



Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 26 February 2023
St. John's Church
West Lane, Killingsworth
at 11.30am

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KILLINGWORTH.
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS on 26th February 2023 at 11.30am IN CHURCH
AGENDA

VESTRY MEETING

1. Election of two Churchwardens

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of 27th February 2022.
3. Church Electoral Roll Report
4. Priest in Charge's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a) Examined accounts of St John's Church for the year ending 31st December 2022
 - b) Appointment of person to examine the accounts of St John's Church for 2023
6. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of St. John's Church
7. A report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
8. Reports of groups and organisations
9. The Way Forward
10. Safe from Harm
11. Elections
 - a. Election of 4 members to St John's Church Council (3 needed)
12. Date, time, and place of ACM 2024
13. "Any person entitled to attend the Annual Meeting may ask any question about parochial church matters or bring about a discussion of any matter of parochial or general church interest, by moving a general resolution or by moving to give any particular recommendation to the council in relation to its duties."

MISSION STATEMENT – to comply with the 1993 Charities Act. This is taken from the Re-vision process.

To provide opportunities for all people to - Grow in faith, To Care and To Use God-given resources.

I. To grow in faith through our worship and our education, both within and outwith the Church.

II. To care by using our present fellowship within the Church and by making wider contacts outwith the church, within the parish and further afield.

III. To use God-given resources – financial, buildings and personal talents – all which are available in this mission.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
held on Sunday 27 February 2022 at 11.30am in church.

Present: Rev Dr Sarah Moon (Chair), Bill Fletcher, Pat Fletcher, Pat Winter, Tom Winter, Linda Sketheway, Kath Dixon, Joyce Forster, Christine Hindmarsh, Frances Pattison, Graham Mack (Treasurer), Revd Elizabeth Brown, Alun Moon, John Hamilton (CW), Yvonne Gardner (CW), Joyce Leyland, Margaret Tunmore, Angela Henderson, Charlotte Henderson, Doug Mullen, Karen Taylor, Ray Hutchinson, Anne Lisle, Maree Friend, Anne Curry, Ann Hamilton, Gayle Lodge, Chris Walker, Rev Canon Dave Walker, Margaret Cottrell, Shiela Bryden, David Gardner, Sheila Ramsden, Marion Mullen (Sec).

Rev Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for their warm welcome to her in her newly announced appointment as priest in charge of Killingworth Parish.

VESTRY MEETING

1. Election of Churchwardens:

John Hamilton	Proposed by Yvonne Gardner	Seconded by Doug Mullen
Marion Mullen	Proposed by Yvonne Gardner	Seconded by Ann Hamilton

The vote for John and Marion was unanimously in favour so these two nominees were duly elected as churchwardens for the coming year.

Sarah thanked Yvonne for her dedicated service as churchwarden. Yvonne thanked everyone for their love and support during her time of office which she had considered a privilege and a rewarding experience. Sarah reported that Yvonne had drawn up a guide for churchwardens which would be shared with the Deanery. She also pointed out that Marion's nomination for churchwarden would leave the PCC without a secretary and asked members of the congregation to give serious consideration to taking on the role, especially if they had some skill in administration. In the meantime Marion would step down gradually from the role and support the incoming secretary.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1. Apologies for absence** – received from Rev Alan Meighen, Sandra Meighen, Rev A Pyle, Sybil Pyle, Keith Hindmarsh, Sheila Mack, Jess Morton, Anne Walker, Tom Friend, Carole Nicholson, Jonathan Curry, Gemma Lodge Milburn.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of 23 May 2021** Proposed by Maree Friend, Seconded by Linda Sketheway, unanimously accepted.
- 3. Church Electoral Roll Report**
Doug Mullen gave his report on the Electoral Roll. The number had increased by one to 126 as a result of the loss of Joan Moffatt and Angela Taverner who died during the year, and the addition of three new members, Charlotte Henderson, Shiela Bryden and Joseph Hudson.
This report was accepted.
- 4. Interim Minister's Report**
Rev Sarah Moon thanked everyone for their support since her appointment. She advised that her installation would take place in the near future. She commented on the way we had continued to meet the challenges of Covid with good grace and faithfulness. She also celebrated the fact that nearly 100 neighbours and friends had sung Carols outside on Christmas Eve when we had to cancel the usual nativity service.
Sarah viewed the new monthly Sunday afternoon services with Little Explorers as a success, bringing back some Baptism families. She commented on the sorrow of losing some members and not being able to meet in large groups at funerals. She thanked those who assisted at weddings

and baptisms, especially Wendy Earnshaw who retired after many years as Baptism co-ordinator. She also gave special thanks to Margaret Tunmore who retired after considerable service playing the organ week after week. She finished by thanking all who contributed to the life of the church in any way.

