

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay NE25 8LU

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
Thursday, 20th March 2014

Refreshments served from 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Constitution
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of previous Meeting
4. Notification of Any Other Business
5. Report of Church Secretary
6. Report of Executive Committee
7. Report of Treasurer
 - Approval of Accounts for 2013
 - Adoption of Budget for 2014
8. Receipt of written reports
9. Appointment of Church Officers:
 - Church Secretary
 - Assistant Church Secretaries
 - Treasurer
 - Assistant Treasurer
 - Gift Aid Secretary
 - Junior Church Secretary
 - Safety Officer
 - Fire Officer
 - Independent Examiner
 - Hall Letting Secretary
 - Newstand - Editor
 - Business Manager/Distributor
 - Reform Distributor
 - Press Officer
10. Appointment of Church representatives
11. Constitution of Teams
 - and election of members
12. Ministerial Deployment and the Coast Partnership
13. Notified Other Business
14. Chairman's remarks
15. Adjournment
16. The Grace

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

2013 saw the church continuing to build on the success of the previous years.

In addition to the main 11.00 a.m. Sunday service, our regular 9.30 a.m. communion services on the third Sunday of the month and the 9.30 weekly Tuesday service continue with their regular groups of supporters. Our now regular Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday and our Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve were continued, the latter again being well-attended and an opportunity to see folk who do not normally attend our services. Our bi-monthly Messy Church is well supported as are the other opportunities for worship at Lent and Advent. Under David's leadership, regular Bible Study sessions continue.

We continue to appreciate the support given by the Revd Douglas McFarlane, the Worship Group, Lucy Cooke, Ann Sinclair and Valerie Taylor in leading worship and all others who take part in services. We continue to consider how to support Lucy Cooke in her aim to enter training for the ministry. Similarly, we were pleased to be able to offer limited financial support to Lucy and Ann Sinclair in their Training for Learning and Serving courses.

At the end of the year there was a membership of 162, with an average Sunday morning congregation of around 90, including children and some regular attenders who are not members. We had no baptisms or weddings in 2013. During the year we welcomed a number of folk into our fellowship, but mourned the death of several members and friends of long-standing. In November, Elders who came to the end of their term of office as serving Elders were all re-elected to stand for a further term. This included the Revd Douglas McFarlane who was elected for one year to bring his length of service since ordination to 50 years. We have continued to keep in touch, by our system of Link Elders, with the increasing number of organisations meeting on the premises.

Some of our members are involved in the wider church at Northern Synod where Margaret Varley is on the Pastoral Representatives Committee and Sue Ames is a member of the Children and Youth Work Group. Derek Stembridge is a Trustee of the URC (Northern Province) Trust Limited and serves on a number of its sub groups.

The children and young people of Junior Church continue to contribute to morning worship and help to take up the collection. We again ran a week-long happy and relaxed Holiday Club in the church. We continue to welcome the uniformed organisations to Parade Services. St Andrew's Parent and Toddler Group continues to meet.

One most unexpected development during the year was that St. Andrew's received a substantial legacy from the late Donald Barclay, in memory of his late wife Molly who had been a member of the former Trinity Church. We were also pleased to receive a charitable donation from the family of the late Dr Lorna Potts in her memory.

In the absence of adequate voluntary support in the area of hall letting and administration, the possible employment of assistance was actively investigated.

St. Andrew's is very much a community church with a wide variety of different organisations using the premises. This includes a large number of sessions where children and young people are involved including the uniformed organisations, the Saturday Stage School and the linked Tuesday Drama Club, the Harmony Choir and several classes, of various types, for babies and toddlers. Although most are very peripheral to our church life, the introduction of Messy Church has enabled some positive connection to be made. We do try to live out our recognised status as a Child Friendly Church. We were pleased to continue, and build on our links with Langley First School, the school holding their annual carol service in the

church and some of our members visiting the school, from time to time, in connection with school assemblies.

We continued to support Christian Aid both directly in the annual door-to-door collection and through the URC Commitment for Life programme. Unfortunately during the year the sale of Fairtrade products was discontinued, mainly owing to the decline in sales due to such goods now being easily available in supermarkets. Over Christmas we collected for the Philippines Disaster Appeal which had also been the subject of other special appeals and fund-raising. We were pleased that we were able to maintain some charitable work full details of which can be seen in the Treasurer's Report. We also were pleased to continue the Charity Scheme whereby 10% of fund-raising was collected to be given to three charities selected by church members. We continue to support charities, when able, with the 'return of hall booking fees' when the premises are privately booked for charity fund raising. The church also acts as a channel for other charitable donations when retiring offerings are sought at funeral services held in the church.

