometimes we visit for a short time, for instance following a stay in hospital, until someone is able to return to Church.



We continue to meet regularly with the clergy so that they can monitor our visits and we review our guidelines annually. Occasionally we undertake some training and have discussed End of Life Care. We are continuing our plan to become a Dementia Friendly Church and have met with the Sidespeople for further training.

Our aim is to visit anyone in the village in need – the housebound, lonely, sick and infirm – but this does not exclusively mean those who were regular churchgoers. We visit people mostly in their own homes but several of those visited eventually move out of the village to Care Homes and our Visitors travel as far as Catterick as well as Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Eaglescliffe, Northallerton and Guisborough to stay in touch. They also visit hospitals if this is appropriate.

The group supports the monthly and Christmas Coffee Lounge services and also transports some of the people who would otherwise be unable to attend. These are open to **anyone** who appreciates a weekday afternoon service.

In 2017 we hosted our sixth Praise and Party service followed by tea in the Hall. This attracted many for whom the 9.15 service is just too early. It also coincided with Paul's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake and bubbly! Everyone appreciated both the "praise" and "party" and we hope to host a similar event in 2018. We took a selection of food after the party to 17 who were unable to attend. This was warmly welcomed.

We continue to deliver cards on the first anniversary of a bereavement and also a Welcome Pack whenever we see a removal van in the village.

These are very rewarding tasks and we would welcome more Visitors so that we can extend our visits to more people. Please tell us if you know someone who would like a visit or you have new neighbours but more importantly **join us if you can!**

**Rosemary Wheway**



## Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)



Through their Bible reading notes and other published resources BRF help individuals of all ages to connect with the Bible. Check out [www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk](http://www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk) for information on their amazing variety of resources.

**New Daylight** is the most popular edition of bible reading notes used by members of Christ Church, some of whom meet throughout the year to use the notes for discussions relating to faith and the daily challenges it can bring. The following statements are some of the positive comments members of our group have made about 'New Daylight' – "A good way of reading parts of the Bible that you might not choose for yourself" "New Daylight writers are such a varied group of personalities, the notes are thought provoking and challenging" "If I miss my regular reading slot New Daylight is easy to pick up at any other time of the day – it's all I need and very portable" "It has broadened my knowledge of the Bible – especially the lesser known passages" "When I read the daily Bible reflections I feel as though I am listening to wise and welcome thoughts from a very good friend but they touch me in a way that well-meaning words from others cannot. They whisper directly to my heart. They are both a comfort and an inspiration".

Three separate editions of 'New Daylight' are published each year. If you would like a copy please get in touch.

**Enid Sedgwick**

# PRAYER

*“Through our lives and by our prayers your kingdom come”*



We are very fortunate at Christ Church that our church building can be open from 9.00am until dusk each day of the week providing a quiet space for prayer/reflection which is well used by individuals. For all who may prefer to pray as part of a group ‘Simple Prayers the Sentamu Way’ is a regular weekly ‘open to all’ prayer time in Church on Friday mornings from 9.45 – 10.15am.

During Lent 2017 a small group of us took the opportunity to take part in a weekly four session prayer course at St Cuthbert’s Church, Marton, organised by Stokesley Deanery.

In the week leading up to Pentecost, in May, our Archbishops Welby and Sentamu called for a global wave of prayer - asking individuals and churches to join together to pray that their friends, families and neighbours might come to know Jesus Christ. Occasions and opportunities were organised in our various Deanery churches so that we could visit each other for prayer/worship together. During that time a weekly cycle of Prayer Walking for all areas of our village began at High Green and has continued weekly street by street since then. Details of this are on the Prayer Board in Christ Church.



Early in October Bishop John Pritchard led a very special morning in the Coffee Lounge. “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up” explored many facets of Jesus’ life, in order to help us see more clearly how His life challenges our own lives today.

The Contemplative Prayer Group continues to meet weekly for prayer on Wednesday afternoons. The group organised a prayer morning with Father Kevin from Ampleforth, which took place in Christ Church Coffee Lounge during February and was very well attended. A day at Ampleforth Priory, also led by Father Kevin, was enjoyed by a group of 18 people drawn from each of the churches in Great Ayton on a glorious summer day in June. Reverend Lesley Ashton was invited to guide a quiet morning at the Friends’ Meeting House early in October – again a good attendance.

Imagination and creativity together with use of the screen are helping the ongoing development of enthusiastic and lively prayer times at Little Fishes and Come and Praise.

We give thanks for the group who faithfully lead our Intercessions at 9.15am throughout the year – an integral part of Christ Church’s prayer life – We pray for new people to come forward to be involved in this ministry in the coming year.

**Enid Sedgwick**

## Bible Study Group

Last year we did 'The Bible Course' - a series of DVD presentations and discussions aimed at giving us 'The Big Picture' revealed in God's Word. We learnt that the Bible is a whole library of books written in different kinds of literature and how we need to understand what the different sorts of literature mean if we are going to understand what the bible is saying. We considered why some books ended up in the Bible, whilst others were rejected, as well as the importance of using a good translation. Above all we got an overview of how God has dealt with his people over the centuries - through the creation, covenants and Kings of the Old Testament to the coming of Jesus to restore our relationship with God in the new. A number of people who couldn't come to the group used the DVDs and study books in their own homes - these are still available if you think you would like to do the course yourself!



