



## Annual Reports

2 April 2017



Engaging A Community In Worship

100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The Parish Church of St Luke  
Hartlepool



## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Luke's Church is situated at the corner of Hart Lane and Tunstall Avenue in Hartlepool. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Centre, St Luke's Church, Tunstall Avenue, Hartlepool, TS26 0NF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

*Incumbent:* The Revd Linda Butler Chairman

*Wardens:* Mr Neil Chapman  
Ms Maureen Elizabeth Moss

*Representatives on the Deanery Synod:*

Mrs Margaret Inman  
Mr Francis Butler

*Elected members:*

Mr David Errington  
Mrs Pamela Harding  
Mr Garry Hutchison  
Mr Andrew McAllister  
Mrs Dawn Shotton  
Mrs Janice Taylor  
Mrs Julia Taylor *Hon. Treasurer*  
Mrs Alwyn Whitley *Hon. Secretary*

*Sidespersons:*

Phil Ansell  
Ann Arenare  
Rob Darling  
Beverley Dix  
Margaret Drady  
David Errington  
Pat Gibson  
Margaret Inman  
Brenda Kloed  
Eric Priest  
Alan Wright

### Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

### Objectives and Activities

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Linda Butler, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre and rooms attached to the west end of the church.

*The Parish Church of St Luke, Hartlepool*

## Vicar's Annual Report for 2016 - 17



I ended last year's report as we were in the midst of Centenary celebrations. We managed a quieter month in which we held our APCM as part of the Sunday morning Eucharist. Having given Neil Chapman a year to become familiar with the workings of PCC and the role of churchwarden, he was elected for this busy role. Neil has been competent, conscientious and a real blessing to all, and along with Liz has served you well.

This report covers just a few highlights of another busy year. There are so many people to thank, including all of the congregation in one way or another. So if I fail to mention you specifically please be assured that I am more than grateful for your contributions.

Our outreach initiatives in Throston have become established and proving to be fruitful. This year is the time to consider whether Café Church should be moved to another day and time. Please pray for the team as they make these decisions; also please pray for Janice, Evelyn and Sheila seeking to build up the Open the Book team which will reduce to three members later in the year.

We have continued to host a good number of baptisms, weddings, and funerals over the year. I have received several letters thanking us all at St Luke's for the loving ministry given to the bereaved, the enjoyable baptism ceremonies, and joyful wedding services. Well done to the teams involved. Two members of St Luke's were confirmed, and Luke Smart was admitted into Communion.

The shared ministry development team (SMDT) decided it was time to form a new team with the help of our congregation. We entered a thorough and successful selection process and Phil, Rob, Andy Evans, Andrew, Julia, Sheila and Christine agreed to form the new team. Working so well on St Luke's part in the Bishops in Mission Talking Jesus event, showed they are the right mix of people and I am sure will be an asset to you.

Cell groups continue to help people to grow in their faith, and they remain well-attended even with increasingly more challenging study material. What a joy to the Lord Jesus that they want to grow in Him.

The events of Centenary year were reported on regularly as we went along. Though we did not have any new church members as a result, the year certainly helped congregation members to get to know each other better as they engaged in very effective team work. We were blessed by the visiting preachers and both Bishops at various times, who helped you recognise God's faithfulness to St Luke's over so many years of worship. Thanks go to them and to those who compiled artefacts and advertised events.

On a sadder note we lost several dear friends who passed away during the year, including young Luke Chapman whose passing affected us all deeply. We have needed a great measure of God's grace to move us beyond our corporate grief.

My thanks go to churchwardens, PCC members, those serving on rotas, leaders of cell groups, of young people's groups, musicians, sacristans, servers, intercessors, ways and means team, Julia and Alwyn in the office, and those "unsung heroes" working diligently in the background. My special thanks to God for the privilege of being part of St Luke's for 5 years... the mix of joys and sorrows as well as achievements and encouragements. Following my announcement to retire this year, brought about solely by finding a bungalow to rent near our family, our last Sunday with you

will be 30th July. Meanwhile there will be a gradual handover of all areas of ministry here to those willing and able to take on new responsibility. Continue on with God's grace and blessing.

Revd Linda

## The Centenary Year 2016



### ST LUKE'S CENTENARY EVENTS

**JANUARY** Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Sponsored Read.** Do you love reading? Choose what you want to read. Ask to be sponsored for number of hours you spend reading. You can read silently or aloud. Soup lunch provided.



**FEBRUARY** Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

**Pancake Party.** Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with family and friends. *Free!*



**MARCH** Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

**Choir Event "100 Years of Music".** Tickets at the door. £5 including refreshments (Under 16s free)



**MARCH** Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm

**EASTER DAY FAMILY EUCHARIST** with Bishop Paul.



**APRIL** Sat/Sun 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>

**BAPTISM WEEKEND** Were you or a family member christened at St. Luke's? Registers spanning 80 years are on view all weekend. Special Sunday Baptism Celebration @ 9.30am.



**MAY** Sat/Sun 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

**MARRIAGE WEEKEND** Were you or someone you know married at St Luke's? Registers spanning 80 years are on view all weekend. Special Sunday Marriage Celebration @ 9.30am



**MAY** Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 4pm

**ST LUKE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY** for all. Venue Throston Community Centre



**JUNE** Sat 18<sup>th</sup>

**Coach Trip to Holy Island** Cost £20 incl. hire of a venue in case of bad weather. Plus food taken or purchased.



**JUNE** Sat & Sun 24/25

**Flower Display and Strawberry Tea**



**JULY** Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 2.00-4.00pm

**GARDEN PARTY** Join us at a special celebratory Garden Party in the Hall and Church grounds.



**SEPTEMBER** Sat 24<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

**VARIETY SHOW** Entertainment from every decade 1910 to 2010.



**OCTOBER** Sun 16<sup>th</sup> 9.30am

**ST LUKE'S DAY EUCHARIST** with Bishop Mark



**OCTOBER** Tues 18<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

**Church Birthday: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.** All welcome



**OCTOBER** Sun 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am

**Occasion to remember loved ones departed** and those whose funerals may have taken place at St Luke's church.



## Churchwarden's Report : April 2016 to March 2017

The last year has been challenging on many levels, especially with having to keep up with the people who managed our fantastic Centenary Events! The monthly activities, performances, visits and two birthday parties were a credit to our church family's talents and skills.