The year saw major changes in the ministerial deployment discussions. The 221 Project Report was presented to Synod Pastoral Group as a result of which the level of ministerial input to the two coast churches was reinstated to the current 1.5 from the proposed one minister for the two churches. Also the formation of a new Coast Mission Partnership for St. Andrew's and St. Columba's was agreed. Later in the year, following further discussions with the Revd Peter Moth (who had been appointed as a Synod Advisor to the Coast Partnership), our Elders and the new Interim Synod Moderator, the Revd Lis Mullen, it was agreed that the vacancy at St. Andrew's following David's retirement would remain as existing at 75%. Synod would actively explore the possibility of providing a 'top up' 25% post for work in Synod which would enable a 100% vacancy to be offered.

The joint working of the two churches continued and whilst it was especially successful with the organisation of two Worship Training Days, the post of Children's and Youth Pastor did not work out as envisaged and the post was eventually made redundant by Synod.

Our involvement in Whitley Bay & District Churches Together has continued. We have continued to support the Street Pastors Project and the Bay Food Bank. Our friendly co-operation with the other five churches in the parishes of St Peter's and St Alban's has continued with the usual social events. The special close relationship with St. Peter's continued with joint Lent services and devotions, a Pentecost service and barbecue and an Advent service and social evening.

We continue to be grateful to our organists Paul Hartley and Joy Campbell for their major contribution to our acts of worship. Maurice Wilson-Volk decided to stand down during the year and we are very grateful to him for his service in the past. We were pleased that Alex Goulding was still able to join us on occasions and were pleased to welcome Helen Storey to join the rota of organists. Helen had previously played at St. Mark's Howdon. We are continually grateful to the Music Group for their contribution from time to time to the worship life of the church.

Much of which I have touched on above is expanded on in the other reports that follow all of which show the worshipping, community and social life of St. Andrew's Church.

RAY HAMMOND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee oversees the day to day work of the Church Committees and Teams: Finance & Property, Housekeeping, Project, Activities, as well as overseeing hall lettings.

Property - We continue to enjoy the benefit of the refurbished premises with only minor redecoration and repairs being necessary. Remodelling of the chancel area was carried out and has proved beneficial for both worship and other activities. As a result of receiving a legacy the structural work identified by a survey organised by Synod was able to be brought forward and repointing of the buildings and renewal of flat roof coverings was carried out during the year.

The Beech Grove Manse – repointing of the main house walls, renewal of flat roof coverings and external redecoration was carried out.

Housekeeping Committee continued to oversee the general cleaning of the premises and monitor the cleaning which is carried out by N&P Cleaners. Whilst the twice weekly clean does not always coincide with the use of the premises, the 52 week cover is well worth any slight inconvenience. However, it has now been possible to put in place an extra cleaning session so that cleaning is now carried out on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Once again cleaning of the carpets was carried out; in the church this was tied in with the completion of the remodelling of the chancel area and before the new carpet runners were laid.

Regular cleaning of the outside of the main entrance windows continues to be undertaken on a monthly basis by a contractor with all other windows being cleaned around the time of the annual Work Day. This year they again cleaned the inside of the windows in the reception area together with high level cleaning there and in the main hall. The annual Work Day is a very sociable occasion when general cleaning, which the cleaning company does not carry out, is undertaken. Congratulations to the Gardening Team on achieving an award in the North Tyneside Garden in Bloom Competition.

Activities Team – The Activities Team was established to take on all the social and fund-raising activities for the church. The Treasurer's need for money to meet rising costs has meant a continuing need for fund-raising events many of which are attended by people from the local community. Once again 'Granny's Attic' was held in the church with the added benefit of refreshments being made available. A very successful and enjoyable two days! All events have been well supported.

The Church Fair was once again a highlight of the year with a substantial amount being raised, the match funding from Barclays for the Tombola continuing to be an extremely useful contribution to the takings on the day.

The selection of charities was well supported by church members and the Team were pleased to present cheques to the selected charities and look forward to presenting more cheques in 2014 as well as asking members to choose charities to receive donations in 2015.

Hall Lettings – The premises continue to be very well used by both church organisations, local community groups, as well as other activities. The list of users grows ever longer. All users are very appreciative of the facilities offered.