As another part of our learning together Geoff Jacques organised a well-attended study morning led by Bishop John Pritchard. Bishop Pritchard gently challenged and informed our understanding about who Jesus was and what he came to do. Everyone who attended found it a stimulating and interesting morning.

If there are topics that you think it would be good to study, either in a regular group or as a one off study morning, then don't hesitate to let us know and we will do our best to organise them.

**Nick Land**

## Stepping Down in 2017

Our thanks for good jobs done to the following who stepped down in 2017. David Rowland retired after 50 years polishing the brass; Julie Bourke retired as PCC Secretary, Martin Simmons as Churchwarden, Gail Juckes as Safeguarding Officer, and at Christmas Revd Michael Aisbitt retired as organist & Choirmaster. Our thanks to them all for all the work and commitment they brought to their roles to enrich the Church for us all.



## Little Fishes

Little Fishes continues to grow and flourish – we are now into our seventh year. Despite several Little Fishes always moving onto nursery and playschool there are always new recruits joining us every Tuesday morning in term time. We are very fortunate to retain a great team of volunteers who help with refreshments, tell wonderful stories and provide a warm welcome to children and their carers. Everyone is now familiar with the format of the service and the modern technology usually works well!

We were all extremely saddened with the news of Christine Smailes' death – she had recently joined our leadership team and was a wonderful, enthusiastic storyteller, often using her craft expertise to enthral youngsters and adults alike. She is greatly missed.



Mike Acornley who always greeted everyone with a smile and friendly welcome decided to retire from duties. As a founder member of the Little Fishes team we wish him a happy retirement, thanking him for all his help over the years.

Highlights during 2017 included a celebration cake in the shape of a fish (of course) for our 250<sup>th</sup> session; enjoyed by everyone. We also welcomed two visits from Marwood School Reception class which included some former Little Fishes. The first visit involved the children retelling the story of Noah and the second an amazing presentation



New faces in 2017 included Lucie Swales and Caroline Jaques as storytellers – always a popular part of our service and Margaret Hore joined our coffee team. Any volunteers are always welcome. An enjoyable aspect of fellowship of all helpers is a lunchtime get together organised twice a year.

Little Fishes has been running for over six years now and shows no sign of slowing down or stopping yet with a regular attendance of sixteen children and over twenty adults, many of whom also attend Come & Praise at 11.00am on the second Sunday of the month and Who Let the Dads Out every second Saturday morning. It is so good to meet with under fives and their carers for worship, play, fellowship and refreshments even if it is often noisy and chaotic! We look forward to the next seven years.

**Angela Jaques**

### **Will the Real Jesus Stand Up**

In October we welcomed Bishop John Pritchard, recently retired as Bishop of Oxford, who led a wonderful morning of discovering the real Jesus.



## Sunday School Report



Always the highlight of the year 'The Crib Service' This year we had 18 children taking part singing some lovely songs and telling the Christmas Story accompanied by Mrs Winterschladen on the piano. We were able to project the children onto the screen and this enabled everyone to see the performance which made a huge difference when there are so many small children in the congregation.

We meet every Sunday during term time school except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month when it is Family Service at 11am. Alison Collings left Sunday school at the end of the Summer Term after being a teacher for 7 years and the children presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Our numbers dropped in the summer but the autumn term has seen a real increase in children attending.

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 60 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.

I would like to thank Peter Lofthouse once again whose support has enabled us to give the children treats at Easter and Christmas.

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

I am hoping to step down from my role in Sunday school but so far we have been unable to find anyone even to share in the role. If anyone is interested please get in touch.

**Karen Peverell**



## The Firm

We are a Christian Youth Group for anyone aged 10 to 22 years. We meet once a month. We meet at 6.00pm and usually finish at 7:30pm. Typically our club nights will involve games, prayers and time for reflection as well as a very popular tuck shop.

2017 has seen our Members riding roller coasters and having fun at a concert at Lightwater Valley at a Christian Youth event, for over three thousand secondary aged children. We've enjoyed a treasure hunt, an Easter egg hunt and a BBQ as well as a formal dinner! When the weather allows, we like to get out and about too.



Many of our members are bell ringers or servers, some have also led intercessional prayers and readings at our 9.15am service. We talk often about what it is like to be a young Christian today and we have a great amount of fun doing it.

**Claire Sheridan & Julie Bourke**

### SCOUTING NEWS

Following the Saint George's Day Parade at Hutton Rudby, friends gathered in the Coffee Lounge for a surprise party for **Ian and Jean McWilliams** to acknowledge the huge contribution they have put into Scouts over the years. They were presented with several gifts as they stepped down from running Cubs & Scouts. **Mark Stowell** has taken over as the new Group Scout Leader.



## MEN'S STUFF

### Who Let The Dads Out?

During the two years since we launched this monthly venture we have been joined by 31 dads & granddads, who've brought 44 children aged 0-6yrs. We advertise via the various Church & village social media & our banner.



A number of Church Men make and serve bacon butties and mugs of real coffee – if you'd like to join us, please do. Whilst the bacon buns are primarily for the men, quite a few of the children seem to enjoy them as well. We typically have about a dozen men each 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday morning who enjoy space to chat and play – it's also given mums the chance for some space of their own! Some of our families

also come to Little Fishes, our monthly Come and Praise and a few to other church services.

