

The Church of the
Holy Saviour



Tynemouth Priory

**Annual Report
on Activities
2025**

Vicar's Report for 2025

Throughout this last year there has been much reason for gratitude to God who has sustained us through times of joy, loss, uncertainty and celebration. I am immensely grateful all who have supported the ministry and mission of Holy Saviour's over the year; our PCC, Altar Servers, Sides-people, Deanery Synod Representatives and especially our Churchwardens, Ruth Day and Eleanor Hayward. And there have been so many who fulfilled rolls and responsibilities which go unnoticed by most but are vital in keeping our church running. I am grateful for all who make the effort to ensure our church is well ordered and welcoming.

Worship

The Easter, Harvest and Christmas services are always highlights during the year and well attended. Music also plays a vital part of our worship and I am grateful to Malcom Soulsby and all our musicians and singers who facilitate our worship. My thanks to those on our flower team who work long hours to make our church look beautiful during major festivals. In the early part of the year, the 4pm Children's services continued to be a concern with low attendance. However, in the Autumn we started to get more of a core group of regular families and several helpers which has brought a sense of togetherness. A new venture was a 'Light Party' at the end of October in the Village Hall which helped to galvanise the momentum for our 4pm services. We have also seen an increase in young families and children at our Sunday morning services through the Autumn and we are now looking into forming a new provision for children during these services.

John Pearce became an Authorised Minister for Worship after a nine-month training scheme with the diocese. As well as his role leading the music group, he has taken the lead at Evening Prayer once a month using liturgy from the Iona Community.

Worshipping Community

No community ever stands still, and I am delighted that we have welcomed so many new people into our worshipping life this year. I am pleased that many new members are part of younger families which reflects the dynamics of our parish as it becomes a younger community. However, 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 John Kean, Mary Watson, Betty Kincaid, Alan Jobson, Chris Mason and Bill Patterson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Social Events and groups

Our Social Sub-Committee has been busy once again providing many excellent events throughout the year (see the report below). These events are the cornerstone of our outreach and provide opportunities for us to welcome people into the life of Holy Saviour's in a friendly and relaxed way. This outreach also extends to our soup lunches and knitting and art group which welcome many from our wider community. My thanks to all who work so hard to make these events and groups run so well.

Staffing

Many of you will not have met Angela Abrahams who administers the booking for the Parish Centre and Hall. She continues to do an excellent job supporting those who wish to use our

church facilities and has managed to substantially increase the use of our buildings for the community.

I am delighted that we were able to welcome Revd Emily Emmerson-Finch and her family as our new full-time Curate in July. Emily quickly fitted in and has been supporting the general ministry of the parish. She comes with much experience from her past as a church youth worker which has enabled her to provide much support to our ministry in Kings Priory School. Alongside this, she is involved in pioneering ministry with the sea swimming community on King Edwards Bay and working towards a new worshipping community at the Fish Quay.

Village Hall Refurbishment Project

The ongoing project to refurbish the Village Hall Refurbishment Project has been moving a pace this year. After the loss of the Government's Community Ownership Fund last year, we approached the local advisor for the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund to enquire about a potential funding application. We learned that a major grant was unlikely without 50% of the finances in place, so a decision was taken to reduce the internal reordering of the Hall to bring the costs down from £900k to £500k. We also held a church gift day at which I was amazed and deeply grateful that our congregation gave or pledged over £34k (incl gift aid) to the project. This moved us to the point where we could apply to the Community Ownership Fund and smaller trusts to achieve the target. Bids have now been submitted and we await the outcome in 2026. We are hopeful that works can begin sometime in 2026 to mark the centenary of the Hall.

Scouting

After the loss of our Scout group at the end of 2024 we have also lost our Beaver and Cub sections this year. It is such a great shame that this provision for our children has been lost due to lack of leadership and ways are being considered to restart these sections. However, the Scout and Guide HQ have welcomed the Sea Scouts' Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections alongside the Guide sections from St George's Cullercoats which secure the future of the HQ and offer opportunities for the children of our community.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an important aspect of our church life and I am very grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Wyn Portway, for keeping this high on our agenda and moving us forward. After a period of understaffing, the diocesan safeguarding team has been renewed and is providing a much improved system of administration, reporting and training. Safeguarding is something we all need to be aware of and Wyn, Emily and myself are always available if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Finance

I am very aware of the financial pressure placed on households as the cost of living continues to remain high. My thanks go to all who support Holy Saviour's through sacrificial regular giving. While we make every effort to keep our running cost as low as possible, our finances continue to be stretched. Just like households, the cost of energy has remained high for the church buildings and we keep a regular check to minimise waste. My am very grateful to our Treasurer, David Bilton, for the considerable task of keeping our finances in check. This year we have made a small surplus in our finances which point to the hard work which goes on to raise funds through lettings and the efficiencies made in costs. However, the

church is not immune from inflation and I would like to ask all who support Holy Saviour's financially to consider raising their giving in line with inflation.

