

**St. Andrew's United Reformed Church**  
Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay. NE25 8LU

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Thursday, 17th March 2016**

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 Team
7. Report of Treasurer
  - Approval of Accounts for 2015
  - Adoption of Budget for 2016
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
  - Newstand - Editor
    - Business Manager/Distributor
  - Reform Distributor
  - Press Officer
  - Online Communications Administrator
10. Appointment of Church representatives
11. Constitution of Teams
  - and election of members
12. Safeguarding
13. Notified Other Business
14. Chairman's remarks
15. Adjournment
16. The Grace

## **CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Entering 2015 saw the church still in vacancy although the Profile had been prepared and submitted to the Moderator but still giving us much to consider. It was therefore with surprise and pleasure that we received a response in February. There followed much discussion and planning resulting in the Weekend when Mr Prevett came to 'preach with a view'. and thereafter following the successful outcome of 'THE VOTE' the main consideration was of course preparing for Matthew's Ordination and Induction. The actual Service on 26th September went exceedingly well and we much appreciated the support which was given by so many people.

In addition to the main 11.00 am Sunday Service, our regular 9.30 am communion services on the third Sunday of the month and the 9.30 am weekly Tuesday service continue with their regular groups of supporters. The Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday and the Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve were continued, both again being well attended and an opportunity to see folk who do not normally attend our other services. Our now regular bi-monthly Messy Church is very well supported and has established itself as a regular part of our pattern of worship as are the other opportunities for worship that are arranged for Lent and Advent.

The beginning of December saw the launch of new bi-monthly re-lite services, which are being held on a Sunday evening and followed by refreshments, which have been introduced by our new minister. The first of these was a service of words, music and reflection around HIV/AIDS, as part of a global series of events marking World AIDS Day. Whilst we must not forget that Matthew has 25% commitment to Synod, and which is currently at Thornaby, we do appreciate all the time and effort that he is able to give to St. Andrew's, a large part of which is in getting to 'know us' and likewise us getting to 'know him'.

We continue to appreciate the support given by the Revd Douglas McFarlane, the Revd Gordon Connacher, the Worship Group, Lucy Cooke, Ann Sinclair and Valerie Taylor in leading worship, especially during the vacancy, and all others who take part in services. We were pleased to be able to support Dr Ann Sinclair in her progress towards accreditation as a lay preacher.

At the end of the year there was a membership of 158, 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 2015. During the year we mourned the death of several members and friends of long-standing. In November, five Elders who came to the end of their term of office as serving Elders were re-elected to stand for a further term, with one, Kathleen Hopper standing down, her years of service being much appreciated by the church. We were able to welcome Joan Blanchfield and Margaret Varley to the Eldership and wish them every blessing in their future service with St. Andrew's. 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 Sue Ames is a member of the Children and Youth Work Group, Derek Stemberidge is a Trustee of the URC (Northern Province) Trust Limited and serves on a number of its sub groups and Lucy Cooke is involved with work relating to Safeguarding.

The children and young people of Junior Church continue to contribute to morning worship and help to take up the collection. It has however been good to see the change that Matthew has introduced by way of involving the young people in church services on the third Sunday of the month. It has also been good to see that the contact he has made, in the early days, with the uniformed organisations greatly improved attendance at the Harvest and Remembrance Parade Services. We again ran a week-long happy and relaxed Holiday Club at the church. St Andrew's Parent and Toddler Group continues to meet.

St. Andrew's is very much a community church with a wide variety of different organisations using the premises and to this end the Elders support Lucy Cooke in her role of Community Elder. Users include 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 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 connections to be made. We do try to live out our recognised status as a Child Friendly Church which we were pleased to have renewed. 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, and our minister, visiting the school, from time to time, in connection with school assemblies.

We supported Christian Aid in the annual door-to-door collection, albeit for the last time as it is felt that door to door collections are becoming more difficult especially with fewer people prepared to undertake them, but funds will be raised in another way. We do continue our support for Christian Aid through the URC Commitment for Life programme. Over Christmas we collected for the Christian Aid Nigerian Malaria Project which attracted match funding from the Government. 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. The church also acts as a channel for other charitable donations when retiring offerings are sought at funeral services held in the church.

