

# *The Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Ayton with Easby*

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

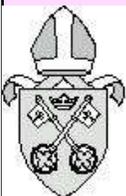
Charity No. 1131499

[www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk)



*Archbishop Sentamu taking the Christmas Eve Service*

## **Annual Report 2015**



**Diocese of  
YORK**

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

A Word from the Vicar	3	Christ Church Flower Guild	26
APCM Minutes 2015	4	Sunday Coffee	27
PCC Secretary's Report	7	Marwood C of E School	28
Deanery Synod	8	Church Hall	30
Churchwardens' Report	9	Church Cleaning	31
Financial Report	10	Worship	32
Safeguarding	12	Media Matters	35
All Saints Church	12	Guiding in Great Ayton	36
Christ Church Visitors	14	Rainbows	37
Bible Reading Fellowship	15	Brownies	38
Prayer	16	Guides	38
Bible Study Group	17	Guides - Senior Section	39
Little Fishes	18	Scouts	40
Sunday School	19	Children's Society	44
The Firms	20	Facts and Figures	45
Men's Groups	21	Charitable Giving 2015	46
Christ Church Choir	22		
Bell Ringers	23	Agenda	48
Servers	24		
Foodbank Collections	25		

## **PCC as at February 2015**

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

**Deanery Synod Reps:** Rosemary Wheway, Nick Land, Rob Pepper.

**PCC Members:** Ken Taylor, Julie Bourke, Mark Stowell, Alison Lambert, Enid  
Sedgwick, Eric Boyce, Caroline Legg, Anna Wilson, Robin Harmar, John  
Dickinson,

# A Word from the Vicar



Since coming here as Vicar in 1993 many things have changed in the life of our Church.

Patterns of attendance have changed from the generation who were used to coming more than once every Sunday. Now families are spread out across the country with lots of other activities competing for time. Nevertheless, our attendance figures are still relatively healthy, but we need to constantly grow in order to stand still.

We have seen lots of new initiatives begin with young people alongside the tried and tested, with Come & Praise, Little Fishes, Who Let the Dads Out, Sunday School and The Firms. We retain good links with our Uniformed Organisations and schools.

Although we said goodbye to the Mothers' Union last year, we celebrate Praise and Party, the Visitors Group and other Study Groups that bring people together in faith.

Our Church is still seen as an important part of people's lives in the village, for baptisms, weddings and funerals are all considerably up at Christ Church since I first came. The demands of these services are also greater as we offer modern ways of communicating with Skype, Slideshows and recorded music.

Perhaps the greatest difference I find in the Benefice is the large increase in attendance at Saint Oswald's Church through weddings, that has had a knock on effect on everything else we do there.

Both Churches are so active, vibrant and generous. It is a great privilege to be the vicar of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry, and I know I can't manage alone, so this report speaks of a very large team of people who maintain the work of our Church. Come along and hear more our Annual Church Meeting on **Wednesday 16th March in Christ Church Hall at 7.30pm**. My thanks to them all.

**Paul Peverell, Vicar**

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

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

## **MINUTES of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Present (30)

Reverend Paul Peverell (Vicar/Chairman)

Mike Acornly, Ken Bellamy, Paul Bradley, Sarah Botez, Julie Bourke, Helen Dickinson, John Dickinson, Robin Harmar, Robin Hazell, Margaret Herriman, Angela Jaques, Geoff Jaques, Alison Lambert, Caroline Legg, Margaret Lewis, Betty Manton, Jean Mitchell, Vicki Nath, Audrey Prunty, Peter Prunty, Enid Sedgwick, Martin Simmons, Emma Stowell, Mark Stowell, Ken Taylor, Peter Titchmarsh, Pauline Titchmarsh, Rosemary Wheway, Dorothy Wood,

Apologies (20) were received from:

Eric Boyce, Mary Boyce, Jeanne Crombie, Jean Cumbor, Jo Dean, Jon Dean, Vicky Gawthorpe, Ben Lambert, Helen Land, Nick Land, Andrew Prunty, David Rowland, Elsa Taylor, Lynda Walker, Anna Wilson, Jonathan Winterschladen, Vivienne Winterschladen, Gordon Wood

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Helen Jones who gave a presentation regarding her work with School Aid India. This was one of the charities that Christ Church had supported in the last year.

### **Election of Churchwardens**

- The election is open to any parishioner living in Great Ayton.
- We are grateful to say that we have two nominations for Church Warden for this year.
- We welcome Martin Simmons and Vicki Nath back as Church Wardens. Thanks were given to both Vicki and Martin for all their hard work last year – they completed numerous projects and their work was greatly appreciated.
- Vicki Nath had been proposed by John Huddlestone and seconded by Rosemary Wheway.
- Martin Simmons had been proposed by Rosemary Wheway and seconded by Claire Sheridan.
- There were no further nominations and they were duly elected.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

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

### **Apologies for Absence**

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

### **Minutes of Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

- The minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Report. The minutes were proposed by Martin Simmons and seconded by Dorothy Wood. All agreed.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- There were no matters arising.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

- Alison Lambert reported that following the revision of the roll for 2015, which closed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the number on roll is 288, which is a net increase of 1 for the year. This net increase is due to 8 new applications being accepted and 7 names being removed from the list.
- There are still a significant number of church members who are not on the Roll, particularly younger members. Applications for enrolment can be accepted after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and throughout the year not just at the Annual Revision.
- Thanks were expressed to Alison for her work on the Electoral Roll.
- The Vicar advised that 11 people who were associated with church have died during the last year and to consider that we have lost all these people and to have still increased the electoral roll is excellent

### **Presentation of the Annual Report for 2014**

- The Annual Report for 2014 has been published and distributed in several formats. Thanks were given to all those who have contributed their written words to the Annual Report and also for all the work that they carry out voluntarily during the year to make Christ Church such a successful church.
- Formal adoption of the report was proposed by Peter Titchmarsh and seconded by Helen Dickinson and agreed by all present.

### **Financial Report & Presentation of the Audited Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

- Ken Taylor presented the financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 – full details of the income and expenditure are available in the Annual Report.

- The Giving in Grace programme was successful but, as this did not start as early as planned, it had a knock on effect in respect of the level of income received.
- Reserves are now £35,235 and have reduced to the same level as in 2010 – being 3.2 months expenditure.
- Ken gave a brief overview of the budget for 2015-2016 which forecasts a surplus of £2,000.
- Ken made comment on the success of The Giving in Grace programme
  - à 238 letters were sent out to members of our congregation
  - à 85% response was received
  - à An additional £1,806 was pledged per month
  - à Planned giving has increased by nearly 30%
  - à The knock-on effect has been more standing orders, more people gift aiding and more legacies.
- The finances were proposed by Rosemary Wheway, seconded by Margaret Herriman and all were in favour.
- Ken expressed his sincere thanks to the Sidespeople, Helen Dickinson, Robin Harmar, Sheila Levett and Jean Goat who all help him to keep the money in order.
- An idea mentioned at last year's APCM was to sign up for the Easy Fundraising scheme ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)), where donations are given to the charity of your choice each time you shop on line. 23 people have signed up to this scheme and £130 has been collected.
- The Vicar said a very big thank you to Ken Taylor for all his work on the accounts – it is an extremely big job and he does it so cheerfully.

## **The Vicar's Comments**

- The Vicar gave his report for the past year focusing on thanking all those who contribute to the life of the church helping to fulfil the vision of 'Generous churches making and nurturing disciples'
- Each person present was asked to stand to show how much they contribute - all stood several times illustrating that everyone helps in so many ways within church and not one is more important than the other – all are valuable
- Christ Church could not be such a vibrant and lively church without all contributions and the Vicar thanked everyone

## **Election of members to the Church Council – 4 vacancies**

- The term of office for Ken Bellamy, Vicky Gawthorpe and Caroline Legg had come to the end of three years. Ken and Vicky have indicated that they no longer wishes to stand again.
- The Vicar thanked Ken who has been a member of the PCC for over 17 years, including years as Vice Chairman – he has been a brilliant source of wisdom and common sense and the 'best Churchwarden we never had'

- A nomination had been received for Caroline Legg and was duly elected onto the PCC
- There remains three vacancies on the PCC

### **Election of members to the Deanery Synod – 1 vacancy**

- There remains one vacancy on the Deanery Synod.

