

THE PARISH OF BLACKWELL, ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL,
CHURCH GROUPS,
& RELATED ORGANISATIONS
FOR THE CHURCH YEAR
2018-19

The Parish of All Saints and Salutation Blackwell

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the twenty first annual report of the Parish of Blackwell, a parish that finally became a legal entity on All Saints' Day, 1998. The Annual Report is a collection of individual reports from the different people, committees and groups involved with this Parish Church, and they show, as in previous years, just how much goes in to the organising of worship, the extending of a pastoral and teaching ministry to the gathered congregations and wider parish, and the service of the community. This is a full expression of the ministry we are all involved in here – and you will find that the reports that are included range from those of the PCC (the Secretary's) and its committees, to those of groups and charities that we support as a parish. There are also those that give an insight into wider organisations and groupings of which this parish is a part or with which it is closely connected, such as the Deanery Synod and the Millennium Centre Trust Company. I hope that all the reports included will be read by regular worshippers and by a good number of parishioners and friends as well. I do hope that you will take the time to read all those that are here and to pray for those who are involved in all the different activities, groups and organisations.

Once again, the full report will be published on the parish website in an attempt to be wiser stewards of the world's resources and reduce the number of copies that need to be printed.

I am grateful to those people who have taken time and care to write reports and to those who have had a hand in producing this Annual Report.

David Railton, Vicar, March 2019

Vicar's Report

This is my fourth contribution to the Annual Report as Vicar of this parish – although it will be my fifth Annual Meeting, having arrived in 2015 in enough time to chair the meeting but not to contribute to the report! It will also be my last report as I prepare to leave Darlington to take up a post in the Scottish Episcopal Church. So this report takes a slightly different tone this year, acknowledging all that has gone on in the past 12 months – another busy year in both parish and deanery – but with an eye to the future as the parish enters a vacancy for the second time since becoming a parish in its own right in 1998.

As always, much of what is written below will have been said in previous years – but that does not mean that the words of gratitude and thanks are not genuine and heartfelt. It is rather an indication of the continuing dedication of so many people in the building up of the All Saints' community.

Gratitude

This report presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is an appropriate place to once again express my gratitude for the love and the support we receive as a family from the All Saints' and Salutation community. This word of thanks is particularly poignant this year as we prepare for our final service on Easter day. Both Sarah and I have been richly blessed in the friendships we have made in Darlington, and while we move on to new challenges, the people of this parish will remain on our hearts and in our prayers, and we will miss you all!

I recognise that no church is perfect, but we are richly blessed by the love and support that is in evidence at All Saints' Church. I aware that there are some who will not feel that this has been their experience, but hopefully this is the exception rather than the rule. And our welcome, hospitality and inclusivity should always be something we continue to work on as a gathered community, so that all who come to All Saints' will feel welcomed, loved, valued and supported as children of God.

The Ministry Group

As I say thank you to everyone for your support, not just over this past year, but over the past four years, there are people who I must single out. Inevitably, I cannot name everyone, but I must mention the Ministry Team – the Clergy and Readers associated with this Parish and Coniscliffe too. The Revd Sarah Jay, Associate Minister as All Saints' and the Revds. Brian Holmes, Raymond Cuthbertson and Robin Fletcher who continue to exercise their valuable ministry in the parish, even though retired. The Revd Deborah Robinson, the Associate Minister for Coniscliffe is an important member of the team, who does much good work in Coniscliffe. Both Deborah and Sarah do the majority of their ministry in their day to day employment – Deborah at St Teresa's hospice, and Sarah in the NHS – this needs to be acknowledged and kept in mind during the vacancy.

The Readers are an invaluable part of parish life, and I am extremely grateful to them: Debby Gill, Susan Leatherbarrow, Keith Whiston and Kevin Winkworth. The Readers have been a blessing to me as Vicar and to our worshipping community and are always a great source of support. Each Reader makes a distinctive and invaluable contribution to Church life, in addition to juggling many demands in their lives – and we can be grateful for their ministry. Sarah Cliff has continued her training for ordination, and will be planning for her curacy following her ordination as deacon in June 2019.

The help and support of the ministry team remains important as some of my time is taken up with Area Dean duties during the year. The Deanery continues to be busy, with vacancies, appointments, Deanery Planning, Chapter, training, confirmation services, pastoral support and much more.

As Vicar, I have oversight of the Junior Church – but the running of the children's activities on a Sunday is done by the team of volunteers who do a wonderful job keeping this ministry to children going. I continue to run the Toddler Group on a Friday morning, with healthy numbers of children and their carers on the books. I was also able to reintroduce Youth Fellowship on a one Sunday evening each month, although this will be difficult to maintain during the vacancy.

In what is a difficult climate for all churches working with young people and families and with so many pressures on young people's time, our groups will only grow and flourish if parents are committed to taking advantage of all that the church offers and by encouraging their children to flourish in a supportive Christian community. But, the need is for commitment – to regularly being at church and taking part in the various groups, activities and services on offer.

The Church Officers

I am very grateful to our four wardens for the fantastic job each has done over the last year, not least in

each chairing or being part of an important PCC committee: Nick Auty, Community Connection Committee; Dee Wastnedge, Social Committee; Sally Johnson, Buildings and Grounds Committee; and Phil Elliott-Lyall on the Green Action Group. The wardens exercise their office with diligence and enthusiasm, and we can all be grateful for the role they play. This is an important role and as a church, we are fortunate in being able to appoint a new warden each year. This gives a variety of people an opportunity to be a warden and means that no one must do it for many years, as happens in some smaller church communities. During a vacancy, the wardens role takes on a little more prominence, so please do support all of the wardens, not least by remembering them in your prayers!

I am grateful to our two treasurers for their continued excellent service to the church. Being treasurer of a Church like All Saints' is a very demanding role, which should not be taken for granted, and we are enormously blessed to have someone as accomplished as Peter Davison in this role. Peter is admirably supported by the Planned Giving Treasurer, Ellis Leatherbarrow, who has continued to work towards increasing the number of members of the planned giving scheme, and how much each member gives, and will work in the months ahead in bedding in the new Parish Giving Scheme.

As you will know, the PCC Treasurer has to work very closely with the Millennium Trust Finance Director. The Trust is a separate legal entity from the Church, but because of the integrated nature of the buildings, the accounting arrangement can sometimes be complicated and involved. It is a happy coincidence that Pam Davison (Peter's wife) is the Millennium Trust Finance Director, and I'm sure that this contributes to the good working relationship between Trust and PCC.

The last person I would like to thank in this section is Kirsten Bertram, the PCC Secretary. The past months have been a tremendously difficult time for Kirsten and her family, and she has taken the understandable decision to step back from this position at the annual meeting. I wish to extend my thanks for her support over the past three years, and to ask that you keep Kirsten, Keith and Alastair in your prayers as they come to terms with their loss.

The Parish Secretary

Nicky Waller, the Parish Secretary, makes a huge – often unseen – contribution to parish life, and is also very often the first point of contact. She has a vast knowledge of what happens and needs to happen in the ongoing life of All Saints' and Salutation, and her support and help have been invaluable to me. The Parish Office and Nicky, as parish Secretary, will continue to be an important port of call during the vacancy.

Caretaker

During the last year, Scott Marshall has continued in his role as the Millennium Centre caretaker, and I am grateful to Scott for his work in looking after the locking up and cleaning of the hall during the year. Scott is faithful and conscientious in his duties and helps greatly in keeping the premises ship shape and running well. It is also appropriate at his point, to thank all those who look after the gardens and church, and all those who clean the church. With so many people using the building throughout the week, it is vital that the grounds and building are kept looking as good as possible.

“Saying Goodbye”

During the last 12 months, we have said goodbye to several members of the church community and the wider church family who have died, and among them we remember with gratitude: Lesley Frankton, John Pursey, Judy Coates, Charles Robson, Jane Tulip, Christopher Owen, Carl Day, Phillipa Bertram, Mike Sharp and Marjorie Leatherbarrow.

Discipleship and service

I know that this is said every year, but it does bear repeating, that regular church attendance by all electoral roll members continues to be a great challenge for All Saints' and indeed all churches. It is recognised that many people lead busy and demanding lives and the church needs to provide opportunities for discipleship development in ways that are not impossible even for the busiest of souls to access. It is generally acknowledged that churches do not grow if their members are not growing in faith, taking regular worship, prayer and bible study seriously, so we need to rise to this challenge.

Commitment to regular worship is fundamental if we are serious about growing in discipleship. The Worship Committee and the Ministry Group have continued to provide a wide variety of worship styles and times to enable the largest possible number of people to participate frequently in worship. The church does need to seriously consider how we encourage discipleship amongst the younger members of the church and community, how we meet the spiritual needs of younger people, and how we encourage people of all ages in faithful regular attendance. We can be grateful to our Musical Director and Organists – Andy Young and those who deputise for him on occasion - and the choir and Music Group, for their ministry of music throughout the year. It has been encouraging to see new people in the choir this year – both from the congregation and new to the church.

Growing as a disciple involves considering one's vocation - how God is calling a person to live and what he is asking him or her to do, and we need as a church to consider how to encourage people in their sense of vocation.

Growing in discipleship also includes taking the full breadth of Christian Stewardship seriously. This inevitably includes financial support of the church. We were able to increase our parish share for 2018 to £94,000, a considerable sum that goes to help fund ministry not only in our parish, but across the diocese where this would otherwise be impossible – a part of our mission in the wider church. The principle of mutuality is essential to the spirituality and ministry of the Church of England: The Church is here for everyone because some use their God-given resources to provide it for others. Unfortunately, due to the loss of several long term givers, it will not be possible to sustain this level in 2019, but to try and address this we had a stewardship day early in the year, and launched the Parish Giving Scheme, a new method of planned giving which I encourage as many people as possible to use.

