

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

Charity No. 1131499

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk



Annual Report

2024



**Diocese of
YORK**



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

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PCC as at February 2024

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

Deanery Synod Reps: Rosemary Wheway, Ken Taylor, Nick Land, John Dickinson.

PCC Members: Robin Harmar, Margaret Lewis & Peter Titchmarsh, Mary Mason, Gill Hendry, Frances Brown, Andrew Prunty, Linda King, Rodney Wildsmith, Iain Wilson.

Churchwarden's Report



2024 has been a Year of Change for Christ Church as Paul, our much-loved Vicar retired in October after 31 years of faithful service to our church and community. Many of us have only known Christ Church under his leadership. However, as we step into the unknown, it is with confidence in our God who holds the future in His hands, that He is preparing a new person to lead His Church in Great Ayton.

Paul had a great farewell service, attended by many people from the church and village, including Bishop Gordon who installed him here, and Bishop Barry, the new Bishop of Whitby. Earlier in the year, Paul had led a Gift Day in the parish, which raised over £20,000 for specific projects at Christ Church and All Saints, reflecting the affection in which the village held him. We wish him a long and happy retirement, but know he will continue to minister in local churches.

During the vacancy we are very grateful to Rev'd Jon Dean and Rev'd Geoff Jacques, who, along with our readers Margaret Lewis, Peter Titchmarsh and Nick Land, have organised and run our services. From September the 8am Sunday Service changed to being held twice a month, and sadly, the daily zoom "Prayer For the Day" stopped when Paul left. This started at the beginning of the first covid lockdown, and for over four years, was held every morning (except Sunday) at 8.45am. However, the rest of our regular services have continued as before.

Over the last few months, a group of us have prepared the Parish Profile, a document that describes our Church and wider community, and what strengths we are looking for in our new Vicar. We consulted with all the congregations in Christ Church and St Oswalds, and had over 70 responses, which formed the basis for the Profile. Please continue to pray for the new Vicar, as well as the team leading our church in the interim.

Many other people have also taken on new roles. Drew Prunty is leading the Sunday School during the 9.15am service that Karen had led for many years. Celia and Iain Wilson, along with Sue Grey are leading worship every Friday at Marwood School. Mandy Johnson has stepped up to be our verger,

ensuring the smooth running of funerals and weddings. Iain Wilson is her deputy for when she is away. A “communications group” is making sure we and any visitors are kept informed about what is happening, and writing a Spire Newsletter to circulate every couple of months. Frances Brown is now responsible for ordering candles (from tea-lights, baptism and wedding candles to the Paschal candle) for the services. John Dickinson and Ben Lambert have installed a camera at the back of church to record our services for Facebook. Robin Harmar now chairs the Standing Committee and PCC meetings. A group of people have formed a rota to unlock and lock the church each day - and turn on the heaters for services. All these were jobs that Paul did (!) and we are very grateful to everyone for their willingness to help, as well as those who have continued faithfully in their roles. The Church is a body where everyone’s gifts are important.

So we’d also like to thank those who continue to serve in whatever capacity; to Irene who organises volunteers to clean the church, to Marina and the flower guild who decorate our church so beautifully, to Celia E and the coffee team, to Audrey who looks after the church linen, to Celia W and the welcome team, to Andrew and the choir for leading our singing, to Frances and Adrian, our servers, to Elsa and the bell ringers calling us to worship, to Robin Harmar who manages the Hall, to Robin Hazell and the team of Guides at All Saints, to all who serve on the PCC - the list goes on and there’s something that everyone can help out with.

The church building and its contents remain in good order. We have checked that the church silver and other valuable items are kept securely. This year we have added a new Vicar Board that records the names of all the priests who have lead the church. Thank you to Jo Dean for her calligraphy skills and design (also used in updating the memorial book), and to Robin Harmar who arranged the framing and hung the new board. We are continuing to carry out regular maintenance and decorating to keep the buildings sound.

Helen Land

PCC Secretary Report



It has been a busy and eventful year for our PCC as we said goodbye to Paul after 31 years of faithful and dedicated service to our Church and to the people of Great Ayton. Much of the work of the PCC has been to prepare for the current period of vacancy before our next vicar is appointed, to ensure that we continue to flourish as a Church in our community.

The PCC's purpose is to promote in the parish the mission of the church. We meet as a whole group at least four times each year. The standing committee is a sub committee of the PCC which meets prior to each PCC meeting to set the agenda and deal with day-to-day and urgent matters. The PCC also has other sub committees that meet regularly for Church Building, All Saints, Eco Church and the Church Hall. In 2024 we welcomed two new members to the PCC - Celia Elliott and Margaret Lewis with Peter Titchmarsh and Gill Hendry stepping down as their terms of office were completed. Jonny Winterschladen also stepped down as a PCC member as his term as Churchwarden came to an end. We are extremely fortunate to have such talented and dedicated people on our PCC who give so much of their time and expertise. I particularly would like to mention Ken Taylor, as Treasurer, Mary Mason as Safeguarding Officer, Rosemary Wheway and Helen Land as Churchwardens and Robin Harmar as Vice Chairman whose workload has significantly increased during the vacancy period.

It has been a pleasure to work with friends from St Oswald's PCC as we seek to recruit a vicar to lead the Benefice. Representatives of both parishes, including the Churchwardens, have worked tirelessly to prepare the parish profile following a period of significant benefice-wide consultation. This has allowed a wide diversity of voices to be heard and led to a profile which reflects the heart, hopes, opportunities and challenges of our churches. Additional joint PCC meetings have taken place to finalise both the profile and the advert which are now published both online and in the Church Times. We pray for a successful process to appoint the next person to lead us all as we live Christ's Story together.

Celia Wilson

The Parish Of Great Ayton With Easby Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30 PM

In Christ Church Hall

Meeting of Parishioners

Present

Rev'd Paul Peverell, (Chair), Mr Ken Taylor, (Treasurer), Mrs Elsa Taylor, Mrs Linda King, Mrs Angela Jaques, Rev'd Geoff Jaques, Mr Peter Prunty, Mrs Audrey Prunty, Mrs Chris Robertson, Dr Helen Land, Dr Nick Land, Mrs Helen Dickinson, Mr John Dickinson, Mr Gordon Wood, Mrs Celia Elliott, Dr Vicki Nath, Mrs Rosemary Wheway, Mr Iain Wilson, Mrs Mary Mason, Mrs Betty Manton, Mrs Jean Cumbor, Mrs Frances Brown, Mrs Enid Sidgwick, , Mr Jonny Winterschladen, Mr Martin Simmons, Mrs Margaret Lewis, Mrs Celia Wilson (Secretary)

Welcome

The Vicar welcomed us all to what was his 31st and final Annual PCC Meeting and began the meeting with a prayer.

Election Of Churchwardens

Jonny has decided not to stand again as Church warden following 5 years of faithful service. Paul thanked him for his commitment and hard work and presented him with a gift.

Two nomination forms were received; one from Helen to stand again and one from Rosemary who has been the Church warden in the past for 8 years so has a wealth of experience. As Helen has served for more than 6 years continuously, it is necessary for this to be noted and for all to agree that they are happy for her to continue. This was passed unanimously. Many thanks was given to Helen for her long service in the role which is much appreciated.

Helen and Rosemary were duly elected as Church wardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies** From Mr Robin Harmar, Revd Jon Dean, Mrs Jo Dean, Mrs Gill Hendry, Mr Rodney Wildsmith, Mr Ben Lambert, Mrs Alison Lambert, Mr Peter Titchmarsh, Mrs Pauline Titchmarsh, Mr Edward Lambert, Mrs Jean Mitchell, Mrs Viv Winterschladen. All were accepted.
2. **Minutes Of Last Meeting – 15th March.** It was noted that the date should be 15th March 2023 and that Iain had been missed off the attendance list. With the above amendments the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Jonny and seconded by Helen (Dickinson)
3. **Matters Arising** No matters to be considered.
4. **Electoral Roll Report** Vicki informed us there are currently 203 people on the electoral roll. 7 had left for varying reasons. The roll will be renewed next year so everyone will need to fill in new forms then.
5. **Presentation Of Annual Report** This was proposed by Nick and Seconded by Iain. Annual Report was accepted as a correct record. The Vicar thanked everyone for their input. This year Mandy has taken on the role of co-ordinating the report so many thanks given to her for doing such a good job.
6. **Financial Report And Presentation Of Audited Accounts For Year Ended 31 December 2023.** (Circulated in Annual Report)

Ken gave a summary presentation of the accounts for the year, commenting that it had been a mixed year financially, he highlighted the following points:

- Planned Giving fell by almost £3,000 compared to last year
- Donations were helped by introduction of new card reader - over £1,000 collected since October
- Freewill Offer to Diocese again paid in full

- Charitable Giving topped £28,000
- Quinquennial Inspection carried out – no major problems- some re-pointing on Spire may be needed
- All Saints giving cause for concern (bank balance now down to £233)

Unrestricted income for the year was £127,884 with unrestricted expenditure at £133,937 – a deficit of £6,053 - Slightly better than budgeted

Ken then went through the budget for 2024 as approved by the PCC. Income is unlikely to rise significantly so held at £131,000. Expenditure has been held at £135,000 by only offering a small increase in Freewill Offer to the Diocese (to £93,000) and reducing Mission Giving to £5,000. So we will still incur a loss of £4,000 over the year which reduces our reserves to £40,517 – at the lower end of acceptable. Ken stressed that to avoid any further losses in future a concerted effort will need to be made to increase our income.

