

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

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

Charity No. 1131499

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk



Annual Report

2019



**Diocese of
YORK**



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

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PCC as at February 2020

Ex Officio: Clergy - Revd Paul Peverell, Revd Geoff Jaques & Revd Jon Dean; Churchwardens Helen Land & Jonathan Winterschladen. .

Deanery Synod Reps: Rosemary Wheway, Nick Land, John Dickinson

PCC Members: Ken Taylor, Anna Wilson, Vicki Nath, Caroline Legg, Anna Wilson, Robin Harmar, Margaret Lewis & Peter Titchmarsh, Martin Simmons, Tamzin Little.

A Word from the Vicar



We have come to the end of a very full, busy and varied year with lots going on.

Great Ayton is still a fairly traditional Parish where the community call upon us for the Occasional Offices of Baptisms 17 (22), Weddings 9 (10) and Funerals 52 (39) (2018 figures in brackets). Several of our baptisms and weddings opt for our sister Church in the Benefice of Saint Oswald's, so figures move rather than decline. Funerals however were very much up, and whilst we lost 7 members of the Congregation in 2019 it was heartening to see the Average Sunday attendance show a slight increase to 112 (109) adults and 20 (19) children. This is largely due to new initiatives in Café Church, Non Eucharistic Parade Services, summer services in All Saints and work throughout the week from young to old with Little Fishes Toddler Service to the Coffee Lounge Communion for Senior Citizens. There was also a Confirmation Service during the year that saw 11 candidates from the Benefice confirmed in a moving service in Church. Several of the young people are involved in Church activities from choir, serving to bell ringing.

Whilst the Electoral Roll reduced from 284 to 218, this was mainly due to the renewal process and losing people who had moved on since joining several years ago.

The year was also marked with several teaching events and courses to help deepen people's faith, which were well received.

Thy Kingdom Come from Ascension to Pentecost was marked in All Saints Church – the former Parish Church – had brought together Christians in the village of all ages for the times of prayer throughout the day. The Churches continue to meet together for Unity week, Easter, Pentecost and Remembrance as well as distributing details of services for Easter and Christmas together in a card throughout the village.

Easter attendance was up this year 246 (227) and Communicants almost the same 157 (160) and at Christmas we once again saw good attendances at the Christmas Carol Services in the run up to Christmas of 1,107 whilst Christmas Eve and Day were 460 (475). The number attending Communion Services continues a pattern of slow decline 176 (191) as attendance at Midnight Mass does not draw people as once it did. They are still good numbers regardless.

Our Church has continued supporting others through the support we give to other Charities, especially *Middlesbrough Foodbank* and *Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland*, and our PCC Giving to support Christian Charities and Churches working in difficult areas.

As well as our regular work with children in the Parish through Sunday School and Little Fishes, I also take weekly assemblies in Marwood Church of England School who also hold one per half term in Church that is open to anyone to attend. We have maintained our support for the school with a full complement of Foundation Governors, replacing one who became school secretary during the year.

Moving Safeguarding forward in the Parish has been a high priority with the Safeguarding Officer ensuring people undertake the necessary training. I attended two Safeguarding Training Sessions in 2019 and other Staff Members



have done similar. We work hard to ensure we have a safe environment for those in our care, and have also displayed posters in the Hall toilets with advice for Hall users who may be in abusive situations and where to go for help.

The PCC met regularly to discharge its duties and the Church Officers kept a close eye on both finance and the fabric of the Church with plans for both in 2020.

Lots of things happen week by week by a whole host of people to keep the Church and its buildings and activities running. My thanks to all of them, and to all the Church Officers and the Parish Staff who assist. We are fortunate in having a Reader in training and in 2020 are being given a Curate to train. We will also be assisting more at Stokesley parish entering a period of vacancy.

A good year with lots to be thankful for, and plenty of challenges ahead for the future.

Paul Peverell

Vicar

PCC Secretary Report 2019

At the last Annual Church Meeting in March, Anna Wilson stepped down as PCC Secretary and handed the reins over to me. Unfortunately for the PCC, but fortunately for me, I have returned to work full time, this and other commitments mean I will have to step down from this role at the Annual Meeting.

In the last year the PCC and Standing Committee have each met on 5 occasions, these meetings have been well attended (mostly over 80% attendance). Meetings of the All Saints Church Committee, Ayton Churches Together Committee, Hall Committee, and Fabric Committee were held throughout the year with reports given at the full PCC meetings.

The members of the PCC and the sub-committees continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes discussing the effective running of our church including both the large and the more mundane activities necessary for us to be able to provide a safe and welcoming environment, and a full diary of events for all to enjoy.

The PCC have been encouraged to consider how we can reach out to people beyond the regular church congregation and how we can make a difference within our village, and beyond. Such as the inter church “Being Christian” and the series of events as part of “Thy Kingdom Come project”,

I am sure you would like to thank all the members of your PCC for their enthusiasm and unstinting commitment to ensure the life of the church continues so smoothly, and in particular to Paul who has motivated us all so effectively.

Tamzin Little
PCC Secretary



Last summer the extension to Great Ayton cemetery was consecrated for burials by the Bishop of Whitby

The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Minutes

Present (30): Paul Peverell (Vicar/Chairman), Rosemary Wheway, Ken Taylor, Vicki Nath, Anna Wilson, Rob Pepper, Nicky Pepper, Alison Lambert, Audrey Prunty, Peter Prunty, Angela Jaques, Geoff Jaques, Helen Land, Pauline Titchmarsh, Peter Titchmarsh, Enid Sedgwick, Elsa Taylor, Martin Simmons, Robin Harmer, Jon Dean, Elaine Brown, Dorothy Wood, Gordon Wood, Jean Mitchell, Ken Bellamy, Tamzin Little, Lesley Miller, Jean Cumbor, Jonny Winterschladen, Steve Green, Ismay Green

Meeting of Parishioners

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.
- Rob Pepper stated that he would not be standing again this year and would be stepping down after 2 years as Churchwarden.
- Churchwardens are elected on an annual basis and we are pleased to say that we have received two nominations for Churchwarden for this year
- Helen Land and Jonathan Winterschladen were nominated 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

Lynda Walker, Ben Lambert, Betty Manton, Malcolm Race, Margaret Lewis, Helen Dickinson, John Dickinson, Andrew Prunty, Ali Prunty, Doris Huddleston, Mary Boyce, Val Harmar, Viv Winterschladen

I. Minutes of the last meeting 21st March 2018

- The minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Report.
- The minutes were proposed by Gordon Wood, seconded by Robin Harmar. All in agreement.

2. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

3. Electoral Roll Report

- Alison Lambert reported that following the complete renewal of the electoral roll for 2019, which closed on 4th March, the number appearing on the Roll is now 218.
- Although this is lower than previous years, it is not as low as originally feared.
- Unfortunately, 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.
- After 13 years, Alison is stepping down as Electoral Roll officer. Vicki Nath has agreed to take over the role – and the roll. The Vicar thanked Alison on behalf of the meeting for all her work.

4. Presentation of Annual Report for 2018

- The Annual report for 2018 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 Peter Prunty and seconded by Jonathan Winterschladen. Agreed by all present.

5. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2018

- Ken Taylor presented the financial report for the year ending 31st December 2018 – full details of the income and expenditure are available in the Annual Report.
- Highlights of the year included the Hall renovation project, numerous music concerts at the culmination of the organ restoration project and the “From Thankfulness To Generosity” teaching.
- Income and expenditure in respect of the Church General funds ended with a deficit of £2970.
- Planned giving is down by around £5,000 on the year however this was partly offset by a donation from St Oswald’s and a couple of legacies.
- Our reserves now stand at £35,244 which equates to approximately 3-4 months operating costs.