We have also found that we need to manage a programme of works and fundraising to repair and future proof our 100 year old building that is showing its age.

Our Sidespeople as always are a great help as they serve us in our worship. A massive thank you to them all, they have made our ability to do the Churchwardens job easier as they keep an eye on what people need.

Thanks also go to Julia and Ken who were able to support us and kept us on the right track when necessary with their knowledge and skills.

Building repairs and maintenance undertaken included:-

- The replacement of the copper canopy on the Parish Centre porch.
- Electrical PAT testing, installation of the Vicarage intruder alarm and servicing of the Sound System.
- The screens in church needed replacement as one had broken. We considered putting the old working screen on a stand for use with a DVD player but didn't have anywhere suitable to store it safely. The old working screen was donated to the Alice House Hospice.
- A new laptop was needed as the old one no longer worked consistently. We are grateful to Stephen McAllister for agreeing to take responsibility for its maintenance and manage software updates.
- There were concerns as children were playing in the north garden so Neil designed and had made disclaimer signs to warn people that we cannot be responsible for any injuries if they enter the garden without permission.
- A new Smart Gas Meter was fitted

Work needing attention:-

- We still need to consider removing or repairing our bell.
- We have small cracks appearing on the walls of our building. A Structural Engineer visited last October and needs to do another inspection. Test pits should have been dug by the time you read this report and the engineer will then inspect the foundations on the north side of our church. He will write a report on his findings and suggest a way forward and repairs/ action needed.
- Our windows and doors are showing their age despite being well cared for in the past. There are many draughts; one in the organ area is strong enough to turn the music pages when our organist is playing! The iron bars on the windows which fix them in place have failed and are cracking the stonework. We also need to save heating costs and reduce our carbon footprint. We will be considering a major project to replace the windows and draft proof the doors as soon as possible.
- Our boundary fence and Parish Centre carpet are also in need of attention.

- Our Quinquennial Inspection by our architect, David Beaumont, is due this year and will be requested following the Structural Engineer's report.

In the light of the likely cost of the repairs we sadly had to request that the PCC reduce our Parish Share by £5,000.00 for five years in order to give us a chance to complete the repairs. We gave photographic evidence to Archdeacon Ian Jagger last year so that the dioceses could understand why the reduction is needed.

Finally I started off this year as one of two Churchwardens but sadly Neil's job changed and he now works most Sundays. Neil has been a rock, he brought wisdom, knowledge and sense of humour to our Churchwardens work for our church family.

I cannot find the words to fully express my gratitude to Neil for the work he has done. I am sure you will all pray with me that he can find a new job which will enable him to return to worship with us as before and that he will be our Churchwarden again soon.

This year Liz will have completed six consecutive years as Churchwarden at St Luke's.

*Liz Moss and Neil Chapman,*  
Churchwardens

## **Electoral Roll Report**

The Electoral Roll now stands at 101, down three from last year.

Unfortunately we have lost two of our stalwarts - David Mills and Doreen Yeats, both of whom died in November.

Barbara Brown has left the area to live nearer to her family.

Rose Sweeney does not live in the Parish and no longer attends this Church.

We welcome onto the roll, Samantha (Sam) Taylor.

*Mary Shaw,*  
Electoral Roll Officer

## **Hon. Treasurer's Report - Jan - Dec 16**

Once again we honoured in full our commitment to pay the Parish Share to the Diocese. The amount paid was £35,000. For the year commencing January 2017 we have reduced the amount we have committed to pay to £30,000. This decision has been taken by the PCC as over the next three to five years we will need to undertake building works to the church because of cracks appearing.

The audited accounts were prepared using the receipts and payments method, and our grateful thanks go once again to Martin Firth for his generosity in doing the audit at no charge. The biggest expenses are gas £4,836.98, insurance £4,684.87 and the photocopier £3,896.02. When the latter comes to the end of its lease we will consider purchase instead, as long as we can ensure smooth operation of the printing without which it would be extremely difficult to produce the regular information sheets and The Magazine (that provided an income of £1,430.38). We purchased new music stands at a cost of £75.59. Donations given at the Gift Day in October amounted to £1,345.00. We received two bequests during the year of £1,000 and £5,000.

The Trust Fund at Durham is an accrual fund that must reach £95,567.38 before we can make use of the interest; the balance at present is £34,843.52. The balance of the CBF Church of England

Deposit Fund administered by CCLA is £7,791.43. Apart from the two trust funds, all our cash is in the NatWest bank (divided into easy access and interest bearing accounts). Yet again we have reduced the balance in the bank. Over the last five years our readily accessed funds have been reduced by 24% to £23,854.71 (actual - ignoring some cheques yet to be presented).

The annual copyright fee we paid was £318.92 that enables us to reproduce the words of songs and to play copyright music. Thanks go to Andrew McAllister who completes the on-line report to CCLI ensuring that composers receive royalties for their work. NB we do not have a TV licence.

## St Luke

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

#### Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endow -ment Funds	Investment Funds	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
	£	£	£			£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving	15,376	-	2,640	-	-	18,016	28,168
Collections	4,740	0	767	13	-	5,520	6,157
Gift Aid recovered	8,282	-	-	-	-	8,282	8,716
All other giving/voluntary	20,061	833	18	-	-	20,912	7,724
	48,459	833	3,426	13	-	52,730	50,766
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	4,089	-	1,620	2,024	-	7,733	4,469
<b>Investment income</b>	13	-	-	-	36	50	57
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	1,496	-	5,334	-	-	6,830	8,968
Asset sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	489	7,744	3,090	-	-	11,322	13,623
	1,985	7,744	8,423	-	-	18,152	22,590
<b>Total receipts</b>	54,546	8,577	13,469	2,037	36	78,665	77,883
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
Clergy and staffing costs	2,381	2,509	3,744	-	-	8,635	7,323
Church running expenses	16,031	-	-	-	-	16,031	16,705
Hall running costs	8,938	-	259	-	-	9,198	8,509
Mission giving and donations	1,625	1,123	-	-	-	2,748	3,279
Costs of trading	804	-	-	-	-	804	302



