**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Finance Report**

**The Parochial Church Council of**

**St Leonard’s, Denton and St Mary’s, Tarring Neville**

**For the year ended 31st December 2018**

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| St Leonard's Church, Heighton Road, Denton, Newhaven |
| St Mary's Church, Tarring Neville, Newhaven |
| **Independent Examiner:** Christopher J Roberts, 26 Beresford Road, Mount Pleasant, Newhaven, BN9 0LY |
| **Bankers:** Barclays Bank UK PLC, Calverley Road Branch, Tunbridge Wells |
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**Parochial Church Council of**

**St Leonard’s, Denton**

**And**

**St Mary’s, Tarring Neville**

**Trustees Annual Report for 2018**

**Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a charity, but is exempt from registration with the Charity Commission within the meaning of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council.

**Ex-officio Member**

Incumbent The Rev Louis Wilson Chairperson

Curate Jez Lowries Joined June 2018

**Elected Members**

Paul Giles Treasurer

Ann Anderson Secretary

Nelly Paine de Kraker Churchwarden & Deanery Synod

Martin Deva Churchwarden

Joan Parish Deanery Synod

Ann Saunders

Derek Bush

Jeff Lee

Joyce Corbett Left April 2018

Maria Greco

Nicky Still Joined April 2018

Ruth Reynolds

Tricia Lockyer

Vicki Blann Co-opted April 2018

Rosemary Cutbush Co-opted April 2018

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of two ex-officio members, the Rev. Louis Wilson and our current curate the Rev. Jez Lowries, the two Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod and nine members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members of the church are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we endeavour to maintain a balance of skills, experience, and a balance to reflect the wide age difference in the Church membership wherever possible.

**Aims and Purposes as a charity**

We are an Anglican evangelical church which exists to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In particular, this means serving the needs of all those who live in this Parish and beyond through our services, events, clubs, outreach and pastoral support. Specifically and most importantly we exist to make mature disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, in increasing numbers from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay. In relation to the wider community, the church is increasingly viewed as a place where outsiders are welcome, where help is provided and questions of life will be answered.

**What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives**The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have regard to House of Bishops’ Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
For 2018 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

* Teaching, baptising and discipling new and existing believers.
* Putting faith into practice, through prayer and Bible teaching, music and sacrament.
* Offering regular courses and study in small group situations.
* Provision of pastoral care and assistance for people living in the parish and beyond.
* Giving grants to missionary organisations.
* Provision of regular and seasonal RE lessons to Denton CP School.
* Running various other clubs and activities for children and young people.
* Reaching out to the wider community through various activities, events and in particular the Denton Community Challenge.
* Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of community life.
* Maintaining and continually improving the church hall as the local area’s main community space.

**What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries’ lives**The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. Sermons continue to be recorded most weeks and made available on the church website. A new and more user friendly website has been built by a member of the church family and has been in use through 2018.

Our weekly attendance at our main service is between 70 and 90 people of all ages on an average Sunday. This attendance swells considerably at Christmas, Easter and other festivals such as Harvest, Remembrance and Mothering Sunday. We continue to welcome all the uniformed organisations for regular parade services, the Maestro Silver Band at Christmas and Denton School Choir at Remembrance. We continue to conduct regular funerals and weddings and use these opportunities for appropriate pastoral work and ministry. In November 2018, we invited bereaved members of the wider community to a special afternoon Memorial Service. One issue with which we continue to grapple is the limited capacity of our church building.

Our links continued with Denton School where the Rector is frequently involved as a Community Governor. We continue to work closely with the school RE Coordinator to provide RE lessons across the school. A regular programme of class visits to the church for RE lessons delivered by church members is now well established particularly in the run up to Christmas and Easter.

We continue to run thriving after school clubs in the church hall for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 (Frogs), as well as young teenagers (Sparks). Both groups are run by members of the Denton Church congregation. All our clubs and activities are run at very low cost to parents or carers and are open to absolutely anyone. In February 2018, we again ran a well-attended Bible Holiday Club (Superchef) using the hall and classrooms of Denton School.

During the year, we welcomed Rev. Jez Lowries and his family as stipendiary Curate in the parish. They have begun to contribute to and assist with all areas of church life, and their most valued presence has increased the opportunities for wider ministry in all sorts of ways. We remain indebted to the Diocese of Chichester for enabling and funding this position. Mainly as a result of Jez’s arrival we have formed a link with All Saints Church Lindfield involving prayer and financial support for which we are very grateful. From September 2018, the PCC was able to employ Ruth Reynolds on a part time basis in relation to hall management and church administration which arrangement is working very well.