The Millennium Centre (managed through a separate trust company) and Salutation Hall continue to be an important way in which this Christian community serves the needs of the wider community in which it is set. We can be grateful to the caretaker and all the volunteers from the church who make the offering of these facilities possible. We are very grateful to Dee Wastnedge for her work as booking secretary for both halls, and to Alison Barker for her sterling work as Trust Secretary. Both the Centre and the Hall are well

used and provide invaluable service to the community. The efforts of the Building's and Ground's Committee to care for these buildings as well as the church and its grounds is appreciated hugely by the PCC.

It is important to note that service to others is offered by regular worshippers in countless ways each day through paid and voluntary work, through untold acts of charity, and through care for family and friends. Amongst many examples of this church's service are: pastoral visiting (supported by a Pastoral Assistant and a team of dedicated parish visitors); the Pre-School Group (which continues to go from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work of the staff and management committee); the Toddler Group; and the Parish Lunch. There are many charities supported through the work of individual members of the congregation, and it is important to acknowledge all that people do, and to support them, not least through our prayers. During the year, the Community Connections Committee invited several people from outside agencies to come to speak to the congregation during a Sunday morning service, and good links have been made, increasing our contact with the community outside the church.

Our care of God's Creation has been promoted more effectively in recent years by the Green Action Group. Having achieved the Bronze award as an Eco-Congregation, the Group continues to work towards achieving the silver award for the church. A part of their role includes keeping the issue of our stewardship of the created world in the forefront of church life.

The Parish Vision

To Grow God's Kingdom through All Saints' and Salutation, Blackwell.

We believe God is calling us to do this by:

Growing the Church, growing as Disciples, growing in Service to the parish and beyond.

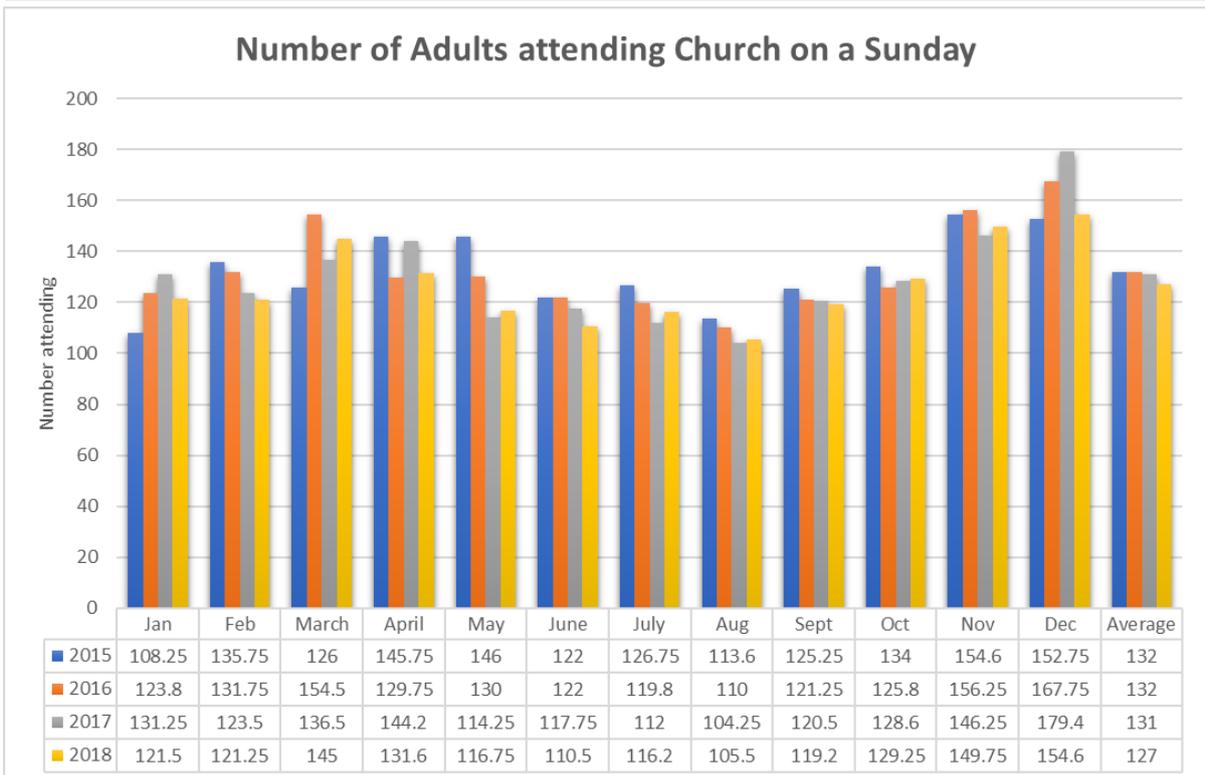
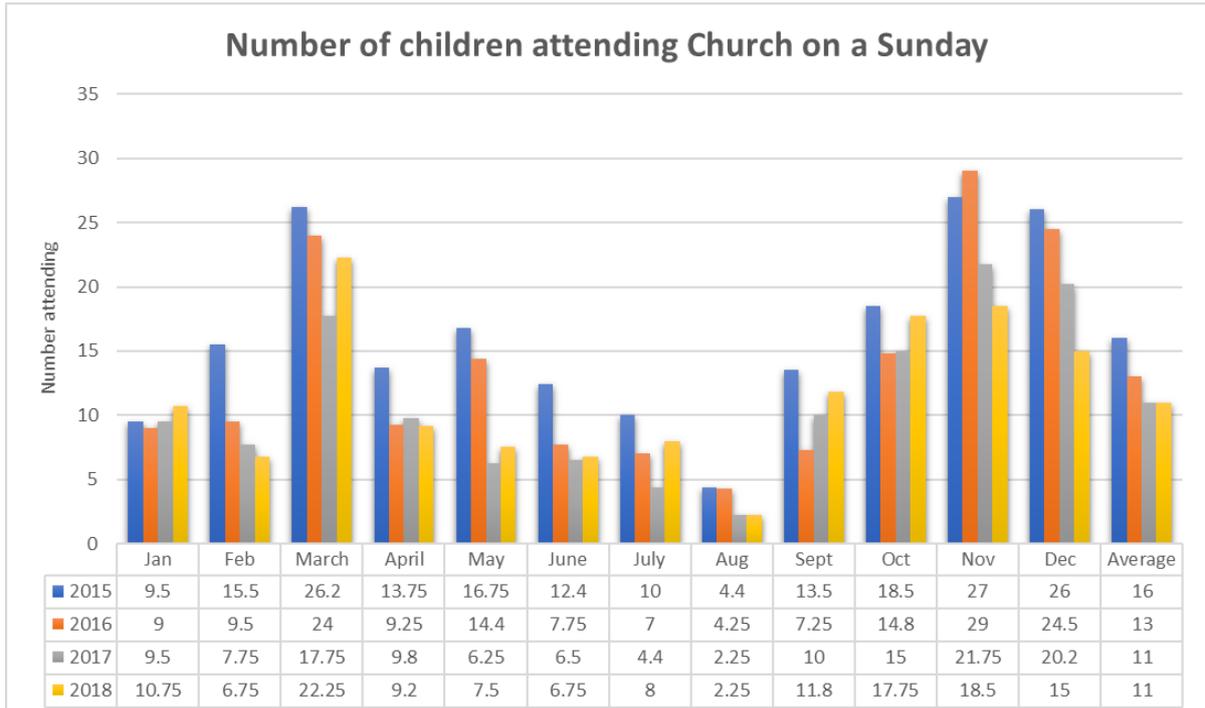
The Parish Vision was first developed in 2009, revisited in 2011 and refreshed as the Parish Profile was written in 2014. In May 2016, there was a Parish meeting to look at the Parish vision and the current situation in the church and how this informs our plan for mission in the future. From this meeting, a Mission Action Plan (MAP) was developed. As mentioned in the last annual report, I attended two weeks of training put on by the diocese called Missional Leadership for Growth (MLG) and one of the requirements of the course was that a MLG team be gathered to look at a missional project in the parish. Our project would be called 'Through the glass doors' with the aim of increasing the connection with the many people who come to use the Millennium Centre, but don't come through the doors in to the church. As a part of this project, digital signage was introduced in the foyer, providing an up to date and attractive way to let people know what is going on at All Saints' and to pass on information about the Christian faith.

During the course of this project, the opportunity arose for the parish to get involved in the Partnership for Missional Church project, which is a natural progression of the 'Through the glass doors' initiative. Partnership for Missional Church is a three-year process that engages congregations in practices that help them discern what God is up to in their place, to discover what is referred to as God's preferred and promised future for the parish. Bishop Paul writes: "It's a wonderful journey that helps churches discover a sense of purpose, discern the call of God, and engage in joyful, hopeful mission in their local communities."