The joint meetings with St Columba's as the two churches in the Coast Partnership continued.

Our involvement in Whitley Bay & District Churches Together has continued. We have continued to support the Street Pastors Project, the Bay Food Bank and the Depaul Trust. 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.

We continue to be grateful to our organists for their major contribution to our acts of worship: Paul Hartley, Joy Campbell, Helen Storey and Maurice Wilson-Voke. We are continually grateful to the Music Group for their contribution from time to time to the worship life of the church.

In general a year of much enthusiasm for the future but not without its sadness, the decision by the Wednesday Fellowship (in the earlier days as the Ladies Guild) to close brings to an end a group that was a major part of church life from the very beginning,

Of necessity this has been a brief look at the life and witness of St. Andrew's and some of which is expanded on in the other reports that follow all of which are part of the worshipping, community and social life of St. Andrew's Church.

RAY HAMMOND

## **EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT**

The Team oversees the day to day work of the Church Teams: Finance, Premises Maintenance, Development, and Activities, as well as overseeing hall lettings.

We continue to enjoy the benefit of the refurbished premises although after the length of time since the work was undertaken some more major redecoration has been necessary to keep the premises looking smart and at times some repairs are now necessary.

**Premises Maintenance Team** - oversees the general cleaning of the premises and monitors the cleaning which is carried out by N&P Cleaners. Whilst the thrice weekly clean does not always coincide with the use of the premises, the 52 week cover is well worth any slight inconvenience. Once again cleaning of the carpets and chairs was carried out during the school holidays.

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. The annual Work Day is a very sociable occasion when general cleaning, which the cleaning company does not carry out, is undertaken. The team of gardeners continues to maintain the gardens to an attractive and high standard.

**Activities Team** – The Team continues to take on the social and fund-raising activities for the church. A variety of events, ranging from 100 Club, Craft Fair, Film Club, Games Evening to Carol Singing were again held during the year all of which have been well supported and enjoyed by those attending.

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 was pleased to present cheques to the selected charities and we look forward to presenting more cheques in 2016 as well as asking members to choose charities to receive donations in 2017.

**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.

**The Beech Grove Manse** – During the year the tenancy came to an end and the necessary redecoration and repairs were undertaken to enable the property to be occupied by our new Minister.

RAY HAMMOND, Church Secretary

### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2015 AND BUDGET FOR 2016**

Overall, the Church's assets increased by over £60,000 during 2015. On the face of it this looks like good news. However, there are some worrying trends with The General Fund showing a deficit of almost £11,000. The increase in assets was due to generous legacies totalling £81,000 which, as agreed at previous Church Meetings, were credited to the Development Fund. And we are budgeting another large deficit for 2016.

Highlights of 2015 income and expenditure are summarised as follows:

- After the increase in 2014 offerings and donations resumed their downward trend, being 5% lower than 2014.
- The Activities team once again exceeded their budget, with a total of over £13,600 raised for Church funds and local charities.
- Hall Letting income declined slightly. We expect this will pick up again with the increased prices for 2016.
- As predicted we had a respite in M&M and Synod levies increases; however further increases are expected in 2016 and in future years.
- We gratefully received legacies of £76,000 and £5,000 from the estates of the late Martha MacDonald and Joy Adamson respectively.
- Our Utilities bill was again lower than last year, thanks to another mild winter.
- Altogether, from funds raised at activities, funeral collections and special collections, we donated nearly £3,500 to various charities during the year. This is lower than in 2014.
- The Manse Fund has a deficit of over £5,000. The income from the tenants more than covered the on-going running costs of the Manse, but not the major refurbishment work. The deficit has since been made up via a transfer of funds from the Development Fund.
- At the end of the year the General Fund stood at £16,711. An injection of cash from the Development Fund was made in January to raise it to the safety level of £20,000.

### **Budget 2016**

The budget proposal for 2016 is based on our income and expenditure for 2015 and again shows a substantial deficit, even after budgeting for a transfer of interest from the Project Fund investments. With this anticipated income and expenditure, the General Fund would stand at £8,000 next December, which means another substantial transfer of money from the Development Fund would be needed. We usually do better than budget (2015 being an exception) and I hope this is the case again this year.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Treasurer for the past ten years. I am pleased to be leaving the post with the Church's finances in good order, but I do caution that if

we continue to run large deficits on the General Fund our reserves will run dry sooner rather than later. Please remember to keep up your generous donations.

