

St Peter's Church, Great Asby

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

Year Ending 31st December 2017

Administrative Information

St Peter's Church is situated in the centre of Great Asby. It is part of the Benefice of the Heart of Eden in the Appleby Deanery of the Diocese of Carlisle within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Ms. K. Royle, Nethergill, Great Asby, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6EX. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The PCC members who have served from 1st January 2017 are as follows with their role on the Committee and dates of appointment in brackets where appropriate:-

Team Rector: the Rev. Sarah Lunn (Chairperson)
Associate Priest: the Rev. Peter Boyles (from 19th March 2017)
Warden: Mrs Pat Bevan (Vice-Chairperson)
Warden (to 19th March 2017): Mr Lutaf Greenshaw
Warden (from 19th March 2017): Mrs Denise Frisby
Representative on Deanery Synod: Mr John Bevan (Treasurer)

Elected Members: Mrs Pam Cowey
 Mrs Denise Frisby (Secretary, to 19th March 2017)
 Ms Karen Royle (Secretary, from 19th March 2017)
 Mr Peter Miller (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)
 Mrs Carol Smith
 Mr John Smith
 Mrs Susan Walker
Co-opted Member Mrs Helen Cooper (from 19th March 2017)

Mr John Bevan and Mr John Smith have also represented the PCC at Benefice meetings.

Structure, governance and management

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

Objectives and activities

St Peter's PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the responsible priest, the Reverend Sarah Lunn, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building.

Church attendance

At 31st December 2017 there were 27 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 5 of whom live outside the Parish. The average weekly attendance at ordinary services was 14 adults and 1 young person under 16 years of age but the number increased significantly at festivals and special occasions: the Christmas Carol Service was attended by over 160 people including children.

Review of the year

The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average of 79% attendance.

We have benefitted from and are also grateful for the support of the Reverend Sarah Lunn and the Reverend Peter Boyles and a range of clergy from across the Benefice as well as our own lay ministers Mr and Mrs Bevan to maintain regular services at St Peter's. The pattern of parish services with the Chapels has continued. Fifth Sunday services were shared with Ormside. The PCC and the congregation of St Peter's were particularly pleased to welcome the Revd John Morton from the Methodist Church to officiate at the Covenant Service in January. Refreshments continue to be served after most services.

Parishioners also attended the Baptist 'Candlelight Carol' and the Methodist and Baptist anniversary services.

The Remembrance Sunday service at the Lych Gate was once again well-attended.

An experiment to celebrate Advent Sunday by holding the service in a barn at High Plains, Drybeck was also well attended. We thank the Revd Kristy Pattimore for leading the service, members from Asby Methodist Church for reading the lesson and taking part in a sketch and our hosts, Louise and Steve Reeve who also provided refreshments. The retiring collection raised £108 for Sarcoma UK.

In 2017 there were 5 funerals plus a thanksgiving service following cremation, 1 wedding and 1 infant baptism.

General expenses and running costs are met by a variety of activities and events, regular coffee mornings, sales of cards and calendars. Unfortunately, because of a lack of 'man-power' the annual Church barbecue had to be cancelled this year but a number of other events were extremely successful.

Events through the year have included, a 'Playthings and Pastimes' exhibition over the May Bank holiday. There was an amazing display of interesting and unusual toys and pastimes through the years, collected by members of the church. The event was extremely well attended by both local parishioners and people who had travelled from further afield to see the display. The Patronal Festival celebrations in June included cream teas in church, alongside a display of the 2018 calendar entries, and was also well attended. In September, the Cowey family kindly presented us with a fabulous evening of music, with tremendous musical talent that was a privilege to hear. The event attracted a wonderful turn out and made £522 for church funds. A Taize service was also held.

Asby Churches Together Fellowship Group and Asby Mother's Union continue to meet on a regular basis. The well-established coffee mornings and the more recent occasional Saturday 'Coffee, Cake and Chat' sessions continue in Church. 'Diners', the monthly gathering for lunch at the Eden Valley Cafe, also continues with regular attenders. The PCC is grateful to Dave and Helen Sykes for hosting this each month. The 'Knit and Natter' group established in liaison with the Women's Institute (WI) has continued in the homes of participants. The theme for the Christmas Fair held in church this year was 'Christmas Trees'. The windows were imaginatively decorated by several of the village organisations; the Book Club, Asby School, WI, Mothers Union, Cinema Group and the Methodist Church, as well as some families and individuals from the parish, not all of whom regularly attend church.

Asby School pupils have attended special services to celebrate Easter, St Peter's Day, Harvest and Christingle. These services were also well attended by parents. The children all received a Fair-Trade 'Real Easter egg' and took part in the Christmas Story Sack scheme. They provided Easter Gardens and art work celebrating Easter and Christmas to display in the church. Harvest gifts were gratefully received by the Food Bank in Appleby.

