



Annual Reports

14 May 2023



The Parish Church of St Luke
Hartlepool

A member of the Central Hartlepool Group of Churches



Central Hartlepool Group
One Family, Three Parishes,
Growing the Kingdom.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Luke's Church is situated at the corner of Hart Lane and Tunstall Avenue in Hartlepool. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England and is a member of the Central Hartlepool Group Ministry. The correspondence address is St Luke's Church, Tunstall Avenue, Hartlepool, TS26 8NF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 8 May 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Revd Canon Norman Shave: Priest-in-Charge to St Luke's & All Saints Stranton to 30th June.
Revd John George Bell: Priest-in-Charge to St Luke's & All Saints Stranton from 13th November.

Group Ministers: Revd Clive Hall, Revd Michelle Delves

Wardens: Mr Robert Anthony Darling
Mrs Julia Taylor

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Mr Robert Anthony Darling
Mrs Julia Taylor

PCC Elected members:

Mr David Errington
Mrs Christine Amjad-Ali
Mrs Margaret Hammond (SGO)
Mrs Pamela Harding
Mrs Brenda Kloed
Mrs Evelyn McAllister
Mr Stephen McAllister *Hon. Treasurer*
Mrs Joan Nixon (*Lay Chair*)
Mrs Julia Taylor *Hon. Secretary*

Sidespersons:

Rob Darling
Margaret Drady
David Errington
Brenda Kloed
Joan Nixon

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre and rooms attached to the east end of the church.

The Covid-19 Pandemic

The Pandemic necessitated adhering to the government's rules on pandemic matters.

The Parish Church of St Luke, Hartlepool

Electoral Roll Report

A review of the roll took place this year. The number on the roll has decreased to 61 from 62 with where one of our members has died. There has been one change of address. The next renewal will be in 2025.

Julia Taylor, Electoral Roll Officer

Vicar's Report for St Luke's Church 2022/23

From the Churchwardens...

After serving for four years as Priest-in-Charge, Revd Canon Dr Norman Rossen Shave retired in the summer after postponing his retirement in order to see us through to the appointment of a new incumbent. Not only did he see us through the Covid pandemic, he also helped us with setting up Communities of Hope and with determining what needs to be done to repair the church windows. A moving final service where he was thanked for his care across the Group was held at Stranton on 19th June.



After a lengthy and meticulous process to produce a Group Profile, interviews were held in June using venues across the Group that resulted in the appointment of Revd John George Bell as Priest-in-Charge to All Saints and St Luke's with responsibility across all three parishes. His choice was to reside at the Vicarage in Westbourne Road and he was licensed by Bishop Paul at St Luke's, St Aidan's, St Columba's and All Saints on Sunday 13th November. We warmly welcome Revd John, Rebecca and their children Sophie and Daniel.

We said goodbye to Revd Michelle Delves at another moving service on 11th December, and wish her well in her new post.

From Revd John...

At the time of writing, we now know we will also be saying farewell to Clive and Angela Hall, as Revd Clive takes up his new role in Withernsea assisted by Angela. We are hugely grateful for the faithful and devoted service to our church and our community, of all those we have said farewell to over the last year, and for all of those who have stepped in to support our ministry.

There are so many people who are and have been involved in so many different aspects of church life that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive. So thank you, to all of you, for your support of our church and all who have helped lead and serve it through the vacancy.

With so many changes affecting much of what we have been doing together, we now have an opportunity to reflect on what God wants us to do next, on what our priorities need to be in the coming years. We need to look at our resources – our time, our talents, our gifts – and see where God wants to lead us. The next period will be a challenge, particularly for our ministry team, as we seek to serve the community across the whole Central Hartlepool Group. It's a challenge we look forward to, a challenge we embrace, because God has a plan for us and for our community.

And from me, specifically, thank you all for the way in which you have welcomed Rebecca, Sophie, Daniel and myself into the church family here, at St Luke's. Thank you for your love and your care, your support and your prayers, for all you have done for us and for all you continue to do for the Kingdom.

Every Blessing,

Revd John

Churchwardens Report : 2022

The Covid pandemic continued to affect all activities and services throughout the year, although latterly use of masks and hand sanitiser was relaxed. Intinction at Eucharist services continues to be offered, though the option of receiving wine from the cup was reintroduced in July. We have yet to reintroduce receiving around the Sanctuary, but we continue to approach the Celebrant from the centre aisle. At 'The Peace' we have not been able to embrace each other for three years now. We have decided to continue for the time being with the 'St Luke's Wave', done without moving from our place, that is very friendly and remains popular.