Many thanks were expressed to Helen and Robin (for preparing weekly collections for banking), John and Ynez (for their prompt handling of monthly gift aid claims) and Jean (for looking after the reducing but still important band of envelope givers)

Accounts proposed by John and seconded by Linda.

7. The Vicar's Comments

Paul talked us through his report reminding us that we are Church serving all in the community. In 2023 there were 13 baptisms, 8 weddings, 47 funerals (23 in church and 24 straight to the crematorium).

Church attendance has slightly increased from last year although children's attendances has slightly reduced. Numbers for the Easter services remained broadly the same as the previous year with good numbers for Christmas especially the schools carol service.

A number of significant events were highlighted and photographs shared including the charity auction and the King's coronation celebration in Church. Many thanks given to the flower ladies who always produce stunning displays and for all who volunteer for church cleaning.

In 2023 we said farewell to Jane as she was appointed as priest in charge at Kirkleatham.

Two special services took place in York Minster last year as Paul was made a Canon and Rosemary an authorised lay minister. Both were moving services led by Archbishop Stephen. The Remembrance display was also stunning this year.

In the Summer Paul and Karen moved from the vicarage to their new home in Nunthorpe and are looking forward to the future. He shared a photograph of the staff at Christ Church highlighting how blessed we are in our Church with so many people who do so much.

8. Election Of Parochial Church Council Members

Nominations for PCC: There are 4 vacancies on the PCC as Gill and Peter have decided not to stand again. Many thanks to them for their service.

Three nominations received: Mary Mason (to stand again), Celia Elliott and Margaret Lewis. All had been proposed and seconded and were duly elected. Geoff is seconded onto the PCC annually. All agreed to this. We now have two vacancies as Rosemary, the new Churchwarden, is already a member of the PCC.

9. Appointment Of Independent Examiners

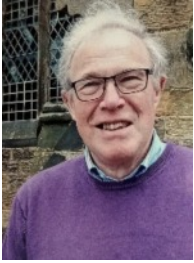
Ken proposed that we use the company, AZETS once again to act as Independent Examiners. He advised that Graham Fitzgerald has taken over from John Gresham. This was seconded by Rosemary and all agreed and AZETS duly appointed.

10. Any Questions On Church Matters For Consideration By The PCC

Jonny proposed his thanks and all our appreciation to Paul for his dedication and long service. He will be greatly missed when he retires later this year. Iain was thanked for providing the wine

The meeting closed at 8.31pm and we all said the Grace together.

Financial Report



2024 proved to be a momentous year in many ways. After 31 years as our Vicar, Paul Peverell finally retired in November. At a packed farewell service he and Karen were presented with a number of gifts and a sizeable cheque in grateful thanks for the wonderful service they had both rendered to the people of Great Ayton. Before he left, Paul organised a Gift Day round the village which was extremely successful raising over £20,000 to be split between Christ Church and All Saints. A designated fund was opened to preserve funds for the repair of the church spire, to develop an enhanced audio-visual system for streaming services and to develop a plan to encourage more families and young people to participate in church life.

Otherwise 2024 saw only a modest increase in the number of churchgoers and this had a corresponding effect on church finances with the number of regular planned givers falling from 146 to 140. Our planned giving fell from £81,853 in 2023 to £80,356 in 2024. The general level of donations remained similar to last year thanks to two legacies totalling £2,000. On a positive note, Marion Maidment again ran a very successful quiz which, added to a matching grant from a local bank, contributed £1,300 to church funds. Overall, our unrestricted income rose from £127,884 last year to £131,156 this year compared to the budget of £131,000.

The Freewill Offer to the Diocese was increased slightly to £93,000 but our mission giving from general funds was reduced to £5,000. As we entered a period of vacancy in October, clergy and vicarage operating costs, fell but increases in utility costs, insurance and staffing costs resulted in an increase in unrestricted expenditure from £133,937 to £139,194 compared to the previous year. Our energy supplier, SSE, fitted a smart meter in April but since then SSE have been unable to provide up-to-date consumption figures and invoices. The matter has now been escalated to SSE's senior management.

Overall, the Church incurred a deficit of £8,038 on unrestricted funds for the year compared to a budgeted deficit of £4,000.

We ran one major appeal during the year, at Christmas, choosing “Embrace the Middle East” as the beneficiary in recognition of the huge humanitarian need from the wars in Gaza and Lebanon. The carol service in All Saints was again “standing room only” but the other services failed to generate the level of donations we have seen in previous years. A total of £1,632 was raised which nevertheless was warmly welcomed by the charity. Also at Christmas, we ran a customary “Memory Tree” with donations in memory of loved ones being directed towards Herriot Hospice Homecare

From our general funds we made donations to six worthy Christian charities both locally and nationally. Including collections taken at weddings, funerals, baptisms and appeals a total of £23,160 was distributed to 43 different charitable causes during the year.

All Saints church again opened as normal for visitors during the year. The highlight of the year was a repeat concert by classical guitarist Jonathan Parkin which raised over £580 for church funds. The successful outcome of the Gift Day generated nearly £10,000 which will enable a number of repairs and minor restoration work to be carried out as identified in the Quinquennial Inspection.

The Church Hall had another excellent year with regular user groups and many new users contributing to a 16% increase in income to £17,001. Grants from Impetus Environmental Trust and the Jack Brunton Trust enabled the hall to install solar panels and battery storage and also to resurface the floor which was much appreciated by the sports groups using the hall. A comfortable bank balance of £3,968 was maintained at the year end.

Once again, a huge thanks to - John & Ynez Clarke, Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and the sides people for their hard work and support in ensuring that our finances are maintained in good order.

Ken Taylor
Hon Treasurer

Safeguarding Report



Safeguarding continues to be central to the life of our benefice as I approach the end of my third year as Parish Safeguarding Officer. To promote a safer church the Diocese of York now carries out a Safeguarding Audit annually which gives a focus to ensuring we are up to date with policies and training. The last audit took place in October 2024. The Parish Dashboard, which is a useful online resource, now includes a People Manager in the Safeguarding Hub. This helps ensure that DBS checks and training are completed appropriately depending on the role of each person. It provides reminders of who needs to do what. On November 17th 2024 we had excellent special services for Safeguarding Sunday at Christ Church and St Oswald's led by Jon Dean which provided a timely reminder on many aspects of safeguarding. As we are currently in vacancy, if anyone has safeguarding concerns please let me or the church wardens know.

I would like to thank everyone who supports and works hard to keep our churches safe. I personally feel very much supported as PSO and will carry on keeping Safeguarding a priority.

Mary Mason Safeguarding Officer

4

Stokesley Deanery Synod

Christ Church, together with St Oswald's Newton, is one of eight benefices in Stokesley Deanery. Our Deanery objective during the year has been to increase our ability to work together and share our opportunities and challenges. Whilst every benefice has its own character and way of doing things, we are all trying to become more like Christ, reach those we currently don't, grow churches of missionary disciples and transform our finances and structures.

We have four of our congregation on the Deanery Synod, out of a total of thirty three lay representatives; Frances Brown, Linda King, Ken Taylor and me. Ken is also the Deanery Financial Adviser and I am the Lay Dean. Nick Land, who is a member of General Synod, also attends.

All the clergy are members of the Deanery Synod. Whilst our own Rev Pev retired during the year, we are still represented by Jon Dean and Geoff Jaques. We had two meetings in the year where, as is now customary, we held carousel discussions on different topics. The topics included Messy Church (Kate Brown, Yarm) and Technology for Churches (Great Ayton).