5. Treasurer's Report

Graham Mack informed us that the Parish Share had been paid in full and all bills paid. He admitted 2021 had been a difficult one and thanked the congregation for their generosity.

- a) Examined accounts of St John's Church for the year ending 31st December 2021. Acceptance of the examined accounts was proposed by John Hamilton, seconded by Doug Mullen and unanimously agreed. John Hamilton expressed heartfelt thanks to Graham Mack for his dedicated hard work.
- b) Appointment of person to examine the accounts of St John's Church for 2023. John Welsh had agreed to this.
Sarah Moon thanked everyone for their generous and faithful support.

6. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of St John's Church

The church was re-opened in March, still under some Covid restrictions. The vestry ceiling underwent major repair and replastering. The heating system was reduced by two failed heaters which could not be repaired as parts were no longer available.

Stonework near the church door had been broken and was not repairable and the brass plate damaged during an attempted break-in.

Gutters had been cleaned and the churchyard tidied. Routine annual testing had been carried out. Churchwardens thanked all volunteers who lovingly care for the church.

7. A report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

John Hamilton reported that Deanery Synod had met via zoom. One of the presentations was from members of the diocesan 'Transformation Initiative' who talked about the options for different parish structures and arrangements being considered, including greater lay involvement.

The other meeting reviewed experiences during the pandemic and heard a positive and uplifting presentation by retired Bishop Mark as Acting Area Dean. It was felt that some parishes were 'tired' and suffering from lower numbers where congregations had not fully returned after the lifting of restrictions. There had, however, been some new and positive experiences which should be built on.

8. Reports of groups and organisations

These appeared in the Annual Report. Group leaders were introduced at the meeting. Some groups had continued to meet via zoom but others did not hold meetings as their normal activities could not take place.

Worship and Spirituality group resumed meeting on 2 February 2022. Gwen expressed thanks to team co-ordinators who organised readers and intercessors for zoom services while these were necessary.

Baby and Toddlers group had been unable to meet but hoped to restart soon.

Pastoral Group members had continued to keep in touch by telephone with people in need of support in line with guidance regarding the pandemic. The clergy team had carried out bereavement support and other urgent visits to the sick.

Heritage Group was not active during 2021 but organised participation in Heritage Week to allow visitors into the church.

Finance group. This group's main objective was met when the Parish Share of £44,000 was paid in full by the end of the year.

The Way Forward Group had received validation of the planning application to N Tyneside Council. This was later rescinded and further information and assessments requested.

EcoChurch group met at the end of 2021 and agreed to work towards silver eco church status.

Fundraising group was able to carry out a limited number of events despite restrictions, including Easter and Christmas afternoon teas delivered to people at home and a Craft Fayre using both church and hall. In all just under £3000 was raised.

Community Hall Management Group recently reopened with each user group being invited to return, producing their own risk assessment given the situation with Covid 19 at the time.

Mothers' Union had not been able to meet. The two Branch Leaders' term ended at the end of 2021 but they anticipated the continuation of the MU to be run by committee in the absence of a new Branch Leader.

Book Club had not been able to meet because of restrictions.

Craft Club had not met but members had continued their craft work at home and were able to provide a large selection of handcrafted goods for sale and to raffle at the Craft Fayre. They went on to knit angels for distribution around the parish in Advent, followed by hearts to display on St Valentine's Day and spread the message "God is LOVE".

4th Killingworth Brownies and Guides hosted fortnightly virtual meetings which were challenging to plan. They found practical activities and crafts for their members to complete at home. They managed to resume face to face meetings, if restricted, in September.

1st Killingworth Scout Group regrouped after losing several key leaders. 2021 was something of a stop/start year because of the virus but Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all managed a lot of events between them.

Safe from Harm. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Ann Hamilton continued to work despite the lack of normal activities. She reported that many changes in guidelines and training had taken place but Ann would ensure that St John's met requirements for all aspects of safeguarding. Several training and refresher courses had taken place online and face-to-face.

9. The Way Forward

Angela Henderson gave a brief update. At the time of the APCM the expectation was for the planning application to be heard in March 2022. The next stage would then be to reapply to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

10. Safe from Harm

Ann Hamilton reported that training courses had been delayed as a result of Covid restrictions or illness. She planned to help everyone catch up. Rev Sarah thanked her for all she was doing and stressed the importance for the Church to be seen to be doing the right thing in protecting everyone from harm.

