

The Church of the  
Holy Saviour



Tynemouth Priory

**Annual Report  
on Activities  
2024**

## Vicar's Report for 2024

As I reflect on the past year, I am always aware of my gratitude to God and my fellow worshippers. God has sustained us once again through times of joy, loss, uncertainty and celebration. I am immensely grateful to my fellow Christians who have supported the ministry and mission of Holy Saviour's over the year; those who serve on PCC, our Altar Servers, Sidespeople, Deanery Synod Representatives and especially our Churchwardens, Ruth Day and Eleanor Hayward. There are so many rolls and responsibilities which we share in our worshipping community, and I am thankful for all who step up to ensure our church is well ordered and welcoming, whether these are prominent rolls or behind the scenes.

The Easter, Harvest and Christmas services were, as usual, highlights of the year and well attended. My thanks to those on our flower team who pull out the stops to make our church look beautiful for the major festivals. My thanks also to our singers and musicians who enhance our worship. Our 4pm Children's services are a conundrum with very patchy attendance and no core group. This year only a limited numbers from our uniformed groups attending the Parade Services. However, it has been a delight to welcome several young adults into our Sunday worship and I am grateful to all who have given them a wonderful welcome.

My thanks go to our Social Sub-Committee for an excellent programme of events throughout the year. All of these events provide opportunities for us to reach out to the wider community and welcome people to share in our social life as an introduction to us as a worshipping community. Also as an outreach, we must thank those who run and support our soup lunches and knitting and art group which provide another opportunity to invite those beyond our usual Sunday attendees.

During the year we bade farewell to our Curate, Rosemary New as she made the difficult decision not to continue in public ministry with the Church of England. I am sure you will, we me, continue to wish her well as she continues volunteering for domestic abuse charities. It was good to welcome John Grogan on a six month placement with us as part of his training for ordination and we pray for John as he continues as Curate in Percy Main. I am pleased that John Pearce began his training as an Authorised Lay Worship Leader towards the end of the year.

It has been unfortunate that, with the lack of a Curate, I have not been more available to assist the North Shields Team during the vacancy after the retirement of Canon Glyn Evans. I had hoped to get to know the folk at St Augustin's and Christ Church a little better over the last few months. However, the appointment of a new Team Rector for North Shields is in progress and I hope to be able to develop a good working relationship with the North Shields Team once an appointment has been made.

It is always with sadness that I look back on the year and remember those who are no longer with us. We give thanks for the lives of Helen Eadington, Audrey Henderson, Patience Purdy, Margaret Smith, Dorothy Steward, Margaret Wilkinson and Elizabeth Wright. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thinking of more practical matters, some of the day-to-day management issues of the Village Hall have been eased by the appointment of a part-time Administrator, Angela Abrahams to look after bookings and invoicing. Angela has proved to be very effective and has been a factor in increased booking for the Hall. We have also have an efficient cleaner for the Hall, Janice.

The Hall Refurbishment Project faced a significant setback in June when we were not able to submit our application to the government's Community Ownership Fund due to the calling of the general election. Questions to our MP, Sir Alan Campbell, have not moved the situation forward and we fear this funding stream will not be supported by the new government. On a more positive note, there have been helpful discussions with the Sir James Knott Trust and we hope to submit a bid early in the new year. If successful, this would go a considerable way to getting at least the essential works carried out on the Hall. Other funding options are being pursued by our Hall Funding Committee and I am very grateful for their time and efforts.

After almost 100 years of service, it was a great loss for our Scout group to come to an end in December as the leadership was no longer able to continue. Appeals to parents and former scouts did not result in anyone stepping forward to lead. My fear is that this threatens the Beaver and Cub groups.

The W3 (Women Warmly Welcomed) group came to an end and will be replaced by a more ad hoc ladies group in the new year. Thank you to all who enabled W3 to be so successful over many years and we hope the ladies group will be as enjoyable for all who attend.

The latter part of the year saw some difficult developments from the National Church. The publication of the Makin Report into safeguarding failures and the lack of support at General Synod earlier in the year for an independent national safeguarding system have both raised considerable concerns in the general public about the safety of Church of England churches. This has impacted our mission and ministry at a parish level through the diminished trust the public perceive in our national church institution. However, I want you to be reassured that we are doing all we can to ensure that Holy Saviour's is a safe and welcoming place to worship and find support. My thanks to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Wyn Portway, for assisting me in underpinning our ministry at Holy Saviour's with good safeguarding practice.