- Church Hall project benefitted from £108,925 in grants and the Gift Day raised £19,139. Total spend was £139,816.
- Charitable giving has continued at a high level - £31,839 was distributed to 56 charities throughout the year.
- The top Charities were: Genesis Project (£3,211), Children in Distress, Yorkshire Cancer Research, Herriot Hospice Homecare, The Children's Society and Zoe's Place.
- Details of the Budget for 2019-2020 were given:
- Income is budgeted as £134,000.
- Expenditure is balanced at £134,000 to include a Freewill Offering to the Diocese of £90,840 as agreed at the October PCC meeting.
- Mission giving has been reduced to help balance expenditure, however, it was agreed by PCC that this will be reviewed later in the year.
- The PCC agreed at their last meeting that this budget be submitted for approval at this Annual Meeting.
- Ken thanked everyone who is signed up to the planned giving scheme.
- He also expressed his thanks to Helen Dickinson, Ynez and John Clarke, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and all the sidespeople for helping to look after the money.
- Ken reminded everyone of the easy fundraising app that people can sign up to and help raise money.
- The card reader is now up and running in church.
- 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.
- Helen Land proposed adoption of the signed accounts seconded by Alison Lambert. All in agreement.

6. The Vicar's comments

- Baptisms -**22**. Although this figure is up on the previous year, Christenings are generally on a downward trend. Thanks were expressed to the team who make them all run so smoothly – clergy, sidespeople and anniversary card distributors.
- Weddings – **9**. Paul has started to attend wedding fairs again, however due to the promotion of the outdoor ceremony area at Whinstone View and closure of Angrove Park, we have found numbers going down, but we are on the case and promoting Church weddings. Paul expressed his thanks to the team, musicians and vergers.
- Funerals - **27** in church and **11** crematorium services which is dropping drastically due to out of village funeral directors having their own

celebrants taking services at crematoriums. We offer a good service and have excellent relations with the associated businesses in the village ie Funeral Directors, Florists and Caterers.

- Fees to the Diocese from Great Ayton were £7914, which, when added to Newton's totalled £9692. Ayton's Fees in 2017 were £8165.
- Thanks was expressed to everyone involved in the different groups associated with church. Little Fishes has recently celebrated its 8th Birthday. WLTDO? Is still going well and Come & Praise is well attended.
- Sunday School – Karen soldiers on with Sunday School but really needs someone to help share the work. There will be no Good Friday workshop this year.
- There have been lots of special services during the year including WWI anniversaries, Bishop John's visit, Charity Auction, and a very special Praise and Party which was joined with the official Church Hall opening!
- Attendance figures have remained steady with an average adult attendance of 109 and children 21.
- The Foodbank has been very well supported including the donations from the Pantomime.
- A very big highlight was the wonderful poppy display which really brightened up the village and made a huge impact with photographs in National newspapers. The service drew a huge crowd of people and it was very moving.
- Social media also enables the Church to reach a wider audience through Twitter, Facebook, the website and Spire, which has now moved to Mail Chimp to comply with GDPR and is making life much easier for Paul to distribute.
- The Church Hall renovation has made a huge difference to the community, the improvements are remarkable. Paul gave a special thanks to Robin and the team involved for all the hard work.
- Ewan has been with us just over a year and although he has been a delight to have, the end of his time here is on the horizon as he wants to further his career. He will be greatly missed when he goes.
- Paul expressed his thanks to all the Parish staff, some of whom had celebrated special anniversaries last year.
- There are 4 members who are stepping down, Rob Pepper is not standing again as Churchwarden, Anna Wilson is stepping down as secretary after 2 years, Alison Lambert is stepping down as electoral roll officer after 13 years and Enid Sedgwick is retiring from PCC after 12 years. All were thanked for their contributions and they will continue to play a part in the life of our Church.
- Marwood School said goodbye to Celia Wilson as Headteacher as she moved to be an Advisor with the Diocese. After acting as interim

Headteacher since summer, Dorothy Walton has now been appointed as the new Headteacher. Julie Bourke has also retired as Secretary and Alison Lambert has taken over her role. Marwood has continued its excellent standard and maintains a really strong bond with our church.

- On the agenda for the future is a programme of groups that Geoff has compiled.
- Confirmation is booked for 30th June at 6pm, the 9.15am Parish Communion will be cancelled and we shall include Communion with the Confirmation.
- All Saints Church to be revitalised with extra prayer and worship activities as well as concerts.
- Find ways of keeping the church at the heart of the community, including more 20 - 40's.
- Paul thanked all the Parish Staff, Church Officers and everyone involved in our Church who do so much for our church life.

Rev'd Geoff Jaques, now over 70, no longer holds a license but has the Archbishop's Permission to Officiate. This means that he is not automatically on the PCC but can be co-opted by the Annual Meeting on an annual basis. This was proposed by Rev'd Jon Dean and accepted unanimously.

7. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives I

- The Vicar asked if there was anyone who wished to be nominated for the Deanery Synod, there were none.
- There remains one vacancy on the Deanery Synod.

8. Election of Parochial Church Council members – 7 vacancies

- There are 7 vacancies on the PCC – there had been five vacancies during the year and the term of membership ended for Robin Harmar and David Oliver. Mark Stowell has also resigned from PCC.
- The following church members were nominated, seconded and accepted as PCC members:

Nomination
Robin Harmar
Tamzin Little

Nominated by
Ken Taylor
Ken Taylor

Seconded by
Elsa Taylor
Rosemary Wheway

There remains 5 Vacancies on the PCC

9. Appointment of Sidesmen and women

- Helen Land said that she was happy with how things have been running.
- Thanks were expressed to the Sidespeople who continue to do an excellent job every week and on special occasions. There have been two retirements in the year with Sandra Flowers and Richard Daniel giving up the role.

10. Appointment of independent examiners

- Ken Taylor proposed Jon Gresham of Baldwins be appointed as our independent Examiners. This was Seconded by Gordon Wood, All in agreement.

11. Any questions on church matters for consideration by the PCC

None

Helen Land expressed her thanks to Paul for all the hard work that he puts in not only as Vicar but behind the scenes and within the community. We are all very blessed to have him at Christ Church.

Signed

Date

Churchwardens' Report

We have continued general maintenance to the fabric of Christ Church and All Saints Church. The lead on both roofs has been marked with smart water to deter thieves. Plans are in place to re-surface the car park behind Christ Church and install a bike rack. The outside doors of Christ Church will be painted later this year. A consultation process is also in place to improve and update the lighting in Christ Church.

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

There are a large group of people working behind the scenes who enable our church to function smoothly, and ensure our services are welcoming, and that the church looks beautiful. They include the volunteer cleaners, sides-people, flower arrangers, and those who serve coffee, and we wish to thank them for all their hard work.

Helen Land and Jonathan Winterschladen - Churchwardens

Financial Report 2019



2019 was a successful year for the Church finances, thanks to a couple of very generous legacies, which left our reserves healthier than for many years.

Unrestricted income rose from £134,035 in 2018 to £157,844 this year while unrestricted expenditure fell from £139,108 to £135,141. This resulted in the balance in our general funds rising from £35,244 to £60,050

We were very pleased to receive legacies from the estates of Margaret Herriman and Hilary Stemp totalling £15,000, with the request that they may be used for the upkeep of the church. Also during the year we made our final claim on the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant we received for the church hall project – after settling all the outstanding expenses on the project, we were able to transfer a balance of £4,918 to general funds. It was also pleasing that we had a number of new additions to our roll of planned givers which, along with the increased donations of several existing members, resulted in planned giving rising from £82,791 to £87,629. After a 6 month trial period, we have now introduced a card reader to enable donations, mostly at baptisms and funerals, to be made by debit or credit card. To date over £300 has been raised this way. So overall our general income was the highest it has been for many years

The reduction in expenditure can largely be attributed to the fact that maintenance and repair costs were at a very low level. Your PCC has, however, decided that two major fabric issues need to be addressed. Firstly the rear car park desperately needs attention- access via the link passage is necessary for wheelchairs and other church users without carrying mud through onto the church carpets! Two quotations have been received for re-surfacing this area which is planned to be carried out in the spring. It has also been considered for some time that the church lighting is not only inadequate in many areas but is provided by high cost metal halide and tungsten lights. We therefore propose to carry out a detailed study into the feasibility of changing to more eco-friendly LED lights and also to provide focussed lighting in key areas of the church eg altar, lectern, pulpit etc. The receipt of the legacies received this year will go some way towards financing these schemes. Expenditure in other areas of church life remained close to the budget for the year.

