

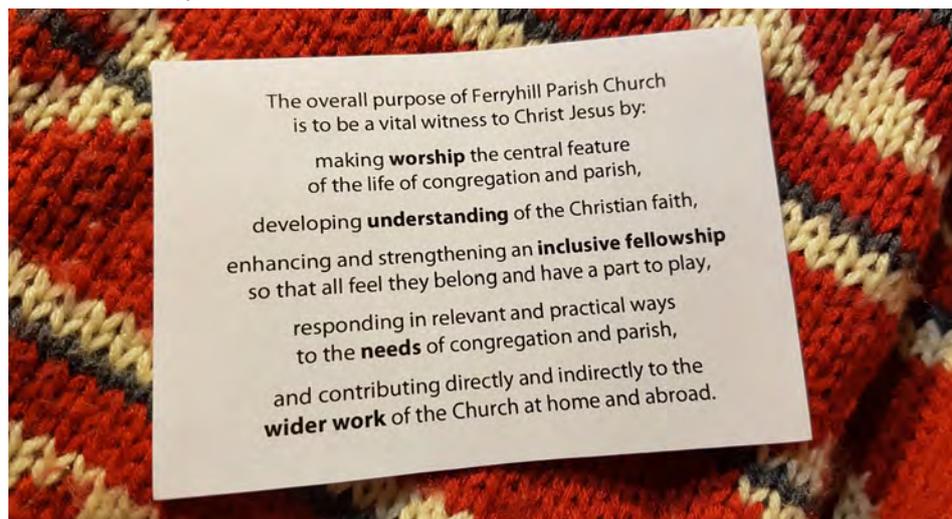


Parish News

Ferryhill Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2016/17

Why Here? What Now? Who?



The overall purpose of Ferryhill Parish Church is to be a vital witness to Christ Jesus by:

- making **worship** the central feature of the life of congregation and parish,
- developing **understanding** of the Christian faith,
- enhancing and strengthening an **inclusive fellowship** so that all feel they belong and have a part to play,
- responding in relevant and practical ways to the **needs** of congregation and parish,
- and contributing directly and indirectly to the **wider work** of the Church at home and abroad.

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Minister's Message

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas within the church, the time when we celebrate the coming of hope and light in the form of a child who would reveal the nature of God to a world in need of inspiration, it is a good time to ask ourselves the big questions. What is my life about? What are my priorities? What difference am I making to the common good?



It is something your local parish church in Ferryhill is asking itself too at the moment. As a part of a process that all Church of Scotland congregations undertake regularly, we are asking ourselves why we are here, what we should be doing within our community, and who is going to do it.

One of the very important things for us all to remember is that the church is made up of folks from the

community just like you who commit themselves to serve the community through the church. It is something you may want to think about yourself.

Our purpose statement focuses on five different elements that are essential to how we bear witness to the love of God as shown us by Jesus. The image above shows our purpose statement. What does it mean?

1. We exist to facilitate **worship**, which means creating opportunities for people to recognise and celebrate God.
2. We exist to help people **understand** more about what it means to follow the way of life that Jesus led.
3. We exist to help people live in community with each other better, building **inclusion** and **belonging**.
4. We exist to live out Jesus' command to be good neighbours and address the **needs** of others.

5. We exist to support the **wider work** that goes on in Scotland and across the world in the name of Jesus, bringing hope to people through practical support and through seeking justice for all in the complicated systems that govern our world.

As a part of our discussions about how we fulfil this purpose we will be having a special gathering after the morning service on Sunday 19 February over lunch when everyone will have an opportunity both to give thanks for what we are currently doing and to look ahead over the next five years to what we should focus on.

Whether you are a church member or someone living in the parish, you would be warmly welcome to join us as we shape our future as your parish church.

In this season of Advent hope, may God be with you all!

Church News

Farewells and Welcomes

At the end of October we bid farewell to Linsey Schafer who has been our Church Administrator for the last three years. She will be moving back to Texas with her husband Steven, who is also known to us as he sometimes led services when Peter was on holiday. We wished them both well on Sunday 13 November as they sang a song for us and we presented them with a gift to remember their time with Ferryhill Parish Church.