All Church Men are welcome – look out for the banner and drop in for a butty!!

### Family Fun Day



The Dads organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Family Fun Day on Saltburn beach in August where members of their families, the Little Fishes families and a few friends met to play, chat and generally have fun. It was a blustery day with a brief shower of rain – kite flying



was great fun (as was chasing Geoff's cap across the beach).

**Geoff Jaques**



## CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR



The end of 2017 saw big changes in choir with Michael Aisbitt retiring as Organist/Choir Master. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Michael for all his work with the choir over the last few years, we've learnt a lot including some funny anecdotes about some composers.

The choir has had a very successful year with the weekly leading of hymns and singing an anthem at the 9.15am service as well as the extras. A number of the choir went to Bridlington to take part in the Diocesan Festival in September and others took part in a day at Northallerton led by Malcolm Archer in March. As a result of that day we added two new anthems to our repertoire which you may have heard on Remembrance Sunday (For the Fallen) and at the Carol Service (Carol of the Stable).

On New Year's Eve we were delighted to welcome Ewan Murray for his first service as Organist/Choir Master and we're looking forward to seeing what challenges he sets us in the next year.

We'd also like to thank Andrew Blair and Chris Thompson for stepping in and helping out at various times during the year when Michael has been away. Andrew has also helped by conducting us for some services such as the carol services which is appreciated by the choir.



**Alison Lambert**

## **Bell Ringers Annual Report**

Ten young people currently ring our bells on a regular basis, they are:-

Annabelle Collins   Poppy Sheriden   Harry Banfield   Edward Lambert

Emily Howard   Katie Radford   Matthew Sheriden   Alex Northey

Hanley Cowley   Pip Earland

On behalf of the whole congregation I should like to thank them for getting up early on a Sunday morning to do so.

Sadly we have had to say Goodbye, Good Luck and God Bless to two of our ringers.

Luke Banfield, after seven years and nine months, to study Adult Nursing at Sheffield University.

Elinor Northey, after six years and eight months, to read Chemistry at Imperial College London.

We thank them both for their long and loyal service to Christ Church. This year the bells have rung for 68 regular Sunday services and Festivals. They were booked for eight Weddings, earning welcome pocket money for our more senior ringers, able to keep going for the extra time required.

We have an octave of Tubular bells which are very easy to ring, requiring only one lesson before you are able to join the team. Campanology is an unusual skill to put on your UCAS form, which can be especially useful to stand out from the crowd, should you wish to study a competitive degree, such as law or medicine.

We always welcome new ringers, if you would like any more information, please don't hesitate to contact me on 01642 722400.

**Elsa Taylor**

## Servers Report



We continue to be blessed at Christ Church with a faithful group of people who reliably serve at the altar for Holy Communion every week.

Our 8.00am servers are; Lynda, Richard and Jim, while our 9.15am team are; Jo, Adrian, Frances, Gina, Matthew and Francesca. I am privileged to serve at both services. Our role is to set up the altar with everything required for the service so that the celebrant is able to concentrate on their own preparations, which includes meeting the congregation at the door with a welcome greeting. At the end of the service the servers tidy

everything away so that the celebrant is able to see people off.

I know our clergy team appreciate the support given by the servers so they are able to develop good relationships with the congregation.

If you would like to join us, please come and have a chat.

**Lesley Miller**

## Middlesbrough Food Bank

Another year of great support for Middlesbrough Food Bank. The generosity of Christ Church congregation and The Quaker Meeting continues to be sustained, often involving us to request the van to collect all the parcels as our cars cannot take any more! Our monthly collections recently received a big thank you from the Chairwoman of the Trust. The need unfortunately continues to increase especially since the new benefit allowances have been introduced.

In addition to the food parcels our Treasurer has received £315 this last year. This is equally valued as the money can be used for transport costs or other new initiatives.



The collection point has now changed to a larger warehouse just behind B & Q in Skippers Lane.

We begin our fifth year of involvement and we thank everyone for contributing so consistently and generously.

**Gordon and Dorothy Wood**

## FLOWER GUILD REPORT



We have had an enjoyable year decorating the Church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Easter was sadly the last time Dulcie managed to get to Church to help. We saw Sylvia Robinson doing the Easter garden under the pulpit under instruction of Dulcie. We had sponsors for twelve arrangements plus donations. We hope they gave enjoyment to all! For Harvest, the theme was the rainbow, seven colours for seven windows, blending the colours

from red round to violet. Christmas arrangements this year were white, green and silver (no choir boys Christmas trees or stars). This year we were joined by snowmen to keep the display over the door company! Pauline Titchmarsh has provided different things over the years – thank you to all who sponsored arrangements, the Church looked beautiful and they enhanced all the services and were enjoyed by one wedding and three funerals. Because of the cold weather they lasted five weeks! We did use mostly silk flowers in the porch and think it was a wise move.

The Memory Tree went up at the beginning of December – our thanks to John and Helen Dickinson, Viv Winterschladen and Geoff Jaques for their help. Eighty-two cards were on the tree and the money donated went to Herriot Hospice Homecare. Our thanks to Dave Sedgwick for his help with the garlands again. Many thanks to our depleted team who have had to work extra hard this year. If you feel that you would like to help us, please let one of us know, we are a very approachable and happy guild.