We also heard about the new Diocesan resource 'Let's talk about food' and touched on the matter of Prayers of Love and Faith. Later on in the year the technology topic was enhanced by a presentation from Jonny Hedges, then the Digital Transformation Lead for the Diocese. He gave stories and examples of the use of technology, ranging from worship, through to back office systems, administration and communication. This attracted a lot of interest and discussion continued into the carousel session. We also heard from Revd Brenda Forrester about the way in which St Francis' Ingleby Barwick is being revitalised and is reaching out into the community. Projects such as the Friendship Café, Eco Church and Growing Shed, together with significantly increased contact with schools and young families, are all linked through the rainbow of mission – tell, teach, tend, transform and treasure, managed by the Creation Club Council. It was very inspiring to see what has been achieved in a relatively short time. The final carousel discussion was 'music for mission' and the development of a choir in Yarm by Janine Busbridge.

The intended autumn Synod was replaced by an opportunity to meet our new Bishop, Barry, in worship and conversation. It has to be said that there was less time available for discussion than many expected, but we did learn something of Bishop Barry's strong sense of vocation and purpose. Indeed, when the point was made that we would like stronger leadership from the Diocese, his response was 'be careful what you wish for!'. Expectations are high for 2025.

And finally, the Deanery Eco service was held on Sunday September 15th, hosted by St Francis'. Along with worshipping together, it was a chance to see the work that St Francis' church have been doing on their own Eco projects. A wonderful event. So, whilst we focus on Christ Church and Great Ayton, we use the Deanery as a way to see what is going on around us. As the interregnum provides challenges and opportunities, it is a blessing to know that we do not always have to reinvent the wheel.

John Dickinson

Christ Church Visitors



In 2024 we had 17 Visitors who were in contact with 25 members of the congregation in Care Homes or their own homes. Since November 2005, we have been in contact with 198 people who are mostly elderly or housebound. Sometimes we visit for a short time, for instance, following a stay in hospital until someone is able to return to church and very often long term friendships are formed to the benefit of both sides.

We continue to meet regularly with the clergy so that they can monitor our visits and we review our guidelines annually. In 2024 we updated our Safeguarding training and adopted the Lone Working Guidance from the Diocese.

Our aim is to visit anyone in the village in need – the housebound, lonely, sick and infirm – and 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 have travelled to Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Bedale, and Guisborough to stay in touch. We also visit hospitals when this is appropriate.

We support those attending the Coffee Lounge Communion. This takes place on the first Monday of the month at 2pm and we transport most of the people who would otherwise be unable to attend. These services are open to anyone who appreciates a weekday afternoon service and is followed by refreshments. Please let us know if you would like to attend. In December 2024 16 people attended the Carol Service and enjoyed mince pies afterwards.

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 if you have new neighbours who would like a Welcome Pack.

Rosemary Wheway

All Saints Church



It is no exaggeration to say that 2024 was a transformative year for All Saints. After years of mounting financial pressure fundraising was identified as the most important task and on a small scale this was achieved through the organisation of another classical guitar concert, individual contributions from guides and the sale

of the 'Granny Rhymes' booklet compiled by Wendy Appleyard, as well as placing a QR Code and more signage in the church. However the big game changer was the joint Gift Day shared with Christ Church which resulted in over £10,000 coming to All Saints. Consequently we can now carry out some of the essential remedial work identified in the 2022 Quinquennial Report such as painting of the windows and doors, restoration of the sundial, path renewal and recreation of a gravel border at the base of the north wall.

Additionally it was pleasing to see visitor numbers increase by over sixty percent on the previous year to over one thousand, the kind of level seen before the pandemic. The main reason we were able to achieve this was through having the largest and most active group of guides I had know in my ten years being Custodian, meaning that coverage of duties, especially at weekends was at a high level. As usual throughout the summer months there was regular worship in the church, including the Pentecostal Thy Kingdom Come, monthly Taize sessions, the weekly prayer group and the outdoor Eco service, culminating in the always popular and atmospheric Candlelit Carol Service when over 120 people packed into the little church.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Peverall, who retired as Vicar of Great Ayton Parish in October 2024 after over thirty years in post, for all his support of All Saints over the years. Organising the Gift Day was of course an incredible farewell gesture but for me his attachment to All Saints was exemplified when he conducted the Summer Songs of Praise for the final time and took us on a wonderful journey through the eight hundred years of All Saints history.

**Robin Hazell
Custodian**

Little Fishes



Little Fishes continues to go from strength to strength. We continue to welcome approximately 20-25 preschool children and their adults each week for songs, prayers, stories, crafts and play.



We have a fantastic team of volunteers who make Little Fishes special. To all the volunteers reading this I say thank you! You are incredible.

We have spent time this year ensuring that the children have a really good experience at Little Fishes. We have bought some new toys and some themed crafts to support the work we do.



Our Summer party was a very big hit as we hired a bouncy castle. Toddlers, parents, grandparents all bounced and danced. It was tremendous.

Another highlight was our involvement in the Christingle. 20 children and their adults attended from Little Fishes. We all came to the front and sang Our God for everyone. It was joyous and fantastic to see Little Fishes at church outside of Tuesday morning.



I have included some photos for you to see the fantastic worship and fellowship that we have at Little Fishes. For a lot of our families it is their only experience of church and we continue to ensure that it offers them space to be with God and with each other. If anyone would like to come and be part of

this please get in touch.

Rosie Lovell

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)



Since I have taken over from Enid in distributing the Notes, I hope I have kept up her enthusiasm during the past year.

There are 40 people who currently receive New Daylight Notes. These are available in large print format and as an App and daily e-mail.

A variety of different material is also available online from the Bible Reading Fellowship, including meditative readings and thoughts for Easter and Lent which I can thoroughly recommend.

We held an informal discussion/chat three times last year which gave readers a chance to get together and share thoughts and ideas on the daily readings. Always a good social and prayerful time.

I am always prepared to provide more books if anyone would like to join us.

Please contact me on 01642 722979 or angjaques@yahoo.co.uk.

Angela Jaques

Bible Study, Discussion and Prayer Groups

Several groups have met regularly, including those below. If you would like to know more get in touch with Rev Geoff.



Wednesday Afternoon Discussion Group have explored a number of different books/themes including: Pete Greig's book 'how to hear God', Psalms 1 – 50, the BRF publication 'Sharing the

Easter Story', the Signs in John's Gospel and Unleashed. The prophet Amos is next on their list.

Wednesday Evening Home Group has continued, do contact Helen Land for more information

Thursday Morning Prayer Group gathered in All Saints, often in the sunshine at 9:30 each week for about 30 minutes following a pattern of prayer originally shared with us by Archbishop Sentamu in 2015.

Thursday Evening Discussion Group have been meeting in the Great Ayton Discovery Centre at 7 o'clock. They've studied Acts and watched and discussed several episodes of the series called 'The Chosen'. The group discussed each episode, the characters and the experiences each person went through. The group are about to look at Psalms.

Pairs and Triplets if you would like to pray with a friend or neighbour and would like help in any way please contact a member of the ministry team.

[Enid Sedgwick/Angela Jaques/Geoff Jaques/Jan Thompson/Frances Brown](#)



Bell Ringers

HELP is desperately needed, if you enjoy hearing the bells ring on Sunday mornings, and for weddings and special occasions.

We only have five ringers and they currently are:-

Edward Lambert

Isobel & Hannah Brown

Tristan Cowley

Mark Theti

If you know anyone aged 10 and upwards who would like to join our team, please do get in touch with me. We have an octave of Tubular Bells which are very easy to ring, requiring only one practice to get started. Initially our ringers pull in pairs taking four ropes each. As they get older and stronger they can ring all eight bells alone, if they wish to do so. They are currently ringing once a month, the larger the team the less often they are on the rota.

There is no reward for Sunday ringing, but so long as they prove reliable and consistent, they can earn upwards of £20 each if Bride's ask for Bells at their wedding.

Campanology as a hobby is an unusual skill to put on a UCAS University entrance form, especially useful for competitive degrees such as law and medicine.

This year we have rung for 56 Services and 5 Weddings. On behalf of the whole congregation I should like to thank them particularly for getting up early on a Sunday morning to ring for us.

Elsa Taylor 07896 626016 or 01642 722400

Christ Church Choir



The past year has been eventful and busy for the choir and parish as a whole. The choir has been on duty to lead the singing of our hymns and communion settings for all of our Sunday services, aside from its annual break in August.

