

REPORTS FOR 2023 APCM

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A G E N D A

Welcome.

Appointment of Secretary for the Meeting of Parishioners and for the Annual Parochial Meeting:

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS:

Appointment of Tellers.

Appointment of Legal Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

1. Present:
2. Apologies for Absence: Cheryl and Tom Savage,
3. Minutes of APCM, 24th April 2022
4. Matters Arising.
5. Electoral Roll Report.
6. Vicar's Report
7. Secretary's Report.
8. To Receive The Annual Report and the Accounts.
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner for Accounts.
10. Annual Fabric Report by Churchwardens.
11. Churchwardens' Report.
12. Group Reports
13. Deanery Synod Report.
14. Appointment of 8 members to Parochial Church Council.
15. Appointment of 3 members to Deanery Synod for three years.
16. Closing Remarks and Prayers – Lay Chair

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MONKSEATON**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
24th April 2022**

THE CHAIR SOUGHT AND WAS GIVEN APPROVAL TO ZOOM AND RECORD THE MEETING FOR THE PCC SECRETARY, WHO WAS SELF ISOLATING.

The meeting commenced at 11.28 a.m. with a short prayer by Rev Clare Connors and a warm welcome by the Chair, Elizabeth Hayes, who outlined the format of the two meetings to be held.

No of parishioners present: 26.

Appointment of Secretary for the Meeting of the Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting.

Nomination	Proposer	Seconders
Grace Morgan	Elizabeth Hayes	Nicola Denyer
All in favour.		

Appointment of Tellers for Meeting of Parishioners and APCM - Margaret Evans and Kate Stobart.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

CHAIR: ELIZABETH HAYES.

Election of Legal Churchwardens:

Nomination:	Proposer:	Seconders:
Sue Johnson	Beryl Austoni	Grace Morgan
Carol Nesbitt	Dot Clark	Grace Morgan

As there were no other nominations, the above were duly elected.
All in favour.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Legal Churchwarden, David Tompkins, for his fantastic work over the past two years; attending Church every day as well as Sundays. Fellow Churchwarden, Sue Johnson, added her personal thanks to David,

describing him as unassuming, caring, having supported her and the Church through some troubled times during his time in the role. In acknowledgment, David asked members to assist Sue and Carol in their work, as much as possible. David then left the table, handing over to the new Churchwarden, Carol Nesbitt.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting, to elect new members to the PCC and to receive reports from the Churchwardens and Officers of the PCC for the year 2021.

1. Present: 26 attendees.
2. Apologies for Absence: Marion Oakes, John Appleby, Beryl Austoni, Malcolm and Gillian MacDonald, Tom and Cheryl Savage, Margaret Campbell and Jenny Watling.
3. Minutes of the APCM 25th April 2021.
4. Matters Arising:

Independent Examiner of Accounts and Grounds Redevelopment – both items covered later in the meeting, under No. 8 and No. 12 respectively.

Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposer: David Tompkins.

Seconder: Roger Windass

14 members attending 2021 meeting, voted in favour.

Signed by Chair (Elizabeth Hayes) and Secretary (Grace Morgan).

5. Electoral Roll Report.

In absence of Rosie Tate, the Secretary, Grace Morgan, read out the Electoral Roll Report:

“Any lay person who is 16 years or older and resident in the parish, or if not resident, has worshipped at St Mary’s regularly over 6 months, may apply to be entered on to the Electoral Roll. Members of the Roll are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and to become members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Over the last year 3 members are deceased and the Roll has 4 new members, giving a total of 115 members at the date of the APCM.

77 roll members are resident in the parish, 38 are non-resident. This represents 96 households."

Rosie thanked for undertaking this task.

Proposer: Jane Walker
favour.

Seconder: David Lax

All in

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Taken as read.

The Chair personally, and on behalf of the PCC, thanked Grace for her hard work.

THIS AND ALL REPORTS 'TAKEN AS READ' TO BE PROPOSED AND SECONDED EN BLOC LATER IN THE MEETING.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that we had had a relatively successful year in 2021 despite the pandemic; spending was generally down on previous years; we did make a profit overall. He went on to say that there are challenges this year due to seriously increased costs in heating the buildings plus other items and the unfortunate reduction in planned giving. No figures were offered but he said the PCC would have hard decisions to make at their next meeting. Questions were invited – none.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

Proposer: Kate Stobart

Seconder: Sue Johnson.

Agreed unanimously.

Ron Davis asked at the end of the finance section about church attendance. He said that he had seen the statistics for attendance in the booklet and queried the virtual attendance, asking if this was quantified and recorded. The Chair replied that it was and that it was noted in PCC meetings quite regularly. David Lax explained that you can find this data on our You Tube channel and that by Tuesday each week, the number was usually complete for that week. Dot Clark added that some of this data about 'remote' participation was in Sarah's part of the office report.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR ACCOUNTS:

Trevor Hogg of TPA Accountancy Services, South Shields.

In 2021, it was reported that this would be the last year for using Trevor's services, as a matter of good practice. However, the Finance Committee decided that it would not be appropriate to make

the change during an Interregnum. Efforts will be made to find a replacement Examiner at the end of this financial year.

Proposer: Nicola Denyer Second: William Walker Agreed unanimously.

9. ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT – Page 27/8: Taken as read.

A great deal of work has been undertaken in the last year, in connection with the state of our Church and Church Hall.

Questions invited – none.

Appreciation expressed to David Tompkins, Sue Johnson, Roger Windass and team who give unstintingly of their time.

10. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT – PAGE 12/14. Taken as read.

A very detailed report, with lots going on in our Church, as well as the fluid situation around Clergy. Sue Johnson and David Tompkins thanked for all this work.

11. RENEWAL OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY – PAGE16.

Sue Johnson has lead role. Policy slightly updated. Questions invited – none.

Sue thanked all those who had undertaken the courses requested and advised there were more in the pipeline.

Sue urgently needs volunteer to help with the administrative side of this work, including DBS checks, to comply with the law. St Mary's takes safeguarding very seriously.

12. Group Reports.

Last year was a very peculiar time with further lockdowns and then re-emerging to face a different way forward. However, there is still so much of which to be proud both in terms of liturgy and many other things that have continued or been adapted during the pandemic. Statistics for attendance at our Church, on page 17, evidence that we are moving forward again, albeit that numbers are generally down on where they were prior to 2020. Pages 18/26 and 29/41 offer us an extensive overview of last year and it makes very interesting and uplifting reading. Questions invited – none.