General

Overseeing the running of premises the size of our church buildings with the heavy usage that takes place, as well as organising all the routine servicing of appliances and equipment, is a time-consuming job and requires much time and effort by a small dedicated group of people to whom we are very grateful.

RAY HAMMOND, Church Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013 AND BUDGET FOR 2014

Financially, 2013 was a dramatic year for the Church. On the positive side we were the recipient of bequests totalling nearly £400,000, almost all of that from the late Donald Barclay with a smaller bequest from the late Dr Lorna Potts. This was put into the Project Fund as agreed by Church Meeting. On the other hand there was a General Fund deficit in excess of £10,000. While income was somewhat below budget, expenditure was nearly £10,000 higher than we budgeted. This is a major turnaround from previous years when we have habitually run a surplus. For the future we see the deficit increasing as rising costs outstrip increases in income.

Highlights of 2012 income and expenditure are summarised as follows:

- Offerings and donations were 5.8% lower than 2012 and 7.9% below budget. This was largely offset by higher than budgeted hall letting income, fund-raising activities, donations from Church organisations and Gift Aid tax refunds.
- Our M&M and Synod levies increased considerably, as budgeted. The reasons for this were explained at a recent Church Meeting. We are expecting further substantial increases in the coming years.
- Our Utilities bill increased, again. The extended cold weather last winter is mostly to blame. We are still on fixed rate contracts so we are not affected by the recent rate increases.
- Altogether, from funds raised at activities, funeral collections and special collections, we donated over £8,700 to various charities during the year. This also includes Commitment for Life, which is going through the main Church books since April 2013.
- At the end of the year the General Fund stood at £29,000.

Budget 2014

With weekly collections not keeping pace with rising costs, particularly our M&M contributions, we are submitting a deficit budget for 2014. Additionally, we have taken the decision to increase the amount of cleaning in the Church, and to hire some paid help to organise hall lettings. We are anticipating being in the red by over £16,000. During the course of the year the Finance team will be discussing how we can cover this deficit from our other reserves, without allowing the General Fund to drop below the safety level of £20,000.

Meanwhile I make my usual plea for you to be as generous as you can in your givings to the Church.

As always, I wish to thank Jenny Hooper for her sterling work as Assistant Treasurer, the Collector team for their invaluable help in 2013, and the Finance and Property Committee for their guidance during the year.

JOHN COOK, Church Treasurer

PROJECT TEAM

This year the Team embarked on a project which was potentially the most sensitive of all works undertaken at St Andrew's since the Church Redevelopment in 2009. The remodelling of the chancel was carried out to reclaim the area by improving access and making better use of the space. This did, however, involve the removal of choir stalls and pulpit and the relocation of the organ.

The opportunity was also taken to renew the carpet runners to the church aisles as well as carpeting the whole of the chancel area and steps. Additional lighting, wall and floor audio and power outlets were also installed.

Finally, new lecterns and a candle holder were obtained, the larger lectern replicating the appearance of the original pulpit. The opportunity was also taken to replace the vestibule fixed cupboards and provide additional storage for hymn books and replacement shelving.

Feedback from church members and other users has been generally favourable and as such has vindicated the decision to adopt this particular design solution.

My thanks to all members of the congregation for their forbearance during the period of the works and to the Project Team for their help and support over the past year.

BILL HOPPER, Convener

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group, consisting of a small group of people, continue to help to organise and conduct worship, under the guidance of the Revd Dr David Peel. We are responsible for a team of volunteers to lead the Prayers of Intercession each week and for another team to deliver the Bible readings.

A short act of worship takes place each Tuesday morning at 9.30 am in the reception area and this is also led by volunteers. Parade services, involving our uniformed organisations, take place four times a year, celebrating Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. We continue to support Commitment for Life.

Messy Church takes place bimonthly at 3.30-5.30 on Sundays, with a break during the summer months. Around 20 to 30 children attend, along with family members.

We would be very pleased to welcome new volunteers to help with any of these activities.

SUE AMES

JUNIOR CHURCH

During 2013, 11 children and young people regularly attended Junior Church. Five leaders worked on a rota system leading two groups. Jo Lynch returned to assist the leaders with the younger children, while Christine Lynch joined the young people to practise with the ukulele band.

The leaders followed the Children & Young People version of 'Roots', the lectionary used in church, and this has given a shared meaning of worship. A bi-annual report in *Newstand* detailed the activities used to allow the children and young people opportunities to explore living in the Christian faith at their level of understanding.