We have also enjoyed singing a wide range of anthems spanning several centuries, from 16th century motets to the contemporary, several of which were completely new to the choir's repertoire. These included pieces to mark notable 2024 anniversaries of composers Anton Bruckner, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and Yorkshireman Sir Edward Bairstow and we particularly enjoyed getting to grips with Bairstow's beautiful but challenging "I sat down under his shadow" at the beginning of the year.

In March we welcomed visiting singers (including young singers from St Leonard's Loftus) and guest director Richard Bendelow for an uplifting service of Choral Evensong to mark St Patrick's Day and the 100th anniversary of Stanford's death. The service, which featured music written or arranged by Stanford including the epic St Patrick's Breastplate, drew a good congregation from Great Ayton and further afield.

Singers and family members enjoyed a social lunch at the Royal Oak on Palm Sunday and we are grateful for the donation which enabled us to subsidise the cost of this. This followed an additional practice to prepare for Easter Day when we enjoyed rounding off Stanford's anniversary with his exciting setting of "Ye choirs of new Jerusalem".

We were delighted to welcome former choirmaster Ewan Murray back to Christ Church in May when he returned to treat us to a fantastic organ recital. The evening also proved to be a wonderful social occasion and fundraiser for Christ Church - thank you Ewan! Singers also paid a return

visit to Loftus on Trinity Sunday to sing a terrific Choral Evensong with St Leonard's choir and friends.

We were sorry to say farewell to our Vicar Paul at a Songs of Praise service in October, but it was a lovely opportunity join with several former choir members I

and friends to augment our number. The service was a fitting celebration of Paul and Karen's ministry, and choir and congregation lifted the roof in hymns chosen by the two of them. We have been hugely grateful to Paul for his appreciation and support of music in worship during his time at Christ Church and we wish him and Karen a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Other highlights of 2024 included our annual Remembrance Sunday, St Oswald's carol service and a super service of lessons and carols at Christ Church. As ever, we were delighted to be joined by former choir members and friends for our services over the festive period.

A huge thank you to all of our singers who give so generously of their time and talent in enhancing our worship through music, and for making choir practices on a Thursday evening so enjoyable. Special thanks to Olwen Cameron, Linda King and Viv Winterschluden for their playing during 2024. We have enjoyed hearing Olwen and Linda play the piano before and after our services, and Linda has also been active in arranging music at Taize Services held at All Saints and Christ Church. Viv was, as ever, kept busy in the run up to Christmas and played for the hugely popular Christingle and Crib services.

I am particularly grateful to Alison Lambert and Helen Dickinson for their assistance in keeping the choir library in good order and to all who contribute to the smooth running of the choir. We are also indebted to the Ministry Team, Churchwardens and parish at large for your continued encouragement and support.

Singing as part of a choir is hugely rewarding and we are actively looking to recruit new members of all ages and voice parts. If you (or somebody you know) enjoys singing and would like to join a friendly group of singers, please come and speak with any of us on a Sunday morning.

Andrew Blair

Flower Guild

2024, another year of flower arranging. Thank you to the team and also to the many volunteers who have helped in non-flower arranging roles. You are very much appreciated.



For our Easter arrangement we used white and yellow flowers. The first time we have used ranunculus and we were very pleased with the result. Many people commented on them and they did last a long time as well, which is always a bonus. There were 13 arrangements in total and 11 of them were sponsored.

Harvest festival was amalgamated with our Vicar, Paul's retirement service, which we wanted to be special so we had a collection, thanks to everyone who contributed. The arrangements were enhanced this year with bumble bees.



We had a glitch with our supplier and not all the arrangements had sunflowers as planned so at the last minute we had to substitute with yellow blooms which we actually thought complemented each other.

Christmas arrangements were red flowers with dark green foliage with a hint of purple. The church was very cold this year and the amaryllis didn't really like it. We used the gold stars on the windows and had some new fairy lights on all the arrangements, all of which were lit at the services and made the church look very welcoming, an extra job for the welcomers, thank you.



The memory tree was put up in time for Advent Sunday. It was well used, as always, with the donations going to Herriott Hospice.

As ever we would dearly love to have some more volunteers to help with the flowers. If you think you could spare a few hours throughout the year you will be most welcome.

Once again can I thank weveryone who helps in whatever capacity, it is much appreciated.

Regards,

Marina Charlton



Christ Church Annual Cleaning Report

I will start with thanking all the ladies who give up their time to come and clean the Church, you do a marvellous job and it is much appreciated. THANK YOU.

On a positive note, we have managed another year with the few volunteers we have, to keep the Church clean and tidy. Or should I say nobody has complained that it's not clean. So we will continue to clean fortnightly. However, we could still do with more volunteers, as some ladies have been cleaning on their own.

Cleaning usually takes about two hours with two people cleaning and we only ask for each person to clean twice a year. We are also aware that those ladies who clean on their own, may take longer than a couple of hours and so we are hoping to recruit more volunteers so we can pair them up with someone. The more people who we can pair up, the less time it will take.

We also need Volunteers to help clean the brasses just once a year. Currently we have two teams of ladies (approximately 3 ladies in a team) who clean the brasses just once a year and then join forces at Christmas to make sure everything is clean, bright and sparkly for all the Christmas services. The more ladies in a team, the quicker the job gets done. So if anyone enjoys cleaning brasses or just cleaning, let us know please. You will be given guidance on your first clean.

There must be people out there willing to spend an hour or two twice a year to keep our Church spic and span. Anyone wishing to help out, please contact Irene Reah. Irene's Mobile: 07969758332. Or landline: 01642 723804.

The big Annual Spring Clean for this year will be on the dates and times listed below. We do hope you will put these dates in your diary and come along and help. We especially need people who are strong and not afraid to climb up ladders to reach the cobwebs.

Irene Reah



Christ Church Annual Spring Clean

Friday 21st March - from 4.00pm

Saturday 22nd March - from 9.00am

PLEASE COME AND HELP!

Refreshments provided



Christ Church Hall



Once again the Church Hall has had a very busy year which has resulted in a lot of hard work for the team. Mandy has been a stalwart as always, managing the day to day bookings and accounts. When climbing the stairs to the Upper Room in the hall one is always greeted with Mandy's happy smiling face, thank you. Anne, sometimes aided by John keeps the premises looking immaculate, one always knows when Anne is around as the music has to be louder than the Hoover and that's loud! Thank you Anne and John. The team is completed by Phil who has undertaken a myriad of tasks over the last year despite being hampered by an irritable sometimes immovable car! We would be lost without you Phil. A huge thanks to all three of you, a great team.

At the beginning of the year we, the Hall Committee, set ourselves three projects, the installation of solar panels, the renovation of the hall floor and the renewal of the accessible door in the link passage. A fourth project was added during the year when it was decided to exchange hand towels for electric hand driers.

We were fortunate and extremely grateful to Impetus Environmental Trust in providing us with a 100% grant for the solar panel project. We would never have been able to undertake the project without their support. The renovation of the hall floor and the installation of the accessible door were both completed but only by the very generous help from the Jack Brunton Trust. The final project the installation of electric hand driers was completed in the late autumn, not everyone's cup of tea but worth doing if it results in less blockages in toilet drains!

Finally can I thank those of you that support the hall in one way or another. First those who are members of the 200 club with its monthly draw, of course new members are always welcome to join, just shout out, you never know you might get a surprise winning envelope from our organisers Karen and Julie. We

are so grateful to them both for running the club so efficiently, it really does help keep our finances in order. Second thank you to all our regular users of the hall and to all those who book the hall for their special events, without your continued support we wouldn't be able to keep the hall going.

Finally can I thank the committee for their continued help and advice over what has been another eventful year and Val for putting up with my endless visits to the hall.

Robin Harmar
Hall Manager

Middlesbrough Food Bank and Genesis Project

Food Bank

“Food Bank Sunday” continues to be on the third Sunday of each month, when food can be left at the back of church to be taken to Middlesbrough Food Bank. All these donations are very gratefully received by the Food Bank, and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

Sadly, the need for the food bank continues as food and energy prices increase with inflation. The food bank provides three days of nutritionally balanced food for people in need, and for many, this is a real lifeline.

Financial donations can also be made, either directly to the foodbank (see their website for details), or via the church.

The Genesis Project

Our relationship with the Genesis Project based at St Oswalds and St Chads in Middlesbrough continues with people from the church supporting its work. The Genesis Project seeks to “Share God's love in practical ways to meet the urgent needs of the Community”. It does this through a food co-op, clothes bank, practical support, warm space, shared meals, pastoral support, worship, work opportunities and Children's work.