On a very sad note, this year we have lost three of our friends and colleagues, Christine Smailes, Dulcie Jones and Dorothy Tanfield, they have all been greatly missed. Latterly, Dorothy did above the link door and we are hopeful that her daughter Suzanne will continue this.

We hope you have enjoyed our work this year as we have enjoyed creating all the displays.

**Marina Charlton**

## Sunday Morning Coffee



Sunday Morning Coffee in the Church Hall Lounge after the 9.15am service is still a popular event. Apart from welcoming visitors and newcomers to our congregation we have been pleased to welcome others who have joined us in fellowship for a weekly chat over a cup of coffee (or tea) and an ever-changing assortment of biscuits (especially chocolate!).

Many thanks to our team of ladies who make the event possible week after week. David Rowland, who regularly made sure that we had milk each week, sadly had a stroke in May 2017. From his hospital bed his main concern was that he wouldn't be able to get the milk for Sunday. True dedication - and grateful thanks to David. Unfortunately, he isn't well enough to be our 'Milk Man'.

As our team don't often meet together, we have continued our occasional fellowship coffee morning at Fletcher's Farm Café during 2017 which have proved to be most popular.

**Pauline Titchmarsh**

## **Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School**



Marwood Infant School is proud to be part of the church community and the broader community. In the Autumn Term we had an inspection as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and were delighted that Marwood was found to be outstanding in all areas. This looks at three core areas:

- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The Inspector commented that:

- The excellent partnership between church and school is exemplified by the inspirational headteacher and vicar. They are both pivotal in ensuring exemplary leadership at all levels and good governance within this thriving church school.
- This is a welcoming Christian family community with a strong spiritual and moral compass which serves its children and their families. This ensure its young pupils get the best possible foundation for life. As a result, pupils are confident and articulate and thrive, both academically and personally.
- Marwood's Christian vision and values strongly endorses their aims of 'Happy Friends Learning Together' within a spirit of love, forgiveness and friendship. Such values are known and lived out by the entire community
- In this nurturing environment, pupils make good progress and achieve well.

During the Spring and Summer terms Years One and Two took part in Organ workshops, learning about the organ and how it works, listening to it being played and having the opportunity to sing with the organ accompanying them, learning some songs in two parts. This culminated in





a number of the children taking part in the Stops and Strawberries event – sitting in the choir stalls and singing a couple of pieces accompanied by the organ. It was a great opportunity that the children made the most of, so thanks to Vicki Nath and Martin Simmons for organising the workshops alongside David Baker and Caius Lee.

This last year has also seen changes within the school as Viv Winterschladen retired at the end of the Summer term and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for her work in school, especially her contribution to the music within school. She continues to be involved, running an after-school recorder group for the older children in the school. Miss Kelly Littleton joined the school as Year One teacher in September and has become a valued member of the school community.

The Posada visits school as part of its journey each year and this year members of the school went travelling during Advent too with Reception taking the "Littlest Angel" on tour to Little Fishes, Sunnyfield and to the Mother & Toddler group.

**Vicky Bradley**  
Foundation Governor

**Alison Lambert**  
Foundation Governor

**Celia Wilson**  
Headteacher

## School Assemblies

As well as our links through the Vicar and others being Governors at the local schools and of volunteers going into schools to help out, the Vicar also goes regularly into both of our village schools taking a weekly assembly in Marwood and a fortnightly assembly at Roseberry. He is also welcomed at Kirkby and Great Broughton School, and does an annual slot for Love in a Box at Ingleby Greenhow School. This last year he has also been taking assemblies in Nunthorpe Primary Academy and Chandler's Ridge Academy.

We welcome Marwood school and parents into Christ Church for Friday morning worship once every half term, as well as the Festivals and Leavers Service and these occasions are open to parents and parishioners.

2016		CHURCH HALL ACCOUNTS	2017
£		Receipts	£
4,784.55	Opening balance		3,590.50
1,000.00	Loan from PCC		2,000.00
1,020.00	200 Club		510.00
270.00	Sunday Morning Coffee		150.00
375.00	Guides Brownies Rainbows		400.00
80.00	Scouts		80.00
1,010.00	Badminton		1,000.50
1,677.50	Bradley Dancing		2,433.75
45.00	Children's Society		51.75
420.00	NHSBT (Blood)		110.00
280.00	Dramatic Society		590.00
670.00	Flower Club		270.00
2,575.00	Marwood School		2,747.50
1,080.00	Funeral Teas		735.00
610.00	Scottish Dancing		682.00
120.00	Strictly FiTT		429.50
2,967.70	Sundry Rents		2,175.00
377.34	TRF/Bank Interest/refunds		2,000.00
	Ny Horizons		622.50
0	Sundries		0
<b>19,362.09</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>20,578.00</b>
	Payments		
1,314.61	Electricity		1,771.80
1,591.40	Gas		2,350.81
241.48	Water Rates		253.57
4,464.60	Wages		4,847.40
6,425.19	Repairs/maintenance		7,001.53
0	Equipment		640.29
426.47	Telephone		369.82
0	Postage & Stationery		0
20.00	Licences		20
1,338.84	Sundries		70
1,591.40	Repayment of PCC costs/ loan		0
<b>3,539.50</b>	<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>1,728.79</b>
<b>20,953.49</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>19,054.01</b>
20,953			
	Cash balances brought forward at 1st January 2016		
	Cash balances carried forward at 31st December 2015		