A small group of adults have supported the leaders to ensure the mandatory levels of staff, this included two members of the worship group, Sue Ames and Carole Mallet. I am indebted to them all and on behalf of Junior Church thank them sincerely for their help.

ANN SINCLAIR, Junior Church Secretary

ST. ANDREW'S CARPET BOWLING CLUB

We finished bowling last year for the Summer break on 18th April after a very enjoyable season. Our new season started on September 5th and again our numbers have been between 18 and 26. In November we ran a Teddy Bear Tombola and raised £85 for Church Funds.

As usual we had our Christmas Competition and the winners were Ann Wilson, George Ridley, Bill Brannon and Robin Christopher, and thanks to St Andrew's Press Officer, Heather Carr, their photograph appeared in the News Guardian. It was a competitive, but fun afternoon with mince pies and a cup of tea included.

We started bowling again on January 9th and will finish for our Summer break on April 10th.

MARY CHRISTOPHER, Secretary

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Our membership for 2012/2013 was 20 members with an average attendance of 12. Low attendance this year was put down to ill health of some members and the poor weather. The extra flyers and advertising does not seem to have increased our membership.

Jean Jackson, once again, is doing a fantastic job of preparing our dance programme. In February we had our Fish and Chip Christmas Dinner which was followed by a Beetle Drive. At our AGM in May the Committee was voted in for a further year. They are: Kathleen Hopper - Chairperson, Catriona Fenwick - Treasurer, Angela Cook - Secretary. We had our annual dinner at the Gibraltar Rock on Wednesday 1st May 2013. This was a most enjoyable evening. The 2012/2013 dance session finished later in May.

The 2013/2014 session started with 22 members, an average attendance of 13. The slight increase in membership makes it possible to dance with two sets.

ANGELA COOK, Secretary

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club has continued to meet fortnightly throughout 2013, on Friday afternoons, with speakers or entertainment. These have included the writer, with a programme of Winter music, a DVD of the Royal Wedding, a talk on the work of Street Pastors by Valerie Taylor, a DVD of a member's friend receiving the MBE at Windsor Castle, a talk on Electrical Safety, and songs from John Sample. One Bring and Buy Sale was held, and the funds used to subsidise meals at Easter and Christmas - again excellently catered by Grapes of Whitley Bay.

The Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by 50 members and friends, and before the meal the ukelele group formed from members of the Wednesday Fellowship, played in public for the first time. Three new members joined the Club during the year and, as in previous years, many members attend the Film Club and support many of the other events and church services at St Andrew's. A donation of £250 was made to church funds in 2013.

PAUL HARTLEY

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The 25 ladies of the Flower Committee thank all the church members and friends for their support.

Committee members have, in turn, bought and arranged the flowers in church and delivered bunches to those we hear of who are unwell and need some cheer. If we know about a special anniversary we organise flowers to be delivered. Please let us know of anyone who should receive flowers.

We collected donations for the flowers from church members and thank all for their generosity. Many people paid for the flowers for specific Sundays in memory of loved ones.

In May we had an excellent concert by The Newcastle Male Chorus. Our fund-raising included the Harvest Coffee Morning, our stall at the Church Fair and the sale of jam and marmalade during the year. We thank Bob Corrigall and Gordon Adam who have donated their homemade preserves.

We enjoyed decorating the church with daffodils and spring flowers for Easter, arranging autumn flowers and collecting and delivering gifts for the People's Kitchen at Harvest Thanksgiving.

In early December we decorated the tree and church for Christmas. In January we took it down and packed away the decorations with help from Mike Mood and Ray Hammond.

If anyone would like to join us please let me know. You will be very welcome.

CATRIONA FENWICK, Flower Committee Convener

GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

I am happy to report another successful year for St Andrew's Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

The production of 'The Mikado' was a triumph of teamwork when a strong cast of both principals and chorus ensured that the audiences were rightly appreciative. Running the show for four nights seemed to be popular with everyone. Great thanks are due to Paul Hartley for his enduring musical prowess and Richard Temperley for his stage direction and set building as well as his acting ability which elicited much well-deserved praise. Julie Edwardson's scenery was very rightly commended by everyone while Tim Cooke and NEATTS worked wonders with lighting and technical staging. Marilyn Walton, Stuart Davidson and Barbara Harmsworth created a most authentic 'look' with their make-up while, as always, Mary Clarke oversaw the fine costumes with efficiency and good humour. Catriona Fenwick, Margaret Park and their team ensured that both audiences and cast were well supplied with refreshments. Ray and Ann Hammond successfully co-ordinated ticket sales and, with Heather Carr, advertising. Yet again many thanks to John Fenwick for his eye-catching posters, tickets and flyers as well as his renowned bar-tending skills!