In leaving I would like to personally thank everyone for all the help that has been extended to me from the Finance Team leaders and members, all those on the collector's rota, and particularly to Jenny Hooper for her work as Assistant Treasurer. I could not have done this without you all. I wish Kevin Ames lots of luck as my successor.

John Cook, Retiring Church Treasurer

### **DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

During 2015 the emphasis on carrying out minor items of work continued, beginning with the provision of sound-proofing measures between the hall, stage and minor hall. These took the form of soundproofing curtains to the west stage door and a new ceiling to the rear half of the stage. The opportunity was also taken to install a sound-proofing curtain to the corridor between the church vestibule and the main reception servery area.

An additional TV monitor connected into the existing screen network within the church has been installed such that it may be seen by those leading worship from the chancel area.

Future proposed works for 2016 will include the renewal of external protection for the St Andrew's stained glass window in the south gable of the church and the replacement of three pairs of internal double doors to the church worship area.

I offer my thanks to members of the Development Team for their continuing help and support.

BILL HOPPER, Convener

### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

During the past year Junior Church has had 12 children coming to share worship and worshipping together on a regular basis. The leaders work on a rota system in leading worship with the children.

In 2015 we welcomed Hazel Hall and Barbara Burgess making the present group of leaders six and three young people Jo, Sam and Ellie who come along and support. As a group of leaders we are grateful to those among the congregation who also come and help. During the year two leaders have updated and learnt new skills of leadership with children in trainings organised by Northern Synod

Throughout the year Junior Church followed the lectionary and this allowed the children to engage with the set Scriptures used in adult worship each Sunday. The leaders were able to draw on the common weekly resources of 'Roots' to ensure mirror worship shaped through Scripture readings, prayer, music, play, drama and crafts created the opportunity for the children to worship at their level of understanding. We look forward to developing new and creative ways of worship for the children in 2016.

ANN SINCLAIR, Junior Church Secretary

## **WORSHIP GROUP**

Members of the Worship Group conducted a number of services during 2015, particularly before the arrival of Matthew, our new Minister. Since then, we have helped to organise the children's Christmas Festival Service and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Matthew.

We are responsible for drawing up the rotas for Tuesday Morning Worship, the Bible Readers and the people who lead the Prayers of Concern, all of which Douglas kindly co-ordinates.

Valerie Taylor now organises a prayer group at 10.30 am on the first Sunday of each month in the lounge and I'm sure she would welcome anyone who would like to join her.

We enjoy visiting the residents of Homeprior House and Eothen several times a year to conduct short services and we are made very welcome. We also continue to help with the services for folk who normally have difficulty attending church at Easter and Christmas. Many of us took part, joined by others, in carol singing around the area on the Wednesday evening before Christmas and also at the Beehive on Christmas Eve.

SUE AMES, Secretary

## **MESSY CHURCH**

We continue to have a popular and enjoyable Messy Church on a few Sunday afternoons each year. Messy Church is for families and the children attend with at least one, but often more, family members. The children choose to work on a variety of crafts, connected to a religious or seasonal theme, under the direction of our leaders, but supported by their families. Lots of lively chatter also takes place and it is a chance for people to experience a different kind of church. We conclude with a short act of worship and a buffet tea.

Although some of the children already worship with us on a Sunday morning, most do not and so it is a good chance to reach other members of our community. A good number of the children attend Langley First School and a few of our members visit the school to conduct an assembly in the week prior to Messy Church.

Ann Sinclair and I attended a Synod Training Event, where we were able to pick up some new ideas for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who helps make Messy Church successful.

SUE AMES

## **ST. ANDREW'S CARPET BOWLING CLUB**

After Christmas last year we bowled until early April. At our AGM in March we voted to give £300 towards Church funds.

Our bowling started again on 3rd September. Our attendance continues to be between 18 and 24. At the Church Fair in November we raised £28.50 for Church

funds. We had our usual competition just before Christmas and the winners were John McLennan, John Makin, Gordon Graham and Vicky Landles.