As we say our farewells to the Schafers, we welcome Lynda Johnston as our new Church Administrator. Lynda resides in Ferryhill with her husband, Andrew, and has two teenage children. She joins us from the HR department at the University of Aberdeen and will be learning the ropes over the next few months.

Lynda will be in the office on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and the afternoons of Wednesday and Thursday.

Advent Celebration

Have you ever fancied building an Advent Calendar the size of a wall? On Monday 28 November, we will be doing just that as part of an evening to mark the start of Advent, beginning at 7 p.m. This will include a short time of worship to begin and then a time of creativity which will lead to the creation of a wall-sized Advent Calendar! This will be suitable for all ages, and families are very welcome.

Christingle & Christmas

We will be having our annual all-age Christingle Service on Saturday 24 December at 6:30 p.m. followed at 11 p.m. with Carols and the Watchnight Service. On Christmas morning there will be a short service at 10 a.m. to which any children are invited to bring one of their presents along to show everyone.



Music at Ferryhill

Music is an important part of worship and social activities at Ferryhill Parish Church. We sing a variety of hymns and songs during worship, not just from CH4 but also from more modern sources, both live and recorded. The Ferryhill Singers enhance the worship of the congregation through vocal performances given during services from time to time, as well as occasional short recitals. We are always looking for new singers, especially men, although ladies are very welcome too. Anyone with a love of singing and a pleasant singing voice may join. Rehearsals are held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings before the service as required.

We also have occasional concerts or social events involving music such as the Concordia String Orchestra concerts, the recent Acclamations and Fyfe Penni Piece concert and our Franco Scottish evening in September. The children particularly enjoy all the singing they do during Summer Club.

We are considering the idea of forming a small group of talented local musicians who might enjoy playing together on an occasional Sunday. If you play an instrument, perhaps you might enjoy the opportunity to play in a small group. Don't be shy. All abilities and ages will be welcome. Please get in touch with Kevin Haggart, our

Director of Music so that we can assess the possibilities and potential of such a venture. He would be delighted to hear from you. Contact details Tel. 01224 869749, Email kevin.w.haggart@btinternet.com.

Coffee Shop

Many of you will be regular visitors to the Coffee Shop at Ferryhill Parish Church, but if you haven't visited yet, please do stop by and sample our wide range of fresh foods and Fairtrade teas and coffees at very reasonable prices. On Mondays, you can enjoy a freshly cooked full Scottish breakfast, with toast and a hot drink and bacon rolls and egg rolls are available every day. If you work in the area, we can also provide a take away service. It's a great place to meet up with friends, right in the heart of Ferryhill.

The Coffee Shop is open every morning Monday to Saturday and is staffed by volunteers who usually work one morning a fortnight. In order to keep this valuable community facility running, we need more volunteers. You don't have to be a member or a regular church goer to help out, so if you can assist in any way, please call Edna Sainsbury on 01224 572477.

Note that the Coffee Shop will close for its annual break on Saturday 17 December and will reopen on Monday 16 January 2017.

Audiovisual Project

New Installation

A big project which began a couple of years ago has finally reached completion with the installation of a new intelligent glass screen hanging centrally in the church, powerful projector, repeater screens and cameras. This fixed installation has replaced the previous portable screen we had been using for many years.

Despite hanging centrally, the intelligent glass in the screen means it can be switched from an opaque 'cloudy' setting onto which images can be projected to a 'clear' state so that the beautiful stained glass window can be seen through the screen when it is not in use. Indeed, if you are a regular at the Coffee Shop you may not even have noticed the new screen hanging in front of the window.