13. Deanery Synod Report – Page 41 Taken as read.

Questions invited – none

14. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

The Chair thanked Marion Oakes and Carol Nesbitt for their services to St Mary's over the last 3 years and for offering to stand again.

NOMINEE:	PROPOSER:	SECONDER:
Elizabeth Hayes	Grace Morgan	Cheryl Savage
Marion Oakes	Bryan Morgan	Richard Channing
Dorothy Clarke	Carol Nesbitt	Margaret Evans.

As there were no further nominations, the above were elected to serve for next 3 years.

NB. ELECTED PCC MEMBERS CAN ONLY SERVE FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO TERMS, i.e. 6 YEARS WITHOUT A BREAK.

Carol Nesbitt was elected Legal Churchwarden at Meeting of Parishioners.

ALL REPORTS 'TAKEN AS READ'

Proposer: Roger Windass Secunder: Nicola Denyer: All in favour.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Grace Morgan thanked the Chair and Churchwardens for all their hard work and help during the year. Nicola Denyer endorsed this remark.

Chair:

"As we move towards the end of our meeting, I would like to make a few remarks. Obviously, we do not have a vicar at this present time, so no Vicar's report but there is an update on this situation which I can share. Your PCC elected Sue Johnson and myself as the two parish representatives to help in the recruitment of our new vicar. The Parish Profile is complete and will be available soon for all to see. PCC has agreed it and we are working with the Archdeacon Catherine of Lindisfarne on the advertisement which should be out next month. The closing date for applications is 22 June and interviews are scheduled for 21 July. This does mean that, as long as an appointment is made, we should have a new vicar in post before Christmas. The interregnum did not begin until September last year so if we have someone before the end of this year, we will only have been 'vicarless' for just over a year. The Church of England moves

very slowly in so many ways so let's pray we secure the right person for our church in July.

Normally at this point in the meeting our Vicar would present his or her report and thank so many people for their amazing work at our church. Future plans would also be presented to us as indeed was the case last year. I have mentioned the current recruitment plans for our new vicar and we have heard more about the grounds redevelopment and sound system schemes. So, it falls to me as the chair of this meeting to thank all those who give so unstintingly of their time, talents and money to this church. I am not going to name people as every person here today and those congregation members who are unable for whatever reason to be at this meeting, contribute to St Mary's in some way. Yes, we are smaller band of active Christians in this place than was the case a while ago and we are learning how to operate as such. We look forward to our new vicar coming to lead us on the next stage of our Christian journey and I end by asking you all to pray for the church in this place that God will continue to guide and sustain us all as we move forward and bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ."

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 12.07 with the saying of The Grace.

Accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

.....Chair

.....Secretary

Proposer.....

Secunder.....

Date.....

PCC SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

2022 was another busy year for St Mary's. The PCC met on 12 occasions, including an Extraordinary Meeting in December, with the ratified Minutes being filed in the Church Office, accessible to all. A relevant "link" is included on the Notice Sheet, plus hard and emailed copies are available upon request. The Standing Committee held 9 meetings, to discuss urgent issues and prepare PCC agendas. Good attendances were recorded for all meetings.

The PCC worked hard to support the Parish Representatives and Churchwardens during the Interregnum and move of Ben Jarvis to the Cathedral for 4 months. A vote of thanks was given to Sue Johnson for tirelessly organising the staff rota and enlisting outside clergy to cover our Church Services, funerals, baptism etc. during this time.

As we emerged from the constraints of the pandemic, the PCC cautiously considered the reintroduction of practices which had been paused for health and safety reasons. These included offering Communion wine with effect from Maundy Thursday.

It can be noted from the 20+ proposals put to and approved by the PCC over the year, that members work diligently to ensure adherence to regulations and commitment to working practices.

Focus on the Mission of St Mary's continued to be upheld and expanded where possible, in the challenging times. The PCC approved Church collections to be donated to Church Action in Poverty, the Food Bank, Christian Aid and the 3 charities selected annually by the congregation. The introduction of the LLF Course was actively promoted, attracting good attendance and feedback.

PCC continued to carefully monitor the financial position of the Church, as reported monthly by the Treasurer. Tight control were exercised on income and expenditure to ensure the viability of the Church. Council was pleased to receive a letter of gratitude from the Diocese, acknowledging full payment of our Parish Share totalling £75,000 for 2022. To offset the dramatic rise in energy prices, the PCC approved an increase in the winter rates for Church and Hall hire. Following the introduction by HSBC of charges on Charity Accounts, the PCC also endorsed the move of the Church bank accounts to the ethical Co-op Bank. The draft budget for 2023, was approved by the PCC in November 2022.

Building and Resources work continued to be reported to PCC, for full discussion and consideration and the comments contained in the September Quinquennial Report “good care had been taken in looking after the building” reflected all the hard work done by this Group.

The long-awaited Grounds Redevelopment was started and completed successfully in 2022. The work was dutifully overseen by Cheryl Savage and her team, monitoring the entire project from beginning to end, whilst keeping the PCC updated at each meeting.

In October, the annual Church Fair welcomed many people from the surrounding area into church. A day to remember for all those attending, whilst also providing useful resources of £5,200 to allow St Mary’s to continue and expand its work in the wider community.

Lay Licences to administer Holy Communion in Church, were renewed, following approval by the PCC. Gratitude was expressed to all volunteers participating in this important ministry.

Church Fees, Policies, CCLI Licence and the Grand Piano storage contract were reviewed by PCC and approved for a further 12 months.

In the usual way, members of PCC provided Parish Breakfast cover over the summer months.

Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Eco Church, Deanery/Diocesan/General Synod are all items addressed on the PCC Agenda each month, acknowledging the work of all those leading St Mary’s in these areas.

In November, following his appointment as the new Incumbent of St Mary’s, the Rev Nigel Taylor was warmly welcomed to his first PCC meeting. The Council looks forward to working closely with Nigel, as he leads us forward to the next stage in the life and work of our Church.

We have much to do but with God’s help, we can move forward in love, faith and hope, to continue and extend our work at the centre of our local community.

Grace Morgan

May 2023.

Church Wardens' Report 2022

A year which as in any other year had highs and lows and once again very busy.

Our curate Ben was seconded to the Cathedral mid-April to September. We then relied on the valuable assistance of retired Clergy, Clergy in the Diocese and our own staff enabling us to continue the celebration of our 8am and 10am Sunday services and baptisms. We are indebted to Revd Peter Dunlop, our Reader Emeritus Derek Burton, and retired Bishop John Packer for enabling our Wednesday morning service to take place for much of that time.