For 2019 the PCC decided that our contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund should remain at £90,840. However for 2020, it was agreed to increase our freewill offering by above the level of inflation to £94,440. We also decided to maintain

our mission giving from general funds at £10,000. Our recent practice of encouraging recommendations from members of the congregation was continued, and we again supported a number of local and national Christian-based charities.

During the year we ran two appeals. In the spring, we supported Tear Fund in their recovery efforts following the devastating Cyclone Idai in East Africa and raised a total of £1,700. The

Christmas appeal this year focussed on Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland, an umbrella charity which provides support in many ways (including the food bank) to needy families in the



poorer areas of Teesside. Overall, our mission giving from funerals and weddings, special services, appeals, and donations from general funds reached the excellent total of £31,730 distributed among 45 different charities.

Thanks to a programme of additional services, concerts and other fundraising activities, the finances of All Saints church improved significantly with reserves rising to a more comfortable level of £2,550 by the year end. The more regular use of All Saints will ensure that this village gem has a sustainable future.

The Church Hall was back in full use after the major renovation and 2019 saw a rise in the number of groups using the hall particularly for private functions and fundraising events - as a result we had a healthy bank balance of £2,737 at the year end

The PCC continues to operate a policy of maintaining reserves at the equivalent of 3-4 months operating costs

As always, I am extremely grateful to the efforts of our finance team - John & Ynez Clarke, Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and all the sidespeople – for helping to ensure that the finances of the church are kept in good order!

Ken Taylor - Hon Treasurer

All Saints Church



It was something of a transformative year for All Saints after the sub-committee discussed ways and means of rectifying a year on year worsening financial situation. This resulted in a very deliberate attempt to increase the profile of All Saints through exposure in local newspapers and magazines and a conscious effort to increase the use of the church through the summer months. This was done by having more services, weekly communion and several evening worships, but most notably via an informal prayer and music event coinciding with Pentecost, organised by representatives from different churches and attended by over 400 people during a ten day period. The latter was not primarily a fundraising event but succeeded in showing that the church is much more than just an historic building and can be of benefit to the wider community. We also received two people into the church on the day before their funerals, the short services providing a very moving experience for the families concerned.

Finances were helped in various ways, through donations from two concerts in Christ Church, collections from an increased number of services and legacies, and the Treasurer reported annual income at the highest level he could remember.

As a result of the publicity we recruited three new guides and this impacted favourably on the coverage of duties. For the first time in the six years since I became Custodian we have more guides heading into the new season than the previous year. Daily visitor numbers, as usual including some enjoyable group visits, held up well at around 1200 but including all the services and special events our total footfall was significantly higher, at over 2000.

The only repairs needed in relation to the church were as a result of part of the north cemetery wall collapsing but as the churchyard and perimeter are part of the District Council's responsibility they bore the considerable cost of this reinstatement work and I would like to thank Hambleton Council for their speedy response.

We are also in negotiation with the Council regarding the replacement of the front gates and have obtained estimates from several local tradesmen.

From a security angle the lead on the roof has been given a renewed treatment of 'Smartwater'. The only other issue to be reported is that we became aware of the porch being used on a regular basis after dark by a gathering of young persons and whilst this was not causing major damage or intrusion it did necessitate regular sweep ups and so eventually it was decided to involve the police in a low key monitoring role.

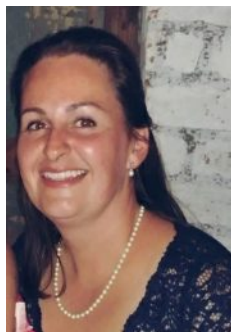
Looking ahead we need to build on the progress made in 2019. Some of last year's events will be repeated and a concert by a Spanish classical guitarist is scheduled in July. Amongst other initiatives we are also looking into the possibility of setting up a 'Friends of All Saints' scheme for those interested in helping All Saints to remain on a solid financial footing.

Robin Hazell
Custodian

Safeguarding



This year David Fox has continued in post as Safeguarding Officer and Anna Wilson as assistant Safeguarding Officer. To the end of December 2019, all those currently in role, working with children or vulnerable adults, as part of the parish's activities, have been DBS checked to the appropriate level. This includes 45 members of our Church community.



This year, the leaders of the various groups have encouraged, supported by the Safeguarding Officer, their workers to take Diocese of York safeguarding courses C0 & C1 online. David has visited several applicants at home to enable them to complete the courses. To date, 29 have taken and passed the C0 course and another 15 have completed the C1 course. This is an ongoing process. The appropriate leaders of church activities that include children and vulnerable adults have been encouraged to take the C2 course at various course centres around the diocese: this has included 6 successful participants.

In 2020 our focus will be on:

- 1) encouraging the remainder of our volunteers to complete C0 and C1 Diocesan safeguarding courses online.
- 2) developing risk assessments for children's activities at Christ Church.

David Fox

Safeguarding Officer, Christ Church Great Ayton

Stokesley Deanery Synod



In 2019 the Parish was represented by Nick Land, John Dickinson and Rosemary Wheway. There is one vacancy and the clergy also attend.

There were three meetings in 2019 held at various venues in the Deanery. Apart from the business of information sharing and financial necessities the 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 February there was a presentation from the Diocesan Generous Giving Team led by Jo Beacroft- Mitchell who introduced David Smallwood and Sammi Tooze. They offered advice and support to PCCs to help regular givers to see where their contribution goes.

In June we welcomed Revd John Lee and Dr Ben Walker from the 20s to 40s team. Churches are being challenged to try something new with support from the team.

In October we had a presentation led by the new Dean of York Minster, Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost. This was based on the Diocesan strategy of Reach, Grow and Sustain.

Each year the Deanery organises four Lent services. In 2019 these were held in Christ Church and were led by Bishop David Welbourne. He was very inspiring and covered a variety of topics in his very easy manner. Each session ended with a short act of worship.

Rosemary Wheway

Christ Church Visitors

We are currently a group of 19 who visit 20 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. Since we began in November 2005 we have made contact with 160 people.

We continue to meet regularly with the clergy so that they can monitor our visits and we review our guidelines annually. We have had training in dementia awareness and end of life care and have become a registered Dementia Friendly Church.



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. We 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 2019 we hosted our eighth Praise and Party service followed by tea in the Hall. This attracted many for whom the 9.15 service is just too early. Everyone appreciated both the “praise” and the “party” and we hope to host a similar event in 2020. We took a selection of food after the party to 13 people 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. Please tell us if you know someone who would like a visit or you have new neighbours who would like a Welcome Pack but more importantly **join us if you can!**

Rosemary Wheway

Prayer

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



Our church building continues to provide a quiet space for prayer/ reflection daily for all who wish to use it. The Memory Tree and the Crib during the Christmas Season and the poppy displays Oct – Nov again provided a focus for some of our visitors.

David Fox recently joined the group who lead our Intercessions on Sunday mornings at 9.15. We give thanks for each person in this group and continue to pray that new people would come forward to be involved in this ministry.

A service for the World Day of Prayer made a welcome reappearance in Great Ayton thanks to Angela Jaques and a team gathered from each of the churches in the village, who organised the service held at the Methodist Church and designated Saint Margaret's as the venue for March 2020.

Opportunities were provided throughout the year to pray and discover together. 'Prayer' was the topic during one of Angela Bailey's 'Being Christian' teaching sessions. There were evening talks during Lent given by Bishop David Wilbourne, and an Ecumenical Lent Course was once again shared with each of the village churches.

A whole day for reflection was set aside for us at Holy Trinity church, North Ormesby in September, led by Rev'd Jonathan Cooper. In the quiet of the church and its cloistered garden it was hard to believe there was a busy market day going on outside!

Between Ascension Day and Pentecost our Archbishops Welby and Sentamu asked churches to pray for God's Kingdom to 'come on earth as it is in heaven'. 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer events were held daily in All Saints Church at 8.00am, 12 noon and from 3 – 4 pm.