# Church Hall Report



The Church hall is very blessed by having such a terrific team looking after it. Sarah, as always, has done a great job looking after the bookings and finances. Thanks to Sarah three new regular bookings have been secured this year, SMART, Moo Music and Rugrats giving a significant boost to our finances. As always the Hall

and Coffee Lounge are kept scrupulously clean by Anne and Tabby, they not only do a good job but also bring joy and laughter with them. We are indebted to Phil for completing all the remedial work that arises throughout the year and for undertaking his long term project of upgrading the coffee lounge kitchen. It is a joy to see them all working so well together, thank you so much.

The 200 Club continues to provide valuable funds for the hall, we are indebted to Helen and Julie who run it so expertly and to all of you who contribute to it, thank you all very much for your support. We are indebted to all users of the hall, both regular and one off users. Without your support we would not be able to run this facility for the benefit of our community. Thank you all very, very much. We will always strive to improve the facilities as we see fit, suggestions from you all are always welcome.

The big drive this year has been to work on the renovation project which will upgrade the toilets, kitchen, passageways and create new storage areas. Plans have been drawn up by SPA architects, planning permission for the small amount of external work has been granted by Hambleton District Council and tenders have been returned from the contractors. The work will cost approximately £100,000 and as I write now we have two applications pending for funds with Impetus Environmental Trust and the North York Moors Leader fund. The outcome from both these grant issuing bodies will be known by the end of March. Should we be successful then the work will be undertaken this coming summer. If on the other hand we don't succeed in raising the funds in this way, we are further forward in that we now know what we want to do and the cost of doing it, a step in the right direction.

Finally, can I make a recycling plea to all our users - we do not have any glass recycling facilities so all glass should be taken away for recycling and not dumped in our refuse bins. It only finishes up in landfill sites when put in our bins, which is not the right place for it.

Thank you to you all for your support in 2017, it is very gratefully received.

**Robin Harmar** - Church Hall Manager

## Church Cleaning

Volunteers continually work hard and have done an excellent job once again of keeping our beautiful Church looking pristine. It always looks clean and tidy as well as very welcoming. We really appreciate everything they do and hope we can rely on their continued support.

During 2017 quite a few people who have been on the Cleaning Rota's for many years have retired. A big thank you goes out to them all for the hours they have spent dusting, hoovering and polishing. We are finding them very hard to replace.



*David Rowland retired from cleaning the brass*

We really do need more Volunteers to clean the Church and the brasses. Cleaning, either general, or brasses, is usually done in two's so that makes the job more enjoyable and can be done in no time at all. Just four more people will make the difference to Volunteers cleaning three times a year rather than four. So please help us by asking friends or neighbours if they would be willing to help out. Contact numbers are below if you find someone.



Last year the Annual Spring Clean was very well supported and the job was soon completed. Great teamwork was shown by all and we hope we can repeat it this year. Thanks to all who turned up. This year the Annual Spring Clean will be on Friday 16th March (starting from 4.00pm onwards) and Saturday 17th March (starting at 9.00am). We hope many Volunteers will be able to join us again. Even just an hour of your time will be very much appreciated.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

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

**Irene Reah ..... 01642 723804 (for alterations to the details on the rotas}**

**Irene Reah & Jan Thompson**

# Worship

## Come & Praise



The relaxed environment of this worship attracts a number of older members of our Church as well as many young families. We meet on the 2nd Sunday each month (except November) plus specials - on Mothering Sunday and Easter Day.

Our highlights in 2017 include the different ways of praying – one of which was the Petal Prayers; we’ve also had dramatic dialogues between Jesus & Peter. Wherever possible we encourage our younger members to take an active part.



“Great Big God”, “Wise man” or “Walking for the Lord” are our regular links for ‘Little Fishes’ to feel at home. Whilst our music often comes courtesy of digital technology it is great to welcome Paul Fussey and

others playing real instruments on occasion – musical volunteers always welcome!

**Geoff Jaques**

**8am Holy Communion** Our Book of Common Prayer Communion early on a Sunday morning attracts 20+ worshippers each week who enjoy this quiet, more reflective service which uses the language of the Book of Common Prayer.

**9.15am Parish Communion** Our Parish Communion remains the main act of worship still attracting 100+ worshippers each Sunday, and we also welcome in our Sunday School during term time. The Choir are there every week to lead singing and add anthems, and we enjoy a variety of preachers. When the Church Parade joins us we now go to a non Eucharistic Format to make the service shorter so the young people can attend before all the Sunday morning activities begin.

**Sunday Specials** Although not having a regular Sunday evening service any more, we do enjoy many specials throughout the year including Memorial Services, Songs of Praise, Love in a Box, Christingles and several Carol Services.



Once a year we also host our Praise & Party with a short, lively service in Church followed by afternoon tea, to which the housebound are Guests of Honour.

We also share some Sunday evenings with other Churches in the village for such occasions as Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Easter, Pentecost.