Repairs and redecorations	24	-	3,525	-	-	3,549	-
Asset purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	64,803	3,632	7,528	-	-	75,964	71,117
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,773</b>	<b>3,770</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	429
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>66,823</b>	<b>6,433</b>	<b>7,528</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,737</b>	<b>75,316</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>(12,277)</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>(3,071)</b>	<b>2,566</b>
Transfers between funds	8,898	(836)	(8,062)	-	-	0	
	(3,379)	1,309	(2,122)	1,084	36	(3,108)	2,566
Sale/(purchase) of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan	2,919	(249)	22,968	-	7,755	33,392	30,826
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec	(459)	1,059	20,846	1,084	7,791	30,321	33,392

We conducted 18 funerals and four weddings throughout the year, receiving £3,615 in fees for the church (down by £928 from 2015) and a further £2,800.60 in diocesan fees that were forwarded to Durham. Added fees collected for Vergers, Organists and other Clergy were distributed accordingly. The charge we levy for maintenance of the church at Weddings (£56 each) and at Funerals (£36 each) is being restricted into a Buildings & Equipment Fund that raised £836 (down by £484 from 2015). At the end of 2016 the B&E Fund stood at £3,843.33 - one expense was the repair following theft of copper from the Copper Canopy to the Parish Centre entrance, that was covered mainly by the insurance claim leaving £687.40 taken from the B&E Fund. The PCC at its January 2017 meeting decided to restrict a further £3,500 to the B&E Fund from the large legacy received.

When the post of Office Administrator was set up, the large donation given has now been completely used up. Thanks to the generosity of people giving specifically for this position, this office resource is able to carry on for the time being, but the balance of income versus outgoings into this account is insufficient to cover it in full. £1,500 from the large bequest is being restricted to the Administrator Fund.

Our account at TheGivingMachine.com has yielded £37.83 in 2016 - it is hoped that more of you and your contacts will make the effort to use the site - we could do a lot better.

A massive 'Thanks' must go to Pauline for all her hard work, both as a fundraising Gardener and as Organiser of the Ways and Means Committee, as well as to the team members themselves. There were some additions to be made to Pauline's figures for Coffee Mornings through sales made after the events. Through their efforts alone we raised £4,819.05.

More thanks go to Pam and Brenda who once again collected your Savings each week. Thanks to the Savings Club scheme church funds were boosted by £780. Please support them again in 2017.

And thanks go to Janice Tarn our Gift Aid Officer and to all those who have most generously completed the Gift Aid forms, we received £8,281.95 from HMRC.

### Centenary

We organised various events throughout 2016 as a means of outreach rather than as fundraisers and only asked attendees to cover our expenses (such as travel, ticket sales, venue bookings etc.). I am pleased to report that all of the activities we undertook over the year created a small profit through generous donations.

### Giving to Charities

Over the year various charities received £2,552.59 via collections, coffee mornings and special appeals, a 9% increase on the previous year. As our income continues to drop, it was decided to reduce the PCC's annual Charity Allocation to £1,250, almost halved since 2013, with £750 going to local charities, £200 to national and £300 to overseas charities.

From the Mission to Seafarers, Hartlepool Foodbank and Harbour (Hartlepool Women's Refuge) we received heartfelt 'thank you's' to everyone who gives us articles and food to distribute.

*Julia Taylor,*  
Hon. Treasurer

### **Gift Aid Officer**

April 2015 - March 2016 there were 64 planned givers of which 47 were tax payers

April 2016 - March 2017 there were 61 planned givers of which 40 were tax payers.

As you can see from the above figures our income is declining year on year due to the loss of some of our contributors and also not as many people paying tax.

We can claim tax on small donations of money collected in church in the box or plates provided at weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as our church services up to a value of £5,000 each year.

For the tax year ending March 2016 from the 25% we are able to claim on your contributions, we claimed £7,061.66 in gift aid and £1,218.42 in small donations, plus £1.87 in interest, making £8,281.95 paid to us from HMRC in July.

The submission is yet to be made for tax year ending March 2017.

*Janice Tarn*  
Planned Giving & Gift Aid Officer

### **Shared Ministry Development Team**

During 2016 the SMDT have continued to feed back to the PCC their thoughts, ideas and plans to keep Mission on the agenda of the church's life. The group attended a training evening organised by the Newcastle Diocese, and another training day about using baptism opportunities. Then it became increasingly difficult for the members to commit to meetings at times that suited everyone, indicating that it was time to re think the working of the team and its work. What followed was the process of involving the congregation in helping to select and re convene a new SMDT. Refer to Vicar's report from this point.

*Revd Linda*

### **Deanery Synod Report**

Diocese: The role of the Diocesan Generous Giving Officer is to replace the Stewardship Officer. The Dioceses will be selling off some glebe land (also known as church furlong, rectory manor or parson's close(s) is an area of land within an ecclesiastical parish used to support a parish priest). We were told that the Diocese does not pay for the Bishop.

Our bishops asked for the parishes to increase their giving in Parish Share by 5%, and an example was given of the diversity in Parish Share in that Darlington Deanery ranges from £6,000 to £150,000. (NB Hartlepool Deanery is £11,250 to £54,000). The 12 poorest parishes are north of the Trent.

Deanery: A Debt Councillor will be appointed to work within the Foodbank.

On 24 April 2016 the refurbished bells of St Oswald's church were re-dedicated.

On 26 June 2016 the Deanery Confirmations took place at St Aidan's church and St Luke's had two candidate, Louise and Lynn.

In 2017, from 3 to 5 March the 'Bishops in Mission - Talking Jesus' event took place across the Diocese, in our Deanery and also at St Luke's on the Saturday. From 1 to 2 June, Bishop Paul will visit the Deanery and do a Prayer Walk.

*Margaret Inman*

## Ways and Means

In 2016 despite all our efforts, we made less at each event compared with 2015, with the exception of the Christmas Fair where we made a staggering £1,001.63. The 'Cake Break', where we raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, we raised £196.50; this was £100 down on the previous year mainly as a result of fewer cakes being provided. The Theme of our Garden Party was a great success where we all dressed up in outfits of the previous 100 years to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The results of our various events are as follows.

		<u>Before expenses</u>	<u>After expenses</u>
Candlemas Coffee Morning	(30/1/16)	£420.90	£400.90
Spring Fair	(12/3/16)	£412.86	£390.86
Plant Sale	(21/5/16)	£464.03	£444.03
Garden Party	(9/7/16)	£1,114.13	£1,071.13
St Luke's-tide Coffee Morning	(15/10/16)	£426.30	£426.30
Grand Draw	(12/11/16)	£713.00	£643.20
Christmas Fair	(3/12/16)	£1,033.42	£1,001.63

From the profit of the Spring Fair, the main Grand Draw prize (a FitBit HR) was bought costing £151.50.