"Prayers the Sentamu Way" moved into All Saints, as 'Thy Kingdom Come' finished, for what turned out to be the most glorious summer months. We returned to Christ Church in September, where we continue to meet on Thursday mornings from 9.30 – 10 am. We use a simple pattern of prayer taught by Archbishop

Sentamu - you are welcome to come and be part of the group any Thursday morning.

The Rev'd Mel King led a Quiet Morning at Friends Meeting House in March and returned to Great Ayton to give a teaching day on Centering Prayer at Christ Church in November.



Two ladies from The World Community of Christian Meditation led an inspiring morning at St. Margaret's church in June.

Each of these were organised by the ecumenical contemplative prayer group – guided by Ann Browne, who continue to meet weekly for prayer on Wednesday afternoons.

Enid Sedgwick

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) brf.org.uk



The habit of daily reading and reflection is part of helping faith to grow. **New Daylight**, published by the Bible Reading Fellowship provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment by a regular team of contributors drawn from a wide range of church backgrounds. There are thirty-six people at Christ Church who use **New Daylight** to help encourage this habit of daily reading and reflection. Several of us meet together occasionally for discussions based on some of the

readings. **Guidelines** and **Day by Day** are other notes published by BRF that people have chosen to use. There are spare copies available – please ask if you would like to try one.

BRF Bible reading notes are published three times a year, in January, May and September. For information on their notes and other published resources, which help individuals of all ages to connect with the Bible, see their website at www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk

Enid Sedgwick

Little Fishes



Little Fishes is still thriving with an average of between twelve and eighteen children attending weekly after eight years. As children move on to nursery and school there always seems to be others taking their place.

Several changes have taken place over the last year in that we welcomed Lucie Swales to the leadership team, Heather Muir, Jean Hardwick and Jean Burgess to the refreshment team. Doris Huddlestone has been missed but hopefully after a period of ill health she will soon be back amongst us. We also said goodbye to Vicky Gawthorpe as she moved on to pastures new having started with Fishes at the beginning as a mum and later as a leader. Her contribution and dedication was greatly valued and we wish her well in the future. We decided to continue Little Fishes on half term weeks for the first time this year.

As usual Marwood School Reception class performed an amazing version of Babouska in December welcoming back some former Little Fishes. The service remains a happy worship time with songs, prayers, quiet time, stories told by several people in their own styles, followed by fellowship with play and refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend on Tuesdays at 9.30am but just expect noise, some chaos but most of all everyone enjoying a good time!



Finally, as always, many thanks to all the willing helpers who contribute in different ways to provide an important outreach to the community to “come and see” what we are all about.

Angela Jaques

Middlesbrough Food Bank

As we enter the eighth year of collecting we are very grateful for the substantial continuing support for Middlesbrough Food Bank from Christ Church congregation and the Quaker Meeting.

Our Christmas effort totally filled the large collection van as pantomime audiences also donated tinned goods.

Money contributions are also welcomed and are posted on to the centre. These are appreciated as they facilitate new projects and help transport costs.



Local needs continue to grow and there are eight distribution centres based in local churches. Universal Credit payment delays, medical and other social problems continue to cause need for food parcels across the country. It is heartbreaking to read some of the articles on the Trussell Trust website which often highlight these issues.



A huge thank you for your continued and generous support. We are acutely aware that the need for this help seems to grow so quickly and extensively across the whole country - particularly on Tees-side .

Gordon and Dorothy Wood

Christ Church Choir



2019 was an extremely successful and enjoyable year for the choir and, as ever, I have relentlessly pushed them out of their comfort zone! Over the past year, the choir has continued to develop and broaden their already extensive repertoire and perform new pieces to a high standard.

A significant event for myself and the choir was our Trinity Sunday Concert, in aid of new robes. The concert was a huge success; the choir sang very well, there was a large audience and we were delighted to raise over £500! It was a great opportunity for the choir to sing together in a performance (rather than service) context. Remembrance Day was another special occasion, using two movements from Goodall's 'Eternal Light' was something a bit different but, I thought, fitted really nicely. Thanks to the 'Come & See' initiative launched for the Christmas Carol Service, we sang to a packed-out church that day. It was hugely uplifting to be a part of and was a terrific way to end the year!

The choir has strengthened their connections with Roseberry Church Music Singers by hosting a delightful choral evensong at Christ Church last February and many of our members took part in RCMS choral visits over the past year. For example, singing a choral evensong service at Bridlington Priory in May and the Choirs' Festival at Hull Minster. The choir will continue to enhance their relationship with the Roseberry Church singers throughout this upcoming year, starting with another choral evensong here on the 1st March.

Delightfully, we welcomed three new choristers into the choir in 2019; Inés, who did a wonderful job of 'Once in royal David's city' at the carol services; Olwen, who has bolstered our smallest section, the altos, and who's lovely composition 'Nativity' we sang over Christmas; and last but not least in age, Robert, who takes the Lambert tribe of the choir up to an impressive five! We are always on the lookout for new members, if you are interested then please do get in touch.

Ewan Murray - Organist & Choirmaster

Servers Report



I am pleased to report we have a very loyal team of people who faithfully serve at the altar to support our clergy at Eucharist services. This is very much appreciated as it allows time for the clergy team to meet and greet everyone as they come and go from the service. As we all know, a warm welcome is a great start to the service and is especially important so that visitors have a good first impression of Christ Church.

Our servers are Lynda, Richard, Frances, Jo, Adrian, Matthew, Oliver and myself. We are a small, dedicated team who would love to welcome more help. If you would like to join us, please come and talk to me. Full training and support is given, so don't be nervous!

Sadly, we lost a very faithful member of our team when Jim Wem died just before Christmas.

Lesley Miller

Men's Stuff

Who Let The Dads Out?



After 5 successful years eating bacon butties, drinking mugs of real coffee and playing with our young children and grandchildren in the Coffee Lounge we have brought WLTD0? to a close.

Family Fun Day



During the summer, the Dads (& granddads) organised the 5th Family Fun Day on Saltburn beach in August where members of their families, Fishes families and a few friends met to play, chat and generally have fun. Digging (led by Drew) and food (thanks Kate & family!) featured heavily as usual.

We also revisited The Stables, thanks to David and Rachel Oliver where croquet proved popular with dads and children alike

Ecumenical Men

As one door closes another opened. On a Wednesday evening in December the first Big Night Out was held where a dozen guys from different Christian groups met for fellowship (& to put the world to rights!). We hope this group will gather monthly during 2020 giving us a new opportunity to discuss matters with a Christian ethos.

Geoff Jaques

Bell Ringers Annual Report

This year we have warmly welcomed Isobel Brown, Katie Hunt and Adam Lambert to our team. We have said goodbye to Harry Banfield after 6 years 9 months of faithful and very reliable ringing, and we wish him well as he follows a career in Engineering. We have also said goodbye to Emily Howard, as her gymnastics become more demanding, and we thank her for almost two years of ringing.

Eleven young people ring for us on a regular basis, they are:-

Annabelle Collins	Katie Radford	Matthew Sheridan	Poppy Sheridan
Edward Lambert	Alex Northey	Hanley Cowley	Pip Earland
Isobel Brown	Katie Hunt	Adam Lambert	

On behalf of the whole congregation I should like to thank them for getting up early on a Sunday morning to do so. This year the bells have rung for 70 regular Sunday Services and Festivals.

They were booked for 9 weddings, earning welcome pocket money for our more senior ringers. They are able to keep going for the extra time required, which is until the bride drives out of Church. Sometimes photographs can take an hour or more, which means hard work in the tower!

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, useful to put on your UCAS form to help make you stand out from the crowd, if you want to study one of the more competitive degrees such as medicine or law.

We always welcome new Ringers, so if you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elsa Taylor 01642 722400 or 07896 626016

Flower Guild Report

In 2019 we have enjoyed decorating Church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Easter arrangements were green, white and yellow in a traditional style of arranging. Easter arrangements can be sponsored in memory of a loved one as well as for Christmas. The Harvest arrangements, in all the beautiful autumn colours, were parallel design with many small insects and animals hidden amongst the flowers. We hope you spotted some of them! We used sunflowers for a special funeral arrangement.