**Christenings/ Baptisms** On many Sundays we also have a Christening Service, welcoming the newly baptised into the life of the Church. We tend to do these as standalone services, for the number of guests now attending Christenings can often be 80+ - too many to include in an early Parish Communion. We pass on invitations to all baptism families to Little Fishes, Who Let the Dads Out and Come and Praise. We had 19 Christening in Christ Church or All Saints last year, and my thanks go to the team who support these services and give a welcome.

**Weddings** These dropped to just 9 at Christ Church in 2017 (and 15 at Saint Oswald's) Its amazing how in just a few years we are disappointed in what would have been an excellent number just a few years ago. Our drop is mainly down to the vicar being unable to attend wedding fairs due to the increased commitments he has had throughout 2017 as Priest in Chrage on Nunthorpe. This link ended in February 2017 and he is back to his first wedding fair on 8<sup>th</sup> April!



Many thanks to the team of Alison & John - Vergers; Michael and Chris - Organists: Elsa & the bell ringers: Jackie Gough - Leven Flowers. We have a great team.

**Funerals** Amongst the 46 funerals taken from the village in 2017, there were 18 people who had been regular worshippers at Christ Church, many of them until shortly before their deaths. We said goodbye to many faithful and committed friends and we miss them and all they contributed to our Church life.



Can I stress that you do not need to be a regular attendee at Christ Church to have your funeral here. We welcome anyone from the community, and having the service in the village makes it much easier for mourners to attend. The new practice of going to the crematorium for the Committal first allows everyone to stay with the family for the funeral tea after the service.

We also offer the slideshow projector facilities and Skype links free of charge, and I do service sheets at cost price for families to save them money.

I am quite happy to take services at the local Crematoriums as well, and the same standard is applied to all - the very best we can do.

We follow up all village funerals with a visit from our Pastoral Assistant, letters confirming the free entry into our Memorial Book and collection, an invitation to our Memorial Services and a card on the First Anniversary of death.

Great Ayton has a good village team working together, and my thanks especially to Michael Rea of Ayton Funeral Services for his thorough and efficient service, Jan at Bib'nTucker Catering (The best funeral teas in the area!) and Jackie Gough from Leven Flowers for super floral arrangements. We do work with others too, and I am pleased to say that all do a good job.

Many of the Funeral Teas take place in our Church Hall at very short notice, so may I also thank the other Hall Users for their generous flexibility in helping support grieving families by moving or cancelling where necessary. We do try to keep this to an absolute minimum. **Paul**



*Seen on the web. There is nothing more comforting than a Church full of friends in the community for a funeral.*



## Social Media

Social Media is becoming increasingly important for keeping in touch with adults in the 20 to 40's age group. We are currently active on Facebook & Twitter. Our audiences continue to grow.



The two posts reaching most people in 2016 were 746 people seeing our Annual Charity Auction photo and in December 804 saw the photo advertising our Christmas Carol Service – sadly they didn't all come! This year we have had over a thousand folk seeing many of our posts; with 1946 being the highest for the photo advertising the 2018 Charity Auction (posted on 29<sup>th</sup> December) well ahead of 1496 who saw our “Memory Tree” post followed by 1295 who

saw our December “Dads” advert & 1275 who saw our Remembrance Day photo. Sharing & Liking by individuals has a big impact on the number of people who see a post.

We have two ‘closed’ Facebook Groups – i.e. you need to be a member to see posts and contribute - are increasing in activity. The Little Fishes group has grown from 75 members in 2016 to 84 in 2017; it enables us to keep in touch with one another about matters relating to Christ Church in general and Fishes, WLTD0? and “Come & Praise” in particular. Our Adult Discipleship Group is still in its infancy with 38 members; we use this to share more explicitly theological comment and links. Any member of Christ Church may join to view or enter the debate. Christ Church Choir also has an active Facebook page.



Our Twitter accounts were launched in 2015, at the latest count our vicar @revpevl has 255 followers and the church account @ChristChurchTS9 has 132 followers. We use it to let the world know our news about past and forthcoming events and forward links of national & international interest. It's more difficult to know what audience you really have or what impact you make, however our photo advertising the October WLTD0? got 355 impressions (whatever that means!) closely followed by our Love in a Box photo with 307.

**Geoff Jaques**

# Spire - the Church Mag that goes places

**Spire** as a magazine started back in 1992 under the expert guidance of Malcolm Race, the editor and still our most regular and faithful contributor.

In 2003 I tried our some new software one evening and made my first pdf copy of the Magazine to send out via email. This allowed colour photographs for all who received it. The colour pdf version has now notched up 15 years and goes out to well over 700 people in many different countries who enjoy keeping in touch with Great Ayton. It is also regularly downloaded from our Website and is linked into Marwood School website and Twitter too.



Five years ago new digital copiers at Quoin Publishing allowed us to print a colour paper copy at a reasonable price for the 300 local recipients to enjoy. As well as being for sale locally, it is also freely available to read in cafe's, waiting rooms and the Discovery Centre.

We don't take adverts, but still manage to break even, although making money is not our top priority. Spire is there to communicate between the Church and the community and to try and bring all together. Although we primarily feature events at Christ Church and Saint Oswald's, we feature other news too, and always try to be light and readable.

My thanks to the regular contributors - especially Malcolm Race - and to Jean Goat and the distributors, and not forgetting Quoin Publishing who do such an efficient job of printing it.