It has only been possible to raise such monies thanks to people giving us such lovely things to sell - Christmas things for the Christmas Fair; toys at the Spring Fair; jewellery at St Luke's Tide; as well as bric-a-brac, cakes, tombola and raffle prizes, books, DVDs etc. To set up the events takes time. This has only been achieved by a fantastic group of people who help, as well as those on the stalls, games, at the door and in the kitchen. At our coffee mornings we see familiar faces,

but also new people are constantly coming from our parish as well as from other areas of the town. Remember, if you are moving, or clearing a house, or just tidying up, please think of St Luke's when disposing of your unwanted things (in good condition/working order please) and give to us to sell.

Thank you, *Pauline Shaw*

## **Prayer Chain**

Over the year we have received many and varied confidential requests. We have three chains - telephone, text and email.

## **Prayer Diary**

The Prayer Diary continues to be a valued resource. Revd Linda prepares the list which is then produced in the office.

## **Wednesday morning Cell group**

This group, (leader Rev Linda), meets after morning worship.

## **Wednesday evening Cell group**

This group, (leader Pam Harding), meets at 36 Welldeck Road.

## **Thursday evening Cell groups**

Two groups meeting at High Tunstall Farm (leaders, Liz Moss and Andrew McAllister) and in the Prayer Room (leader Phil Ansell).

## **Friday evening Cell group**

This small group meets at Margaret Hughes' home (leader, Julia Taylor). As well as our studies this year we have been busy creating banners for the Centenary.

## **Friday/Wednesday Prayers**

The small group who have been meeting variously in the church prayer corner, vicarage or Margaret's home, has dwindled to just two members. Prayer is one of the most important things we can be doing as Christians. Neil Chapman graciously set up the church on several Wednesdays over a period of around six months, with candles and prayer resources. This initiative failed to attract any new people to pray in a group setting. Nevertheless, it is known that some of us do regularly pray in our own homes.

We are thankful that our prayers are being answered. In particular with the recovery of those who have been ill, with the succour of those who have been bereaved and for the support of those who are carers.

## **Website**



The website is running very well and is proving to be a good asset to St Luke's Church; it is now linked to the Facebook page of the church and over the past year we have seen an increased 'likes' to this page from the website being linked.

The logo has now changed back to the picture of the church, the website is attracting many visitors from people who don't attend St Luke's, with people looking at the wedding, baptism and event pages the most. The website is very easy to navigate and provides great information for people within the church and for people who are interested in attending the church. You are also able to view the Parish Magazine now too.

*Andrew Evans*

## **Mothers' UNION** Christian care for families Report 2016

Mothers' Union meetings held last year included talks on the Lebanon, a Marble Church in Wales, the Fire Brigade talked about Safety in the Home, an Aromatherapy talk. We also had a visit from the Marketing department at Durham. Janice brought a vast array of goods for sale including cards of all descriptions, fancy goods and books and was delighted at that amount of money she took.

The Women's World Day of prayer was held at St Aidan's Church. A quiet afternoon was held at Greatham Church led by Mary Jarvis, who used to be a Chaplain at The General Hospital.

The Wave of Prayer was held in December this year instead of January. We also had a Strawberry Tea at the same time as the mini Flower Festival in Church and raised the magnificent sum of £192.95 which we donated to 'The Wheels Appeal' a M.U. Charity.

The annual summer outing was cancelled due to lack of support. Our November meeting was a demonstration of Christmas decorations and making a Christmas wreath to take home. The year was rounded off by a bus trip to Castle Howard to see all the Christmas decorations, and they were stunning.

Sadly this year we lost one of our long standing members, Doreen Yeats, we miss her very much. Our membership at present is struggling, why not give us a try, you can come along as a visitor and see for yourself if you would like it.

*Joan Mills*

### **St Luke's Savings Club 2016**

We had 33 savers (one fewer than 2015), 19 of whom are taxpayers and their details were passed on to the Planned Giving Officer, Janice Tarn, so that the amount of £494 (of the £780 donated to the church) qualified to be gift aided.

<i>Credit</i>		<i>Debit</i>	
Amount brought forward	10.35	Amount paid to savers	7,788.10
Amount invested	8,564.20	Amount donated to church	780.00
		Balance c/fwd	<u>6.45</u>
Total	<u>8,574.55</u>		8,574.55

Many thanks to all who saved with us during 2016.

*Brenda Kloed & Pamela Harding*

## St Luke's Sewing Party

The Sewing party has continued to meet each week in members' homes. We meet on Tuesday afternoons/evenings and we have worked, using our various skills, to raise money for the The Christian Medical College Hospital in Vellore, India, from whom we receive details of how the money which we raised has been used. If anyone would like to see some of these details, please contact us. We also send a donation to Church Mission Society who send us grateful thanks.



Our grateful thanks to all who have supported our endeavours throughout the year by assisting at our coffee mornings and those who have attended. Gifts of wool, materials, etc. are received with our grateful thanks.

We would also like to thank our friends who support our effort to help the victims of leprosy, bombs and violence who have lost legs who have treatment at the Moravian Hospital in Sikonge, Tanzania. Over 100 stump socks have been sent to the hospital over the last year and are much appreciated.

*Emily Graham,*  
Secretary

## Altar Flower Fund

Thanks to those who have, by their donations over the year enabled me to maintain a good supply of flowers in Church. I am, through their generosity able to provide special displays at the special festivals, i.e. Christmas, Easter and St Luke's-tide. Numbers of persons donating have become much reduced over the last few years so if you feel you would like to donate flowers in memory of loved ones or of a very happy occasion, please add your name to the calendar which is placed in the Baptistry, or see me in Church and a suitable date can be arranged.

I would also like to thank Mary Shaw and Jan Taylor for their help with the arrangement of altar flowers. I do appreciate this help.

*Emily Graham*

## Fairtrade



Support has been steady throughout the year with peaks for Christmas and Fairtrade Fortnight. Sales this year have reached £1,700.

Thank you.