Since Christmas Albert Greenwood, our Chairman, has not been at all well and has reluctantly decided he can no longer carry on in this position. We would like to thank him for all the work he did, together with David King, in getting the Club started when Trinity Church closed and the bowling equipment was brought to St Andrew's. We shall miss both his and his wife Lillian's company and hope they may be able to return some time soon.

MARY CHRISTOPHER, Secretary

### **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Club has continued to meet fortnightly throughout 2015, on Friday afternoons, with speakers or entertainment. These have included two very interesting and enjoyable illustrated talks from Andrew Clark on Life in the 30s/40s/50s and Life on the Home Front, a musical afternoon with the writer of this report, songs from the 50s and 60s, by Mis-Spent Uke, a very varied and talented group, Maureen Hogg, speaking about the wonderful work of The People's Kitchen, an afternoon of music from our own Lucy Cooke, Mrs Georgie MacAdam speaking on Overseas Vision Aid, a DVD of one of André Rieu's concerts, and our very own St Andrew's Ukelele Group entertaining the members. Early in the year we enjoyed an illustrated talk on the life and career of Gracie Fields. Some of our funds were used to subsidise meals at Easter and Christmas, the latter enjoyed by 45 members and friends, who included our new Minister. A small donation was again made to church funds.

PAUL HARTLEY

### **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

The Parent and Toddler Group meet on Tuesday afternoons during term time where 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 Elders, 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 (29 weeks) was 11 children together with their respective parent, grandparent or carer. The Group was able to donate £250 towards church funds and £100 to Action for Children.

The Group has been supported by our Community Elder, Lucy, who has related biblical stories to the children, in the church, the final one of the year being the Nativity Story. We sang songs, played the musical instruments and enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus.

My thanks go to Barbara, Hazel and Lucy together with the male helpers Derek, Kevin, Ray and Bill.

KATHLEEN HOPPER



## **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY**

The Scottish Country Dance Society is still going strong with our membership for 2014/2015 at 19 members with an average attendance of 11. Again we have a slight increase on last year enabling us to have two sets on many evenings.

We are most grateful to Jean Jackson for continuing to do a fantastic job in preparing our dance programme every week.

In February we had our Fish and Chip Christmas Dinner. This was followed by a Beetle Drive which was great fun.

At our AGM in April 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 Cannon Inn, Earsdon on Wednesday 20th May, 2015. This was a most enjoyable evening and finished our dancing session.

The 2015/2016 session started on 9th September 2015 with 21 members and an average attendance of 12 slightly up, again, on last year.

ANGELA COOK, Secretary

## **FLOWER TEAM**

The 22 ladies of the Flower Team thank all the church members and friends for their support.

The Team 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 a return visit from the Darling Dollies who gave a lively enjoyable concert. 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 Barbara Watson, Gordon Adam and Mike Mood for their contributions to the jam table.

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 December we decorated the tree and church for Christmas and in January we took the tree down and packed away the decorations with help from Mike Mood, Tim Cooke, Kevin Ames, Chris Hales, Ray Hammond and others.

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

CATRIONA FENWICK, Flower Team Convener

## **FIFTY EIGHT SOCIETY**

Despite losing some of our members of long standing, who are no longer willing to come out on the dark, cold winter evenings, the Society has been pleased to welcome some new ones, and our total membership this season has been 44, with an average attendance of 34. During the summer we were saddened by the death of Les Ord, who, together with his wife Pat, had been a regular attender, not only at 58 Society meetings, but also at some of St Andrew's other events.

Once again, we have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme of talks, some of the guest speakers proving to be so popular that they have been invited back again to speak on a different subject. It is doubtful if anyone will ever overtake our good friend Professor John Derry, who has been coming to us for so many years, usually on the first meeting in January (when the weather might reasonably be expected to be inclement), travels down via public transport from his home in the west end of Newcastle, and still manages to attract a record attendance by delivering a first-class talk on a different subject each time! In January 2015, Professor Derry spoke to us on Wellington and the battle of Waterloo, and this was followed by Peter Talbot (who is also returning to speak in 2016) giving an account of his field trip to the Antarctic, Rob Cunningham (another speaker returning in 2016) on Winslow Homer, Reverend Jane Wood on Assisi (accompanied by lots of laughter), the Reverends Ken and Margaret Harris on the more serious subject of Industrial Chaplaincy, and Dr Gordon Adam giving some very interesting and at times very amusing recollections and reflections on his time as a member of the European Parliament.