Christ Church helps the project by providing Trustees, volunteers and financial support, and they were one of the charities supported by the PCC with a Christmas Donation. "Grace's Shed" continues to operate as a collection point in the village for any donations of clothing, household items or furniture.

For more information on what the project does or how you could be involved, please look at their website (genesismборо.com) or Facebook page, or speak to one of the trustees (John Dickinson, Rosemary Wheway and Helen Land).

Helen Land

Sunday Morning Coffee



We were all very pleased to welcome Bishop Barry preaching at our 9.15am Sunday service on 19 January, and he can be seen here enjoying a hot drink and chatting with us in the coffee lounge afterwards.

During the exceptionally cold weather in January the usual get-together after the service was appreciated even more, as it gave us a chance to warm our hands around our coffee mugs! Despite an early riser switching the church heating on at 7.15am it felt a little less than toasty-warm sitting in the pews!

During the period of vacancy following Paul's retirement in October, and before we welcome a new vicar, these coffee lounge gatherings have provided an invaluable opportunity to share our news with one another.

We currently have an excellent group of 10 volunteers preparing and serving tea, coffee and biscuits every Sunday (with the exception of Christmas Day). Each team of two works on a rota, once every five weeks. If you feel called to help serve in this way we'd be delighted to include you. The more volunteers we have, the less frequently we all work! Perhaps you have a friend who'd like to join you in this. Do please have a word with me if you are considering offering your service."

Celia Elliott

Silver ECO Church Award



After several years working on the 5 elements of the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, the final brick fell into place with the purchase by the Diocese of a new vicarage - a 4-bedroomed dormer bungalow with an EPC rating B which meant we were able to apply for our Silver award which we duly received in December 2024.

Our annual Bluebell Sunday services were held on May 5th and in September I was invited to give the address at the Deanery Environment Service which this year was hosted by St Francis, Ingleby Barwick.

The installation of Solar Panels for Christ Church Hall initiated and organised by Hall Manager, Robin Harmar, provided a more environmentally friendly way of generating and storing our electricity. Robin successfully applied to Impetus Environmental Trust who agreed to fund the whole cost of the project!



If you would like to join the Eco team on our journey towards Gold please get in touch with Geoff

Geoff Jaques

Cafe Church



Café Church is an opportunity for informal family friendly worship, bible teaching and discussion, coffee, cake and conversation. We meet at 4pm in the Church Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

There is lively worship at 4.30 and groups for children at 5pm – which allows their parents to listen to a short bible talk and discuss together about how it might apply to everyday life. Since the summer we have been looking at the book of Acts and what we can learn about growing as Jesus disciples and as a Christian Community.

We have been very grateful to God over the last year to see the continuing growth of 8–13-year-olds coming to Café Church. As a result of this we now have three children's groups – preschool to year 2, and discipleship groups for years 3 to 5 and year 6 and above. We have been delighted to welcome children's workers from 'Big Kids' to help with the older children's groups. Another exciting development has been the birth of 'Café Club', a youth club for year 6 and above which is immediately after Café Church and is run by Café Church parents (David, Rosie, Anna and Rachel).

People of all ages are very welcome to join us. Given the number of families with school age children, numbers fluctuate between holidays and term time, but we are growing. Last year we averaged over 30 children and adults and this year it has increased to over 40! But perhaps the greatest joy and cause for thanksgiving is not the growth in numbers but the growth in discipleship as both children and adults get to know God better and love him more. One outworking of this was that a number of Café Church families had the confidence to plan and lead the Church's Christingle and Crib services last Christmas.



A big thanks to everyone who helps with Café Church – but particularly Steve Green (and John Grummitt) who leads worship and co-ordinates the older children’s groups, and Helen Land who provides cakes and leads the younger children’s group.

For further information contact me (drnickland@aol.com) or just come along.
Nick Land

Nick Land



Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

2024 was a year for heartfelt goodbyes and warm welcomes at Marwood. The school said a fond farewell to Canon Peverell, aka Rev Pev., who has provided many services

and held events to honour his service over the last 31 years. The children held a leavers service for Rev. Peverell and presented him with a metal Marwood School garden hanging designed and made by one of our parents. He also received his very own Marwood leaver bear, cards, and wishes from the children. We were sorry to say goodbye to our spiritual leader, mentor, and good friend, Paul, not forgetting Karen, who has done so much for our school and community. We wish them a happy and long retirement.



Learning happily together and inspiring a love of learning

Marwood continues to live out its vision, encouraging an environment for friendship while engendering a lifelong love of learning. The school responds enthusiastically to the needs of its neighbours, spreading love and peace in Great Ayton and to the broader community. It continues to provide a gentle and caring environment where children between the ages of 4- and 7 years flourish both academically and in character so that they become individuals who live out Christ's story.

Marwood's reputation for providing strong Christian and academic foundations for children starting their primary school education remains high due to the arduous work of its children, staff, and leaders. The school proactively engages with the

children before they reach school age. Our reception teacher, Mrs Anderson, visits local nurseries and parent and toddler groups and leads forest schools and stay-and-play sessions in anticipation of attending Marwood. A high proportion of these preschoolers go on to join Marwood, and many Little Fishes attendees do. Getting to know these children and their families before starting school is terrific. It also makes starting school less of a worry for these children to see a friendly face on their first day.

Attainment

Class sizes remain smaller than the national average, and teaching staff are highly trained. Therefore, academic performance is above the national standard in most curriculum areas. In 2024, children made good progress above national levels for Writing and Mathematics, including those with special educational needs or disabilities. We also saw significantly higher attainment in Reading and Mathematics at greater depth. Attendance remains high. The curriculum continues to engage and excite the children, embedding our Christian values, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring the children are happy and want to be at school. At Marwood, we celebrate all our children's emerging talents as unique individuals. We believe that parents chose our school because of our 'whole child' approach and the outward-facing advocacy that we encourage in our children.



Spiritual Development and Collective Worship

In the past year, the church has continued to support the school's spiritual life. The school has celebrated several services in church, notably the harvest festival, Easter service, leavers' service, and joint Christmas carol service with Roseberry School.

Collective Worship sessions happen daily in parallel with the church calendar. Together, these events enrich the children's understanding of Christian values and provide an opportunity to congregate and engage other schools and the local community.

We are particularly grateful to Mr and Mrs Wilson for leading some of our Friday afternoon collective worship sessions, which used to be led by Reverend Peverell, pictured above with last year's Year Two children who had helped him make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

We encourage other church members who feel they can contribute to our collective worship schedule to contact us.

Thy Kingdom Come 2024

Trinity Group led an excellent service in All Saints Church as part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' event. The children presented their work on Fairtrade, food justice, and climate change at Trinity Group with Mrs Bradley. The event was well-attended by parents and members of Christchurch's congregation.

Harvest Festival

A very well-attended harvest celebration took place in Christchurch, with music and readings led by the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed distributing harvest gifts to the elderly in our community, and the parents gave generously, with a selection also donated to Middlesbrough Food Bank. The residents who received them were extremely grateful too.

Christingle

On Saturday 30th November lots of families from Marwood and beyond arrived at the church hall for an afternoon of Christingle making. This is well-established now as a tradition and the atmosphere was lovely as each table raced to make more than the next. The whole process was achieved in about 50 minutes, while Lizzi Fox and Anna Wilson decorated the altar ready for the service. Next day, the Marwood families and lots more filled the church for a service with packed pews, candlelight and a real sense that the season of Advent was beginning. Thank you to all who volunteered to run both days.

Nativity Play

At Christmas, in addition to performing for their parents, the children performed the nativity to Little Fishes. This year, a special performance of our nativity songs and carols at the Royal Oak delighted the community lunch crowd. The children of Year 2 charmed the audience with their hearty singing, and there were even calls for encores.



Action for Peace continues

We are grateful to church leaders for allowing the children at Marwood to display their decorated stones on the War Memorial at Christ Church until November. The theme is based on a song of peace: 'Let there be peace on Earth... and let it begin with me.' Archbishop

Stephen Cotterill and Canon Peverell also decorated a stone each in support of the display during his 2023 visit, and the display continues to gain numbers at our school gate. Stones were also painted by children at the Great Ayton village fair, which helped swell the display and allowed us to talk about the project to villagers and prospective parents. This initiative is ongoing, and we welcome contributions from the Christchurch congregation and the wider community.