I would like to conclude by offering my thanks to everyone who gives time, talents and energy to making Holy Saviour's a welcoming and active church community. I pray that, keeping our hearts open to the prompting of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will move forward in our mission and ministry to the Tynemouth Parish, bringing the light of Christ into our community.

Revd Steve Dixon

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Wardens have undertaken an audit of the Terrier and Inventory and can confirm it is up to date and accurate.

With PCC agreement Choir Robes not used for many years were offered to the Diocese . They have been donated to Hexham Abbey who will be using them regularly. The Terrier has been updated.

Insurances for the Church Buildings , Contents and Village Hall are up to date.

Annual checks and servicing have been undertaken on all Alarms, CCTV and Boilers.

The Lightening Conductor has been tested.

Archdeacons Parish Visitation

In July the Church Wardens met with Archdeacon Rachel Wood. The Visitation is a formal meeting with the Archdeacon to ensure legal compliance. i.e. all Church property , records and legal obligations are in good order. She inspected all documentation and we received a very positive report. She was particularly impressed with the Terrier and Inventory which had been redone in 2024. We drew the Archdeacons attention to the poor condition of the church grounds west boundary wall which had been noted in the 2022 Quinquennial report as crumbling in places and needed attention. Encouraged by the Archdeacon we made an application to the Minor Repairs Small Grants Fund. The lower Quotation to repair the west church grounds boundary wall from Stone Technical Services of £15.959. plus VAT , was accepted by PCC Repairs to the wall were dependant on obtaining a Grant. We believed a Grant for repairs to a Garden Wall were unlikely to be successful so were delighted to have a Grant of £7795 approved. This is approximately half the quotation . Areas most in need of attention will be repaired. Work will commence in Spring 2026. P.C.C. have agreed that VAT , which can no longer be recovered will be covered by church funds. The Archdeacons Written permission that the work can be implemented without a faculty was granted in Sept 2025.

Church Boiler

The annual service identified significant problems. The cast iron heat exchanger is in danger of bursting and is weeping. We are aware of the Churches Net Zero policy pertaining to heating systems in particular replacing gas for gas. The Archdeacon and DAC have been

appraised of our situation and due to the potential urgency believes an application to install a new gas boiler will not be refused. A Faculty is needed and is in hand.

I.T.

In October 2025 Microsoft stopped supporting Windows 10. As none of our equipment could be updated we were forced to update the office computer system to Windows 11. New Live streaming equipment was also purchased which could be securely locked in the box. The Terrier has been updated. Live streaming onto YouTube is now an important aspect of our worship.

Contactless Giving

Steve has set up a new contactless giving system on a stand using a tablet. Although more reliable we still have occasional hiccups. This is proving to be a popular method of giving.

Church Building

The External Condition of the Church is generally in good condition. The church roofs were inspected several times during the year by our roofing contractor. Minor repairs to pointing and slipped and damaged tiles were carried out. All gutters and hoppers have been cleared. The ingress of water in the porch continues to be a problem. S.V. Rutters have made an thorough inspection of the porch roof and surrounding area .No areas of roof need repair. They are willing to visit following a severe downpour. The Internal Condition of the Church is generally good. We are very grateful to our volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers who keep our church looking so welcoming.

Parish Centre

The Parish Centre fabric is generally in a good state. Damage at height on the north external wall is a concern. Rightway Roofers have made several visits to replace and secure tiles. This ongoing historical problem is likely to continue as the roof tiles were initially incorrectly fitted.

Metal Disc covers on the external floor lights at the Parish Center entrance were loose and a potential hazard. As the lights would have been costly to repair and are never used the Electrician has disconnected all 6 Floor Lights to enable them to be removed.

The Annual Boiler Service in December showed the pressure dropping and a leak. Kirklands believe a central heating sealant will resolve the issue.

Church Gardens

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

Social Events

Social Events are well supported offering fellowship and friendship 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 2025

Electrician disconnected all 6 Floor Lights outside the Parish Centre.- it is now safe to remove them.

Stuart Fraser completed work to the church garden. Cut back large shrubs at gateway and buddlea. Applied algae remover to paths. Cut back fast growing areas and small trees on the north side.

Parish Centre Hot Water Boiler -Steve descaled and replaced the printed circuit. New signage 'Caution Boiling Water' put on boiler to reinforce need to use with care.

RightwayRoofers. Cleared all gutters. Checked and undertaken repairs to church roof above the south transept. Repaired loose flashing and replaced tiles to the Parish Centre roof.

Broken Church CCTV . Replaced by one not needed from the vestibule.

Church Inner doors. Steve has fitted new closure brackets to the doors from the porch.

Parish Centre Lights – Steve and Ian changed all high up light bulbs and cleared cobwebs.

Broken Lock glass door link vestibule. ASL Access Solutions replaced the bottom door lock on one of the glass external doors in the link vestibule which involved removing the heavy door.

Village Hall Refurbishing – Whilst there is uncertainty regarding plans for the Hall we continue with all annual maintenance. Gutters have been cleared.