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

- Vicki Nath has stood down and Eleanor Batch is a new addition to the regular sidespeople

### **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

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

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

- There were no questions

The Vicar thanked all present for their contributions to the meeting.

Rosemary Wheway expressed the thoughts of all present when she thanked Paul for his enthusiasm and energy last year and expressed her confidence that his vision for the future will ensure the continued success of our church.

## **PCC Secretary's Report 2015**

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

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

Members of the PCC continue to work behind the scenes silently and efficiently and each must be thanked for their enthusiasm and commitment to ensure the life of the church continues so smoothly.

Our Churchwardens and Treasurer continue to amaze with their ability to secure funding to facilitate exciting projects.

As usual, Paul has steered us successfully to ensure that, not only our own lives are fulfilled, but we have supported others in our own village and throughout the Diocese and overseas.

Well done and many thanks to all your PCC – to Paul, Geoff, Jon, Vicki, Martin, Ken, Rosemary, Margaret, Peter, Eric, John, Robin, Nick, Alison, Caroline, Rob, Enid, Mark, Anna and – at the risk of being self promoting – me, for taking the minutes at the meetings!

**Julie Bourke, PCC Secretary**

## **Stokesley Deanery Synod**

In 2015 the Parish continued to be represented by Nick Land, Rob Pepper and Rosemary Wheway. There is one vacancy. The clergy and readers also attend.

There were three meetings in 2015 in various venues. Each meeting began with an informative talk and any member of the congregation can attend the talk and stay as an observer for the business meeting. In February, Ven David Butterfield, Archdeacon for Generous Giving and Stewardship came to inspire us but we had recently completed our campaign and were able to help others. In June, the topic was about helping those with Autism in our churches. In October, Very Revd Vivienne Faull, Dean of York Minster spoke on the purpose of the Minster, recent changes and the Strategic Plan which will run from 2015 to 2020.

Each year the Deanery organises four Lent services. In 2015 these were held in Stokesley Parish Church and had four excellent speakers :- the Bishop of Whitby, Revd Sue Sheriff, Revd Canon Angela Bailey and Revd Dr Gavin Wakefield. Each session ended with a short act of worship.

**Rosemary Wheway**

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

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

During 2015, not only have regular maintenance issues been addressed but we were delighted to be successful in our historic organ certificate application and in our Heritage Lottery Grant application. We have been granted £91,100 for the restoration of our Binns organ and installation of multimedia equipment. The projector and screen are now installed and in use and during 2016, the organ will be restored in conjunction with a series of



concerts and organ workshops for the community in the coming years. Work is underway to explore further the history of village people connected with the organ with the hope of involving descendants in the future. The tubular bells are back in situ and continue to be rung by a group of young people for regular services and weddings. New heaters have been installed in the Hall as well as repairs and redecoration there. Due to the high winds and rain over Christmas work is now needed both to the Chancel and coffee lounge roofs but is in hand.

It is encouraging to see a variety of services in our church with the successful Little Fishes, Come and Praise and Church Parades as well as Who Let The Dads Out and a Family Fun Day for the younger families and adults. The Bishop of Whitby came in November to take our confirmation service, when 12 young people and adults were confirmed, followed by a party in the Hall. Regular Sunday and Wednesday services are still well attended with welcoming congregations. One highlight of our year has to be our midnight mass service on Christmas Eve which was taken by Archbishop Sentamu to the delight of all who attended.

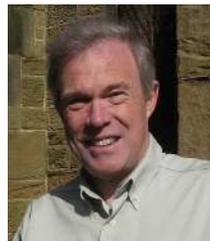
We were pleased to welcome our new organist and choirmaster Michael Aisbitt this year and also welcomed Rosemary Wheway as a new pastoral assistant now that she has completed her 'recognised parish assistant' course. She is now being followed by several other members of the congregation on the course.

We would like to thank all the congregation for their support during the last year and would encourage you to become involved in the planned ventures over coming months. Special thanks also go to our vicar Paul supported by Geoff, Jon, Margaret and Peter for their leadership and hard work.

**Vicki Nath & Martin Simmons, Churchwardens**

## Financial Report 2015

Financially, 2015 was another busy year with over £400,000 going through the church books in the 12 months to end December!



This was the first full year since the end of the **Giving in Grace** programme and I am pleased to say that our planned giving increased by a further 16% compared to the previous year. On a sadder note, we lost a number of our regular givers through bereavement but fortunately some newer members were welcomed to the giving roll. Overall we had a surplus of £4,634 on our unrestricted funds which partly compensated for the shortfall last year. This allowed us to increase our reserves from £35,235 to £39,869 which is back to our target level of 4 months operating costs.

Unrestricted income increased from £117,519 last year to £141,004. In addition to the higher levels of planned giving, we also saw encouraging increases in the general level of donations and fee income. We again took full advantage of the Gift Aided Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) which allows us to collect an additional £1,250 in tax rebates – a change in HMRC rules this year means that we will now be able to recover up to £2,000 from “loose plate” donations.

Unrestricted expenditure increased slightly from £133,810 in 2014 to £136,420 this year. We were able to increase our contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund to £84,000 while keeping our other operating costs generally in line with the budget. We carried out several necessary repair/refurbishment projects during the year, namely, electrical inspection and testing (£1,488), installation of new heating and lighting switches (£1,489) and plaster repairs/redecoration in several parts of the church (£1,728). Thanks to a generous gift from Mr R Blunsom, we were able to carry out a full refurbishment of the tubular bells. The plinth carpet suffered damage during the erection of the new screen but was replaced following a claim on the contractor’s insurance.

We were fortunate to secure two major grants to support projects in our church. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded us £91,000 to carry out a much-needed major restoration on the organ and also provide an audio-visual system which has already enhanced several of our services and public presentations. Awards for All provided us with a grant of £9,800 for carrying out a feasibility study into the potential refurbishment of the Church Hall and Coffee Lounge.

We donated over £9,000 to mission giving from general funds. Following recommendations from members of the PCC, we identified several new

beneficiaries this year: Open Door North East (helping asylum seekers) UCCF (student Christian unions), Mary's Meals (providing meals to starving children) and Anglican International Development (working with people devastated by conflict) We also assisted two of our young members on overseas projects.

This year we donated collections from baptisms to three children's charities- Zoe's Place, Daisy Chain and CLIC Sargent- the choice of charity being made by the parents. We were pleased to welcome the nationally-acclaimed folk singer, Yvonne Lyon who not only gave us an excellent evening of music but helped us raise over £1,000 for Daisy Chain, the Teesside-based charity which supports young people with autism.



*Ken presenting a cheque for £1,003 to Daisy Chain CEO Judith Haysmore*

During the year we ran three major appeals. Our Lent appeal focused on the plight of those suffering from the earthquakes in Nepal while, at harvest, we supported Together Middlesbrough and the Middlesbrough Food Bank. For our Christmas appeal we again supported School Aid India. Its founder, Helen Jones, told us movingly how funds were desperately needed to replace the wooden classroom which had been destroyed by the effects of the earthquakes in the region. The response from the parish was amazing- over £3,880 raised which was a record for any appeal by our church!

Overall, our mission giving from funerals and weddings, special services, appeals, and donations from general funds reached a record total of £36,807, distributed among 49 different charities.

The Church Hall had a satisfactory year with reserves at a relatively healthy level of £3,540 despite the need to replace the two large wall-mounted heaters at a cost of £4,300. Thanks to an enjoyable jazz concert by Anya Faull which raised over £600, the finances of All Saints now look a little healthier.