Our annual Coffee Morning in March was a pleasant and profitable occasion, and in a departure from our normal end-of-season dinner, our indoor meetings finished in April with a buffet meal and quizzes. This venture was so successful that we shall be repeating the arrangement for the spring of 2016.

In June, we enjoyed an outing by coach to Preston Park Museum and grounds, near Stockton-on-Tees.

Our 2015/16 season kicked off in early October with Reverend John Wall's unusually titled talk 'Unwrecked England', then Andrew Clark transported us back in time to 'Life in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. During November, Alan Spoor took us to 'Incredible India', and Fiona Greenwold extolled 'The Benefits of Being in Nature'. Grateful thanks are extended to all those who helped in any way to make our Cake Stall at the Church Fair (also in November) so successful. In December, Russell Tait updated us on the situation regarding Red Squirrels, and we ended the year with a delicious Christmas Dinner, provided once again by our friends from Grapes. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the second half of our programme, which will end on the 4th of April so far as our regular meetings are concerned, but be followed by our summer outing, the date and venue for which is still to be arranged.

CAROLE MALLETT, Secretary

## **GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY**

There was a somewhat surprising start to our 62nd season which saw the decision to stage, for the first time in the society's history, a production, Merrie England, which was not by Gilbert and Sullivan!

We were also saddened by Paul Hartley withdrawing as Musical Director after many very successful years. He did, however, cheer us up by returning to take a leading part in the show.

Despite its many challenges the whole society pulled together to create a very successful and much talked about production with larger, very appreciative audiences on all four nights. Great thanks are due to Chris Wardle in his first position as Musical Director, Richard Temperley for his stage direction and yet another superb set which was enhanced by the rich talents of Julie Edwardson and team. Marilyn Walton and Stuart Davidson worked their magic in make-up and Mary Clarke once again organised the sometimes sumptuous, sometimes surreal costumes to great effect. Refreshments were organised by Catriona Fenwick, Margaret Park and Joan Polkinghorn with their usual flair and the addition of a nightly raffle, run by Angela and John Cook, was very popular. Ann and Ray Hammond looked after the busy sale of tickets.

We were delighted that Ray Lowry, our NODA representative, was able to present Gold Awards for 50 years consecutive service to Joan Polkinghorn and Paul Hartley – a wonderful achievement!

We were also proud to receive two NODA nominations for The Sorcerer in the Best Musical and Best Young Performer categories. Although neither Richard Temperley nor Andrew Cooke came first, they can be congratulated on being in the top three in the district!!

The Coffee Morning was very well attended and resulted in record takings and once again Angela Cook worked her Christmas magic for the stall at the Autumn Fair. The Church Service was very well supported by society members and enjoyed by an appreciative congregation.

Yet again, a most successful and interesting season when many new members were welcomed. We now look forward to the next production with great enthusiasm.

JOAN BLANCHFIELD, Secretary

### **ST ANDREW'S FILM CLUB**

The Club commenced in February 2012 and has shown films monthly on Friday afternoons to very appreciative audiences. Numbers attending during the year have varied from 17 to 40. 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 11 films during the year and have been able to donate £850 to church funds and charitable works.

ANN HAMMOND

### **ST ANDREW'S CRAFT GROUP**

We meet on Monday mornings at 10 am. We have 15 members, but not everyone comes all the time. It is a very friendly group and I think we all enjoy the conviviality each week. We have a break for coffee, but we do get some work done too! It has mixed abilities, but last year, over the year, we raised £600 for the Church with our toys, cushions, Christmas decorations and doorstops etc. But the biggest sale came from our Christmas cards which were made in a production line with most people involved.

We are now making things for the Craft Fair in March, but as we have so little time, we will be taking orders of certain items and then they would be made specially.

We welcome all from the church and outside, anyone who would like to come - just come!

BARBARA BURGESS

### **6th MONKSEATON RAINBOWS**

We began 2015 with an enjoyable visit to the Pantomime at St Peter's Church, Monkseaton and have just attended again this year.