Thank you to John and Helen Dickinson and Johnny Winterschladen for helping with the Memory Tree, and to Jon Dean for the service when the tree was taken down and donations sent to Herriot Hospice Homecare. The tree had a new set of lights which sometimes had a mind of their own in switching themselves on and off!



Christmas arrangements this year included amaryllis which were much admired, not everyone believing they were real when you looked at them. Each week, when in Church, you could see them opening a little more every time. This year we made five more trees of a slightly different design to the ones we had for many years. They were all used in the arrangements. Suzanne Tanfield followed the theme with a Christmas tree above

the link door. Christmas trees were donated to us by Jan Faulkner. Thank you again to Dave Sedgwick for his help with the hanging and dismantling of the garlands.

We have ten members in the Guild and thanks to them we are able to decorate our Church for all to enjoy. We hope you enjoy them as we do creating them.

Marina Charlton

Sunday Morning Coffee



Sunday Morning Coffee is a way of welcoming newcomers and visitors to our congregation as well as being a social gathering.

Many thanks to our team of ladies who make the event possible week after week and we welcomed Jean Mitchell and Helen Muir to our team during the year. Earlier in the year we started to use the new 'Coffee Queen' machines which provide fresh ground coffee. All of our ladies are now proficient in operating these.

We managed to fit in Saturday morning visits to Fletcher's Farm Café in April and November. These popular events are always enjoyable and an opportunity for us to have a natter together.

Pauline Titchmarsh



Monday Walking Group

This group was started many years ago and continues to meet informally in the village for a short walk most Mondays throughout the year followed by refreshments and chatter. The walks vary but usually take the form of low level circuits round the village, Newton Woods, alongside River Leven or even Guisborough Walkway or Easby for a change. Anyone is welcome to come along and see, just turn up on a Monday at 1.45pm outside the chemist, no experience necessary for gentle exercise and

fellowship in hopefully good weather. A bar meal usually takes place early evening once or twice a year.

Angela Jaques

Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Marwood Church Of England Infant School continues to thrive in every way.



2019 has been another busy year for Marwood. We have seen the number of children on roll increase, said goodbye to some much-loved staff and governors and appointed Dorothy Walton as Headteacher, whilst working hard to further develop the school's Christian ethos.

Mrs Walton has taught at Marwood School for over 14 years; during that time, she has built strong relationships with all stakeholders and has acquired a good overview of the priorities to move the school forward. She has already taken steps to secure the school's excellent academic performance but most importantly has focused her energy on ensuring that Marwood is a place where children are well cared for, motivated to learn and where strong Christian values are celebrated.

In February, Julie Bourke announced she was retiring from her role as School Secretary and Clerk to the Governors and then Debbie Hutchinson retired in July as Higher Level Teaching Assistant. It is always sad to say goodbye and especially so when the people leaving are very special to us.

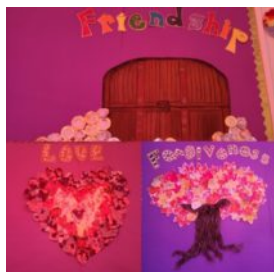


We are so very grateful to Julie, Debbie and Helen Land, (who also departed after many years supporting the school as a governor) all of whom have left their indelible mark on Marwood School. The school is thrilled that both Julie and Debbie have continued to help the school on a voluntary basis.

In March, Alison Lambert was appointed to the role of School Secretary and later in the year, we welcomed two new teaching assistants, Cathrine Gale-Sau as a HLTA and Vicky Gawthorpe as TA. David Fox joined the

school in September as a Foundation Governor, as Alison takes on the role of Clerk to the Governors after 5 years as a Foundation Governor.

Providing Strong Christian Values



The staff and governors have been building on the foundations of last year's 'Outstanding' OFSTED self evaluation and 'Excellent' SIAMS report, ensuring that the school's chosen Christian values of 'Love, Friendship and Forgiveness' are firmly embedded into every aspect of school life. To this end, the children, staff and foundation governors enjoyed a whole day focusing on these values by doing a carousel of activities, involving art to go on display in the worship room, dance, singing and storytelling, culminating in a collective worship when the children were able to articulate what they had learned and how they were going to express their learning in daily school life.

At Marwood, we take great pride in the work that we do linked to church, our local community and the wider global community. Earlier in the year, the pupils produced bible story pictures for the Church Hall. After the Harvest Festival, the children distributed boxes of food to the elderly people of Great Ayton.

Introducing Trinity Group...

This year we have started Trinity Group aimed at developing the childrens' understanding of the Holy Trinity, increasing their awareness of the issues facing our global community and inspiring courageous advocates for the future. The children have made wooden crosses for use outdoors, designed the outdoor spiritual area, The Sacred Place, made bead crosses to sell during Christian Aid Week and have raised funds for Water Aid by wearing Christmas jumpers. We have also recently enrolled for the Christian Aid Global Neighbours' Award (Bronze). Alongside these activities, the whole school has also been involved in other charitable giving, participating in the Love in a Box Appeal, Red Nose Day and gaining a Bronze Award in the Woodland Trust's Green Tree School Scheme.



The Sacred Place



Building on the excellent SIAMS report and having received a very generous donation from members of the local community, we have developed an outside area for quiet contemplation and reflection. The children voted for the name of the new timber shelter and garden: The Sacred Place. Decorated with wall murals that were painted by a former pupil and Trinity Group members, The Sacred Place provides cover from the elements and space where the children can pray, sit quietly and appreciate nature.

The Nativity Service

Our annual nativity play performance is a key focus for the children's appreciation of the nativity story, as well as focusing on key Christian values in terms of the production chosen. This year we enjoyed a superbly acted and very sincerely performed play called 'Babushka' – the incredibly high standard of previous years was again matched by the whole school and, in particular,



the joy exhibited in their singing was wonderful to experience. The play focused on an old lady who had previously always been too busy with life's pressures to stop and listen to God; the outcome truly cemented our core values at Marwood, showing that friendship was limited without opening up your heart to God's love.

Worship

Each day, worship continues to be at the heart of the children's day: once a week Rev Pev leads worship, but on the other days staff members take the role. The content is robust in its Christian values, yet also inclusive and affirming of all the children's values, regardless of their beliefs. Some very heartfelt worship songs set the extremely positive and receptive mood and the children are not only engaged, but also very involved in the rituals,

singing, prayer and many take pre-prepared or ad hoc positions of leadership, speaking to their peers candidly, confidently and in detail about their own moral codes and spiritual experiences.

Again, half termly services of celebration are held at Christ Church, attended by parents, which gives us a real opportunity to expand our worship experiences, music and achievements in the wider community of parents and friends of the school.

Marwood continues to be an outstanding centre for Christian witness, both to its pupils and their families, but also to the wider community. As such, we warmly invite you to attend one or more of the half termly worship services at Christ church, so you can see for yourselves what an asset the school is to our village.

**Victoria Bradley, David Fox, Paul Peverell – Foundation Governors
Dorothy Walton - Headteacher**

Church Gardening Group

This last year saw the very loose formation of a gardening group intent on looking after the borders around the car park and in front of the coffee lounge. I say loose because we have never actually met as a complete group, we just have the same purpose in mind. The other members are Pauline Titchmarsh, Jan Thompson and our honorary head gardener, Mary Rogers. (She won't know this unless she reads this article!). Mary provides the plants from her greenhouse\garden.

Our aim is to keep the grounds looking tidy and welcoming, we are fortunate in having Gary Frankish of Ayton Ground Maintenance look after the grass cutting and the Scouts sweeping up the leaves. If anyone would like to come and join us, please do get in touch with one of us.

Robin Harmor

Church Hall Report

The year has been relatively quiet compared with 2018. One off bookings have increased substantially, therefore my very grateful thanks go to Sarah for looking after the administration and accounts, a job she does with apparent effortless ease. Sarah is very ably supported by a very willing, happy team of Anne, Tabby and Phil who, all together look after the hall on our behalf.