During the year, we were sorry to lose the services of Sheila Levitt as our gift aid secretary after 16 years service but happily John and Ynez Clarke have stepped seamlessly into this role! Our sincere thanks are due to all three of them. And finally to all those who help to manage the church money- Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Robin Harmar and the sidespeople – a huge thank you to you all!

**Ken Taylor** Hon Treasurer

## Safeguarding

With the Social Media now being so widely accessible, child protection becomes ever more important. So, we as a Church seek to cover as many aspects of protection as possible.

Checking everyone through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) System is our main safeguard when appointing new (or re-electing existing) people working for the Church, either voluntary or paid.

Fortunately my job so far has only involved distributing and checking DBS forms and sending them to York for police checks and then on to the Diocese of York database.

If any aspect of child abuse is suspected or reported to a member of the Church clergy or to me there is a protocol to follow and emergency phone numbers are available at the back of the Church in the Child Protection Policy file.

### **Gail Jukes**

Child Protection Officer, Christ Church Great Ayton.

## All Saints Church

A positive year for All Saints in most respects. Although we were again operating with fewer guides, the coverage of duties improved, which helped swell visitor numbers to more than 1200, over 20% up on 2014 but still well short of the halcyon years of 2002/03 when over 2000 visitors were recorded. No room for complacency then.



On a balmy June evening All Saints enjoyed a folk/jazz concert by The Anya Faull Trio from Leeds, who played to a packed church and helped raise over £600 towards church funds. Other donations to the church also saw an increase and so for the first time in a while the bank balance was up.

Sadly we lost the old overhanging beech tree from the vicarage garden. This had become dangerous and so was felled. However, on the plus side it opened up a marvellous new vista to Christ Church (see photo).



After almost twenty years of sterling service as the organizer of the guides rota Ray Huddleston is stepping down from the role, though will continue as a guide. A big thanks to Ray for his unstinting efforts on behalf of the church. He is in the process of handing over to Charles Jeans.

No major events are planned for this year, though I am looking into the possibility of some static exhibits in the church to coincide with the Somme centenary in July. As usual other ideas are most welcome.

Once again a massive thank you to all those who contribute to the continuation of the All Saints story – guides, brass and church cleaners flower arrangers, and all those who ensure the smooth running of christening and commemorative services still held in the church, amongst others.

In 2015 All Saints continued to provide unexpected rewards and surprises for us all – a group of cyclists giving an impromptu concert, a family of weasels seen in the churchyard, a jackdaw trapped in the church, a visit from some Japanese businessmen on a cold wet day – and I'm sure 2016 will give us more joy.

**Robin Hazell**  
Custodian

## Christ Church Visitors

We have had another successful year with the addition of two new Visitors replacing two others keeping the total at 19. This has made it possible for us to visit 30 people on a regular basis and, we hope, make a difference to their lives and spiritual growth. There are more housebound and/or elderly people in our parish who would benefit from this service so more volunteers are always welcome. Some Visitors have also made contact with people for a short time, for instance following a stay in hospital, until someone is able to return to church.

We continue to meet regularly with the clergy so that they can monitor our visits and we review our guidelines annually. We will continue to meet the training needs of those who visit.



Our aim is to visit anyone in the village in need – the housebound, lonely, sick and infirm – but this does not exclusively mean those who were regular churchgoers. We visit people mostly in their own homes but several of those visited eventually move out of the village to Care Homes and our Visitors travel as far as Catterick as well as Stokesley, Middlesbrough and Guisborough to stay in touch. They also visit hospitals if this is appropriate. The group supports the monthly and Christmas Hollygarth services and also transports some of the people who would otherwise be unable to attend. These are open to **anyone** who appreciates a weekday afternoon service- not just the residents of Hollygarth.

In 2015 we hosted our fourth Praise and Party service followed by tea in the Hall. This attracted many for whom the 9.15 service is just too early. The total attending included 17 people personally invited, of whom 2 were in wheelchairs. Everyone appreciated both the “praise” and “party” and we hope to host a similar event in 2015. We took a selection of food after the party to 13 who were unable to attend. This was warmly welcomed.

We continue to deliver cards on the first anniversary of a bereavement and also a Welcome Pack whenever we see a removal van in the village. These are very rewarding tasks and we would welcome more Visitors so that we can extend our visits to more people. Please tell us if you know someone who would like a visit or you have new neighbours but more importantly **join us if you can!**

**Rosemary Wheway**

## **Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)**

Check out their website [www.brf.org.uk](http://www.brf.org.uk)

Through their Bible reading notes and other published resources BRF helps individuals of all ages to connect with the Bible.



***New Daylight*** is the most popular edition of BRF bible reading notes used here at Christ Church. Six people have large print copies of ***New Daylight***, thirty-five use the standard size booklet and others use iPhone apps. *Day by Day*, *Guidelines* and *Upper Room* are also choices of BRF notes used by Christ Church members.

***New Daylight*** readers meet monthly, using the notes as starting points for discussions relating to our faith, and its challenges, as we are prompted to live our lives in the light of insights gained from the previous month's readings. The meetings are notified via Sunday's news-sheet – if you are interested in using the notes or want to find out more about them you are welcome to come and join us - or talk to me on Sunday after the 9.15 am service.

Check out [www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk](http://www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk) for information about other Bible reading notes and Apple apps for iPhone and iPod touch.

**Enid Sedgwick**

## Prayer

An integral part of the life of our church but until now not specifically recorded in the Annual Report. However when **Giving in Grace** was launched in the Autumn of 2014, it was supported by *prayer for future outreach and spiritual growth at Christ Church*. Spiritual growth included the intention to *give our prayer life more focus*. Our church building provides many with quiet space for individual prayer and services are well attended but during the past year more occasions specifically to share prayer time together have been made available. Before the Memory Tree was dismantled after Christmas, Paul led a short time of prayer and reflection together. During the week of prayer for Christian Unity a prayer station was set up in church with daily readings and prayers for people to take away to reflect on at home. In Lent a different location and a different prayer focus was chosen each week for meetings together. Prayers were provided for use during the week of the General Election and there were three prayer meeting times in church on polling day. In June our 9.15 am Intercessors gathered, with others who were interested in coming, for an iPET morning - Prayer/Encouragement/Training together, and later in the year an evening meeting in the coffee lounge.

The Contemplative Prayer Group continues to meet weekly and would welcome any newcomers. They have organised meditation mornings led by Father Kevin from Ampleforth and Revd. Nicholas Buxton from Newcastle during the year – both of which were very well attended. A Wydale Renewal Day had a good review from two people who went from Christ Church; we hope that more will be encouraged



to try the next one this spring. **Let's Pray Together** was a weekly prayer time in Advent when people prayed together in the coffee lounge or alongside us at home. When Archbishop Sentamu visited here during his pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing, he passed on to us a simple pattern of prayer which he is teaching to everyone as he journeys on throughout the Diocese to help focus attention on prayer. **Let's Pray Together** at present, is a weekly, open prayer time, using his prayer pattern.

Our prayer for the coming year is that there will be many other opportunities to help us to deepen our prayer lives together.

**Enid Sedgwick**

## Bible Study Group

During the first part of the year we studied Paul's wonderful letter to the Ephesians. We learned that we were chosen in Christ, forgiven in Christ and are now part of Christ's body the Church. Whilst we are loved individually by God we are also adopted into a family - The Church. We are called to work with our brothers and sisters in the Church to make visible the mystery of God's saving love to the world.

The Bible study group has run for many years and we recognised that not everybody can manage a long term regular commitment. So for 2016 we are trying something new and each term we will run a 6 - 8 week self contained course with both DVD and discussion material. We hope to bring new people into the groups and tackle a range of topics. We have started with a course from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity - "Life on the Frontline". We will be thinking of how we live out our faith and serve Jesus in our everyday life - the "frontline" of paid and voluntary work, home, college and clubs.