Throughout our interregnum we are indebted to our own staff as well as Ben and Clare Connors. Clare, despite taking up a full-time post as Lead Chaplain, which officially ended her curacy with us, still offered her services regularly on a Sunday and on the pastoral side. Our thanks to our Lay Reader Nicola Denyer and Reader in training Margaret Evans for all their support and assistance. Margaret is currently seconded to St Johns Killingworth and we look forward to her return soon. Our retired clergy Eileen Noble has also helped where her health has allowed particularly on the pastoral side. Unfortunately, Eric Lewis has not been able to due to his ill health. We trust they will enjoy much better health in 2023

Our thanks to David Tompkins, who retired as warden in April and to Liz Hayes (Lay PCC Chair) who with Sue and with help from the Congregation and PCC prepared our Parish Profile. We were delighted that Nigel and his wife Kate felt called to St Mary's. Nigel was installed as our Vicar 16th November 2022, a night of celebration. We feel truly blessed.

We said a sad farewell to Ben following his appointment as Vicar of St Bartholomew Long Benton with our grateful thanks as our curate for 3 and ½ years.

Sarah has now been our Office Administrator for over a year and we thank her for all she does for us.

Thankfully Covid was not as prevalent and restrictions were gradually reduced. We were able to offer Communion wine from Maundy Thursday.

Beryl Austoni was licenced by Bishop as an Anna Chaplain in March and Beryl with help from others was able to commence the monthly meetings of OWLS .

We are grateful to Marion Oakes on all her work in educating us on environment issues and helping us to be an Eco Church and enabling us to gain the Bronze Award.

Our Autumn Fair was again a huge success even though there was a time when it looked it might not take place. But thanks, to Grace Morgan for her perseverance and help of all the volunteers it made a substantial amount of money.

We continue to livestream our 10am service on a Sunday which enables those unable to attend to join in our worship. We welcomed many families to our Christingle Service. We were overwhelmed with the attendance at the Crib Service at the new time of 4pm and indeed numbers for all services at Christmas were up. The church was resplendent inside and out. We are pleased to report that numbers on a Sunday have also seen an increase.

A massive achievement this year was the completion of our redevelopment of our grounds. There was much upheaval for our regular congregation and hall users while the work was taking place. All rose to the occasion and we got through it. It was a very difficult time for those organising it. We owe a great deal of thanks to Cheryl Savage and her team for that. Also, to Tony Garland for his perseverance in obtaining grant monies. The overall result is magnificent and well worth waiting for.

We appreciate the Sound System is in urgent need of attention. It had been hoped that progress would have been made, but rest assured this is now a priority for the coming months.

The energy crisis made us rethink how we heated our church for services. With much effort we have made savings with this and we thank everyone for putting up with a somewhat cooler church than we would usually have over the winter months. We also had to make a charge for the cost of heating to all users with the result we sadly lost some of our hirers. We hope there will be a change in the coming months.

Our music continues to play a huge part in our worship and we thank Penny and Mike with the choir for this. Also, we have enjoyed hearing our Young Notes.

Another year when we sadly lost several beloved members of our congregation. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped in anyway to run our church during the vacancy and to Nigel for accepting the challenge to be

our Vicar. May he find it fulfilling and long may he stay. Finally thank you to you all who have stayed with us and to those who have joined a big welcome.

Carol Nesbitt and Sue Johnson



Safeguarding Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

- To ensure that St Mary's is a safe and caring place for everyone.
- To keep up to date with the guidance from the Church of England and the Diocese and to ensure compliance.
- To inform the PCC of any changes in procedure and guidelines.
- To maintain necessary records and ensure that both DBS checks are done and training is undertaken by those persons deemed to require it.

Key results of our work in 2022

- Safeguarding policy updated and approved by PCC.
- Updated Policy displayed in the Church, the Hall and on the website.
- Church of England Action Plan Level 1 completed.
- Church of England Level 2 Action Plan approved by the PCC. Diocese confirmed progression to next level.
- Church of England Level 3 Action Plan approved by PCC.
- PCC approved procedure for Responding to Safeguarding Allegations and Concerns as required by Church of England.
- PCC approved the Policy for Dealing with Recruitment of Ex-Offenders.
- All PCC members completed required courses including the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse.
- Safeguarding is an item on each PCC Agenda with a report.
- Encouraged all members of the church to complete required courses.

Key plans for development in 2023

- To complete Level 3 Safeguarding Action Plan.
- To ensure the Safeguarding Policy is kept under review and

- to seek amendments if required to adhere to Diocese policy.
- To carry out DBS clearance for whoever needs it.
- To ensure that people who need training do so through the Church of England online training programme and if necessary complete an appropriate course.
- To continue to maintain proper records
- To keep the PCC informed

Members: Sue Johnson and from Mid November 2022 Revd. Nigel Taylor

Statistics for Past Three Years

2020		2021		2022	
Baptism	1	Baptism	10	Baptism	5
Marriage	1	Marriage	1	Marriage	2
Funerals	19	Funerals	23	Funerals	13
Easter Day Attendance Vigil/8am/10am	-	Easter Day Attendance Vigil/8am/10am	80	Easter Day Attendance Vigil/10am	
Easter Day Communicants 8am/10am	-	Easter Day Communicants 8am/10am	75	Easter Day Communicants	107
Christmas Attendance Crib/Midnight/8am/10am	172	Christmas Attendance Crib/Midnight/8am/10am	248	Christmas Attendance Crib/Midnight/8am/10am	446
Christmas Communicants Midnight/8am/10am	79	Christmas Communicants Midnight/8am/10am	93	Christmas Communicants Midnight/8am/10am	134
Christmas Carol Service	-	Christmas Carol Service	92	Christmas Carol Service	110

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	2020	2021	2022
Easter Day 3 services	-	80	120
Christmas 4 services	172	248	446
8 am Service	191	319	575
10 am Service	1561	1955	2953
Crib Service	93	152	301
9.30am Wednesday Eucharist	121	130	223
Morning Prayer	170	163	198

BELIEVING

We're here because of God, brought together by his love

Service Planning Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

To consider all aspects of worship and liturgy thus providing a varied programme suitable for people of all ages, using all available resources.
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We meet approximately every 2 months to plan both regular and occasional worship.