I am indebted to Helen and Julie for running the '200 club', it really does help keep the hall finances in order. Of course it wouldn't run without the support of those that are members. I am sure they would be delighted to accept new members, please see either Julie or Helen to enrol. The hall is well supported by the committee, which meets 3 times a year giving advise and help where necessary. Many thanks to them all, Paul, Helen, Jonny, Ken, Vicky, Pauline and Sarah.

Following on from the renovation work improvements have continued to be made. A new sound deck and speakers were purchased for the main hall, thanks to Dave White and Jamie Harvey for overseeing them. Finger protectors have been fitted on the doors that children habitually use. New door locks have been installed on all three external doors after the door to the hall became almost impossible to lock. Periodic blockage of the outfall from the Ladies toilet has, we hope, been solved by changing the flush units on the toilets. Talking of drains, a long standing issue of a blocked surface water drain has been addressed near the Drama store, discovering an unknown manhole cover in the vicinity helped enormously in keeping costs down. The hall now has its own blue recycle bin, please do make use of it, though NOT for glass! The Upper Room has had the lighting updated, a fresh coat of paint and the floor by the door repaired. Art work from Marwood school is now prominently displayed in the coffee lounge, a great effort by pupils, staff and Helen for organising it.

I am always grateful for suggestions on where we can make improvements, please do keep making them through discussion with any member of the committee.

Finally, the hall is well used, my sincere thanks to all of you, whether you are regular users or come for 'one off' events. Your support is vital, thank you.

Robin Harmar - Church Hall Manager

2018		CHURCH HALL ACCOUNTS	2019
£		Receipts	£
2,805.30	Opening balance		1,177.43
500.00	Grant from PCC		0.00
1,258.00	200 Club		1198.00
94.00	Sunday Morning Coffee		250.00
375.00	Guides Brownies Rainbows		260.00
80.00	Scouts		0.00
0.00	Badminton		995.20
1,378.30	Bradley Dancing		2,025.04
22.50	Children's Society		35.75
0.00	NHSBT (Blood)		0.00
600.00	Dramatic Society		600.00
495.00	Flower Club		495.00
1,334.50	Marwood School		897.00
585.00	Funeral Teas		1080.00
541.00	Scottish Dancing		715.00
759.00	Strictly FiTT		1018.00
1,218.00	Sundry Rents		2,770.50
543.61	TRF/Bank Interest/refunds		641.67
1,987.50	NY Horizons		2584.00
352.5	SMART		481.5
391.00	Rugrats		250.00
656.25	Moo Music		67.50
50.00	Sundries		0.00
15,320.21	Total Receipts		17,541.59
1,800.00	Electricity		1,800.00
2,736.00	Gas		1,704.91
288	Water Rates		512.16
5,376.30	Wages		5,648.50
1,920.00	Repairs/maintenance		1,906.22
1,794.59	Equipment		2,378.11
334.34	Telephone		362.34
20	Licences		20
115.98	Sundries		40.93
330.6	Waste Disposal		337.2
0	Council Tax		0
61.75	Refunds		0
71.95	Post/Stationery		73.81
1,177.43	Closing balance		2757.41
16,026.46	Total Payments		17,541.59

Bank Reconciliation:	
Bank balance as at 1 January 2019	£1177.43
Add receipts	£0.00
Deduct payments	£0.00
Bank balance at 31 December 2019	£2757.41
Reserves at 31 December 2019	£2757.41

Social Media



We now have 423 followers – Facebook users who’ve made the conscious decision to want to know who we are and what we do.

This year’s top Facebook post was seen by 6513 people, 697 reacted, 434 liked it, 146 loved it, 86 commented on it and 30 shared it. In 374 words Rev Pev delivered

a Christian message to more people than we see in Church in 6 months of the year! #GoodNews

Our Facebook page has also become the best way of letting a wide audience know about upcoming funerals. Several December funeral posts reached more than 2,000 people.

Memory Tree and Christingle adverts reached 1.6k and 1.8k respectively. 2.3k folk were alerted to our Remembrance Day Service.

Our August post reminding people about the restarting of Little Fishes after the summer break reached 1693 and was shared 14 times.

The Foodbank collections also benefited with our July and November posts reaching 1.6k.

Geoff Jaques

Church Cleaning

Thank you to all the Volunteers who continually give up their time to clean our Church throughout the year and polish all the brasses. You do a fantastic job and we really appreciate all that you do and hope we can rely on your continued support.



The new cordless Hoover has proved to be very successful and made the job a lot easier with not having to use extension leads, so thank you to all who donated towards its purchase.

We are still finding it very difficult to find new Volunteers to go on the cleaning rota and some ladies have very kindly offered to be on the rota twice, this is so good of you, thank you .

Cleaning the Church is usually done in two's (which makes the job more enjoyable - chat while you work) and can usually be completed in about an hour to an hour and a half, depending on how quickly you work. If only we could get just 4 more Volunteers we could reduce the amount of times the cleaning needs doing (for each couple) from 4 to 3 times a year. So if you know of anybody who might like to help out, please let us know. Contact details below.

Last year the Annual Spring Clean was very well supported. Great teamwork was shown by all and we'd like to convey our thanks to all who turned up and gave a helping hand to wash, polish and do all the extra jobs not covered in the weekly clean. The smell of beeswax when we finished was wonderful. We hope many Volunteers will be able to join us again this spring. Even just an hour of your time will be very much appreciated.

This year the Annual Spring Clean will be on:

Friday 20th March (starting from 4.00pm onwards) and Saturday 21st March (starting at 9.00am). Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

Contact numbers:-

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

Irene Reah01642 723804 (for alterations to the details on the Rota's)

Worship

Come & Praise



Numbers have fluctuated significantly and we considered bringing this form of worship to a close in the middle of the year. Increased publicity and personal invitations from the families who value this form of worship meant that we saw a significant increase in numbers towards the end of the year.

We continue to encourage our younger members to take an active part – reading, praying, playing & singing.

Leadership alternates between Geoff, Lesley and Paul – each bringing their own gifts and style. “All glory be to Christ” is a popular song. Paul Fussey and Ewan Murray often lead our music and song – new recruits are welcome!

Taizé

A new style for 2019, Ewan organised a music trio to lead each of the Taizé style services, featuring banjo, flute, guitar and cello. These three reflective times of worship held on the 2nd Sunday of the month attracted good congregations (26, 29 & 17). Each evening lasted about 50 minutes and consisted of 8 chants, a psalm, bible reading and 10



minutes quiet reflection. We are looking to have 5 in 2020 on the 2nd Sunday of each month from May to September.

Geoff Jaques

Cafe Church



A new venture started last year with the start of the Sunday Supplement that has now changed its name to Cafe Church. This monthly service is a more informal service held in the Coffee Lounge being preceded by coffee, tea and cakes - hence the title.

Our musicians, usually Steve Green and Jamie & Kate Harvie, lead us in some modern worship songs before we look at a Bible passage. During the teaching and discussion time, the children present go into the Church Office for tea and to watch a suitable video.

Nick Land has led our Bible Studies and Helen Land has been our cake maker extraordinaire.

Attendances have been good, with some sessions supported by the Confirmation candidates and folk from other Churches being welcome too. How long before we outgrow the Coffee Lounge? Come and See.

Paul

8am Holy Communion Sadly numbers have continued to decline at this service due to the illness of some members and the death of one of our faithful regulars. This service has something incredibly special to offer with reflective worship using the wonderful words of the Book of Common Prayer. We still have a faithful number of worshippers in the teens and occasionally hit the twenties.

9.15am Parish Communion Our Parish Communion remains the largest weekly act of worship still attracting around a hundred worshippers each Sunday, including the Sunday School. Our Choir attend each week and we are treated to a different anthem. Christ Church also benefits from a variety of preachers and we have many people at the front assisting. Going and taking services elsewhere is a reminder to me never to take this all for granted as we are most fortunate, We need to have confidence in inviting others to join us. The Parade Services follow a non Eucharistic format and finishes by 10am to allow young people to attend other commitments. Our service always concludes with Coffee

Sunday Evening Specials We enjoy many specials throughout the year including Memorial Services, Songs of Praise, Love in a Box, Christingles and several Carol Services, and in 2019 we added to these with several successful evening services in All Saints Church including 3 Taize style services as well as an Opening and Closing Songs of Praise



Christenings/ Baptisms Christenings reduced from twenty-two in 2018 to seventeen. Colleagues report similar reductions in numbers. Many Christenings come to us from wedding couples with whom we already have a relationship.