The Home Communion Team was set up following members undergoing the Safer Recruitment Process. Now that a number of congregation members have entered Care Homes, they are being visited and offered Communion.

We started the year by having quite a bit of electrics work being done by Quantum Electrics, Jim Smith. The distribution box in the Church Office had been damaged by water and needed replacing; some of the outside lights were replaced too. Jim Smith has also completed the 5 yearly electrical inspection.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea on 2 June 2022 was a great event with over 40 attending. The Mothers' Union provided a Jubilee Rose and commemorative plaque. We mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II in November, and will celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at a special service on 7 May 2023, with a Coronation Afternoon Tea the following day. We thank Pam Harding for supplying a further commemorative rose, this time for the new monarch and a plaque will be put adjacent to it after the service on 7 May.

The Deanery Confirmation Service was held here on 10th July with Rt Revd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow presiding. There were 22 candidates, one of whom from St Luke's.

PCC decided in July that the Shared Ministry Development Team should be disbanded for the time being.

We are most grateful to Revd Norman Shave who was our Priest-in-Charge. His decision to postpone his retirement meant that we had clergy here until June. His last service at St Luke's was on 12th June and his final service was at Stranton on 19th June where all Group churches attended. Revd Michelle Delves was appointed to St Bartholomew's in Blackburn Diocese and her final service in Hartlepool was on 11 December at Stranton. Revd Clive Hall was appointed to a church at Withernsea and his final service was on 23 April when we said a fond goodbye to him and Angela Hall at Stranton.

The work on the windows has yet to be started with the difficulty of locating companies to give us quotes for the work. Michael Atkinson our new architect was interviewed on 5 September, sent for approval to the DAC and appointed in October. He did the Quinquennial Inspection in December and a few weeks later appointed a drone survey of the roof that identified several areas of missing or slipped tiles needing attention.

The Parish Share for 2023 has been reduced significantly to £12,000 due to lack of funds. Our Treasurer, Stephen McAllister, has worked diligently to keep an accurate record of our accounts and budgets for which we owe him a great debt. To our regret however, due to home and work commitments, he has decided to step down. It is hoped a new Treasurer will be found as soon as possible.

Contracts of Employment: in October, it was decided that our employee contracts required a full review, and we thank Maggie for all her work in achieving this. The new Contracts will be signed at the next PCC meeting in June.

A Group Lent Course was run in our Hall based around religious art. Although few attended, the sessions were much appreciated leading to new insights of the Christian faith.

Finally, without the hard work of all of our volunteers St Luke's would not be the caring and welcoming place that it is. You and we know who you are, and we send our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Rob Darling and Julia Taylor, Churchwardens

The Central Hartlepool Group Ministry Report 2022

One family, Three Parishes, Growing the Kingdom.

Members: All Saints Stranton with Burbank, St Aidan's with St Columba's and St Luke's churches.



Central Hartlepool Group
One Family, Three Parishes,
Growing the Kingdom.

St Luke's Representatives: The Incumbent; Churchwardens; Maggie Hammond and Joan Nixon

Starting back in September 2021, after a number of meetings of the Group Council to undertake the Parish Prioritisation Process, the Profile to advertise the Vacancy was carefully written with the help of Revd Sheila Bamber, the post finally being advertised in August. The interview panel met on 8 September and included two members from each Parish.

A Life Events diary was set up enabling all the churches to log their Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals to ensure no clashes occurred where finding clergy cover would be made difficult. Kathrine Batty (St Aidan's) undertook to work out the Sunday and midweek Clergy rota cover, and we thank her for doing this onerous task so well.

Staff changes at Communities of Hope has led to some difficulties. See the CoH Report.

Finally, a good time of fellowship was had when we gathered at the Golden Lion for a Group meal on 20 January – thanks to Katherine Batty for organising that.

Julia Taylor

Hon. Treasurer's Report – Jan – Dec 2022

Financial review

Although the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic has now passed the effects on the church finances continue to be felt with a deficit of £2,403 being posted for 2022. This now means that over the 3 years 2020-2022 the church has had a cumulative deficit of £17,195.



2022 was, in comparison to 2020 and 2021, a busier year for the church once the Omicron variant subsided, and services and events were able to go ahead at a much-recovered level from the previous two years.