Key results of our work in 2022
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We started 2022 still under Covid restrictions; the congregation were wearing masks and only receiving bread at communion, but a slight increase in choir numbers was allowed.
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The Christmas and Epiphany season came to an end with our Candlemas service closely followed by Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Although we did not have formal Lent groups, we were encouraged to investigate online courses or read relevant books.
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Nicola Denyer facilitated the "Living in Love and Faith" discussions on several Sunday morning sessions in the first few months of the year.
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Holy Week and Easter services were led by all of our clergy team and included a procession of Witness outside the Church on Palm Sunday; meditations led by Nicola and Penny from Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week; foot washing during Maundy Thursday Service; dramatic music and readings by Ben and the choir on Good Friday; a dawn service on Easter Day with a range of music including Ben singing the "Exultet" and Mike, Martin and Simon playing guitars and saxophone to accompany the singing of the Mass and hymns.

The last of the Covid restrictions had been removed and on Easter Day we celebrated without masks and were able to take

the wine if we wanted.

We continued to provide the regular services during the Interregnum and when Ben went on placement to the Cathedral. Thanks to the clergy team, especially Rev Clare Connors, and visiting clergy from Easter to September. Many thanks also to Sue Johnson for sorting the service rota at this time! Much time and effort was needed! During these months there were just 2 occasions at 10am when we had a Service of the Word as no priest was available.

We celebrated Pentecost with the President being Rev Peter Knibbs, who with Margaret Evans as preacher managed to combine Pentecost with the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. We wore red, or red, white and blue in celebration and we had cake!

The announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth 2nd gave Clare as President just a day or two to put together a meaningful Eucharist. It was also our Patronal Festival but Clare's sermon linked the late Queen with the Virgin Mary. We were able to celebrate the Queen's life more fully when Ben led the Sunday services the next week. The special booklet produced was given out to all those who receive Communion in their homes. The Church had also been open at this time for our local community and many people signed our Book of Remembrance.

We welcomed Niall Cooper who spoke about his work with Church Action on Poverty as part of our Generosity services, which was followed by our Harvest Thanksgiving with donations of Food and Money being given to the local Foodbank. To round off "Creationtide" we thought more fully about Climate Change with the help of Margaret Evans and Marion Oakes and what we could do to really make a difference.

In October Ben led a Healing Eucharist when he and Clare offered the laying on of hands, which was much appreciated. All Saints was celebrated on the morning of 30th October, with All Souls being commemorated later that afternoon. On this occasion we remember all those who have died, both recently and long ago. This service provides all members of our community with the chance to be still in our busy world and to light a candle.

Remembrance Sunday was marked with our usual Eucharist and finished with the 2-minute silence at 11am.

In November we welcomed Nigel as our vicar, who, with Ben's help went straight into a busy round of school visits and preparation for Advent and Christmas which had all been "planned".

The Advent Sunday Carol Service marked the beginning of the new Church year, and was well attended, providing time and

<p>space for everyone to think about their Christmas celebrations and traditions.</p> <p>During Advent we held a range of services including, Christingle, Toddler Carol and the Crib service on Christmas Eve when it was good to see families and young children in Church with worship more suited to their needs.</p> <p>Our annual Carol Service was well attended but there was also a further opportunity to sing carols in the pub, with Mike and Martin accompanying on guitars.</p> <p>Throughout the year our music has been an essential part of worship. We have been superbly led by Mike and Penny who have encouraged us to sing again but also to appreciate the anthems sung by our enlarged choir.</p> <p>Many thanks to all who contribute to our worship in any way – the clergy team, the musicians, the readers and intercessors, the Sanctuary guild, the flower arrangers, the welcomers. We all have a part to play and are essential as members of the Church Worshipping Community. Thank you one and all!</p>
<p>Key plans for development in 2023</p>
<p>Working with Nigel and our Readers to expand the range and type of Services, Prayer and Bible Study groups.</p>
<p>Members of the Group</p>
<p>Liz Hayes (Chair), Rev'd Nigel Taylor (from November) Rev'd Ben Jarvis, Rev'd Clare Connors, Nicola Denyer, Margaret Evans, Thelma Gilhespy, Mary Cooper, Mike Green, Penny Green, Carole Lax, Sue Johnson.</p>

Flower Arrangers Group Report

<p>The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide weekly flower arrangements in church (pedestals), 'as an act of thanksgiving and worship for God's creation' • Flower arrangements have been provided for weddings, funerals and baptisms • On request pedestals have been arranged in memory of loved ones for Sunday services
<p>Key results of our work in 2022-23</p>

- At Easter we received £178 in donations for lilies and flowers in church. We had arrangements around the font and on the high altar this year (not on the window sills) to enhance those viewing the Easter services through streaming. The silk Easter garland was placed over the front door.
- The flower team provided weekly arrangements throughout the year. In addition we provided arrangements for 2 weddings and a diamond wedding.
- In September a special pedestal and small arrangements were made in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth.
- At Christmas we decorated the church with greenery, memorial candles and lanterns. 44 white seven-day candles were donated by members of the congregation. Two matching pedestals were arranged for each ambo. Lanterns and greenery were placed on each of the windowsills and the high altar was decorated with memorial candles and greenery. The Christmas garland with lights was placed over the front door.
- A drive for flower funding in September, through church notices, resulted in our receiving £150 from members of the congregation.
- Our flower fund balance stands at £369.29

Key plans for development in 2023

- Recruitment of new members of the floral art team.
- To liaise with other flower arrangers from local churches to exchange ideas.
- To research a more fully bio degradable oasis which is fit for purpose but is part of the church's net carbon emissions by 2030.
- To access flowers which do not have a carbon footprint, to buy local when possible.
- Another drive for flower funding to take place later in the year.
- A key area of concern is for the future of our memorial candles at Christmas as the church is not insured for live candles to be left to burn unattended.
- The cost of flowers has risen, so each week the arranger will receive an extra £5 - £15 in total.
- We are to receive a donation of silk flowers which will be used to bulk out pedestals and reduce costs.

Members of the Group

Jane Walker
 Beryl Austoni
 Ruth Blake
 Lucy Smith (Easter and Christmas)
 Margaret Scanlon
 Jean McGowan

Music Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

To provide appropriate music to enhance the worship and encourage participation in music-making in our church community.
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Key results of our work in 2022
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<p>This was our first full year running the music at St Mary's and we are pleased that we have been able to settle into a pattern of a variety of music for Sunday mornings, appropriate to the liturgy and season.</p> <p>Highlights include having been invited to sing choral evensong at the Cathedral in July, Nigel's installation service, and the Advent and Christmas carol services.</p>
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Key plans for development in 2023
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<p>To work with Nigel and the ministry team in developing a range of services of different styles, including a monthly choral evensong.</p> <p>To look for opportunities beyond Sunday morning services to encourage more individuals (adults and children) to become involved in music-making at St Mary's.</p>
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Members of the Group

Carole Lax, David Lax, Cheryl Savage, Tom Savage, Elizabeth Fish, Emma Weeden, Jo Hardy, Martin Grundy, Simon Douglass, Margaret Burke, Stephanie Beckman, Sonia Beckman, William Walker, Elva
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ACTING

Creating space for all to grow

Welcoming, Integrating and Caring Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

To continue to promote Welcoming, Integrating and Caring as an integral part of church life.