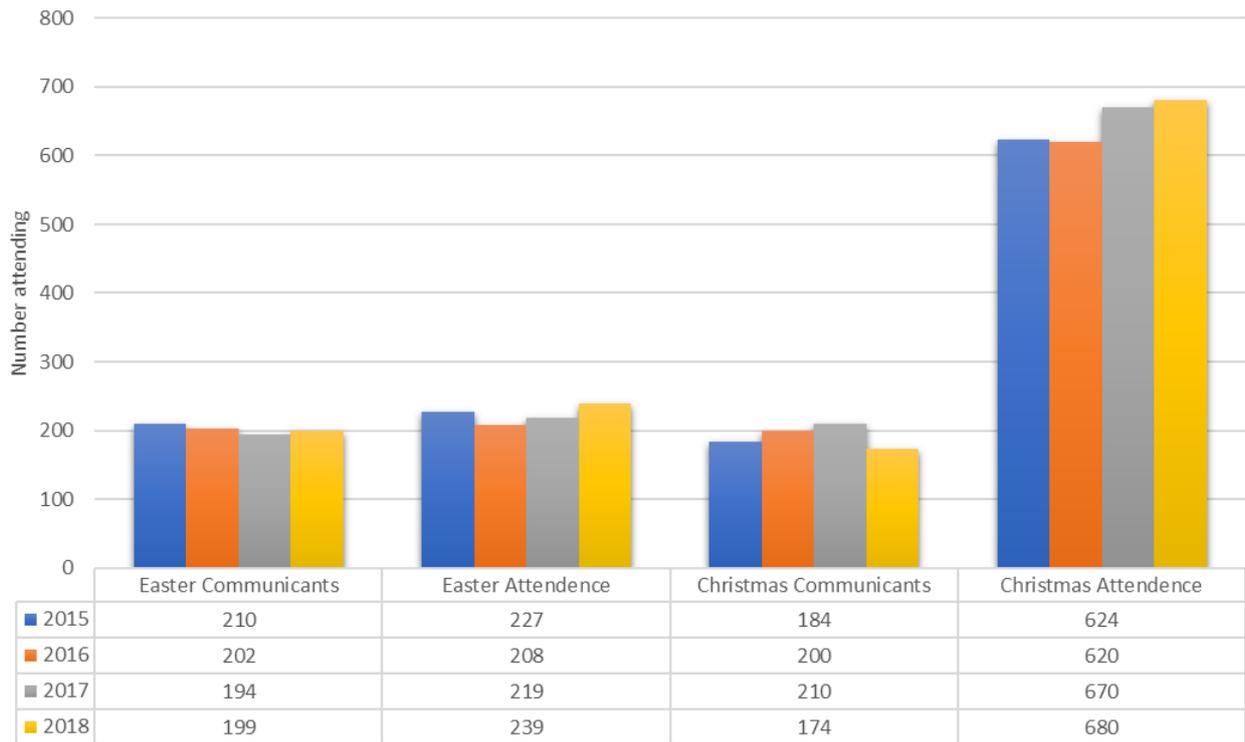
A steering team – a group of lay people from the parish – have been selected to lead the congregations through this process, and they will meet with other churches in the diocese in March, beginning the first year of “listening”. This will be a major part of church life over the next three years.

Parish Numbers

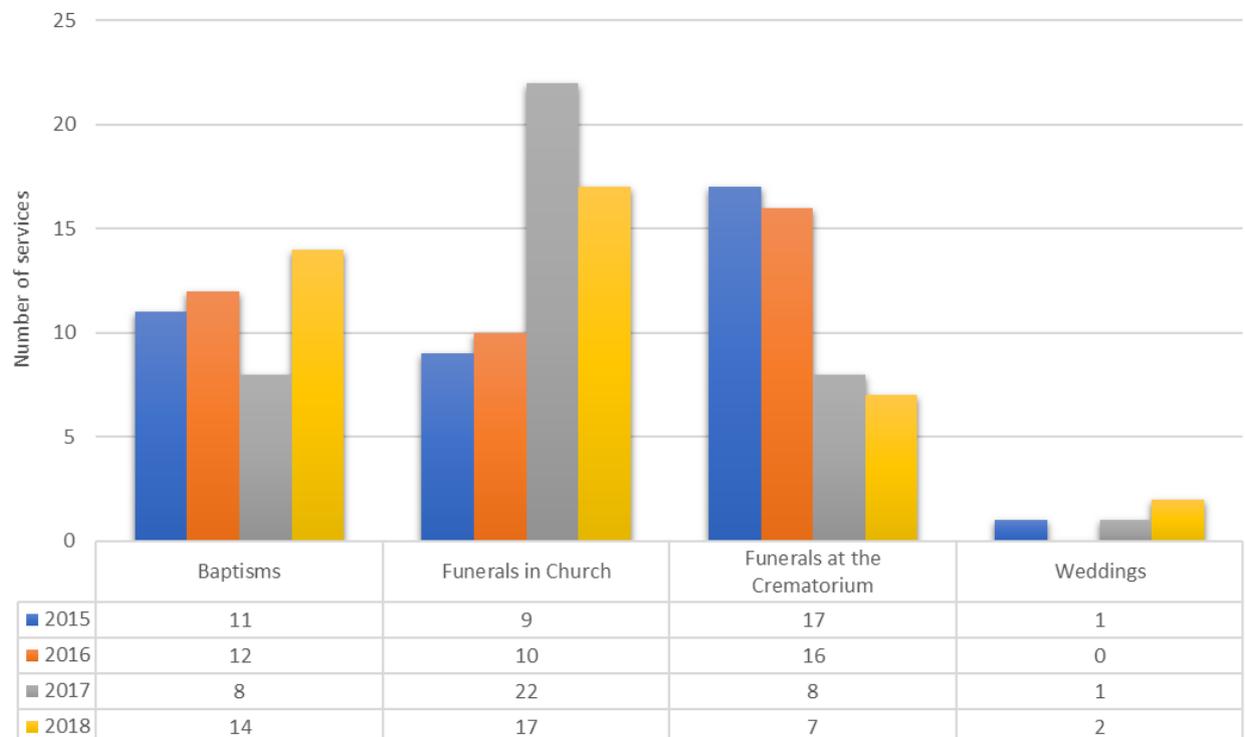
Following the introduction of this information last year, I am once again including the numbers of people attending church during the year, as well as numbers for the occasional offices. I have gathered the data over the last four years and present it to you for your consideration below.



Christmas and Easter numbers



Occasional Offices



Into the future

This brief review of the past year should provide encouragement and many reasons for thanking God. While we are richly blessed in our buildings, our worship, and most of all in the many remarkable people associated with the Parish Church, there are also no shortages of opportunity and challenge, and the only

way we will continue to develop and grow as Christians and as a church, is through working together, recognising and developing the gifts and talents of each person, and empowering all as we seek to grow God's kingdom.

A vacancy needn't be a time for mission and ministry to stand still – indeed it should be a time of coming together, of working together, of celebrating and using the gifts that every person has been given to further God's kingdom. The Partnership for Missional Church process will help in this. Do support the Steering Team, do get involved and take part. This is your church and each person has an important role in building up the body of Christ in Blackwell.

As a parish, there is much to celebrate, much for which to give thanks – and while we have looked back on the past year in this report, we mustn't dwell in the past, but must move on into the future. As you move forward, be confident of God's presence with you, and in this confidence, strive always to be the people God is calling you to be as you continue to work to grow God's kingdom in this place.

David Railton

Vicar

The Church Wardens Report

As it is now my turn to write the churchwarden's report it can only mean one thing. My time as churchwarden is drawing to a close. It has been an eventful but enjoyable six years greatly helped by the support and guidance I have received initially from John then David and also my fellow wardens.

When I was first asked to become a warden I must admit my knowledge of the many facets of church life was limited. As a regular member of the 8.30am congregation on a Sunday even the role of the warden at 10.30am Parish Communion was a mystery. However over the ensuing months I began to come more familiar with the workings of the church and my role within it. I soon began to realise how much work is carried out quietly and efficiently behind the scene by many people. We are fortunate at All Saints to have a large number of parishioners who give freely of their time to ensure the smooth running of the Parish. To them all I would like to say a big thank you.

Towards the end of my first year as pro warden we became aware that we would soon be entering a period of interregnum. I like many people was concerned at the thought of an impending vacancy. There were many questions and concerns. How would we be able to maintain all services and activities? Would church attendance fall? Would we be able to function without a vicar? As we know the interregnum passed smoothly. Everything did not fall apart. Church attendance held up well with all services taking place as people continued to come together to worship. This was possible as everybody rallied round and played whatever part they were asked to.

We will shortly be facing another interregnum. I believe we should look forward with optimism. We have the benefit of knowledge gained four years ago and with everybody willing to work together with a strong sense of fellowship and faith the period of vacancy should be safely negotiated.

Finally, I would like to wish David and Sarah every joy and happiness as they embark on their new life and ministry in Scotland. They have both, during their time in Darlington, enriched our lives. I am very sorry to see them leave but as it is God's will they move it is important they follow their calling. Our loss is Dunoon and Rothsay's gain.

Sally Johnson: Churchwarden

Secretaries Report

The PCC have met 6 times this year under the chairmanship of the vicar. There has been a good attendance and the meetings usually last around one and a half hours, beginning with 'Dwelling in the Word', where a bible passage is discussed. The report can be downloaded from the website using the following link <http://www.allsaintschurch-blackwell.org.uk/pewsheets.php>. As I am stepping down from being PCC Secretary, I would like to thank all of its members for being patient with me, and to Dee for taking minutes in my absence

Kirsten Bertram, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

In accordance with Church Representation Rules, a full revision of the Roll has been carried out. Everyone on the 2018 Electoral Roll received a copy of the application form and the returns collated. Those people who initially did not return their forms were followed up by e-mail and telephone. The total number of people on the new Roll is 189, a considerable drop since the last full revision in 2013, but it is believed that this new figure accurately reflects church attendance and people actively involved with All Saints' and Salutation Church.

Over 50% of the people on the Roll reside within the Parish boundary and about 90% live inside the DL3 postal district.

Year		Number on Roll
2007	Full Revision	310
2013	Full Revision	310
2019	Full Revision	189

David V Smith, Electoral Roll Officer

Parish Office

The Parish Office is staffed every weekday morning from 9.30am until 12noon (by voluntary helper Norah Kell on Tuesdays) and is the focus of parish administration. There is no doubt that it could do with twice the space and probably twice the staff! As we have said before, it seems to get busier by the year. The Parish Office continues to be an oasis of calm and tranquillity at the centre of our common life – if only!

Keeping the Parish's administration and channels of communication on track results in a busy centre of activity becoming ever more critical. This is especially so when there are times leading up to major festivals. The office not only serves this parish of course, but also the Parish of Coniscliffe.

I am pleased to report that the staff, both paid and voluntary, remain cheerful in the face of a challenging work-load! My thanks go to Mary Henry for her tireless work photocopying the weekly pewsheets etc. and to Norah Kell and Janice Shepherd. Also, Emma de la Motte who mans the office in my absence!

Nicky Waller, Parish Secretary

2. WORSHIP AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Confirmation Candidates

The 2018 Darlington Deanery Confirmation Service took place at St Andrew's Haughton on 26th June and conducted by the Bishop of Durham. While I took responsibility for organising the service as Area Dean, I am grateful to the people from St Andrew's for a wonderful service and refreshments afterwards. I was delighted to be able to present Katherine Wilson-Downs, John Cheadle, Sophie Malsbury, Jennifer Etherington and Blake Etherington for confirmation, and to welcome them for their first communion at All Saints' the following Sunday. We continue to pray for their grow in faith.