Overall total income has fallen by £3,263 – a 7% fall, despite income from renting out the Parish Centre increasing by 175% (£3,217), and a £1,000 legacy received in the year. Income from our regular fundraising activities over the year was at a similar level to 2021. Thanks to the volunteers who run the events who continue to do a great job pulling together the coffee mornings to support the church. Income from funerals and weddings fell by £1,246 (45%) and donations tied to these services has also subsequently fallen by £1,024 (30%). The overall numbers of regular givers to the church have fallen, and as a result regular giving and collection plate income has fallen £1,122 (5%) which has also had a knock-on effect to gift aid claims which have fallen also. The annual gift day at St Luke's raised £765 which was £1,230 (62%) lower than last year – a sign, perhaps, of the cost of living crisis and its effect on our congregation.

Despite this gloomy news our level of giving per numbers of regular givers has actually increased on 2021, increasing from £636.40 per giver to £707.40 per giver. Thank you to you all for your continued generosity in these turbulent times.

Expenditure has also fallen compared to 2021 by £8,482 (16%) but this is entirely due to a reduction in the Parish Share which has fallen significantly from £28,280 to £16,000. It was with sadness that the PCC

decided that no funds would be allocated to charity in 2022, which also saved £750. Charitable fundraising was carried out throughout the year for different appeals and given the financial situation the church is facing it was felt that allocating some of its funds for this purpose would not be in the best interests of the church at this time.

Expenditure discounting the Parish Share has actually increased on last year by £3,798 (16%), despite our continued efforts to keep costs down as far as possible. Costs have risen generally as a result of increased activity within church over the year (a good thing), and inflationary increases to costs, wages and utilities. We have also had significant one off expenses in the year for electrical repairs (£1,110) and advice from our architect on work required to the church windows (£1,080) which have contributed to this rise.

Looking forward

The shadow of the pandemic still looms large over the church. The number of givers has fallen each year over the past 3 years and income generation from all areas of the church is yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels. Income in total has fallen since 2019 by £23,030 but expenditure, not including the Parish Share, has fallen by £7,342. Regular giving is budgeted to fall again in 2023.

In addition, significant repairs will be required to the church windows in the not-too-distant future. Estimates obtained in 2021 by the architect suggested this will cost in excess of £150,000, and prices have since increased. Our Quinquennial report which is due imminently has also identified some issues with the roof, though the costs of rectification at this stage is not known.

The cost of living crisis is also impacting the church in terms of its costs and in 2024 our gas contract ends. At this point gas prices for the church are likely to increase significantly, though prices may have fallen by the time that comes around. The situation remains uncertain.

The PCC has reluctantly reduced the Parish Share for 2023 once again to £12,000, significantly lower than the amount requested by the diocese. This was to produce a budget which breaks even for 2023, but it is not an ideal situation to find ourselves in.

We trust that God will provide for the church's needs and the PCC wants to continue to act in a spirit of generosity, but understand that difficult decisions may need to be taken to address the financial challenges ahead.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to hold 3 months expenditure at any one time which, based on 2022's expenditure, is £10,928. Unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2022 are £17,641. The excess of funds has not been formally designated by the PCC, but the Quinquennial report and any subsequent building work that may be required to the roof and windows has been identified as a potential use for these funds.

Other funds

St Luke's is entitled to a Church Hall Trust Fund which is held by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee. The funds are available for repairs to the church. At the year end the funds contained £36,645 of cash and £48,105 of investments. The investment fund has fallen in value since last year from £54,491 (a fall of £6,386) due to market turmoil. It is hoped that the investment value will recover over time.

Related party transactions

During the year one PCC member received payments from the church for vergers' fees and through employment as the church administrator. No PCC members are paid for their roles as trustees of the church.

In all cases where pay rates for these roles are discussed by PCC the relevant PCC members declare an interest and do not take part in the discussions made by PCC.

Stephen McAllister Hon. Treasurer

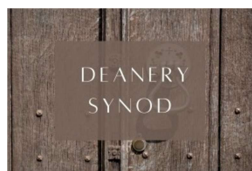
NB the Approved accounts are at the back of this report.



Shared Ministry Development Team

For the past two years and during the Interregnum the SMDT has not operated

Julia Taylor (on behalf of the SMDT)



Deanery Synod Report

Fr Graeme left St Oswald's with Fr Richard taking it on as well as St Paul's. Revd Roz was licensed at St Hilda's in March, taking on the Parish along with Holy Trinity.

Tall Ships: despite our ambition to have a presence at this event in July 2023, requirements to undergo Safeguarding by all volunteers, the cost of a stall, public liability insurance costs all being prohibitive, it was decided not to go ahead.

The Queen's Canopy: Hart church have been instrumental in the planting of 280 trees.