*Evelyn McAllister*

## Church Magazine

Our little group who meet on the third Thursday to collate the magazine is getting smaller, but everyone is very helpful. Unfortunately Pat Dix has had to stop coming & also is no longer able to deliver the magazine. We are grateful for the many years of service she has willingly given. Evelyn

McAllister & Joan Mills have kindly agreed to help out & are sharing Pat's round. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone else who has a little time to spare - either to help collate the magazine once a month or to be on standby to deliver magazines in times of holiday or illness.

The cost of the magazine stays at £8 per year.

Many thanks to everyone who helps in any way, especially Nigel, Julia & Alwyn.

*Sheila Darling*

## Sunday Club

What a busy year! Topics covered:



- 1) Church Festivals
  - a) Easter
  - b) Pentecost
  - c) Harvest
  - d) Christmas
  - e) Jesus' childhood
- 2) Births, Marriages and Funerals (linked to the Parish Registers Days)
- 3) Prayer
  - a) What is prayer?
  - b) Types of prayer
  - c) The Lord's Prayer
- 4) Senses - how do we find God?
  - Along with SLYP we have kept the Baptistry boards filled and put on a display for Easter.
  - We contributed our home made flowers to the 'Centenary Flower Display' along with some baskets.
  - "A Recycled Christmas" was our decoration of the church for Christmas. Thank you to all those who made a contribution.
  - We helped to organise the 'Open the Book' Nativity service.

On top of all this, Margaret helped the children make a banner, "hands and feet", for the Mothers' Union 140th Anniversary Service that was held at Durham Cathedral, and was attended by some of the children and their supporters. James, Luke and Ruth paraded the banner in the Cathedral.

Now we start all over again. Thanks to Margaret and Phil for all their ideas and crafts but most of all their sense of humour.

*Evelyn McAllister*



## CAFÉ CHURCH & OPEN THE BOOK

### *Café Church*

We have continued with cafe church in the community centre on Throston Grange Estate on third Sunday at 4pm. Our small number of volunteers have been committed to providing this outreach ministry even though the number of people coming has been reducing over the year.

Our best attended events were the party for Pentecost, the Christingle service and the pancake party. Open the book bible stories are acted out involving children and adults and there is a craft area and board games as well as afternoon tea provided by church members. Because of the time and resources given freely by our team and the community centre usage being free this outreach costs the church nothing. We are going to meet in the summer to see the way forward with this important ministry in our parish.

### *Open the Book in Throston School*

We have been going into Throston Primary School once a month on a Tuesday morning to act out Bible stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible over the past year except July and August. This has provided links with Throston Primary School as well as contributing to the children's religious, spiritual and moral education.

The stories are very much enjoyed by the children in Years 1 to 4 in the school and we always have plenty of volunteers to join our small team in acting out the parts in the stories. This past year we have performed Big Bags of Money, Spies in Canaan, A Brave and Mighty Man, The Wise Men's story, Joseph's story, On the Road to the Cross and John's story. This year we made Christingles with the nursery children as we had made them with the older children the previous 2 years.

Although we are a small team and are soon to lose 3 members we will continue this important link with Throston Primary School.

*Janice Tarn*



## St LUKE'S YOUNG PEOPLE

It has been another busy and productive year. We continue to meet fortnightly and have a committed group of around 10 young people who meet regularly.

Last summer we spent the term looking at how we can live out our faith in the 21st Century world around us, before our annual summer outing to Planet Leisure in Newton Aycliffe where we took part in bowling, laser quest and a roller disco! In the autumn term we focused on poverty both at home and abroad and how as Christians we should respond to it before reflecting on the relevance of Christmas today. Since the start of the new year we have been looking at the Letter of James, focusing on the importance of prayer and how our mouths can be used both for good and evil. Our final topic between now and Easter are some key passages from John's Gospel showing us the true nature of Jesus. We have lent our artistic skills to producing some stained glass windows for the Christmas display in church and are currently working on a display for Come and See as part of the Bishop's in Mission.

As always we ask for your continued prayers and support for the young people and their journey of faith.

*Andrew & Lucy McAllister*





## Little Angels

In Sept 2015 I took over leading Little Angels Playgroup on a Thursday morning. At that time our attendance numbers were no more than 10 most weeks and now 7 months on, I am really proud to see between 20 and 25 fabulous little ones.

Last year we enjoyed a couple of special parties to mark the Centenary of the Church and also Christmas too. We were lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas during what I'm sure was a very busy time for he and his wife. Every child received a gift bag which was personalised for them and presented by the big man after a fabulously festive snack time.

Each week I try to provide a variety of healthy snacks which can be enjoyed by all the children, even the smallest ones just starting out on their food journeys. The grown ups get a nice cuppa and treat too. And in my pledge to give up chocolate and biscuits for Lent, the grown ups will benefit from me emptying my goodie cupboard.

During our Playgroup sessions the children can enjoy a variety of age appropriate toys, books and games and now we have a good number of pre nursery children attending, we're enjoying a craft table most weeks with play dough and painting. To finish our play time we have songs and the odd puppet show if I remember to bring them!

I am very grateful for the support and help I receive weekly from Ken in setting up and more than likely re-tidying the toy cupboard and also from Evelyn, who runs a tight kitchen and prompt snack time. Without both I would struggle to get everything done.

*Naomi Weston*



## Little Lambs

This little group meets in the hall every Monday afternoon during term time. The regular attenders throughout 2016 have kept the group going but we need 'new blood' so to speak, as in 2017 most of the children will be going on to Nursery or School. The PCC have agreed to waive a portion of the rent for last year as it is felt that the group should be supported.

We are grateful to Fran Butler for being a wonderful Santa for us at our party held in December. And a big 'Thank You' to Ann Arenare for being my reliable helper in opening up and in serving the refreshments as well as chatting to the mums. Also grateful thanks go to Ken for setting up each week.

Some of the large equipment we use is becoming past its 'sell by date', we hope to attract some funding to replace it.

In 2017 we will need a new helper. If you are attracted to working with very young children and their carers please get in touch.

*Julia Taylor*



## 29<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool Brownies - Annual Report 2016/2017

We have had a lot of changes within Brownies this year. A number of our girls have moved onto Guides and it has been good to welcome several new Brownies from the Rainbow Unit. Emily has left us to start a Child Nursing Degree in Northumbria and Alice Relton has joined us as a Young Leader. Both Alice and Laura Gardner are working towards their Adult Leaders Qualification. Ellen Gardner has also recently completed her Adult Leaders Award and has taken on the role of DBS coordinator for Hartlepool District.