To make use of technology we have moved the groups venue to the "Upper Room" in the Church Hall and I would like to thank Audrey Collins for her many years of hospitality as hostess for the group. However, where ever we meet two truths of the Bible Study Group remain - we are enriched by God's eternal and life changing word and ..."there is cake"!

**Nick Land 01642 778 076**



The Archbishop of York visited us on Christmas Eve as part of his Diocesan Pilgrimage. On Christmas Eve morning he came to Christ Church for simple but profound prayers attended by over 50 people. We then made our way through the rain along the High Street to greet shoppers. We called in at most of the shops and spoke to people in the queues who were delighted to see the Archbishop. We are fortunate in having such a friendly and personable man of faith leading our Diocese.

## Little Fishes

What a growth rate we have experienced in five years! Currently our numbers average 26 Little Fishes and 30 carers/mums. That means lots of participation in the service and hectic times in the Coffee Lounge for refreshments and play. As usual, we held a very successful Toy/book stall at the church coffee morning in February, lots of toys to sell by willing helpers. In November we celebrated five years of Little Fishes. We sang a special song – “Come on and Celebrate” in our service. Lots of paper fishes were created, the children received balloons and, of course a special five year cake in the shape of a big fish was eaten!

In 2015 we welcomed several new birth arrivals – Bill, Alex, Oliver and Samuel. We can also boast the fact that we had four sets of twins and one set of triplets regularly attending. The higher numbers attending has



meant a few changes have been made – the “Walking” song now extends to walking up and down the church aisles, and a rearrangement into a large circle for play and refreshments in the Coffee Lounge. It is good to see that several Dads together with their Little Fishes attend Who Let the Dads Out once a month and also an increasing number of Little Fishes’ families come to Come & Praise.

Thanks are due again to our band of cheery, welcoming and willing helpers – serving refreshments, welcoming everyone into church and storytelling. Unfortunately, one of our team, Kathy Chambers, passed away this year. She was a great help and is much missed.

Traditionally, once or twice a year we hold a Fishers’ lunch which is a popular get-together for everyone who helps and a chance to socialise in a quieter atmosphere!

So, do come along sometime and see for yourself how this happy group thrives – you will be most welcome to join the lively worship and fellowship. Long may it continue to grow and reach out to the wider community.

**Angela Jaques**

## Sunday School Report

Always the highlight of the year 'The Crib Service' This year we had 26 children taking part singing some lovely songs and telling the Christmas Story accompanied by Mrs Winterschladen on the piano. We meet every Sunday during school term time except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month when it is Family Service at 11am. We have 25 children on the register with an average attendance of around 16. Our numbers have dropped due to a number of the older members leaving. A good number of parents help on the rota, Libby Hendry a former member of Sunday school has been helping again this year.

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



We have followed the lectionary with our stories at Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Harvest. We have studied many other bible stories too. On Good Friday we had around 65 children attend the craft workshops. The children produced some lovely crafts and were joined by their families for a short service in Church.

We participated in the special services for Love in a Box and Christingle. Dave the Time Traveller came for our party in January and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon. This coming year we are having a Pentecost party instead of a January party and we will invite children aged 4-7 who have been christened in Christ Church to join us.

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

**Karen Peverell and Alison Collins.**

## The Firms

We are a Christian Youth Group for anyone aged 10 to 18. We meet on the second and fourth Sunday of the Month, The Younger Firm for 10 – 14 year olds meet 6 -7:30pm and The Older Firm meet from 6:45 – 8:15pm. Typically our club nights involve games, prayers and time for reflection as well as a very popular tuck shop.

2015 has seen our members riding roller coasters and bopping away at a pop concert at Lightwater Valley at a Christian Youth event, for over three thousand secondary aged children. When the weather allows, we like to get out and about. This picture shows us enjoying some fun time at the Guisborough Walk way.



2015 was a year four members of our group Poppy Sheridan, Katie Radford, Holly Bradley and Simon Reeve were confirmed by the Bishop of Whitby, in a very special and moving service, in November.

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

**Claire Sheridan, Linda Banks & Julie Bourke**

## Men's Stuff

### Evenings at The Oak

The Church Men have continued to invite different speakers to our evening meetings in The Royal Oak for food, fellowship, faith & fun. They included: **Matty Cross** talking about his response to God's call as a Charity worker & founder and the new Christian Youth Worker at Stokesley School and **Bishop Paul** (of Whitby), who accepted an "unofficial" invitation (as much as any evening with a Bishop can be) and shared his insights into "The church in 2025".

### Who Let The Dads Out?

Having launched this monthly venture in September 2014 we have seen it develop into an excellent gathering for children aged 0-5 years with their Dads & Granddads and other church men!

We meet in the Coffee Lounge from 10 o'clock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month; Church Men make & serve bacon butties & mugs of real coffee for the Dads and serve breadsticks & squash for the little ones. About a dozen men get together and enjoy space to chat and play – it's also given Mums the chance for some space of their own! Some of our children also come to Little Fishes and all families are welcome to our Come & Praise and other church services.



We'll continue to meet once a month during 2016 – look out for the banner and drop in for a butty!!

### Family Fun Day



The Dads decided to organise a Family Fun Day on Saltburn beach in August. They invited the other members of their families, the Little Fishes families and a few friends. We arranged the day so there was plenty of sand – the sunshine was an added bonus! A Great Time was had by all!!!

# Christ Church Choir

It has been my privilege to be appointed organist and choirmaster at Great Ayton and I wish to express my thanks for the warm welcome I have received and for the dedication and enthusiasm of the choir members.

We have been most active in leading the music at the Parish Eucharist at Christ Church. We have extended our repertoire of anthems, particularly using the New Church Anthem Book which was purchased for the choir some time ago.

Our numbers are healthy but we would welcome any who wish to join us. In the summer, we bid farewell to one of our most committed members, Paul Bradley, who returned to his roots in the Midlands.

In October, some choir members joined others from across the diocese to sing at the RSCM festival held at Beverley Minster and were inspired by the music and fellowship.

Christmas was a particularly busy time for the choir and we were fortunate to be joined by a number of singers from the community and by old friends who returned to Great Ayton for the holiday period. The carol services and midnight Eucharist were fine acts of worship in which music played a central part.



We are grateful to those who help with the running of the choir, particularly Alison Lambert who ensures the music is kept safe and in order, Viv Winterschluden who so ably takes choir practice in my absence and Chris Thompson, who generously gives of his time to play the organ and conduct the choir whenever requested.

If anyone would like to join the choir, please come and discuss it with me or with one of the choir members. We would be delighted to have you!

**Michael Aisbitt**  
Organist

## Bell Ringers Annual Report

Eight young people currently ring our bells on a regular basis. They are :

Luke Banfield	Harry Banfield	Emily Sheriden	Matthew Sheriden
Ella Jones	Libby Hendry	Elinor Northey	Katie Radford

On behalf of the whole congregation, I should like to thank them for their efforts, it is not always easy for teenagers to get up early on a Sunday morning. During the year we have been delighted to welcome Katie Radford to our Team.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to seven ringers:-

Oliver Northey after 3+ years, to pursue other interests.

Edward Land after 6+ years, who following a gap year, spent partly in Zambia, will be reading Marine Engineering at Newcastle University.

Hannah Peverell after 5+ years, to pursue her musical talents, and her A Levels.

William Jackson after 5+ years and Tom Jackson after 3+ years, busy with their other interests.

Niamh and Holly Bradley after 1+ years, following a move out of the village.

This year the bells have rung for 58 regular Sunday services and Festivals. They were booked for eight weddings, earning welcome pocket money for our more senior ringers, who are strong enough to keep going for the extra time required.

The bells were silent for 5 weeks in the spring. They last underwent a major overhaul in 1994 and it was apparent that another was urgently required. They were removed from the tower by Crighton's, renovated and repaired where necessary, and will hopefully peal forth for another twenty years or more.