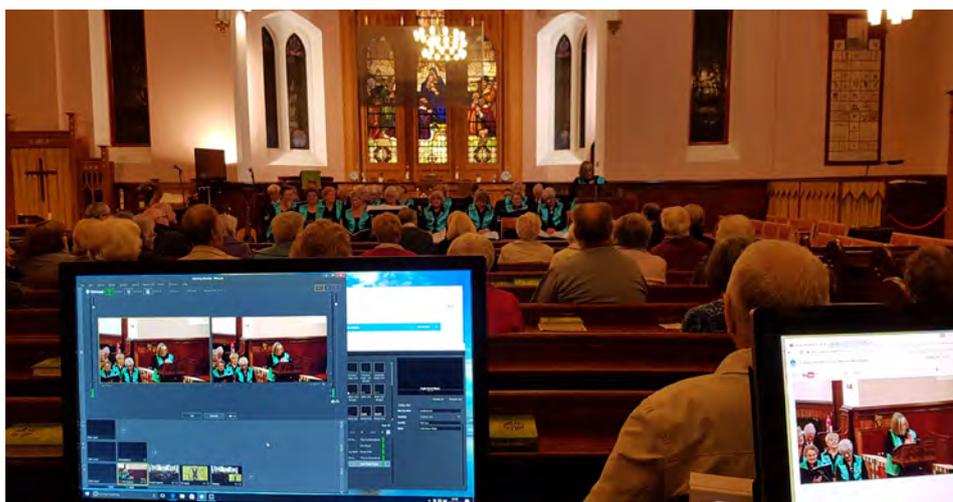
The funding for this project was made possible through the generosity of three legacies and gifts in the name of Jess and Jimmy Shearer, Alice Miller and Anne Gordon. Their generosity was supplemented by other donations that had been given to the congregation's Sanctuary and Music Fund for instance from families giving a gift to the church after a funeral service. We are very thankful for these donations which allowed this project to be completed without having to use the general income from our regular giving.



Live Streaming Services and Events

The new installation allows us to live stream services and events from the church. So if you want to join us on a Sunday morning and feel like you are back home in Ferryhill wherever you are in the world, open up YouTube and search for Ferryhill Parish Church. Please do subscribe to our channel.

This has already been of benefit for a baptism when some members of the family could not be present in person but could watch online instead.



Diary

November Services

Sunday 27 November 2016

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
First Sunday in Advent
"A Sleepless Night"
Sunday Club and Crèche
- 18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

Monday 28 November

- 19:00 Advent Celebration in Church and Foyer

December Services

Sunday 4 December 2016

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
Second Sunday in Advent
"God's Hopeful Vision"
Sunday Club and Crèche
- 18:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

Wednesday 7 December

- 11:00 Service at Cowdray Club
Care Home

Sunday 11 December

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
Third Sunday in Advent
"Living the Dream"
Sunday Club & Crèche
- 18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group
at the Manse (54 Polmuir
Road)

Sunday 18 December

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
Fourth Sunday in Advent
"The Magnificat"
Sunday Club & Crèche

Saturday 24 December

- 18:00 Christingle Service
- 23:00 Carols in the Church
- 23:30 Watchnight Service
"Delivery Day"

Sunday 25 December

- 10:00 Christmas Day Service
"Shepherd's Visit"

Show You Care At Christmas

2016 has been a very successful year for our church stall at Ferryhill and for Traidcraft, the development charity from whom we source our products. Our sales have reached £25,000 since we began in 2010, thanks to the loyalty and generosity of all our customers.

Christmas is always a busy time for us as more and more people choose to buy their festive items from Traidcraft. As a leading supplier of fair trade products in the UK, Traidcraft have a wide range of festive items from producers throughout the world including fair trade Christmas gifts, festive food, Christmas decorations, charity Christmas cards and a selection of Fair Trade Advent Calendars. There's also Christmas wrapping paper made from recycled paper ensuring your fair trade Christmas gifts are wrapped appropriately! All of these items can be ordered from the catalogue which is available in the Coffee Shop, or online. If you order through the church Traidcraft stall, you won't pay any postage. Contact Shelagh Bain for more information (tel: 01224 588744 or email shebain@hotmail.co.uk).



This stunning Holy Family Nativity Set nativity set, with its white washed and chiselled effect finish, is a beautiful reminder of what Christmas is really about. It is made by Pekerti in Indonesia, a social development agency formed in Jakarta in 1975. Its aim is to enable subsistence farmers and rural people to supplement their income through the development and sale of traditional crafts. Its social premium pays for scholarships for producers' children and health needs, including small operations. Pekerti is also environmentally aware, seeking to source raw materials which will not damage the environment.