David Railton, Vicar

Worship & Education Committee

The Committee will have met on four occasions by the time of the APCM. It has been a busy year as usual, and some of the matters discussed were as follows:

- **Saturday morning monthly Prayer Hour in Church.** This continues to run and is usually held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9.00 – 10.00am. The first half-hour is in the form of a meditation or reflection, and the second half is for intercessory prayer for the parish, the wider Church and other needs. All are welcome to attend.
- **Prayer Labyrinth.** The possibility of creating a labyrinth was discussed and taken to the PCC for consideration. It was agreed to look into this further, and the Vicar was to speak with the Green Action Group (GAG).
- **Polam School.** Strong links with the school are being built up; there is a good representation of people from All Saints' on the Board of Governors, the Vicar has been into school to take assemblies, and fifty Year 2 children have been to church for a visit, which was much enjoyed. Year 1 children are hoping to come and "do" a wedding. The "Open the Book" team has also been into school, and has been invited back, as their efforts were greatly appreciated.

- **Links with Elm Ridge Methodist Church.** The Advent Service of Light and Nine Lessons and Carols saw our choirs combined, as in previous years; and in addition, they were joined by other singers and instrumentalists. These services were considered to be of exceptional quality, with a lot of feedback from those who attended. It is hoped that such links will continue, whenever this is possible. There was a pulpit swap during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with Rev. Brian Holmes preaching at Elm Ridge one Sunday, and Rev. Bill Mulally preaching at All Saints’.
- **Planning of church services.** These were discussed at the Worship Committee, providing for our regular Sunday morning services as well as for a variety of evening services which have included Choral Evensong, Praise or Contemplative services, Taizé services and BCP Evening Prayer.
- **Wednesday morning Holy Communion Services** are very well attended. For some members of the congregation who used to attend at 8.30am on a Sunday, Wednesday has *become* their “Sunday”, and with the coffee afterwards, this occasion hopefully provides both the opportunity for worship, and for time to relax and have a chat.
- **The Nativity Presentation** was done in a different way for Christmas 2018, not because there was only a small number of children available at the time, but because of the shortage of Junior Church leaders available to rehearse them in the run-up to Christmas. Instead, the Nativity story was told at a Crib Service and both children and adults were encouraged to dress up as one of the characters, and they joined in at the appropriate moment, to create a tableau.
- **Remembrance Sunday** was also the Centenary of the Armistice, falling as it did on 11th November 2018. Because of the importance of the date, the Vicar suggested that the Faith Lunch be held after this Parade Service instead of after All Saints’ Patronal Festival, and uniformed organisations and families were encouraged to attend and join in with the meal after the service. A new display of poppies was provided, thanks to the work of the Knitting and Crafts Group and other members of the congregation. The font was draped with the main display, and there were also knitted poppies on the window sills, along with purple poppies which represented the eight million horses and other animals which were killed during the First World War. The service itself included special visual displays and music and told of the first and last soldiers who died in the conflict.
- **Harvest, All Saints’ Patronal Festival and All Souls’ Commemoration** went well, and were appreciated by those who came.
- **Christingle Services.** Both the 4.00pm and 6.00pm services were well-attended, so much so that the chairs that were put away in anticipation of lower numbers coming to the second service had to be brought out again, as more and more people arrived. Over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, over **700** people came to church.
- **Lent.** There were morning and evening Eucharistic services on Ash Wednesday, and the Imposition of Ashes at the 7.30pm service. **Wednesday morning Holy Communion services** would be held using the BCP.
- **Lent Groups.** There had been discussion about using the BBC’s series, *Broken*, as a discussion point for the Lent Groups for 2019, but Bishop Paul has asked the churches to use the specially written

Waymark material. It is about **“God’s blessing – in our lives, the life of the Church and in our local communities”**. The course is described as **“an important part of our Diocesan journey leading to the Waymark Conference”** which is to be held in Newton Aycliffe in October 2019. Bishop Paul writes, **“The Waymark journey ... is designed to observe and listen to what God has been doing amongst us; what we have learned; and then to understand where God is leading us next on this journey.”**

- **Holy Week.** There will be the opportunity to take Holy Communion on each day in Holy Week. On Monday and Tuesday there will be a Eucharist at 7.00pm; on Wednesday at 10.00am as usual (and Compline after the Passover Meal); on Maundy Thursday there is the usual Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm; on Good Friday, Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at 9.00am, and on Saturday, as part of the Easter Vigil, the First Eucharist of Easter. This Easter Day’s 10.30am service will be the Vicar’s last service at All Saints’.
- **Children’s Holy Week Events.** There will not be the children’s activities during the week in the approach to Good Friday, even though the way the school holidays fall this year would technically make it possible. This is again because there will not be the leaders and helpers available to rehearse the children. However, there will be Easter activities happening at Junior Church on the Sundays beforehand. The Family Service at 10.30am on Good Friday may be done in the same way as the Crib Service at Christmas.
- **Sarah Cliff’s ordination as deacon.** This will take place on Sunday 30th June, and it is to be hoped that many of the congregation will go to Durham Cathedral to support her.
- **The availability of gluten-free wafers for Holy Communion.** We need to make it known to visitors as well as to members of our regular congregation who require these, that they are available. Discussion is on-going as to how to advertise this better, and make it happen.
- **Music.** We are very fortunate to have at least two budding organists in the congregation at the moment, James Bennett-McNulty and Caroline Howarth. Andy Young is working on strategies to encourage these two young people, and it is to be hoped that the congregation will show their encouragement and appreciation of their talents also.
- **Vacancy.** After the announcement of the Vicar’s departure from All Saints’ at Easter, in order to assist in the work of the Worship and Education Committee, the Ministry Team will be meeting regularly to organise the staffing of the service rotas. It was agreed that this task should very much be understood to be teamwork, so that pressure is not put upon any one person, whether lay or ordained, to carry a huge burden of work, until a new vicar is appointed. During the vacancy the Archdeacon will be coming to All Saints’ once a month, and he will also be our guest preacher for the Patronal Festival in November. The Worship Committee will also be meeting regularly, to ensure that all necessary matters relating to services, music, opportunities for learning, and other relevant issues are discussed and reported on to the PCC.

Debby Gill, Secretary to the Worship and Education Committee

Parish Readers

It has been another busy year for us all, with plenty going on as usual. Here is a general picture of some of the different ways in which we all continue to be involved, both within the work of the parish and beyond.

- Supporting the Vicar and the rest of the Ministry Team in their work
- Regular preaching duties both at All Saints' and at St Edwin's
- Pastoral oversight and responsibilities
- Leading Lent Groups
- Involvement with the Music Group and developing evening services
- Participating in Continuing Ministerial Development
- Being part of the Missional Leadership for Growth Team for All Saints'
- Working as Secretary to the Worship and Education Committee
- Co-ordinating the Men's Group
- Participating on different Committees at All Saints' including the PCC

It is a great privilege to be licensed as a Reader, and no two Parish Readers have the same duties, except for following our calling to serve God; this we do, in the parish, in our places of work, at home, and everywhere we find ourselves. We are blessed to work as members of a great team of people, and would recommend to anyone that, if they feel they may be sensing a vocational call, whether to lay or ordained ministry, please don't let that call go unheeded – explore it. Step out in faith, be encouraged, and speak to a member of the Ministry Team. Following one's calling may not necessarily be an easy option, but it is, without doubt, enriching, stimulating, fulfilling – and definitely not dull! And please, do not think that, because you see the four of us Readers doing the different things that we do at All Saints', that there is no room for *more* people to play their part in this ministry or in any other. Be prepared to explore your calling, with someone who can help you. And keep praying.

The coming year is going to be even busier than usual as we enter into vacancy, with David's departure to Scotland. We wish David and Sarah every blessing as they move, and pray for them in their new parishes, and for ours here, at All Saints' and Coniscliffe.

Debby Gill, Susan Leatherbarrow, Kevin Winkworth, Keith Whiston

Verger's Report

The team of Verger's at All Saints and Salutation Church work tirelessly throughout the year, preparing the Church for its many services.

The Church always runs smoothly and effectively no matter what. The Vergers I would like to thank are Alan Waller, Philip Elliott-Lyall, Anne & Brian Tyreman and Gillian Bower. Gillian looks after the linen (which at times seems never ending) and also the frontals with the help of Philip and Alan.

I must also sincerely thank the Vergers who attend and carry out a first-class job at the weekly 6.30pm services. They are Alan Waller, Philip Elliot-Lyall and Gillian Bower.

The services that are carried out at All Saints and Salutation Hall in addition to the set of services are funerals, weddings and baptisms, which are all ably carried out by the Vergers.

On a personal note it would be nicer to host more weddings and baptism services than funeral services, but whatever is required from us, you can be assured that we will rise to the challenge.

God Bless you all.

Mike Fryer, Head Verger

Safeguarding Report

I am pleased to report, that I have nothing to report from a safeguarding point of view.

It is comforting to know that at All Saints & Salutation Church, the people who are responsible for the welfare of the children take the matter very seriously and responsibly.

Training is available through the Diocese, but everyone is aware of this and have acted upon it. A great number of people have had the appropriate training and are therefore up to speed and know what to look out for, and to take the necessary action if it is required.

Mike Fryer, Safeguarding Officer

Readers and Sidespeople

I have taken over the rota for Readers and Sidespeople from Mike Frankton. There are almost 60 parishioners regularly involved, some just readers or sidespeople, some are on both rota's.

We are always pleased when someone new wants to become involved in this important part of our worship. Please, let me know if you would like to be included in the next six monthly rota.

Nicky Waller

Church Choir

It has been another busy year for the choir, with all the usual Christmas and Easter services. I would like to thank all the choristers and musicians for their hard work once more. We are very lucky to have people available and willing to enhance our worship and lead our singing in this way. I would also like to thank the church as a whole for their support and encouragement of and for their musicians. We really can feel proud of them all.