Charity and Community Links

Marwood supported many charities in 2024, including Fairtrade, wearing bright colours for Children in Need, running a Marwood mile in the Rudolph Run for Teesside Hospice, Harvest boxes for the Foodbank, Love in a Box, and supporting the Wrap up Warm initiative in Christchurch. Three of our Year 2 children took part in Tough Mudder to raise money for Cancer Research.

Caryn Loftus (Stokesley and Villages Climate Group) visited on behalf of Yatton House to talk to the children about the help needed to plan and support the production of a children's area in their community garden. The children sketched plans which were voted upon in Trinity Group. These fed into a whole-school plan for the layout of the garden at Yatton House. We look forward to seeing the results in 2025.

PCSO Gina Lodge visited the school to speak about road safety and has offered to lead a parent session on internet safety and sessions for each class.

Trinity Group

The Trinity Group is composed of six children, two of whom are democratically nominated from each class by their peers each term. It focuses on helping others in the local and global community, understanding that small deeds delivered with great love can have a significant impact.

The children are responsible for regularly refreshing the spiritual areas in school, such as the prayer chair in the collective worship space and encouraging the children to lead in prayer and collective worship.

The group continues to work towards the Christian Aid Global Neighbours Silver Award and celebrated 30 years of Fairtrade in September by promoting Fairtrade items in school. One such task set was photographing their families buying and using Fairtrade products. They even got the PTFA on board with their mission, who hosted a Fairtrade Wine Tasting Evening.

Religious Education

Religious education is treated as a core subject, such as reading, writing, and mathematics, and is taught according to the locally agreed syllabus. The children are conversant with bible stories and understand that the teaching of the Christian faith underpins life at Marwood. RE leader, Mrs Grossett, shares her expertise to ensure the curriculum is engaging and accessible to all backgrounds. The children also encounter other faiths and can draw comparisons and similar themes from others, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism.

In their lessons, the children acted out creation stories, discussed BIG questions, and studied other faiths and festivals (Eid and Diwali). Sometimes, it is easy to forget that children are of an infant age when they ask deep questions and give such knowledgeable answers.

Natural Science and Humanities

Science lessons encourage the children to engage with the natural world, whether it is looking at minibeasts in minute detail or zooming out to discuss global climate issues. The children learn about the fragility of the earth and how they live in it impacts the lives of other species in an age-appropriate manner. The reception children were able to see chicks hatching and growing. Mrs Spensley's class observed the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, recording a day-by-day investigation of butterfly metamorphosis in the butterfly hatchery. In Year 2, the children care for stick insects and love the prize of taking them home in the holidays.

In History, children learned about the Great Fire of London, Guy Fawkes, famous women of colour, Remembrance Day, writing poetry and studying Wilfred Owen's poem, In Flander's Fields. Geography is encountered through texts such as Katie Morag and other cross-curricular topics.

Enrichment

The curriculum is supported by voluntary and many PTFA-funded enrichment activities and trips. A trip to Ryedale Folk Museum supported Year 2's study of buildings, and a trip to Butterfly World broadened Year 1's knowledge of butterfly hatching. The reception class visited Billingham Forum for a performance of Julia Donaldson's book *The Gruffalo* to support their learning and help them engage with story books.



The reception class children enjoyed making apple juice during their Forest School session. They collected apples from the orchard, pressed them, and tasted the fresh juice. Many thanks to Mr Passmore for his time and apple press.

Forest school is a popular outdoor enrichment activity for children. In it, they learn a range of skills while engaging with the natural world. Other opportunities for enrichment are provided by dress up days. Pyjama day, World Book Day and Elf Day are loved by the children!

Sport

Every year, the children participate in various activities, including several sports and clubs in our local area, encouraging long-term physical activity. Last year, we welcomed England and Middlesbrough footballer David Wheater, who supported the children with their football skills. Visits to Great Ayton Sports Clubs were part of our drive to ensure a lifelong passion for sport: football club, swimming, parachute games, cricket, Yoga, tennis and first pedal (balance bikes and first bikes). All children participate in swimming lessons at Marwood, which the PTFA kindly supports.

Marwood Sports afternoon was a lovely, fun-filled family afternoon, with children enjoying various athletic challenges. Our sports leader, Mrs Grossett's, amazing organisation of the day meant that it ran very smoothly, safely and was great fun. We especially thank Mr and Mrs Winterschladen for hosting forest schools and our sports afternoon at The Manor House.

Staff

Marwood has a highly qualified team of staff who are experts in bringing our diverse curriculum to life for the children. This year, the children have Marwood staff working collaboratively to share their talents and best practices with other schools while honing their own skills through ongoing personal career development workshops and training. The compassionate nature of Marwood staff is a key aspect of school life, ensuring that children learn in a supportive and secure environment where they are well looked after and appreciated as individuals.



In September, the reception children were invited to an in-school baby shower to celebrate the much-anticipated birth of their teacher's baby and to welcome

their new teacher, Mrs Jones. In October, Mrs Anderson started her maternity leave, and later in the month, we heard the fantastic news of the safe arrival of her second daughter, Ferne Elsie. Mrs Jones has seamlessly stepped into Mrs Anderson's role and thoroughly enjoys teaching Marwood's reception class alongside Mrs Tann. Due to Mrs Anderson's maternity leave, and as Mrs Walton is a teaching head, Mrs Grossett has been appointed interim headteacher for one day of cover when Mrs Walton is teaching.

Year one teacher, Mrs Spenceley, has been a valued member of The Maths Hub for a few years, which has had a measurable impact on attainment in Mathematics. The benefits of being part of a scheme is that it offers expertise and funding to support the slowest progress children in Reception and Year 1 and ensure every child is successful, regardless of background, needs, or abilities.

Marwood also has a capable team of highly trained and valued teaching assistants in Mrs Leng, Mrs Barnett, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Tann, and Mrs Gawthorpe. They provide care and specialist support to the children and support all areas of the curriculum, as well as extra roles in Wraparound Care, Afterschool Clubs, and other areas such as organising the annual Maypole Dancing (Thank you, Mrs Baxter!).

In the summer term, we said goodbye to four Midday Supervisors: Mrs Bainbridge, Mrs Cumbor, Miss Furlong, Miss Warnes and classroom assistant Miss Settle. With almost 60 years of service collectively, retirement and other jobs beckoned. We are so thankful for their contribution; the children will remember them fondly.



Board of Governor Changes

The governors and staff, past and present, joined Rev. Peverell at the Royal Oak to celebrate his 31 years serving on the governing body and wish him all the best for his retirement. We presented Paul with gardening vouchers along with a retirement survival kit.

This September, we also wished Paul Forster and Neil Skerry many thanks for their co-opted governor and parent-governor roles. They have made a considerable contribution to Marwood's strategic leadership.

We welcomed Claire Sheridan as caretaker Foundation Governor to the governing body in September, alongside Jenna Chester as co-opted governor and two new parent governors, Dr Vic Price and Hayley Hunter.

PTFA

The PTFA is highly active and has funded the school with a plethora of events that have enabled visits and enrichment activities throughout the year. The PTFA organised and led a wonderful Summer Celebration in the school playground, which included various games and stalls, including a second-hand uniform stand. In December, the whole school enjoyed a showing of “The Light Princess” at The Arc in Stockton, the children also enjoyed a Christmas Bedtime story event hosted by Dorothy Walton (Headteacher) and run by parent volunteers.



Children enjoyed an ice cream treat on the last day of term, thanks to our wonderful PTFA.

Thank you

Special thanks go to all those who volunteer to listen to the children read, provide help with our performances or accompany children on trips and provide space for our children to learn. The children’s education is the richer for your help.

A special thank you to Mrs Walton and Mr Grossett and families for the work they put into getting the playground ready for the new academic year. The new planters look fantastic.



We appreciate all our excellent staff and parents who work so hard to support the children’s learning, and of course, our hardworking and dedicated headteacher, Mrs Walton, our Diocesan Advisors Phillipa Smith and Katherine Humpleby, and the governors who seek to ensure that standards are maintained and that Marwood serves its children and the local community.

Vicky Bradley, David Fox, and Claire Sheridan.
Foundation Governors

World Day of Prayer



The service this year took place on Friday 1st March at St. Margaret's church in Great Ayton, with over 40 people attending. The theme was "I beg you bear with one another in love", composed by the women of Palestine, a poignant reminder of the current troubles.

Participants from all churches in the village took part in an uplifting service of readings, songs, contemplation, reflections, testimonies, and prayers. Extra prayers for peace and an end to hostilities were also included. Overall a time to be joyful and hope for the future whilst still mindful of the ongoing desperate situation in

Palestine.