We are tasked by the Diocese to confront decline and embrace the vision for missional transformation. A talk given by Duncan Podbury outlined the Strategic Plan with Church Planting, Youth Chaplaincy, Mission Hubs and Culture Change.

At the annual meetings 2023 two new representatives will be elected to serve for the next three years. *Julia Taylor*

SAFEGUARDING REPORT May 2023



Margaret Hammond, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parish Safeguarding Officer at St Luke's Parish continues to be Mrs Margaret (Maggie) Hammond. Currently retired, she has a background in adult and children's social care and has significant experience around safeguarding from this time. She continues to keep up to date with currently trends and developments in child and adult safeguarding as much as possible, and has attended the relevant course available from the Church of England and Durham Diocese.

The Parish continues to support the protection and safety of all those attending, visiting or working (either paid or voluntarily) within St Luke's Parish. During the last twelve months we have continued to support both victims and perpetrators in a caring and meaningful manner with the support of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Beth Miller).

All those working on the Parish Church Council (PCC) have clear and current DBS safeguarding

checks and have completed relevant training.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and a safeguarding checklist completed during March 2023. These are readily available and copies are on display in the Parish Centre. The annual checklist shows that St Luke's Parish is compliant with all aspects of safeguarding except in the provision of hard backed copies of the Parish and Diocesan safeguarding handbook. Instead we offer leaflets with the relevant information, freely available at the back of church.

Volunteers

The Parish Safeguarding Officer oversees the appointment and support of all volunteers in St Luke's Parish, and the Church of England Safer Recruitment Policy is followed. Where necessary Safeguarding DBS checks and references are taken and relevant training is offered along with ongoing support.

This year we have recruited volunteers for a Home Communion Team and for Open the Book. Both ventures are going well.



HOME COMMUNION SERVICE

After many months of development and following training including Safeguarding, CBS checks etc., the revised home communion team finally began work late into 2022 following consent from clergy and Durham Diocese. The service

offers communion to those unable to attend regular church services for any reason, by offering the service within their own home environment.

We currently offer home communion by visiting two care homes on a regular basis with two parishioners who need our support and who are unable to attend church.

The female team has grown in confidence over the last six months or so since the beginning of the service, with the potential of additional members in the future. As a team we anticipate supporting more people in our parish as the needs arise.

Margaret Hammond & Mary Summerson

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety legislation applies to church buildings, as it does to any other public building; and PCC members are responsible for compliance with this. Church members, visitors, hirers of the hall, employees and volunteers all need to be kept safe, whilst the Church carries out its worship, mission and ministry.

As a church we understand that we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our church, hall or church grounds. We also know that, where we are an employer or control premises in certain circumstances, we have to meet the requirements of health and safety law. We employ fewer than five employees, and are not required to have a written health and safety policy under Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Risk Assessments: We will complete risk assessments to identify what we need to do to comply with health and safety law. We will record our findings, implementing any necessary precautions. We will review and revise these where we suspect that they are no longer valid.

Information and Training: We will provide any necessary information and training for our employees and volunteers in a timely manner. We will keep a record of what is provided. We will also give relevant information to contractors and self-employed people who may need this to complete their work safely.

First Aid: We provide adequate first aid facilities including a suitably stocked first aid box kept in the kitchen and a person is appointed to take charge of the first aid arrangements. We will also

provide relevant information for employees and volunteers.

Monitoring: We will make periodic checks to ensure that our precautions remain effective and adequate. We also ensure that any lifting, work or electrical equipment and church utilities are inspected as necessary to ensure that they remain safe. We will keep records of the checks we make.

Contractors: If we employ contractors, we make sure that they have their own health & safety policy and public and Employers Liability Insurance by asking to see copies of the relevant documents.

Record Keeping: Our Health and Safety Risk Assessments, records and other documents are kept in the office.

WAYS AND MEANS

Our fundraising events not only help with our finances but gives us an opportunity to engage with our wider community.

Plant Sale	293.72
Summer Fair	880.07
St Luke's	375.45
Christmas Fayre	752.45
Candlemas	336.00



Evelyn McAllister

In addition to the Coffee Mornings, several other events took place including, a Macmillan Coffee Morning, appeals for the Christian Aid, the Children's Society and UNICEF.

Julia Taylor



COMMUNITIES OF HOPE

Aneta Bradley was appointed just before Christmas 2021 as CoH Leader. She had been working in the Group of three parishes as a volunteer since October 2021, working in primary schools, one off events all of which had been interrupted by Covid.