It is very easy to learn how to ring our octave of tubular bells. Campanology is an unusual skill to put on your UCAS form, which can be useful should you wish to study a competitive degree, such as law or medicine. We are happy to welcome new ringers on to our team. Should you like any more information please contact Elsa Taylor 01642 722400

**Elsa Taylor**

## Servers Report

I am pleased to report that we have a faithful team of servers who attend at eight o'clock and 9.15am communion services throughout the year. Eric, Lynda, Richard and Jim are our 8 am servers ; Jo, Adrian, Frances, Matthew, Ellie, Gina, Edward, Niamh and Francesca are our 9.15am servers. I would like to thank them all for their reliable support. Our team includes a number of young people too and they in turn have their own support team at home ensuring they turn up at the right time and on the right date, so my thanks to them too.

Our dear friend Eric has been ill this year and we continue to pray for his recovery.

Two of our young servers have moved on this year, Edward to pursue his gap year work in Africa and Niamh to live in Westerdale with her family. We wish them both happiness and success in the future.



I would like to have more volunteers on the servers rota so that we have cover if anyone is ill or away, so do please think about serving Christ Church in this way and contact me for more information.

### Lesley Miller

#### The Archbishop Meeting the People

And there's no better place than the Petch's Christmas queue!



## Middlesbrough Food Bank

Our monthly contributions to Middlesbrough Food Bank have continued throughout the year. The collections from our Church and the Quaker Meeting are very generous and often fill the boots of two cars! We have sent £206 which is much appreciated as it helps to fund transport costs from the St. Cuthbert's Church depot out to the five distribution centres across the town.

The Food Bank has helped 2500 people across the town during this last year. The 'Cut the cost of Cooking' courses have given out 180 slow cookers and have a further 80 left for future needs.



As the cookers use less electricity they are a great help to families trying to reduce household costs.

Last September six members from our Church attended an Open Day at the depot and enjoyed an excellent light buffet. This was an opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Nigel Perrott who helped to set up the organisation back in 2012. His good work is now being continued by Soroush who has much experience of working with asylum seekers and refugees.

Nationally Trussell Trust has helped over 1,084,604 people of whom 396,997 were children over this last year.

Almost 40% of clients experienced benefit delays and changes to benefits also were causing difficulties. It is hoped that Government agencies recognise these problems and seek to overcome them.

Recent job losses across Teesside will mean that there will be an even greater uptake of the Food Bank provisions.

Please accept a sincere 'Thank you' from the staff and all those who benefit from your continued generosity.

**Gordon and Dorothy Wood**

## FLOWER GUILD REPORT

During 2015 we arranged flowers for six brides but as three weddings were close together we decorated the church only once for them which they shared. Sadly we have decided, most reluctantly, to give up wedding work. Much as we enjoyed it we felt that for several reasons we were unable to continue. Flower arranging is much harder than it looks and most of us were finding it too tiring. Unfortunately we are all getting older (average age around mid-seventies!) and no younger ladies have joined. We look forward to seeing professional florist's arrangements.

Once again we enjoyed the task of transforming the church from unadorned Lent to the glory and joy of Easter. We were very happy to receive sponsorship for the arrangements and hope they gave pleasure and a measure of comfort to the sponsors.

Harvest Thanksgiving gave us the opportunity to introduce lots of colour into our arrangements. Although we think white and green a very elegant combination for weddings we do enjoy working in colour too.

Christmas, of course, gives us great pleasure when we do our best to make the church look beautiful and inviting. Once again we used the little white sledges but changed the colour scheme from red and gold to white, green and silver which made a lovely change. You may have noticed that we gave our little choirboys a rest this year. We are very grateful to Dave Sedgwick who came and gave us his invaluable help hanging up the garlands on the pillars. Many thanks once again to those who sponsored arrangements or gave a donation. We reduced the number of arrangements to twelve, on a first come first served basis, but if you missed out you may want to sponsor an arrangement at Easter.



The Memory Tree was well-used again and raised £114.10 which will be donated to Herriot Hospice Homecare. Thanks to John Dickinson who helped us to dismantle the tree and sort out the lights! Thanks also to Paul for the lovely service he arranged for when we dismantled the tree.

Many thanks to the ladies of the Guild who give so much of their time, talent (and foliage) . We were very pleased to

welcome Linda Monaghan to the team. Sylvia Robinson has also volunteered to help us. Special thanks to Jeanne Crombie who keeps us going with coffee and biscuits. Thanks again to Dot Tanfield who always provides something different for the link window.



On a sad note we were all devastated by the sudden loss of our dear colleague and friend Val Moore. We will miss her ready smile and her great sense of humour. Those who attended her funeral will have seen that we left all the Christmas decorations in the church especially for her as she loved a “bit of bling”.

We hope that our work has given lots of pleasure to all.

**Dulcie Jones** Chairman

## Sunday Morning Coffee

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

Thanks go to the team of ladies who regularly prepare the drinks and biscuits for after the 9.15 Sunday service, also to David Rowland who does a valuable job of making sure that we have milk each week.



We are pleased to welcome 5 ‘new’ ladies to the Rota - Jan Thompson, Grace Enderwick, Marilyn Walker, Lynne Nicholson and Celia Elliott - to whom we are most grateful.

Our thanks to the ladies who, after many years on the rota, have retired - Kendra Walton, Olive Dunning, Sylvia Tanfield and Dot Tanfield.

On a sad note, Val Moore suddenly passed away just before Christmas. She will be greatly missed.

**Pauline Titchmarsh**

# Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Marwood continues to maintain its outstanding level of provision. A recent review of the school by the Local Authority has highlighted that “outcomes are outstanding and high standards of attainment and progress have been sustained over time. Teaching is outstanding and results in Literacy and Mathematics are well above the national average.”

2015 has been a very busy and exciting year for the staff and children at Marwood School in so many ways.

In February 10 chicken eggs were delivered along with a hatchery just in time for an Easter clutch. The children experienced, first hand, chicks hatching in class and lots of excitement ensued over naming them (Dora, Honey and Beaky). A hen house has since been constructed and the children share responsibilities for their care throughout the school year.

More extensive works followed in the summer months when work began on the conversion of existing building space into a bright and airy extension to the Year 1 classroom. This has provided separate teaching accommodation for Year 1 and new opportunities for different learning activities.

The Spiritual Garden has been enhanced with beautifully decorated plaques made by the pupils as part of work focused on embedding our core values of Love, Friendship and Forgiveness into school life.

In October, the school was delighted to welcome the Bishop of Whitby. The children thoroughly enjoyed his collective worship, in which Bishop Paul talked about Jesus as a good shepherd and the significance of the bishop's crook. Afterwards, the children presented him with an egg from one of the Marwood chickens. His letter of thanks, reports it made a very good scrambled egg tea!



Each month Marwood School, along with parents and friends, is invited into Christ Church for worship with the Vicar. The baptism of Jill Lily (our Marwood baby doll) and our very own Marwood wedding provide the children with a unique opportunity to experience special church services in a child friendly context and are enjoyed immensely by all the children. In addition, pupils and parents are encouraged to attend services in the church calendar such as Love in a Box, Christingle and Sunday school; these services are very well supported. The school supports many charities over the school year including Macmillan, Marie Curie, Save the Children and The Royal British Legion as well as other local charities such as Middlesbrough Food Bank. In addition, over the years it has forged strong links with a school in Sri Lanka with which it communicates regularly.

Marwood promotes strong Christian values in all aspects of its undertaking and it sees the promotion of its distinctive Christian ethos as central to its mission of providing the best possible education and care.

Many thanks are given to the very dedicated team of staff who inspire and nurture the children in their learning; also to Reverend Peverell for his much-valued contribution of time and spiritual guidance and to the very supportive parent body, governors and helpers at Marwood.



A view of the new Year 1 Classroom.