A table displaying citrus fruit, an olive plant (sign of everlasting and abundant life), jasmine for making tea to soothe and bring people together, and poppies as reminders of loved ones. Also an olive wood carving of Christ and his mother, symbolising family life. During the exchange of peace bookmarks with olive leaves depicted were exchanged.

Refreshments were enjoyed afterwards, many thanks to all involved in the service, kind hospitality and providing music.

A total of £260 was collected for the work of World Day of Prayer and projects run by Christian charities at home and abroad.

Do join us next year on Friday March 7th at Christ Church at 10.30am when the women of the Cook Islands will be compiling the service which will take place on that day all over the world.

All welcome!

Angela Jaques



Taizé Evening Prayer

We held 8 services of Taizé style Evening Prayer this year.

In addition to our summer season in All Saints, we held 3 in Christ Church and by invitation one in the Friends Meeting House. Linda King organised our 7 singers and 3 musicians, musically leading herself on piano or keyboard. Each venue provided its own special atmosphere enhancing the peaceful style of Taizé.



The year began with an ecumenical service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when over 40 from the different churches gathered.

On Maundy Thursday our evening eucharist provided the setting for a particularly meaningful time of Taizé continuing our prayerful evenings during Holy Week.

The invitation to prepare and lead the ecumenical service for Pentecost at the Friends Meeting House encouraged some new participation. The music rising to new heights courtesy of the violin of Peter Gulbis.

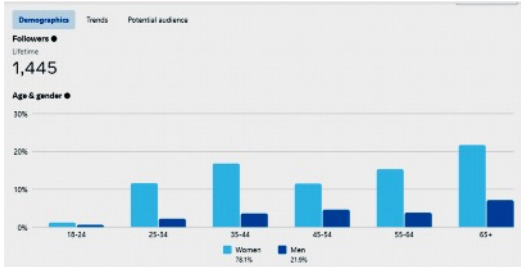
The year closed with our Advent evening at Christ Church.

Geoff Jaques

Social Media

Live streaming of Prayer for the Day started at the beginning of the pandemic and provided a welcome opportunity for many to start the day in prayer. Over the years numbers participating have dropped (not surprisingly) whilst the effort of preparing and producing remained high. With Paul's retirement decisions had to

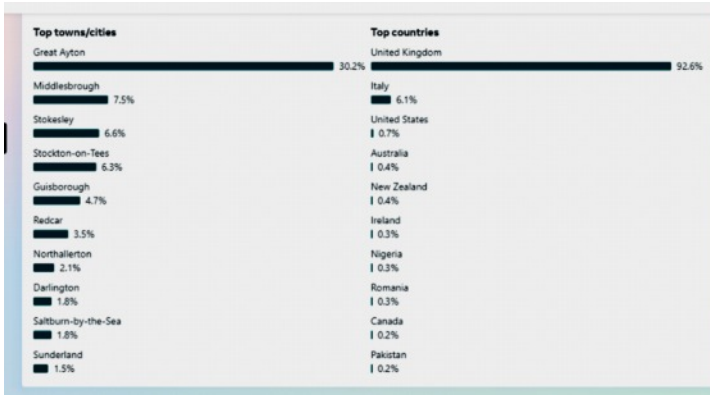
be made about what the remaining members were able to deliver. Prayer for the Day was unsustainable. We encouraged people to use the Lectio 365 app as their daily resource.



Live streaming of our 9:15 Parish Communion continues (technology permitting) thanks to the efforts of John Dickinson and Ben Lambert.

Our Facebook page is a valuable source of outreach to the general public and the Group pages which we have resource our Adults (Adult Discipleship) and Families (Little Fishes)

Gender and age distribution of our followers. Not surprisingly most of our viewers are based in Great Ayton (30%) and more widely in the UK (92%)



Geoff Jaques

Girlguiding in Great Ayton continues to thrive with all units enjoying a vast selection of craft, food, outdoor and badge related activities across their weekly meetings. Two units enjoyed a residential at Holme House, one in Knayton village hall and a sleepover in London. We were very fortunate to welcome three new volunteers into the district. We also hit 100 young members a wonderful milestone across the six units. Rainbows continue to have the biggest waiting list with the three units which meet on a Friday the largest and 2nd and 3rd Brownies would both appreciate more members. Great Ayton Trefoil Guild continues to meet once a month and enjoy plenty of food based activities and continue to be a great support to the district.

Leaders and young members from all units joined the Leven Division Thinking Day celebrations in the Church Hall learning sections of a group street dance performance. Members from all sections enjoyed a lovely sunny day at Yorkshire Wildlife Park to celebrate North Yorkshire North East county's 50th birthday. The day included a selection of promises and awards presented across all sections. The two buses from Great Ayton were the first to arrive!



As a district we were very sad to hear former Leader, District Commissioner and good friend of the District, Betty Breckon, had passed away with many members attending her funeral.

We had a brilliant year for fundraising with the fashion show and bottle stall at the village fete to help support our many trips and running cost. In the summer four volunteers were awarded a North Yorkshire North East county

Good Service award to their contributions to Girlguiding mainly in Great Ayton, congratulations Alison Lambert, Sarah Brown, Pauline Griffiths and Catherine Pearson, collectively they have almost 100 years Guiding service between them.

The year finished with a private screening of Moana 2 at Showcase cinema for 95 young members and leaders. The morning included some Brownie and Guide promises, presentation of some bronze awards and Lois received her Young Leader Qualification. The leaders also enjoyed a Christmas social in the Royal Oak.

Rebecca Storey - Great Ayton District Commissioner

2nd Great Ayton Rainbows



Another very busy year for the Rainbow Unit. The girls have enjoyed lots of activities and badges. In March Amora, Elsie Lilly & Emily all were awarded their Bronze Awards.

The Girls have attended Church Parade and are very proud to carry their flag.

On a lovely Sunny evening In May the Girls all floated the junk boats that they had made – with Lois in the water making sure they didn't get stuck or sink. Always a favourite activity from the girls.

Some of the girls joined the County Trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park – they all had an amazing but tiring day, with some of the girls making their Rainbow Promise.





We have also been out and about in the village, with walks up to Gribdale, trips to Suggitts. Great fun was had with the giant jenga.

It was a very chilly July night at the beach where Emily was presented with her Gold Award, and Pauline with a County Good Service award from one of our County Commissioners – Kirsty.



A fun night collecting autumn leaves and getting very sticky making a collage picture.

At the end of term, we had our Christmas Party and joined over a 100 girls and leaders from the village for a private screening of Moana 2 at the Showcase Cinema.

A huge thank you to the Rainbow leader team – Rebecca, Melissa, Pauline & Helen not forgetting our young helpers Lois, Lexie & Sophia

Just a snapshot of some of the great fun the girls have had this year. We do have a very long waiting list so if you would like your daughter to join – please do sign them up on the girlguiding website

Christine Kenyon, Rainbow Leader

1st Great Ayton Brownies



The Brownies have also had a very busy year working on Brownie Program earning many badges & awards.

From an evening making vegetable animals with hammers and nails (and no injuries) to Pancakes (how many toppings??), and a lego night.

Our County Commissioner Rachel popped by in February to present a Silver award to Sophia and Gold award to Abi, she was trying to visit 50 units in the 50th anniversary year of the county.



All the girls did their 1st Aid and we completed the May Day Challenge and the Olympic Challenge.



An old favourite is the junk fashion night – it's amazing what can come from bin bags and paper, complete with the catwalk.

The girls also helped to support the District Fashion show that was held in April – they all got a turn at modelling the accessories and sunglasses.



Brownies joined the trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park



In the Autumn term we had a brilliant weekend away at Holme House. It was a Halloween theme and we also had a trip into Whitby on the train for a fish & chip lunch in Trenchers and they all went home having learned how to 'wash up'.

ophie, Olivia & Emily all made their promise at the District trip to see Moana 2.



Just some of the great activities we have been up to this year with 1st Great Ayton Brownies, thanks as always go to the leaders who make it possible – Tracey, Neave & Lucy.

Christine Kenyon, Brownie Leader



It is safe to say 1st Great Ayton Guides is thriving, the unit has increased to it's largest for many years and each week is a buzz of chatter and excitement. The year started with the Girlguiding North East England's Grow Shout Share challenge badge, celebrated Chinese New Year, space themed evening, crafts and lots of games too.