Forest Church restarted from January 2022, one Sunday a month.

The CoH Community Evangelist did a lot of work with the marginalized through St Aidan's kitchen, the 'ladder streets', and with funding from Joseph Rowntree Foundation meeting up with ex offenders; numbers continue to go up. A drop-in Community Café is operating out of St Aidan's, running it with some volunteers.

Jo Leslie left at the end of March 2022 leaving a vacancy for the Community Worker and Evangelist Role. Hayley Liversedge was appointed as Children's and Families worker and has proved a huge asset to CoH and the Group as well.

A men's lunch club, Sid's Kitchen, is being run at St Matthew's; Sewing Bee is established; support for St Aidan's Kitchen is ongoing; Forest Church is also continuing and running successfully.

Revd John commented that it is interesting that a community of worship is building up.

At St Luke's, both Easter and Christmas 2022, and Easter 2023 saw around 30 children coming to enjoy games, bible stories and food.

An Allotment was acquired and volunteers are needed for the upkeep.

Church Group and Prayer Chain



The WhatsApp Prayer Chain as well as the WhatsApp Church group continue to be valuable outreach resources. The online links to the streamed services are put onto the Church group and the Prayer Chain regularly receive requests for prayer enabling members to respond quickly, ensuring that intercessions to our Lord God

are heard promptly.



BIBLE STUDY: Christine Amjad-Ali once again has been producing Study Notes for us, and our thanks go to her. A small group was able to meet in the Parish Centre twice a month to enjoy thoughtful and instructive talks together.

Julia Taylor

WEBSITE: The website is at www.stlukeshartlepool.org. Many thanks to Sarah Anderson for keeping it up-to-date. We regularly get requests for information coming through via the 'Contact' page.

Julia Taylor

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families **Report 2022**

We had a varied selection of activities in 2022 with a good turnout at them all. Unfortunately several of our members passed away and are sadly missed'

Our meetings last year were as follows:-

January	AGM
February	Family history talk
March	Local history talk
April	Easter quiz
May	Visit by President Carol Hopkinson
June	Tea in Park café
July	Strawberry tea for Summer of Hope appeal
August and September	there were no meetings
October	Talk about what to see in Jersey
November	Christmas crafts

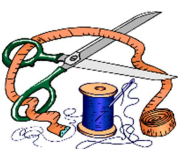
We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Parish Centre, 2.00pm -3.30pm, and visitors are always welcome. Why not give us a try.

Pam Harding, Chairwoman



Closed due to no school age children attending church.

Evelyn McAllister



ST LUKE'S SEWING PARTY:

The sewing party is now well established in the Parish Hall, with a regular attendance of around 12-14 people. We continue to practice our knitting skills, and our crocheting skills are slowly improving with the kind and tolerant support of Margaret Hughes. We also have the loan of a sewing machine which is used by one member of the group every week to make a number of garments and assorted items for our regular craft and coffee sales,

Our Christmas Craft fayre was very successful last year as we raised £468:63pence which will be donated to our designated charities. . During 2022 we donated £561 to our usual Charity, Vellore hospitals in India. Our second donation will be given following our Easter Fayre in April.

Margaret Hammond, Treasurer.



ST LUKE'S SAVINGS CLUB 2022

Following the Covid pandemic we are pleased to say we have managed to start the savings again in 2022.

<i>Credit</i>		<i>Debit</i>	
Amount Brought forward	3.45	Amount paid to savers	5,340.00
Amount collected (17 savers)	5,885.00	Amount donated to church	540.00
		Balance carried forward	8.45
Total	5,888.45	Total	5,888.45

Brenda Kloed & Pamela Harding



ALTAR FLOWER FUND

Thank you to Pam Harding and Joanne Wheatley who do a marvellous job of keeping fresh flowers in church. If you wish to contribute towards the flowers, perhaps to remember a departed love one, please have a word with either Pam or Joanne.



FAIRTRADE STALL

The stall is still not running at the moment.

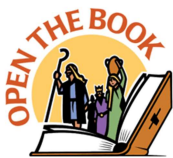
Evelyn McAllister

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Once again our subscriber numbers continue to shrink, though there have been a couple of additions and I would encourage everyone to ask their family and friends if they would like to receive a copy of The Magazine (80p per edition - unchanged for quite a few years now) so that we can continue to keep this valuable outreach resource. Our thanks go to the team of people who put The Magazine together and distribute it.

Our special thanks go to Nigel Shaw who after doing a long spell as Editor has stepped down. We are looking for someone with vision to take this on. If interested, please get in touch.