11. Elections

a) Election of 3 new members to St John's Council:

Margaret Tunmore	Nominated by Marion Mullen	Seconded by Margaret Cottrell
Chris Walker	Nominated by Ann Hamilton	Seconded by John Hamilton
Alun Moon	Nominated by Marion Mullen	Seconded by Frances Pattison

b) Election of 1 new Deanery Synod Representative

No-one had offered to take this role in advance of the meeting. Rev Sarah advised that the Deanery was undergoing some changes and suggested we should use all the allocated places. (Chris Walker was nominated by John Hamilton, seconded by Liz Ratcliffe and unanimously agreed by the PCC).

12. Date, time and place of the APCM 2023 Sunday 26 February at 11.30am in church.

13. Any other business

No matters were raised.

Rev Sarah closed the meeting with the Grace.

ITEM 3

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2023

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll has resulted in the total number registered increasing slightly from 126 to 128. Sadly, Cathy Hankin, Mary Hobson, Les Makepeace and Albert Pearson have all died since the last APCM, but we welcome six new members, Claire McGahan, who was admitted last April, and then Nigel Brown, Hilary Elder, Anne Hodgeon, Kim Watt and Tom Winter, who were all admitted during the current revision. The preparation of a completely new roll is not required until 2025.

Doug Mullen Electoral Roll Officer

ITEM 4

PRIEST IN CHARGE REPORT

2022 has seen St John's return to worshipping back in the Church building each Sunday and through the week. When we had to limit the number of people in the building we moved to having two eucharist services each Sunday and we have continued this pattern. Our service for young children and their families "Little Explorers" has become more established, and it is a joy to deepen our relationships with some of our Baptism families.

We have also held a number of special services, we hosted civic services for St George's Day and Workers' Memorial Day, and welcomed Aberdeen University Chapel Choir who sang for our Sunday Worship when they were touring the region, which also gave the organ a great workout! I was also honoured to be invited to lead the Act of Remembrance at the Jigsaw Memorial at the White Swan Centre.

During 2022 we welcomed over 30 families for Baptisms, three couples for weddings, and conducted 27 funerals (five of which were in church). We have also been able to welcome our schools back into the building, for visits and in the run up to Christmas for services, this has linked well with our "Open the Book" group.

We have continued to build on some of the outreach we started during the Pandemic, at Easter we hosted an Easter Egg hunt in the grounds with lots of families looking around the grounds for Easter eggs which told the Easter Story, they also had the opportunity to enjoy tea in the hall and collect a chocolate egg once they completed the trail. Our Christmas Tree Festival was also well supported by our uniformed organisations, church groups, the Community Choir and some of our local schools, and we look forward to seeing how this new initiative will develop.

It has been a joy to work with the members of the PCC, and the various subgroups whose reports you will see in this report... There are so many folk who are willing to give their time and talents to serve God in this parish, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you. Special thanks go to John and Marion our Church Wardens, our ministry team; Alan, Dave, Frances and Hilary, whose prayerful support has been invaluable.

As well as joy we have known deep sorrow as a congregation this year, both in our own lives, the life of the church family and the life of the country. We have supported each other through the difficult times just as we have celebrated with each other in the good times. This is what being the family of God here in this place means, and it has been a deep source of joy to journey with you through it all, and I feel deeply blessed to be asked to continue as Priest in Charge. I have learnt so much about being a Parish Priest from St John's and am delighted to continue journeying together discovering what God has in store for us.

Over the course of the year I have been reflecting on Psalm 27, which starts with the wonderful assurance, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?" we have had much to be afraid of, much to fear, but God is faithful and has journeyed with us, and I hope as we continue together we shall continue to seek God's face here in this place.

Rev Sarah

ITEM 5

TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) Examined accounts of St John's Church for the year ending 31st December 2021
- b) Appointment of person to examine the accounts of St John's Church for 2022

All our bills, Parish Share, general repairs etc have been paid in full, and I would just like to thank the congregation for their generous support of St Johns and for making my role easier.

Graham Mack

ITEM 6

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The regular use of the altar table, originally from the Holy Family Church, at the Chancel step has been well received with the High Altar available for occasional use. There has been the option of having the bread and wine brought to those who have difficulty coming to the altar. Adjustments to the layout of seats has enabled an effective space to be created at the rear of the church for the series of services/meetings for young people.

We are grateful for the selfless work of the church cleaners, brasses cleaner and the flower group in keeping the church as attractive as possible. Its appearance has been regularly and positively commented on by visitors.

John Hamilton

ITEM 7

A REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod has reconvened meetings following the Covid break, under the chairmanship of Acting Area Dean, retired Bishop Mark Bryant and at its last meeting on 19th January Rev Ian Flintoft was installed as the new Area Dean with Rev Sarah as Assistant Area Dean.