**Vicky Bradley**  
Foundation Governor

**Alison Lambert**  
Foundation Governor

**Celia Wilson**  
Headteacher

### **School Assemblies**

On Friday mornings the vicar goes into Marwood Church of England Infant School to take morning worship. Once every half term they come into Christ Church to be joined by their parents, in addition to the special services of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' Service. The vicar is also welcomed into Roseberry Academy to take assemblies on a fortnightly basis, and he goes into Kirkby and Great Broughton school every half term, with annual visits to Ingleby Greenhow school and Yarm Prep School. Last November he also took a House assembly at Stokesley Secondary School on the Love in a Box Appeal.

## Church Hall Report

The Church Hall is very fortunate in having an extremely dedicated band of people looking after it's everyday needs. Leader of the band is Sarah on admin, enthusiastically supported by Anne and Tabby on cleaning with Phil on all things practical. What a terrific team they are thank you all so very much.



The Hall committee has been pondering for sometime now on how to go about tackling some much needed improvements and modernisation, especially in and around the coffee lounge, which has remained much as it was, since it was built in 1972. Through the hard work of our Treasurer, Ken, we succeeded in obtaining a grant of £9800 from the national lottery. Funding was obtained to undertake a 'feasibility study' into ways in which the hall and coffee lounge could be improved for the benefit of all. With the enthusiastic and professional help of DKS Architects of Stokesley this study has nearly completed it's undertakings. Findings will be presented to the PCC in early February, so watch this space for further developments!

One of the aims for 2015 was to repair the sloping serving hatch between the coffee lounge and the hall. Money was earmarked for the work to be done but unfortunately first one and then the other heater in the hall failed. £4000 was what it cost to have them replaced, this took away all our resources, but looking on the bright side we now have two new heaters in the hall and we hope to tackle the subsidence issue, under the serving hatch, this coming summer.

Finally can I thank all the users of the hall, both those who use it regularly and those who come on a one off basis. Without your continued support we would not be able to run the hall as we strive to do so, thank you all so very much.

**Robin Harmar**

Chairman of the Church Hall Management Committee

## Church Cleaning Report

We would like to thank everyone on the cleaning rotas (general cleaning and brasses) for their continued support in helping to keep our Church looking so clean and tidy throughout the year. We know there are people who do extra jobs that are not covered on the weekly rotas and we would like to acknowledge this, as you all do such a great job and take pride in keeping the Church looking so nice, we can't thank you all enough.

Regarding the annual spring clean in March 2015, the decision to bring in the professional cleaners to dust and brush down the high ceilings and pillars on the Friday afternoon proved highly successful and gave us a good head start to the weekend. We still had a lot of preparation work to do before they came and a lot of cleaning up to do when they finished, but we all worked well and got it done, along with all the other jobs that are usually done at this time. Your help was very much appreciated and the Church looked pristine.



We are not having the professionals to help us this year so we need lots of volunteers please.

**The Annual Spring Clean for 2016 will take place on:  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9 am.  
Coffee and biscuits will be provided.**

We also desperately need more volunteers to go on the rotas to help with the general cleaning and/or the brasses. The cleaning is usually done in pairs, so if you know of anyone willing to help out (it only takes about 2 hours max, three times a year) please let us know.

To finish, can we please say again to all the hardworking volunteers a really big THANK YOU and we hope you will continue to support us.

### **Contact numbers:-**

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

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

## Worship

**Café345 Church** We held Café345 Church twice. Firstly we celebrated Education Sunday, when with the help of our musicians and singers we explored the theme central to education “*identifying the potential in people & helping them realise it*”. Members from our Firms delivered a dramatic reading of the story of Jesus’ Presentation at the Temple – complete with improvisation from our narrator



Isaac with a cast of Jessica (Mary), Simon (Joseph), James (Simeon) & Emily (Anna). Table Talk was introduced at two spots within our service enabling everybody to share in the process of ‘*Discovering who you are*’

In May we welcomed Regional Organiser for Christian Aid, Steph Cooper & her husband Rob to an ecumenical gathering. Under Steph’s guidance our Table Talks explored “The difference a cow makes” and “Bokiya’s Story”

**Come & Praise** A form of worship which enables those with young families to worship in a relaxed environment; it also attracts a number of older members of our church who enjoy a little bit of chaos. In addition to our regular monthly service (on the 2nd Sunday each month) we held specials on Mothering Sunday & Easter Day. We continued to attract a variety of families with children of all ages; attendance was usually in the 30s but on Mothering Sunday and our Picnic Sunday over 60 joined in.

“Great Big God” or “Walking for the Lord” are our regular links for ‘Little Fishes’ to feel at home. Whilst our music often comes courtesy of digital technology it is great to welcome Emily and others playing real instruments on occasion – musical volunteers always welcome!



Our Sunday morning worship with a variety of services to suit different tastes, still form the backbone of our Church Life, but are added too by either weekday activities or specials on Sunday evenings.

**8am Holy Communion** Still often gets 30 plus attendance for the service from the Book of Common Prayer. We are pleased to welcome several members from Nunthorpe Church who no longer have this service and have now made their home with us.

**9.15am Parish Communion and Sunday School** We are fortunate in still having our main Sunday Service that attracts over 100 each week, although we have lost several older members this last year. The music and worship is of a high quality, and it is good to see all ages present



### **Church Parades..**

On several Sundays a year we welcome the Uniformed Organisations to join us for Parade Services at 9.15am. Sometimes these are within the Parish Communion, but other times we have just a shorter Parade Service. The introduction of our new screen and projector should give us more flexibility.

**Sunday Evenings** Give us the opportunity to do something completely different, with Love in a Box, Christingles, Carol Services and Unity Services.



**Confirmation** Last year we welcomed Bishop Paul to take a Confirmation service in Christ Church.

**Service of Thanksgiving** In October Christ Church once again hosted the National Service of Thanksgiving for Children in Distress and we were presented with a lovely icon as a Thank You.



**Final Service** January saw the final service for our Mothers Union Branch, followed by a farewell party in the Church Hall. Some things come to the end of their natural life, and it is important to be able to hand them over with gratitude so energies are released for new ventures. We are grateful for all that the Mothers Union did for us.



**Christenings** Last year we did 35 baptisms or Christenings at Christ Church. These usually happen after the 9.15am Service due to the large number of guests, but we did have some within our service last year. My thanks to fellow clergy Geoff and Jon, and to the faithful team of sidespeople who come voluntarily to give a welcome. All the children receive Baptism Anniversary cards & letters organised by Vicki Nath.

**Weddings** We have seen a huge increase in weddings in the Benefice, due mainly to going to wedding fairs to promote Church weddings and the support of local venues, notably Whinstone View. Whilst more are going to Newton Church, we are seeing an increase here too, with 9 in 2015 and 16 for 2016. (We have 42 booked overall in 2016!) This is a wonderful ministry to be involved in and brings more young people into our Churches, so please make them welcome.



**Funerals** Last year I took 55 funerals at either the Church or crematorium. Funerals were far simpler, but now we have recorded music, slideshows, Skype links, coloured service sheets and very much bespoke services. I am thankful that in our village we have an excellent team to work alongside, with Funeral Directors, Florists, Caterers. Howard Atkinson also does an excellent job in keeping the village cemetery in good order. My thanks to the home team of Alison our verger, and Michael and Chris who play the organ. I hope we do a good job.

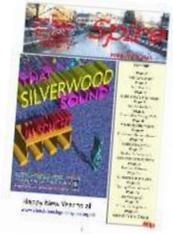
# Media Matters

**Church Website** Since its creation nearly 12 years ago our church website continues to grow and is visited by a growing number of people *spread throughout the world!* In 2015 we had 9097 different visitors from 117 different countries. The top 5 were the UK, USA, Brazil, Australia and Russia. (I'm surprised too.) At the bottom were Bolivia, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Peru and Samoa. Some people visit more frequently!