Julia Taylor



OPEN THE BOOK

Open the Book in Throston School

2022 saw Jesmond Gardens embracing 'Open the Book'.

Reception, Years 1 and 2 visited St Luke's in March and April. Most of those

children had never been inside a church before.

At Throston School in the Summer Term we did:

The Marvellous Picnic

Jesus' Special Friends

Goodbye at last

September saw us going into school fortnightly, first Throston then Jesmond Gardens. Stories were:

Jonah the Groaner

David the Giant Killer

Daniel and the Lions.

Both schools came to church: Throston Year1 – ‘What is in a Church?’; Throston Year4 – ‘Light at Christmas’; Jesmond Gardens Reception – Singing Carols. We visited the schools for their Nativities: Sheila and Joanne went to see Reception at Jesmond Gardens and I saw Year3 at Throston.

January saw another visit from Jesmond Garden’s Reception Class. The story was ‘Noah’ and what a sight of children and staff parading around church singing, ‘the animals went in two by two!’ Our Spring stories have been:

Jesus and the Children

Jesus and the Taxman

The Great Parade.

Throston asked us to do their Easter Assembly, so we covered ‘A Dreadful Day’ and ‘A Happy Day’.

We have all enjoyed this year very much. Thanks Team!

Evelyn McAllister



St Luke’s Brownie Guides 29th Hartlepool

Annual Report 2022/23

The Brownies have had a really busy year.

We have seen our numbers increase to over 20 and with so many new Brownies have spent several weeks concentrating on learning the Brownie Guide Promise and Law. It has been an absolute delight to enrol so many new girls.

The Unit completed a Christmas Challenge badge which included chocolate tasting, a treasure hunt and making Christmas cards. As part of the challenge, we also visited the local cinema and watched Matilda the Musical, which was a real highlight, as was the Pizza Hut tea beforehand.

At Easter time we made and decorated masks and acted out short plays. The girls love making things and working towards gaining badges. We have also been considering who are our role models and who are the people who inspire us.

Gillian Rodgers
Guider

29th Hartlepool St Luke’s Brownies



The scout group in 2022 maintained a constant level of membership. Following the Covid and lack of face to face scouting of recent years the main event for the group was to return to camping outdoors. This was achieved in June when the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts attended Moorhouse Scout activity centre for a weekend. All the scout members had a great time and Mark Anderson achieved his nights’ away permit which gave the group further support.

This camp was funded by one of the many grants that the group was awarded in 2022. We received a grant from the Hospital of God from Greatham which was used to support the activities at group camp. We were also awarded a grant for £9,000 probably the biggest grant award in the groups history courtesy of Children in Need. The Scout Association again helped to support the application process for this grant and this grant was used to replace the groups cooking equipment, new computers and purchase a new, larger, modern, trailer which is required for the summer camps.

In 2022-3 former members of the group Alex Charlton, Rebecca Kelly and Abigail Hall were all successful in applying for the Korea and Halam International Camp as they continue their scouting journeys in Explorers. These international camps are the pinnacle of a scouting experience and

we wish them all safe travels and hope they enjoy the experience.

Sadly a few leaders left our group in 2022: Claire and Karen have decided to follow their scouting journey at another group in the town and subsequently the Throston Cub section has been merged with the West Park Cub section. We thank them all for the time and volunteering they have given to the scout group and wish them well in the future.

Scouts this year attended a summer camp in Fordel Firs in Scotland. Cubs and Beavers have run several successful meetings this year including bike rides, water fights, hikes, jubilee celebrations, planting trees and a Jubilee Tea.



As we look forward to 2023 many more activities and developments are possible with Squirrels and Archery arriving at the group.

Squirrels

Finally, many thanks to all the leaders we have at the group who give up their time to volunteer and support scouting at the group and all the executive committee who make some key decisions and support the group. Our young leaders as well, give a lot of energy and fun to the sections. Thank you to the parents for bringing them to the activities and who give us so much support. Thank you to anyone else who helps as well, we always have a few parents in the group who put an activity on or arrange a visit for us. This is much appreciated and some of these activities are always noticed in the county as they are so different.

Thank you, *David Kelly* Group Leader

LITTLE ANGELS

After a number of years leading the group, Briony Paterson has stepped down. She has been an amazing asset and ensured that this group continued to thrive with interesting games, an art corner and finger food for the children to try. A new Leader will hopefully come forward soon. In the meantime Evelyn McAllister and Sheila Anderson are holding the fort.