- **Welcoming:** making sure that St Mary's continues to be a welcoming church to all; overseeing the welcome team and rota.
- **Integrating:** Ensure all of our worshipping community feel valued and cared for; provide an inclusive environment in church and on-line, allowing worshipers to explore and grow in faith together.
- **Caring:** Holding the narrative of pastoral care in our parish; overseeing the provision of Home Communion; maintaining links with Eastbourne House; contact with Life Events families and continue to pass through any concerns to the Pastoral Group

Key results of our work in 2022

- Welcome group and staff team continue to maintain a welcoming presence at the 10am service and at Baptisms. A warm welcome is always provided too at the 8am service.
- New posters advising about the live streaming are now in place. This would be also pointed out to newcomers too and they could be advised re suitable seats if they did not wish to be in the camera view.
- A leaflet 'Being Part of St Mary's' has been available from 2022 to give out to anyone new.
- Pastoral visiting to Care Homes and own homes, and home communions were re-commenced where appropriate, following the Covid lockdowns.

Key plans for development in 2023

A meeting for all Welcomers will be arranged during 2023.

- Two new members to our group were welcomed in November 2022 and we will continue to expand the group as necessary.
- Baptism families will be kept in touch by email if there are services or events that they may be interested in. Similarly a card on the 1st anniversary of a baptism will continue to be sent.
- The card sent out by Diane Scorer on the first anniversary of the death of a loved one, when the funeral service was taken by the clergy of St Mary's, will continue and we will look to see if any other information is needed to accompany it. We thank Diane very much for this very important part of 'Caring' for those who have been bereaved.
- Pastoral visiting continues to those in care homes and those who are housebound. A visiting team could be put together to expand this so that others could be visited where and when needed.

Members of the Group

Dorothy Clarke, Edith Furness, Carol Nesbitt, Carole Lax, Elizabeth Charlton, Revd Nigel Taylor. Judy Ross retired from the group and we are very grateful for her commitment over the years.

Life Events in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

Baptism

Key results of 2022 and looking forward in 2023

- There were five baptisms of children and babies in 2022.
- First anniversary baptism cards will continue to be sent out
- We continue to keep in touch by email with Baptism families from the past five years, when there are special events or services that may be of interest to the families especially around Christmas and Easter time.
- We have already had three baptisms in 2023, and have another booked for later this year

Marriage

Key results of 2022 and looking forward in 2023

- On the 25th July 2022 we were delighted to hold the wedding in church of Robert Cure and Suzanne Rider, and on 10th October 2022 of Craig Pembrington and Cloe Donegan.
- This year we have recently held the wedding of Robert Walker and Lucy Sarginson.

Funerals

- In 2022, our clergy presided at 13 funerals.

St Mary's Mothers' Union Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

To follow the Aims and Objectives of the Mothers' Union in the life of the church

Key results of our work in 2022

We have met and enjoyed fellowship and finding out more about each other.

Key plans for development in 2023

To continue our role as a group led by prayer and worship and to play our part in the the Mothers' Union theme for the year "Transformation Now"

Members of the Group
We have 20 members, 6 Indoor Members and 14 who are able to attend meetings. Sadly, 4 members died in 2022.

Buildings and Resources Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing improvement and maintenance of buildings and grounds of the church• Overseeing work that cannot be taken by church members• Responsible to finance team
Key results of our work in 2022-23
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of grounds redevelopment (with special thanks to Cheryl Savage)• Undertaking work relating to the last Quinquennial inspection• Ongoing maintenance
Key plans for development in 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To continue to maintain buildings and grounds• To undertake necessary repairs in a timely fashion
Members of the Group
Roger Windass (Chair), Revd. Benjamin Jarvis, John Charlton, Cheryl Savage, Richard Hart, David Tompkins

Fabric Report

There can only be one place to start the report this year – the redevelopment of our grounds.

The work undertaken by BCE Northern commenced in July 2022 and was completed bar a few minor works in November. The grounds have been transformed – safe, functional, and attractive. The outside now matches the inside. The additional lighting at Christmas looked magnificent. Our grateful thanks to Dave Haddock for very kindly supplying all plants at cost, to the congregation for their donations and to Cheryl Savage with her team of volunteer gardeners who carried out all the planting, including hundreds of bulbs.

Our sincere thanks to our Architect Wardell Armstrong, the construction team BCE Northern but especially to Cheryl who steered and oversaw the project together with the BaRG team. One further thanks to Tony Garland who once again was able to secure several grants which enabled us to complete the project.

All work undertaken is recorded in the Logbook, held in the office.

Church:

- Inside the main issue has been electrical work – 2 light fittings have failed. These were part of the re-ordering of the church and have proved to be extremely costly to replace.
- Underneath the church there have been problems in the cellar and with the drainage. The sump pump has been repaired and the drains improved, alongside the ground's redevelopment.
- In addition, the drains have been repaired and cleaned. There are ongoing problems (which are costly to resolve) resultant from inappropriate items being flushed down the toilets.
- In the cellar the tap was leaking. A connector was installed along with a new tap.
- Broken roof tiles were repaired, 3 loose ridge tiles re-fixed, all gutters and gullies cleared.
- External signage has been updated with the new phone number and website address.
- Looking to improve the external lighting at the front of church.

In general, however, the church building remains in good order.

Church Hall:

- Ongoing problems with moisture in the rear hall. An overnight heater has improved things, along with the removal of overhanging branches.
- The storerooms have been redecorated including an anti mould coating
- Negotiations are underway with our neighbour about removing the tree.

Gas usage is now monitored via the gas provider's online portal

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out in September by our appointed Architect Mark Stafford. The report concluded that "the church appears to be very well kept and would seem to have an effective regime for routine maintenance". It then listed 222 items that require or will require attention over the next five years. BaRG are working their way through the list.

The wardens would wish to record their gratitude to the Building and Resources Group, Roger Windass, David Tompkins, Cheryl Savage, Richard Hart and John Charlton for all their work in the maintenance of our buildings. Further thanks to John Charlton who continues to carry out various duties without a murmur and to Ian Guthrie who works his way through the ever growing works list.