The Synod has been advised of progress with the ongoing diocesan plans to take account of a reducing budget. A plan is being sought for a 'sustainable level of stipendiary clergy'. It has been advised that the number that can be afforded based on the current level of Parish Share is 80. This compares with the current notional number of over 90 clergy not including curates and chaplains. In October there were 76 full time equivalents (fte) in post and 15 fte vacancies. There is a Deanery Development Group for the Deanery and it is expected to take 3 years to get to a sustainable local position. The meeting in January was open to all interested parties to discuss the future.

The Synod had a presentation/discussion with the manager of the 'Walking with Refugees Trust' in North Tyneside, which has been based behind St. Luke's Church in Wallsend for 23 years. It is currently supporting nearly 250 asylum seekers/refugees. She suggested that it was hard to have a rational conversation about the topic of migration. There are many misconceptions and a lack of awareness of the real issues that affect those she stated were largely 'seeking sanctuary'.

The Synod continues to be a useful way to compare St. John's experiences with those of other parishes with a positive result.

John Hamilton

ITEM 8

REPORTS OF GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

PCC SUB-GROUPS

Worship and Spirituality Group

This group meets every two months with Sarah to help support the services and events planned in our church. This year we have been joined by Dave Walker at our bi-monthly meetings and he has proved to be a great support for an already strong team. An important part of our work is to help find teams of people to support services planned in church each week. This happens because of the dedication of team coordinators who encourage people to help at all the services each week. We are blessed with many members of our congregation who are able to use their gifts to help.

In September we sent Charlotte Henderson to university with our prayers. She is blessed with many gifts and used them willingly in our services. She is a big miss in our church life.

This year saw the renewal of licensed chalice bearers and training for those involved. We are beginning to train new servers and if you are interested and would like to know what this involves please talk to me. We are always praying for new members to support our teams. We continue to encourage spiritual growth by providing house groups and prayer mornings as well and this year we had a repeat of our online course on prayer. We supported opportunities for outreach into the community and this year saw the start of our Open the Book initiative taking bible stories into local schools and this has had an encouraging start.

We supported a varied and interesting series of services during the Easter and Christmas seasons as well as special services throughout the year including the visit of St. Cuthbert in September and our Christmas Tree Festival which was celebrated with a concert and carol service. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were very well attended.

Gwen Fenn

Youth Work

Baby & Toddlers

We started back in May 2022 after a long break due to COVID. We kept in place a few measures initially with regards to COVID guidelines given the nature of the group.

Obviously our numbers were depleted somewhat, as most of our previous children were now ready to attend nursery. I am happy to say that we have two new helpers to the team.

For the first time since establishing the group, we have predominantly mums with new babies. Lovely for the new mums as they found considerable support from the other mums and the team.

Due to age group we haven't done any crafts but looking forward to starting soon.

We had a little Easter and Halloween party as well as Christmas party with Santa and one of his Elves to help distribute the Christmas gifts to the children.

We, like other groups in church, contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival. Our theme was 'unto us a child is born'.

We made clay stars and the children pressed their fingers into clay then when dry decorated them for the tree, as well as felt nativity figures.

We went into church on our last meeting before Christmas and Rev. Sarah led a short nativity story and blessing.

It has been amazing seeing these little babies grow, crawl and walk and looking forward to doing more activities with them in the months to come.

Ann Hamilton

Pastoral Group

Our first meeting of 2023 was 11th May as during lock down only clergy were doing visiting and home communion, complying with guidelines. Marion Mullen stepped down as Chair and Ann Hamilton was proposed and unanimously accepted.

As we have some new members and it has been a considerable time since any volunteers have done any pastoral work, other than the group kept in touch with congregation by phone calls in accordance with COVID guidelines. We discussed the purpose/ function of the group/ safeguarding training:

Regular visiting - housebound, sick and recovering from illness

Pastoral Telephone Contacts

Home Communion

Wider community support- through existing groups eg. Baby & Toddlers, Knit & Natter, Little Explorers.

Support to the vulnerable, abused, abusers(with conditions in place)

Training needs of members identified with regards to safeguarding, pastoral visiting and home communion.

All members have now completed safeguarding training and members have identified whether they wish to do Home Communion, Home Visiting.

It was agreed that anyone wishing a Home Visit or Home Communion to contact Rev. Sarah and anyone referring someone should ensure that the person wishes such a visit.

Anna Chaplaincy

Rev Sarah and several members of St.John's have been to an introductory session on Anna Chaplaincy.

They will be part of the Pastoral Group with a specific remit. Rev. Sarah will be the Lead.

