

St. Peter's, Great Asby

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council;

Year Ending 31 December 2016

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 Mrs D Frisby, Sunnygarth, Little Asby, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6QE. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2016 are as follows with their role on the Committee in brackets where appropriate:

Team Rector: the Rev Sarah Lunn (*Chairman*)

Team Vicar: *vacant post*

Warden: Mrs Pat Bevan (*Vice-Chairman*)

Warden: Mr Lutaf Greenshaw

Representative on Deanery Synod: Mr John Bevan (*Treasurer*)

Elected Members: Mrs Pam Cowey
 Mrs Denise Frisby (*Secretary*)
 Mr Peter Miller (*Safeguarding Co-ordinator*)
 Mrs Carol Smith
 Mr John Smith
 Mrs Susan Walker

Mr John Bevan and Mr John Smith have also represented the PCC on the Team Council

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. 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 31 December 2016, there were 26 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 5 of whom live outside the Parish.. The average weekly attendance at ordinary services was 15 adults and 1 young person under 16 years of age, but this number increased significantly at festivals and special occasions; the Christmas Carol Service was attended by over 130 people including children.

Review of the year

The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average of 82% attendance.

We have benefited from and are also grateful for the support of the Reverend Sarah Lunn and a range of clergy from across the Team Ministry 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 and a joint Team Ministry service attended at Warcop in June. The PCC and the congregation of St Peter's were particularly pleased to welcome Rev John Morton from the Methodist Church to officiate at the Covenant Service in January and Andrew Burrell, who has led two services including the Harvest Festival service. Refreshments continue to be served after most services.

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

ecumenical Sunday school continued to meet in conjunction with morning services at the Baptist Chapel.

In 2016 there were 5 infant baptisms and 3 funerals but no weddings.

2016 was significantly the 150th anniversary of the church building (1866 – 2016) and a whole programme of events throughout the year was created to celebrate this. Celebrations started in the May Day weekend with a display linked to the history of the church and a wonderful organ recital by Christopher Fairey. The Patronal Festival celebrations in June included cream teas and a sponsored walk when 60 people, including 10 youngsters successfully met its collective target of 150 miles walked around the village. Particular thanks go to the Brown and Marston families who stayed on and went those extra miles to make this happen! A special service of thanksgiving was held that weekend too with a sermon from a previous minister, Rev David Wood and attended by a number of old and new friends and parishioners who have supported and continue to support the church. At that weekend we received a wooden cross made by a local craftsman from a lime tree which had been felled in the churchyard several years previously. 450 visitors visited the “Knitted Bible” exhibition in August. The PCC is grateful to the United Reformed Church from Hartlepool who created the 30 plus knitted tableaux and especially to Carol Smith and Wendy Fairey who organised the catering for the exhibition helping to raise a very welcome sum of almost £1,900. A “Songs of Praise” service was held at the conclusion of the exhibition. Finally a Mega Book Sale and “Just Desserts” event was held in October.

The “Mission Action Plan” for St. Peter’s was reviewed in 2016 and has continued to consolidate the Church’s involvement within the village community and with Asby School.

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. Thankfully “Diners”, the monthly gathering for lunch at the Eden Valley Cafe, has been able to be re-established after the cafe recovered from its flood damage by the spring. The PCC is grateful to Dave and Helene Sykes for hosting this. Felt workshops continued in the early part of the year with three further pew runners completed by May under the guidance of Debbie Lucas. Debbie has also provided the church with a book containing photographs and descriptions of all our pew runners. It also lists all participants who, once again have included, regular and non-regular church attenders as well as some who would not normally attend.. 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 Carols”. The windows were imaginatively decorated by several of the village organisations; Mother’s Union, the Book Club, the WI, Asby School and the Methodist Church as well as some families and individuals from the parish, not all of whom regularly attend church. Photographs of the displays and details of the carols chosen as well as music clips were then posted on the village website by Geoff Johnson with thanks from the PCC.

Asby School have attended special services to celebrate Easter, St. Peter’s Day led by Bishop James, Harvest and Christingle. These services were also well attended by parents. The children all received a “Real” Fairtrade 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 & Summer school holidays, and during the spring and autumn half-terms. These events continue to be supported with enthusiasm even though the 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 is being 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. Several members of the PCC have undertaken dementia awareness training to ensure that St Peter’s can be a “dementia friendly church”.

The Ways and Means team have the PCC’s on-going gratitude for their work to maintain the fabric of the church and to manage issues of water ingress. This year the PCC has been awarded a grant from the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund for the replacement of rainwater goods on the church. The project has commenced with the appointment of an architect and receipt of the relevant Faculty.

General expenses and running costs are met by a variety of activities which this year included the 150th celebration events, regular coffee mornings, sales of cards and calendars, a contribution from the Fellside Summer Concert series and once again, the much enjoyed (despite the windy weather) barbecue held in the garden of the Old Rectory hosted by Peter and Jackie Lambert. Funds were also raised at the Christmas Fair.

The PCC is extremely grateful for the support given 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" or Mrs Pam Cowey who has been the organist.

Financial review

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with SORP requirements. We paid a Parish Offer, reserving some funds against any appropriate additional staffing in the Heart of Eden. The proceeds from the Harvest Festival and lunch, carol singing around the village and the Christmas Eve collection were donated to charities: the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, the Air Ambulance and Hospice at Home. Further charitable donations were made to Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressive (FOP) Action and the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Trust Central Charity with a preference that the Hospitals Trust use the money for its work linked to cancer. Our other commitments have been paid in full. Full details are set out in the accompanying financial statements and attention is drawn to the notes on the accompanying accounts.

As is normal, income tax on gift aid donations is claimed and received following the calendar year in which the donations were made.

The Church furnishings and plate are included in the inventory and vested in the Church Wardens on special trust. Our insurance policies are maintained with Ecclesiastical Insurance. The Church assets and metal are marked (AlphaDot and SmartWater) as advised.