Gardening Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the regeneration of the church grounds • Hedges to be maintained. Huge thank you to the hedge cutting team of John and Liz Charlton. • Grass mown by Robert Cure • Weeds dealt with by Dave Haddock.
Key results of our work in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gardens have been regenerated successfully. • By planting ourselves, whilst hard work, we saved a considerable sum of money. • Many thanks to those people who donated money towards plants. • Gardens have been maintained by a very small group (including the dog!)
Key plans for development in 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gardens will be formally opened by the Bishop of Newcastle on 18th June after the 10am service. • Although much of the work in the garden has been reduced, any help would be welcome to maintain them! • Planting of bulbs in the consecrated garden • Involving the uniformed groups in maintaining the beds and planting wild flowers
Members of the Group
Cheryl Savage David Tompkins Roger Windass

John Charlton

Ably assisted in the planting of the swathes of new plants and bulbs by:

Tom Savage

Liz Charlton

Thelma Gilhespy

Judith Stoker

Dot Clarke

Angela Tompkins

Kate Taylor

Parish Office Report

The role of the office in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

- To provide a friendly, caring and competent reception area for all who come to St Mary's seeking help or information.
- Dealing with phone calls, emails and enquiries in person.
- Working with those who want to arrange baptisms, funerals and weddings and keeping all registers up to date.
- Arrange church and hall bookings and record all payments taken.
- Keep an up-to-date diary of all events taking place in both church and hall and keep staff and wardens informed of this.
- Produce online and paper notices for the community
- Assist in the management of the St Mary's website
- Provide secretarial support to any of St Mary's groups when needed
- Record statistics for use in the annual Church of England Parish return

Key results of our work in 2022

- In 2022, we published a much needed updated Parish Directory.
- As a result of Ben's placement at the Cathedral and subsequent appointment as Vicar of St Bartholomews, the office took on responsibility for the church website.
- We have continued throughout 2022 to send out email notices to both St Mary's people and also to the wider community: we currently have 200 subscribers, with more joining regularly. This has made it possible to share invitations to special services in a new way.
- In late 2022, the office was able to support in the planning of Nigel's institution and installation as Vicar of St Mary's, which was a wonderful occasion.
- With help from Carol Nesbitt, the office has been able to begin to archive older documents and refine our filing cabinets

Key plans for development in 2023

- Continuing to be a friendly, helpful first point of contact for all those in the Parish and community of St Mary's
- Continuing to archive office documents where appropriate and streamline the systems we have in place.
- Working administratively to enable all individuals and groups affiliated with St Mary's to reach their full potential and to thrive

Members of the Group: Sarah Harrison

CONNECTING

Looking outwards, being part of God's world

Schools' Liaison Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
To continue to respond to all schools when they request assembly talks as well as providing support for RE, particularly by providing visits to our Church building for First Schools.
Key results of our work in 2022
<p>We were delighted that all schools in the area contacted us again after the Covid restrictions were relaxed.</p> <p>Coquet Park and Southridge brought their Year 1 classes to find out about the building. Marine Park brought their Year 3 classes to learn how we celebrate Advent and Christmas. Whitley Lodge School KS2 classes came at Christmas.</p> <p>We visited Whitley Bay High School providing assemblies in Lent and before Christmas.</p> <p>We had termly visits to Kings School Tynemouth for Chapel services (assemblies) for all years on a variety of topics, including Peace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, and St Nicholas.</p>
Key plans for development in 2023
To continue to develop and encourage links with all schools in the area.
Members of the Group
<p>Assemblies: Rev'd Ben Jarvis, Rev'd Nigel Taylor, Liz Hayes, Carole Lax.</p> <p>Curriculum visits: Rev'd Ben Jarvis, Rev'd Nigel Taylor, Carole and David Lax, Rick and Sue Channing, Carol Nesbitt, Mary Cooper, Tom and Cheryl Savage, Dorothy Clarke.</p>

Justice and Peace Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

The Justice and Peace Group helps support the worshipping community to respond to Jesus' teaching about how we relate to one another and the world we inhabit, specifically in relation to:

- Social justice and human rights at local, national and international levels
- International Peace
- Development of the global human community
- Care for the environment which sustains us

Key results of our work in 2022

- The church bank account was transferred from HSBC to the Cooperative Bank, on the basis of its environmental, social and governance policies and practices and in light of HSBC's investment in fossil fuels
- Switched to ethical energy suppliers for both gas and electricity, expanded use of eco-friendly products in church and biodiversity/carbon reduction measures were included in Grounds Redevelopment Project
- Monthly Eco-church article in the Notices
- Made recommendation to PCC for charitable giving at Christmas 2022 to be made to Christian Aid, resulting in donation of £854.21
- Consulted the congregation on their choice of charities to receive donations from the church for 2023
- Donations made from the church in 2022 to Unicef Vaccinaid Appeal, Church Action on Poverty and Walking With. Organised speakers at 10am Sunday Eucharists from CAP and Walking With to raise awareness of the charities supported, and also from Christian Aid
- Raised £655 for Christian Aid through St Mary's Christian Aid Givestar site and a 'Swap shop and soup lunch' event
- Led Creation Sunday service with sermon slot reflection and prayer tree

Key plans for development in 2023

- Continue to work toward achievement of silver Eco Church award
- Meet environmental challenges, as individuals and as the church community, while also engaging with the wider community
- Consider financial implications for future environmental projects needed to achieve net zero carbon by 2030
- A fundraising event for Christian Aid

Members of the Group

John Appleby, Rick Channing, Margaret Evans, Marion Oakes, Imogen Potter

St Marys Concert Series Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

- Our prime aim is to deliver quality professional and amateur classical music performances to a wide range of audiences.
- To reach out into the wider community and to use our church building to entertain and to provide a space for social and community outreach.
- To cover costs, including artists' fees and church costs such as heating, lighting, photocopying, advertising, and general use of the building.

Key results of our work in 2022

- Our 2022 season of Saturday evening concerts commenced on 30th April with a wonderful performance from Bradley Creswick, violinist. We then had a marvellous rendition of some Scottish folk music from Michael Biggins in June. Two more concerts would have followed in September but due to the passing of our Queen, these were cancelled at short notice. The autumn season saw Anna Dias & Friends return to St Mary's in October. Our season ended on the 3rd December with a Christmas concert from the Bishopwearmouth Choral Society.
- Our evening concerts were interspaced with Sunday afternoon free concerts commencing with pianist Fiona Gould and followed by mezzo soprano Rosie McMorro with pianist Daisie Sitlani, both in May. Also in May the amazingly talented students of David Murray gave us a bonus concert in the evening. In June we welcomed Iona Brown, principle violinist with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and in July the young students of Fiona Gould provided us with splendid renditions of short pieces from youngsters of all ages. The newly formed Westerly Trio joined us in November with a repertoire of music for flute, violin and piano. These afternoon concerts are most popular and although free to attend we do collect good donations to St Mary's from them. However, it is more important to offer these as an outreach in the community so that anyone can enjoy a concert without having to pay.
- To safeguard our finances we continued with the arrangement that performers would receive 66.6% of ticket sales (after a deduction of our own costs set at £180). This continues to work well and ensures that the concerts are financially risk free to our church.
- A very pleasing profit of £3385 was realised from these events and transferred to the church account.