Once they have completed appropriate recruitment process, training etc they will be able to go into the community.

In closing I am sure that we all have to be part of Pastoral work in St.John's in being welcoming, respect one another's differences, value everyone equally and most of all show God's love to all in our daily life.

Heritage Group

The Group has again provided displays for the Workers Memorial Service and Remembrance Sunday.

In September, we once again took part in 'Heritage Open Days' with the national theme of 'Innovation'. We felt obliged to feature our local links with the great innovator, George Stephenson and his works. An exhibition was mounted with support from High School pupils, organised with Claire Ward, Head of History. We also arranged 'An evening with George Stephenson' with John Sadler as the man in a talk show format, which was enjoyed by a good audience.

We were pleased to be able to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival, thanks to the donation of a tree from Ann Walker, not to mention a splendid Santa! The group has yet to become fully active following the Covid break but has been considering producing a new Parish History leaflet.

John Hamilton

Finance Group

By the end of the year 2022 it was announced that the Parish Share of £45,000 had been paid in full and to help the Deanery/Diocese funds an overpayment of £1,000 had been approved by the PCC and submitted. The church was pleased to receive an award of £1,548 from the Church of England to go towards future energy costs. A gradual move by regular donors to pay by contributing directly to the bank rather than using Free Will Offering envelopes continued, with the Parish Giving Scheme being encouraged. Once again, the church contributors are sincerely thanked for their generous and regular giving during the year. The efforts and enthusiasm of the Fundraising team and others involved in the fairs and other fundraising activities are also acknowledged with thanks. The Treasurer is praised and thanked for his calm, efficient and accurate stewardship of the church finances. Charities and appeals supported during the year, often by retiring collections, included DEC Ukraine Appeal, East Africa Appeal, DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal, Christian Aid, The Leprosy Mission, The Children's Society, PICA, Water Aid and the Bay Foodbank.

Doug Mullen (Chair)

Buildings Maintenance Group

The group has not met over the last year. Matters have been dealt with on a day-to-day basis including consideration of options for adjustments to heating and lighting arrangements. We also benefitted from the generous act of Thomas Robb, a parishioner, who volunteered to repaint the churchyard railings with attractive results. We also renewed our noticeboard in order to bring the details up to date. The annual checks have been undertaken regarding fire safety and gas heating.

The Way Forward Group

2022 proved another interesting year for the project.

On 15th March, after representation at a Council planning hearing where one of the objectors to our application had requested the right to speak and after much toing and froing with the ongoing demands for further information, we were granted planning permission by North Tyneside Council, for the addition of a new entrance including toilets on the North Wall.

Despite our best efforts we were unable to find a new home for the organ and therefore had to consider options in discussion with the architects, DAC organ advisor. As part of this piece of work we also undertook a survey of the organ to identify work needing to be done to restore and repair it. Following these discussions plans were presented to PCC for approval and the congregation once again consulted on the internal arrangements of the church.

Plans were then submitted to DAC and on 20th October we received notification that the DAC recommended approval of the plans in their entirety, both external and internal elements.

A period of public consultation was entered at which point two letters of objection were received. One of the objectors exercised their right to formally object and submitted their "Form 5". A response was made within the required time period and at the time of writing we await the Chancellor's decision.

The Chancellor has offered the option of a written determination as opposed to a face-to-face hearing, and the standing committee of the PCC accepted this unanimously in order to prevent further expenditure of time and money. Once again I thank you for your continued support and patience and hope that as I write our report for the next APCM we have made some very real progress.

Angela Henderson, Chair

EcoChurch

Members of the eco church group joined an event last spring at the Rising Sun along with other churches. We helped to make bird feeders out of peanut butter and toilet rolls.

Karen Taylor was appointed Eco Champion for the Bedlington Deanery. At Deanery Synod on 10 May 2022 Karen did a talk about the eco church scheme to encourage other churches to join up.

We undertook a litter pick with the Mother's Climate Action Network and our local councillors around the church grounds. Children from the Little Cygnets nursery joined us and enjoyed using the litter pickers.

We took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Gayle, Gemma and Rebecca Lodge created a beautiful Christmas tree scene made out of toilet rolls and eco glitter.

We are currently a "bronze" eco church through the A Rocha scheme. We have progressed this year with our eco church activities and are in line for a "silver" award. Well done everybody! To achieve this you all have:

- Prayed;
- Preached;
- Signed petitions and engaged with local councillors and MP;
- Eco-tips in the newsletter;
- Recycling initiatives such as the pill packet recycling;
- Worked with The Way Forward group to make sure we are energy efficient;
- Twinned the toilets in the church hall with toilets in the global south;
- We are shortly to focus on climate justice as part of the Christian Aid Lent program.