We had around 30 singers in the choir at Christmas, a number that I think I can sustain next year, and I have been pleased to see an increase in the number of singers that we have singing for the weekly services. However, we do need more people willing to give it a go. There is no need to commit to every week,

although I certainly wouldn't object to that! I am trying to vary the music that we sing to make it accessible to more singers, especially new choristers of any age.

This year, we have also seen 2 new organists starting to play during services – James and Caroline. I am hoping that their confidence will continue to grow, but I am also looking for volunteers to play occasionally, as it is very hard to find people free on a Sunday and daft enough to be willing to play.

We took the Music Group with us to St. Edwin's for harvest, sharing some joyful sounds with them, and were lucky enough to enjoy strings and brass at Christmas again. I would like to look at new ways to include a wide range of musicians this year to augment and support the worship in church as well as encourage new people in to experience our lovely services. One addition this year will be a service at 6:30 on Sunday 9th June where we will be following a journey from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost, using music to explore the emotions and messages of the story.

Finally, I would like to thank David and Sarah for all they have done for the church and for me, and to wish them all the best in the future.

Andrew Young, Director of Music

All Saints' Music Group

The Music Group continues regularly to lead 6.30pm Services. They usually take place on a monthly basis with a break for summer. We aim to provide an informal, uplifting, joyful Service. We sing both traditional and contemporary songs. Practices are arranged in accordance with the availability of the group. Fellowship plays an important role in the group. If you wish to join us, phone Dorothy on 01325 720205.

Dorothy Puchala

Flower Arrangers

Thank you everyone who has supported the flower arrangers over the past year with memorial and flower collection box donations. Thank you to the P.C.C. who paid for the flowers for Easter Harvest and Christmas. Without their help we would have ended in the red this year.

We have had some firsts this year, in June we were asked to take part in Darlington Market Hall flower festival. Deborah Field and I arranged a large pedestal of Summer Garden flowers. In December we held a Christmas Wreath making course in Salutation Hall. Unfortunately we only had ten people sign up for this, which was disappointing, but it was really enjoyed by those ladies and one gentleman who did attend. They have asked if we will arrange another course this year we shall see.

In March Debbie Archer Deborah Field and I did a full wedding package for Lucy Elliott Lyle. Church flowers, bouquets button holes and corsages. Thank you to Debbie for buying the flowers designing the arrangements for Lucy and guiding Deborah and I as we arranged them. The arrangements looked stunning. We have another wedding to arrange flowers for in July. What else will we be asked to do this year, we shall have to wait and see?

Lona Martin

3. Stewardship: Finances & Grounds Reports

PCC Treasurers Report

I am pleased to report that we had a reasonable result in 2018 albeit not as good as that in 2017.

Details of the results are shown in the extracts from the Annual Report and Financial Statements included under 'Abridged Accounts' later in this document.

The Statement of Financial Activities indicates that there was an overall surplus for the year, with income exceeding expenditure by £12,399. This compares to the surplus of £17,154 in 2017, a reduction of £4,755.

Total unrestricted income increased from £208,259 in 2017 to £210,259 in 2018

Nevertheless, unrestricted planned giving of £67,040, together with the associated tax recoverable of £18,156, represents a disappointing decrease of over 9% on the amounts received in the previous year (£73,553 and £20,574 respectively). In fact over the past two years this amount received has reduced by almost 15%. A number of givers either died or moved away during the year but, because of our small stewardship campaign recently, we are hopeful that this trend in the reduction of planned giving will not continue in 2019.

Unrestricted costs increased in the year from £191,317 in 2017 to £198,177 in 2018 primarily as a result of our parish share payment to the Diocese, which increased by £4,000 to £94,000. Despite this increase I am very pleased to announce that, once again, we paid this amount in full as we always have done, a very commendable achievement for our parish.

Full details of our income and expenditure during the year are provided in the extracts.

Fundraising during the year was, once again, excellent with a total raised of £14,164 (2017: £15,653). This includes £3,252 from the Garden Party and £4,683 from the Christmas Fair.

We are also very fortunate to have many groups within our church which, as well as providing social activities, also raise funds for the church. These include Tea and Coffee (£1,021); Social Committee (£1,717); 100 Club (£1,133) and Bell Ringers who raised £1,515 during the year enabling them to make a donation of £1,550 to the 700 Club.

Our Pre-School has had a very successful year producing a surplus of £14,945 (2017: £4,860), an increase of over £10,000. This is a wonderful result for the Pre-School and all those involved should be congratulated. It is worth noting that without this surplus our overall surplus of £12,399 would, in fact, have been a deficit of £2,546.

The surplus for the year has resulted in our total net assets at the end of the year increasing to £100,700 (2017: £88,301) of which £96,655 are unrestricted funds and £4,045 are restricted.

As I indicated above our planned giving has substantially reduced over the past two years. Consequently, although the Diocese requested parishes to consider increasing their pledges by 5% for 2019 we decided

that we had to reduce our payment this year from £94,000 to £85,000. Even with this reduction our budget for 2019 is still only showing a breakeven position such is the reduction in our parish giving. Therefore, as always, it is vital that we remain diligent in our control of costs and make every effort to continue to increase income.

Finally, I would like to thank David and the Finance Committee for all the continuing support and encouragement I receive.

Peter Davison, Treasurer

Abridged Accounts – please see the Appendices on pages: 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39

Planned Giving

Although this year's accounts show a reduction of some five thousand pounds in Planned Giving, I am pleased to report that this is due to the loss of parishioners who have moved or passed away, rather than any reduction in giving by members of the scheme.

However, our total of Planned Givers – either by standing order, the weekly green envelope, or the new Parish Giving Scheme – has now dropped from 120 to 110 over the last year, so your continued generosity is essential to enable us to maintain the fabric of the Church, our mission in the Parish, and to continue to maintain our essential contribution by means of our Parish Share to continue the work of the wider Diocese.

The new direct debit based giving scheme – the Parish Giving Scheme, which David launched at the Sunday Services on 3rd March – which will make administration much simpler, and in time supersede the present standing order based scheme - will hopefully encourage our existing givers to consider prayerfully their financial commitment to the Church, and encourage new givers to make a regular commitment that will help to drive our Church forward over the coming year.

We are very conscious that giving should not just be about a financial commitment, but it is an intimate part of what you feel you can commit to our Church, your spiritual development and growth within it, and the Church at large. Please give what you feel you are able to – both financially, and with your time and talents - to further our efforts to Grow the Kingdom in this Parish and beyond.

Ellis Leatherbarrow, Planned Giving Treasurer

Buildings and Grounds Committee

As this is my final year as chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee I would like to start by saying a big thank you to the small band of hard working volunteers who carry out the day to day repairs and maintenance of the buildings, grounds and gardens.

Although we are fortunate to have a new and modern church hardly a week passes when there is not something that requires repair or attention in the church, Millennium Centre or grounds - blocked sinks or drains, leaking taps and gutters, damaged doors and cupboards, broken fences and flower beds that need planting and maintaining. These tasks and many others are undertaken by this small group and to all I offer my gratitude but especially I would like mention David Curran, Phil Elliott-Lyall and Alan Moore for all their support during my tenure. Most of their work probably goes unnoticed but without their efforts it would not be possible for the buildings and grounds to be maintained to the standard we have all come to expect.

During the year a number of works have been completed including the repair and refurbishment of the kitchen (following water damage), professional repolishing of the Millennium Hall floor, redecorating of the Garden Rooms and the replacement of light bulbs in the foyer ceiling.

In January a new stained-glass window was installed in the church nave. This window of modern design is in memory of Alan Rhodes.

Each week the church is cleaned in preparation for Sunday worship by the dedicated volunteers on the church cleaning rota and to them all I extend my thanks.

As I have mentioned earlier this is my last year as chair of the committee and as I reflect on the last six years I will look back positively on what has been an enjoyable experience, although I must admit initially it was a steep learning curve.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee over the last six years for their support and invaluable advice.

Sally Johnson, Churchwarden, Chair Buildings and Ground Committee

Salutation Hall

Salutation Hall has continued to be used in the year by its regular groups and for parties.

Rental income in the year was £4,198 (2017: £2,703), which against costs of £2,224 (2017: £1,564) produced a surplus of £1,974, an increase of £835.

Income has increased as a result of Keep Fit returning to Salutation Hall and an increase in activity from Weight Watchers.

The majority of the costs are those associated with heat and light, insurance and repairs and maintenance. The increase from the previous year includes the cost of a caretaker who is now employed to clean the hall weekly.

This shows that Salutation Hall remains a useful well-used asset of the parish.

Many thanks to Dee Wastnedge who continues with her very efficient running of the bookings system and the rest of the committee of David, Colin Price, David Curran and Sally Johnson who help in its running.

Pam Davison, Salutation Hall Committee

4. CHURCH COMMUNITIES GROUPS & ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Social Committee

Social Committee report 2018 ~ 19

Yes – it's me again! As we find ourselves back into an interregnum, I was asked by Dee if I would take over the Chair of the Committee while she concentrated on the important tasks involved with the interregnum, which I am happy to do so. I have remained as part of the social committee anyway so it's not too onerous a task. My first action is to write the report from last year.

As always Dee would like to thank most importantly the rest of the Committee for the tireless work and also the occasional helpers – of which there are many.

Overall, another successful social year, with our usual Garden party and Christmas Fayre, both of which were well supported by both helpers and attendees. The Christmas Fayre was another success and we beat the previous years by £300. This was the last year for Colin and Susan Price, running the Tombola and a big thanks for them, for their efforts over the past years. The Garden Party was unusual in that we held the event outside! Takings were pretty close to previous years so we should all take comfort from that. Many thanks to all involved.

The 2 fayres are our main fundraising events as opposed to social events

The Moore's hosted a BBQ at their house, which we supported in conjunction with Alan and Joyce in July and we were treated to a Pulled Pork salad from Nigel Alderson Butchers. Weather was good, food was excellent and we won the football!

The traditional Harvest Ceilidh was held in October with "Blind Panic" and I was very pleased to see them continue their excellent skills and a good night was had by all.

