

ST. ANNE CHURCH, WESTBY

ALTAR KNEELERS

Working in Unity- Frances King, St Anne's Westby

In 1999, the late Wendy Webster of Wrea Green, organised a group of ladies to design and make seat pads for the choir stalls in St Nicholas Church. The seat pads, are known as "runners," hence the group of ladies became known as "Wrea Green Runners" and met every Wednesday and Sunday afternoons in each others homes and the choir seats soon became a reality.

Margaret Fawcett from St Anne's and Jan Cookson from St Nicholas, made the designs which were then transferred onto canvas.



The ladies beavered away and over the last 15 years not only completed the choir stalls but also made 150 seat pads for the church pews with the most amazing designs.

The ladies all became such good friends and have had an annual lunch to celebrate their achievements.

Having completed all the work in St Nicholas Church, they then went on to make tapestries for the altar kneelers at St Mathews Church Ballam, So, after running out of seats to make sadly the "Runners" disbanded.

The ladies were so sorry that this had happened; as they had gained such pleasure and camaraderie from all the years they had spent achieving such wonderful work, that a new sewing and activity group was formed taking place on alternate Wednesdays in St Nicholas Church Centre.



Some of the ladies were still "itching" to do more tapestries so this is when I decided to take the matter in hand. For months I had looked at the sad looking kneelers (and I don't mean Alan and Mathew) used by the altar servers here at St Anne's Church and thought it was time something was done about them. I asked Margaret and Jan if they would work on a design for the two kneelers using the border on the stained glass windows round the altar and the "Lamb of God" in the centre of one and "The Dove of Peace" on the other.

On completion, they were then assembled by Margaret Ingham, who also lives in the village and now you have the result of the wonderful work done mainly by Margaret, Jan, and other members of the sewing group. The cost for these amounted to just over £100 of which donations were given from within and outside of the group



We would now like to continue the work and cover the seats of the two chairs on the altar used by Fr. Kevin and Canon Aidan and will be looking to raise funds to cover this (approximately £150) Please look out for details on how you might help with this project in a few weeks

I cannot thank Margaret and Jan enough for all the hard work they have put into the working of these beautiful kneelers and also the work done by the other ladies doing "the easy bits". This has been a true demonstration of Christian Unity from the two Church communities.