Key plans for development in 2023

- Various concerts have been planned for 2023 with the first concert having commenced on 4th February and other free concerts have also been arranged.
- So far in 2023 the ticket sales have been rather disappointing for all concerts and David Murray tells us that they are experiencing a similar problem in other venues that he performs at. We are therefore looking at different ways of advertising to try and attract more people to attend our wonderful concerts.
- The concert series continues to help our church building provide a space for social and community outreach and new members to our group, or help for a particular concert, would always be welcome.

Members of the Group

Dot Clarke	Liz Hayes	Philip Sanderson
Michael Clarke – treasurer		David Murray – musical director
Fiona Gould		Suzanne Cure
Sarah Harrison supporting us via the office		

OWLS Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

To look after the spiritual life of older members of the congregation by meeting together for lunch and activities on the second Friday of each month from September to June.

Key results of our work in 2022

Since the group started in May 2022 we have enabled members to join together in a familiar place to share food, talk and enjoy fellowship, along with encouraging thoughts, discussion and writing about living the Autumn years of their lives in meaningful and spiritual ways. They have begun to write short pieces which will help their family members to know and remember them and their lives and stories now and for the years to come.

Key plans for development in 2023

To continue with the work started in our first year and to encourage membership from the wider community.

Members of the Group

Leaders and helpers of the Group: Beryl Austoni, Clare Connors, Jane Walker, Karen Johnston plus around 20 members who come

each month.

Toddler Group Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

The Toddler Group meets every Monday morning during term time. Its aim is to provide a safe, warm space for parents/carers to bring children to play, socialise and partake in light refreshments. The hope is that people who are unfamiliar with the church will like what they see and experience and so become part of our community. Also, to encourage more baptisms.

Key results of our work in 2022

We reopened in September 2021 having been closed due to Covid. The response to our opening was astonishing with more people than we could cater for. Our aim was to have 30 children on the register which was very easily achieved and was raised to 34. Our waiting list now stands at 32.

We constantly get compliments from those attending and this is due to the dedicated team of helpers who are on a rota to set up the church, welcome everyone and provide a much-needed cup of coffee and biscuit for adults and toasted fruit loaf for the children.

We have had 2 Carol services during the time we have been operating again and these brought in an average of 90 people each time.

We aim to give each child a small gift at the end of each term.

The quite substantial funds raised have been welcomed by our finance team.

Key plans for development in 2023

We are now thinking about holding a second session on a Monday to help ease the waiting time for those on the waiting list. Hopefully, if we can get enough helpers, this will start after Easter.

Members of the Group

Carole Lax, Dot Clarke, Stephanie Beckman, Tina Lyttle, Sue Channing, Karen Johnston, Hilary Clark, Elizabeth Charlton, Dorothy Daniels, Rick Channing, John Charlton, Rosemay Dunlop, Mary Cooper, Carol Nesbitt, Nigel Taylor.

Children's Society Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To highlight the role of the Children's Society• To enable the church to contribute by fundraising with box collections and the Christingle service and candle collections
Key results of our work in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We resumed processing of the collecting boxes and a total of £334.81 was received and sent direct to the society• We also held a lively Christingle service raising £353.46
Key plans for development in 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is difficult to predict the future of the box collections as people use less cash. We will however take in the boxes throughout Lent as usual.• We expect to run the Christingle service with collecting candles prior to the Christmas celebrations.
Members of the Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rick and Sue Channing

Traidcraft Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We were able to man the Traidcraft stall after the 10am service until just after Christmas.• We were also given the opportunity to take part in the Christmas market at St John's Methodist Church in November.
Key results of our work in 2022

- Unfortunately Traidcraft has gone into administration.
- The remaining stock has been sold off or sent to the foodbank.

Key plans for development in 2023

- This group will no longer function after it has donated the remaining funds to 'Transform Trade', the charity which aims to support producers abroad.
- We would hope to encourage the parish to continue to find ways to include fair trade in their daily shopping and giving.

Members of the Group

- Rick Channing

4th Monkseaton Brownie Report

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

- Fun and friendship
- Encourage girls who are aged 7-10 years to work together both in small and large groups
- To provide opportunities for learning, developing respect for others and to help the girls develop emotionally, physically, and spiritually

Key results of our work in 2022

- Sadly, due to the pandemic 12th Monkseaton Brownies closed in July owing to lack of leaders
- 4th Monkseaton were able to take many of the Brownies but not all because of the numbers
- In July our long serving Unit Helpers Jean Magowan and Lesley Rang both retired after 36 years of service each. We cannot begin to express our gratitude for their support and commitment
- We were very pleased to welcome Sarah Harrison as a helper in September
- The Brownies in September remembered Her Majesty the Queen learning about her time with her sister Margaret in the Guide movement
- We enrolled several Brownies during the year
- Brownies earned the Challenge badge 'Adventures in the Dark' – including learning about nocturnal animals, the night sky and were even able to look through a telescope, light pollution and

<p>made an Oreo owl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brownies earned the Platinum Jubilee Challenge badge based on naturally the number 70 and celebrated the Queen's Jubilee • The Brownies thoroughly enjoyed the 'Minute to Win It' Challenge badge – such a variety of activities utilising food, craft games and others • December 2022 we were able to have our Christmas Show for parents and friends with the Brownies showing off their skills- playing musical instruments, singing, dancing, magic, telling jokes with Christmas carols
<p>Key plans for development in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide the Brownies with the opportunities for fun friendship and development and confidence • Strengthen and develop links with the Church • To find additional leaders
<p>Members of the Group</p> <p>Sue Johnson, Trina Playfair, Cori Playfair and Sarah Harrison</p>