We had an Afternoon Tea in September with Songs of Praises. Rotary supported with arranging lifts. There were many new faces and it is something that should be repeated.

We continue with our Coffee Mornings and they always seem enjoyed by those that attend.

The end of the term has seen another successful return of the "Castle Players". They continue to go from strength to strength as they performed "When we are married". We finally got round to erecting the stage over the altar in the Church, which also worked well. It just gives us more flexibility to allow us to accommodate events that can benefit from the extra height.

We are always open to new members, especially strong able bodied ones! Being a member does not mean you have to attend all events, so it is not too onerous. We are lucky to have a good supporting cast that we are able to call upon for their continued support.

As always we are open to any suggestions for other events and these can be put directly to me or any member of the social committee. No guarantees but I can assure you they will be vigorously discussed!

Andy Hopkins – Chairman elect

Green Action Group

“The purpose of the Green Action Group is to help the Church to appreciate our individual and joint share of responsibility for climate change, and to relate this to our Christian faith.

The Group will encourage the Church and the wider community to move to a simpler, more sustainable lifestyle that will protect all God’s creation and justice for all God’s people.”

We have met on 5 occasions during the last year. We continue to tend the All Saints' orchard, which produced a crop of apples and plums in the autumn which were shared with the congregation. Last Spring, we planted a wild flower meadow at the top of the field around the orchard which will hopefully blossom this year.

We have continued to write articles for the Church magazine on 'green' issues and to remind PCC committees of the environmental dimension to their work. We are in contact with the Millennium Trustees on making the heating system in the Millennium Centre more efficient.

We continue to work towards achieving the Eco-Church silver award. (Eco-Church is an ecumenical partnership helping Churches and individual Christians to care for creation as an integral part of their faith)

We organised the giving tree in the foyer at Advent, with money raised going to support St Teresa's Hospice.

We are always looking for more members of the congregation to join the group or just become supporters, so if you would like to get involved with promoting environmental issues in the church community then please sign up on the new PCC committee sheets in the foyer or have a word with any member of the group.

John Thorley. Chair – Green Action Group

All Saints’ and Salutation Ladies Fellowship

We had another very successful and enjoyable year despite numbers being slightly down.

The year began with a flower demonstration by Brian Simpson and was followed in February by an unforgettable evening with our own Brian Holmes, standing in for the Vicar at our AGM. Brian is a man of many talents most of them hitherto unknown to most of us. We heard from Peter Barron, now a grandfather and tasted homemade preserves from Leazes Dairy. So enthralled had we been the previous autumn by the music of Fools’ Gold that we invited them back for our annual Strawberry Evening. A day out in Sunderland to see the Tall Ships and visit the National Glass Centre brought us to August and our summer break.

After the break we went on a nostalgic tour of the North East with John Moreels, before going to Afghanistan with an English bride in a Muslim family. We ended our travels in Tanzania to explore Dorothy’s Well Project – a charity, founded by Dorothy’s husband, which builds much needed wells as a memorial to his late wife. We ended the year in traditional fashion with a Carol Service in church followed by supper in the Millennium Hall for members, clergy and choir.

The only upset to our programme came with a last-minute cancellation from a speaker. David Elliott, husband of the then Vice Chairman Jane, valiantly stepped in and let us into family secrets. An evening to be remembered.

Instead of the usual jewellery and toiletries at the annual garden party, we took on the Sweet Jar Tombola stall which was looking for a new leader. Although seemingly well stocked, it was sold out in less than an hour, prompting us to start collecting jars even earlier in 2019.

Christmas presents were again collected for Family Help (formerly known as the Women's Refuge). We were also able to give cash donations to both US and the Town Mission charities.

Thanks are due to all the committee as well as the members who together made the year so successful. Our thanks also to Scott Marshall, hall caretaker, who has been so helpful throughout the year.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Details of our meetings can be found in the Church magazine and on the notice board in the foyer

Sandy Hood, Hon. Secretary, Ladies Fellowship

Men's Group

The Men's Group is an informal organisation that meets monthly. We arrange visits and meetings. It does not matter if you cannot attend regularly and there is no membership subscription. We just hope you will come when you can, get to know people better and have fun. Some of the men from Holy Trinity have joined our group, all are welcome.

During the course of the year we have undertaken a guided cemetery walk, arranged a theatre trip, had a gin experience, visited the Quoits Club been to a brewery and visited a Turkish restaurant. Our speaker at the Annual Dinner was the vicar. 2019 will be our twentieth anniversary year.

Please watch the pew sheet for news of forthcoming events

Kevin Winkworth, Secretary

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is held on the third Thursday of the month. Everyone from the parish is welcome to attend. The lunch club is now a ticketed event. Please confirm your attendance, in advance, by buying a ticket from Sue Elliott-Lyall. This is important to confirm numbers and avoid food waste. The lunch continues to be very popular with between 40 and 50 people attending each time. We have a varied menu throughout the year, offering a main course and a pudding on most occasions. Sometimes, for example at Christmas, we enjoy some extra treats! We have a great group of helpers but if you would like to help, please let us know. Help with setting up and putting away is just as important as preparing the food each month.

Anne Willson

Circle Dancing

Venue: Salutation Hall

Monday Evenings during school term time - 7.30pm -9.30pm

Cost: £2.00 per evening

This last year has seen an increase of three new dancers, but sadly one of our members has passed away.

Our dances are composed of very simple steps danced around a circle to music from various countries. We have a refreshment break at 8.30pm which gives everyone an opportunity to chat and catch up on each others news. At the end of the Summer term we always finish with a wine and strawberry evening. Our last evening before Christmas is our party evening with a faith supper.

This year we were pleased to make a charitable donation of £180 to the Salvation Army.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. Why not come along some evening and see if you would like join our dancing? You will find that we are a friendly group of ladies.

Mary Henry

The Hand Bell Ringing Group

The bell never rings itself; unless someone handles or moves it, it is dumb". Titus Maccius Plautus.

Once again, the All Saints' hand-bell ringers ventured forth to ring out carols in the pre-Christmas weeks. This year's chosen charity was the 700 Club, a charity helping the homeless in Darlington. We were welcomed at our usual supermarket venues. At Sainsbury's, the ringing was combined with bag packing, and as always, we were very grateful for the support of members of the congregation and friends. In total, with the help of a donation from the church carol singers, £1550 was raised for our charity. A cheque was presented to John Elliston of the 700 Club, at the morning service on Sunday 17 February. As always, a big thank you goes to all the bell ringers, and to others who contributed by holding collection buckets, counting money, packing bags at Sainsbury's, and carol singing.

However, the future of the hand bell ringing group is uncertain. We are struggling to have enough ringers to fulfil all the venues offered and had to cancel several last year. In order to continue with our charitable ringing, we **urgently** need more members to swell our ranks. Whether you have no experience at all, or if you have rung hand bells in the past, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me if you have a little time to spare, and feel that you would like to join our friendly group.

Jane Elliott

Badminton Group

The Badminton Group meets almost every Friday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Millennium Hall, during term time. We have between four and eight adult players who attend regularly and we would welcome more adults and younger people to join us, as this helps to encourage developing players and adds variety to the game of 'old hands'.

There is one court on which we play doubles games, although more energetic participants are welcome to play singles games, whilst the rest of us catch our breath and catch up on the weekly news!

We each pay £2.00 per session, so if you are interested in joining us, please ring Sue Elliott-Lyall on 01325 241225, or just turn up on the night and you will be most welcome.

Sue Elliott-Lyall

Knitting and Crafts Group

This group was formed in September 2012 to bring together those people who have an interest in any form of craft – knitting, sewing, embroidery, crochet, tapestry, dressmaking – the list is as diverse as the talents!

The group meets most Thursdays from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the Barbara Bishop room off the Church foyer. To date we have involved ourselves in several charitable projects, such as knitting warm winter woollies (hats, scarves and gloves) for King's Church food bank (to be distributed with food parcels during the winter months), very small items of clothing for premature babies, most notably 'traffic light' pom pom hats, which premature babies wear to denote seriously ill cases (red), improving health (amber) and significantly improved (green) and knitting hats for Smoothie drinks bottles in aid of Age UK.

There is a wealth of knowledge to be shared by members of the group, so please, feel free to join us if you would like to spend a very sociable, and loquacious afternoon, with the customary cuppa and a biscuit! Ring Sue Elliott-Lyall on 01325 241225 for further details.

Sue Elliott-Lyall

Church Refreshments

Thanks to a dedicated bunch of volunteers, the Sunday morning refreshments, after the 10.30 service, continue to provide a pleasant half hour or so to meet up and chat. Many thanks for Pat Williams who continues to keep up the supplies of tea and coffee. If anyone can spare about an hour, three or four times a year, they would be very welcome.

Wendy Day

Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club was formed in January 2011 and has continued to enjoy regular attendance ever since, with numbers having fluctuated since our move from Salutation Hall, so that between 3 and 8 players are attending now most weeks.

The club meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Garden Rooms at church from 1.45 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., when people are paired up to play a game, before having a break for refreshments, then continuing with a different 'opponent'. The group is very friendly and welcoming and some of the most fascinating

discussions seem to be held across a Scrabble board (mostly relating to the spelling of certain words and their meaning!),

The cost is £2.00 per person each week, so if you would like to join, you are most welcome. Please, come along or ring Sue Elliott-Lyall on 01325 241225 for further details.

Sue Elliott-Lyall

5.COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CHARITIES REPORTS

Lay Pastoral Care Scheme

The Lay Pastoral Care Scheme consists of two parts. The first is the pastoral visiting done by the Parish Visitors – visiting a number of people through the year, keeping up the contact between the church and those who are having difficulty for one reason or another. I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to Susan Leatherbarrow for the important work that she does in co-ordinating this part of our ministry in her role as Lay Pastoral Assistant: she makes a huge contribution in all the pastoral work that she does, and her caring concern and selfless support of so many is a blessing to this parish. We should all be grateful to the team of visitors – Susan Leatherbarrow, Pat Williams, Debby Gill, John Jarvis, Gillian Mortimer, Gillian Bower, Judi Kent, Sue Elliott-Lyall and Mike Fryer – and for the ministry they provide.