Weddings Weddings down by 1 to 9, but 18 overall in the Benefice, the same as 2018. We are being squeezed by wedding venues hosting Outdoor Ceremonies and the opening of Sneaton Castle with its Chapel as a wedding venue will also have its effect. Nevertheless we are out there encouraging folk to come to us

Funerals You hardly want to show an increase in funerals but this has gone from 38 in 2018 to 52 in 2019, and with an incredibly busy start to 2020. 30 Funerals came into Church. We try and move with the times with all our services and make them positive occasions that show the love of God for all. In 2019 we saw the introduction of a Contactless Giving Station in Church.

Paul

Growing Together 2019



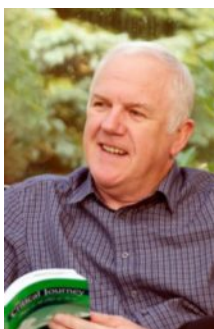
Two groups explored Being Christian led by Diocesan Lay Development Adviser (Angela Bailey) on Friday mornings in February and Monday evenings in June. Each of the sessions on Baptism, Bible, Eucharist & Prayer led to lively discussions.

Lesley Miller organised several sessions of the BRF 'Parenting for Faith' where anybody involved in parenting (grandparents, aunts and uncles as well as parents!) met to share what it really is in practice. We struggled to find a good time – trying Tuesday mornings after Fishes and different evenings – eventually recognising that gathering folk together may not be the best way of supporting parenting.

Thank God it's Monday! Nick Land led a couple of sessions to help us explore 'working with God at work' He also introduced us to This Time Tomorrow during our intercessions at a number of our 9:15 services.



Our Tuesday evening Discipleship Group which began in 2015 as an Adult Confirmation group continued to meet monthly using Carl Laferton's 'Spiritual Health Check' and as discussion starters. A fortnightly home group has begun on Wednesday evenings.



In May, New Daylight contributor Tony Horsfall led a morning exploring 'Faith that persists to the finishing line'. We looked at the example of Jesus as an inspiration for our own resilience; then considered a very moving story from the life of David when he found himself at his lowest point to help us learn how to find strength from God.

Rev'd Jonathan Cooper led a Reflective Away Day for us in September at Holy Trinity, North Ormesby using images of Birds in the Psalms to give us the opportunity to look at them and illuminate our spiritual growth.

The Deanery Lent Course, York Courses and Prayer Groups are covered elsewhere in the report.

Geoff Jaques

Thy Kingdom Come – 10 days of prayer in All Saints



An amazing number of folk were prompted by God to join us at All Saints during the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost - truly Spirit inspired.

Each of the prayer streams developed its own character, particular thanks to John Dickinson, Enid Sedgwick and Rosemary Wheway who have shaped the 7.30am, midday and 3.00 to 4.00pm respectively. Without them the streams would not have flowed.

Thanks to our 11 musicians, 10 storytellers, 16 readers, 21 prayer leaders, 9 snack providers - to all from across the village Christian community (Anglicans, Methodists, New Frontiers, Romans, Society of Friends) who have each given their time & skills to shape each aspect of our programme.

Whilst numbers aren't everything, they do make interesting reading. The total attendance over the 10 days was at least 378 (59 under 20, 56 aged 20 to 49 and 263 aged 50+]. Individual streams ranged from 4 to 43 - each day was different.



All Saints was open each day so others will have called in to pray at different times and haven't been recorded. 56 folk left prayers on the Prayer Tree; these were offered at the well attended United Pentecost Service in St Margaret's. We have scattered a significant amount of seed, each of us praying for our 5 people throughout the 10 days. God will bring the harvest to fruition. We then have the responsibility of gathering it in.

It was encouraging to see Christians from across the community working together; many experienced real 'moments' at some stage during the 10 days; a number of people appeared to have 'grown' - praying, leading, singing.

The ecumenical team are enthusiastic for TKC 2020!

Geoff Jaques

Sunday School Report

Always the highlight of the year 'The Crib Service' This year we had 16 children taking part singing some lovely songs and telling the Christmas Story accompanied by Mrs Winterschluden on the piano.



We meet every Sunday during term time school except for the 2nd Sunday of the month when it is a Family Service at 11am. We have 20 children on the register we an average attendance of 15.

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. The children produced some lovely crafts and were joined by their families for a short service in Church.



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

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

Karen Peverell

Spire - the Church Mag that goes places



Spire goes out every month with 347 copies going out via MailChimp, and a link posted on the Website and Facebook to allow others to Download it. We still distribute around 280 copies in paper format each month and place complimentary copies in cafes and other public buildings.

Some of our Internet readers also forward the Link on to Friends so they also can keep up to date with local news, and we can see that some copies of Spire are consequently opened over 70 times! You can easily register for your own copy by completing the Sign Up form on the Church Website.

Spire seeks to bring the Church and Community together so features a range of articles. It is always good to see it out on tables when visiting, and recently a funeral from out of Great Ayton came to be as the person followed Spire from the internet!.

As well as Spire, the Website www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk is still well used by visitors from all over the world, and in addition to this we also have a Page on www.achurchnearyou.com that advertises services and contacts.

Last Autumn I was asked if I could post a Funeral Notice on I Love Great Ayton Facebook Page as many people no longer get the Gazette and not all funerals are on there in any case. I have started doing this, with the family's prior permission, and they are most appreciated. Not only do they pass on the information regarding the service, but the lovely comments are of great comfort to the different families.

Paul Peverell
Editor



Just some of our wedding couples who chose Christ Church in 2019

The Children's Society

Our events this year have been well supported with £6676.18 banked for the society, slightly down from last year.

The coffee morning in February was well attended and lots of boxes brought to be counted. The final total of £1900.55 was collected from the boxes.

The Soup Lunch had a very busy hour, it was a challenge this year with the hall alterations which made the kitchen smaller, and lessons learned that we had to use the coffee lounge to do more preparations. Thank you to our many extra helpers on the day you were much appreciated.



This year we had a flower demonstration for our summer event, which was well attended.



In October Janice organised a Bridge night always very popular. Thank you Janice for your hard work.

November was Quiz Night with Mike Myers as quiz master, thank you Mike this is much appreciated.

Thank you to Pauline and Peter Tichmarsh for the recycled birthday cards sold at all our events, again very much appreciated.

The Christingle Service led by Paul our vicar had a full Church, a good start for the run up to Christmas. Just before Christmas we sang carols in the village and we were accompanied by Jamie Harvie and Steve Green, and we had 30 singers. We also had a donation from Christ Church.

Helen Rowlands has resigned from the committee after many years, she will be missed and thank you for your help.

Thanks to all our supporters and hard working committee of which there is only nine of us, if anyone would like to join us please contact one of us.