We had another enjoyable weekend holiday away at Holme House in North Yorkshire with the theme of Roald Dahl in September. We have a lovely walk to Grosmont on the Saturday afternoon and enjoyed juice and a biscuit in the Old School café.

We have celebrated Chinese New Year, World Women's Day and had a visit from a drumming group as part of a Cystic Fibrosis badge. We have a Brownie that has this condition and a number of years ago we designed a badge along with activities to raise funds and awareness of the condition.

On Wednesday 22 February we joined with a town-wide Hartlepool event to celebrate Thinking Day. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section met in Throston School. We made and exchanged friendship bracelets, played beetle, sang songs and took part in a short flag ceremony. We finished with juice and a biscuit - a great time was had by all.

We are currently planning our Easter coffee evening on 4th April and are planning crafts to make and sell on the night over the next few weeks. You are very welcome to join us.

We currently have 20 Brownies and a short waiting list. I am grateful for the team of willing helpers who support us each week as without their time and energy we would not be able to do the many interesting activities that we all enjoy.

*Gillian Rodgers*  
Brown Owl



Last year saw the group change Chairperson again with Garry stepping down from the role at the end of the last AGM. Kevin came in and has done a great job filling the void that was left by Garry. The role is such an important one for the Group as provides the direction for fundraising and organising of the Exec. Committee to support the leadership team.

I feel the group as a whole is as strong as it has ever been with great financial stability and superb numbers. The census figures being 116 young people at January. That is a lot of young children enjoying activities in the town. Our leadership team is superb as well but I will mention them more later in my report.

In 2016, we have again been involved in tremendous activities. The Group held a Group camp which partly funded by a grant from Tees Valley Community Foundation and partly from the Executive Committee. We had approximately 100 children taking part in a range of activities at Moorhouse. These included climbing, river walking, archery, high ropes course, crate stacking and Tobogganing. We can then get on to some of the fabulous activities that each individual section

has undertaken this year as well but I will let you see those in the reports that follow.

Each year I touch upon how the achievements of the District and how things are developing. However, this year my role changed. I have been appointed as the District Commissioner as well as overseeing the work of this Group. I now have a much larger task of overseeing and developing the bigger picture of Scouting in Hartlepool and Billingham. It is a challenge but also an opportunity to put my ideas into the District. The team of leaders within the Group have supported me with my approach and I hope that the District continues to develop as well as this Group has.

I would like to thank all the leaders and the Executive Committee who make the group what it is. They VOLUNTEER their time each week some at weekends and the Scout Leaders at week long camps. For nearly all the leaders the role is not just 2 hours during the week. There are meetings, accounts, letters, emails to parents, buying badges organising weekly sessions, training and planning the term meetings. This is why each section has 2-3 adults supported by a couple of younger members.

I would also like to thank the families of the volunteers. The husbands, wives, partners and children who every Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday accept that once again one of their family is out doing Scouting.

Thank you

David Kelly, Group Scout Leader



### 9th Hartlepool Beaver Group (St Luke's) 2016/17

St Luke's Beavers have enjoyed a wide range of adventures over the past 12 months. We continue to meet at St Luke's Church every Wednesday evening from 6pm until 7.15pm. This year we have extended our finishing time so that the Beavers can complete all of their exciting activities.

Our section has continually had around 25 Beavers over the past year.

Our adventures this year have included visits to the following:

- **Camp for St George's Day:** *The Beavers had a visit to camp.*
- **Ward Jackson Park:** *We visited the park to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday.*
- **The Headland:** *We built sandcastles, enjoyed metal detecting and ate chips. We also buried an Explorer Scout in the sand!!*
- **Tweddle's Farm:** *The Beavers enjoyed a joint visit with Throston Beavers.*
- **Scout Headquarters:** *Party time to celebrate 30 years of Beavers with Beavers from across Tees Valley North.*
- **St Luke's Church:** *We explored inside the church for our Faith Badge and we made stained glass windows.*
- **Sunday Service at St Luke's:** *The Bishop of Jarrow led the service.*
- **Metro Radio Arena:** *Some Beavers and Leaders went to watch Bear Grylls.*
- **Heugh Gun Battery Museum Visit.**
- **Rossmere Forest School Visit:** *The Beavers made wooden crafts, completed a forest walk by night, toasted marshmallows and sang songs around the camp fire.*
- **Bag Packing at Morrison's:** *Fundraising*
- **Christmas Fair :** *St Luke's Church*

We have had so many exciting times this year that we would like to share them with you. Please see below. This year we have also shared our weekly adventures on our **9th Hartlepool Facebook Page**.

Here are some examples of what this year, January 2016 to December 2016 has included:

### **Spring 2016:**

The Beavers had a Dinosaur Craft Themed Night. The following week we held a Challenge Night: the Beavers had to complete 30 challenges to celebrate 30 years of Beavers. The Beavers took part in a First Aid night. We celebrated Chinese New Year. We had a party to celebrate 30 years of Beavers. The Beavers enjoyed trying food at their Healthy Eating Night. For Mother's Day, the Beavers made gifts. To become Scientists, we made hovercrafts using balloons and CD's, we learnt about friction, made aeroplanes and learnt about buoyancy.

### **Summer 2016:**

We started the Summer term by making knight masks in readiness for St George's Day. The Beavers enjoyed a bug hunt in the church grounds. The following week the Beavers made butterfly mobiles and friendship worms. The Beavers learnt how to make "hedgehog" bread. We held a second night of First Aid training. The Beavers had a craft night where they made fridge magnets and had their faces painted. We ended the Summer term by painting our feet and hands using rainbow paint. We wrote the messages: Where will our feet take us? Who will we help with our hands?

### **Winter 2016:**

The Coast Guard came to visit us at Beavers. We built rockets for Guy Fawkes Night. The Beavers had a Christmas craft night where they made crackers, decorations and cards. To finish off the Winter term we had a Christmas Party Night.

### **Fundraising Events:**

Our Beavers have collected money so that they could buy a "super goat" for children less fortunate than themselves.

As a group we would like to thank the parents/carers for their continued support.