Other work with young people included four further Messy Church mornings held in the Easter and summer school holidays and during the spring and autumn half-terms. The events continue to be supported with enthusiasm even though numbers attending have reduced slightly from previous years. The PCC is grateful for the hard work of both Emma Greenshaw and Carol Marston who have led these children's activities over the year. A Church Trail leaflet, designed for 8 - 12 year old children, has now been developed in liaison with Jeremy Rylands of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), with thanks to Erica and Paul Tarney for facilitating this.

The Ways and Means team have the PCC's ongoing gratitude for their work to maintain the fabric of the church and to manage issues of water ingress. This year the PCC utilised a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, for the replacement of rainwater goods on the church. The project has now been completed successfully.

The wooden cross (made in 2016 by a local craftsman, from the lime tree which had been felled in the churchyard several years previously) has now been inscribed and is on display in Church.

The Church has also been approached by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which has asked for permission to put up a sign on the wall outside church to indicate that there is a war grave in the church yard. The PCC have considered this request and relevant documentation has been processed with a view to the signage being installed over the coming year.

An interesting health concern was raised at one of the meetings during the year, regarding the type of bread used for communion and the potential for cross contamination in relation to Allergies / Coeliac etc. In view of the concerns, the PCC made a decision to use gluten free bread for everyone at future communion services.

The PCC is extremely grateful for the support by all those who play a valuable part in the life of the Church; bell ringers, sides-people, those who clean the Church throughout the year, provide flowers, the Christmas tree and refreshments, and not forgetting those who produce and distribute the parish magazine, '*Asby Matters*', and Mrs Pam Cowey, who has continued as our organist.

Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mr Peter Miller.

Church Policy and Guidance: During the year under report, the PCC had an approved Safeguarding Policy in force: and looking to the future, the PCC will be adopting the new '*Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement*', recently circulated. Discussions at the PCC have however acknowledged that standard, national, policies should never be based on a 'one size fits all' solution and it has therefore been suggested that there are statements within these policies that will need adjusting to meet the real situation at St Peter's.

Safeguarding has been on the agenda of every full PCC meeting. The Safeguarding Officer has always reported to the PCC and would have brought to their attention any matters that were of concern. As a PCC it is noted that we also have a collective responsibility to be mindful and aware of the well-being of both children and vulnerable adults in the Parish.

All the PCC members are also being requested to complete the church's recommended on-line safeguarding training module(s).

Safer Recruitment, and Training: We have no regular separate activities involving young people or vulnerable adults so there has been no need for leader appointments. If we do in the future have such groups, the leaders and volunteers would be safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance.

We do however support the Messy Church activity which has met four times during the year. The PCC has thought carefully about this (roughly quarterly) activity and concluded that because the meetings are infrequent and almost invariably attended by children with their parent(s), guardian or carer, it is satisfied that its policies and approaches meet the necessary requirements.

Financial Review

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with SORP requirements. We paid our increased Parish Offer in full. Proceeds from carol singing around the village and the Christmas Eve and other collections were donated to charities, in particular the Air Ambulance, Sarcoma UK, and Hospice at Home. Further charitable donations were made to Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressive (FOP) Action and the British Heart Foundation. Our other commitments have been met in full. Full details are set out in the accompanying financial statements and attention is drawn to the notes on the accompanying accounts.

During 2016 we had planned, and obtained a grant, for what became Project 2017 – the complete replacement of all the rainwater goods on the Church, together with associated roof repairs. The Project was carried out satisfactorily and on schedule during 2017, and financial details appear in the accompanying statements. It should be noted that to reduce both capital and long-term maintenance costs, the PCC had planned to use black pre-formed aluminium as its preferred material. Early in 2017, however, the PCC was advised not only that this would require a Faculty (with associated cost and delay), but that it was not even worth applying for one – because it would simply be refused. The PCC therefore used cast-iron – at an extra cost to the Parish of some £10,000.

As is normal, income tax on gift aid donations is claimed and received following the calendar year in which the relevant donations were made. The Church furnishings and plate are included in the inventory and vested in the Church Wardens on special trust. Our insurance policy is maintained with Ecclesiastical Insurance. The Church assets are metal are marked (AlphaDot and SmartWater) as advised.

During the year, in support of its financial affairs and responsibilities, the PCC appointed Mrs Sue Savage as a signatory on its main Bank Account, and as its Assistant Treasurer (with right of access to all PCC meetings). The PCC is most grateful to her for taking on this responsibility.

Signed as correct : P. V. B. Revan (~~chairperson~~ / vice chairperson)

Date : 15-4-2018