Ruth Day and Eleanor Hayward. Church Wardens

Group Reports

Mothers Union

We remain a Committee led Branch meeting monthly (normally on the first Monday of the month). We have enrolled 5 new members in the last year so now have 31 members. We have hosted various speakers in the year - Rev. Malcolm Railton, Rev. Clive Harper, Rev. Joan Dotchin, Rev. Sue McCormack and Peter Jackson. Our Vicar has helped us to celebrate Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day. We have enjoyed tea at the Golf Club and lunch at Davanti's. 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the M.U. so there are various Diocesan and National events to look forward to. All are welcome at our meetings.

Cathy Duff

Holy Saviour's Social Sub-Committee

There has been a wide range of social activities organised during the year. The emphasis throughout the year has been on holding events which would be enjoyable and to which the wider local community would be welcomed. At most events, the refreshments are provided by a team of helpers coordinated by Liz Parr. We are very grateful to the small team of volunteers who help with the organisation, setting up and clearing away for all these events. This report does not include the regular events organised by the ladies' group (formerly known as W3.)

The year started with a Wine Tasting on 17th January. It was a very popular evening with a clear demand for more of the same.

In March, we ran a Jigsaw Competition which was well attended and received. It was particularly good to see so many people from the wider community, with some coming through advertising on Facebook.

In early May, we held an event to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of VE-day. The parish centre was decorated with bunting, and the films of local VE day celebrations and

competitions were much appreciated. Later in the month, there was a bingo night in the village hall which was hugely popular.

On 6th July we welcomed Emily Emmerson-Finch as our new curate. Mothers' Union organised a splendid afternoon tea, which was followed by Songs of Praise in the church. It was a suitably relaxed opportunity to get to meet Emily. On 24th July, there was the annual church summer outing – this year to Ripon, where we enjoyed an excellent guided tour, some free time to explore the town and ended with a service in the cathedral choir.

On September 27th we held a murder mystery with an Italian theme. Loosely based around a death in the kitchen of a fictional Tynemouth Italian restaurant, it gave the opportunity to enjoy pasta with sauce and ice cream while trying to work out "whodunnit".

The Harvest Lunch on 12th October was another successful event, raising over £400 for Nite Bite.

On 7th November, we hosted a chocolate making event run by Jane Williams from Davenport's chocolates. We all had the opportunity to make some classic chocolates to take home and enjoy. The following evening, Musica Johannis gave a concert of Remembrance Music in the church.

On 13th December, a Christmas film was shown in the church. Targeted at 10 – 12 year olds and attended by 25 children plus a few adults, the film was really enjoyed by the children there.

There'll be lots to look forward to in 2026. Plans are already being put in place for another varied programme of events for 2026, with the first event being a wine quiz, a joint event in January with our friends in Christ Church. There are also tentative plans for a regular men's group.

Chris Benneworth

Soup Lunches

The soup lunches on Wednesdays continue to be popular with numbers averaging 12. We have two new helpers who also make soup and bake cakes. We are very grateful to them and also to the members of the congregation who continue to provide soup and cakes. We could not run this event every week without their support. We would be grateful to anyone else who feels they could contribute either on a regular or on an occasional basis. There is a list at the back of church to you to sign up.

Liz Parr

Knitting and Art Group

The past year has seen new members joining the sewing, knitting and art groups who are friends and neighbours of existing members or others who have heard about us from other sources.

The knitters have worked on producing baby blankets, clothes and hats which were donated to the Baby Bank run by St John's Percy Main. The Art group continues to produce beautiful paintings under the direction of Joan Kean.

In January, the groups held a Coffee Morning, exhibiting both art and needlecraft with some items for sale. The event raised over £350 for church funds.

Prayer shawls continue to be available; if you know of someone who might benefit from having a shawl please see Clare Dixon, Betty Wall, or Liz Shipway.

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

Clare Dixon

11th Tynemouth Brownies

Currently we have 20 girls in the Unit (maximum 24) but it is noticeable that fewer girls are on the waiting list since the demise of our feeder Rainbow Unit. Ten of the girls will be 10 years old next term and moving to Guides so we shall be a much smaller Unit in September. We still have 5 Volunteer Leaders, although currently Kirsty is on maternity having had her second son in September last year. Gabby, our youngest Leader, will complete her Primary Education degree at Northumbria University this summer. Mary, the longest serving member with the Unit, has completed 22 years and Pat and Kirsty (in more than 1 Unit) have completed 30 and 20 years respectively with Guiding.

The 10 older girls have been working towards achieving the highest Award – Gold and 6 of them have already achieved Silver and are likely to be successful in achieving Gold before they leave. Another 5 girls have been awarded their Bronze Award. Gaining interest badges is popular and Penny has completed all 18 interest badges under the old scheme, with subjects ranging from Space, local history, charities, zero waste and lots of crafts. STEM activities recently using sugar, bicarb and water engaged the girls interests and these experiments saw chemical reactions to crystal growth (not totally successful but they learnt through trial and error.)

We celebrated VE day and learnt how Girl Guides helped in WW11 and we attended the Remembrance Day service in November.

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

Pat Corbett