*Louise Moriarty, Mark Anderson, Amy Kirby, James and Bailey: Our Explorer Scout Helpers.*  
9th Hartlepool: St Luke's Beaver Leaders



### **9th Hartlepool Beaver Colony Report (Throston)**

Throston Beavers is now well and truly an established Colony. Our numbers are consistent at 20, with new children always ready to take the place of those Beavers moving up to Cubs.

Our programme in 2016 focused on Outdoor and Adventure Challenge badges. In advance of activities Beavers got prepared and were actively involved in planning. They enjoyed taking lead and making new friends.

To be safe Beavers completed the Emergency Aid stage 1 and Road Safety activity badges, including the Green Cross Code. Exploring our local area and surroundings; a night hike from Seaton Carew to the Marina. This was rewarded with a hot chocolate to warm up and time in a soft play area. The Cyclist badge took place at the Hart to Haswell Walkway. We learnt local history at the Headland with a walk along the town wall. All our planning cannot guarantee the weather; a freezing summer's night with fog, sea fret and cold North Sea wind! But this didn't stop the Beavers

having lots of fun on the sands. Thankfully the sun shone for our trip to Tweddle's Farm. From learning how to use a club at the Crazy Golf Dome to bell boating at the Cleveland Water Activities day, the Beavers had lots of new adventures, visiting new places. Creating, imagination and using our senses in everything do, discussing what we see, hear, smell, touch and taste.

Beavers began to learn camp crafts, such as putting up tents, using knots and roasting marshmallows. Our highlight was experiencing a day trip to the Group's St George's camp at Moor House Scout Centre. Activities included crate stacking, toboggan ride, stream walking and climbing wall.

In the last term of the year the Beavers worked very hard to earn the Disability activity badge. Finding out about the RNIB, wrote their name in Braille and wore simspecs. They learnt and wonderfully performed Makaton to parents. We held a Paralympic Games evening. We also met a very special boy named Alfie, who has Cerebral Palsy. He showed us his day to day life at school.

In 2016, we celebrated 30 years of Beaver Scouting with a District Party with 60 other beavers and a Christmas "Rise of the Guardians" themed party.

Thank you to parents and family members for your continued support, and joining us for the family walk and picnic at Thorpe Thewles and the Queen's 90th birthday tea party.

My thanks go to: Assistant Beaver Leaders, Rachel M and Katherine, for their support planning the programme and organising activities. To Rachel N for helping each week. To Louise, who stood down from supporting in an admin. role and occasional helper, due to family commitments.

Well done to all our Beavers for achieving so much during the year; individually, in lodges and as a colony.

*Claire Craig, Beaver Leader.*



### 9th Hartlepool Cub Pack Report (St Luke's)

St Luke's Cub pack started off the centenary year by looking back to where it all began. We learned the original Wolf Cub Law and thought about how things had changed over the years. We learnt what it meant to be a "tenderpad" - a Cub scout who had joined the pack but hadn't done enough to be invested. We also looked at Patron Saints of the UK and celebrated St Patrick's Day with a refreshing glass of Leprechaun juice - lemonade, milk and green food colouring! Yuck!

We signed one of our own group neckers which went off to become part of the giant Cubs100 County necker. We also held a first - a sixers and seconders training night, where the Cubs found out about what it took to be responsible. Afterwards we celebrated with a trip to the ice rink at Billingham. Before we broke up, we had an Easter Egg competition and over the Easter break, some of the pack went to see the Middlesbrough Gang Show.

The summer term saw us planning our survival on a desert island before making the most of the lovely British weather with lots of activity! We made and flew kites, we did a scavenger hunt at Summerhill and we went for a walk from the Headland to Blackhall Rocks. We did a summer sports night and took a trip to a clip-n-climb/trampoline venue in Newton Aycliffe.

But we weren't without *culture* and our Shakespearean poetry night, to commemorate the author's 400th anniversary, both went down with a bang! (onomatopoeia) and was largely liked by the leadership (alliteration). To finish the term off we went back to the river at Yarm for another two

canoeing sessions and the Cubs gained more “Time on the Water” badges.

We must have been on a literary roll, because the autumn term started off with a Roald Dahl night where we all dressed up as our favourite character. The sophistication continued with afternoon (ok, evening) tea with the Cubs learning how to safely use a kettle to make tea and buttering their own scones by safely using a knife. We continued our foodie theme with a chef sleepover at the church hall; with those attending earning the badge. At a pack meeting we also created “chocolate bark” and decorated it with sweets. We created animations and learned how to email them; going towards our digital citizen badge. In order to ensure that the Cubs’ voices were being heard, we held two pack forums - one about activities and one about games. The Cubs put forward their ideas and we voted on which ones to try. On Remembrance Sunday, some of the pack represented the Group at the cemetery cenotaph service. We thought about Cubs in other countries by playing some of their games, and we rounded off the year with Christmas stockings and a Christmas Party. And as if that wasn’t enough, we got together with all the other packs in the District for the Cubs100 Promise Party - where the county necker was revealed and we took part in the National Promise Renewal at exactly 19:16pm.

We’ve had a great year and although we didn’t run as many camps as we have in the past, we think we’ve squeezed a lot of juice out of 2016. We’re looking forward to a fun-packed 2017!

*Matthew Allen, Cub Scout Leader*



### 9th Hartlepool Cub Pack Report (Throston)

The last 12 months in our Cub Section have been packed with fun, challenge and adventures ranging from camping to visiting Saltholme, caving to making sandcastles, learning about the RNLI to knot tying and that is just to name a few!

We believe that through adventure, we can challenge our individual Cubs so that they learn and experience new things and enrich their lives.

We have ensured that our weekly programme gives our Cubs the opportunity to have the very best experiences they can: fun, choice and adventure. We want our Cubs to experience the amazing opportunities Scouts has to offer.

Our section has 25 Cubs (which is an increase of 7 Cubs from this time last year).