We have lots of ideas and there are 4 members currently so if you are interested in helping with an eco project then let Karen, Sarah, Gayle, Gemma or Alun know. It would be great to have different groups focused on different projects. Some ideas we have are: investigating solar panels; film night with discussion; thinking about what we could do in the church grounds such as bug hotels, labyrinth, plants for bees; how we manage our finances and an eco notice board in church.

Karen Taylor

Open the Book

Open the Book is a scheme for telling Bible stories in a dramatic way in Primary Schools. Following the ending of Covid restrictions we have been able to go into school and tell the stories. We began in Grasmere Academy School beginning with 'The Garden of Eden' and following that with 'Noah's Ark.' We are now also going into Amberley Primary School and have dates arranged up to the end of the summer term.

Those in the group are Sarah, Chris & Dave Walker, Frances Pattison, John Hamilton, Gwen Fenn, Linda Fabian, & Anne Lisle.

We are very fortunate to be supported in the practical things, Props, Costumes etc, by Tom Winter & Joyce Leyland. This is not a closed group so new volunteers would be most welcome! Please see Dave if you would like to know more.

Fundraising Group

We have had a successful year, during which we organised several events for St John's Church.

On Friday 11th March we had the Bubbles and Bingo night, which raised £235.16. The event was well supported, with 46 attending and having fun.

Saturday 9th April we had Easter family fun event, with an Easter trail for children which including an Easter egg, craft table and refreshment table. We charged £5 per adult, who could help themselves to 5 items and a hot drink, children £3. Many thanks to the congregation who kindly donated Easter eggs. This was busy and raised £275.00. Leftover eggs were donated to the Food Bank.

Our next event was Curry and Quiz night on Friday 23rd September 2022, attended by 38 people. Many thanks to Dave, who was an excellent quiz master. We raised £316.03 on the night.

After this was the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 19th November 2022, where we had 3 external stalls and the rest made up within the church community. It was very well attended, and many thanks to everyone for all their support, donating their time, donating gifts, running stalls and refreshments, collecting tables and reassembling the church back to normal, especially the lovely ladies who make all kinds of hand-crafted items, the Scouts, and finally all those who attend. A huge thank you to everyone who helps. We raised this year £2028.56. Finally on Saturday 17th

December we held a coffee morning for the Christmas Tree Festival where we had a raffle, tombola and refreshments. Tickets were sold at £2 for a drink and Christmas biscuit, which raised £288.10. In total this year, we raised £3,142.85.

Finally, many thanks must go to Gayle L (secretary), Linda F, Joyce L and Ann C – who help run, organise and make the magic happen. Their constant support, hard work and effort, keeps everything running smoothly.

Liz Ratcliffe and team

OTHER GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS

Flower Report

As always we have enjoyed a successful year decorating the Church especially for Weddings and Christian Festivals. The flower workshop held in December was very well supported and everyone went away with their Christmas flower arrangement. Each year the attendance is growing. The monies raised (£140) from the raffle were donated to the Peoples Kitchen. Thank you to those who helped on the day.

If you would like to make a donation for an arrangement in memory of someone or to mark a celebration see a flower team member.

A big thank you to all our Flower Team for their time and donations. Also thank you to those whose gardens we may visit during the year for greenery.

Sheila Mack

St John's Community Hall Management Group

2022 was the year of 'drain problems'; the first having been caused by tree roots and the second by wet wipes and other unsuitable items being flushed down the toilets.

Routine maintenance and cleaning continued throughout 2022 and there is still work to be done on plastering and radiators.

The use of the Hall has returned to its regular pattern now with no restrictions. Four groups didn't re-start after Covid and have now ceased to meet, but two new groups have established themselves as regular users of the Hall. There were eight family parties held in 2022 and there is plenty of availability for private bookings for 2023.

Margaret Cottrell

Social Group

Social group continued to meet during the year.

We held a patronal festival lunch in January.

We organised and served refreshments for the Queens platinum jubilee celebrations in June. We also hosted the refreshments for the Christmas fair.

We met to start making plans for a party in the New Year.

Chris Walker

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union was without a Branch Leader at the beginning of 2022. We held an AGM at which it was suggested that we have a special event to bring members together after some attempts to restart following Covid. However, the funding needed was not available so this did not take place. No further meetings were planned for the year.

Book Club

A year ago, I had to report that due to the Covid Pandemic and consequent restrictions, our members had been unable to meet during 2021. Our meeting on March 11th 2020 was followed by our next meeting on April 13th 2022. Yes it really took that long! No doubt, some people would still read at home, I know I did! The point is that an activity like reading is generally a solitary pursuit, but when a group read the same books and meet regularly to discuss them, a solitary activity is transformed and changed into a completely different experience.