The food surrounding Christmas is often iconic to the festive season. Traidcraft offer a selection of beautifully prepared food - ranging from happy Gingerbread men to mouth watering Christmas pudding. These Mini Christmas Pudding biscuits are made with fair trade sugar, raisins and spices and presented in a pretty jute bag from The Jute Works, Bangladesh. The deliciously rich and dark fruit cake is packed with juicy fair



trade fruit and spices then finished with a dash of sherry. Topped with the UK's first fair trade icing, it's the perfect addition to a Fairtrade afternoon tea. Chocolate coins, a staple of Christmas stockings, are made from Divine chocolate using the finest quality Fairtrade cocoa beans from Kuapa Kokoo, a co-operative of smallholder farmers in Ghana. The cocoa is grown in the shade of the tropical rainforest, and slowly fermented and dried in the sun by the proud farmers. Traidcraft sells a wide selection of fair trade dried fruit, nuts and ingredients produced by fair trade producers in the developing world. Traidcraft work closely with ethical and fair trade certified producers such as Eksteenskuil Agricultural Co-operative, South Africa, producing raisins and other delicious dried fruits.

Christmas decorations are a fantastic way to get more involved with the festive season and Traidcraft offers all the necessities from intricate festive ornaments to stunning Christmas



candles. Angels are very much a symbol of Christmas which is why they stock everything from a hand carved heavenly angel ornament to a silver angel tree topper made by Saffy Handicrafts.

Why Traidcraft?

Why choose Traidcraft rather than other ways of buying fair trade? The basic principles of fair trade were always to change the way trade worked for the poor, so that small scale producers could find a market for their food and crafts, feed their communities, and trade their own way out of poverty. We've come a long way. But a few hundred companies still control 70% of world trade. Banks use our savings to speculate with food prices, and international traders make profits out of food shortages. For big business, trade will always be about the bottom line. Traidcraft is different. Things like justice, fairness and dignity are fundamental to the way Traidcraft works. Their bottom line isn't about commodities, it's about communities: working with smaller, more remote, more marginalised and poorer producers. Last year, almost 900,000 people benefited from Traidcraft's development projects. That's why buying fair trade from Traidcraft just isn't the same as buying from the supermarket. Because fair trade isn't just part of their business. It's ALL of their business, and they are 100% committed to it.

Aberdeen Doors Open Day



For the first time in many years, Ferryhill Parish Church participated in the Aberdeen Doors Open Day in September. It was a great success with a steady stream of interested visitors. In preparation for the event, the church produced audio guides for a tour that lasts 30 minutes and some paddle boards with information about the church and the various furnishings and beautiful stained glass windows.

There were also guides on hand to answer any questions. The church

building and its contents tell the rich history of Ferryhill and its people over the past 150 years.

If you would like to take the audio tour, you can do so at any time, just come along to the church Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 11 a.m. and ask at the Coffee Shop, which is an ideal place to end the tour! You will find the tour fascinating and restful.

Given the success of the event, we will be participating in the Aberdeen Doors Open day next year.

Daily Devotional Diary

The Discipleship Team has produced a new Daily Devotional Diary for Advent and Christmas which will be available at the end of November. This issue covers the period from Advent through to the time of Jesus' baptism by John and, like the previous one during Lent, contains readings, questions to aid reflection and prayers contributed by many of our church members.

It is hoped that it will be a helpful guide during our Advent journey and something which folk will enjoy reading

day by day as we follow the anticipation of God's people leading up to the birth of Jesus.

The coming of Jesus is a time of rejoicing, and as we all get caught up in the excitement and busyness of Christmas, it is easy to forget that we are celebrating the birth of our Saviour, not counting the gifts we receive. We pray this diary will help you keep that in focus. You will be able to pick up a printed copy in the Coffee Shop or an electronic version on the website.

Diary

January Services

Sunday 1 January 2017

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Dedicated to God"

Wednesday 4 January

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club
Care Home

Sunday 8 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Affirmation" including
Holy Communion
Sunday Club & Crèche

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

Sunday 15 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"The Manifesto"
Sunday Club & Crèche

18:00 Evening Service in the
Memorial Chapel with
Holy Communion

Sunday 22 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"A Fisherman's Tale"
Sunday Club & Crèche

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

Sunday 29 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Sabbath Choices"
Sunday Club & Crèche

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group



COMMUNITY NEWS

Duthie Park

The usual Christmas Carol Concert in the park will take place on 17 December in the David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The concert features the Bon Accord Silver Band supported by the Capriccio Choir from Albyn School. The Granite City Chorus will provide some addition festive cheer 30 minutes before each Concert.