After the Home Page, the most popular destinations were Sunday Bible readings, Calendar, Weddings, Newton Church and the Magazine downloads. Visit [www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk) to see what's on.

Details of information and news of activities can be featured on individual pages on the website. Such information should be sent, by email, to either [peterthe1st@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterthe1st@hotmail.co.uk) or [revpev@btinternet.com](mailto:revpev@btinternet.com).

**Spire** Our Church Magazine is sent electronically to 683 people each month, as well as those who download their own copies from the website. We know that many are also forwarded on to others. We aim to give a lively view of Church and Community, with items to read, inform, inspire and laugh at, as well as bringing news of what's on.



In addition to the electronic copies, around 300 paper copies are distributed around the village, including free copies to cafes and other public venues.

**Twitter** The Vicar tweets, predominately for Church weddings for both Newton and Ayton Churches on [@revpev1](https://twitter.com/@revpev1). Geoff has his own profile [@jaques132](https://twitter.com/@jaques132), and also tweets under Christ Church's name [@ChristChurchTS9](https://twitter.com/@ChristChurchTS9), so messages get out to a whole new audience far and wide.

**Facebook** We have 2 closed Facebook Groups. The Little Fishes group currently has 60 members; it enables us to keep in touch with one another about matters relating to Christ Church in general & Fishes in particular. Our other group for members of our Adult Discipleship Groups is in its infancy with 17 members.

Our Facebook Page reaches 30+ folk each week, though the end of 2015 brought a spectacular increase! 380 people were reached by the photo of Archbishop Sentamu celebrating at Midnight Mass taken by Rev Pev, and the post directing people to the recording of his sermon reached 94.

## Guiding in Great Ayton

Great Ayton District has had another very successful year with all units enjoying many activities both indoors and outside.



In this past year three of our members have been abroad with Guiding. Libby Hendry went to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan and Molly Caygill went to Switzerland. Ashleigh Huntsman also went to Croatia and Slovenia as part of the team running the adventure for Senior Section members.

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

I'd like to thank all the Leaders and Young Leaders for all their hard work over the years providing the girls with the opportunities to try new things. We are lucky to have such a good team in Great Ayton, however various appointments are coming to an end and some people are unable to commit as much time to Guiding as they have in previous years so if you'd like to get involved please either speak to one of the Leaders or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)

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

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

**Alison Lambert**  
District Commissioner

## 2nd Great Ayton Rainbows

2<sup>nd</sup> Great Ayton Rainbows continues to be a very full unit – you can probably hear the noise every Friday evening in the Parochial Hall.



We currently have 21 girls in the unit with 4 leaders and 3 Young leaders to help and lots more on the waiting list.

We followed the trend of the moment in January with a 'Frozen' theme, making Olaf snowmen from marshmallows, then making princess themed activities – much enjoyed by the girls.

We also enjoyed a visit from General – the guide dog puppy who was on his first official visit – don't think he knew what to make of all these little girls dressed in red!

Making a change from plant pots, we planted summer bulbs with the challenge to find the most interesting 'pot' we had teapots, old boots, watering cans to name a few and I'm assured they all grew and flowered. We also went on a tree spot around the Low Green finding out how many different trees were growing.

We've had the usual trips out and about, up to Gribdale for a teddy bears picnic, visited the playpark at Guisborough walkway, and enrolled 6 of the girls on the beach in Saltburn on a lovely warm summers evening.



In the Autumn term we completed the Global Adventure badge, visiting lots of different countries, learning about them and trying food from each one, and leading up to Christmas the Robin Challenge, making coconut shell bird feeders and chocolate robins and Xmas crafts. We also joined the Brownies & Guides for a Church Parade service which girls thoroughly enjoyed taking part in.

We ended the year with a trip to the panto, and a joint Christmas party with the Brownies.

**Christine Kenyon**  
Rainbow Leader

## 1st Great Ayton Brownies

We have returned to business as usual this year following our year of 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations last year!

The girls have worked on Environment, Hostess and Brownies Skills badges during the year. They served refreshments to parents and guests at our Macmillan Cancer fundraiser where, along with the other Friday Guiding Units we raised over £600.



Some of the girls enjoyed a challenging weekend at a PGL activity centre, climbing and crawling and definitely pushing their boundaries. We enjoyed it so much we are going back again in April this year.

We finished the summer term on the beach building sand castles and enjoying some nice weather!

Leading up to Christmas we have worked on the Seasons badge and Robin Challenge ending the year with a trip to Middlesbrough theatre Pantomime and a Christmas Party.

Thanks go, as always, to everyone who gives their time and energy to Girl Guiding, giving the girls amazing opportunities and new experiences.

**Alison Selby**  
Brownie Guider

## 1st Great Ayton Guides

We have had another good year of Guiding on a Friday evening. The unit is thriving with 25 girls regularly attending. We enjoyed a PGL activity weekend early in the year with the Brownies and Senior Section, it was great to see the girls pushing themselves and conquering fears along the way. We were pleased to complete the Robin Challenge, Poppy Challenge and I'm a survivor Challenge badges. We have enjoyed walks around the local area. We enjoyed a fundraising coffee evening for Macmillan cancer and a cake stall in the village to help Molly Caygill with her fundraising for her trip to Switzerland with guiding.





A trip to Saltburn beach was enjoyed by all at the end of the summer term. Two girls have successfully completed their Baden Powell Challenge badges where they confidently ran a couple of meetings with their own plans and ideas. We had a visit from General a Guide dog puppy, where we learnt all about the training involved. We ended the year with a Christmas party where we had a fun night of games and food.

We are looking forward to another exciting year with Ashleigh and Anna taking over the running of the unit.

**Veronica Snaith**  
Guider

### Leven Division Senior Section



These girls may be 14 to 19 but they like nothing better than letting their hair down and reverting to earlier childhood on a Friday night!

They created some stunning outfits from recycled newspaper and plastic bags followed at the next meeting by some slightly less successful pancake making.

Some of the girls enjoyed a challenging trip to a PGL activity centre, pushing their limits at various heights and in underground tunnels.

We have learnt how to arm knit – slow start but we got there in the end and they all went home with a scarf!

They enjoy a cooking night, in fact anything to do with food is always a hit.

We joined the other units on the beach in July for sand castles and paddling and ended our year with Christmas craft and a Christmas party complete with party games and fish and chips!



A lot of the girls also work with Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units, their enthusiasm is endless and we have lots of laughs along the way.

**Alison Selby**  
Senior Section Guider

# Ist Great Ayton Scout Group

The Scout Group continues to thrive, with five units enjoying the use of our Scout Hut most weekday nights.

We currently have 73 young members, 12 warranted leaders and a large number of registered adult helpers. Due to lower numbers coming through to the Scout Section, the decision was taken towards the end of the year to reduce the number of Scout Troops from two to one. As higher numbers come through again from Beavers and Cubs, a second Scout Troop will again be opened.

Beaver numbers are very high with a current waiting list of 15 young people of Beaver age. If additional adult leaders could be found, we would like to open a second Beaver Colony.

2015 also saw the acquisition of a replacement minibus, provided by Parents and Supporters. Our minibus is seen as an extremely valuable asset to the group – greatly expanding the scope of our activities.

## Beaver Colony

At Beavers, we aim to make learning and experiencing the world around us fun. All year round we try to get outside as often as possible, although the very wet December and January have made that difficult this year.

We do night walks, spotting star constellations, playing games and letting the Beavers explore whilst we keep a careful eye on them. In the summer we take them to the Beach to paddle and fossil hunt, up into the woods to follow “Beaver Trails” and for walks around Gribdale and Roseberry Topping.

At our summer camp in Ravengill, Commondale, we explored the campsite, playing in the river, walking around the hills, cooking marshmallows over a roaring flame. We had a mega water battle and launched pop bottle rockets. And when we were inside we played games and did crafts.