In 2015 we learned new games and songs and we welcomed a number of new Rainbows to our group as others moved up to Brownies. We currently have a very short waiting list so have been able to accommodate all girls who have wanted to join. Unfortunately, our assistant leader left last year so I am currently leading the unit on my own. I do have a very reliable parent who comes along to help each week and also four young teenage girls who initially volunteered as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award but have decided to stay on. We are, however, desperate for volunteers who would like to complete their Guiding Leadership Qualification.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed a number of themed nights. On International Pirate Day we played pirate games, sang pirate songs and made a small pirate ship. On another occasion, we brought our soft toy 'pets' to Rainbows for a pet show. The Rainbows presented their pets and described them to the judges and each pet was awarded a rosette at the end of the evening for things such as 'best dressed pet' and 'cutest pet'. In November, we also enjoyed a visit from 'Animal Antics' where we met a range of interesting creatures including a tarantula.

LUCY AMES

### **7th MONKSEATON RAINBOWS**

The Rainbows enjoyed a visit to St Peter's to watch the Pantomime which was very good as Sarah, our young leader, was in it.

We have visited Shiremoor Adventure playground with the Brownies which was lots of fun.

We have played games, sung songs, made crafts and done a Christmas concert for the parents.

CLAIR BARNFATHER

### **6th MONKSEATON BROWNIES**

Once again it has been a very busy year. We have visited the local Pantomime, celebrated Chinese New Year, made items for Mother's Day, Easter and Father's Day, attended the County Campfire.

We have done the President's Challenge where we did activities based on the word "Promise" and produced evidence of what we had done. This included Brownies Got Talent Night, icing cakes, Ready Steady Cook, a bike ride, sports night and making pizzas. We also visited Wallington Hall.

Summer over and we have done the Butterfly Challenge and the Owl Challenge. We have been bowling, attended a County Badge Day and finished off the year with a Christmas craft and party.

The Brownies have gained their First Aid, Number Fun and many other interest badges and have continued with Handbooks.

Thanks to Charlotte (Snowy Owl) and all mums on the rota.

AUDREY ADAMS, Brown Owl

### **7th MONKSEATON BROWNIES**

The Brownies started the year enjoying St Peter's Pantomime. It was very special as one of the Brownies was in it and also our young Leader, Rebecca. We've visited the Blue Reef Aquarium at night when there was no public inside so that was lots of fun! We challenged ourselves with Metro Station challenge and this took us all the way to Sunderland!

This year we have achieved lots of different Badges including star gazing, hostess, house orderly and a Round the World Badge. We have pen pals and often exchange ideas and crafts.

This year two of our Brownie Leaders are expecting babies so this is going to be a very busy year! But I'm sure there will be lots of little Brownie helpers when needed.

CLAIR BARNFATHER

### **8th MONKSEATON BROWNIES**

2015 was a very exciting year, when our Brownies celebrated its 40th birthday. We held a big party at the end of the summer term, when we invited all the other Brownie Units in the Church and our County Commissioner, Joanne Hogg. A fun night!

Our year started with a trip to the Theatre Royal to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. We marked Burns Night, Chinese New Year and Commonwealth Day with various activities.

The Brownies took part in the Promise Challenge where we had to do activities representing each letter of the word Promise, hence Penguin painting, making an Olaf, icing cakes, Superhero night etc. We went to Wallington, attended the County Campfire and Cosmic Adventure Day.

They worked for their Crime Prevention badge, where a senior Probation Officer came to do a talk, Artist badge and took part in the Butterfly Challenge.

PAT ROBSON

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

The small Group leadership team have enjoyed a busy year providing activities for our young members with a number of them achieving the highest award in their section.

During the year they've taken part in bike rides, cooking on open fires, rock pooling, swimming, hill walking and a lot of camping. We've made things, visited local places, celebrated notable events and everyone has earned lots of badges throughout the year.

The Group as a whole has grown in numbers and we still need the help of more adults to help deliver the programme, 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 2015**

Whitley Bay & District Churches

Together	-	Valerie Taylor
Ecumenical Social Committee	-	Ann Hammond and Sue Ames
Northern Synod	-	Derek Stembridge
Depaul Trust	-	Michael Spicer
Christian Aid	-	Kevin and Sue Ames