Our discussions are very wide ranging, and views are exchanged very frankly! We don't always share the same view because our life experiences have been different, so our reactions are coloured by our memories and our emotional responses to what we have read. The range of books supplied by Killingworth Library is interesting and we have tackled some serious and challenging books, with an occasional humorous book for light relief. The tea and coffee (with cake) help to enhance the social aspects of our meetings and we share stories and anecdotes and have fun together. Since our first meeting on June 14th 2017, we have met together 45 times. Long may we continue!

A quotation attributed to Francis Bacon, an English philosopher (1561- 1626) says

"Reading maketh a full man..." meaning that by reading, a man (or woman) is able to fill the mind with knowledge pertaining to a variety of topics.

Sounds good, doesn't it?

Joyce Leyland

Craft Club

A year ago, I reported that while meetings were impossible due to COVID restrictions, people were steadily working with their crafts at home and when the Christmas Craft Fayre took place in the Church on Saturday 19th November 2022, there was a wonderful display of hand-crafted items, (sewn, embroidered, crocheted, knitted, painted etc.) The Fayre successfully raised over £2,000 and also gave a warm welcome to visitors, who could shop for Christmas gifts and enjoy refreshments in the Church Hall.

On Friday 9th December, various groups associated with St. John's Church set up and decorated Christmas trees for our first Christmas Tree Festival and it made a wonderful exhibition of great variety and ingenuity, with lights twinkling

all around the Church. No doubt visitors over the weeks leading up and over the Christmas period were impressed and I hope it may become a part of future traditions. Our Knit and Natter group provided a glorious display of bright and colourful ornaments, all hand made with loving care.

Angels made by the group have been distributed far and wide in the Parish before Christmas and were eagerly sought as usual. Some people quietly embroider small crosses to be distributed in local hospitals and plans are always in the pipeline for the next Craft Fair. Make sure you keep the date free for the next one on June 24th - there's always somebody having a birthday and you may see the perfect present or you can even plan ahead for your Christmas shopping! We generally meet at 10am on Monday mornings in The Kings Arms near Morrisons and new members are always welcome. If you think you can't knit or crochet, come anyway and have a coffee or a cup of tea and have a go... we'll teach you! It's fun.

Joyce Leyland

4th Killingworth Brownies and Guides Report

2022 saw us starting the year with alternating weekly meetings with Brownies and Guides and getting used to being back together as units after covid.

We enjoyed a pack holiday to Seahouses in July and cooking on fires behind the church hall.

From September we finally got back to normal weekly meetings for both units.

Both units have had fun with crafts, games, cooking and playing outside. We have also welcomed new members into both Brownies and Guides, and new leaders into both units.

1st Killingworth Scout Group

Beavers

Beavers have 12 regular attendees on a weekly basis. We have covered topics such as mental health, first response, community work and helping others. We have achieved over 100 badges over the last year with 3 beavers achieving their highest award, the Chief Scout Bronze Award.

We have recently had a small dip in numbers but we are looking at ways to pick the numbers back up. Our leadership team has also grown with the adage of Ross and the continued support of Jill and Daniel, our Young Leader.

Cubs

Cubs currently have 12 regular attendees on a Thursday evening.

We have been concentrating on our badge work such as Backwoods cooking, navigator, hiking, community support, astronomy, athletics, first aid, communication and money skills. Other events included water activities at Druridge Bay and camping at Ford and Dilston campsites.

We had 3 people complete the Chief Scout Silver Award.

The leadership team for cubs is currently Justine and Graeme; with occasional support from Maggie, other leaders and scouts. We are currently looking for additional leaders and support.

Scouts

Scouts currently have 12 regular attendees on a Thursday.

4 Scouts achieved their Chief Scouts Gold award, (2 have now moved on to Explorers section)

We carried out a lot of outdoor activities such as backwoods cooking, map reading, compass work, pioneering, and orienteering, concentrating on tying various knots and building camp gadgets such as rope ladders using only poles and ropes. 2 camps this year. Plus 6 of our Scouts completed their Expedition Challenge which counted towards their Chief Scouts Gold award.

As a Church sponsored group we would like to thank everyone at St John's for their continued support

Organist's report

I thought it a good idea to introduce myself and to let people know about the organ. I've been playing the organ since I was 16 (and singing in choirs since I was 8), though there have been periods when I haven't played (mainly when the children were young and Elizabeth was training to be a vicar).