This being our 60th Anniversary year, we joined together the Coffee Morning and the Church Service to produce a very special weekend. Both events were well-attended and appreciated. The decorations were much admired thanks for which are offered to Marilyn and Alan Walton.

The Anniversary was also marked by an after-show supper at the end of the week. It was well-attended by present and many past members, all of whom enjoyed the food - thanks due to John and Angela Cook - the entertainment - thank you to Paul Blakey - as well as the reminiscences and some heartfelt speeches, particularly from Edith Corby.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Douglas McFarlane who has always been a most supportive 'Link Elder'. Due to re-arrangements our Link Elder now comes from within the Society. Many thanks for all your encouragement in the past, Douglas.

All in all it has been a very happy and memorable season. We look forward to 2014 being equally successful with performances to keep you, our very welcome audiences, well entertained.

JOAN BLANCHFIELD, Secretary

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Once again an average of 21 members enjoyed a varied and interesting programme of events during the year, some serious and some light-hearted.

Out Easter and Advent Services, led by the Revd Dr David Peel, were well supported and refreshments were served afterwards. These services are open to all, and especially those people who cannot get to Morning Service.

The theme for our stall at the Church Fair was Bottles, Biscuits and Bon-bons, and as usual we were very grateful for the generous donations from Church members.

We were very pleased to welcome some new members during the year and a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us on alternate Wednesday afternoons, 2 pm, for any or all of our meetings.

BARBARA JOHNSON, Secretary

ST ANDREW'S CHESS CLUB

Doesn't time fly. It is now more than six years since the Chess Club was started in 2007. Men and women, boys and girls, have come and gone and currently we have a dozen, mostly regular, members varying in age from nine to - it's hard to say! including four founder members.

The Club has always been a fairly small one but over the years between 30 and 40 members have joined, including many young people who have learned the game at the Club.

We play on most Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, with drinks (non-alcoholic) and biscuits at half time.

New members, aged 8 and over, are always welcome both to learn and to play social chess. If you are interested please contact me on 252 6168.

DEREK STEMBRIDGE

FIFTY EIGHT SOCIETY

In my second and final year as 58 Society Secretary I feel we have had another successful and varied year, starting with our delayed from last season talk about the fascinating start of Beamish Museum by Rosy Allan.

We have had a varied and interesting programme of talks from well-known local people as well as our favourite Professor Derry on the controversial reign of Richard III, the body in the car park of 2013! Catriona has already booked the Professor for next season.

The Summer Outing to Seaton Delaval Hall organised by Roger Burgess went very well with a guided tour for members by senior volunteer guide Terry Stewart.

The Christmas Dinner was a success, and the year-end Dinner is already booked with Grapes for 31st March. We also have a Coffee Morning on 8th March for which raffle prizes would be welcome. We have three more evening talks to come from Ylana First who saved Tynemouth Station, Adrian Pitches from BBC Look North on Northumbrian Birds, and Benita Brown, nee Dandekar, the local authoress on her books. The Annual Outing has yet to be arranged and suggestions are welcome.

I hope this has proved to be an interesting season to you all, and if there is anyone special you would like to hear speak, or a subject you would like to hear a talk about, please get in touch with our new committee who I am sure will do their best to fulfil your requests.

Thank you all for your support and the help I have had from the committee. This has been a happy and rewarding two years for me and I look forward now to being an ordinary member once more! Thank you very much.

BARBARA BURGESS, Secretary

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

The Parent and Toddler Group meet on Tuesday afternoons on a weekly basis, generally in line with school term time, where the children can play together and develop their social skills, whilst the adults can relax and chat over a refreshing cup of tea/coffee. Arrangements for opening, providing refreshments and the care and storage of the toys fall to three church members, with any two in attendance at each meeting. Help is provided on a rota basis by one male church member who assists with the heavier items.

The average weekly attendance over the year (32 weeks) was 24 children together with their respective parent, grandparent or carer and the Group were able to donate £500 towards church funds, £100 to Action for Children and £35 to the Philippines Appeal.

The Group ended off the year with a Christmas themed afternoon when the children together with adults met around the magnificent Christmas tree in the re-developed chancel area of the Church. Catriona, with the aid of the knitted Nativity, told the first Christmas story. We sang songs, played the musical instruments and enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus. We returned to the hall for nibbles following by a showing of the Snowman DVD.