The Beaver colony was sad to see Paul Gubbins stand down as Beaver Leader, after many fun years running the Colony. Ben Lambert has stepped into his shoes and hopes to keep Beavers as fun, and learning filled as it was under Paul's steady hand.

## Scout Troop

A number of key awards have been made during the year. Of note were the Wood Badges – awarded for completion of Leadership Training - to two of the leadership team, Tony 'Baloo' Dawson and Mark 'Hathi' Stowell. Chief Scout Gold awards were presented to James Jewitt, Jack Vernon, Sam Levett, Joe Jones, Alec Lee, Elise Dawson, Tom Jackson, Thomas Laskey and Isaac Weyell.

The troop made a number of trips out from the Scout Hut during the year to various local locations. A visit to the RNLI in Redcar showed more interest in the new Tractor unit that cost £250K and can drive in water up to its roof, than the new rescue boat - all purchased with donations from the public! We have cooked on the beach at Marske where the dead seabird was avoided for more tasty sausages, fish, and chocolate and marshmallow treats. Cooking in the middle of the woods proved a challenge as most of the wood was damp. The skills of fire lighting using available materials in these environments will be a skill to treasure for life. As well as food, the importance of shelters has been demonstrated and shelters were built in the woods with an abundance of fern material for the roofing and sleeping area collected.

The Summer camps were enjoyed at Great Tower Scout Activity Centre in the Lake District. A number of adventurous activities were enjoyed, including the 'Leap of Faith' which meant we all faced our fears 10 metres up a tree on a small platform jumping out to catch (or not in many cases) a wooden baton and trusting ourselves to the rope and harness to support us. The campfires burnt well each night and all food was prepared well by the Scouts (though the washing up could do with some improvement). A group who went through our camp (now named as Ayton Ridge) was later rewarded with a swap of neckers and badges by two of our keen Scouts who returned to camp carrying their swapped trophies with great pride. We agreed that for all future camps we would seek to obtain one other group's necker in exchange for a Great Ayton one.



We also worked with the local Middlesbrough Scouts and utilized the facilities they have in order to have a night of air rifle shooting as well as a night of archery.

Extending the reach of the Scouts into the local community lead to around 50 sacks of leaves cleared from the churchyard over a weekend, these are all gently now rotting down to be used as a growing mulch.

The Church also lent us equipment and premises for JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) where we contacted by facetime, text, and email different Scout groups from around 70 different countries. This is the third year we have held this in the Church and its popularity is growing. Over the weekend (8 am to 8 pm Saturday and Sunday) we do invite all Scouting members, their families and friends to be a part of this Global event.

The troop enjoyed many other activities, but not enough print space in this magazine to mention everything. All in all, a challenging and fun year was had by all, which finished with a swimming session in Stockton where many of the Scouts achieved new swimming level awards.

## Titanic Explorer Scout Unit



In June, the unit entered a team for the 2015 24-hour Shenington Pedal Car Race, near Banbury, in June. This was the second outing for our pedal car, built by the Explorers for the 2014 race. The car performed very well, with minimal maintenance required at pit stops.

Two of our Explorers, Rhys Selby and Patrick Hughes, were chosen to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Japan which proved to be the trip of a lifetime.

The event included a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park – to provide an opportunity to learn from the events of 1945.

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

We joined the Scout Troop for their Jamboree on the Internet in October.

In addition to these highlights, the Explorers have enjoyed the usual variety of activities, many organised by themselves, including an excellent quiz night, a number of mysterious cooking activities - beach cooking, ready steady cook competition – model car racing, Lego competitions, rocket building (and misfiring), balloon modeling, construction challenges and a number of outdoor evenings in all weathers including snow and ice.

Our Christmas outing saw us at Laser Combat at Planet Leisure in Newton Aycliffe.

In early February, we competed in the Brass Monkey Hiking Challenge on Barningham Moor near Barnard Castle. In cold and snowy conditions, our team beat off the competition to win the Senior Explorer Trophy – a Black Boot!

Another notable success for the unit was winning the North Yorkshire County “Just a Minute” Challenge at Thirsk In February.

### **The Group Supporters Committee**

continues to support the group and has organised a number of fundraising events through the year, including the annual village duck race and a fireworks and bonfire night at Woodhouse Farm Little Ayton. Future events will include, hopefully, a Hank Wangford evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.



Our thanks go to Christ Church for their continued sponsorship of our Scout Group. We very much appreciate the use of the church grounds for our scout hut and the many other ways in which we receive help from the church community.



Our association with Christ Church began in the 1920's – long may it continue.

**Ian McWilliams**  
Group Scout Leader

# THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

2015 was another good year with all our events being well supported, we raised £7897.88. Our box opening is always a happy morning with everyone chatting whilst the money from their boxes is counted, eventually coming to a grand total of £1764.92. The Soup Lunch continues to be a great success with many groups meeting each year. At the A.G.M. Jo Dean stepped down and we thanked her for her time with us, but we have since got a new member Sylvia Robinson joining us so welcome to Sylvia.

All through year Pauline sells the recycled cards at all the events with £380 raised this year with matched funding a grand total of £760, which is a splendid amount thank you Pauline.

A Flower Demonstration was held in July with Jean McClure as the demonstrator, she made some wonderful displays which were taken home as raffle prizes by some very lucky winners. In the summer the committee got together and stitched the Knit in Strips into blankets, we made five blankets and gave them to Zoe's Place, thank you to all for the wool, knitting and stitching.



The Bridge Evening is always a very well attended event with 11 tables taken, and the supper half way through is always very much appreciate, thanks to all who contributed to the event. This year the Quiz was held in the Conservative Club with Mike Myers as the quiz master. We received donations from our churches Christ Church and St Oswalds, and a further donation from a Funeral.

Cake Bake and Christmas Card sale, and the lead up to Christmas with Christingle on Advent Sunday is always a good family service for all ages. Carol Singing the week leading up to Christmas is our last fundraiser of the year.



Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the last year.

**Marina Charlton** Chairman



Christ Church was packed for Midnight Mass, and the Archbishop attracted worshippers from all other Churches in our village, which made our celebration even better.

A moving and inspiring service brought to an end a most memorable visit. The congregation donated £1,000 for the Archbishop's Discretionary fund

## Facts and Figures for 2015

	2014	2015
Baptisms	32	35
Weddings & Blessings	12	9
Funerals in Church	26	34
Funerals at Crematorium	17	19
Easter Communicants	179	187
Easter Attendance	250	262
Christmas Communicants	195	303
Christmas Attendance (Eve & Day)	502	598
Average Attendance - Adult	129	127
Average attendance - Child (term time)	29	27

Added to these figures are those from Saint Oswald's Newton under Roseberry, that has come alive with weddings and attendance over recent years.

## Christ Church Charitable Giving 2015

Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
Christian Aid	144	1185	121						1450
United Society (formerly USPG)								750	750
Church Mission Society								750	750
Church Army								750	750
Childrens Society			490				554	750	1794
Children in Distress		997							997
Archbishop of York's Discretionary Fund	121		879						1000
Tees Valley Youth for Christ	12						225	1000	1237
The Bible Society							580		580
Anglican International Development								1000	1000
Mary's Meals								1000	1000
British Heart Foundation							365		365
Brain Tumour Research							521		521
Ataxia UK						143			143
N Tees Hosp. (Breast cancer research)						104			104
Yorkshire Cancer Research							889		889
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust	12						225		237
Marie Curie							238		238
Butterwick Children's Hospice							601		601
Great North Air Ambulance							847		847
Macmillan Cancer Support						236	1621		1857
Herriott Hospice Homecare		103							103
Lewy Body Society							105		105
Great Ayton Health Centre							286		286
Alzheimers Society						130	821		951



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

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Election of Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting 18th March 2015
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2015
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2015
7. The Vicar's Comments
8. Election of Parochial Church Council members
9. Appointment of Sidesmen and women
- 10 Appointment of Independent Examiners
11. Any Questions on Church matters for consideration by the PCC