At the Christmas Carol Concert, The Friends of Duthie Park will be running a raffle on behalf of food banks across the city. To enter please bring along any tinned, packaged or jars of food, toiletries and staple items such as tea, coffee and sugar. All donations will be distributed to those who need that extra bit of help at Christmas. Anyone who wants to make a donation before the Christmas Carol Concert can contact Arthur Gill, ArGill@aberdeencity.gov.uk or can drop their donation off at the Winter Gardens.

Ferryhill School Goes Back In Time...

Primary 7 pupils from Ferryhill school have enjoyed working on an inter-generational project with the charity group 'Silver Surfers'. This has allowed them to forge valuable links with the community and develop a real sense of responsibility and belonging. The

more senior members of the local community have supported the pupils with their WW2 project and life in the 1940s. In return the pupils, in collaboration with the Silver City Surfers' volunteers, enjoyed working with their 'mature' friends helping them to make the best use of their iPads.

A real highlight of this venture has been visiting Whinhill Gate Sheltered Housing and setting up a 'Photo Booth' where children and adults dressed up in 1940's gear and posed for photographs taken by Ferryhill photographer Lupin Keir. Children surprised the residents by arriving fully made up in vintage hairstyles and make-up courtesy of the talented students from North East of Scotland College... and with the help of creative technology experts from The Apple Store they used smart phones and iPads to take period photographs of each other.

Sherwin of Primary 7 reported, "Tuesday was very enjoyable. I enjoyed how two generations spent time together and we got a lot out of helping them to learn about technology." Whilst Arianna enthused, "Tuesday was great! Letting other people do our make-up and hair was amazing. Going to Whinhill was so much fun, talking to the elders and taking part in the photo booth."



A special thank you goes to local resident Chris Dunhill of the Silver Surfers who facilitated this meaningful and worthwhile inter-generational project.

If you would like help with using technology and are over 55, or are any age and interested in volunteering then get in touch by phoning 07799 371 329 or emailing silvercitysurfers@gmail.com.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as their respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Rights Respecting Award

Ferryhill Primary and Harlaw Academy have both completed Level One as Rights Respecting Schools. They are now working on gaining Level Two. This means further developing and embedding a culture that respects children's rights throughout the policies, practices and ethos of the school. This helps to create a sense for staff and pupils of being rights-respecting global citizens and these values should and will spill out beyond the school into the wider community. Please support your local schools in this work.



The Living Well Café

In recognition of the need to support people with memory loss or dementia and their families or carers we at Ferryhill Parish Church wish to form a Living Well Café early in 2017.

This initiative is already well established at Newhills and Oldmachar Parish Churches in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Alzheimer Scotland and it is felt that this should now be extended to our area of the City.

It is hoped to run the Café on a Thursday afternoon between 1 and 3 p.m. but further information on this will be publicised nearer the time. Initially this may only be on a fortnightly or monthly basis until the need is assessed.



In order to make this a success and so that those attending enjoy an enriching experience, we require volunteers on a rota basis to assist the two Coordinators who will be in attendance at all times.

If you are over 18 and can offer two hours between 1 and 3 p.m. on a Thursday we would be delighted to hear from you. Experienced Coordinators will support you and training is available.

For further information on this exciting new venture please contact Rita King Tel. 01224 572391 or Shona Matthew Tel. 01224 704378.

Christmas Offerings

We have a number of special offerings over the Christmas period including at the School Service at the end of term, the Christingle and Watchnight services.

The money raised through these offerings will this year be split between two charities.

Charlie House

Charlie House is a new, locally based children's charity which engages in activities and projects to support children with complex disabilities and life-limiting conditions.

Their current projects include:

- Monthly Saturday Club
- Activity Short Breaks
- Information for parent carers

In 2016 they have funded an Activities Co-ordinator post to help their plans to expand the Saturday Club, organise coffee mornings for parent carers to encourage meeting others in a similar situation, activities for siblings and organising the Activity Short Break.