My thanks go to Barbara, Hazel, Pat and Catriona together with the male helpers Bill, David, Derek, John and Ray. If you feel able to help by attending even once or twice a month please contact:

KATHLEEN HOPPER

ST ANDREW'S FILM CLUB

The Club commenced in February 2012 and has shown films on Friday afternoons and occasionally on Saturday evenings to very appreciative audiences. Numbers attending have varied from 16 to 56. On all occasions there is an interval when tea/coffee and biscuits are provided plus choc ices at a bargain price of 25p.

We have had a variety of films, endeavouring to cater for all tastes, and would welcome suggestions although we are limited by our licence to certain production companies.

We saw a total of 10 films during the year and have been able to donate £1,020 to church funds and charitable works.

ANN HAMMOND

6th MONKSEATON RAINBOWS

We began 2013 with an enjoyable visit to the Pantomime at St. Peter's Church, Monkseaton. We are taking the Rainbows again this year.

In 2013, we learned new games and songs and we welcomed a number of new Rainbows to our group as others moved up to Brownies. Throughout the year we completed a range of fun activities including decorating trinket boxes, paper chain caterpillars, playdough hedgehogs, planting bulbs and paper plate rainbow streamers.

Unfortunately in 2013 one of our leaders, Elaine Geddes, left us due to a promotion at work and our unit helper Laura Cunningham went on maternity leave as she became a full time mum of twins. A plea to parents failed to recruit any new volunteers and, for a time, the future of the unit was uncertain. However, we have since managed to recruit Elizabeth Pink who is a primary school teacher. Laura does also join us still, when she can!

LUCY AMES

7th MONKSEATON RAINBOWS

This year we have new girls all starting together so we have gone right back to the basics of how Guiding began. We have carried out lots of activities such as crafts, games, worked towards a Roundabout badge, we attended the County Rainbow Disco held at the Parks North Shields and we also enjoyed an outing to see the Pantomime at St Peter's Church.

We currently have 15 girls, myself, two young leaders and one Duke of Edinburgh person. The Rainbows have lots of fun.

CLAIR BARNFATHER

6th MONKSEATON BROWNIES

The local Pantomime was our first event of the year. We have celebrated Chinese New Year, had a Promise Night, attended the Thinking Day Service and made items for Mother's Day, Easter and Father's Day. We have done the Cupcake Challenge, been on a bike ride, went to Tanfield Railway Station, attended the County Campfire, had a sports night and made pizzas.

Summer over and the Brownies tackled learning a new Promise. We have had a Princess Night, been bowling, had a Halloween Party and cooked and made a Christmas table decoration. The Brownies have gained their Brownie Traditions and Out and About badges.

During all of this we celebrated the Unit's 80th birthday and had our flag re-dedicated. The Brownies designed a badge for the occasion. The Brownies have continued with Handbooks and gained many interest badges.

Thanks to Pauline, Charlotte and all mums on the rota.

AUDREY ADAMS, Brown Owl

7th MONKSEATON BROWNIES

We currently have 16 girls, two Guiders and one Guide helping out regularly. This year we have been very busy going on our first Pack holiday at Barrasford Scout Centre when we took 12 Brownies who enjoyed carrying out different activities such as campfire cooking, domestic duties and being away from home. We also attended the County event at Tanfield Railway Station.

We have completed various interest badges and look forward to celebrating the Unit's 60th birthday in October as well as our 100th birthday throughout the year.

CLAIR BARNFATHER

17th WHITLEY BAY (St. ANDREW'S) SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group continues to grow in size with more young people experiencing activities such as camping, cycling, hill walking, sailing, canoeing as well as fire lighting, making things, learning about themselves and other people. These programmes have enabled numerous awards to be gained over the year. We still have the challenge of a small adult leader team and are always on the look out for new adults to help, so if you or any like minded people want to help then please get in touch.

The past year has been a successful one and we hope to build on that success in the coming year.

JONATHAN MOBBERLEY, Group Scout Leader

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES for 2013

Whitley Bay & District Churches

Together	-	Valerie Taylor
Ecumenical Social Committee	-	Ann Hammond and Sue Ames
Northern Province Synod	-	Derek Stembridge
Depaul Trust	-	Michael Spicer
Christian Aid	-	Kevin and Sue Ames
Windermere Centre Correspondent	-	Edith Corby