I am very grateful to all who support Holy Saviour's through regular giving. Our finances continue to be stretched with the increasing rises in energy and service costs. My thanks to our Treasurer, David Bilton, for the considerable task of keeping our finances on track. Knowing the heavy load of administration which he bears, can I appeal to those who give using the envelope schemes to consider changing to monthly direct debit as this would significantly simplify our giving systems. We try to run our church as efficient as possible, but still make a loss, so it is only by prayerfully considering our giving that we can raise the funds needed to cover our annual costs.

Looking beyond finances, may I return to offering my thanks to everyone who give time, talents and energy to making Holy Saviour's a welcoming and active church. I pray that, keeping our hearts open to the prompting of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be

Revd Steve Dixon

## Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Wardens have undertaken a full audit of the Terrier and Inventory and can confirm it is up to date and accurate. The insurances for the Church Buildings, Contents and Village Hall are up to date.

Following concerns highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection that blocked drains could be damaging the Church fabric the drainage system was hydro jetted. Further extensive investigations confirmed the Soakaway had failed. With the P.C.C.s agreement Rapid Response have installed a new superior Soakaway in the Church Garden lawn for £1950. including an inspection chamber to allow future easier access. Permission was granted by the Archdeacon and recorded.

After the Church central heating broke down several times last winter we had to consider the possibility of having to replace the boiler. Having established a Faculty was needed and the C of E have a net zero target we would have to demonstrate we had considered all heating options -it was unlikely a gas boiler replacement would be allowed. A site meeting with the D.A.C.s volunteer heating advisor confirmed this is policy. An option was to replace the Pressurisation Unit and start saving towards a new heating system. P.C.C. agreed to accept Kirklands Quotation of £2548 to replace the Pressurisation Unit – this was less than other alternatives. The Archdeacons permission was sought granted and recorded.

Annual checks and servicing have been undertaken on all our Alarms,CCTV and Boilers. The electrician has PAT tested all portable electrical appliances and lights.

All Chasubles and stoles have been professionally cleaned.

The Church Sound System broke down and had to be replaced. Clockwork have installed a more tamper proof system for £900. Thank you to those who now undertake Livestream and Sacristan duties. Livestreaming has become an important part of our worship.

The Contactless Payment Machine is now fully operational and proving to be a useful additional method of giving.

Church Garden

Hedges have been reduced and bushes trimmed in the autumn. Paths have all been treated and moss and algae removed. We thank our volunteer gardeners for their time care and love poured into keeping our Church Garden beautiful and cared for.

The Church and Parish Centre are generally in a good state of repair.

Social Events are well supported and help to raise much needed funds for Holy Saviours and local charities.

The Wardens want to say thank you to our Church family for the countless ways you give your time, talents and hearts to support Holy Saviours. We are deeply grateful.

### Work Executed January – December 2024

**Drains:** Rapid Response have excavated and installed a new superior Soakaway in the Church Garden Lawn also an Inspection Chamber. All drains around the Church and Parish Centre were inspected and cleaned.

**Boiler:** Kirklands replaced the Church Heating Pressurisation Unit with a smaller unit in October.

**Roof Repairs:** Rightway Roofers have made several visits to secure and replace tiles to the Parish Centre Roof. This ongoing problem is likely to continue as the problem is historical - The Roof Tiles were initially incorrectly fitted.

Following storms Lead flashing that had slipped on the north side of the roof was repaired. Church . Rightway Roofers have Renewed mortar to the roof above the Lady Chapel and refelted the outer vestry roof. They believe water leaks in the vestry were from the window above. Cracks in the glass have been taped. All gutters have been cleaned. We hoped repair work to seal sandstone joints above the porch would have solved the ingress of water in the porch. It seems further work is needed and is in hand.

**Village Hall:** Refurbishing -Whilst there is uncertainty regarding plans for the Hall we continue with all annual maintenance. Gutters have been cleared and elbows replaced to downpipes.

**Windows:** The Glasshouse has reglazed three storm damaged loose windows to the small leaded west window above the porch.

**The Courtyard Railings** have been Painted for a very reasonable £300. We are grateful for the generous donation of the Paint.

**Sound system:** Clockwork Audio have installed a new digital mixing desk.

Ruth Day and Eleanor Hayward. Church Wardens

## Group Reports

### Mothers Union

Holy Saviours M.U. has 26 members and meets on the first Monday of each month. Each month we have a short service normally followed by a speaker and tea/ coffee/cake.

In the past year we have had speakers from the Lifeboat Station, the Scouts, Rev. Emma Duff taking about walking the Portuguese Camino, a speaker on M.U. in Australia, John Pearce talking about the fascinating life of Christine Kirkby, Canon David Bilton giving us an insight into the Cathedral Canons and Rev. Malcolm Railton talking about his new role as Chaplain to a Housing Association. We also celebrated Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day and participated in Deanery and Diocesan events.