The second dimension of the lay pastoral care scheme is the system of local representatives. Throughout the parish, we have people who deliver parish magazines and Easter and Christmas cards to homes around the parish, keep an eye out for people who are new to the area, delivering a welcome pack to them, and generally act as a link with the Church. These opportunities of contact with those who live in the parish are important and can and should be developed and built upon.....and we can all have a watchful caring eye on our neighbours and neighbourhood bringing God’s love to those in need.

David Railton

Community Connections Group

A very busy 12 months – The Group has met 6 times since the last Annual meeting.

Successful projects and initiatives that have continued throughout the year are:

Compassion – 16 of our parishioners now sponsor a Christian child in Burkina Faso.

Darlington Town Mission – Closer links have been established, and we continue to support a number of their events which alleviate loneliness amongst the elderly in Darlington.

Safe Families for Children – a small number of volunteers from our parish continue to provide important support to this local charity.

700 Club – The chief executive of this charity for the homeless in Darlington spoke at church in July, following which funds were raised by the handbell ringers in December, amounting to £1550 for the 700 Club.

Darlington Foodbank – this continues to work well, due to the generous weekly donations from our parishioners.

Links with Polam School – These have been built on and strengthened throughout the year, with groups of pupils having visited All Saints church.

Some of our new projects during 2018 – 2019 have included:

Broom Tree mental health hub for churches – Brian Robinson came to all Saints to speak to the congregation in October. We are now working on the best ways to follow this up.

Distribution of harvest gifts – this task was taken on successfully, for the first time, by the Community Connections Group. The main beneficiaries were the women’s refuge, and a small number of our own individual parishioners.

Links with Hummersknott Academy – a good meeting was held with the deputy vice principal in late February 2019, and we are exploring a number of ways to build on this initial promising link.

Thank you to all members of the Community Connections Group for their hard work and commitment this year.

We look forward to strengthening the significant community links we have established, as well as looking for other worthwhile ventures to support in the future.

Nick Auty, Church Warden and Chair on the Community Connections Group.

Magazine Report

Articles for the Parish Magazine continue to be submitted by both regular and new contributors and I am very grateful for all the efforts made by our loyal readership. The magazine continues to be a popular and useful part of church life and provides a wonderful diary of services, events, and social meetings expertly compiled by Debby Gill for which we are all beholden. I have said in my previous reports as editor that I encourage any feedback, particularly critical, as to how the magazine might be improved to best serve the requirements of its loyal readership. I have listened to all who were willing to engage with me on this topic and I hope the magazine in its current form still meets with most people’s requirements. If it doesn’t, please tell me. Thank you once more to all who contribute and read the magazine.

Richard Rayner, Editor

The Children’s Society

Thank you again to all our box holders for their contributions collected in the last few weeks. The total will be posted on the board shortly. Particular thanks to Janice for helping this year.

The society's website gives plenty of information about their work, direct with the young themselves but also through government lobbying:

"We have championed disadvantaged children throughout our 130-year history, and today our policy work is focused on these groups of disadvantaged children:

- *children in poverty including the impact of debt and financial exclusion on children and young people*
- *children at risk including children who run away and those involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation*
- *young refugees and migrants including trafficked and undocumented children*
- *mental health and children and young people's wellbeing.*

By focusing our efforts on the most marginalised or discriminated young people we strive to ensure that every child has a good childhood."

If you would be interested in joining as a box holder of this parish, please have a word with Wendy or I

Wendy Day, Katie Malcolm, Honorary Local Secretaries

All Saints' Blackwell Pre-School

Children can attend our pre-school from the age of 2 years up to school age. The pre-schools opening times are 8:30am - 2:45pm. We offer the free '30 hours' for eligible 3/4-year olds which includes the free 'universal 15 hours' for 3/4-year olds. Children can start at the age of 2 years old, we offer the free 'Early Years entitlement' for eligible 2-year olds.

The manager Carole Ferguson has an Honours Degree in Education Studies and Mrs Amanda Summers holds an Early Years Foundation Degree. All staff members are DBS checked, each holds an Early years qualification of level 3 or above, and a paediatric first aid certificate.

This year our outdoor area has been updated, we have enhanced our sandpit, added a mud kitchen and a den area. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and learning outdoors, as well as indoors.

I would especially this year, like to thank my very hard-working team of staff, for their dedication and support to me over the years, also the care that they have shown to each individual child, in our setting. Thanks to Revd. David Railton and the pre-school committee for their time and commitment. Last but not least thanks to our parents, families and the congregation for their contributions to pre-school activities and fundraisers throughout the year.

Carole Ferguson, Preschool Manager

29th Darlington (All Saints' and Salutation) Rainbows

We began our year with an evening of 'What we did on our holiday' as an ice breaker. We have been very pleased to welcome Caitlyn and Ella to our group as helpers and we have been able to increase our numbers to 21.

We have had a trip to the cake boutique before it closed and had a lovely evening making cup cakes and a pizza supper. We had a Christmas trip to Pizza Hut in Darlington.

During our weekly meeting we have taken to the new program and worked on various skill builders, the Rainbows have nearly achieved their first badge.

We have celebrated the Chinese New Year making pigs in mud from marshmallows and chocolate sauce. The Rainbows have enjoyed 'Time travelling' learning about the history of Rainbows. There has been plenty of various craft evenings with delights to take home. They have planted sun flower seeds as part of the skill builder and enjoying watching them grow. We are looking forward to seeing the pictures of their fully-grown sun flowers.

We had a group enrolment this term and enrolled 16 Rainbows, the parents seemed to enjoy the experience.

I would like to say a big thankyou to Emily, Charlotte and Grace for all the hard work they put into running the unit. There has been a very large increase in paper work for the new program and Grace is spending a lot of time on this. We must remember we are all volunteers and work full time.

Jill Wildsmith, Guider in Charge

11th All Saints' & Salutation Brownies

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself!

Brownies have enjoyed making slime and trying their hand at origami. They've had fun outdoors playing rounders, building campfires around which they enjoyed singing lead by Hannah Ross & eating smores.

We've been out and about in the community weeding and planting in the Community Garden, Pierremont Road. Outings included Edinburgh Zoo, ROF 59, Canoeing, Disney on Ice & cooking at Junior Kitchen.

We joined other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides at Stephenson Division Carol Service, the Durham South County Brownie Activity Day & All Saints' Family Parade Services.

Our local Peer Educator, Claire Nelson ran a session entitled 'Think Resilient' teaching girls to build mental wellbeing & grow resilience.

Sadly Jill Barber and Sue Alexander left the unit at the end of the summer term. Thank you for everything you've done ladies. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Brownie Holiday took place at Camp House, Spennymoor in December organised by Grace Mackay with a Winter Wonderland theme. Congratulations Grace on attaining your Brownie Residential Licence.

Katie de la Motte, having turned 16, is now beginning her journey training as a Brownie Leader. She is an asset to the team.

Girlguiding introduced a brand-new programme towards the end of 2018, which we are all gradually learning about and have recently held an education evening for parents to help them and their daughters understand the changes.

My thanks go to all our Leaders, helpers & parents, but especially to Grace, Katie & Hannah for their commitment to ensure our girls have a varied and fun time whilst with us. Finally should anyone feel they'd like to know more about getting involved, please feel free to pop along to our meeting on a Wednesday evening 6.15p.m. – 7.15p.m. or drop me an email julie@guidingdarlington.co.uk

Jill Barber, Brownie Guide Leader

29th Darlington Guides

Since September 2018 All Saints and Salutation guides have been working on our new programme of badges and meeting activities based on 6 themes along with various crafts. Outings include Big Gig a concert just for Girlguiding, Thinking Day Service at Durham Cathedral with the rest of the units from Durham South County. We joined 12th Darlington Brownies for campfire with songs and toasted marshmallows, took part in Church Parades and helped at the Church Christmas Fair.

Plans for the summer term include a joint activity day and guide Camp in June with Polam Brownies and our usual Hike to Hurworth with fish supper at the end of term.

Louise Gibson, Unit Leader, 29th Darlington Guides

29th Salutation Brownies

29th Brownies have had a busy year. We have enjoyed a Ronald Dahl Brownie Holiday weekend where we had adventures, sewed bookmarks, got covered in slime on a treasure hunt and had campfires but didn't sleep very much!

We have completed our book lover badge and are enjoying exploring the new guiding programme.

We have celebrated World Book Day, Shrove Tuesday and Bonfire night as well as finding more about the history of guiding. We couldn't do it all without our fabulous leaders and we are grateful they give up their time to support us.

Jenny Groves, Brownie Leader

Millennium Hall

The Millennium Hall and the Garden Rooms, as ever, continue to be busy. We have regular users along with many parties and functions. The halls lend themselves very well to serve the Parish and the local community. I would like to thank the Trustees for their support, especially the Vicar, Pam Davison who receive the brunt of my calls and pleas for help when required. I would also like to thank Scott Marshall, our caretaker for all the help he gives.

If you would like to book one of the halls, please email hallbookingenquiries@gmail.com or ring on (01325) 460998 after 5.30pm

Dee Wastnedge, Booking Secretary

All Saints' Millennium Centre Trust (Darlington) Limited

The Millennium Centre is run by an independent charitable company which is limited by guarantee. The land on which the Centre is built is leased for 99 years (from 1997) to the company by the church; and to be a member of the company one has to be a member of the parish electoral roll. There are 12 Trustees: The Vicar, seven nominated by the PCC one nominated by the Bishop of Durham, one nominated by the Mayor of Darlington, one nominated by the senior ward councillor, and one nominated by Evolution: The Council for Voluntary Services, although following the demise of Evolution, we are looking for a new group to be involved and I am hopeful that this will be resolved this coming year. Again, all trustees have to be members of the company and thereby also members of the parish electoral roll.

We are grateful to all of those who served as Trustees over the past twelve months and we are particularly grateful for the contributions of Dee Wastnedge, the Bookings Secretary; Pam Davison, the Finance Director; and Alison Barker, the Company Secretary. We certainly couldn't manage without them.