The summer was jam packed, completing the Explore Stage 4 Skills Builder badge which included learning about map contours with potatoes. Geocaching while walking up Captain Cook's Monument for some promises, a penny hike around the village, archery with Ben and Edward at Roseberry Academy and a damp and cold July beach trip with a game of rounders,



sandcastle competition and litter pick and a wonderful sunny evening at Great Ayton Bowls Club learning how to play in a

round robin of challenges led by their members. The summer term also included plenty of cake celebrating the special birthdays of leaders Helen and Sarah.

We enjoyed the celebrations at Yorkshire Wildlife Park for Girlguiding North Yorkshire North East county's 50th Birthday where two bronze awards were presented.

The autumn term started with a sleepover in London at ICANDO, part of Girlguiding HQ, which included visiting the Staterooms at Buckingham

Palace, a walking tour including Covent Garden, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament and a visit to the Science Museum. Great fun was had by all and for many included new experiences too!

Sue and Rose from Great Ayton Trefoil Guild joined us for shoe box barbecues where we cooked sausages and made s'mores. Leader Jess borrowed some Resusci Anne which was a big help to do the First Aid Stage 5 skills Builder. We welcomed Jess S as a new leader to our team alongside a poppy craft, a science based rainbow challenge, a chocolate log decorating competition and an evening of yoga and tai chi.

We finished the term 10 pin bowling and joining the other units in the district at a private screening of Moana 2 both included some promises.

Rebecca, Sarah, Helen, Jess H and Jess S

Scouting in Great Ayton

2024 was another good year for Scouting in Great Ayton, seeing our numbers increase again, and allowing us to give our youth members a fun time when they are both learning and playing.

Our Beaver unit has swelled to 19 members, and under Pete's leadership has continued to go from strength to strength. They didn't get a colony holiday last year, due to leader shortages, but they still managed to do some exciting things both in the hut and out. We still need more Beaver leaders, so if you know someone who might want to give it a go, please contact the Group Lead Volunteer.

Cubs numbers have stayed high, with a pack size which is not quite full, allowing us to bring new youth members in when we get enquiries.

The Cub camp was once again held at Ravengill, and we had another cracking pack holiday with two nights under canvas. The weather was mixed but lots of activities were still undertaken and fun was had. Once again, most of the Cubs who have left in the last year have gone up to Scouts, and a good percentage have managed it with their Silver award. The Cubs leadership team is strong, with Alison, Bex, Chris and David proving to be great leaders.

The Scouts section has continued to stay strong, covering many interesting subjects in games and activities. Danielle continues to do a great job as Scout Leader, aided by Mark, David, Adam, Edward and myself.

The Scouts had a brilliant two day camp at Snowball Plantation, near York, in September. They spent the time there doing many activities and getting to enjoy themselves. It was a tad damp on the last day, but we all still thoroughly enjoyed it – even though everyone was soaked and bedraggled.

Please can we thank our leadership teams for each unit, along with the parents who come to help when we need it and our Trustee Board who keep us running financially and with a hut roof over our heads. The move to teams based leadership last year went off well, although there is still work to be done.

As well as needing more leaders for Beavers, we would also like to start a Squirrels unit (4 and 5 year olds) but we cannot do that until we have leaders in place, ideally adults with early years experience. Once again, if you know

anyone who might be able to help, please let us know.

As always, the Trustee Board always needs volunteers, we need a Group secretary and people to shadow and eventually replace the Secretary, Treasurer and Chair when they decide they want to retire.

The unit roles do not have to be onerous, we understand that people are not available for every meeting and flexibility is the key to how our teams work. Being a volunteer for Scouting is a hugely fulfilling activity, watching young people grow in skills and confidence whilst they move through the sections is a pleasure.

We look forward to another great year for Scouting, allowing us to enjoy working with the children of the village to give them skills for life and an enjoyable time getting them. With a little bit of extra help from new volunteers we can keep all our sections going strong and even add a new unit to allow us to include reception and year 1 age children in the Scouting experience.

Finally, this is the last Church Report I will write for a while. After five years in my role, I am stepping back from leading the Scout Group at Easter. I could very well be convinced to do the role again in the future, but for now I am happy to pass the reins to Danielle, who will do a fantastic job. I'm still staying as Akela and Scout team member, however I really am looking forward

to a little bit of a rest from being in charge. I'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped me in my role for the last five years, running Scouting through the pandemic was hard but worth it. And my time since then has been great, and mostly fun.

Ben Lambert - Group Scout Leader

Church Hall Accounts 2024

Bank Reconciliation:	
Bank balance as at 1 January 2024	£5,676.89
Add receipts	£17001.15
Deduct receipts not cleared	£0.00
Deduct payments	£118710.15
Bank balance at 31 December 2022	£3967.89

2023**CHURCH HALL ACCOUNTS****2024**

£		Receipts	£
2,136.11	Opening balance		5,676.89
935.00	200 Club		1,099.00
750.00	Guides Brownies Rainbows		742.50
112.50	Yoga		0.00
1,615.25	Badminton		1,666.25
1,973.50	Bradley Dancing		1,881.75
300.00	Dramatic Society		100.00
525.00	Flower Club		525.00
1,528.50	Marwood School		924.00
1,000.00	Funeral Teas		1,080.00
645.00	Scottish Dancing		742.50
1,155.00	Strictly FiTT		1,344.00
2,935.50	Sundry Rents		4,602.00
569.11	Interest/Transfers/Electricity refunds/Other refunds		0.00
34.00	NY Horizons		0.00
87.50	Spanish Class		0.00
0	Gong Bath		137.5
70.00	Marwood PTFA		81.25
0	Grants		2000
360.55	Sundries		75.40
16,732.52	Total Receipts		22,678.04
		Payments	
1,200.00	Electricity		400.00
2,185.26	Gas		2,186.24
377.98	Water Rates		859.51
4,140.63	Wages		4,485.39
1,673.62	Repairs/maintenance		8,947.46
334.14	Equipment		471.54
589.69	Telephone		515.00
40.00	Licences		0.00
50.00	Sundries		0.00
399.31	Waste Disposal		335.01
50.00	Refunds		510.00
15.00	Post/Stationery		0.00
5,676.89	Closing balance		3,967.89
16,732.52	Total Payments		22,678.04

Christ Church Charitable Giving 2024									
Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
	Christian Aid		324						
United Society (restored as USPG)								500	500
Church Mission Society								500	500
Genesis Project								1000	1000
Childrens Society			403.86						404
Embrace the Middle East	104.15		1527.74						1632
Barnabas Aid				688.5					689
The Message Trust (Respect MIE)								1000	1000
Cleveland Mountain Rescue							780		780
School Aid India							316		316
Tear Fund (East Africa Famine Relief)								1000	1000
Water Aid							88		88
RNLI							445		445
Alzheimers Research Association							296		296
Parkinsons Disease Society							775		775
Yorkshire Cancer Research						316	1126		1443
Cancer Research UK							462.24		462
Kidney Research UK							316		316
Prostate Cancer UK							775		775
Great North Air Ambulance							257		257
South Cleveland Heart Fund							873		873
South Tees Hospital Charity Neonatal Unit							38		38
South Tees Hospital Charity Dragonfly Scheme							202		202

Samaritans Northallerton & Dales				76	76				
SENSE				882.29	88.29				
Macmillan Cancer Support				402	402				
Dementia UK				333	333				
Alzheimers Society			177.83	156.35	334.18				
MS Society				313.47	313				
Maxi's Mates				244	244				
Daisy Chain		83.81			84				
Zoe's Place			635.83		636				
A Rocha				1000	1000				
Heriot Hospice Homecare		123.83		866.4	990				
Motor Neurone Disease Association			108.95	501.8	611				
NSPCC (Childline)				288	288				
Young Lives v Cancer (CLIC Sargent)			141.71		142				
Great Ayton Flower Club				203.6	204				
Remembering Ronnie			319.95	320	1511				
Middlesbrough Food Bank		1659.97		1659.97	323				
Royal Legion Poppy Appeal			486.02	156	642				
SCOPE				207	207				
York Diocesan Ordination Candidates Fund			471.9		418				
Total	104.15	1783.8	3213.79	688.5	1290.25	494.02	10585.03	5000	23159.54
								Restricted	18159.54
								Unrestricted	5000

The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7.30pm

In Christ Church Hall

Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting 20th March 2024
3. Matters Arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2024
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024
7. Election of Parochial Church Council members
8. Appointment of Independent Examiners
9. Any Questions on Church matters for consideration by the PCC