Sadly, we have lost two longstanding members this year, Dorothy Steward and Mary Watson.

All are welcome to attend our meetings.

Cathy Duff

## **Holy Saviour's Social Sub-Committee**

We have enjoyed a busy programme of social events during 2024 including:

Dust on the Needle musical eventing

Colle Voce Concert

Domino Drive

Church Outing to Auckland Castle

Harvest Lunch in aid of Nite Bite

Chocolate Tasting evening

Christmas Quiz

Musica Johannis Christmas Concert

While these events are not necessarily organized directly by the Social Sub-Committee, it is vital that we hold a diary of events to prevent clashes and to animate a good social life to the church. That said, much of the organization and practical effort is offered by committee members Chris and Linda Benneworth, Don Charlton, Carol Davidson, Liz Parr, Keith Kirtley and Maureen Rayner. Thank you to all who assisted the Committee through their help at various events.

Revd Steve Dixon

## **Soup Lunches**

The numbers coming on Wednesday for a bowl or two of homemade soup followed by delicious cakes and a 'cuppa' continue to be at twelve to fifteen each week. Everyone seems to enjoy the food but moreover the company. We are always grateful to anyone who can spare time to bake or make soups for us.

Liz Parr

## **Knitting and Art Group**

The past year has been very encouraging as the knitting group has grown in numbers. Welcoming new ladies who are friends and neighbours of existing members or others who have been who have heard about us from other sources.

The group worked on a collaborative project making squares which were then crocheted together to make a blanket, this was then donated, along with another blanket made by Betty Wall, to Rake Lane Hospital Chaplains for use by patients on the wards.

Other projects include: making small fish for North Shields 800 celebrations, baby blankets for the Baby Bank run by St John's Church, Percy Main as well as small items for a charity who make up memory boxes for ladies who have suffered a baby loss.

Prayer shawls continue to be available, if anyone knows of someone who might benefit from having a shawl please see Clare, Betty or Liz Shipway.

The Art group continues to produce beautiful paintings under the direction of Joan Kean.

Help is always available for which ever project you are working on so please drop in and join us even if you just fancy a chat and a cuppa.

Clare Dixon

### **Holy Saviour's Friday Toddler Group**

The Friday Toddler Group continued to be popular throughout 2024 with an average of 20 children and their carers attending weekly sessions.

The sessions include toys, equipment and crafts to provide the children with a variety of activities. Themed sessions are also planned throughout the year to align crafts and activities associated with Mothering Sunday, Easter and Christmas as an example. During the summer months the garden area is also used for outdoor play.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are available for the adults, and children are provided with healthy snacks before closing the session with song and instrument time.

The cost for the 2-hour session is £3 for children over 6 months and £2 for siblings. This covers the cost of the hall hire, tea, coffee biscuits and snacks. There is also a reliance on regular dedicated volunteers to set up, prepare crafts and snacks and clear away at the end of the sessions. Volunteers did drop towards the end of 2024 resulting in sessions moving to bi-weekly in 2025.

Diane Crawford

### **6th Tynemouth (Holy Saviour's) Beavers**

We currently have 18 beavers ranging from age 6-8 with more waiting to join on the waiting list. They enthusiastically take part in a range of activities - we had a recent trip to Tynemouth park and also a session at Newcastle climbing wall. We are currently working on the Challenge activities badge and have recently done creative and cookery badges.

Gillian Smith

### **11th Tynemouth Brownies**

Brownies continue to thrive with a full complement of 24 girls and 5 Leaders – Pat, Mary, Kirsty, Katy and Gabby (2nd year University student at Northumbria and former Brownie with the Unit.) We have also Duke of Edinburgh Award student –Ruby – also a former Brownie with us.

We continue, as required by National, to follow unit meeting activities and skills builders as well as challenges and activities of interest to the girls. The girls have enjoyed recent activities relating to Women in Science and STEM activities . They have learnt about the invention of radar and robots, experimenting in making radar stations (such as airline towers) and robots to their own designs. Science activities included making erupting volcanoes (topical subject at the moment), flying rockets, lava lamps and invisible writing. Brownies enjoy craft and art and food activities- evident in crafts for Chinese New Year, St. Patrick's Day, Burns Night, St.George's Day, Easter and Christmas.

Interest badges continue to be popular as part of the 3 levels of awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold introduced in 2022 and several girls have achieved the Bronze and Silver awards with 2 girls currently on track to start achieving Gold.

We thank the Church for their continued support to our Unit.

Pat Corbett, April 2025.