A significant number of the congregation again attended the Word Alive Bible event in North Wales, Bible by the Beach in Eastbourne and the Sussex Gospel Partnership annual conference. Denton Church continues to play an active part in this partnership.

We again ran the evangelism course *Christianity Explored* during 2018. The daytime Bible study group *Uncove*r has continued to be well attended. These courses are open to anyone as is St Leonard’s Café which continues to open most Wednesday mornings providing coffee, cake and a place to chat. The church runs Lunch Club 8 times a year, catering mainly for the older generation and meets in the hall.

Using grants and some designated reserve funds further redecoration and refurbishment of the hall has been undertaken. The hall continues to be an important and well used community space available for hire. Extensive quinquennial works were also satisfactorily carried out to the Denton Church roof.

With others in the community, we again ran the Denton Community Challenge, a very large fun day for families young and old which celebrates local clubs and societies active in our area. We deliberately price the activities as cheaply as possible to make it as accessible as we can. The event is run in partnership with Denton CP School and local charity James Daniels Memorial Fund.

Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael’s, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth For Christ. This is a registered charity which has allowed them to apply for grants and gain from the experience of the national organisation. The Rector is a trustee of Newhaven YFC. Sara works with Sam Edgar-Tearle, who is studying for a youth work degree at Brighton University and is paid for a small number of hours each week.

The main highlight of 2018 was an outreach event which was part of the Youth For Christ Sync course. This attracted 60 young people, children and parents. The Sunday evening youth work grew as a result of this with 18 young people attending during the year. Sara would like to thank Louis for his support as a trustee and to say how much she enjoys leading bible study with young people at Denton each month.

**Church Attendance and Review of the Year**

The full PCC had 6 meetings during the period 1st January to 31st December 2018. These meetings were well attended by most, if not all members. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in April 2018 and attended by 41 regular Church members.

There were 106 parishioners on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2018, 27 of whom do not live in the parish.

 **DBS checks**Six members of our church family have been checked and received their DBS clearance during November 2018. They are Brenda Anderson, Katy Lowries, Katy Hildersley, Ann Anderson, Ann Saunders and Sue Leighton-Jones.

No safeguarding issues have been reported during the past year.

**Simple Quality Protects**Simple Quality Protects is an audit of all our Safeguarding Procedures instigated by the diocese. All our procedures had to be looked at and we had to provide evidence that we were doing all we said we were, and completed by Easter 2018. SQP Level 1 was completed early at the beginning of 2018, but we have yet to hear from the Diocese to be rewarded our Level 1 certificate. No indication has been given to us as to what we do next so Vicki Blann will now hand over the SQP file to Ruth Reynolds as she takes over to complete the next level as required.

**Deanery Synod**The Deanery Synod met four times during 2018. PCC elected members attended 3 of these meetings which covered topics such as the Year of the Bible, the Year of Prayer, and setting God’s people free. At the November meeting, two members of the Denton church family (David Reynolds and Sara Alexander) were elected to serve on Diocesan Synod of which the Rector has also become a member. Full minutes are available on request.

**Churchwarden’s report, Denton 2018**

***Fabric of St Leonard’s church Denton***Extensive works to the church roof, parapets and secret gutters were started this year as per the Quinquennial Report with replacement cedar boarding to the spire. We have received grants from Allchurches Trust and Sussex Historic Churches Trust to complete this work. Regular services to the heating were carried out with repairs as required to the boiler. A new water pump for the heating was installed. Electrical installation safety checks were completed satisfactorily and a replacement outside light fitted. Church cleaning and polishing of brass have been carried out by willing volunteers, thank you to all.

**Church Hall Denton**

At the beginning of the year refurbishment to the hall toilets was completed with flooring, tiling and new fittings as required. Electric heaters were also provided in each toilet.

In the kitchen new flooring was installed with new crockery, new bin and various sundries purchased. A Lincat hot water dispenser was also plumbed in. Sound-proofing panels were successfully installed on the hall ceiling to improve sound quality in the space.

We are very grateful for the support of various charities and the Friends of St Leonards.

**Fabric of St Mary’s Church Tarring Neville**

Services have been reduced during the winter due to cold weather and a dwindling congregation. A carols by candlelight service in December was very well attended.

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