Marina Charlton - Chairperson

Christ Church Charitable Giving 2019									
Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
Tearfund Cyclone Idai Appeal	262			1437					1699
United Society (restored as USPG)								1000	1000
Church Mission Society								1000	1000
Childrens Society			412					1000	1412
Children in Distress		563							563
Christians Against Poverty								1000	1000
St Thomas PCC (Coffee Van)								500	500
Church Army								1000	1000
Mission Aviation Fellowship								1000	1000
Big Kids								500	500
St Peter's PCC Flood Appeal								1000	1000
The Message Trust (Respect NE)								1000	1000
Campaign against Living Miserably (CALM)						259.97			260
UCCF								1000	1000
British Heart Foundation						180.4	161		341
Teenage Cancer Trust					228.7				229
Motor Neurone Disease Association							200		200
Yorkshire Cancer Research							2767		2767
St Oswalds PCC (Grove Hill)							497		497
Great North Air Ambulance							1335		1335
Macmillan Cancer Support							633.52		634
Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Fdn						198			198
Bloodwise							352		352
Alzheimers Society						265	198.73		464
South Tees Heart Fund							443		443
Zoe's Place					661				661
Cleveland Mountain Rescue							638		638
South F...							750		750

JCUH -Endoscopy Teaching Unit						739
Stokesley Health Centre					123	123
Teesside Hospice Care Foundation					706	706
Heriot Hospice Homecare	148.73					149
Friends of Friarage					818.79	819
JCUH - Renal Dialysis Unit					285.73	286
Daisy Chain			37.93			38
JCUH - Elderly Care					93	93
CLIC Sargent			113.8		523.95	638
School Aid India			853.5			854
Saltburn Animal Rescue Association (SARA)					240.28	240
Great Ayton Health Centre					296.16	296
Middlesbrough Food Bank	391	149				540
Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland	380.49	560.72	2414.36			3356
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal		714.87				715
Dogs Trust Darlington				37		37
Vetlife				163.84		164
Whitby RNLI					227	227
Total	642.62	1103.13	4704.92	1041.06	11298	31731

Great Ayton District Guides



We have a full Rainbow (age 5-7) unit that meets on a Friday evening. There is a waiting list and some girls are unlikely to get a place before reaching Brownie age. If anyone is interested in volunteering, no experience is needed please register interest at

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

There are 3 Brownie (age 7-10) and 2 Guide (age 10-14) units and a Division Ranger (age 14-18) unit in the village. Help is always welcome, as are enquiries about young members joining, even if they haven't been a member before, see link for more information: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

All units have been involved in lots of fun and stimulating activities at their weekly meetings, working through the relevant programmes for each age group. We are all enjoying the varied and exciting new programme both in the meeting place and out and about.

There have been enjoyable trips to Switzerland and London, as well as more local ones to Holme House and the seaside. Christine Kenyon has finished her time as County Commissioner and is now a deputy chief commissioner for North East England. The District always take pride in taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

We are currently fundraising to restore our District Camp store which is desperately in need of repair, and each unit is doing a sponsored even this term. The Guiding difference:

- We offer a safe, welcoming girl-only space for girls and young women to try new things, help other people and discover their passions and talents. All while having fun with a ready-made group of friends!
- We're dedicated to girls leading the way – they choose the activities, challenges and events that inspire them, and our volunteers support them to make it happen. Because girls shape and lead everything we do, we know that we're offering the best opportunities and experiences for girls today.

As leaders there is a social side to Guiding, with a well-attended Christmas meal at the Oak and a successful Trefoil Guild unit.

Eleanor Albrecht - Great Ayton District Commissioner

2nd Great Ayton Rainbows

With the introduction of a new programme, the Rainbows have been very eager to earn some of the new badges. We started with learning all about First Aid – they had great fun wrapping each other up in bandages.



On a cold and blustery April evening, we walked up to Captain Cook's Monument so the new Rainbows could make their promise. This followed with the annual egg rolling event with the Brownies back at Gribdale.

It wouldn't be summer without a walk along to Suggitt's for an ice cream. This followed a walk around the village following the trail of Captain Cook for one of our challenges. We also had a visit to the new wildlife garden at Roseberry School.

At the Harvest Parade service, Rev Pev very kindly blessed the new Rainbow Flag.



We participated in a Future Girl Plastic – a series of annual challenges with a theme from Girlguiding. This was to raise awareness of how much plastic we use in the home. The girls all brought some plastic containers in and we lined them up around the hall. They then had to make them into the shape of a creature that is affected by plastic pollution.

Finally, at the end of term, we had a trip to Buttercups Pottery to paint a Christmas decoration before a Christmas Party and the trip to see the village pantomime Alice in wonderland.

The unit is still very busy with a long waiting list so if you are interested in putting your daughters' name down – please do ASAP – it doesn't matter if they are still only small www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Christine, Pauline, Sarah, Rebecca, Melissa & Helen
Rainbow Team

1st Great Ayton Brownies



We started the term with our Brownies Be Well theme – starting with an evening of fitness – they all really enjoyed it although was a few pink faces at the end of the night.

In March, most of the girls joined a Division Trip to a sleepover at The Deep in Hull, they slept in the aquarium. Five of the girls made their promise whilst there.

On one of the hottest weekends of the year we had a very busy pack holiday at Holme House, Esk Valley. We had a Rainbow and unicorn themed weekend with lots of activities and crafts – not to mention trying to put up a tent challenge – 3 teams to see who could do it without instruction the quickest. The end of summer trip to Saltburn beach was on a sunny evening, not very warm but didn't deter the girls from a dip in the sea.

At the start of the Autumn term, new badge challenges – this time a table full of fruit/veg. Following a discussion on endangered animals and their protection they had to choose an animal and then recreate it from the fruit/veg. A very productive and fun evening.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit to the unit from our local MP Rishi Sunak. The girls had been working on the UK Parliament Week – *It starts with You* activity. One of the suggestions was to invite your local MP to chat to the girls, we were delighted that Rishi could come along. He was inundated with all sorts of questions! He then very kindly presented Lois, Hannah & Magda with their Brownie Gold Award – the first ones from the Village.



We had a bonfire night fun and games night one of the games being getting the doughnuts off the string – not as easy as the girls thought it would be. The brownies also visited Buttercups Pottery to paint Christmas decorations and watched the pantomime.

Christine, Tracey, Lucy, Neave & Harriet

1st Great Ayton Guides



First Great Ayton Guides have had a busy year yet again. A nearly full unit of 27 girls are currently in the unit and there are 10 on the waiting list to join our unit for the rest of this school year.

We started the year getting our head around the new programme, completing some of the skill builders as well as challenge badges. We spent a

lot of the spring doing outdoor challenges, including tent version of the beetle drive, cooking on fires, walk from Stokesley and team games.

We spent most of the summer term getting ready for our upcoming trip to Switzerland. We took a group of 27 guides in the first week of the summer holidays, for some of the girls this was their first trip away from their parents, as well as, abroad. Whilst we were in Switzerland we had lots of day trips out to famous landmarks including Richenbach Falls, Ares Groge, Trummlbach Falls and shopping in Interlarken, as well as some of the girls making their promise at the Guide World Centre 'Our Chalet'.



Ashleigh Huntsman - Guide Leader

Scouting in Great Ayton

Beavers have had another fantastic year. We went to district camp in June and had an amazing time. We've been pond dipping, identifying mini-beasts, building villages from Lego, building Robots from recycled household waste, met a police officer, visited All Saints Church and raised money along with the Scouts to toilet twin the scout hut toilet! Phew we have been busy !

Over the 12 months, **Monument Cubs** has had a strong year. Once again, we started with NERF war for their Christmas treat (which they voted for, and have again for this year). We had a brilliant camp at Ravengill in June, doing wood crafts, soft archery and spending a day in Whitby. Over the year, we sent many Cubs up to Scouts and welcomed new Cubs. Several of our Cubs managed to achieve their Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest award a Cub can receive.



Scouts has had a good year thanks to the leadership team of Mark and Jayne. A number of Gold Awards (the top award for Scouts) were given out, summer camp was a damp and fun filled week in the Lake District and the group have also enjoyed many varied indoor and outdoor activities over the year.

From all leaders, **a big thank you also to the various parent helpers**, without them there wouldn't have been enough adults to run the sessions. Due to work and family commitments neither Mark nor Jayne are able to be at scouts every week so they are really in need of people to step forward to be uniformed leaders as part of a team running scouts so that it can continue. Scouting is flexible, whether you can help on a weekly basis or just once a month, your help is needed. Please contact dccprogramme@nys.org.uk if you would like to get involved. Come and enjoy the reward of sharing skills for life (and sometimes learning some new ones yourself), give young people chance to challenge themselves and grow in confidence and ability and join part of an organisation that has given huge opportunities to many over the years it has been in Great Ayton.



**Thank You to all who do so
Much throughout the year
To keep our Church alive
& reaching out to Others
In God's Name.**

The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2020 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 2019
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2019
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2019
7. The Vicar's Comments
8. Election of Deanery Synod Members
9. Election of Parochial Church Council members
10. Appointment of Independent Examiners
11. Any Questions on Church matters for consideration by the PCC