Our **Church Website** [www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk) continues to be well used with the top five countries being UK, USA, Canada, Brazil & China and with a total of 74 different countries visiting at least once in the year

The five most popular pages after the Home Page were: Calendar, Bible Readings, Weddings, Magazine and the Church Hall.

We try and keep our website as up to date as possible, and compared to many others we do fairly well, but please tell us if you see something slip through - or remain too long. **Ed**



## Guiding in Great Ayton



We have thriving Rainbow (age 5-7), Brownie (age 7-10), Guide (age 10-14) and Senior Section (age 14-25) units in the village. We are always in need of more volunteers to keep these sections running successfully, no experience needed, just enthusiasm!

They have been involved in lots of fun and stimulating activities at their weekly meetings, working through the relevant programmes for each age group.

A large number of people went to a very successful Region weekend at Flamingo Land, involving camping and some girls getting a “behind the scenes” experience. Other residential experiences have included a sleepover at the Scarborough Sealife centre and weekends at Holme House, the county residential centre.



We are pleased to see newer leaders working through their leadership qualifications, and young leaders developing leadership skills working on their qualifications. We also have a number of Guides completing the Baden Powell award, which is a great achievement involving a lot of hard work organising meetings and going on a Challenge Weekend.

There is also an active social side for the leaders, and a thriving Trefoil Guild in the District.

The District always take pride in taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade. If you either want to enquire about a place for your daughter, or to look into helping, please register your interest at the Girlguiding “Join Us” website <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> and someone will get back in touch.

**Eleanor Albrecht**  
Great Ayton District Commissioner



## 2nd Great Ayton Rainbows

The rainbows have been very busy all year – still a full unit with more waiting to join. Unfortunately, the other rainbow unit in the village has had to close due to low numbers, so some of the girls have now joined us.



We started the year with a trip to Buttercups Pottery where the girls all decorated their own plates.

In February we joined with other units in the Division for a circus skills workshop afternoon – learning to juggle, hula hoop and make balloon animals.

On a damp misty afternoon, we had a walk up to see the Bluebells in the woods and took the opportunity to enrol some of our new girls whilst we were out and about.

On one of the hottest days of the summer there was no other alternative than to have ice creams! We completed the Seaside Challenge badge ending with our annual trip to the beach at Saltburn.



The Autumn term had an autumn theme from making apple crumbles, to stickmen, and hedgehogs decorated with fallen leaves. We had sparklers & hotdogs for Bonfire night, and made a poppy wreath to lay at the Remembrance Parade at Church. Christmas crafts were followed by a trip to the Panto. All the Friday units took over the GO CLIMB at Billingham and had a fabulous time.

Thanks again to the leaders for their support and commitment – Pauline, Sarah, Melissa & Bethany and welcome to Rebecca who has joined us from the closed unit.

**Christine Kenyon**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Great Ayton Brownies



The start of the year saw a change in the leadership of the unit. Alison Selby took over the guides for 6 months whilst the leaders Anna & Ashleigh were travelling, and also to concentrate on the Senior Section girls. Lucy & Tracey had joined us in the previous September which made this possible.

The new leaders made their promise the same evening as the Brownies, even better for Lucy who renewed her promise with daughter Sally.

We also started the term with a trip to the pottery, we then completed the first aid badge, thoroughly enjoying bandaging each other up.

The brownies made the palm crosses for Christ Church – not an easy task to get to grips with but they ended the evening with a huge basket full.

An evening was spent learning about the Foodbank and why it is needed, the girls all brought something for the Foodbank which was then presented to Rev Pev in the Church.



At the start of the autumn term, the brownies undertook some new challenges that were a taster of the new Guiding programme due to be introduced in 2018. Great fun was had making characters out of old fruit and veg (thanks to the village fruit shop for donating it to us) with hammers and nails, also a 'trash fashion' evening - amazing what you can do with bin bags and Sellotape.)

In between all of this we also attended the Thinking Day afternoon and gained our Circus Skills badges, have been sewing keyrings for Mother's Day, Easter crafts and attended Church Parade. We're now busy planning for our Pack holiday before Easter.

Thanks as always to the 'team' – Alison, Tracey, Lucy, Neave for their time and support for the unit.

**Christine Kenyon**

Rainbow & Brownie Leader

## Leven Division Senior Section

Senior Section have had another busy year, meeting fortnightly with girls from Great Ayton, Stokesley and Hutton Rudby Districts.

The girls enjoyed a trip the Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team base, trying on the water kit and filling a group shelter!

To raise awareness of the hardships faced by young girls in Africa we walked in Guisborough woods carrying a 20L water carrier. A task carried out by girls twice a day meaning many of them miss out on an education.



In June we travelled to Glasgow and attended the Tartan Gig a Girl Guiding concert that brings together thousands of members and many famous music acts for a few hours of crazy noise and a reminder of the experiences we can give our girls

We spent a night at the NYNE Guide House in Esk Valley in October, upcycling shirts and generally having a relaxing time.

In December we battled the crowds and visited the Christmas Markets in Edinburgh, we all renewed our Promise amongst the dinosaurs in the National Museum of Scotland before splitting up and hitting the shops. Meeting up for tea before catching the train home.



In amongst all this excitement we have cooked, sewn and crafted and generally had a good time, allowing the girls space to relax away from the pressures of school.