They are also excited to embark on the creation of the Charlie House Community Team, which will initially see the provision of two Charlie House Community Nurse posts to provide practical and emotional support to children with a life-limiting condition and their families.

Christian Aid Emergencies and Disasters Fund

When an emergency happens, Christian Aid has 'rapid-response' funds set aside in case disasters strike. This reserve enables Christian Aid to put aid in place before donations from the emergency appeal arrive.

Christian Aid works entirely through local partner organisations who know the communities and can help them before, during and after an emergency.

Along with being a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee Christian Aid is a member of ACT Alliance, a global, ecumenical church relief and development coalition.

Diary

February Services

Wednesday 1 February 2017

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club Care Home

Sunday 5 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Reconciling Authority"
Sunday Club and Crèche

18:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

Sunday 12 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Are You The One?"

Sunday 19 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Love's Motivation"
Sunday Club and Crèche

12:00 Congregational Gathering

18:00 Evening Service in the Memorial Chapel with Holy Communion

Sunday 26 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
"A Second Affirmation"
Sunday Club and Crèche

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

Hall Lets

Ferryhill Parish Church has an extensive suite of rooms and halls available for let. If you would like to enquire about a hall let please contact the office or email bookings@ferryhillparishchurch.org.

Ferryhill Parish Church

Fonthill Road, Aberdeen, AB11 6UD

Church Office
Mon, Tues & Fri, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Wed & Thur, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

01224 213093
office@ferryhillparishchurch.org
www.ferryhillparishchurch.org

Parish News Editor: Shelagh Bain
01224 588744
editor@ferryhillparishchurch.org

Minister: Rev Peter Johnston
01224 949192
pjohnston@churchofscotland.org.uk



Supporting Your Kirk

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday 3 December from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Church Foyer and Large Hall. Enjoy a cream tea with scones and jam or mince pies and browse the wonderful Christmas stalls. Home baking, sweets, Christmas crafts, floral table decorations, raffle, chocolate tombola, bottle stall, competitions, face painting and Fair Trade goods will all be available. Donations for the stalls would be very welcome during the previous week or on the Saturday morning. Please come and support this fun fundraiser and get into the Christmas spirit!

The children of the Sunday Club will have their own special table at the Fair selling beautiful handmade Christmas gift tags and cards. They have been enjoying working on these for many weeks now and are hoping to raise money to fund their Sunday Club activities and to continue to sponsor a child in the Middle East.



Fundraising Team

Throughout the year, the Fundraising team at Ferryhill Parish Church organises various events to entertain and raise money for our Manse Appeal Fund (a loan we took out to pay for essential maintenance work on the church Manse that houses our minister and his family). Please look out for posters and flyers about these events.

Table Top Sale

The first event of 2017 is another Table Top Sale on Saturday 11 February from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to start your Spring cleaning by clearing out your cupboards and attics. Tables can be booked for just £10 after which all the takings are yours. This is a warm, dry way to sell your goods. There is even an opportunity to buy tea, coffee and bacon rolls while you sell! Please pre-book your table by phoning Fiona on 01224 590806. The table sales always have a Church stall selling homemade baking and a raffle, so come along and find a bargain.

Handmade Cards

There are also ongoing activities that bring in a regular income. Beautiful handmade cards are for sale every day in the Coffee Shop alongside second hand books. These cards are much cheaper than shop bought ones and are beautifully designed and made by one of our elders. There are cards for every occasion, so if you want something unique, this is the place to look.

Easy Fund Raising

If you shop online, remember to register with easyfundraising.org.uk and choose Ferryhill Parish Church as your Charity. Choose your own password and then you can shop at a wide variety of outlets, including John Lewis and Marks and Spencer, and our Church will get a small percentage of what you spend, at no extra cost to yourself. Please remember to do this every time you plan to shop online, especially with your Christmas shopping.

Handmade Quilts

There are two beautiful handmade quilts to be won and the winning raffle tickets will be drawn at the Christmas Fair. There is also a hamper full of delicious foods which would be ideal for any family over the festive season. Raffle tickets for both of these items are available in the Coffee Shop and on Sundays.

If you have any fundraising ideas please contact Fiona on 01224 590806. Fresh ideas are always welcome.