4th Monkseaton Guides Report

<p>Key results of our work in 2022</p> <p>Since Lockdown, 4th Monkseaton Guides have gone from strength to strength. We have seen one Young Leader through to completion of their leadership certificate and are currently supporting a further three girls. We have awarded eight GOLD Awards, and four of these Guides have chosen to stay on and work towards their Commonwealth Award - we have never had guides work on a badge this advanced before.</p> <p>The Guides continue to organise and lead their own activities. We have had great fun finding different locations to hold the Patrol Leaders Council: April 2022 it was held in Di Meo's whilst eating ice cream; September 2022, at the Retro Café whilst playing video games, and January 2023, at Boodle whilst drinking bubble tea. Highlights this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Bay Create to help produce some community art; • Attending a County Funday at Gibside NT property; • Partying in St Mary's Lighthouse; • Presenting fidget mats, made during Lockdown, to North Tyneside Care and Connect; • Not having a fire on the beach due to the wind, but singing lots of campfire songs loudly to make up for the disappointment;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being part of the National GirlGuiding UK Odeon Takeover and watching Matilda The Musical, followed by a walk in the snow and Pizza at Sambuca's; • Travelling to York to mark Thinking Day at York Minster with Guides from across the North East; • Creating a stunning window for the Window Wonders Whitley Bay
Key plans for development in 2023
<p>A Guide has been offered the opportunity to have an adventure in Norway with other Guides across the county in February 2024. She will be trying cross country skiing, snow shoe walking and igloo building as well as learning snow survival skills. We therefore plan to support her with her fundraising efforts. We are also planning on joining County Camp in August 2023.</p>
Members of the Group
<p>5 Guiders 4 Young Leaders 22 Guides</p>

6th Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's
<p>The Scout Association helps young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.</p>
Key results of our work in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provision of wide and varied activities aimed at supporting the beavers, cubs and scouts in their sections to learn new skills and develop existing ones. •All sections have worked towards gaining Chief Scout awards in their respective areas with a large number of awards presented at County Presentations. •Each section has taken part in overnight residential experiences. •During the Summer months all sections ran a range of activities, including get wet games night, beach night, cooking on BBQ's, all to take advantage of the summer weather.

- Twenty scouts took part in an indoor weekend in November at Cheviot View and forty people (Scouts, Young Leaders and Leaders) took part in our fifth international camp in The Netherlands.

Key areas for development in 2023

- Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be taking part in a County led "Camp Together" weekend in May 2023.
- We hope to continue to develop our Group Executive Committee to assist in the ongoing expansion of scouting at the 6th.
- Continued support of leaders to complete their training and achieve their wood beads in the next year.
- Progression of beavers, Cubs and Scouts to achieve their Chief Scout awards in 2023.

Members of the Group

- We have three sections: Beavers (6-8 yrs), Cubs (8-10 ½ yrs) and Scouts (10 ½ - 14 yrs), plus young leaders (14-18 yrs) and adult volunteer leaders and executive members.

Scott Blackett, Group Scout Leader, 6th Whitley Bay Scout Group

The role of the group in the ongoing life and mission of St Mary's

Link national and local priorities for mission and ministry with the parish
Engage people in wider issues that just St Mary's.

Key results of our work in 2022

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Diocesan Synod met on 26th November 2022, where the main items were deployment, budget planning and environmental policy. It was made clear that the financial situation is grim, and so work to reduce the number of stipend. You can access the agenda and attached papers by clicking the link Agenda 26 November 20 (d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net)

DEANERY SYNOD

Tynemouth Deanery Synod met last Thursday 9th March at St Hilda's Marden. Following prayers for each parish, there was a presentation by Tim (Area Dean) about the work the Deanery Development Group is leading on behalf of the Deanery. All Deaneries in Newcastle Diocese have to submit a 3 year plan to the Diocese by the end of June 2023. The DDG have met a number of times and identified a number of short, medium and long term aims for Tynemouth Deanery. They've agreed that focusing on the gifts of the laity will be their first priority, and a 'Deanery Day' will take place on 10th June, which is open to all, and will be attended by Bishop Helen-Ann. We then had a presentation from Deanery Treasurer Iain, who gave us important stats re: deanery finances. I will send these figures separately. It is clear that Tynemouth Deanery is working with a deficit, and we currently have about 4 and a half full time stipendiary priests that we're not paying for. This is the case in other Deaneries too, but shows why we need to really discern future plans. I then gave the Deanery feedback on GS (see below), and was really heartened by the support shown to all the GS reps from Tynemouth Deanery, including those from different traditions and experiences. We talked a little about the Deanery Lent course which is going well here at St. Mary's, and ended in prayer.

GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod took place in London from the 6th to the 9th February. Much of the business related to Living in Love and Faith, and the motion that the Bishops brought to Synod to allow prayers and resources for offering SS relationships, and for new pastoral guidance to replace

Issues in Human Sexuality. On the afternoon of the 10th, we were all asked to take part in group work, talking about the motion and our feelings around the proposed prayers of blessing and other resources. I found this group work particularly challenging and upsetting, as did many others. The debate around the motion lasted for over 8 hours and was again challenging! However in the end all 3 houses of GS (laity, clergy and bishops) voted in favour of the motion. This result has caused a great amount of fear and pain, and the work is not even nearly done as the Bishops will bring the resources and the new pastoral guidance to the July GS, when it's likely the Conservative Evangelicals and others will seek to block any change at all, despite the fact that recent polls show a clear majority of churchgoers are in favour of SSM (same sex marriage). There were other important pieces of business – parish fees, the cost of living crisis and safeguarding were debated. The Church of England Bishop Helen-Ann was welcomed to GS for the first time, and she was so good to all of us reps.

Key plans for development in 2023

Deanery plan to be handed into the Diocesan Bishop's Staff team by the end of June.

Deanery Synod elections - 3 candidates prepared to stand for 3 places.

Members of the Group Nicola Denyer and John Appleby

We Welcome, We Celebrate, We Remember

We pray for those Baptised at St Mary's in 2022

Marnie Elizabeth Oliver, Beatrice Brianna Macfarlane, Isaac Otis
Homer Lilley, Florence Lois Hetherington, Charlotte Fay Haddon

And for those who were married here at St Mary's in 2022

Robert Cure and Suzanne Rider, Craig Pembrington and Cloe
Donnegan

***We remember by name those members of our community
who have died in the last twelve months***

May our friends departed now claim
that promised place
at the wedding feast of heaven.

Christ is risen - the first fruits of all who have died!


God of our Life,
God of all our years,
God of our beginning,
hear us as we pray,
in a mixture of sadness, gratitude and hope,
for those who have died during our last year and
we pray for all who mourn.

Jean Goudie
Tina Tompkins
Tom Danskin
Mary Rose
Janice Hudson
Freda Brown
Irene Cogan
Irene Gribbin
Alan Wolf
Pete Scott
Martin Hine

Our times are in your hands Lord. Amen



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