Our adventures this year have included visits to the following:

- **Saltholme:** *Bird watching and pond dipping. We ate chips at Seaton on the way home.*
- **The Cave Bus:** *We experienced potholing.*
- **Camp for St George’s Day:** *Camping for 2 nights in Durham.*
- **Vue Cinema:** *We watched The Jungle Book.*
- **Wynyard Woods:** *Family ramble and picnic.*
- **The Headland:** *We completed The Monkey Trail.*
- **Ward Jackson Park:** *We experienced many outdoor activities.*
- **Castle Eden Walkway:** *We took part in a bike ride.*
- **Seaton Beach:** *Tees Valley North Cub 100 Sandcastle Event.*
- **Canoeing:** *Canoeing in Yarm.*
- **Camping:** *Camping for 2 nights outdoors at Kettleness.*
- **Halfords:** *Bike Maintenance.*



- **RNLI:** *Visit to the Lifeboat Station.*
- **Remembrance Day Parade**
- **Scout Headquarters:** *Party time to celebrate Cubs 100 and to renew our promise.*
- **Bag Packing at Morrison's:** *Fundraising*
- **Christmas Fair :** *St Luke's Church*

We have had so many **highlights** which we would like to share from our weekly meetings below. This year we have also shared our weekly adventures on our **9th Hartlepool Facebook Page**.

Here are some examples of what this year, January 2016 to December 2016 has included:

**Spring 2016:**

Road Safety, Reef Knots from liquorice laces, making Hungry Hippo Boards, Team Skis, visits to Saltholme and the Cave Bus.

**Summer 2016:**

Moorhouse Camp, Catapults, Outdoor Games, visits to the Headland and Ward Jackson Park, a Cycle Ride to Castle Eden, building Sandcastles and canoeing.

**Winter 2016:**

Kettleness Camp, make a cup of tea, wire a plug, change a light bulb, visit to Halfords, visit to RNLI, Halloween Party, Remembrance Day Parade, Cub 100 Party, Bag Packing at Morrison's and a Christmas Fayre at St Luke's Church.

**Our leaders** too have accessed a varied training programme to enhance the provision we provide for our Cubs. This has included: Autism Awareness, Fire lighting, Pioneering and Safeguarding: Recognising Signs of Abuse.

**Fundraising Events:**

Our Cubs have supported three main fundraising events. We held a Bag Pack in Morrison's in November. We held a Christmas Fayre at St Luke's church in December. Both of these events raised money to support our Group. We would like to thank all families who supported with these activities.

We also encouraged our Cubs to save their 20p's in a Smarties' tube for the local charity: Help Alfie to Walk.

As a Group we would like to thank the parents/carers for their continued support.

*Mark Anderson, Gav Brown, Melissa Walsh, David Kelly*  
9th Hartlepool: Throston Cub Leaders



**9th Hartlepool Scout Troop Report (St Luke's)**

The troop continued with high membership levels during 2016, although numbers were at a slightly lower level than in 2015.

Once again, we went away for several camps during the year:

- For the third year in a row, we went to winter camp at Kielder in early January. Conditions for camping were not great, as the ground was very muddy and the temperatures barely above freezing. Nevertheless, the Scouts showed what a hardy lot they are and enjoyed a wide range of outdoor activities.
- As we usually do, we held a Youth Hostel weekend in February, this time at Ambleside. As

with winter camp, the weather was cold and rainy at times. We hiked to Grasmere, but took the bus back on account of the rain. The Scouts loved the hostel and took advantage of the warm dry conditions in the games room.

- We joined the other sections of the Group at the St. George's weekend at Moor House. It was good for the Scouts to be involved with younger and older members of the Group. Once again there were lots of different activities for the Scouts.
- In June, we held a weekend at Ravengill, helping the Service crew with maintenance jobs, such as constructing new altar fires and improving drainage on the site road. This achieved the volunteering part of the World Challenge badge.
- Five of the older Scouts did the Expedition Challenge in Teesdale in early July. To complete this Challenge the Scouts must walk about 15 miles over two days, doing their own navigation and cooking their own meals.
- Summer camp was again a joint event with our colleagues from the 35th Scouts and the District Explorers. The 2016 camp was at Fordell Firs, which is a Scottish national site, near Dunfermline. On the site, the Scout were able to do activities such as wood fire cooking, climbing, go karts and 3G swing. We went off site to do bell-boating in rather windy conditions and did a hike to Aberdour beach. Some of the Scouts braved the waters of the Firth of Forth. We went to Edinburgh, including a visit to the 'Dungeons' and cleaned the Scouts up at the swimming pool before bringing them home.
- Our final weekend was at the Snowball Plantation, near York, in October. There was a transport theme, with visits to the Yorkshire Air Museum and to the National Railway Museum working towards the Air Researcher badge.

On Wednesday nights, we did a variety of activities both at St Luke's and elsewhere. These included nights at St Luke's practising scouting skills such as cooking, pioneering and navigation, orienteering at Summerhill, a scavenger hunt at the beach, a night hike, water activities at Yarm and visits to Rock Antics, Rof59 Trampoline Park and Splash in Stockton.

We worked towards the Cyclist badge, with a number of the Scouts doing a 40km bike ride. We also spent time doing the Communicator badge, Model Maker badge and Challenge badges.

We continued to run the Troop with four patrols. Patrol leaders through the whole year were Joe Spaldin (Falcons), Will Callaghan (Kingfishers), Tom Vasey (to Easter) then Luke Stokle (Kestrels) and Dan Chapman (to Easter), then Alex Thompson (to summer) and finally Cameron Craig (Eagles). Tom and Dan moved up to Explorers at Easter and Joe, Will and Luke moved on at the end of the year.

The start of the year saw girls in our troop for the first time. Emma Watson, Katie Pattison and Olivia Bell were the pioneering trio and they have been enthusiastically involved with most of the meetings and activities during the year.

Thanks to everyone who has helped me with running the troop over the year. The Assistant Leaders, Gee Barlow, Alan Bell and Iain Laws have continued to help run the Wednesday meetings, camps and other events and are all making progress in their own leader training.

Michael Ward is also a valued member of the team, attending most meetings and camps in addition to his primary Scouting role as County Treasurer. Likewise, Dan Spence attends half of Wednesdays and camps when he can, as well as working with the Cubs on Thursday. Thanks also to Nicky Lambson who helped out at Summer Camp. We were sorry to lose Penny Thompson at the start of



the year. Penny gave several years of invaluable support to us and previously the Cubs during her time with the Group.

I would remind you that all the people who run Scout meetings, camps and other events are volunteers, who give their time freely. Without them, there would be no Scouting for your children.

Thanks also to all the parents who supported us during the year with fundraising and transport. If you feel able to help us in any way, please get in touch.

*Nigel Shaw, Scout Leader*

No reports received



**St Luke's Rainbow Guides Report**



**Boys Brigade Report**