**Alison Selby**  
Senior Section Guider

Christ Church Charitable Giving 2017									
Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
Christian Aid E Africa Appeal	264	2452	100						2816
United Society (restored as USPG)								1000	1000
Church Mission Society								1000	1000
Bible Reading Fellowship								1000	1000
Childrens Society			525.33					750	1275
Children in Distress		723.1							723
Christians Against Poverty								1000	1000
Tees Valley Youth for Christ								500	500
ACTS435								1000	1000
St Thomas Bramble Farm - Coffee Cart								500	500
Barnabas Fund				832					832
Mission Aviation Fellowship								750	750
British Red Cross- London Fire Relief Fund	52.5	250.4							303
British Red Cross- Hurricane Relief Fund	100.5	726.26							827
UCCF								1000	1000
British Heart Foundation							573		573
Yorkshire Cancer Research						79.32	2350		2430
Motor Neurone Disease Society							580		580
Marie Curie							524		524
Friends of Spafford Chhildren's Centre							311		311
Macmillan Cancer Support							1996.44		1996
Herriott Hospice Homecare		131.43					114		246
Butterwick Hospice		0				55.7			56
Alzheimers Society							701.57		702
Free from Pain- James Cook University Hospital							764		764

Zoe's Place	823	280.74				1104
MPN Research/Voice Fund 580			980			980
South Cleveland Heart Fund		251.33	272			524
NE Skin Research Fund		255.86				256
Parkinsons UK			228			228
Stokesley Riding for Disabled		85				85
Teesside Hospice Care Foundation			151.7			152
JCUH Urology Dept			188.51			189
Brotton Hospital Fund			189			189
Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice		271.67				272
Daisy Chain	204.39					204
JCUH Spinal Injuries Unit			162.59			163
JCUH Chemotherapy Unit			170.9			171
CLIC Sargent		784.47				784
School Aid India	383.49	185				3401
RNLI		2832.28	132			132
Big Kids (St Barnabas)				500		500
Middlesbrough Food Bank		315				315
Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland				1000		1000
Royal British Legion	39.1	517.35				556
Yorkshire Air Ambulance			191			191
Stokesley Seamen's Mothers Union		226.6				227
St John of God Hospitalier Service			272			272
Great Ayrton Health Centre			60			60
Student Boxes				281.79		282
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>4783</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>3664</b>	<b>1812</b>	<b>10913</b>
						<b>10282</b>
						<b>34943</b>



# FRIENDS OF MUSIC

We were formed in December 2015, initially for three years, to implement the programme of concerts and workshops for the organ project. This work will allow us to complete the project and claim the final portion of the HLF grant.

We have had a successful year. We have hosted three children's workshops and one adult workshop run by Professor David Baker ably assisted by Caius Lee (a Leeds Cathedral organ scholar) and Robin Harrison (an organist from Yarm).



*Children's Workshop*



*Faure's Requiem*

We have also had four concerts during the year covering a wide taste of music, from the Rededication service in January, Nigel Ogden in March, Stops and Strawberries in the summer and a Come and Sing Faure's Requiem in the autumn. All were very different but each was a great success. We are now working on a greater variety still of events for 2018 from Services to Silent Films.

We are a small group who meet roughly quarterly to mastermind the above as each event not only requires musical input but 'behind the scenes' work. We are of



*Dedication Service*

course very grateful to other members of the congregation who offer to help us without whom it would be a much harder task.



*Stops & Strawberries*

Present members are: Vicki Nath, Martin Simmons, David Baker, Ewan Murray, John Dickinson, Alison Lambert, Mike Nash, Viv Winterschladen and Michael Aisbitt. New members are always welcome. **Vicki Nath**

## Facts and Figures for 2017

	2017	2016
Baptisms	19	22
Weddings & Blessings	9	18
Funerals in Church	27	23
Funerals at Crematorium	19	21
Easter Communicants	181	177
Easter Attendance	276	260
Christmas Communicants	210	204
Christmas Attendance (Eve & Day)	563	543

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Another good fundraising year with events well supported throughout the year £7585.85 We had donations from Osmotherly Primary School, St Oswald's PCC Newton, and Christ Church PCC We thank them for their continued support.

We have 80 box supporters raising £2092.09 many of them being brought to the coffee morning. The soup lunch was very popular thanks to all who helped on the day.



The cake bake went well with many cakes delivered to the house on the Friday and brought to the stall on Saturday morning. Jean McClure gave us a good flower demonstration with raffle winners going home with the demonstration arrangements. Our thanks to Mike Myers for a full house at the quiz enjoyed by all. To Pauline & Peter Titchmarsh for the recycled cards sold at various events with Peter obtaining matched funding again. The Christmas card sales were very good. The Bridge Evening was well attended with 11 tables taken.



The Christingle Service at the earlier time was well attended led by Paul our vicar. 150 Christingles given out raising £582.76. Our thanks to John Appleyard and Jamie Harvie for accompanying us as we sang carols on a bright sunny morning the Saturday before Christmas.

All these are made possible by the hard work of our committee. We are without a treasurer at present so we would really welcome someone to volunteer. A special thanks to everyone who helps to make all these events possible and the supporters.

**Marina Charlton**



# **The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 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 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2017
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2017
7. The Vicar's Comments
8. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
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