The organ (as most of you will know) does need some TLC. The report from the organ builder makes for interesting reading, it appears the organ was cobbled together by the builder (Postill of York) from bits of other instruments. That doesn't sound too promising, however the work he did was of very good quality and after nearly 150 years is largely working well. He was a well known (and respected) builder at the time, if you are interested there is a good description of his work at <http://yorkorganhistory.co.uk/robert-postill> with mention of Killingworth in the download from the site.

Whilst the organ (being mechanical) does not have all the modern accessories (such as computerized systems for changing sounds) it is very well suited for its role as a church organ being able to accompany hymns well and to play most of the music written for organ (except the pieces written specifically for cathedrals).

There are two keyboards, the lower one is the Great and the upper one the Swell. The latter, as the name suggests, is housed in a box with shutters that open and close to increase or decrease the volume. The two keyboards can be coupled together – which can increase the volume, but at the moment is very handy for getting round the one completely broken key on the Great. There is also a keyboard played with the feet which has one stop, the bourdon.

This is a flute stop that sounds the octave lower than played. Unfortunately, at the moment one note is jammed on, so you've yet to hear it. The different sounds are called stops – this is because very early organs had no way of turning off sets of pipes until someone found a way of 'stopping' them.

The music at St John's will develop, as well as Sarah playing the piano giving a lovely alternative to the organ, I suspect there are musical talents hidden in the congregation. As long as we remember the music is to bring ourselves and others to God and not to provide a perfect musical performance we will do well.

Nigel Brown

ITEM 9

SAFE FROM HARM

Safeguarding

It is everyone's responsibility to play their part in making St. John's a **safer church and safe space for all**, where people can feel safe, can access support, are valued, respected and protected from harm, exploitation and abuse. It is important that we all understand how we move towards becoming a **safer church and a safe space for all**.

There are 4 aspects that contribute towards a 'Safer Church'

1. **People** - all those with a role in church, whether as a volunteer or paid, to be safely recruited, offered support and supervision
2. **Place** - Risk assessments are completed to ensure premises are safe and suitable for activities that take place, for insurance and safety certificates up to date.
3. **Practice** - activities are risk assessed with appropriate number of leaders and helpers to deliver the these. For volunteers and paid staff to understand their roles and responsibilities, to be trained appropriately to their role, meetings to plan and review activities they are involved in, for good communication and record keeping.
4. **Procedures** - up to date policies and practice guidelines to provide the framework within which we operate.

We will never eliminate risk completely as there will be people whose intention is less honourable but together we can create a place where everyone should be valued and respected.

The Church of England have produced an online recording system for Parishes, Diocese, and the National Safeguarding Team.

This allows the National Team to see how Parishes and Diocese are doing regarding safeguarding requirements and how best to support Parish if required.

A Parish Dashboard consists of three levels recording all the 4 above . There is a time limit to complete the dashboard and it has to be annually updated.

We only have 2 items outstanding (work in process), and these policies when completed will be taken to PCC for agreement.

All volunteers at present have completed volunteer paperwork , training to level required for their post and have been DBS checked.

All training and DBS checks have to be renewed every three years.

Rev.Sarah and myself have delivered 'in house training ' for basic, foundation and leadership levels.

We have also delivered the new 'Raising Awareness of Abuse Training' in house.

A few people did online training for the different levels. The consensus was that 'in house ' was better in that folk were able to discuss things and could see how it was relevant to our Parish.

Should anyone have any queries please speak to me. Further information on Safeguarding is on the Diocesan website: newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding

Ann Hamilton, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-officio members:

Interim Minister:	Rev Dr Sarah Moon (Chair), Priest in Charge from 27 April 2022
Associate Priest:	Rev Alan Meighen, Associate Priest
Reader:	Mrs Frances Pattison, Reader
Retired Priest:	Rev Canon David Walker
Wardens:	Mr John Hamilton (from June 2021) Member of Diocesan Synod and co-opted representative on Bedlington Deanery Synod. Mrs Marion Mullen (from 24 July 2022 and Deanery Synod representative from 23 May 2021, Secretary)
Elected members:	Alun Moon (from 27 February 2022) Anne Lisle (until 26 February 2023) Gayle Lodge (from 23 May 2021) Doug Mullen (until 26 February 2023) Elizabeth Ratcliffe (until 26 February 2023) Karen Taylor (from 23 May 2021) Angela Henderson (until 27 February 2022) Chris Walker (from 27 Feb 2022) Margaret Tunmore (from 27 Feb 2022) Ian Tait (from 23 May 2021 to 1 Feb 2022)
Co-opted members:	Graham Mack (Treasurer) Ann Hamilton (Parish Safeguarding Officer)