The Millennium Centre remains busy, though with costs escalating, especially the cost of fuel, we cannot be complacent about the finances. We continue to be helped in reducing the running costs by the solar pv panels – but a rise price of fuel is always a concern. Some of the many groups using the Centre are parish organisations; some are groups that are associated with the church; and others are community-based or private initiatives. In an average week, several hundred people of different ages can be using our facilities. To maintain the popularity of the Millennium Centre, it is vital that we sustain very high standards of provision. The constant use of the centre means that regular maintenance is needed, and we also need to look to developing and replacing existing fabric as wear and tear take their toll. This year, we had the mixed blessing of water damage in the kitchen, caused by a small leak that went undetected until the floor in the hall started to show signs of water ingress. This meant that the kitchen had to be repaired, and while there was a great deal of upheaval for several weeks, it did mean that a new kitchen was fitted, bringing it up to acceptable standards for the foreseeable future. My thanks to Colin Price, Eleanor Winkworth and Pam Davison for their help in ensuring all went smoothly, and to the users of the hall who were very tolerant of the kitchen being out of action for a lengthy period of time.

The Trustees have an enviable partnership with the PCC and Church, and one of the most wonderful parts of this from the Trustees' perspective is the work done by the PCC's Buildings and Grounds Committee. We are grateful for the latter taking care of all of the day-to-day upkeep of the building with great effect.

The Church community of All Saints established the Trust to build and run the Centre as a way of furthering its own vision to make this community more like God's kingdom than it otherwise would be. The All Saints' Millennium Centre remains an excellent example of how the Church contributes to the well-being of our society in ways that are often overlooked but which make a positive difference to countless people. Though a separate company, the Millennium Centre and its Millennium Trust represent a gift from God.

David Railton,

Chairman of All Saints' Millennium Trust (Darlington) Ltd.

6. WIDER CHURCH AND SYNOD REPORTS

Deanery Synod

2018 Accounts:

A “Draft” copy of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 show a **surplus** of receipts over payments of **£66**.

Income for the year was **£2,021**, with the sum of £2,020 representing quota payments received from the parishes in the Deanery.

Expenditure for the year was **£1,955** a decrease of £190 on the 2017 figure.

The major items of expenditure were:

- £400.00 to St John’s PCC to support the cost of “The Christmas Journey” event (Youth Initiatives)
- £245.03 for the hire of The Education Village for the Deanery Away Day
- £500.00 to St Cuthbert’s PCC towards the cost of “Thy Kingdom Come” event

The bank balances at the end of last year amounted to £4,271 (this includes the cheque for £400 referred to above which has yet to be presented).

2018 Parish Share

Up to the end of December the Diocese had received total payments of **£490,014** against a pledged amount of **£507,692**, representing **96.52%** of the total and resulting in a deficit of **£17,678**. I understand the outstanding payments are to be made as soon as possible by the respective parishes. Across Durham Diocese the percentage of Share received was 96.72% of the total expected.

Michael Shepherd, Deanery Treasurer

APPENDICES

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Total Funds 2018	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	98,239	-	98,239	110,391	-	110,391
Charitable activities	79,839	482	80,321	65,165	-	65,165
Investments	19	-	19	2	-	2
Other trading activities	32,162	-	32,162	33,206	-	33,206
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	210,259	482	210,741	208,764	-	208,764
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	13,199	-	13,199	13,781	-	13,781
Charitable activities	184,978	165	185,143	177,536	293	177,829
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	198,177	165	198,342	191,317	293	191,610
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	12,082	317	12,399	17,447	(293)	17,154
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	84,573	3,728	88,301	67,126	4,021	71,147
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£ 96,655	4,045	100,700	£ 84,573	3,728	88,301
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	996	1,488
	_____	_____
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank accounts	105,496	77,722
Cash in hand	3,246	3,323
Debtors	9,211	13,332
Stocks	130	106
	_____	_____
	118,083	94,483
LIABILITIES		
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(18,379)	(7,670)
	_____	_____
NET CURRENT ASSETS	99,704	86,813
	_____	_____
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	100,700	88,301
	_____	_____
NET ASSETS	£ 100,700	£ 88,301
	=====	=====
PARISH FUNDS		
Unrestricted	96,655	84,573
Restricted	4,045	3,728
	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	£ 100,700	£ 88,301
	=====	=====

ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON**INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:****Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Total Funds 2018	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving:-						
Envelopes, covenants and Gift Aid	67,040	-	67,040	73,553	-	73,553
Tax reclaim	18,156	-	18,156	20,574	-	20,574
Collections (loose plate)	11,977	-	11,977	12,123	-	12,123
Special Charity collections	536	-	536	558	-	558
Donations and Legacies	530	-	530	3,583	-	3,583
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£ 98,239	-	98,239	£ 110,391	-	110,391
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Income from charitable activities**Church activities**

Choir Fundraising	-	482	482	-	-	-
Occasional offices	9,012	-	9,012	9,806	-	9,806
All Saints Blackwell Pre-School	70,827	-	70,827	55,359	-	55,359
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£ 79,839	482	80,321	£ 65,165	-	65,165
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Income from investments

Interest receivable	£ 19	-	19	£ 2	-	2
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Other trading activities**Activities for generating funds**

Fundraising	27,363	-	27,363	29,434	-	29,434
Salutation Hall lettings	4,198	-	4,198	2,703	-	2,703
Sundry income	601	-	601	1,069	-	1,069
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£ 32,162	-	32,162	£ 33,206	-	33,206
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Total Income and Endowments	£ 210,259	482	210,741	£ 208,764	-	208,764
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON**

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Total 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Total 2017 £
Fundraising	13,199	-	13,199	13,781	-	13,781
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
 Charitable activities						
 Church activities and expenses						
Charitable and Mission giving	6,326	-	6,326	7,105	-	7,105
Parish share	94,000	-	94,000	90,000	-	90,000
Clergy expenses	1,047	-	1,047	1,077	-	1,077
Church running expenses	4,530	-	4,530	5,898	-	5,898
Cost of services	2,142	102	2,244	1,824	-	1,824
Church maintenance	470	-	470	884	-	884
Insurance	644	-	644	553	-	553
Salutation Hall	2,224	-	2,224	1,564	-	1,564
Salaries, wages and honoraria	12,922	-	12,922	13,041	-	13,041
Sundry costs	379	63	442	994	293	1,287
Administration costs	2,706	-	2,706	2,355	-	2,355
All Saints Blackwell Pre-School	55,896	-	55,896	50,499	-	50,499
Depreciation	492	-	492	492	-	492
Independent Examination	1,200	-	1,200	1,250	-	1,250
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£ 184,978	165	185,143	£ 177,536	293	177,829
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Expenditure	£ 198,177	165	198,342	£ 191,317	293	191,610
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON**

					2018	2017
FUNDRAISING	Income	Expenses	Total	Donations Paid Out	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Surplus/ (Deficit)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Garden Party	3,866	(514)	3,352	-	3,352	3,538
Christmas Fair	4,973	(290)	4,683	-	4,683	4,362
Hog Roast	700	(350)	350	-	350	-
SSAFA Concert	-	-	-	-	-	181
Strawberry and Wine	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Parish Lunch Club	1,208	(972)	236	922	(686)	315
Magazine	1,230	(1,258)	(28)	-	(28)	(347)
Ladies Fellowship (excluding bank interest)	1,612	(1,624)	(12)	200	(212)	67
Tea and Coffee	1,091	(70)	1,021	-	1,021	987
Flower Fund	903	(817)	86	-	86	103
Parent and Toddler Group	1,129	(1,181)	(52)	-	(52)	(38)
Social Committee	4,099	(2,382)	1,717	-	1,717	2,312
Badminton	182	(180)	2	-	2	(2)
Men's Group	1,078	(1,078)	-	-	-	10
100 Club	2,228	(1,095)	1,133	-	1,133	1,097
Bell Ringers	1,515	-	1,515	1,550	(35)	(8)
Circle Dancing	928	(767)	161	180	(19)	(54)
Ladies Night	621	(621)	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£ 27,363	(13,199)	14,164	2,852	11,312	13,523
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Summary						
Income		27,363				29,434
Costs		(13,199)				(13,781)
		-----				-----
		£ 14,164				£ 15,653
		=====				=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF

ALL SAINTS' AND SALUTATION BLACKWELL, DARLINGTON

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
CHARITABLE GIVING				
PCC : St. Teresa's Hospice		171		720
Children's Society - Christingle		536		558
Alzheimers's Society		45		112
MacMillan Nurses		42		393
The Freeman Charity		492		-
Yorkshire Air Ambulance		445		-
Cancer Research UK		440		-
NSPCC		201		-
Prostate Cancer UK		192		-
The Macular Society		183		-
Churches Together in Darlington		50		-
Parkinsons UK		512		-
Multiple Sclerosis Society		45		-
Darlington Flower Festival		70		-
The Gardens Care Home		50		-
North East Air Ambulance		-		30
British Heart Foundation		-		714
Marie Curie		-		412
Breast Cancer Awareness		-		412
Ovarian Cancer Research		-		360
Mind		-		263
CDDFT Charity Scanner Appeal		-		250
Anthony Nolan Trust		-		243
Friends of Darlington Memorial Hospital		-		210
Bright Red		-		150
Meningitis Now		-		148
Groups:		3,474		4,975
Parish Lunch Club : Christian Aid				
Ladies Fellowship: USPG				
Parish Lunch Club : Christian Aid		122		160
Parish Lunch Club : All Saints Millennium Trust		800		-
Ladies Fellowship: USPG		100		100
Ladies Fellowship: Darlington Town Mission		100		-
Ladies Fellowship: St Teresa's Hospice		-		100
Bell Ringers: The 700 Club		1,550		-
Bell Ringers: Alzheimer's Society		-		1,570
Circle Dancing: Salvation Army		180		-
Circle Dancing: MRI Scanner		-		200
		2,852		2,130
		£ 6,326		£ 7,105
		=====		=====